



Stafford Area Radio Association

Amateur Radio - Emergency Communications - SKYWARN

Spring? Sure hope so! Well folks with any luck our snow falls this year have finished and we will be having more and more sunny warm days. I for one am looking forward to getting out and about which means for me HF mobile! Living in a sub-division that has pretty restricted covenants I have had to balance my desire for a kick butt antenna farm and aesthetics. I could probably fight the HOA and put a modest crank up tower in my postage stamp backyard but the effort to do this would never off-set the heck I would get from the XYL! Yes she puts up with my quirks (Ham Radio, Computers, Shooting, Hiking, SCUBA, and trains) but I think I would be pushing the limits of her patience if I put up a tower. So I will continue to use my not very elevated, not very sloping G5RV Shorty. Yes it is a compromise but so is a marriage so I will do my best to keep both. That is where HF mobile comes in! I can get my HF fix while on the road. I have found that when you throw the old "Mobile" in it is amazing how quickly you can break a pile up! So if your contesting and want to get some more contacts maybe participate mobile the next time.

I also want to thank all the volunteers who provided much needed support to Stafford County during this winter season. We had record snow falls and though the County didn't lose power they knew we were prepared and able to respond.

I have added a few things to the newsletter which I hope everyone will enjoy. A ham spotlight which provides some interesting insight into a fellow local ham which I hope to get some more brave volunteers to provide some input....don't be shy! Also you will see some very tongue in cheek humor from our own members. I hope no one has thin skin as this section is meant to be humorous. I hope to be adding some more pictures coming up.

73's

Rich

Shack Photo's

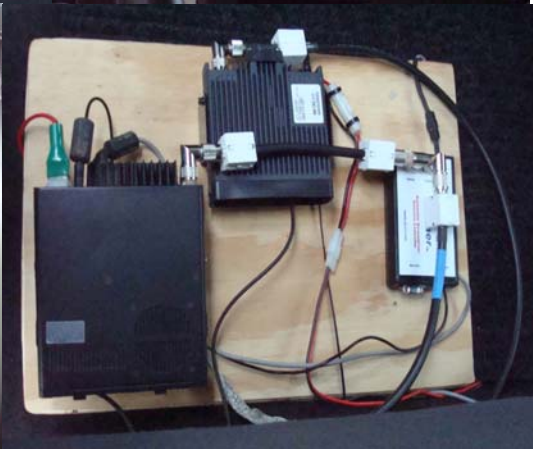
I figured I would start things out with a few pictures of my shack both at the QTH and Mobile. Hope you enjoy and provide some of your own!!

73's

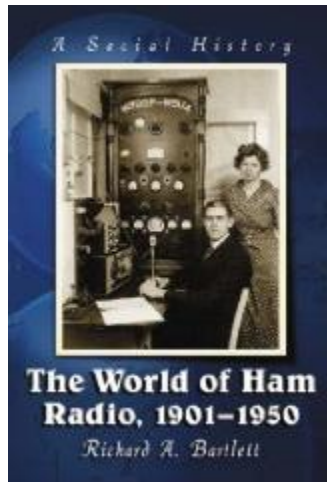
Rich

NORMC





Book Review



(Courtesy of Harry Kern - KI4JVE)

A source was chosen for this book review that may appeal to the more eclectic of readers. Books about ham radio are *usually* written by ham operators. This one proves an exception, but is none-the-less *very* informative if interested in a more thorough understanding of amateur radio's development from a perspective of social history during formative years (before the hobby became more organized, defined/clarified through enacted legislation, and commercial products made readily available).

The World of Ham Radio, 1901-1950: A Social History¹ is authored by Richard A. Bartlett, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Florida State University, in memory of his brother, Forest Abbott "Bart" Bartlett (W6OWP-SK) following seven years of topic research with Bart, other hams, and informational resources. While there are a few oddly used bits of jargon of but minor distraction, the content is "on-point" and makes for good reading.

In somewhat scholarly but appealing style, the topic of ham radio is carefully dissected, noting important historical events to which hams contributed, participated in, or were relied upon. For example, some chapters focus on topics such as Hiram Percy Maxim and the "relay concept," the broadcast revolution, amateurs during and between the World Wars, amateurs and aviation, Polar exploration, as well as amateurs in emergencies and disasters. The hardback book contains numerous black & white photographs that will allure those interested in vintage ham radios, antennas, vintage radio advertisements, historic events, aircraft & vessels, ham stations, and some cartoons.

The author's "Chapter Notes" and "A Biographical Essay" (found at book's end) provide valuable citations for those desiring additional research on specific topics.

¹ Bartlett, Richard A., The World of Ham Radio, 1901-1950: A Social History, McFarland & Company, Inc., Jefferson, North Carolina, c. 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0786429660, 292 pages (\$44-\$55 US).

Those having earned a ham license in “years past” will truly appreciate the commitment, ingenuity, and resourcefulness that our fine hobby required in its infancy. This is also a good read for the newer ham, gaining respect for those hams that got us to where we presently are and the technology available at our fingertips today.

Richard A. Bartlett has authored other books including the following:

- First Christmas At Muddy Creek
- From Cody to the World: The First Seventy-Five Years of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association
- Great Surveys of the American West
- Nature’s Yellowstone
- The New Country: A Social History of the American Frontier 1776-1890
- Troubled Waters: Champion International and the Pigeon River Controversy
- Yellowstone: A Wilderness Besieged
- Yellowstone Holiday. A native of Colorado

Ham Spotlight

David Collins, N4WDC, Extra

As your club treasurer, I thought you might be interested in reading in little about me. I was a Boy Scout in the late 60's and just never could seem to learn Morse code, so I opted to learn semaphore for my advancement. While working for Birmingham (AL) Cable Communications a co-worker got us interested in amateur radio and I was first licensed as a novice as KA4ZHQ back in 1982. I then went back to college and did nothing, really, for the next 20 years. During that time, I let my license expire and was reissued a new callsign of KC4YYX without having to retest. After an 11 year stint as a volunteer Paramedic in VA and finishing my Master's in Electrical Engineering, I thought it might be nice to upgrade and start operating. I attended the RVARC Technician class headed up by Jack Cavanagh, KB4XF, and upgraded to Extra in the fall of 2002 and have been very active in Emergency Communications in the Fredericksburg surrounding area. Buck, K4IA, encouraged me to apply for my present vanity callsign in the summer of 2006. You'll hear me as NCS on the Old Dominion Emergency Net every once in a while. I've been appointed as the ARRL ARES Emergency Coordinator for King George County. I am a regular NCS for Region 3 Army MARS and enjoy supporting the special events the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club (www.qsl.net/rvarc) supports. I'm also a volunteer examiner for ARRL and W5YI. You'll hear me on the local VHF and UHF repeaters in Stafford, Fredericksburg and King George areas while commuting to/from work (20 minute commute!). I really need to improve my mobile HF signal since I'm only using ham sticks mounted to the rear of my "minivan." I'm going to try to focus on re-learning CW in the next few months and hopefully operate CW in some of the upcoming contests. I'm looking forward to continuing the construction of my partially built Elecraft K2 and the A & A Engineering Switchable Q R P Smart Battery Charger kit I got last year. I also picked up an AriZona ScQRPion paddle kit this past fall and will finish it this spring. Here's a picture of me in my messy garage shack. My other hobbies include motorcycling and building construction. I have three grown (Ha!) children spread from King George, Anchorage AK to South Korea and one teenage son still at home.

David

As we all know Hams have great senses of humor and there are tons of Ham related cartoons, jokes, and stories floating around the ether! From time to time some of these strange occurrences of levity propagation fall into print. I always love to share a good laugh and as my daughter often says..."Are they talking about you Dad?" I am never offended by humor as it is healthy to laugh. What follows is to put a smile on your faces! I hope to add a bit of humor to all the newsletters.

Humor from our resident pajama wearing retired Ham "Butch" KF4HR:
I hear he may be looking to patent these Ham versions of the CB 10.

KF4HR 9-Code Brevity System:

- 9-1** = There's traffic on 95 (or **9-1: Duh!**)
- 9-2** = There's an accident on 95, north bound
- 9-3** = There's an accident on 95, south bound
- 9-4** = There's an accident on 95 both north and south bound
(protocol: **9-4 N152.3 & S144.7**)
- 9-5** = I'm sitting in traffic (and everyone else except me, is rubber-necking)
- 9-6** = I'm sitting (or still sitting) in traffic. ***Damn, this is ridiculous!***
- 9-7** = This is {*enter your callsign*} **OUT!** (*For those that feel releasing their mic button isn't enough proof to others that they have left the air.*)
- 9-8** = That guy cut me off! Hey, so did that guy. And he flipped me off too!
- 9-9** = I'm at work soooo, talk to you guys on the ***going home show***.
- 9-10** = I'm in the driveway sooooo, I'll talk to you guys on the ***going in show***.
- 9-11** = I'm at mile marker XX.
(protocol: **9-11 147.2**) *This Code is great for those ham's who feel the need to transmit their position on 95 every 1/10 of a mile or so.*
- 9-11** = Screw this 95 traffic! I'm taking the back roads!
- 9-12** = Damn! The back roads are screwed up too!
- 9-13** = Looks like I am not going to be on time for [*fill in the blank*]!
(protocol: **9-13 Work**)
- 9-14** = If these damn government people would just learn how to design roads!!!
(*reserved for AK1E*)
- 9-15** = I'm sitting in the valley of the 3 1/2 towers (or **9-15 again**).
- 9-16** = It's Friday and traffic is heavy. (or **9-16 duh!**)
- 9-17** = I've finally gotten to where I'm going {*probably from where I was*}.
- 9-18** = I have only traveled {*input number of feet*}, in the last, {*input minutes or hours*}.
(protocol: **9-19 4-45, M** for Minutes, **H** for Hours)
- 9-19** = Most people don't know how to drive in the snow! (*Well... except for us of course.*)
... and last but always the cheerful...
- 9-20** = You have a wonderful day!

Butch
KF4HR **9-7!**

Local Up Coming Events

Date	Time	Event
19 Mar	1700-2200	Special Olympics of VA Basketball Tournament
20 Mar	0800-1600	Special Olympics of VA Basketball Tournament
16 May	0630-1200	Marine Corps Historic Half Marathon
5 Jun	0800-1400	Great Rappahannock White Water Canoe Race
6 Jun	0800-1400	Great Rappahannock White Water Canoe Race
10 Jul	0630-1200	Colonial Beach Triathlon
11 Jul	0630-1200	Colonial Beach Triathlon
22 Aug	0630-1200	WaWa 10 Miler
26 Sept	0700-1600	Cannonball Century Bike Ride (100 mile)

Please contact N4WDC or AK1E for more information.

2010 Club Calendar

Date	Event	Coordinator
17-Apr-10	Unofficial Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC
14-May-10	Dayton Hamvention	
15-May-10	Unofficial Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC
16-May-10	Fredericksburg Historic Half Marathon	AK1E
5-Jun-10	WW4VA/WS4VA Repeater Maintenance	K3EP/N0RMC
12-Jun-10	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	N0RMC
19-Jun-10	Unofficial Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC
26-Jun-10	Field Day	
17-Jul-10	Unofficial Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC
1-Aug-10	ARRL UHF Contest	
21-Aug-10	Unofficial Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC
21-Aug-10	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	
21-Aug-10	Lighthouses on the Air	
4-Sep-10	WW4VA/WS4VA Repeater Maintenance	K3EP/N0RMC
11-Sep-10	ARRL September VHF QSO Party	N0RMC
18-Sep-10	Official Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC
18-Sep-10	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	
20-Nov-10	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)	
4-Dec-10	WW4VA/WS4VA Repeater Maintenance	K3EP/N0RMC
21-Dec-10	Unofficial Club Meeting	N4SIG/N4WDC

SARA

Just wanted to provide a quick update on to the state of D-STAR. The SARA D-Star system remains running 24/7. We had a short outage during the early part of March which the cause remains a mystery. A trip up to the repeater and doing the good old power clear brought the system back to operating 100%. We have also upgraded the D-PLUS application to version 2.2F which provides added features and clears up some bugs that appeared in v2.2e. We can now support DV Access Point Dongles, deny access to unauthorized users (interesting capability but we need to discuss how/why we as a club might use this), voice messages/announcements, and execute D-Star housekeeping functions on a schedule without a user actually initiating the action. I would also like you all to take a look at the new NCR D-STAR website and especially the YouTube presentation of D-STAR given last month at the Vienna Winterfest. If you have time please visit: www.ncrdstar.org you will enjoy it. Very informative. We will have more specific WS4VA SARA information on the site soon. I would also like to thank W4NEZ and W1BJC for their taking the NCS when I have not been available on Thursday evenings. Believe it or not D-STAR is growing though not as fast as many hoped for but it moving forward and is here to stay. You would be amazed at how many new applications for D-STAR have been implemented as well as the new hardware capabilities have recently started popping up. What first started out as an entirely ICOM offering has now got many third party developers working on producing things:

- DV-Dongle which allows a user who is away from his D-STAR radio to plug in the dongle to a computer attached to the internet and talk through the D-STAR network.
- D-SHARK is a protocol analyzer that shows you the GW traffic. This is a great troubleshooting tool!
- D-STAR Hotspot is software for Windows that creates a D-STAR 'point of presence' (or hot spot) utilizing an analog radio and a GMSK node adapter. The hot spot creates RF access to the D-STAR network where none previously existed. With a hot spot set up, you can use your D-STAR radio (IC-91AD, ID-92, etc.) to listen to, and talk on, any DPlus equipped D-STAR repeater or reflector

D-STAR Hot Spot - System Diagram



WS4VA Thursday Evening D-STAR Net Schedule

DATE	TIME	NCS	DATE	TIME	NCS
2/18/2010	1900	N0RMC	8/19/2010	1900	N0RMC
2/25/2010	1900	W1BJC	8/26/2010	1900	W1BJC
3/4/2010	1900	N0RMC	9/2/2010	1900	N0RMC
3/11/2010	1900	W1BJC	9/9/2010	1900	W1BJC
3/18/2010	1900	N0RMC	9/16/2010	1900	N0RMC
3/25/2010	1900	W1BJC	9/23/2010	1900	W1BJC
4/1/2010	1900	N0RMC	9/30/2010	1900	N0RMC
4/8/2010	1900	W1BJC	10/7/2010	1900	W1BJC
4/15/2010	1900	N0RMC	10/14/2010	1900	N0RMC
4/22/2010	1900	W1BJC	10/21/2010	1900	W1BJC
4/29/2010	1900	N0RMC	10/28/2010	1900	N0RMC
5/6/2010	1900	W1BJC	11/4/2010	1900	W1BJC
5/13/2010	1900	N0RMC	11/11/2010	1900	N0RMC
5/20/2010	1900	W1BJC	11/18/2010	1900	W1BJC
5/27/2010	1900	W1BJC	11/25/2010	1900	No Net

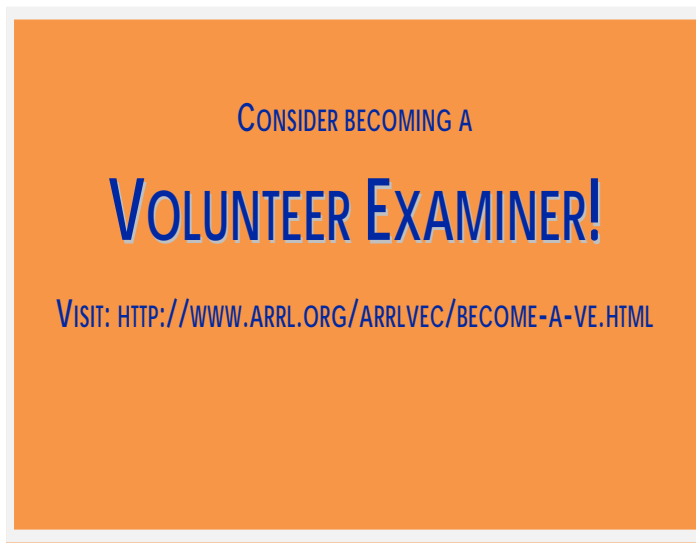


Monthly exam sessions by the Rappahannock Valley Volunteer Examiners' Group are now being held at the Perkins restaurant located near I-95 Exit 133 West on Route 17, every 3rd Saturday from 0715 – 0930.

Get into the far left lane immediately as you exit I-95. The restaurant is across from the Shell gas station at the first traffic light. Please visit

<http://www.qsl.net/semcomm/products.htm> and its 3 other links for more detailed information and how to become a VE, or contact Bart, N3GQ, VE Session Manager.

Pre-Registration is required to allow us time to ensure we will have at least three Volunteer Examiners present.



Emergency Communications



Announcement!!!

There will be a Stafford Volunteer Emergency Communications Team awards ceremony on Saturday April 3rd at the Perkins Restaurant located near I-95 Exit 133 West on Route 17. Please come join us in recognizing our outstanding volunteers.



*The Stafford EmComm
Radio Room at the
Stafford County Public
Safety Center has a
new phone number:
(540) 658-5290
Please jot it down!*