



THE RICHMOND HAM

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February 2023

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting Virtually Happening and in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday February 10th, 2023, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road, and also a virtual one. The Zoom meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Upon joining the meeting you will be muted. You may exchange greetings with members through the chat feature (keyboard).

Cell phone and tablet users please use Landscape orientation for better imaging.

Kenneth Leidner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: RARC Monthly Meeting - Virtual

Time:

February 10th, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada).

Every month on the Second Fri.

Please download and import the following Calendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwoduGoqzMvEtBdpM3wG1LJ7Ro1ZcdB0qf1/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqzoiGtGdtRGDRpw-GYj4WfTwmFxyj7d_mA_IUDd0My_cYdBNY4h8FPqA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518058584>

Meeting ID: 885 1805 8584

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88518058584# US

(Germantown)

+13126266799,,88518058584# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown, MD)

Meeting ID: 885 1805 8584

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbj882gslc>

Ken Leidner , WV0L

This Month's Program:

February Program – Rick Waller, KA4OHM, will present “Transmission Line 101”.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

January 13th, 2023

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:04 on January 13th, 2023 on Zoom and in-person by President Rick Waller, (KA4OHM).

Members Present: Check-ins on Zoom and in-person at the Church plus one visitor, WF4J, Robert Estes.

After a brief introduction of members present the business meeting was called. Minutes of last months meeting were approved unanimously.

Old business: None

Treasurers Report: Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$20,809.16. The Report was approved unanimously by voice vote. Five new members approved unanimously by voice vote.

New Business: Club members were reminded that Winter Field Day is January 28th & 29th.

RATS will be hosting a Winter Field Day event at Pocahontas State Park.

Registration for the Spring License classes is open now, <https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/>. In house registration at the church on Feb 21st.

Remote station: Still some issues but working now.

Lauren, WD4FMG is working on a Club flyer for handout.

Rick, (KA4OHM) asked the members about any recent interesting radio related activity.

Business Meeting was closed at 19:23.

A presentation followed by John Drum, W4BXI, on the use of remote station and remote SDR receivers.

Meeting minutes submitted by A.Hamel, WA1UQO.

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 March 11th. 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 or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or 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 Hey 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.

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

Sunday	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
	7:30 pm	52.525	FM
Wednesday	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!

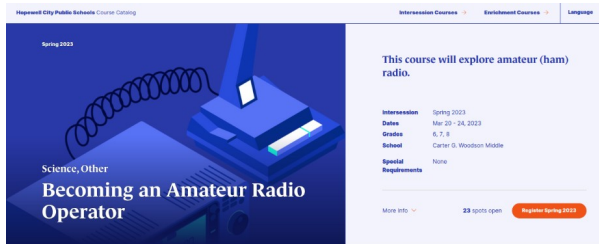
If you have an item, idea, latest and greatest, or whatever gizmo; please bring it to the RARC meeting. We have a table (usually) set up near the front where you can place your item and share/discuss it with others as they arrive. We also have a section of the agenda set aside for members to discuss 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!

Middle School Radio Camp

On March 20 to 24 the Carter G Woodson Middle School in Hopewell will have a radio camp. It will be taught by RARC members. It came out of the year-long teaching that RARC instructors gave to prepare the sixth grade science classes for the 2022 ISS contact. After the contact I said – kind of offhandedly – that we could teach a class or something if any students were interested in getting their licenses.

Surprise! Several students told teacher Alexandra Perry, the initiator of the ISS project, they they were interested. The school set up the intercession camp “Becoming a Radio Amateur Operator” and got \$800 from the school system to fund it. It will be led by Dave Stevens, WD4DES. Mac Lyle, K4ZX, who handles the ham station at the Goochland Scout camp, will assist with content and teaching as he can, given that he works full time. Several RARC instructors will teach modules as assigned. We do not know how many students will sign up and we do not know how many will study hard enough to get their licenses, but it’s a start on getting new, young hams. We didn’t want to pass up that chance.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU



WINTERFEST is coming -- Save the Date:

Vienna Wireless Society's 47th WINTERFEST matches Hams, Makers and Electronic Enthusiasts with Vendors on **Sunday, March 19th, 2023** for a traditional Hamfest.

Location: New Venue: Oakton High School, [2900 Sutton Road, Vienna Virginia, 22181](https://www.viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/).

Operating Hours: Tailgating: Opens at 7am.

Indoor Market Fair: Opens at 8am.

WINTERFEST Closes at 2pm. Check this website

<https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/> for updates.

UPDATE: Advance purchase of admission/raffle tickets here:

<https://ticketstripe.com/VWS-WinterFest-2023>

Raffle: Grand Prize is a Yaesu FTDX10 Compact HF Transceiver.

You do not need to be present to win.

Winners will be notified by email, and equipment will be delivered to winners within 20 miles of Vienna, VA, or shipped to locations in the lower 48 states at no expense to the winners. Each paid attendee receives one raffle ticket with their admission. Additional raffle tickets may be purchased for \$10 each.

AN INTERESTING PROJECT

A couple of weeks ago, another member of our club referred a gentleman who wanted to know if someone could restore his grandmother's 1920s radio, which had been passed down to him many years ago. I enjoy this kind of work so I agreed to see if it was possible. When he brought the radio to me, my interest peaked because it happened to be a two-tube Grebe CR-18 short wave receiver from 1925. Grebe radios from that era are pretty rare, and they were noted for being well designed and built with good quality parts and assembly practices. In fact, in my own collection, I have a Grebe Synchronphase which is probably one of the more unique radios that I own.

In filling me in on the radio's history, he explained that it had great significance and nostalgic value to his family because it was his grandmother's radio, and that she had been an early CW operator with the Danish Merchant-Marine.

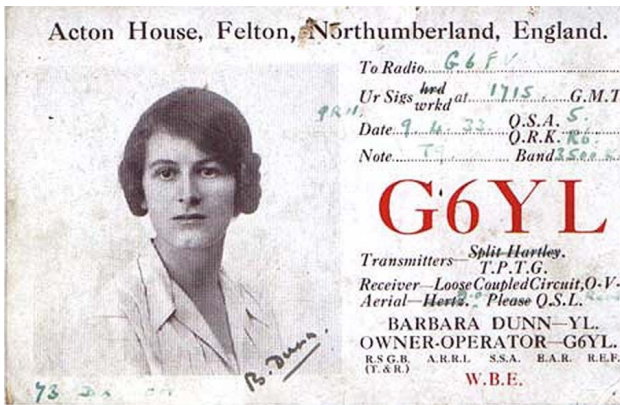
Along with the radio, he also brought along a QSL card from G6YL, which confirmed a QSO with his grandmother. G6YL was Barbara Dunn, of Essex, first licensed in 1923, and who had the distinction of being one of the first two women to receive amateur radio licenses in Great Britain. As a housewife, Dunn did much toward the development of ham radio, and the most significant part of her work was during WW-II when she aided the British government as an operator, with the Radio Secret Service, monitoring German radio transmissions.

Meanwhile, the restoration of the Grebe went extremely well. A good cleaning, replacement of a defective 25K ohm regeneration resistor, some minor

cabinet repair work, and we had a fully functioning receiver. The two Cunningham 201A tubes, of the old style discontinued in the early 1930s, tested good and functioned well. The CR-18, unlike the general purpose Synchrophase, is a CW specific regenerative receiver that is designed with a BFO that runs at all times. Power requirements call for a 6 volt filament battery and a 90 volt battery for B+. The owner had a complete set of the changeable coils that plug in to a strip on the top of the case, a feature which allows band switching without the need to open the cabinet and disturb the internal components.

There are many extensions to this hobby of ours. Some of us enjoy building new projects, some just enjoy operating, contesting or plain old rag chewing, but personally I find a great deal of satisfaction in also preserving the history of ham radio.

John DeMajo



**Another Hamfest!
First Annual**

THAWFEST

**Presented by the Greene County Virginia
Amateur Radio Club**

Date; **Saturday April 22, 2023**

Location; **American Legion Post 128**

Address; **636 Madison Rd. Stanardsville VA 2297**

Ham Radio Friends!

You already have your license, and maybe you have friends that have expressed interest in ham radio, but haven't taken the steps to get their license.

They want to be like you, but they think it's TOO hard. Now THEY can join in a classroom and experience exactly what they need to know to gain their Technician License or upgrade to General or Amateur Extra.

This is a great opportunity to learn in a small classroom setting. Please forward this to your friends. Registration is OPEN NOW, but ends February 28, 2023!

Announcing! Classroom Training to earn your FCC Amateur Radio License!

Join the 769,070 Amateur Radio (Ham) Operators already having fun, making friends and helping their communities with their Amateur Radio skills. Now you can learn and earn your FCC Amateur Radio license in a classroom with experienced ham instructors.

Licensed hams enjoy communicating and experimenting with other hams worldwide with analog and digital technologies....reserved only for FCC licensed hams!

§ One member of a student's immediate family can attend free!

§ When a student passes the exam he-she gets one year of free RARC club membership!

The FCC testing is already scheduled soon after classes to get you up and transmitting!

Registration is open NOW for every class of FCC Amateur License: Technician, General and Amateur Extra.

The deadline for registration is February 28, 2023.

Classes meet one evening per week at Bon Air United Methodist Church.

Class size is limited so visit this web page now for more information and to

register: <https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/>

HAARP Thanks Amateur Radio Operators for Help with Latest Experiment

On Tuesday, December 27, 2022, the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) conducted its latest ionospheric experiment of bouncing radio signals off an asteroid passing near Earth's orbit.

A frosty landscape surrounds antennas at the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program site in Gakona, Alaska, on December 20, 2022.

Amateur radio operators and radio astronomy enthusiasts were invited to monitor the test and send their results to HAARP for analysis. While the results of the experiment will take several weeks, Jessica Matthews, HAARP Program Manager, said the help was greatly appreciated. "So far we have received over 300 reception reports from the amateur radio and radio astronomy communities from six continents who confirmed the HAARP transmission."

HAARP officials say the results of the experiment could aid efforts to defend Earth from larger asteroids that could cause significant damage.

"We will be analyzing the data over the next few weeks and hope to publish the results in the coming months," said Mark Haynes, lead investigator on the project and a radar systems engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. "This experiment was the first time an asteroid observation was attempted at such low frequencies," he said. "This shows the value of HAARP as a potential future research tool for the study of near-Earth objects."

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) operates [HAARP](#) under an agreement with the Air Force, which developed and owned HAARP but transferred the research instruments to UAF in August 2015.

ARRL.



Early Radio

Amateur Radio became a popular hobby in the early years of the twentieth century, and many hobbyists built their own transmitting and receiving equipment. Informally known collectively as "hams", use of the term "YL" ("young lady") to refer to individual female amateur operators, in contrast to "OM" ("old man") for males, was adopted by the American Radio Relay League in 1920. Some of the earliest women radio enthusiasts were Mrs. M. J. Glass of San Jose, California, who participated in the operation of station FNFN in 1910, and Olive Heartberg, who operated amateur station OHK in New York City in the same year. M. S. Colville, of Bowmanville, Ontario, who began to operate as XDD in 1914, was one of the earliest Canadian female operators.

Because all early radio work was done in Morse code, and individual operators were commonly identified by short call signs, it was possible to remain anonymous if desired. Even after the Radio Act of 1912 required United States radio stations to be licensed, in some cases transmitters were registered under a brother's name, in order to disguise the fact that the main operator was female.

Gladys Kathleen Parkin (September 27, 1901 - August 3, 1990) was one of the early women to obtain a government issued license. In 1916, while a fifteen-year-old high school student at the Dominican College in San Rafael, California, she constructed her own amateur station, 6SO, and obtained a first class commercial radio operators' license. Parkin was quoted in 1916 as saying: "With reference to my ideas about the wireless profession as a vocation or worthwhile hobby for women, I think wireless telegraphy is a most fascinating study, and one which could very easily be taken up by girls, as it is a great deal more interesting than the telephone and telegraph work, in which so many girls are now employed. I am only fifteen, and I learned the code several years ago, by practising a few minutes each day on a buzzer. I studied a good deal and I found it quite easy to obtain my first grade commercial government license, last April. It seems to me that every one should at least know the code, as cases might easily arise of a ship in distress, where the operators might be incapacitated, and a knowledge of the code might be the means of saving the ship and the lives of the passengers. But the interest in wireless does not end in the knowledge of the code. You can gradually learn to make all your own instruments, as I have done with my 1/4 kilowatt set. There is always more ahead of you, as wireless telegraphy is still in its infancy."



Allow Us to Present Miss Kathleen Parkin, Expert Radio Operator at Fifteen Years of Age. She has made her own apparatus.

The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at 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

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.

Rick Waller	KA4OHM	President	(804) 971-5815	president@rarclub.net
Darrell Basinger	WW4F	Vice President	(804) 672-7928	vicepresident@rarclub.net
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

Still a Favorite

The Little Black Box of jewels and rocks
with lanterns that flicker and glow,
make lighter the gloom in my little back-room
where often I hasten to go.
An anthem it peals of whistles and squeals
and voices so ghostly and dear
that you'd never decry, should you chance to pass by-
what a brotherhood foregathers here!

Each separate tone has a soul of its own;
each voice is the voice of a friend.
United through space in this gathering-place
at the radiant signal's end.
Reverberant sounds ride the wave that rebounds,
like the waves of the sea from afar,
reporting the doings, the comings and goings
of brothers... wherever they are.

A curious band, spread over the land,
yet joined from equator to poles
disperses the gloom in the little back-rooms
by this magic communion of souls.
I could part with a lot of the things that I've got,
but I'll carry my love to the tomb,
of that little black box and the joys it unlocks
... when I enter that little back room.

By Max P. Vander Horck, WA6HUW
Published in QST, November 1966, page 33