



THE RICHMOND HAM

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December 2025

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday December 12th, 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



December Program:

fellowship and snacks!!

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Annual & Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 14, 2025

(In person only - no Zoom held due to church Wi-Fi changes)

Business Meeting: Call to order

Nominating Committee member Bruce MacAlister W4BRU called the meeting to order at 19:09 ET (23:09 UTC). Bruce welcomed in-person attendees to introduce themselves.

Year in Review: Current President Darrell Basinger WW4F highlighted the club's educational activities and thanked all volunteers.

Installation of Officers: Nominating Committee member Win Grant W4WIN invited the newly elected Board to take the Oath of Office.

The following new Board members and club officers were present at the time:

President – Darrell Basinger WW4F

Vice President - Lauren Ware W4LEW

Treasurer – Ken Leidner WVOL

Secretary – Will Jackson KR4CE

Elected Director – Dan Bryant N4DOB

Appointed Director – Nora Pozzi N4POZ

Club History Presentation Registered Agent Tom Flippin KD4CMK gave an overview of RARC's rich history and reminded us about the tradition of the Wouff Hang.

Transfer of Presidents Darrell Basinger WW4F, having now been sworn in by the Nominating Committee, continued in his officer role of President to resume as chair of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ken Leidner WVOL presented

October 2025 Checking Account balance was \$14,801.91

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

Joseph Hudert KJ4JPW, Technician Class License. Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved and Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU seconded. Welcome to our newest member!

Approval of past meeting minutes: Ken Leidner WVOL moved and Bruce MacAlister W4BRU seconded.

October meeting minutes unanimously approved

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

Bruce MacAlister W4BRU shared that Tech class is finished. Three Techs have passed so far. Congrats to our newest hams!

Rob Thomas KC4NYK and Bruce gave a report from our visit to the Richmond MakerFest, highlighting our visits from youth and parents.

D-Star Repeater – status: Win Grant W4WIN shared that the repeater successfully recovered from a building power failure. The Richmond Marathon will be using our repeater in analog mode on November 15th.

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Remote Station – status: Treasurer Ken said the station is working well but has fixed a problem with hackers trying to log on.

Local Club Activities / Announcements:

President Darrell shared the following announcements:

Winter Field Day, hosted by RATS, will be January 24th and 25th at Pocahontas State Park. RARC has been invited to help organize and plan activities. The RATS 146.88 repeater has new filters installed but is now competing with a new stronger antenna on the tower.

Groups.io is coming soon to RARC members.

The first batch of club badges are in progress and will be available soon.

Bruce MacAlister shared that we have two ARRL stealth antenna books available for loan.

Motion to conclude business meeting: Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved and Ken Leidner WV0L seconded. Business Meeting closed at 20:14 ET (20:14 UTC)

Meeting Program:

Steve Boles W4SB and Armand Hamel WA1UQO gave a presentation on building their homebrewed regenerative receivers.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary



From The Prez

Dear RARC Members,

As we tune the final signals of the year and prepare for a fresh frequency in 2026, I want to extend my warmest Christmas and New Year wishes to each of you.

Thank you for your support, your passion for amateur radio, and the camaraderie that makes our amateur radio club such a special community. Whether you've been active on the bands, helping behind the scenes, or simply staying connected, your involvement keeps our club strong.

May this festive season bring you peace, joy, and time with those who matter most. And as we enter the new year, may your antennas remain steady, your signals strong and may they travel far.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

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 Hwy 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

Mentors and Elmers available!

RATS (Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society) has organized a group of 20 mentors (aka, Elmers) to assist hams. There is one group especially for new hams but they can find an expert in almost anything ham radio. The connection is from their website <https://www.rats.net/home>. Scroll down the page and you will find the rat pointing to "RATS offers Resources for New Hams." The link leads to a contact form.

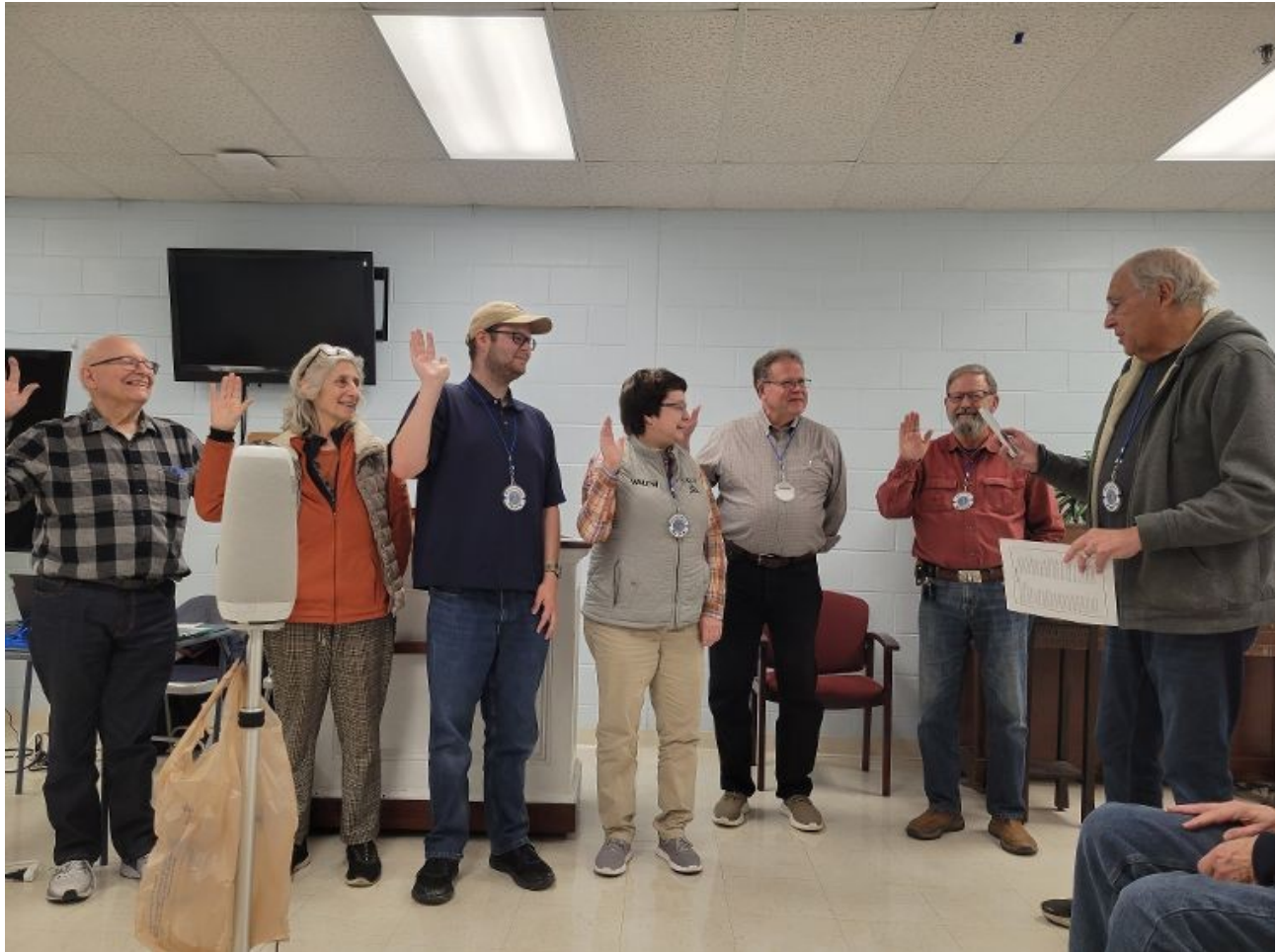
For not-so-new hams the help desk email lets a hams say what she-he needs help with. It's at helpdesk@rats.net.

Many of us in the RARC are also members of RATS so you can send a note to the help desk and add your name to the 20 or more mentors serving Richmond hams.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

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**Congratulations and Thanks
to our 2026
Officers and Board Members!**



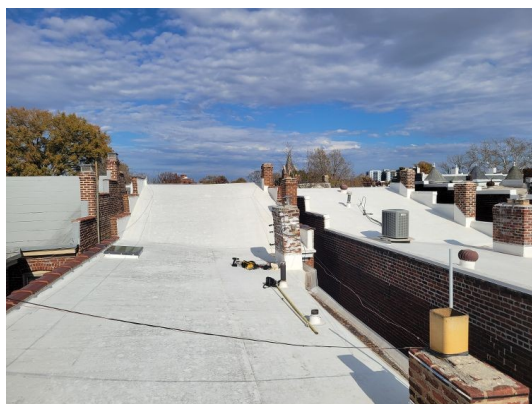
Up on the Roof

By Will Jackson KR4CE

On November 14, I had the privilege of helping one of my Elmers, Bruce MacAlister W4BRU, attempt to do some antenna work on his roof. We've done this a few times now, and it's just been a blast every time! A few times we've even had the privilege of working with Mike Owens K4RKO. Unfortunately, it appeared we needed Mike to fix something else before we could move further. However, Bruce and I really do enjoy hanging out. The roof is an unusual view! Ham radio takes you to some strange and fun places. Most importantly, you never know who you'll meet up on the roof. You may just run into a special radio friend.

73,

Will KR4CE



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

Whatever you're doing, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood.

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		

