



THE RICHMOND HAM

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March 2025

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday March 14th, 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



March Program: Alan Swinger, K9MBQ, will be talking about his experiences assisting families dealing with Ham Radio estates.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes Friday, February 14, 2025

Business Meeting

Call to order:

President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:02 EST (23:02 UTC).

Recognize Visitors:

RARC welcomed the following visitors to our meeting: Sarah Buchanan KQ4YLB.

President Darrell welcomed in person & Zoom attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of January meeting minutes. Bruce MacAlister W4BRU moved, Tom Flippin KD4CMK seconded.

January meeting minutes unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L presented

January 2025 Checking Account balance was \$17,803.80.

New Member Applications:

Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to approve the following new members:

Thomas Anderson KQ4SLA, Technician Class License.

Thomas Hall AI4TH Extra, Class License.

Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved
Bruce MacAlister W4BRU seconded
Two new members unanimously approved. Welcome to our newest members!

School Update & Elmer Corps (Bruce MacAlister W4BRU, Head)
Bruce said we are moving along with signups and have produced brochures for the school. President Darrell noted that we will be getting all members involved in marketing vs establishing a single committee. Bruce shared about mentoring the "Ham Radio Chicks" and has been finding out what they need to continue getting on the air. Tom Flippin KD4CMK has started a "New Hams Net" at 7 PM EST on the KG4MRA Repeater (145.43 MHz FM, -600 KHz uplink offset, 74.4 Hz CTCSS uplink tone).

D-Star Repeater - status
no update

Remote Station - status

Bruce reports we had a glitch due to a power failure that has been fixed.

Treasurer Ken noted the station is available at all times except Bon Air United Methodist Church (BAUMC) services.

RARC Net Status / Activity

President Darrell set

RARC Group Activities

No RARC group activity updates.

Local Club Activities / Announcements:

Central Virginia Contest Club (W4MYA)
no updates

Richmond Area Telecommunications Club (W4RAT) no updates

THE RICHMOND HAM March 2025

Dominion DX Group (K4VAC)
no updates
Central Virginia 6 Meter SSB Net
Tailgates will be on April 12th and September 13th in the rear parking lot behind Hatcher Memorial Church. Admission is free.

Club Publicity – updates, none.
Old Business, none.
New Business, none.

Announcements:

Steve Boles W4SB noted a new 6m Maryland & Virginia net at 1930.
Gene Damon K4GNE announced two Southwest Virginia DMR Nets.

Show and tell:

Alex Sahhar KN4QGQ shared an antique Army AR36 HT.

Motion to conclude business meeting
Gene Damon K4GNE moved
Tom Flippin KD4CMK seconded
Business Meeting closed at 19:28 EST (23:28 UTC)

Meeting Program

In lieu of a program, President Darrell asked for member suggestions to complete the year's list of proposed meeting programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

From The Prez

Check out Darrell's thoughts on page 5.

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 May 10th 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

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

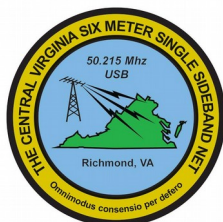
Sunday	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
Wednesday	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
Thursday	7:00 pm	52.525	FM

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 an 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.

Save our ham bands - Please join ARRL

ARRL membership is expensive at \$59 a year. And if you want the paper version of QST magazine mailed to you, add another \$25. (You can see all the magazines online "free" with a membership.)

So why join? Because no one else stands between our use of the ham bands and all the mobile phone companies looking for more bandwidth, the WiFi nets wanting some UHF and SHF, the stock traders looking for a faster connection using 40-meters, the hedge funds looking to exploit some wireless idea, the government deploying a new technology and on and on.

ARRL has a regulatory staff working with (and sometimes against) the FCC and dealing with congress. They help direct and deploy ham volunteers to Washington, DC. They try to get us to connect with the FCC or our congressional representatives to address the taking of our bands.

"ARRL Urges Protecting the Amateur Radio 902-928 MHz Band - 08/15/2024 - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) accepted for public comment a Petition for Rulemaking filed by NextNav Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to completely reconfigure the 902-928 MHz band and replace the LMS with high-powered 5G cellular and related location services", <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-protecting-the-amateur-radio-902-928-mhz-band>.

To get more leverage, ARRL is a member of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) usually in a board or officer position. The IARU works with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on allocating frequencies world-wide.

ARRL provide much more from new product reviews to exam testing services. If you are

into DXing or contesting there is the ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW), a free service for hams throughout the world. The technical articles in QST and QEX are excellent sources of knowledge and projects.

What is unique about ARRL is the advocacy to protect our bands. And they need our money to do it. That's why you should - in my opinion - join ARRL.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU <http://www.arrl.org/membership>.



2025 Virginia QSO Party!

The 2025 Virginia QSO Party will be held during the weekend of 15-16 March 2025.

Saturday, 15 March, 1400 UTC - Sunday, 16 March, 0400 UTC and Sunday, 16 March, 1200 UTC - 2400 UTC.

https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2025_VQP/2025_VQP_Main.html

D Star Gateway Upgrade

The W4FJ D Star repeater has been connected to the internet for over 15 years. With crystal clear digital audio, you can make a contact practically anywhere in the world. The ability to link repeaters to reflectors and for users to access D Star repeaters via personal hotspots depends on a "gateway" computer at each repeater site to manage these connections.

Over time, Icom has released new versions of the software that manages the connections. Each time Icom has released new gateway software, a hardware upgrade has generally been required.

Recently, we installed our fourth gateway computer running the latest Icom software. The pictures below show the first gateway (a retired HP commercial grade server, weighing about 80 pounds) and the current mini computer that fits in the palm of your hand. Like everything IT, the hardware gets smaller, faster and cheaper.

Users probably won't notice any change to the way the repeater operates. The upgrade was required by Icom as they moved to a more secure and supported version of the Linux operating system. With our Icom

repeater hardware upgrade last year, we are now running the latest Icom hardware and software.

Two reminders: 1) join us for the RARC D Star net on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm; and 2) if you don't have a D Star radio (or digital hotspot) and want to use the repeaters, they all support analog FM. Just set the subaudible tone for 74.4 Hz and the repeaters will switch to analog FM mode.

A huge thank you to Jim Bates, K8OI, who configured all of our gateways and has managed our connectivity since inception.

Win Grant - W4WIN



ANTENNA RELIEF BILL REINTRODUCED –

Identical versions of *The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act* have been reintroduced in Congress in both the House and the Senate. If passed and signed into law, the legislation would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Among other

provisions, this legislation would prohibit homeowner association rules that would preclude or ban Amateur Radio antennas, specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas, and provide a federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases. The bill numbers are HR1094 for the House version and S459 for the Senate bill. ARRL will be coordinating a grassroots campaign to have members contact their congressional representatives for support.

From The Prez

Our February meeting was very beneficial in shining a light on desired subjects for future meeting programs. Many suggestions were new ideas that had not been previously considered. Below I have noted the input received.

- Programs focused on the help new hams need to get on the air
- Use of the club's station or 20-meter antenna to help new hams make their first contacts
- Explanation of updated Virginia QSO Party Rules
- N1MM Logging Program
- ARRL Logbook of the World (ADIF file explanation)
- Fox Hunt Planning Program
- Special Event Station Planning
- Training to participate in support of communications during Marathons, Special Olympics and Bike tour/rides
- ZUMspot / Hot Spot assembly, programing and settings for D-Star, DMR, NXDN and M17
- Raspberry Pi-4 Application/Tools for Amateur Radio
- Logging Programs for Linux
- Pota and Logging Programs for Pota Operation
- Sota Operations
- Test Equipment use programs
- Slow Scan TV
- Home Brew programs
- Volunteer Examiners
- CW and V-Band

Next, we will be seeking individuals to lead these programs. Please consider volunteering if you could share your experience with any of the topics listed above.

73, Darrell / WW4F

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:

Harvey Wells TBS-50C - functional transmitter, excellent condition – collectors, this is a nice display unit from W4DR (this is a later obtained duplicate of his original) - \$150
Icom IC-756Pro w/mic, PowerPoles on power cable - New lower price: \$600
Tektronix 465B w/ 1 probe - \$150
Dentron MT3000A Antenna Tuner - One meter missing face cover, cabinet scratched on all sides and top - asking \$150
MFJ Versa Tuner V MFJ-989C - needs some minor repair - only \$100
Drake MN2700 Antenna tuner - \$300
Murch UT-2000A - works great - paint flaking off - \$150
Yaesu FT-736R transceiver w/mic 2m&70cm all mode with built in power supply - \$400
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
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

“A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it.” – Albert Einstein.

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	

100 Years Ago

