



Meeting minutes submitted by A.Hamel,  
WA1UQQ.

## From The Prez

Greetings RARC members. As I have met and talked to more members of the club I have come to realize that there is a lot of Ham Radio expertise among our members. I like to think of it as a "living encyclopedia of Ham Radio." I think members, particularly new members, could make better use of all this knowledge if we were able to identify those members with specific areas of knowledge and the desire to share that knowledge with other Hams. Some of the areas of expertise that I have thought of include casual HF operation (CW/SSB), dxing, contesting, digital modes (PSK, FT8 etc.), QRP/portable, VHF/UHF weak signal, satellites, emergency communications, public service, antennas, propagation, raspberry pi/Arduino, D-Star/Fusion/DMR, FM and repeaters and setting up your first station. There are probably some other important topics that I have forgotten. What I am suggesting is that if you have expertise in these topics, or other Ham Radio topics, that you identify yourself. You could email me at [president@rarclub.net](mailto:president@rarclub.net). If there is enough response I would propose to create a club subdirectory that would indicate area of expertise you can share and contact information. My areas of expertise that I can share are casual HF operation, antennas, propagation, satellites, weak signal VHF/UHF and QRP/portable. I look forward to seeing everyone at the December meeting. At that meeting we can discuss the above topics in more detail. Members can bring gear that they wish to sell, trade or donate to the meeting. Until then, 73, Rick, KA4OHM.

## RARC VE News

We have two different groups that provide testing.

1. One is free, but only offers testing sessions on the second Saturday of odd months except June (Field Day) replaces July. **The next session will be on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
2. The other one cost \$15.00, but offers testing sessions on the 1st Saturday of every month.

1. RARC offers Free VE Testing Sessions on the second Saturday of odd months except June (Field Day) replaces July. Currently all testing starts at 10:00 AM and is at: Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch 9103 Rattlesnake Rd North Chesterfield, VA 23235. Pre-registration Required. Walk-ins Accepted. Pre-Registration required for Techs and for special needs applicants. Anyone taking the Tech exam needs a FRN from the FCC (Google obtaining a FCC FRN) and bring that info to the session. If you have questions about a session, please see our website, [www.rarclub.net](http://www.rarclub.net) or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or [ve@rarclub.net](mailto:ve@rarclub.net)

2. KC4TS Cats Vet (Cats Volunteer Examination Team) offers VE Testing Sessions that cost \$15.00 on the 1st Saturday of every month. Currently all testing starts at 10:00 AM and is at: Gospel Light Church 2109 Anderson Hwy Powhatan VA. Check-in is between 10am and 12pm and we stay as long as needed to finish all the exams. Walk-in candidates are welcome! You just need a valid ID, an individual FCC FRN, and the testing fee of \$15 which goes directly to the ARRL (cash or check made payable to "ARRL VEC"). We can provide pencils and a very simple calculator or you can bring your own. See <http://kc4ts.org/> for more information.

## Club Info...

RARC meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

We offer 10-week license prep classes in September and March with exams following. Members provide VE testing sessions on odd-months during the year.

## Join the Richmond Amateur Radio Club.

You don't have to have a ham license, just have a genuine interest in the hobby.

Annual Dues are:

80 and over \$0  
Regular Membership \$22.00

Lots of information about the Club and our activities is available on our website, [www.rarclub.net](http://www.rarclub.net).

## Nets

RARC has the first and only D-STAR digital repeater in the area: 147.255 (+ 600), 443.7125 (+ 5) and 1284.0000 (-20). In addition to our Wednesday local D Star net (below), we link Module C (VHF) to REF 062A for the National Capital Region D Star Net on Wednesday nights at 9pm. On Tuesday nights at 9pm, we link Module C (VHF) to REF 054C for the North Carolina D Star Net.

The RARC D Star Net meets on Wednesday nights at 8:00pm and is accessible on our three D Star modules, all of which will be linked together via REF 062D. So if you are in RF range of the repeater, you can join the net on any of the three RF modules and be heard by everyone.

If you participate in the net via DVAP, DV Dongle or a Hotspot (such as Pi Star), you should link your device to REF 062D rather than to any of our modules which will allow you to be heard by everyone.

Any questions, contact Win - W4WIN at [wingrant@gmail.com](mailto:wingrant@gmail.com)

<b>Sunday</b>	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
	7:30 pm	52.525	FM
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
	8:15 pm	145.730	Packe

### MRA

#### Interested in information or support of the Metropolitan Repeater Association (MRA)?

The sole business of the MRA is to own, operate and maintain the 145.430 repeater. For information please visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/kg4mra/>.

### Show and Tell!

If you have an item, idea, latest and greatest, or whatever gizmo; please bring it to the RARC meeting. We have a table (usually) set up near the front where you can place your item and share/discuss it with others as they arrive. We also have a section of the agenda set aside for members to discuss their "Show and Tell" item(s). No need to be tentative; we are INTERESTED in what you are doing, how you are doing it and, in true Ham fashion, how much it costs!

### New camera and mic for Zoom of club meetings!

The RARC leaders authorized the purchase of a new auto-focus USB camera and a hand-held wireless microphone. After viewing the Zoom recording of the November meeting it was clear it wasn't clear. The audio was pretty bad also. The new camera has automatic focusing where it's pointed. The image should be better. The wireless mic can be handed to the speaker so the Zoom viewers can hear better. The wired mic on a stand will remain for presentations where the speaker is still. Note that with Zoom, you can use only one mic at a time in a room. Otherwise there's lots of squealing and audio feedback.



### Transatlantic Centenary Tests

The RSGB are hosting, *The Transatlantic Centenary Tests*, on the HF bands to commemorate the centenary of the achievement of Amateur Transatlantic communication, during the Transatlantic Tests that were held between 1921 and 1923.

The Tests will run from 1 December 2022 to 31 December 2022.

#### Why The Transatlantic Centenary Tests?

24 December 1922 was when the very first amateur signal from Europe was heard in North America; this was from the RSGB station (G)5WS which was established at Wandsworth in South London, as part of the Third Transatlantic Tests.

Unlike the tests of the 1920s, which mostly consisted of one-way communication, the 2022 tests will encourage world-wide two-way communication with UK & CD based stations. We want to showcase amateur radio in 2022 to celebrate this milestone in the history of the hobby.

Special stations will be activated from the UK by RSGB members and Clubs, using



original RSGB call signs from the 1920s but using state-of-the-art modern radio equipment.

The Club Log team have kindly agreed to provide the supporting infrastructure for the Tests.

In anticipation of this centenary celebration, with the assistance of Ofcom (the UK licensing authority), the RSGB have renewed five call signs which they held in the 1920s:

- G5WS, used for the 1922 tests – “the first to get across”
- G5AT, used for the 1923 tests
- G6XX, used for the 1923 tests
- G6ZZ, used for the first amateur tests on a moving railway train in 1924
- G3DR, Scottish Highlands Call – GM3DR.

These historic call signs are being activated by RSGB members and Clubs, using G5WS, G5AT, G6XX, G6ZZ and G3DR (England), GM5WS (Scotland), GW5WS (Wales), GU5WS (Guernsey), GD5WS (Isle of Man), GJ5WS (Jersey) and GI5WS (Northern Ireland).

## LAST MONTH!





### The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@arrl.net](mailto:wa1uqo@arrl.net), or call me at 508-838-8353. The Swap Shop is presented in the newsletter as a benefit to our members. RARC takes no responsibility for items sold or traded in this newsletter. The ad will appear three times unless extended. Interested parties will contact you directly. ***You must be an RARC member to place an ad.***

### Thought For The Day

***We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.***

Rick Waller  
Darrell Basinger  
Dave Robinson  
Ken Leidner

KA4OHM  
WW4F  
KJ4LHP  
WV0L

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Secretary		
Treasurer		

**RARC speakers for 2023 as of December 2022**

Meeting	Speaker	Topic
12/09/2022	Rick Waller, KA4OHM	Discussion of topics member want to cover in 2023; buy-sell-trade fest, back of room
01/13/2023	John Drum, W4BXI	How to use remote SDR receivers for HF
02/10/2023	Rick Waller, KA4OHM	Coaxial cable 101
03/10/2023	B MacAlister, W4BRU	How to connect computer to radio for logging, control, etc
04/14/2022	Darrell Basinger, WW4F	Complete 500 Watt home built station
05/12/2023	Darrell Basinger, WW4F	Building the HPSPDR Controller
06/03/2023	Committee to be appointed	Organize, plan, recruit for Field Day 2023
07/14/2023	Gordon H. Waller, scientist, NRL	Batteries for portable applications
08/11/2023	Darrell Basinger, WW4F	Building a barely legal 500w HF amplifier
09/08/2023	Gerhard Straub, K6XH	High power AM directional antenna design
10/13/2023	Win Grant, W4WIN	Antennas and HOAs
11/10/2023	Committee to be appointed	Banquet(?), Installation of officers
12/08/2023	Committee to be appointed	Party with heavy eats





