



THE RICHMOND HAM

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February 2024

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday February 9th, 2024, 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>

QR Code for Zoom Link



This months program: "A Tour of and Using the RARC Remote Station." by Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU.

January 12th Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM at 19:06.

No old business to discuss this month.

Treasurers Report: Ending balance of \$19,812.46.

New Members: Robert Nyman, KQ4NBK and Volker Schweyer, KQ4GPE. Welcome to you both!

Lauren Ware announced her new call sign, W4LEW.

Kathleen Adams, K5HTZ, daughter of John De Majo, made a plea for assistance and ideas for dealing with her fathers museum collection of radios and other antique items.

New Business: A suggestion was brought up by Rick, KA4OHM to name the Plaque that the RARC gives every year for the Virginia QSO Party in honor of John DeMajo (SK).

Meeting Adjourned at 19:31

A presentation followed by John Portune, W6NBC on Designing your own Yagi Antenna.

From The Prez

Folks, here is a letter I received from Howard Waxman, the SKYWARN amateur radio coordinator.

Any assistance to Howard would be much appreciated as the SKYWARN program is a valuable asset during a weather emergency.

Rick,
Following up on my request for assistance. To-date, I've received no offer from any club or individual to help defray costs of over \$350 annually to run our regional SKYWARN Program. I've been covering the hosting and registration for almost 2 years. Prior to that, there was assistance primarily from a few clubs but also individuals. I believe the SKYWARN program is a valuable resource both for the National Weather Service and, by extension, our at-risk population here in the Mid-Atlantic. Hurricane Season will be here soon!

Here is a 2nd request for assistance with a focus on clubs vice individuals. Appreciate your presenting my request to your club to help me so I don't have to foot the entire bill for hosting and maintaining registration for SKYWARN services. Any help is appreciated and hopefully, with a collective approach - no one club or individual would have to cover the burden of over \$350/year.
73, Howard

Howard Waxman, WZ4K
SKYWARN Amateur Radio Coordinator
Eastern Virginia WFO Wakefield, VA

WZ4K@WX4AKQ.org
www.wx4akq.org

73, Rick, KA4OHM.

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 January 13th 2024 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 or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or 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.

QR Code to RARC Website



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

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
Thursday	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/>



50.215Mhz @ 8:00am daily

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 or call @ 508-838-8353. Thanks!

By-Law Changes

At our next meeting, February 9, we have two changes to the By-Laws of the Richmond Amateurs Radio Club to VOTE on. The changes relate to when the dues are due and the length of time you have to pay your dues, before you are moved to the inactive roster.

Change the date your dues are due, from November 1 to January 1.

Change the time you have to pay your dues after they are due from 90 days to 59 or 60 if it is a leap year – March 1.

While the RARC's board of directors approved both changes, to change the By-Laws takes approval of the **membership**.

We will discuss, **at the meeting**, why these changes to the By-Laws are being requested.

Here is the exact text of these two changes.

SECTION 1. The corporation shall have three classes of members: full, inactive and honorary.

a) Full members shall be those persons expressing an interest in amateur radio. A full member shall be entitled to vote on all corporate matters and may hold any office in the corporation.

b) Inactive members shall be those **more than ninety days in arrears in dues who have not paid their dues by March 1**. Inactive members shall have no vote and may not hold an office in the corporation.

SECTION 3. Membership Dues

a) The membership dues of the corporation shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Dues shall become due and payable on ~~November~~ **January** 1 of each year.

We look forward to your comments and questions.

Ken Leidner, WV0L

Would you like to prepare for your Technician, General or Amateur Extra exam in a class taught by friendly, licensed and experienced hams?... and pick up new radio skills?

Join us for RARC's 53rd year of providing you the "why", not just the "answers" to exam questions. You'll remember the answers better and know more about how to set up and operate safely and legally. Registration opens January 9th for all Amateur Radio test prepclasses, plus, the Radio Skills Seminars!

Most classes held at Bon Air United Methodist Church

1645 Buford Rd, Richmond, VA 23235

Click this link for all the important details :

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

...or use your smartphone to scan



License Exam Preparation Classes

Tuition is \$22 per class plus the textbook

Technician 10 Tuesday nights, 7-9pm, March 5 to May 7, register by 2/23/2024

General 5 Thursday nights, 7 to 9pm, March 7 to April 4, register by 3/29/2024

Amateur Extra 6 Tuesday nights, 7pm to 9pm, April 2 to May 7, register by 3/22/2024

Register and pay after January 29, 2024 here: <https://rarclub.net/fcc-license-class-registration/> Skills Seminars

Tuition is \$10 for each Seminar

Antenna Modeling Use of EZNEC, Thursday night, March 21, 7pm to 9pm

DStar Setup & Operation Saturday April 27, 9 to 11am

Radiosport & Contesting 101 Using contesting tools, Saturday April 20, 9:30am to 1pm
Remote Station Setup & Operation 2 Wednesday nights March 6 & 13, 7 to 9pm via Zoom
Station Setup 101 Setup your station for new Technician and General license holders, Saturday May 25, 9am to noon
Registration and payment is online at <https://rarclub.net/fcc-license-class-registration/>
Questions Email school@rarclub.net or Bruce MacAlister at 804-353-4269
Tuition covers supplies for the instructors and donations to the church that does not charge for club use.
Richmond Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club



Tired of winter? Cabin Fever got you down?

Here is a list of upcoming hamfests and tailgate fests.

March 10th – Winterfest, put on by the Vienna Wireless Society.

<https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest-key-info/>.

April 13th – Thawfest, put on by The Green County Amateur Radio Clubs, <https://gcvarc.net/thawfest-flyer/>. Download pdf.

April 20th – 6Meter Tailgate Fest, <https://www.50215.net/>.

June 1st - Manassas tailgate, put on by Ole Virginia Hams, <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>.

Mark your calendars and save all your loose change!



The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at wa1uqo@gmail.com, 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

WB3D Estate sale – please visit this website:

New items have been added and many prices have been lowered.

<https://c-v-c-c.us/wb3d-estate-sale/> Contact information is posted in the list.

Ronnie, WU4G

Wanted: Heathkit power supply, any of the HP23 series, any condition. Contact Armand Hamel, WA1UQO. armand.hamel@comcast.net or at (508)-838-8353.

Thought For The Day

A pessimist is a person who has had to listen to too many optimists.

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 My 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