



# Stafford Area Radio Association

Amateur Radio - Emergency Communications - SKYWARN

Welcome to 2011!!! It seems that this time of year folks look back at the previous years and note the good the bad and the ugly that has occurred. 2011 has had all three! We can happily remember the good and do our best to ensure the bad and the ugly do not occur again. As with any organization, there is expansion and contraction in its membership and SARA is no different. We gain new members through many different means such as "On the Air" contacts, Special Events, SARA Web Page, and curiosity when they see our vehicles or our antenna farms.

Our members are as diverse as is there are modes of communications. Ham radio should be viewed as the ultimate example of experimentation, socialization, diversity, and camaraderie. We have a number of members who enjoy the fellowship of our Saturday breakfasts, some are always on our repeaters, and others prefer to populate the lower bands and are seldom heard on VHF and UHF.

We gain and lose members for many different reasons some good and some not so well. Some members move out of the area, have higher priority family or employment commitments that preclude their active participation. It is fantastic to see them pop up again from time to time on a local net/repeater or at breakfast to say hello!

Others become disenchanted with the hobby or the organization entirely mainly from perceptions such as:

- I passed my test but where are the Elmer's I heard about?
- You're not a Ham unless you participate in contests!
- All I ever hear on the radio is traffic reports!
- Everyone on the radio is old!
- The club has no focus!
- The club is too focused!

There are potential new Hams who decide against joining our ranks because of the following:

- I have to learn Morse code!
- I am too old to learn how to be a ham!
- It is too expensive!
- I am uncomfortable talking on a radio!
- It is just CB Radio but more expensive and you have to have a license!
- Hams are all old folks!
- I have listened on my scanner and was not impressed...everyone just is complaining!
- Bunch of old guys just rambling!
- I have to put antennas all over my car!

When I hear statements like noted above it is hard not to laugh or just shake my head in consternation. Initially it was difficult to me to understand how folks could so quickly develop these beliefs!

Then again as I took a step back and looked around, listened to what was going on our repeaters, what folks were talking about a breakfast, and my own experiences this last year driving across the Country it was not hard to see the reasons.

I came to the following conclusions:

- Ham radio is only as expensive as you are willing to pay!
- Individual operating interests are restricted by your drive, time available, and what your spouse or significant other will allow (relates to the first conclusion)!
- A clubs lack of focus is directly related to the participation of the individual members!
- Too much club focus is directly related to the same members participating....jump in and add some rudderage!
- Change only happens when you take action!

We have a fantastic club with outstanding folks from different occupations, different backgrounds, and different points of view. We are for better or for worse the face of Amateur Radio for our community. It is imperative that we as Amateur Radio enthusiasts continuously improve not only our operating skills but also how we represent the hobby itself. You would be surprised to know how far our individual influences reach and how they affect others perceptions! Remember Ham Radio is fun! It doesn't have just one focus! So join me this year and lets push the hobby down the road a little further by becoming someone's Elmer, Checking into a Net (It doesn't have to be a SARA Net), be an NCS occasionally, try a new mode, brush off your old key and get your fist back into shape but just have fun doing it! My New Year's resolution is to be on the air at least three days a week for a few hours...of course wife permitting ☺

73's and Happy New Year!!!

Rich

"Intelligence without communications is irrelevant, communications without intelligence is noise"

- General Alfred M. Gray 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps

# Frostfest 2011 Richmond Hamfest

The Mid-Atlantics Largest Winter Hamfest

WHEN : February 5, 2011

LOCATION: Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 East Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222-2253

This is a large, regional hamfest that is held entirely inside in two large, climate controlled buildings (plus an additional program area)! Lots of old and antique communication equipment and, generally, many old radios and related items of interest to the vintage radio community show up at this hamfest!

Many major new equipment ham radio manufacturers and vendors will be at this show including manufacturers displays from Yaesu, ICOM/Hiberling, with Austin Amateur Radio Supply and KJI Electronics. I don't think there will be a major weather event to keep folks away...heck some of our members made the trip even with the snow!!! Those are some Hardy Ham's! There may even be a gun show this year as well. Ike and I are keeping our fingers crossed!

EARLY PRICING (Till January 21st, 2011):

TICKETS: Early Bird ticket sales allow entry into the show at 8:00AM; regular show entry begins at 8:30AM. The price of each ticket is \$8, under 15 is free. Visit [www.rats.org](http://www.rats.org) to get more information and order your tickets.

At the door on the day of the show, tickets are \$9, cash only.

## [WWW.WS4VA.ORG](http://WWW.WS4VA.ORG)

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Come Join us!!! Breakfast every Saturday Morn

### Welcome!

Thank you for visiting our web page! We are a collection of people in the pursuit of Amateur Radio (otherwise known as "Ham" Radio). We come from every walk of life: Policemen, Firemen, Paramedics, Federal Contractors, Government Employees, Nurses, Students, Mechanics...well, you get the picture. We currently meet at Perkins Restaurant, located on Route 17 at 14 Simpson Ln, Fredericksburg, VA 22406 in Stafford Virginia, just west of I-95 (exit 133B) on the southbound side, every Saturday at 0700. Formal meetings are held about once every quarter at Perkins so that all members can participate. As you journey through this site, you will find that we offer a variety of radio activities. If at any time you have a suggestion or some activity you would like within the association, touch the "contact us" button, record and send your idea. As you venture through this web site, you will find that we have tried to provide you with all the information you will need to help you enjoy your new hobby.

**General Voice Net**  
Thursday 8:00 PM  
145.270 MHz(Y)  
444.450 MHz(X) linked  
CTCSS 79.7 Hz

**Specialty Net**  
D-STAR  
Sunday 7:00 PM  
2 Meter D-STAR Net  
145.330 MHz(X)  
Linked to the NCR D-STAR repeater  
Sunday 8:00 PM  
1.2 GHz D-STAR Data Net  
1296.40 MHz DD

**SKYWARN Net**  
During Severe Weather  
145.270 MHz(X) (CTCSS 08)

Current Conditions for:  
Stafford, VA  
Mostly cloudy. Showers likely this afternoon. Highs in the mid 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.  
Click here for the complete forecast

Humidity: 94% Barometer: 30.15 Wind Speed: 5 MPH Temp: 55°F

Our Website has been rocking for almost an entire year now thanks to Ted (KJ4EYD). There are several new areas and one specifically that is set up for members to Chat, post items for sale, or start a line of

discussion. Please visit it and give it a work out. We will be providing logon and passwords to the members area at a later date but for now it is wide open for use by everyone. Just click on the Members Tab and then "Go Here" and you are in! Please give it a work out!!!

Treasurer reports \$3601 in the coffers.

Board POC's:

Rich Corrigan: [n0rmc@arrl.net](mailto:n0rmc@arrl.net)

David Collins: [n4wdc@va.metrocast.net](mailto:n4wdc@va.metrocast.net)

Emmett Price: [k3ep@arrl.net](mailto:k3ep@arrl.net)

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