



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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January 2026

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday January 9th, 2026, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road. This months meeting will be in-person and also on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518058584>

QR Code for Zoom Link



**January Program:** This month's program will be by Jason Rausch, K4APR with the VA TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Radio Packet Network) group building out a large packet network in Tidewater, seeking to expand to the rest of the state.

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

**Business Meeting:** Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L noted a quorum (24 members minimum) was established.

**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: Leo Vaynberg KZ4WX and Bill Johnson KC4VGR. President Darrell welcomed in-person & Zoom attendees to introduce themselves.

**Approval of past meeting minutes:** Bruce MacAlister W4BRU moved, Dave Krynski KR4EYF seconded. November meeting minutes unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Ken Leidner WV0L presented. November 2025 Checking Account balance was \$14,793.35.

**New Member Applications:** Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to approve the following new members: Timothy Billups KR4GBC, Technician Class License. Martes Wigglesworth, Not Yet Licensed.

Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved, Rob Thomas KC4NYK seconded. Welcome to our two newest members!

**School Update & Elmer Corps (Bruce MacAlister W4BRU, Head):** No update until January.

**Remote Station – status:** The remote station is currently working well.

**D-Star Repeater – status:** The D-Star station custodian is not present to give us an update.

**RARC Net Status / Activity:** President Darrell reminded us, especially new hams, to join club nets.

Darrell also reminded everyone to please sign the attendance book at meetings.

**New Business:** Treasurer Ken explained the new RARC groups.io. The launch date will be January 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> (in 2026). Ken also shared statistics on RARC member license classes vs. licensed state hams.

Bruce MacAlister W4BRU reminded everyone about the ARRL 10 m contest December 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> and offered to assist if requested.

**Local Club Activities / Announcements:** Dave Thomas WD3O announced that the KC4TS Team (Gospel Light Church in Powhatan) is moving from the ARRL VEC to the W4VEC VEC.

President Darrel made the following announcements: RATS has invited us to the Winter Field Day and is looking for how RARC members would like to help.

Name badges are available for those who requested them online.

Rob Thomas reminded everyone to please visit the HackRVA Makerspace.

Nora Pozzi N4POZ asked for participants to please join the New Hams Net from 7:15 PM to 8:15 PM on the 5.43 Repeater.

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**Motion to conclude business meeting:** Tom Flippin KD4CMK moved, Rob Thomas KC4NYK seconded. Business Meeting closed at 19:45 ET (23:45 UTC). **Meeting Program:** In lieu of a program, the club held a holiday social. Respectfully submitted, Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

### From The Prez

As we begin a new year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all and thank each of you for your continued enthusiasm and support. Your involvement has contributed to the success of our club, whether it be amateur radio license classes, HF, VHF, and D-STAR nets, or presenting interesting meeting programs.

I look forward to another year filled with learning, strong participation on the air, and informative club programs. May the year ahead bring clear signals, new achievements, and continued fellowship within our amateur radio community.

We will begin the new year with a special program by Jason Rausch K4APR of the VA TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Radio Packet Network) group building out a large packet network in Tidewater, seeking to expand this network to the rest of the state. Jason's team will present in person with demo gear. Please consider attending this special program in person.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](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:

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](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

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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/>

### **50.215Mhz @ 8:00am daily**

#### **Central VA Six Meter Group Taigates**

Will be held on April 11 and September 19, 2026; 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

### **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](mailto: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

### **What's on the bench? (at WW4F)**

Just used the remaining surplus parts to build two PiHPSDR controllers. One for a recently acquired ANAN 7000DLE MARKII Transceiver and a second for a friend (N4CFM) who has the same transceiver. I had previously built a PiHPSDR controller for my Hermes Lite 2 transceiver.

A PiHPSDR Controller is a network control interface (Ethernet) for HPSDR-compatible software-defined radios. Designed to run on a Raspberry Pi with a touchscreen, it becomes a full radio front panel for modern SDR transceivers.

#### **Overview**

PiHPSDR is a Linux SDR control application derived from the PowerSDR / OpenHPSDR family.

Frequently paired with HPSDR hardware (Hermes, Angelia, Orion, Anan etc.) or compatible networked SDRs.

#### **What it does**

The PiHPSDR Controller provides real-time control and visualization of a transceiver, including:

Frequency tuning (VFO A/B)

Mode selection (SSB, CW, AM, FM, digital modes)

Filter bandwidth and shape

Gain, AGC, and RF controls

Transmit/receive switching

Live panadapter spectrum display

Waterfall showing signal history

Touch-friendly zooming and tuning

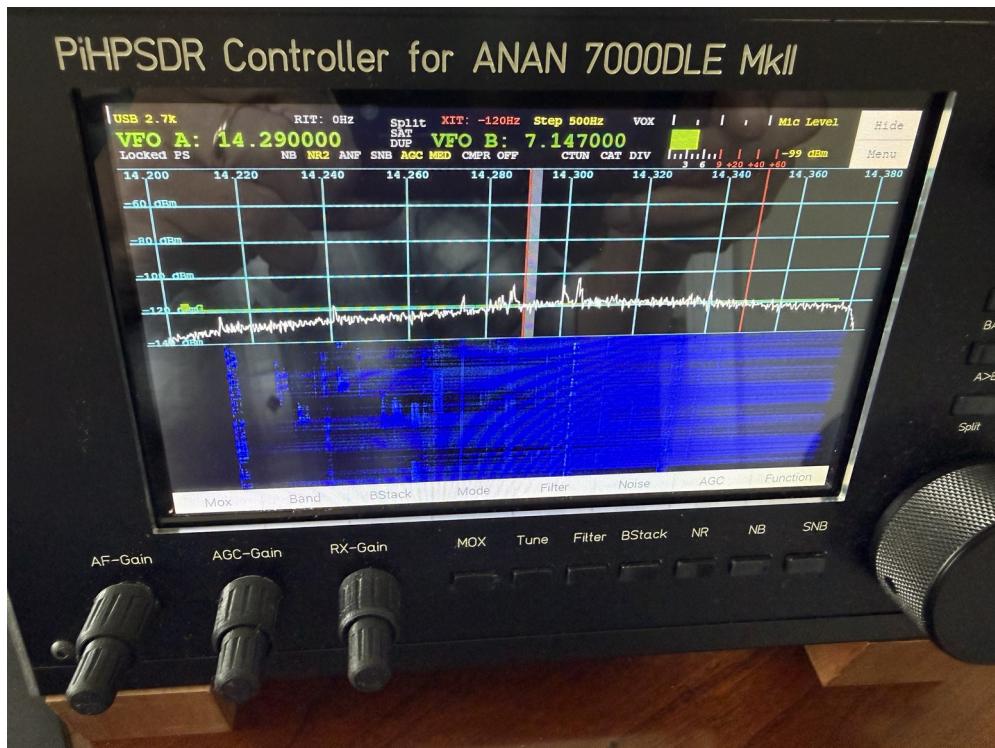
Power output control

Mic and audio settings

CW keying support

VOX and PTT options

Darrell, WW4F



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## 60 Meter allocation!

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited [Report and Order](#) adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) [Final Acts](#). The Commission also agreed with a petition from [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio® to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. **The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.**

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service **on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP**. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that “allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations.”

The Commission left open [ARRL's 2017 Petition for Rulemaking](#) to implement this WRC allocation (RM-11785), stating that “we expect the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding.” ARRL will be observing operations in the new band to evaluate the effect of the 9.15-watt limit and already has been monitoring the regulations and experiences of amateurs in other countries.

Finally, in the same Report and Order, the FCC updated 420 - 450 MHz coordination and contact information for geographic areas where the peak envelope power (PEP) of amateur stations operating is generally limited to 50 watts. There was no substantive change to the areas covered by the power limitation.



## The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@gmail.com](mailto:wa1ugo@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](mailto: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](mailto: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://rarcpi.net/Swan\\_350/](http://rarcpi.net/Swan_350/)

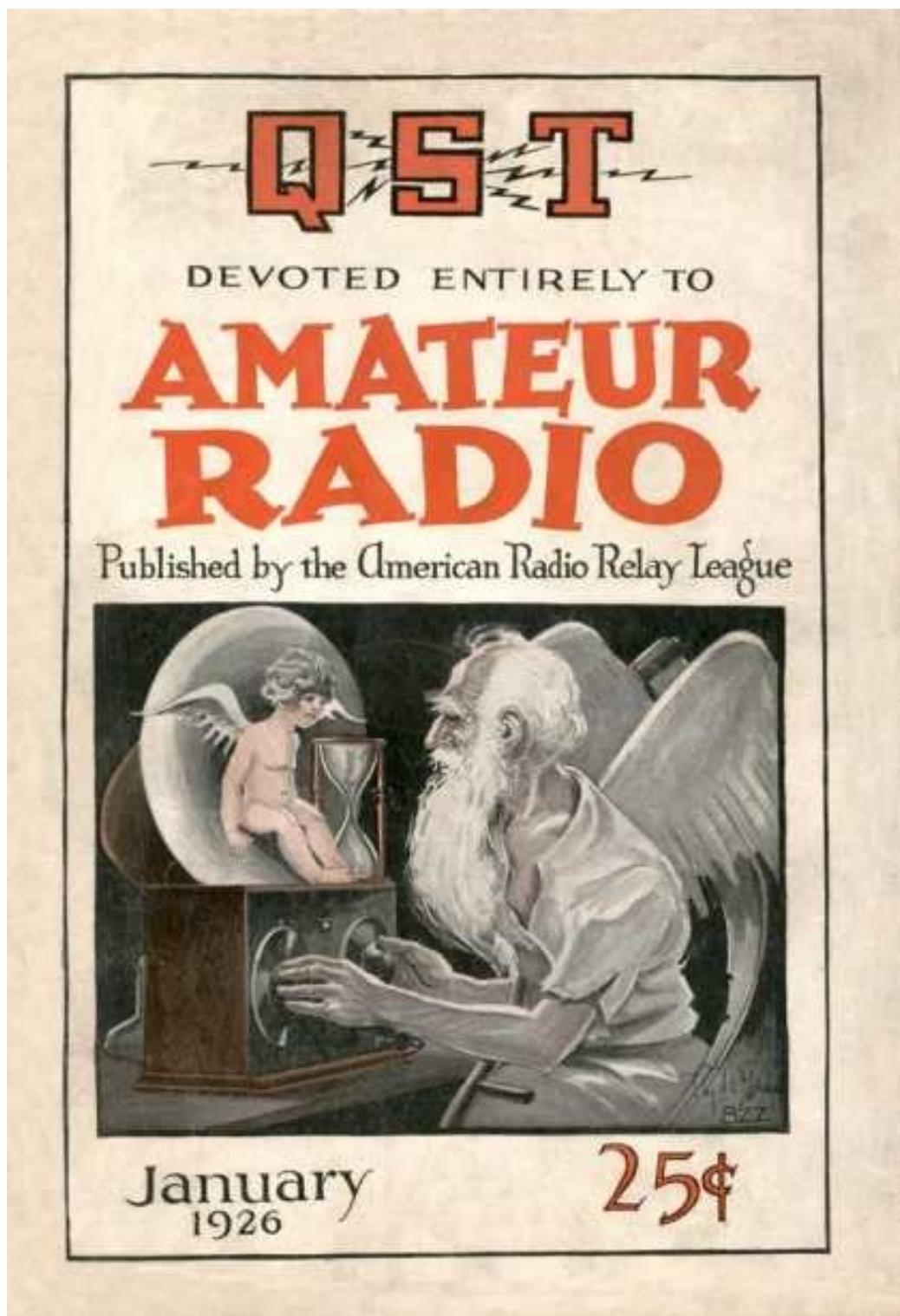
Contact Rob Thomas, KC4NYK at 804-633-4470 or via email at QRZ

### Thought For The Day

***"Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."***

Darrell Basinger	WW4F	President	(804) 219-8167	<a href="mailto:president@rarclub.net">president@rarclub.net</a>
Lauren Ware	W4LEW	Vice President	(804) 513-4950	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@rarclub.net">vicepresident@rarclub.net</a>
Will Jackson	KR4CE	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		







### January 24th & 25th, 2026

Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.

The Winter Field Day event aims to help participants improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions. Amateur radio operators have the freedom to use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands while employing voice, CW, and digital transmissions. The event designates specific objectives to encourage a diverse range of activities, including the use of non-commercial power sources, the deployment of multiple antennas, establishing satellite contacts, and more. Click [here](#) to read more about the history and purpose of winter field day.