



THE RICHMOND HAM

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August 2025

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday August 8th, 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



August Program:

"SSTV for Everyone" by John Watkins-Pitchford, KX4QC.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 11, 2025

Business Meeting

Call to order: President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:07 ET (23:07 UTC).

Recognize Visitors: RARC welcomed the following visitors to our meeting:

Matt Sasser, Not Yet Licensed. Ryan Shipman W5OAT.

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

Approval of past meeting minutes: Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved, None opposed.

June meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L presented. June 2025 Checking Account balance was \$15,399.04.

New Member Applications: Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to approve the following new member:

David Kryniski KR4EYF, Technician Class License. Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved. Bruce MacAlister W4BRU seconded. Welcome to our newest member!

School Update & Elmer Corps (Bruce MacAlister W4BRU, Head): Bruce MacAlister W4BRU said that all license classes and seminars are staffed. We also will be putting out a note to see if people have other suggestions for things to teach. The "Ham Radio Chicks" are looking for any lengths of coax for new antennas.

D-Star Repeater – status: Win Grant W4WIN says the repeater's working great!

Remote Station – status: Bruce MacAlister said he's had a few disconnects on it. Treasurer Ken has heard complaints that people have been unfriendly with sharing the Remote Station.

RARC Net Status / Activity: Tom Flippin reminded that Tom Ebbert KG4BIZ's 6M net on Sundays and 10M net on Thursdays as an opportunity for new hams to get on the air.

Local Club Activities / Announcements: President Darrell reminded that the Berryville Hamfest is on Sunday August 3rd at 6:00 AM. He also noted the 6M Club Tailgate on Sunday, September 13th at Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church from 8:00 AM to noon ET.

Treasurer Ken asked for pictures from RATS Field Day to post on the website.

President Darrell asked for pictures and articles for the Newsletter to help keep in touch with club members.

Win Grant made a shout out to Armand Hamel WA1UQO for editing the Newsletter.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Announcements: Show and tell: Bruce MacAlister W4BRU shared a \$8 PTT foot pedal switch.

Motion to conclude business meeting: Alex Sahhar KN4QGQ moved. Lauren Ware W4LEW seconded.

Business Meeting closed at 19:32 ET (23:32 UTC)

Meeting Program

Dave Stevens WB4DES & Tom Flippin
KD4CMK set up demonstration HF stations
to help get new hams on the air.

Respectfully submitted,
Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

From The Prez

Take a peek at page 4

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 13th 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/>

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!

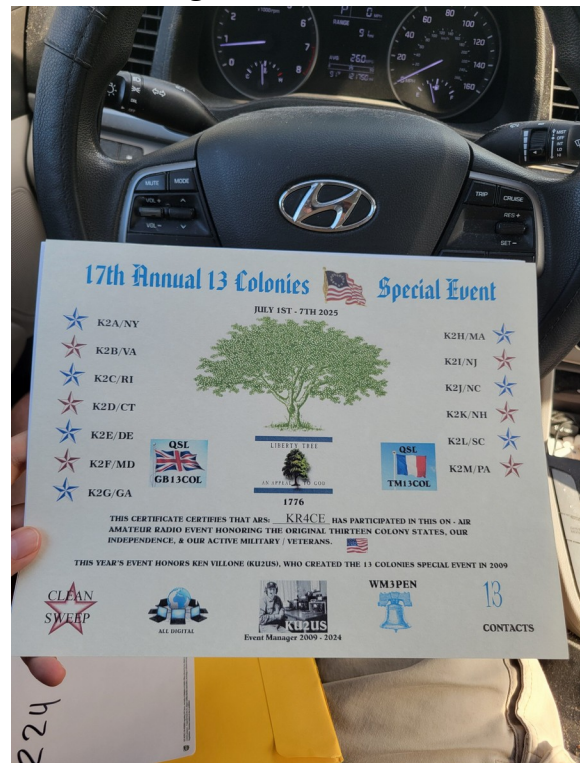
If you have an item, idea, latest and greatest, or whatever gizmo; please bring it to the RARC meeting. We have a table (usually) set up near the front where you can place your item and share/discuss it with others as they arrive. We also have a section of the agenda set aside for members to discuss 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 or call @ 508-838-8353



Congratulations Will !!



From The Prez

I decided to give ChatGPT a test by asking the question “how to maintain a successful amateur radio club”. The following is the ChatGPT response.....

Maintaining a successful amateur radio club requires consistent effort across several areas—community building, education, organization, and outreach. Here’s a practical guide to help keep your club active, engaging, and growing:

1. Strong Communication

- **Regular Meetings:** Monthly meetings with a consistent time and location (or virtual option).
 - **Clear Communication Channels:** Use a mailing list, website, social media, or a group chat (e.g., Discord or Groups.io) to keep members informed.
 - **Newsletter:** Monthly or quarterly newsletters with updates, events, member spotlights, and technical tips.
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2. Engaging Activities

- **On-Air Events:** Host nets, contests, and special event stations.
 - **Field Days:** Participate in ARRL Field Day or similar events. Encourage setup teams, loggers, and food/social crews.
 - **Workshops & Presentations:** Rotate topics—antennas, digital modes, emergency comms, satellite ops, etc.
 - **Build Nights:** Organize soldering/build projects like antenna tuners, QRP rigs, or Raspberry Pi-based loggers.
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3. Welcoming Culture

- **Mentoring ("Elmering"):** Pair new hams with experienced members.
 - **Inclusive Environment:** Welcome operators of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels.
 - **Recognition:** Acknowledge members' accomplishments (upgrades, DXCC, event participation, etc.).
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4. Clear Leadership & Goals

- **Active Leadership:** Officers should be committed and responsive.
 - **Defined Roles:** Have clear responsibilities for president, secretary, treasurer, event coordinator, etc.
 - **Plan Ahead:** Maintain a yearly calendar of events, elections, and special activities.
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5. Community Outreach

- **Public Demonstrations:** Set up at local fairs, science nights, or emergency preparedness events.
 - **License Classes:** Offer Technician and General license prep classes.
 - **Youth Engagement:** Partner with schools, Scouts, or STEM groups.
 - **Emergency Services:** Connect with local ARES/RACES or CERT programs.
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6. Financial Health

- **Dues:** Keep them affordable but adequate to support club needs.
 - **Fundraising:** Raffles, silent auctions, or gear sales.
 - **Grants:** Apply for ARRL grants or community STEM funding.
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7. Club Infrastructure

- **Repeater System:** If available, maintain it well and encourage its use.
 - **Website:** Keep it updated with meeting info, resources, and contact details.
 - **Club Call Sign:** Use it for events, contests, and field day.
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8. Continuing Education

- Host sessions on new modes (FT8, POTA, Winlink).
- Encourage members to experiment and share results.
- Promote ARRL, local hamfests, and regional conventions.

I'll let you be the judge if this is a conclusive list, or if something is missing. I believe the longevity of the RARC is due to its tradition of fulfilling many of the task necessary to maintain our club as outlined above. I am grateful for the many contributions made by our membership in sharing their time and expertise in support of our club.

73, Darrell

The Little Black Box of jewels and rocks
with lanterns that flicker and glow,
make lighter the gloom in my little back-room
where often I hasten to go.
An anthem it peals of whistles and squeals
and voices so ghostly and dear
that you'd never decry, should you chance to pass by-
what a brotherhood foregathers here!

Each separate tone has a soul of its own;
each voice is the voice of a friend.
United through space in this gathering-place
at the radiant signal's end.
Reverberant sounds ride the wave that rebounds,
like the waves of the sea from afar,
reporting the doings, the comings and goings
of brothers... wherever they are.

A curious band, spread over the land,
yet joined from equator to poles
disperses the gloom in the little back-rooms
by this magic communion of souls.
I could part with a lot of the things that I've got,
but I'll carry my love to the tomb,
of that little black box and the joys it unlocks
... when I enter that little back room.

By Max P. Vander Horck, WA6HUW
Published in QST, November 1966, page 33

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:

Diamond MX-72N duplexer, MFJ-822 300 watt UHF/VHF SWR/Wattmeter. \$800 OBO Contact Dan Bryant –

N4DOB – 804-347-6037 – 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

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

Thought For The Day

“I’ve learned so much from my mistakes, I’m thinking of making a few more.”

Darrell Basinger

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