



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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July 2025

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday July 11th, 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



## July Program:

Will be by Tom Flippin, KD4CMK and Dave Stephens, WB4ESE. Setting up a 40M and 20M station to help new Hams get on the air.

## Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 13, 2025

### Business Meeting

#### Call to order

President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:05 ET (23:05 UTC). President Darrell welcomed in-person & Zoom attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of past meeting minutes

Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved

Alex Sahhar KN4QGQ seconded

May meeting minutes unanimously approved

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L presented May 2025 Checking Account balance was \$15,404.85

#### New Member Applications

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

Jason Carlton, No Callsign Yet

Bill Rhodenhiset, No Callsign Yet

Michael Watkins W4HOO, Advance Class License

Will Jackson KR4CE moved

Patrick Boland K4PBK seconded

Welcome to our three newest members!

**School Update & Elmer Corps** (Bruce MacAlister W4BRU, Head)

President Darrell noted that school is on break for the summer. Bruce MacAlister W4BRU noted the five Ham Radio Chicks are adding two new members. They are doing the best they can without the 5.43 repeater.

#### D-Star Repeater – status

President Darrell said all is well.

#### Remote Station – status

Bruce MacAlister is working with Church IT to fix his and Treasurer Ken's remote access troubles.

#### RARC Net Status / Activity

Tom Flippin KD4CMK welcomed all to participate in club nets. President Darrell reminded new hams that nets are a great way to make connections.

#### RARC Group Activities

President Darrell reminded school instructors to invite new ham students to RATS Field Day on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Local Club Activities / Announcements

President Darrell noted the RATS meeting next week regarding their elections.

Secretary Will Jackson KR4CE invited all to join the DDXG via Zoom for a special presentation from a DxExpedition leader on June 21<sup>st</sup>, Director Rick Waller K4OHM reminded everyone about the ARRL VHF contest.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

#### Announcements

Tom Flippin KD4CMK announced the MRA has been given 2 roles of hardline but doesn't have a timeline for 5.43 Repeater repair yet. Any donations would be appreciated.

#### Show and tell

Rick Waller K4OHM shared fishing reel style end-fed antennas.

Steve Boles W4SB shared his experience working the Museums Ships on the Air Weekend event.

Alex Sahhar KN4QGQ shared an x-band radar transceiver module.

President Darrell reminded that the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club/ Berryville Hamfest is on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 AM.

**Motion to conclude business meeting**

Tom Flippin KD4CMK move

Dave Robinson KJ4LHP seconded

Business Meeting closed at 19:28 ET (23:28 UTC).

**Meeting Program**

President Darrell Basinger WW4F gave a presentation on completing the FCC required RF exposure calculation with a focus on HOA constraints.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

**From The Prez**

I am very grateful to Dave Stephens WB4ESE and Tom Flippin KD4CMK for volunteering to set up 40 meter and 20 meter stations at this month's club meeting and helping new hams get on the air, possibly making their first contact with some "one on one" support from other hams who have decades of experience. This is inline with our goal of being more intentional in helping new hams get on the air.

We invite and encourage all new hams to join July's meeting to get on the air and get answers to your operating questions. All seasoned hams are invited to enjoy a time of fellowship and cheer on and support those working the bands.

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 September 13<sup>th</sup> 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](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/>

### Back in Business!

The MRA repeater is back in business and back on the air. Much thanks to all those who contributed to a remarkable effort to make it all happen and all those who donated for the repair.



### 50.215Mhz @ 8:00am daily Central VA Six Meter Group Tailgate

Will be held on April 12 and September 13, 2025; 8:00 am to Noon. The fenced rear parking lot of Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, 2300 Dumbarton Road, Henrico, VA. Located on Clarke Street, between Hermitage Road and Wilson Avenue, directly behind the church building.

### 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 cost.

### 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



## Power Supply Weak Points

### Win Grant – W4WIN

Very few radios now include a built in power supply, so most of us have at least one 12v DC power supply. The RARC D Star repeater has been running for years with three power supplies.

We use an Astron 35 amp linear supply to power the Icom radio modules and miscellaneous low current devices such as pre-amps, extra cooling fans, etc.

The repeater stack has two 90 watt amplifiers for VHF and UHF that each pull about 13 amps. For years we have used individual Samlex 1235M switching power supplies. Samlex makes a nice mounting frame that holds two of these supplies in a 19 inch rack configuration.

A few years ago the connector on the back of one Samlex supply melted, likely due to the sometimes hours long continuous current a repeater requires. We removed the damaged connector and soldered a short jumper directly to the circuit board where the connector had been attached.

Recently the second Samlex supply suffered the same fate. In each case the power supplies were still producing full current, but current was not getting to the amplifiers.

We have now replaced the two Samlex supplies with an Astron 70 amp linear supply, primarily because this Astron uses quarter inch brass screw terminals at the output. We installed ring terminals crimped and soldered onto the power cables connected to the amplifiers.

Many power supplies, including the Astron RS-70M-AP, now include a Powerpole connector for convenience. This is very handy, but my experience with Powerpoles is similar to the failed connectors on some power supplies: they work for a while but often cannot handle significant continuous current even with Powerpoles rated for double the current draw.

When searching for a power supply with robust connectors I was disheartened to see that many otherwise excellent power supplies, including Astron switching supplies, are using the same poor quality connector as the Samlex supplies.

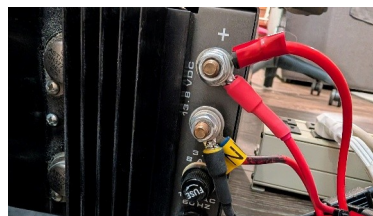
If you require continuous relatively high current draws, be sure to consider the connectors on the supply. Just because a supply is rated at 35 amps does not mean that all of the components can handle that in continuous duty.



Astron Switching Supply



Astron Linear Supply



Samlex 1235M



W4FJ Repeater



## RARC invited to RVA MakerFest again this year

In November 2024 we exhibited ham radio gear and people at the restarted RVA MakerFest. It went well for us and for the MakerFest leaders. They are doing it again this year and we've been invited to be there. RARC president Darrell Basinger agreed. I signed us up and sent a note to the club members who participated last year. I also invite other clubs to be part of it.

Set the date, Saturday October 18 at Deep Run High School in Glen Allen. To join the crew send me a note at [w4bu@arri.net](mailto:w4bu@arri.net).

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU



## 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.***

### ***For Sale:***

Icom IC-756Pro desktop transceiver w/mic, PowerPoles on power cable - \$525

Icom IC-7300 desktop transceiver w/mic, power cable - \$775

Yaesu FT-736R desktop transceiver w/mic - 2m&70cm all mode with built in power supply - \$375

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

TYT DMR Handheld HT MD-380 5W 400-480mHz w/charging stand - \$65

Murch UT-2000A Antenna tuner - works great \$140

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Astron RS-20A – 20A Power Supply - \$90

TrippLite PR-40A – 40A Power Supply - \$100

Opto Electronics Handi Frequency Counter Model 3000 - \$130

RigExpert USB Transceiver Digital Interface Standard w/cables for Icom - \$75

Harvey Wells TBS-50C transmitter, excellent condition but no power supply - collectors this is a nice display unit from W4DR - \$140

Heathkit Dummy Load can with oil - \$25

Contact: Ronnie Bolton, WU4G 804-651-3504 or [wu4g@comcast.net](mailto:wu4g@comcast.net)

Kenwood TS-2000- All mode multi-band all mode HF/50/144/440MHz w/ 100W output (HF/50/144MHz and 50W output 440MHz), Tuned/Aligned by United Radio 12/2021, Original MC-43S Mic, MC-52DM DTMF Mic, SP-23 External Speaker, ARCP-2000 Control Software, Power Cord, Original Manual and Schematic, Printed Manual for 3-ring binder, Diamond MX-72N duplexer, MFJ-822 300 watt UHF/VHF SWR/Wattmeter. \$800 OBO Contact Dan Bryant – N4DOB – 804-347-6037 – [danbryant02@gmail.com](mailto:danbryant02@gmail.com)

Heathkit Mohawk RX-1 – Receives AM/SSB/CW, 10-160m - \$250, Mfg 1958-1964, Contact Dan Bryant – N4DOB – 804-347-6037 – [danbryant02@gmail.com](mailto:danbryant02@gmail.com)

MFJ -1279 Deluxe Multimode Sound Card Interface for 8-Pin Round Mic, Have unit and software CD - Contact Dan Bryant – N4DOB – 804-347-6037 – [danbryant02@gmail.com](mailto:danbryant02@gmail.com)

### ***Thought For The Day***

***Everyone says to follow your dreams, so I went back to bed.***

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<b>Ken Leidner</b>	<b>WV0L</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	

