



Solid Copy

October 2005
Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

President's message

Tsunamis, hurricanes, fires: You name it, hams are involved in it

It is really extraordinary the number of times that amateur radio has been called upon this year to assist with emergency communications, first the tsunami in Asia and now not once but twice with massive cyclonic storms here in the United States in a short period of time. I am sure there will be forest fires this fall, and amateur radio operators will come forward to assist with all of these disasters. Fortunately the amateur radio community has received considerable positive press which will benefit the hobby down the road when it comes time to fight off incursions from BPL and other kinds of encroachments.

One important thing to remember is to keep your amateur radio equipment in peak operating condition so that, if necessary, your station can be moved to a different operating location to assist with disaster relief. Make sure you have a reliable portable power source consistent with your equipment and a reliable antenna and feed line. There have been numerous articles on "GO" kits in QST - take the time to learn about them and put one together.

I would like to thank all of those who voted in the last election. Marie Long, Robert Orndorff, Roy Davis and I were returned to office. We appreciate your support. I would like to thank the Nominating Committee consisting of Dave Kiefer,

N 4 D W K ;
and Joe
Mahoney,
KI4GAP; for
p u t t i n g

together the slate of officers. We have some good events planned and look forward to your participation.

One major event coming up is membership renewal. Yes, it's that time again, so please send in your \$20 annual membership dues. Your dues help keep the 146.8888 and 442.55 repeaters on the air. Access codes will change around the end of October, so in order to have uninterrupted access to the autopatch and the IRLP, be sure to get your dues in! You can do this two ways: Mail a check to Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society Inc., P.O. Box 14828, Richmond, VA 23221, or simply bring a check or cash to the next meeting on Friday, October 21. If you pay by check, please write your amateur radio callsign in the memo area.

Before I forget, be sure to take a look at the new website for RATS which is still www.rats.net. We are indeed fortunate to have Tray Murphy, N4PAT, as a member of RATS. Tray has worked hard to get this element of the club going.

In the meantime, I'll see you on the air.

- 73, Jerry Williams, KJ4IT

W4RAT REPEATERS

146.880

442.550

Standard Offsets

PL 74.4 Hz

Annual Membership Dues are due NOW!

Yes, folks, it's that time of year again! Time to renew your membership dues with RATS. We'll be changing repeater codes later this month, so don't delay! Either bring \$20 cash or check to this month's meeting, or mail a check to:

Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 14828

Richmond, VA 23221

Please include your callsign on your check.

CHANGE IN MEETING LOCATION THIS MONTH! See Page 2

RATS lends a hand to area cyclists for a good cause

By Jerry Williams, KJ4IT

On Saturday, September 17, 2005, Roy Davis, WK4Y; Ron Nash, KI4BWH; Marie Long, K4KML; Jerry Long, K4KJL; and I met at the Patrick Henry YMCA to assist with Richmond Area Bicycling Association's "Heart of Virginia" century bike tour. This event raises money to donate to the Hanover House, a facility that supports mentally handicapped persons.



RATS members Jerry and Marie Long (K4KML and K4KJL), standing, and Ron Nash, KI4BWH, plan where to set up their communication points along the 100-mile bicycle course.



Cyclists gear up for 100-mile bike ride through Hanover area

It was a great event with more than 325 cyclists participating in two century courses. The first was metric century course of 62.5 miles, and the second was 100 statute miles. Participants started at 7 a.m. at the Patrick Henry 'Y' in

Ashland, riding through Ashland to the Hanover Courthouse, out to Old Church and then back to the Hanover Courthouse Park for the finish.

R.A.B.A. depended on RATS for communications since the areas that were covered had very poor cellular coverage, and they were very complimentary of the service we provided. I would especially like to thank Ron, KI4BWH, for locating the last of the cyclists on the last 11 miles of the course. This made a very favorable impression upon the event coordinators.

October meeting: Field Trip! RATS meeting at Richmond Ambulance Authority

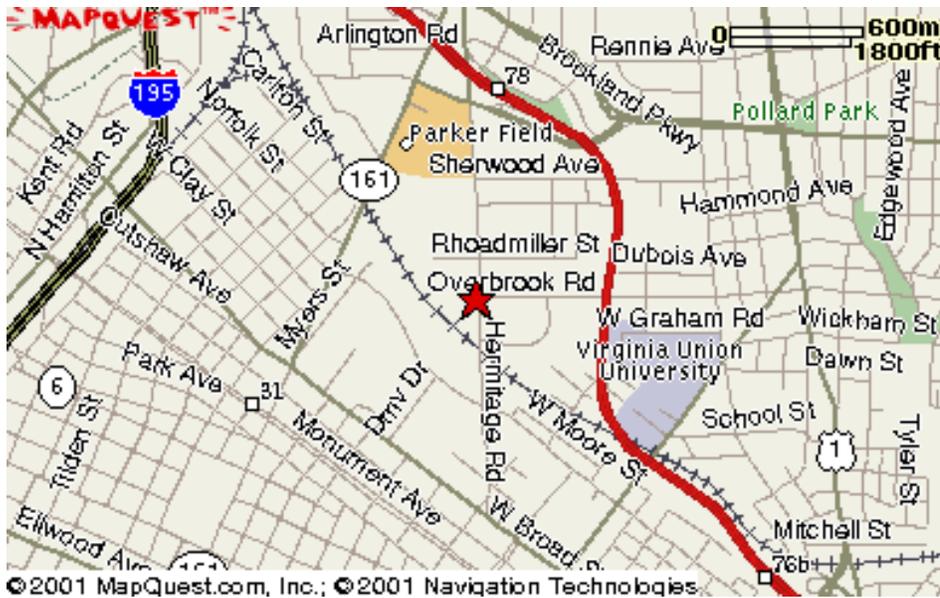
Members please take note! The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society for the month of October will be held in a special location! We'll be meeting at the usual time (7:30 p.m.) on the usual third Friday (October 21), but we'll be meeting at the Richmond Ambulance Authority at 2400 Hermitage Road. That's at the corner of Hermitage and Overbrook. There's a map on page 3, in the place of the usual meeting location map, showing the general vicinity of the RAA.

We're meeting there to tour the RAA's computer-aided dispatch center. The authority now has its ambulances integrated with GPS technology so staff can tell where they are at any given time, and so staff can position units in areas



where help may be needed ahead of time. This should be an interesting tour! There will be plenty of parking, and we'll hold a talk-in on the 146.88 repeater to make sure everyone gets there.

Join us this Friday evening!



The Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society meets on the third Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the West End Volunteer Rescue Squad building at 1802 Chantilly Street, Richmond. **This month's meeting is a field trip to the Richmond Ambulance Authority, and the above map shows that location.** If you have trouble finding the RAA, please give a call on the 146.88 repeater.

**Richmond Amateur
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P. O. Box 14828
Richmond, VA 23221

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