



THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

October 2025

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday October 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



October Program:

Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU will give a review of the operation of the Club's remote station.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes Friday, September 12, 2025

Business Meeting

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

Recognize Visitors: RARC welcomed the following visitors to our meeting: Virginia Delegate Mark Early, representing District 73 – Midlothian, George, working with Delegate Early. John Spence, KR4FWA, Technician Class License. Jason, Technician Student and Ryan Shipman W5OAT.

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

Approval of past meeting minutes: Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved, Dave Robinson KJ4LHP seconded.

August meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L presented. August 2025 Checking Account balance was \$14,918.03.

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

Michael Beckman KN4TCY, Technician Class License. Robert Fox AB2OE, Extra Class License.

Alexander Jonjic KR4FVZ, Technician Class License. Catherine Noakes KO4YLL, Technician Class License.

Dave Robinson KJ4LHP moved. Secretary Will Jackson KR4CE seconded. Welcome to our four newest members!

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

Bruce MacAlister W4BRU shared that Tech has started in our new classroom and that Extra didn't meet the minimum. General's deadline is the end of this week and doesn't yet have enough students. The seminars are still open for registration.

D-Star Repeater – status: Win Grant W4WIN shared that on October the 15th the repeater will be hosting an analog net at 8:30 ET.

RARC Net Status / Activity: President Darrell reminded us, especially new hams, to please join our local nets. He also proposed a "HT Night" program.

Local Club Activities / Announcements:

Vice President Lauren Ware W4LEW invited all to attend the DDXG meeting on Saturday September 27th to hear from Flex Radio about the new Aurora radio.

President Darrell reminded us about the local clubs in Richmond. He also reminded us about the 6 m Tailgate at Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church.

Secretary Wil Jackson KR4CE reminded all about the free Laurel VE testing tomorrow, Saturday September 13th.

Old Business: none

New Business: John Spence KR4FWA noted that club contacts on the ARRL website are outdated.

Nominating Committee member Win Grant W4WIN announced the slate of nominees for the 2026 board of directors. The slates is:

President – Darrell Basinger WW4F
Vice President - Lauren Ware W4LEW
Treasurer – Ken Leidner WVOL
Secretary – Will Jackson KR4CE
Director – Dan Bryant N4DOB
Director – Win Grant W4WIN
Director – Adam Humphrey KQ4OTH

Dr. Bob Fierro KG4ZIK moved to close the nominations. Duance Brankley KK4JNN seconded. Motion to close the nominations passed unanimously. The slate of candidates will be put forward for election as presented.

Announcements: President Darrell reminded us that member nametags from our website form. He also announced that Tom Flippin KD4CMK is looking for assistance moving our club storage cabinet. Please contact Tom directly if you can help. Rob Thomas KC4NYK shared that the Vband Net is temporarily paused because of issues with the website. He is looking for options to host the service on his own server.

Show and tell, Rick Waller KA4OHM shared a new model of a RigExpert that has expandable firmware.

Motion to conclude business meeting:

Dave Robinson KJ4LHP.

Michael Miller KN4VA seconded.

Business Meeting closed at 19:36 ET (23:36 UTC)

Meeting Program: Gene Damon K4GNE gave a presentation on building cheap Raspberry Pi hotspots for digital modes.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

From The Prez

Just a friendly reminder that in case you haven't, please consider generating support in Congress for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.

All licensed Amateur Radio operators should support this legislation. The ARRL designed an easy campaign. Go to <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> and insert your Amateur Radio callsign, check to make sure your name and address are correct, then click the red button that says, "Send My Letters". Your letters will be hand delivered to your Representative and Senators by the ARRL Washington legislative team.

Please support this bill on behalf all current and future fellow Amateur Radio operators, it will be a step to protecting the future of Amateur Radio.

73, Darrell / WW4F

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 8th 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:

18 yrs or younger and 80 yrs and older \$0

Regular Membership \$22.00

Family Membership \$33.00

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 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

BSA Weekend Jamboree on the Air!

The annual Boy Scouts of American Jamboree on the Air is occurring on October 17th (Friday) through October 19th (Sunday). Here is a link to the operating frequencies: <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/operators-guides/>

The W4FJ 2m D-Star repeater will be connected to the JOTA REF033A reflector from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon.

If you hear a Scout calling CQ, please give him/her a shout out!

W4FJ Analog FM Test

The W4FJ repeaters, commonly thought of as the D Star repeaters, are all dual mode repeaters. They will repeat an analog FM signal just like they repeat D Star digital signals.

To test the coverage in analog FM mode, we will hold a one time net on October 15, 2025 at 8:30 pm, following the weekly RARC D Star net. We will conduct the net on the UHF module, 443.7125, + 5 MHz, with a PL tone of 74.4 Hz.

There is no way to link the three repeaters in analog mode like we do for the D Star net, and there is no ability to access the repeaters in analog mode using a hotspot.

Please help us check the coverage of the UHF module in analog FM mode by joining us on October 15.

Win Grant

W4WIN



ARRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

The campaign, announced in an [ARRL Member Bulletin](#) on September 17, 2025, follows the reintroduction of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act in February 2025 (see [ARRL News 02/07/2025](#)). The bipartisan bills -- [H.R.1094](#) in the House and [S.459](#) in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when

such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles.

"This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators," said ARRL President Rick Roderick. "These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters."

Public Support Needed for Passage

To advance the legislation, ARRL is calling on its members and all licensees of the US Amateur Radio Service to take action by sending letters to their congressional representatives. Through a dedicated online tool at <https://www.arrl.org/HOA>, hams can easily generate and submit pre-drafted letters with a few clicks.

Go to — <https://www.arrl.org/HOA>

— and help us by sending your letters to your Representative and Senators.

ARRL has emphasized that every letter matters. "Your Representative and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you."

For more information about the ARRL grassroots campaign to pass the bill, please visit www.arrl.org/current-legislation.

Donate and Help Us Pass the Bill!

Support ARRL's advocacy goals with a donation and help us Pass The Bill!

Donate Now: www.arrl.org/PassTheBill

Your support helps ARRL engage legislative leaders to pass this bill and provide the ability of Amateur Radio Operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their restricted land use communities.

ARRL

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.***

EQUIPMENT REQUEST:

I'm a new Ham part of the Ham Radio Chicks. The original group started during our Technician License Course at the Bon Air Church offered by the RARC in October 2024. Some of us passed the exam and some went on to get the General. One of us is studying to get the Extra. We have invited other new "ladies Hams" to join us, so we are nine in total now.

We are all trying to set up our shacks and could use some unused equipment that most experienced hams may have in their closets, such as antennas, power supplies, coax cables, connectors, etc.

Thank you so much. Nora Vimala Pozzi, N4POZ (vimalap@yogahelps.com)

For Sale:

Flex 6600M - This is the model with the front panel. I'm looking to change to the model without one. 4 Receivers (slices) - \$2950

Yaesu FT-736R desktop transceiver w/mic - 2m & 70cm all mode with built in power supply - \$325

Murch UT-2000A Antenna tuner - works great - \$135

TrippLite PR-40A - 40A Power Supply - \$85

RigExpert USB Transceiver Digital Interface Standard w/cables for Icom radio - \$60

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

For Sale - Swan 350C Transceiver in working condition.

I have an exceptionally clean, operating Swan 350C set including the original 1117-C power supply, the VOX accessory and two original operation and maintenance manuals, one with schematics and one with directions for the VOX. I have tested it for reception and powered up with a Variac.

Photos, and videos of operational tests at http://rarcpio.net/Swan_350/

Contact Rob Thomas, KC4NYK at 804-633-4470 or via email at QRZ

Thought For The Day

There is no such thing as fun for the whole family.

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		

HF Station at Club Meetings

By Secretary Will Jackson KR4CE

The Board is excited to announce that we will now have an HF station available for members to enjoy and play with! We will be trying out different antennas, but our last was an end-fed. If you are a new Tech and don't yet have your own HF station, we especially encourage you to come out and see what the bands are like! If you're experienced and want to have some fun, you're more than welcome as well. We hope to make our meetings more hands on with some focus on new hams, so any suggestions in this process are welcome. Good DX, Will KR4CE





