



THE RICHMOND HAM

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January 2025

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday January 10th, 2025, 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



This Month's Presentation: Jason Gnatowsky, KG4FJC, will present a program on 220 MHz Repeaters in Virginia. He will explain the extensive network of linked 220 repeaters, including the MRA 220.42 repeater in Richmond.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes Friday, December 13, 2024

President Darrell Basinger (WW4F) called the meeting to order at 19:05 EDT (23:05 UTC).

Business Meeting:

President Darrell welcomed the following visitors to RARC:

Robert Gottschalk (K4ADV)
Sheila Robinson (Working on Tech)
Emily Boots (WB4EMY)
Owen Buchanan (KQ4YLA)
Rich Morisey (AE4OK)

President Darrell invited in-person & Zoom attendees to introduce themselves. President Darrell asked for a motion to adopt the November 2024 Meeting Minutes, available to the members in the Newsletter. Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) moved, and Duane Brankley (KK4JNN)

seconded. The November 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ken Leidner (WV0L) delivered the Treasurer's Report. The November ending checking account balance was \$17,504.48. Treasurer Ken announced the following new member applicant:

Owen Buchanan (KQ4YLA), Technician Class License

Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to approve the applicant as a club member. Dave Robinson (KJ4LHP) moved, and Vice President Lauren Ware (W4LEW) seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to our newest member!

Radio School Head Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) shared that the Radio School is fully staffed with two instructors for each license class. We will also be teaching some seminars.

Bruce is also coordinating an elmering/mentoring group, named the "Elmer Corps" and is looking for volunteers to help. The goal is to mentor specific topics, so you are not committing to setting equipment up for people. Bruce also reached out to radio school graduates this semester to get their feedback on what would be helpful to them.

Armand Hamel (WA1UQO) shared that the D-Star repeater has been having trouble and users have been using the reflector instead.

Club Activities:

President Darrell asked for an update on Club sponsored nets from the net control operators.

Most nets have been operating as scheduled. Rob Thomas (KC4NYK) said the Vband CW practice group is paused until after the holidays.

President Darrell said The Builder's Group is currently paused.

Judi Lehuquet (N4JDI) & Bill Catogni (N4WLC) said they are regular activators for Parks on the Air (POTA) and RATS recently activated Pocahontas State Park as a club.

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Secretary Will Jackson (KR4CE) also shared that member Adam Humphrey (KQ4OTH) is an active activator and the Dominion DX Group (DDXG) recently had a fun time activating Pocahontas State Park as a club for POTA.

President Darrell asked for news about other clubs and reminded about the local clubs in the area.

Bruce MacAlister reminded that we have a local area activity calendar on our website.

Tom Tinsley (KJ4WQ) shared about the 6 Meter Tailgate.

Dave Robinson shared about the 6 Meter Club.

President Darrell announced that RATS will not be holding Frost Fest this year.

Tom Flippin (KD4CMK) reminded about the Thursday morning McDonald's get together deemed the "Bored Meeting".

John Watkins-Pitchford (KX4QC) shared his Ham Radio forum website, the Hambone is available for everyone's use.

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Judi Lehuquet (N4JDI), Vice President of RATS, announced that RATS is having a POTA event at Pocahontas State Park the Friday before Winter Field Day (January 24, 2025) and is inviting RARC to join as a club.

Kathleen Adams (K5HTZ) is donating a Bird Wattmeter to the Club's loaner equipment library.

President Darrell also made a reminder that the loaner equipment library is available for member use.

President Darrell asked members if there were any license upgrades or notable accomplishments.

One member upgraded to Extra. Congratulations!

Show & Tell:

Dave Stevens (WB4DES) shared a DMR handheld. He is also giving away a Kenwood receiver/power supply, preferably to a new Ham.

Rob Thomas (KC4NYK) shared a versatile platform for making old builds with new components.

More New Business:

President Darrell asked for support for Editor Armand Hamel (WA1UQO) and Newsletter content. He also said that we are looking for meeting program ideas.

President Darrell announced for next meeting there will be a more inviting semi-circle chair arrangement. There will also be a sign-in sheet to track visitors, attendance, and update contact information.

Tom Flippin made another reminder about the weekly nets.

Bruce MacAlister made a reminder about the upcoming ARRL 10 Meter Contest and that he was happy to help provide assistance with new users of the Club's Remote Station if they would like to make contacts.

Director Volker Schweyer (KQ4GPE) said that he has been participating in the Southern Cross Net to make contacts with Australia.

Closing:

President Darrell asked for a motion to close the business portion of the meeting. Duane

Brankley moved, and Dave Robinson seconded.

The business meeting closed at 19:57 EDT (23:57 UTC).

Meeting Program:

In lieu of a program, the Club had a holiday social gathering this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

From The Prez

As we step into a fresh new year, I want to express my gratitude for your support and participation.

Here's to 2025 filled with enriching experiences and growth in the club's membership. Let's make this year our best year yet!

We all look forward to interesting club programs throughout the year. Most programs have been the result of a member's recommendation and are based on a variety of interests. Please let me know if you could make a presentation on a topic that you have a particular interest in. Maybe you come across a program available via Zoom or in person that could be an interesting club program. Please share these resources that could possibly be worked into our 2025 program schedule.

73, Darrell

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 11th 2025** 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

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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

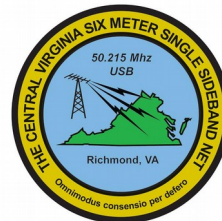
Sunday	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
Wednesday	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
Thursday	7:00 pm	52.525	FM

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/>



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 wa1uq@gmail.com or call @ 508-838-8353.

Using an inexpensive NanoVNA as an antenna analyzer

A \$120 vector network analyzer (VNA) is a great tool for building and testing filters and generally messing with anything that's frequency sensitive and needs tuning. It can even be used as an inexpensive antenna analyzer – if you know how. It can do so much more that it can be difficult to know the exact menu pushes required to analyze a transmission line or antennas.

KJ7ROX wrote "Using-NanoVNA-for-SWR-Measurement-Rev1" and put it on the internet. It gives all the steps you need to calibrate and make SWR readings using a NanoVNA. Unlike some of the older antenna analyzers, a VNA gives you the reactance numbers that you can use – maybe with the help of a very techie friend – to make corrections to your antenna and/or transmission line. The paper is at

<https://n7tar.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Using-NanoVNA-for-SWR-Measurement-Rev1.pdf>. A YouTube video covering the same material is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa6dqx9udcg&t=65s>.

I keep my NanoVNA in an 8.5x4-inch padded case that the four page instructions don't fit well. (I bought it on Amazon; it's for a TI graphing calculator.) I copied his text to make it one folded page to fit in the case. You see it sticking out on the left in the picture. If you would like a copy of this one-page version,

send a note to w4bru@arri.net.

To see how to read a NanoVNA, check out the PDF paper at https://nanovna.com/?page_id=46.

By the way, the RARC has a NanoVNA that club members can borrow.

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.**

For Sale:

Yaesu FT-736R transceiver w/mic – 2m&70cm all mode with built in power supply - \$400

Icom IC-756Pro w/mic, PowerPoles on power cable - \$650

TYT TH-9000D 2m mobile 60w - \$90

Tailtwister T2XR - rotator only, no control head, new in box, bought for a spare - \$800

Astron RS-20A – 20A Power Supply - \$95

Astron RS-50M – 50A Power Supply - \$225

TrippLite PR-40A – 40A Power Supply - \$120

Comet CM-420 SWR/Wattmeter 144/430 MHz - \$30

Opto Electronics Handi Frequency Counter Model 3000 - \$150

Diamond DPK-4NM-N mag base w/ MA9-5N antenna 900 MHz - \$50

RigExpert USB Transceiver Interface Standard w/cables for Icom - \$80

Realistic 300 Channel Pro 2004 - \$40

250' nylon 3/8" (tower) rope w/ ratchet pulley - \$50

Most of this is from K4DET estate. New items have been added at <https://c-v-c-c.us/> Look for the K4DET Estate+

Contact: Ronnie Bolton, WU4G 804-651-3504 or wu4g@comcast.net

Wanted:

SWR Meter good for HF and 1Kw. Contact Jon Bennett at motexa@verizon.net

Thought For The Day

“An optimist is a fellow who believes a housefly is looking for a way to get out.

Darrell Basinger	WW4F	President	(804) 219-8167	president@rarclub.net
Lauren Ware	W4LEW	Vice President	(804) 513-4950	vicepresident@rarclub.net
Will Jackson	KR4CE	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		



January 25th & 26th, 2025

Winter Field Day

<https://winterfieldday.org/index.php>

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Classes and Seminars Spring 2025

CLASS	WHY	WHEN	DURATION	LOCATION	PREREQUISITES	INSTRUCTOR(S)	MIN	MAX	IN CLASS	REGISTER AND PAY BY	EXAM DATE
Antenna Modeling	Use of EZNEC	Thursday night, 6:45pm to 8:45 pm	1 meeting April 17	Classroom 202 at Bon Air United Methodist Church	By email after registration	Robert Orndorff, W4BNO	4	15	0	March 8, 2024	none
DMR	Setup & operation	not scheduled - seeking instructor							0		
Dstar	Setup & operation	Saturday, 9 to noon	1 meeting March 15	Classroom 202 at Bon Air United Methodist Church	None	Win Grant, W4WIN	4	15	0	April 19, 2024	none
Radiosport & Contesting 101	Using contesting tools	Saturday, 9:30am to 1pm	1 meeting April 12	Classroom 202 at Bon Air United Methodist Church	None	Ronnie Bolton, WU4G, & Lauren Ware, W4LEW	4	15	0	March 22, 2024	none
Remote Controlled Station	Setup & operation	Wednesday nights, 7 to 9pm	2 meetings March 12 & 19	Zoom	Must be RARC member to use station	Bruce MacAllister, W4BRU	2	8	0	February 23, 2024	none

See

<https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/>
for last date to register and pay.
For questions send an email to school@rarclub.net

CLASS	WHY	WHEN	DURATION	LOCATION	TEXTBOOK	INSTRUCTOR(S)	MIN	MAX	IN CLASS	REGISTER AND PAY BY	EXAM DATE
Technician	1st license	Tuesday nights, 6:45pm to 8:45 pm	10 weeks, March 4 to May 6	Classroom at Bon Air United Methodist Church	Ham Radio School Technician License Course, at https://hamschool.square.site/ , \$19.95 , also available from Amazon	Dan Brown, W4ERF & Dave White, W4IIA	4	15	0	February 25, 2025	5/10/2025
General	2nd license	Thursday nights, 6:45pm to 8:45 pm	5 weeks, March 6 to April 3	Classroom at Bon Air United Methodist Church	Ebook textbook plus video course backup is \$24.95. It's a special discount so once registered, the instructor will send you a link for the deal.	Dave Stevens, WB4DES Adam Humphrey, KQ4OTH	4	15	0	February 25, 2025	5/10/2025
Extra	Top license	Thursday nights, 6:45pm to 8:45 pm	10 weeks, March 6 to May 8	Classroom at Bon Air United Methodist Church	Extra book is \$34.95 at https://hamschool.square.site/	Dennis Farmer, K4DAF & Will Jackson, KR4CE	4	10	0	February 25, 2025	5/10/2025

Register and pay by February 25, 2025. See <https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/>

