



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday August 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:** Will be Moon bounce for radio amateurs, by Henry Boze, N4HB.

## RARC Meeting Minutes July 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

Meeting was started at 19:00 by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM.

Minutes approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of \$17,964.08.

New Members: Will Lyster, K4WIL. Welcome to the club Will.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Tom Flippin, KD4CMK, reminded members that a memorial service for "Mac" McNeer, K4YEF, would be held on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond.

Business Meeting was closed at 19:13 followed by a presentation on "VBand" by Rob Thomas, KC4NYK.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> 2024** at 10:am

**Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch**

**9103 Rattlesnake Rd**

**North Chesterfield, 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).

**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](mailto:wingrant@gmail.com)

<b>Sunday</b>	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 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** and **224.42** repeaters.

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](mailto:wa1uqo@gmail.com) or call @ 508-838-8353.

**Tired of winter? Cabin Fever got you down?**

Here is a list of upcoming hamfests and tailgate fests.

- August 10<sup>th</sup>** – Tidewater Hamfest and swap meet in Portsmouth, VA  
Mark your calendars and save all your loose change!
- Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** – 6M Tailgatefest, 2300 Dumbarton Road, Henrico, VA.

### RARC Needs Officers

The RARC membership will elect officers and directors at the regular meeting on October 11, 2024. A nominating committee consisting of the undersigned will present a slate of prospective candidates to the membership at the September 13 meeting, and members may of course nominate other candidates at that meeting.

The Club bylaws describe the duties of the officers generally and the nominating committee suggests additional qualities for office holders:

- President – Presides at all meetings of the Club and Board of Directors and appoints committees; writes a monthly column for the newsletter. In addition, the president should be someone who has experience working with other hams to execute projects and communicates well with Club members and the public.
- Vice President – Assumes duties of the president in the absence of the president.
- Secretary - Maintains Club records (including taking minutes of Club and board meetings) and maintains the membership roll of the Club.
- Treasurer - Maintains financial records of the Club, pays the bills, receives monies paid to the Club and generally manages the Club finances.

The membership will also elect two members of the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions or have questions about the responsibilities, please contact a member of the nominating committee.

Bruce McAllister – W4BRU  
Win Grant – W4WIN  
Rick Waller – KA4OHM

### A.C. “Mac” McNeer – K4YEF

#### Silent Key

As noted in last month’s newsletter, Mac McNeer, K4YEF, became a silent key in June at age 94. He was the long-time trustee of the RARC callsign, W4ZA, and served many years as the Club’s Registered Agent with the State Corporation Commission. Mac was instrumental in helping numerous individuals obtain their first amateur radio license before we had a formal radio school.

My first QSO with Mac was a 10 meter AM contact on March 7, 1965. I was in the ninth grade at Huguenot High School where Mac was the chemistry teacher and sponsor of the school’s amateur radio club.

Mac left teaching before I was old enough to take his chemistry class, but even after he became the state Health Department’s Radiation Officer, we stayed in touch.

I learned recently about a trip Mac took in the 1960’s with two other Huguenot High School hams, Phil Smith and Tom Snellings. Tom found a way to get a free ride on a coal freighter from the U.S. to Europe. The condition was that they have a chaperone, and Mac accepted responsibility for the young hams. They camped and toured the continent for about a month, spending only one night in a hotel, and the rest in a small tent. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the IARU station, 4U1ITU, in Geneva.

Win Grant  
W4WIN



## 2024 Marine Corps Marathon (MCM)

### Volunteers Needed

On behalf of the MCM Amateur Radio team, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those of you who have already signed up as volunteers for one of our nation's premier ham radio volunteering opportunities. Without your dedication, the "People's Marathon," would not be possible. This event is a unique chance for amateur radio operators and clubs to support both the runners and the extraordinary men and women of our nation's Marine Corps while participating in an emcom training opportunity.

To date, we have just over 40 volunteers, which is shy of our target of 150. For reference, the Boston Marathon had 280 amateur radio volunteers this year. Let's show them what can be done when D.C., Virginia, and Maryland rise to the occasion - (quick shout out to our out-of-state volunteers coming from as far away as Canada).

Now, all we need is your support. If you are an operator, we hope you will decide to volunteer on October 27; and think of any friends who can join in. Whether you are a newly-licensed operator or a highly experienced one, runners, para-competitors, and the Marine Corps need you. If you are part of a club's leadership, we hope that you will actively encourage your members to volunteer. Without amateur radio operators, race safety and security are compromised. The Marine Corps tells us regularly that our participation truly makes a difference.

Lastly, expect more exciting news in the coming weeks. The leadership team has been hard at work to ensure that your experience is highly satisfying. Meanwhile, for any questions or concerns, please reach out via [mcm@hamvolunteers.com](mailto:mcm@hamvolunteers.com). Either I or one of our leadership team members will respond promptly, usually within a couple of hours. Reminder, as in previous years, you must register on two sites as follows:

1. With the MCM Organization at: <https://marinemarathon.com/volunteer>
2. With us at: <https://hamvolunteers.com>

73  
Scott - KN4RPA  
2024 MCM ARO Lead

## Slow Speed QRP CW Net !

The North American QRP CW Club will be starting up a slow speed QRP net on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and is open to all Hams.

CW Net info:

QRG: 7.030 Mhz + - QRM (please zero beat to NCS)

Date/Time: Weekly, starting Thursday, August 15, 2024, 7:30 PM ET

Tx pwr: 5 watts or less

NCS: KE4CR

QRS: 12 wpm or slower

Net procedures can be found at:

[http://www.naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://www.naqcc.info/cw_nets.html)

This will be an excellent opportunity for those looking to improve their CW skills.

Those having questions can contact me at this email address or send Winlink mail to my callsign.

Thanks, 73,  
Craig KE4CR



## Ham Radio During Hurricane Season

by Sierra Harrop, W5DX

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) encourages all amateur stations to prepare for what the [National Hurricane Center](#) (NHC) has predicted will be a [busy hurricane season](#). In addition to readying equipment to function during and after a storm's impact, local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) nets are encouraged to participate in hurricane reporting and relief nets.

Stations do not need to be in a coastal zone to participate – propagation often shifts well inland, meaning ham radio operators throughout the continent can serve in times of need. “Monitoring and relaying traffic is a way to help with the nets and get real time information to the NHC, where it can be shared with NWS, FEMA, and other emergency response organizations to aid in a more rapid response and recovery,” said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.

Amateur radio plays a critical role in the warning and recovery process of hurricanes. From providing surface observations which give forecasters at the National Hurricane Center ground truth, to providing communications when infrastructure is damaged, ham radio is as vital as ever.

### The Nets

There is a robust ecosystem of communications networks that all work in tandem to provide coverage anytime a named storm is within a few hundred miles of land. These separate, but partner, volunteer organizations serve much of the Western Hemisphere on many different bands and modes.

Much of the focus is to get information to and from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. Hurricane specialists rely on having an [amateur radio station at the center, WX4NHC](#). Julio Ripoll, WD4R, is the Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator for the station. “These surface reports can be weather data or eyewitness reports (or heard on local VHF/UHF) are very valuable to the hurricane specialists at NHC, as they fill in gaps of data that they may not have from other means, such as government weather stations, satellites, Hurricane Hunter aircraft, etc.,” explained Ripoll.

The NHC would like more hams to provide information if they are in an affected area. There are many ways to do it. The simplest is over high

frequency (HF) amateur radio bands. There, you'll find a dedicated team running the [Hurricane Watch Net](#). The net, which uses 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, is usually active any time a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass, or at the request of NHC.

“We are strategically dispersed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and the northern coast of South America, so that we can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas,” said Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Hurricane Watch Net Manager. The net has members who speak many of the languages in the hurricane zones, including English and Spanish.

### Information to and From

The HWN is a two-way street of information, while the reports coming in are critical to forecasters – information *from* the NHC is even more important to people in the path of the storm. Weather information is relayed in real time from the NHC throughout the network, as well.

In addition to the weather information and reporting, the HWN assists the Salvation Army's SATERN Net with outgoing health and welfare traffic from the affected areas – messages sent via ham radio from those being impacted by the storm.

WX4NHC also receives reports via Winlink email over amateur radio via the address [wx4nhc@winlink.org](mailto:wx4nhc@winlink.org). The email subject line must start with //WL2K. There is a webform on the WX4NHC web site to provide information as well.

### Voice over Internet Protocol and Digital Voice Modes

For those without HF capabilities, or who may have their antennas unavailable during the storms, the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) provides a parallel capability using modern digital technologies. VoIP Hurricane Net manager Rob Macedo, KD1CY, says the scope of this net gives a big picture look at what's happening. “Our net gathers reports from amateur radio nets and amateur radio operators at the local, state and regional level that connect directly or liaison to our net on \*WX\_TALK\* Echolink conference node: 7203/IRLP 9219 reflector. The connections to our net can include other VoIP modes such as Fusion, All-Star, Hamshack Hotline, certain types of DMR among other VoIP modes via the KC5FM, AUXCOMM and Sunflower systems,” he said. The VoIP Hurricane Net also provides observations from

social media monitoring.

### More Participation Needed

With the robust systems in place to handle traffic, organizers encourage radio amateurs in the path of these storms participate in the nets. "We encourage all who are in the path of a landfalling hurricane to join us and share your local observed weather information. No matter how insignificant you may feel your data may be, it is very important to the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center," said Graves.

"Sometimes, ham radio reports are the only reports received from the islands or sparsely populated areas," said Ripoll. Michael Brennan, Director of the National Hurricane Center, added, "The NHC ham radio network has played a crucial role for more than 40 years in providing real-time information during tropical storms and hurricanes. The information provided by ham radio is incredibly helpful to NHC's hurricane specialists as it provides on-the-ground data during an event and offers a valuable option to maintain communications in situations where traditional communication methods can fail or become unavailable."



### The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@gmail.com](mailto: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.***

**WANTED:** ICOM 706 MKII G . Contact Jon Bennett, NQ4A. [motexa@verizon.net](mailto:motexa@verizon.net).

#### **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**

Below is a partial list of a SK Estate which Alan Swinger is selling on behalf of the widow. Although the SK's estate is in Hanover, VA, almost all items listed are at Alan's QTH for test and check out. Details and photos are available to anyone who contacts Alan directly at: [alan.swinger@gmail.com](mailto:alan.swinger@gmail.com).

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-MFJ 409D Deluxe Keyer & Manual copy - \$85  
-HF Go-Bag Complete HF Station: IC-718 & PS w/ MIC & Headphones, MFJ Versa Tuner II, Vibroplex Paddle, etc, w/ Manuals - \$785 OBO (Will consider selling individual pieces)  
-Murch UT-2000A Transmatch and manual copy - \$190  
-Heath 610 Station Console w/ manual copy - \$135  
-400 ft roll of 1/4" steel Cable (Retail \$0.82/ft) - \$180  
-Dummy Loads – have 2; oil filled can type - \$50 ea  
-Other equipment includes Kenwood TS-830 & VFO 230, Swan 350 & PS, Drake line: TR3, TR4c, TX4s, R4s, RV3s and various AC4 and MS4 power supplies and speakers. These are all in various states of test and check-out but will negotiate if interested.  
--~500 ft of Anderson 50 ohm Heliex hardline (FSJ4-50) - \$800  
and 8 PL-259 connectors (\$5 ea) and tool to mount available (\$40)  
More to come later, including some Vintage Heath radios -SB-102, Mohawk, etc  
73, Alan Swinger K9MBQ  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
434-975-6237 (H); 434-760-0258 (Cell & Text)

***Thought For The Day***

***We are all here on earth to help others. What on earth the others are here for I don't know.***

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

## **Where it all starts**

