



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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September 2023

## THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday September 8th, 2023, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road. This months meeting will be in-person and also on Zoom.

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

### This Month's Program:

**September Program:** This months presentation will be on "Antennas and systems for International Broadcasting" by Gerhard Straub, K6XH

### Richmond Amateur Radio Club August 11th Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by Rick Waller, KA4OHM and he introduced visitor David Hayworth, W1DRH.

**Business Meeting:** The July meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Marshal Ervine, N4XBP has agreed to review the clubs financial books again this year.

No incoming funds this month with a balance of \$20,548.91.

One new member voted in - Ron White (no call sign yet!), WelcomeRon!

**Old Business:** School classes set for the fall session. Tech - 10 weeks, Extra - 6 weeks and General - 5 weeks.

Two seminars - Robert Orndorf, W4BNO will teach the Antenna modeling course and Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU will teach the class on the Remote Station.

**New Business:** Club elections will be held during the October meeting.

Rick discussed the growing issue of what to do about equipment of Silent Keys that their families want to donate to the club or find means of selling them.

Ken Zutavern reminded us that the next Radio Builders group would meet at his house the following Tuesday to determine what the next build project should be.

Finally, a shout out to John De Majo, K5HTZ for the great custom cart that he built for the club to facilitate Zoom meetings. Thanks John!

The business meeting was closed at 19:20

**New Gear:** David, KO4RNT reported good success with a new Xiegu 6100 @ 10 Watts. John, KX4QC reported similar results with his Xiegu G90 @ 8 Watts!

Ken, WV0I called for volunteers who would be willing to help put up antennas for those unable or new Hams. Contact Ken at [treasurer@rarclub.net](mailto:treasurer@rarclub.net).

The business meeting was closed at 19:20 followed by a presentation on "Antennas, HOA's & other legal issues affecting Amateur Radio" by Win Grant, W4Win.

Submitted by Armand Hamel, WA1UQO

### RARC VE News

We have two different groups that provide testing.

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 September 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 at

Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch  
9103 Rattlesnake Rd

North Chesterfield, VA 23235

The other one cost \$15.00, but offers testing sessions on the 1st Saturday of every month.

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)

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](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) on Tuesday nights at 9pm, 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 097B. 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 097B 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
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 pm	52.525	FM

**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!

**Articles Requested!**

Everyone has a story to share. Your first rig, your first contact, your most memorable QSO? How about a description of your shack with a picture? Old to the hobby – New to the hobby, there are lots of interesting stories out there to share. Consider writing and article for the newsletter. Any topic, any length any format, all will be welcomed. Any questions, send me an email at [wa1uqo@gmail.com](mailto:wa1uqo@gmail.com) or call @ 508-838-8353. Thanks!

**Volunteer for the Richmond Marathon!**

Dear Fellow Hams,

The Richmond, VA Marathon is on November 11th, 2023. We will be needing up to 40 operators of varying skill sets. You do not have to be experienced at operating events for some of the positions, as you will be trained. If you are interested and available on Nov. 11th, please email: Jim Rubin, W4PKR at: [W4PKR@ARRL.NET](mailto:W4PKR@ARRL.NET).

In the subject line, please include "2023 Richmond Marathon".

In the body of the email, please include the following:

- Your name and call sign
- Your cell phone number
- Your tee-shirt size (I'm not 100% sure there will be tees for a November event, but just in case!)
- What, if any, experience you may have operating at events, including ARES events and especially if you have experience as a Net Control Operator for local nets or in any other capacity.
- What portable equipment you have available.

I will follow up with you and let you know I have received your email and you will be included in all updates regarding the race, as well as any

information needed to attend. Operating events as a volunteer is fun and a great way to serve the public, as well as to show people what hams can do. It's also a good experience for anyone at all interested in emergency operating, as we follow net control protocols similar to what would go on in an emergency setting, as opposed to an average weekly discussion net.

Thank you all in advance for taking part in this event!  
73,

Jim Rubin, W4PKR

Lead Amateur Radio Coordinator

2023 Richmond Marathon

646-528-6280

### Club Elections

RARC election of Officers for 2024 will be held at the October meeting. The Nominating Committee has endorsed the following:

President	Rich Waller, KA4OHM
Vice President	Darrell Basinger, WW4F
Secretary.	Dave Robinson, KJ4LHP
Treasurer.	Ken Leitner, WV0L
Director.	Lauren Ware, WD4FMG
Director.	Armand Hamel, WA1UQO

Additional nominations may be made from the floor and Zoom at the October meeting.

Newly elected Officers will be installed at the November meeting.

### Fall classes and seminars

Upgrade to General! Already there? How about Extra. And there is the Antenna Modeling seminar and how to use the club's Remote Controlled HF-VHF-UHF station seminar. Go to <https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules> / on the website sign up.

General - Thursday nights, 7pm to 9pm, October 10 to November 9, classroom.

Extra - Tuesday nights, 7pm to 9pm, October 3 to November 7, classroom.

Antenna Modeling - Thursday October 5, 7pm, classroom.

Remote Station operation - 2 nights via Zoom, Tuesday September 12 & 19.

If you know someone who needs any of these, forward this note or talk to them. Questions, email [school@rarclub.net](mailto:school@rarclub.net), call 804-353-4269.



RARC classes QR code



### You can use your mobile radios within city limits

The City of Richmond passed a distracted driving ordinance several years ago during the height of the texting-while-driving accidents. It was written such that using a ham radio in your car was illegal. Later the state passed a distracted driving law that exempted ham (and CB) radio use while driving a moving vehicle. That more nuanced law largely came from the involvement of several hams led by Win Grant, W4WIN.

The good news for those with microphone in hand within the city limits, City Council passed a new law that adds the ham and CB exception of the state law. It appears a 2019 letter to City Council from John DeMajo, K5HTZ, writing as RARC president, may have swayed the legislators. I was told it was unanimous by the Council and the mayor. So, we shouldn't "kerchunk" the repeaters without identifying ourselves but we are otherwise free to transmit while driving within city limits.

Thanks go to Sven Philipsen, assistant to councilor Katherine Jordan, and the Richmond city attorney for doing the research.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

## The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ugo@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.**

### For Sale:

Comet CX-333 tri-band antenna. Used 3 years, still in very good condition and had a low SWR on all bands when decommissioned.

SPECS: Coverage: 2M, 1.25M, 70cm, VSWR: 1.5:1 or less, Max Power: 120 watts, Length: 10' 4", Weight: 3 lbs 8 oz , Connector: SO-239.

Construction: Heavy-duty Fiberglass, 2 sections

Asking \$90. Contact Dave White, W4IIA for information.

804-501-8857

**For Sale:** Icom IC-2820H mobile or base transceiver. FM analog and D Star digital, VHF-UHF, 50 watts, 500 memory channels, detachable control head. Includes GPS/D Star option. Dual receivers. Wide coverage receiver covers 220 MHz and 900 MHz bands. Diversity receive function. \$225. Win Grant, W4WIN. [wingrant@gmail.com](mailto:wingrant@gmail.com)

## Thought For The Day

***"If you are the smartest person in the room, then you are in the wrong room." — Confucius.***

Rick Waller	KA4OHM	President	(804) 971-5815	<a href="mailto:president@rarclub.net">president@rarclub.net</a>
Darrell Basinger	WW4F	Vice President	(804) 672-7928	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@rarclub.net">vicepresident@rarclub.net</a>
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

**Ahhhh.....!**





## For the child in all of us!

