



THE RICHMOND HAM

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November 2025

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday November 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



November Program:

Steve Boles, W4SB and Armand Hamel, WA1UQO will talk of their experiences and challenges of building a vintage style receiver.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes Friday, October 10, 2025

Business Meeting:

Call to order: President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:00 ET (23:00 UTC).

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

Recognize Visitors:

RARC welcomed the following visitors to our meeting: Joyce Cook KQ4VKA and Ryan Shipman W5OAT

Approval of past meeting minutes:

No corrections asked for September meeting minutes unanimously approved

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L presented. September 2025 Checking Account balance was \$14,990.88.

New Member Applications: Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to approve the following new member: Michael "Chevy" Chevalier, Technician Class License. Dave Robinson KJ4LHP moved Tom Flippin KD4CMK seconded. Welcome to our newest member!

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

Bruce MacAlister W4BRU shared that Tech is going well. Contesting and Remote Station Seminars have already happened, and Antenna Modeling/DMR are upcoming.

D-Star Repeater – status:

Win Grant W4WIN shared that on October the 15th the D-STAR repeater will be hosting an 8:30 ET analog mode net to test capabilities.

RARC Net Status / Activity:

President Darrell reminded us, especially new hams, to join club nets.

Annual Election of RARC Board:

Nominating Committee Member Win Grant, W4WIN introduced this year's Nominating Committee for the annual RARC Board election as well as sharing a reminder of the nominees. The Nominating Committee consisted of: Win Grant W4WIN, Bruce MacAlister W4BRU and Rick Waller KA4OHM.

The nominees for election were:

President – Darrell Basinger WW4F

Vice President - Lauren Ware W4LEW

Treasurer – Ken Leidner WV0L

Secretary – Will Jackson KR4CE

Elected Director – Dan Bryant N4DOB

Elected Director – Adam Humphrey KQ4OTH

Win moved a motion for unanimous election of the nominees by voice vote.

Bruce MacAlister W4BRU seconded. No members objected. The slate of nominees were unanimously elected as presented by voice vote. Thanks to our RARC Board for continuing in their positions!

Local Club Activities / Announcements:

President Darrell shared the following announcements: RATS is still looking for Richmond Marathon volunteers. This is a great way for new hams to get involved!

Jeremy Drummond KK4SDN is looking for 90' of tower for the Tidewater Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Council.

RARC will be establishing a groups.io for members to connect outside of meetings beginning in January 2026.

Club nametags will be printed soon. Proofs were presented to check spelling.

Bill Catogni N4WLC welcomed all to the Friday October 17th RATS meeting where Greg Moran KJ6ER will be presenting on his antennas.

Motion to conclude business meeting:

Dave Robinson KJ4LHP moved and

Bill Catogni N4WLC seconded.

Business Meeting closed at 19:29 ET (23:29 UTC)

Meeting Program: Bruce MacAlister W4BRU gave a presentation on the club's remote station.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

From The Prez

Looking ahead and planning for 2026, I am reminded that some of our best meeting programs have been provided by our own RARC club members. Each member, sharing their own building or operating experience, has been appreciated by all who attended. Being a "subject matter expert" is not required. Just a focus on one's own experience, solution or approach. With this in mind, I want to ask each RARC member to consider presenting in 2026, either in person or via Zoom. Below is a list of program topics requested by our members.

- Explanation of updated Virginia QSO Party Rules
- N1MM Logging Program
- ARRL Logbook of the World (ADIF file upload explained)
- Fox Hunt Planning
- Special Event Station Planning
- Raspberry Pi Application/Tools for Amateur Radio
- Linux Logging Programs
- Logging Programs for Pota Operation
- SOTA / POTA Operating
- Test Equipment use programs
- How to become a Volunteer Examiner

Alternative program topics are welcome. Especially topics that will help new hams who just received their FCC amateur radio license get started on their amateur radio journey.

Please let me know if there are any topics listed you would be willing to present in 2026 or if you have other topics you are interested in presenting.

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 January 10th 2026 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 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

RATS Repeater (146.88) Upgrade!

An FM broadcast notch filter was installed on the receive side of the 146.88 repeater Saturday morning. This has significantly improved the performance of the repeater's receiver. The repeater still experiences a small amount of de-sense when operating at full power (50 watts). Additional filtering and/or a cavity duplexer tune-up may be needed. Transmitter power is set at 50 watts. **Performance observations and feedback are requested by our Technical Committee, techcomm@rats.net.**

Might this simple [\\$22 part](#) be the solution to years of increasing noise in the repeater's receiver? Time will tell if this is "the" fix, but it sure is helping. The filter attenuates signals in the FM broadcast band (88-108 MHz) by about 60-70 dB. There are several powerful FM broadcast transmitters co-located at our repeater site and on other nearby towers. The high RF generated by those transmitters was making it past our 6-cavity duplexer, de-sensitizing the repeater. The filter prevents those unwanted signals from overpowering the receiver. The amount of de-sense was influenced considerably by the repeater's transmitter power. Over the past couple of years, power had been reduced to 20 watts, and then to 5 to combat the noise. This de-sense has been nearly eliminated and the repeater is back to full output power.

The 146.88 repeater carries analog FM and digital C4FM traffic, and it's connected to the global [WIRES-X network](#). Digital traffic is primary on this repeater; analog users must yield to C4FM and WIRES-X activity.

Take it for a spin and [let us know how it goes!](#)

Serving the Events By Will Jackson KR4CE

With our big Richmond Marathon coming up on Saturday, I thought I'd share how much fun I've had serving RVA in both the Marathon and the Monument Avenue 10K! By now you've heard many pleas for you to come volunteer. Have you considered that this really could be fun, though? This hit me the most when I worked the Monument Avenue 10K for the first time. I was the Start Line radio operator with Wayne Scarberry K9WVU which was pretty dang special! It really did have a block party vibe, and many runners chose to run in costume. These ranged from the more traditional Statue of Liberty and Super Mario Brothers, to a rather exciting human caterpillar. I got to watch our good friend Robert Ordorff W4BNO start too, which was awesome! Not to mention, I got to cheer on our entire city of Richmond! This is the most humbling and special part for me. I've worked the big Marathon for several years now, starting out as a trainee with Bruce MacAlister W4BRU. Last year I had my own water stop off of Riverside Dr. which oddly felt like being in the woods! It was a bit surreal arriving at 0500 when it was pitch black outside. Being a devout roller coaster fan, this somehow reminded me of a night ride on the Grizzly at Kings Dominion. But it was cool arriving under the ominous street lamp under the moonlight on the "peaceful" side of the river. It felt like I had my own little world to myself compared to my first water stop with Bruce across from the Downtown DMV. This year I'm privileged to be working inside a medical tent. We even have been on Zoom calls with race medical and ambulance leadership, which, again, is truly humbling to me. It really is fun and special to give back to our city. The operating is extremely easy on HTs, yet we help so much. I can't wait to get back to making Richmond "America's Friendliest Marathon" again! Hopefully you can tell how much fun I have had, and how special working these community events has become to me. Maybe you should try it?

Yaesu FT-991a Now Available at Club Meetings! By Will Jackson KR4CE, RARC Secretary

The Board is excited to announce that, due to a generous donation from Terry Cutlip N4CFM, our GOTA meeting station has been upgraded to a Yaesu FT-991a. If you are a new ham, don't have HF privileges, or don't even have a license yet, please don't worry! We have control operators available who would love to help you talk over the world and share the magic of the bands. We also plan to connect the rig a computer to make digital modes available too. Please don't be shy if you'd like to test out HF. If you have any questions about, or suggestions for our meeting station, please contact me at:

kr4ce.ham@gmail.com

73, and Good DX,

Will KR4CE

RARC Secretary



RARC Brochures for Your Next Event

Dan Bryant, N4DOB, developed this brochure for us to use at the RVA MakerFest in October. We have 50 or so left over. If you are going to some event where you will be demonstrating or discussing ham radio, take a few with you to hand out.

We keep them in the RARC closet at Bon Air United Methodist Church. When an officer or official with the combination to the closet is present – such as at a monthly club meeting – he-she can get them for you.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU



Marathon Memories!



THE RICHMOND HAM November 2025





Another succesful Makersfest!



RARC table layout at the 2025 RVA MakerFest



Dan Bryant (N4DOB) talks to a family about ham radio



Judi Lehuquet (N4JDI) checking signals on sBitX transceiver

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:

\$60 - Thunderbolt Magnum 45W solar panel kit - worked great with two batteries connected and running QRP for Field Day. Batteries not included.

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

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

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		

