



THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

October 2024

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday October 11th, 2024, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road. This month's meeting will be in-person and also on Zoom.

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

QR Code for Zoom Link



October presentation

This month's presentation will be **MakerFest and Mentoring** by Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU

RARC Meeting Minutes September 13th 2024

Meeting was started at 19:01 by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM.

Minutes approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$17,327.03.

New Members: Frank Humphreys, KN4XJ.

Welcome to the club Frank.

Old Business: None

School Update: 11 Students for Tech, 4 for Extra and 1 so far for General.

Remote station and D-Star repeater both working well.

New Business: Club elections coming up. Win Grant, W4WIN, presented the slate of nominations.

President - Darrell Basinger, WW4F

Vice President - Lauren Ware, W4LEW

Treasurer - Ken Leidner, WV0L

Secretary - Will Jackson, KR4CE

Directors - Volker Schweyer, KQ4GP and Dan Bryant, N4DOB.

Nominations were approved by voice vote and there were no nominations from the floor. Tom Flippin reminded the club that the church doors cannot be propped open and unsupervised. They must be closed and locked. Business Meeting was closed at 19:11 followed by a short discussion of recent propagation conditions.

Show and Tell: Win Grant, W4WIN, displayed a digital VOM he got at the Berryville Hamfest. Meeting closed at 19:23 followed by a presentation by Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU and Gene Damon, K4GNE, Vacation, Holiday, POTA, etc HF Stations.

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 November 9th 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 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:

THE RICHMOND HAM October 2024

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
Wednesday	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
Thursday	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/>



Universal harmony through communication

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.

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.



Hi there! I'm Will Jackson, KR4CE- the club's secretary nominee. I was first licensed in 2022 but didn't do much with radio until getting my Extra in 2024. My main interests lie with DXing and electronics. Lately it's just been DXing, and I am an active member of the Dominion DX Group. Amateur Radio has the unique luxury of being such an open-ended hobby, and in my opinion this can be very overwhelming to new people. This is a goal of mine for the Club is to find ways to immediately get new HAMS actively on the air vs. that shock of going through class and getting their license. I am fortunate to have been elmered by the late John DeMajo, K5HTZ, Lauren Ware, W4LEW, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, and Rick Waller, KA4OHM, among others. While I am thankful to these awesome people and ties with RARC, a lot of new HAMS don't have the bonus of experts supporting and nudging you. I'd like to prioritize our wealth of club knowledge more to new HAMS which will certainly "advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio." I look forward to meeting you if I have not already and becoming even more active in our club! 73, Will, KR4CE

Hi All,

It's that time of year again and we are looking for operators for the 2024 Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon, which is on Saturday, November 16th, 2024.

Operating events is fun as well as good training if we are ever called up for emergency communications, as the nets for events are run just as emergency nets are. It also shows our community what we are capable of and so it gives our hobby good exposure. You do not need to have experience in operating events to join in the fun. If you aren't experienced, you will be paired with someone that is. As well, a primer will be sent out that will have lots of info on how to operate on the air during the event, plus what equipment you will need, etc.

Please click on the link (below) if you are interested in registering for the event:

<https://www.rats.net/event-5860942>

This year, for the first time, this event is being organized by the RATS Public Service Committee. The committee consist of the following members: Jim Rubin, W4PKR - Chair. Bill Catogni, N4WLC - Volunteer Coordinator. Nathaniel Wooley, W1OLE - Ass't Volunteer Coordinator and all-around computer Guru. Dave White, W4IIA - Technical Lead on all things RF. Dan Bryant, N4DOB - Public Information Officer.

If you have any questions before or after registering, use the following email: (volunteer@rats.net) and we will get back to you.

Thanks for volunteering and I very much look forward to working with all y'all again!

73,

Jim Rubin, W4PKR
Chair, RATS Public Service Committee
2024 Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon
Amateur Radio Coordinator



Showing Ham Radio at the November RVA MakerFest

Saturday November 2nd at Deep Run High School in Glen Allen, the RVA MakerFest restarts and the RARC will be there just like we were for the MakerFests at the science museum. I doubt we'll have the 7,000 visitors we had at the science museum but we'll show off ham radio to anyone there. And the makers who are there with their exhibits will get to see ham radio as well. Planned demos are the Morse keys-for-kids that we used at the Hopewell middle school, builder demos with test equipment, a WINLINK station demo, the ever popular spectrum display of radio signals, assorted circuits opened up to show their glorious guts, an HF station, and maybe a satellite station.

We can use your presence to talk to our visitors and run our demos. If you don't see me with the sign-up sheet at the October RARC meeting, send me a note at <mailto:w4bru@arrl.net>.

73, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU



October program, MakerFest and Mentoring

For some years the various blacksmith, textile arts, and ham radio “makers” gathered at the science museum for a “MakerFest.” We demonstrated radio QSOs, showed spectrum displays, and had radios with guts showing to the fascination of many of the 7,000 visitors. That came apart over the lack of funding in 2019 but is being restarted by a new group of makers led by “Build,RVA”. We don’t expect anything like 7,000 visitors but it is a chance to show off ham radio. The RARC is going to be part of it again. The program Friday night is to refresh what this is all about with slides and some gear. We will enlist some of you to test some gear that needs testing at the meeting. We will twist some of your arms to get you to sign up for the makerfest so we have hams to talk to non-hams and aspiring hams. We will also tell you about the Tech class that will “graduate” November 9 and need Elmers (aka, mentors) to help them get on the air and answer their questions about their new hobby.



Getting Paid to be a Member

I know that at least one or two of us are over 65 years of age. If you and I stay active in certain social ways we can get up \$20 a quarter with \$50 to start. It can pay for our memberships. Here is the announcement from the September 20th ARRL letter:

New ARRL Partnership will Benefit Members 65+

ARRL is pleased to announce a partnership with Grouper. Grouper provides benefits to ARRL members aged 65+ for staying active in their communities and these benefits include covering costs associated with your social activity. According to the United States Surgeon General, staying socially active in group activities has proven health benefits and is critical for older Americans, who have above-average risks of social isolation and depression. For ARRL members with an eligible Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, you’ll receive a \$50 check from Grouper. In addition, if you continue to stay active in ARRL activities -- such as attending ARRL Affiliated Club meetings, getting on the air with friends, going to hamfests, or even just socializing with other members at the coffee shop -- Grouper will send you a \$20 social wellness incentive every three months.

From ARRL contests to Field Day and radio club meetings, ARRL and amateur radio activities keep our members socially connected and promote a healthier, more fulfilling life. We know you value community and camaraderie. Let Grouper support those values.

I checked this site – <https://hellogrouper.com/arrl> – and found out my healthcare plan supports it. Once you’ve established that you qualify, you enroll online.

This is similar to the free gym memberships that many of us “mature” people get. What the health insurance companies have found is that they spend much less money on those they insure who stay physically fit and are socially engaged. Like the payments for physical activity, you have to confirm – usually monthly – that you are active. The details are at <https://hellogrouper.com/get-help/>.

Who would have guessed that talking to a ham across town or in Finland saves the insurance company money? They ran the statistics and it’s true. 73, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

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.***



Thought For The Day

"I had my patience tested. I'm negative"

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		

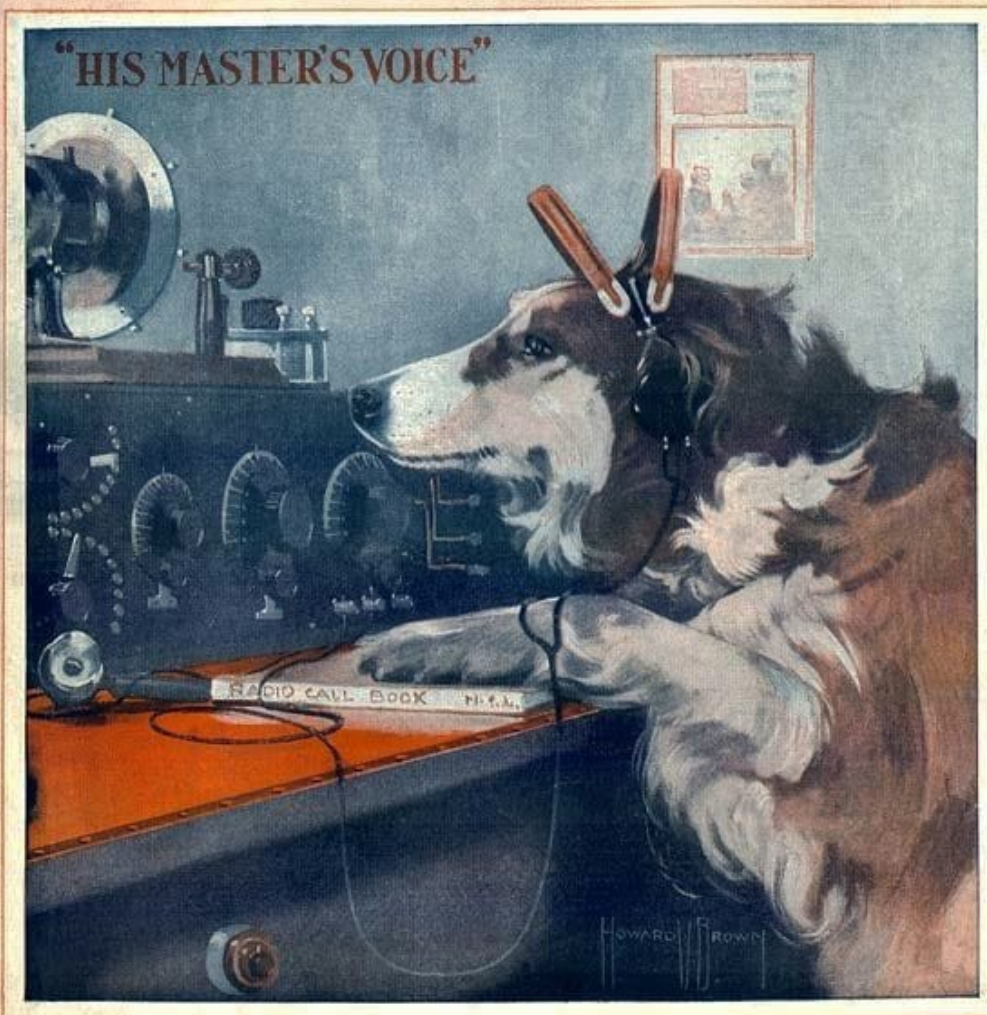
CIRCULATION LARGER THAN ALL OTHER RADIO MAGAZINES COMBINED

RADIO NEWS

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

20 Cents
M a y
1921

Over 100 Illustrations
Edited by H. GERNSBACK



"THE 100% WIRELESS MAGAZINE"