



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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April 2026

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday April 10th, 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



**April Program:** How AI could be leveraged for ham radio tasks by Jim Mundy, WY4O.

## Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

### Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 13, 2026

**Call to order:** President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:01 followed by recognition of guests and introductions.

**Business meeting:** began with the approval of the February meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken Leidner, WV0L reported a balance of \$15,111.06 in the treasury, from \$14,842.86 last month. Income was reported from dues, FCC Classes, Donations, Expenditure included Instructional Materials, Paypal, and SSL Certificate.

**School Report:** Bruce MacAlister W4BRU, announced Courses – Soldering Seminar, DMR, FCC Tech, General and Extra. Sufficient signups received for all except the FCC Extra Course.

**Remote Station:** W4BRU reported it to be working well, and much used, though some adjustment needed to mode-frequency changes. D-Star working well.

**Club Nets:** President noted the Club has now 9 nets, including 80m, two on 40m, 6m, 2m and D-Star. KG4BIZ noted that the nets would be improved with more member participation. President recommended nets as way to meet club members. W4BRU welcomed new hams to the NewHams net, with rotating net control practice on Tuesday evenings 7:15.

**New Business:** Announcements: March 21-22 Virginia QSO Party, RATS QSO Party at Laurel Park,. Members invited to use the Club Callsign, W4ZA at these events, and not the repeater call. Ukrop Marathon – RATS request Comms volunteers. ARES meeting at Powhatan Library March 14. Bon Air Victorian Day Parade – Club presence with table and banner. Forthcoming 6m Tailgate Fest at Lakeside, April 11. March 14, Pie,  $\pi$  Day, Commonwealth Fusion systems coming to Duch Gap. RATS invitation to QSO party and next Winter Field Day.

Radio Exhibit at the Keystone Antique Tractor Museum, Katheen in attendance each Saturday, 12 – 4 pm.

**Show and Tell:** Bruce showed clicker-counter, recommended for keeping track of contacts, QSOs etc.

SDR Play radio recommended with mousewheel for tuning.

Hannover Radio Club Facebook viedo recommended.

Soldering Project -Electronic Roulette Wheel .  
Vintage Equipment unfinished restoration shown.

### Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JMW-P

KX4QC

Secretary.

April 4, 2026.

### From the Prez,

In 2026, the March equinox occurred on Friday, March 20, at 10:46 A.M. EST, marking the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This seasonal shift offers amateur radio operators who enjoy portable field operations new opportunities to get outdoors and on the air.

We have two such opportunities on the horizon.

On May 9, the Bon Air Victorian Day Parade will take place. RARC will have tables setup similar to RVA MakerFest events, with antennas, operational radios, and projects on display. Thanks to Emily, WB4EMY, who lives in Bon Air, for ensuring RARC is invited, and to Bruce, W4BRU, for managing the participant list. Please contact Bruce to sign up and join the event.

The next major event is ARRL Field Day, taking place June 27-28. It's not too early to take inventory and gear up for one of the most popular on-the-air events in amateur radio.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the ARRL Year of the Club, it provides a perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public spaces and demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All the information needed to get started can be found on the ARRL Field Day webpage: [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day).

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 May 9<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 Volunteer Examiner Team

The KC4TS Volunteer Examiner Team provides [W4VEC](#) license exam sessions in the Richmond area on the 1st Saturday of every month.

Unless indicated below, exams are being given at the **Gospel Light Baptist Church at [2109 Anderson Highway](#) in Powhatan, VA.** ([Map](#))

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 \$12 (cash preferred, or check made payable to "W4VEC"). If already licensed, please bring a copy of your signed FCC-issued license. We can provide pencils and a very simple calculator or you can bring your own.

### 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 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 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](mailto:wa1uqo@gmail.com) or call @ 508-838-8353

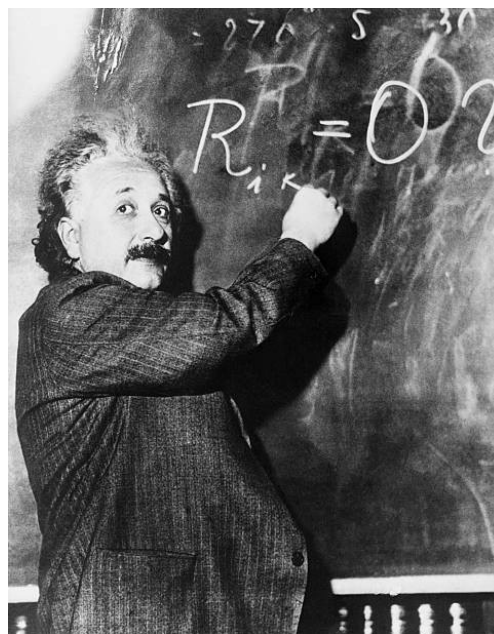
### Mentors and Elmers available!

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



## Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the [ARRL Year of the Club](#), it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the [Field Day](#) web page, including how to join the [ARRL Field Day Facebook Group](#), where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the [Field Day site locator page](#) to help find participating stations near you. As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at [www.arrl.org/america250-was](http://www.arrl.org/america250-was).

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day).



## Museum Update

**Professor Von Zoeller Visits the Radio Exhibit**  
Professor Von Zoeller stopped by the museum Saturday and spent time working in the radio exhibit. During his visit, Von helped educate visitors about early radio operation, demonstrating how Morse code keys and vintage headphones were used by radio operators.

He also assisted with several practical tasks around the exhibit. Von repaired a broken knob, expanded upon the vacuum tube collection records, and tidied the desk, helping keep the exhibit organized and well documented.

After a productive afternoon of radio work, Von also reported that he very much enjoyed the museum's grilled cheese lunch — and an ice cream for dessert. His visit was both helpful and informative, and the exhibit is in better shape thanks to his time and expertise. 📡



## The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@gmail.com](mailto: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](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://rarcpio.net/Swan\\_350/](http://rarcpio.net/Swan_350/)

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

## Thought For The Day

***If you can't laugh at yourself, I can help you out.***


|                                 |              |                       |                       |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Darrell Basinger</b>         | <b>WW4F</b>  | <b>President</b>      | <b>(804) 219-8167</b> | <a href="mailto:president@rarclub.net">president@rarclub.net</a>         |
| <b>Lauren Ware</b>              | <b>W4LEW</b> | <b>Vice President</b> | <b>(804) 513-4950</b> | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@rarclub.net">vicepresident@rarclub.net</a> |
| <b>John M Watkins-Pitchford</b> | <b>KX4QC</b> | <b>Secretary</b>      |                       |  |
| <b>Ken Leidner</b>              | <b>WV0L</b>  | <b>Treasurer</b>      |                       |  |

**QST**

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO

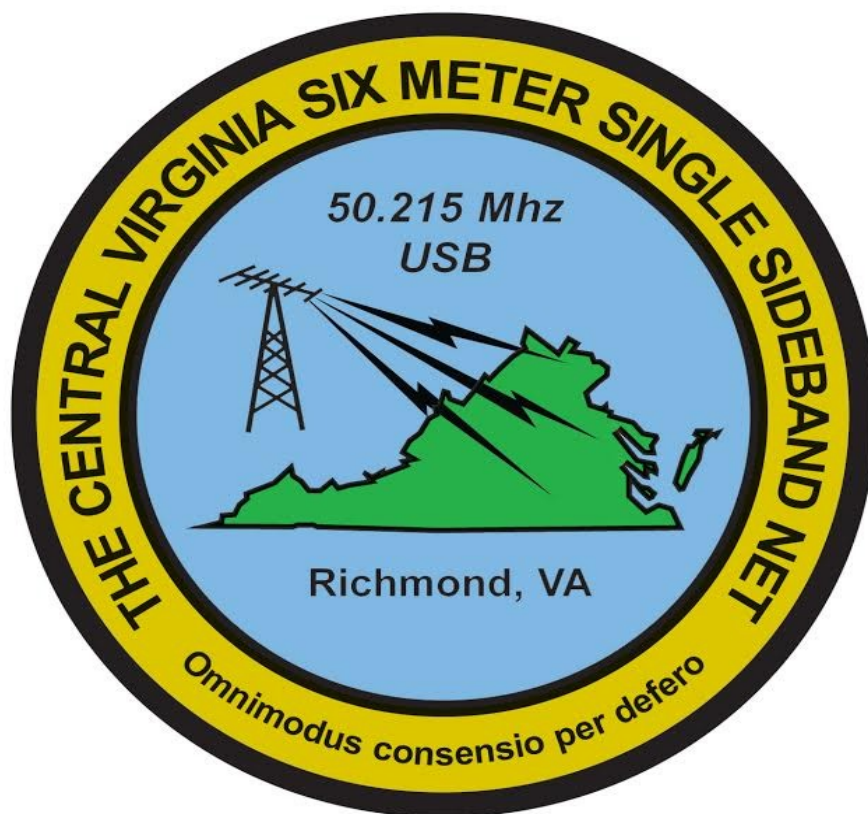
**AMATEUR  
RADIO**

*Published by the American Radio Relay League*



The illustration depicts a radio operator in a dark jacket and cap, seated at a desk in a radio station. The operator is wearing headphones and has one hand raised in a signaling gesture. The desk is cluttered with various pieces of radio equipment, including a large vacuum tube and several knobs. A window in the background shows a bright outdoor scene with several figures in uniform, possibly a military or police unit, standing in a line. To the left of the operator, a large sign is posted on the wall. The sign reads: 'WORLD-WIDE FRIENDSHIPS', 'COME ON IN', 'HOW TO BUILD A LOW PRICED TRANSMITTER FOR \$24.50 AND GET STARTED IN AMATEUR TRANSMISSION'. A red arrow points from the price '25¢' at the bottom right towards the sign.

APRIL 1926 **IN THIS ISSUE** 25¢



Universal harmony through communication

### Central VA Six Meter Group Tailgate

Will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> 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. We hope to see you there. There is no admission or attendance fee. All attendees should be aware that your presence at the event is at your own risk. There will be a donation box located at the event with W4YSP. We are taking donations for the Church to show our appreciation for allowing us to use the property for our event without charge.

<https://www.50215.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/3-31-23-Tailgate-location-map-1.jpg>