

Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

SOLID COPY

JUNE 2000

RADIOACTIVITY

JUNE MEETING

Friday, June 16 at 8:00 PM. NEW MEETING LOCATION - Communication Specialists- AV Solutions Atlee Road in Mechanicsville. Come join us at the new location.

Business to be conducted at this meeting includes presentation of the slate of officers by the nominating committee and nominations from the floor. See the letter from Seth, chair of the nominating committee.

Field Day will be the following week. If you are a Field Day veteran, come share some operating tips with others. If you have never attended a Field Day, come find out what it is all about. Field Day provides a great opportunity to work HF. Who will make the longest distance contact? Who will find the rarest DX station? Experience the world beyond 2 meters.

Congratulations to TJ, N4UYQ on advancing to Extra Class and to Guy, K4CNF, for advancing to General.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS REQUESTED

Special Olympics June 9 & 10
University of Richmond. - Robins Center,
15 operators needed on Friday. 30 to 40 are needed on Saturday from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Contact Andy, KB4JXS to let him know you can help.

Field Day June 24-25
Contact Pat, K4OW for Field Day and Andy, KB4JXS for picnic.

As you all know, ARRL Field Day takes place on June 24th and 25th this year. Since Field Day is the perfect time to get together, RATS has

decided to hold the annual RATS Family Picnic on Saturday the 24th at 6 PM for all RATS members and their families.

Andy Anderson is the picnic chairman and has a menu planned of hamburgers, hot-dogs, potato salad, baked beans, drinks and the trimmings to go with the food. All RATS members are encouraged to attend and socialize for the afternoon / evening. Please bring a covered dish, if you like, to share with others in the RATS family. Should be a good time for all.

If you want to volunteer to help with the picnic, contact Andy, KB4JXS and let him know as soon as you can.

The Field Day activities themselves will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday with antenna setup, rig setup and checking everything out, making sure we can operate for 24 hours straight. We will be operating as 2-A, which means we will have a VOX and CW station set up during the whole 24 hour period, operating on battery power only. Field Day operation officially starts at 2:00 PM on Saturday and will continue till 2:00 PM on Sunday. K4WMA, Bill, is in charge of the HF stations and if you want to register in advance to operate, contact Bill and he will put you on the list. There should be two people at each station, an operator and a logger. So there will be plenty of time for anyone who wants to operate, but those that request a time will get first dibs (smile). If you aren't sure when you will be there, don't worry, there will be plenty of time to work the world.

Warren, KO4XB will have a packet station setup and operating at 4 PM Saturday for those who have an interest in the world of packet.

We need lots of volunteers to help set things up on Saturday and take those things down on Sunday. If you can help, please contact K4OW, Pat and let him know. There will be a volunteers list kept and there will be a couple of door prizes drawn for those that participate in either operating, working the picnic, setup, takedown or cleanup. Please make an effort to volunteer a little time the weekend of June 24th and 25th .

Now for the important part. The Field Day/Annual Picnic will be held at Joe Paulette Park at the Ameila Recreational Facility in Amelia. The picnic shelter is located behind the horse ring at the park facility and it's all at the corner of 38 and 614 in Amelia.

Talk in will be on the 88 repeater, so you won't get lost (maybe, remember, Andy will be doing talk-in).

I hope we can count on a big turnout as this is the second biggest event for RATS after Frost Fest. We need you there to make it a success and it's FREE. Come on out and see your fellow RATS and join in the fun. Invite a new ham to taste Field Day and find out what Amateur Radio is all about. You will impress them and have a good time.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Well, it's that time again. The time for members of this club to come forward and be nominated for an elected position. As the nominating committee chairman, it is my responsibility to find members who want to be elected.

Let me start off by saying a few things about being an elected official of the RATS club. Any elected official serves a term of two years. Please note that I said TERM and not sentence. Being a club officer is not something that should scare people, and you should look at it as a

way to serve your club and its members.

The Board of Directors and officers meet an hour and a half before regular meetings to discuss club business. Pizza is usually provided for officers at the meeting. The positions being vacated this year are 3 director's positions, and the offices of secretary, and treasurer. The directors are responsible for guiding the club in its endeavors. The work required from the director requires minimal time outside of the club's usual monthly meetings.

The secretary is responsible for taking the minutes at all club meetings and board meetings, as well as maintaining official club documents. The secretary is also responsible for reading those minutes at then following meeting. This position does require a little more time outside of the club's meetings to prepare and maintain club documents.

The treasurer is a position that does require a fair amount of time from an individual outside of the club's meetings. The person who seeks to be treasurer should be someone who keeps good records, is well organized and is good with numbers. As with any position, if the person is someone who does not wait until the last minute to do things, then they will find the work is not that difficult.

As many of you know, I was the last club president. While I have never held a position in the club prior to the presidency, I felt it an honor to serve. I may not have been the best president this club has had, but I gave it my best effort. That is all I ask of anybody, that they give their best. Nobody is asking you to be the best elected official, only that you try and that you stick with it. If you are not certain you could perform the duties of the office, I am sure that the previous and current officers would be willing to help with any questions you might have.

All we ask is that you try. Take it from me, it is not a difficult thing to do, and nobody is asking that you give up your personal life for the club. We are just asking for your help. If you are interested in running for one of the positions open this year, please contact me or any of the current officers.

Seth Rosenthal - KF4DJX

VE EXAMS

Saturday, June 10, 2000 9:00 AM at J. S. Reynolds Community College, 1651 East Parham Road, Building B, Room 201. Pre-registration required with PAT WILSON, K4OW at 932-9424 or email at k4ow@arrl.net . Pat's test information web page is: <http://www.mindspring.com/~k4ow/hamtests.htm>.

Chesterfield W5YI Team (normally tests at C. E. Curtiss Elementary) has not decided on the location for July and August test sessions. Check the KR4UQ website (see below) for information. We will also try to announce it on the Information Net on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM on 146.880. Pre-register with TONY AMATO, KR4UQ, at 717-5237. Tony's web page for test information is http://www.kr4uq.org/Pages/ve_exams.htm.

MAY MEETING

If you did not attend the May meeting, you missed a wonderful program on Packet Radio and APRS. AJ, W4NM, and Warren, KO4XB, demonstrated some of the uses of Packet and APRS and gave us some great handouts.

Thanks to AJ and Warren for preparing and presenting the program, and to TJ, N4UYQ for his assistance in providing the projector and other ways. Thanks to all who added to the discussion and informed us about the various happenings. Some exciting changes are under way.

RULES & REGS

News from the ARRL and FCC

ARRL - VEC TACKLE PAPER MOUNTAIN

A staff of seven full-time, three temporary and eight just-added volunteer staff members are now hard at work for the ARRL-VEC working their way through the nearly 23,000 applications produced by the April 15 license restructuring. The staff sent roughly 5000 applications to the FCC in one week. Estimates are that it will take six weeks from exam until the papers reach the FCC. The FCC usually grants applications overnight. Packages are processed in the order that they are received through the mail. Estimates say that there will likely be 17,200 new Generals and 13,100 new Extras during the first month after restructuring

The ARRL-VEC is now posting the status of test session processing at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/status.html>.

Tnx ARRL Letter Online, May 26,2000

ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

ARRL Vice President Kay Craigie, WT3P, speaking at the ARRL "Public Service Wants You!" forum at the Dayton Hamvention, challenged Amateur Radio's public service leaders to "be the kind of leaders whom we would want to follow." Amateurs who participate in public service are "helping to earn the frequencies we have the privilege of using", Craigie told the audience.

Under Part 97, hams have a responsibility to get involved in public service, which is sometimes difficult because personal time is in short supply. "Often both parents in a family are working very long hours," she said. "That impacts how much time you have to do anything outside of work including Amateur Radio." Therefore, public service leaders should rethink their recruiting methods.

Beyond the motivation of fellowship, public service can be interesting, exciting and challenging. "It's a challenge and a feeling of satisfaction, and you know that something you've done made a difference in the survival of your community," she said. "It feels good to help other

people." And, she pointed out, it's good public relations for Amateur Radio.

Have patience with beginners who volunteer. Spell out duties and expectations. "We weren't born knowing all this stuff," she said. "Somebody had to teach us. We had to be willing to learn."

"Get the new hams that are coming out of the chute prepared for public service," said Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, Michalski cited SKYWARN as a worthy public service activity that has mutual benefits. SKYWARN offers "a reason to have to use the radio--besides having a good time," he said. "They're actually providing a service."

All agreed that recognition in terms of certificates or even such things as coffee mugs and T-shirts were motivators to participate. Michalski said hams need to know they are "needed, wanted, and appreciated" for taking part in public service.

Tnx ARRL Letter Online, May 26,2000

INTERNET InSITEs

Amateur Radio, Electronics and Technology Related Websites

Here are a few of the websites related to Packet Radio provided by AJ and Warren at the May meeting.

Tucson Amateur Radio Page (TAPR) <http://www.tapr.org/> Information on Packet Radio, APRS and GPS, Spread Spectrum

APRS: Automatic Position Reporting System <http://www.aprs.net/> APRS is a system developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, which uses amateur radio to transmit position reports, weather reports, and messages between users.

www.PacketRadio.com "Buck" Rogers, K4ABT, useful information and links. Beginner's guide to packet, packet glossary, freeware and shareware to download, connector and interface diagrams, antenna design, ...

A Very Questionable Page Indeed! <http://www.dididahdidit.com/> APRS, weather sites and equipment, Linux

Let's Not Forget Layer One! <http://www.febo.com/layer-one/> Setting Your TNC's Audio Drive Level; and Optimizing Packet Receive Audio Performance (under construction), will describe the receive side of the TNC, and how to make it work better.

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