



THE RICHMOND HAM

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May 2026

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday May 8th, 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



May Program: Logging for new hams by Lauren Ware, W4LEW.

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 10 2026 Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

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 March meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Leidner, WV0L reported a starting balance of \$15,111.06 in the treasury, with no income. The only expense was \$147.86 for General Class Supplies, leaving \$14,953.96. Paypal has one pending income from last month. No new members. Jim, WY4O rejoined.

School Report: Bruce W4BRU, announced Courses – General and Extra finishing in May. One more Seminar. 2 candidates passed the General, and 2 passed the Tech exams, with one also passing Extra.

D-Star: Win W4WIN reported it working well, but large increase in price of software required to run the Club reflector / repeater.

Remote Station: A cooling fan failure required the station to be restarted. Fan cleaning to be done as soon as possible. To consider new hardware running Windows 11, for ease of maintenance. WV0L reported recent unexplained increase in signal strength. Members reminded of their access to this Remote Ham station and its extensive capabilities, and an overview of its hardware and software.

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: Ukrop 10k April 18. RATS inviting volunteer ops. Manasses HamFest June 20. 6m Tailgate Hatcher Mem Church April 11. Bon Air Victorian Memorial Parade – with Club representation – May 9.

Logging Software presentation RARC May, Lauren, W4LEW.

Dominion DX Group (DDXG) meets every 4th Saturday of the month. Details at <https://ddxg.net> Badge Pickup for few remaining.

Show and Tell:

Inexpensive Chinese multimode radio for HF and 6m. Vintage Antenna Equipment unfinished restoration shown. Unusual 2m opening, much of East Coast. Signal Report only net described.

Meeting Adjourned.

Presentation followed: Artificial Intelligence and Ham Radio, Jim WY4O

Respectfully submitted,

JMW-P, KX4QC

Secretary.

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

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

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

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.

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org/field-day.

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

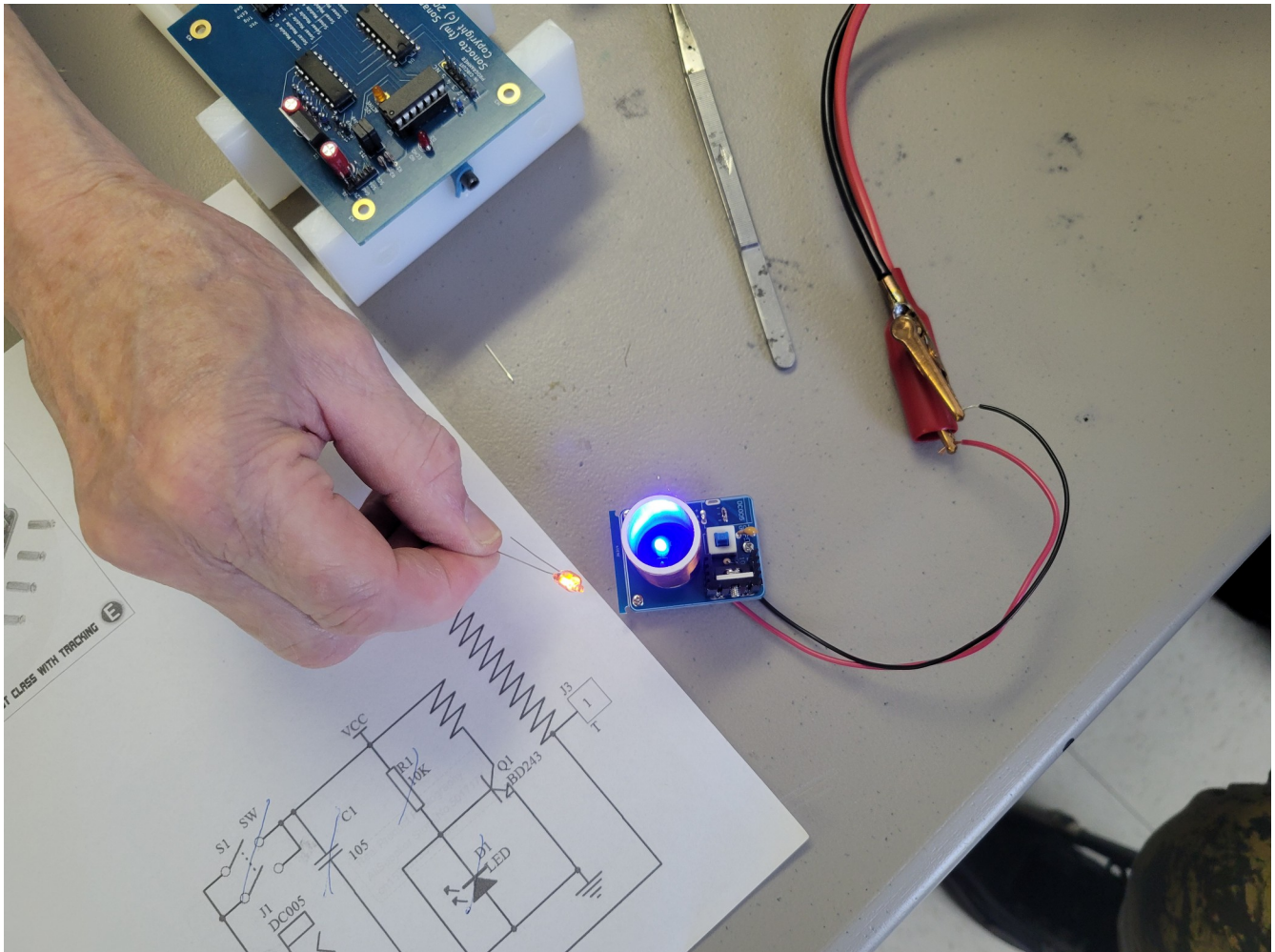
Thought For The Day

A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist.

Darrell Basinger	WW4F	President	(804) 219-8167	president@rarclub.net
Lauren Ware	W4LEW	Vice President	(804) 513-4950	vicepresident@rarclub.net
John M Watkins-Pitchford	KX4QC	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

Soldering Class Success!

April 18th's soldering class was a success with 4 Tesla coil kits completed and working. Lots of smiles as neon bulbs lit up when held close to the coil! Thanks to all those who made this first attempt a success!



Soldering Class without success?

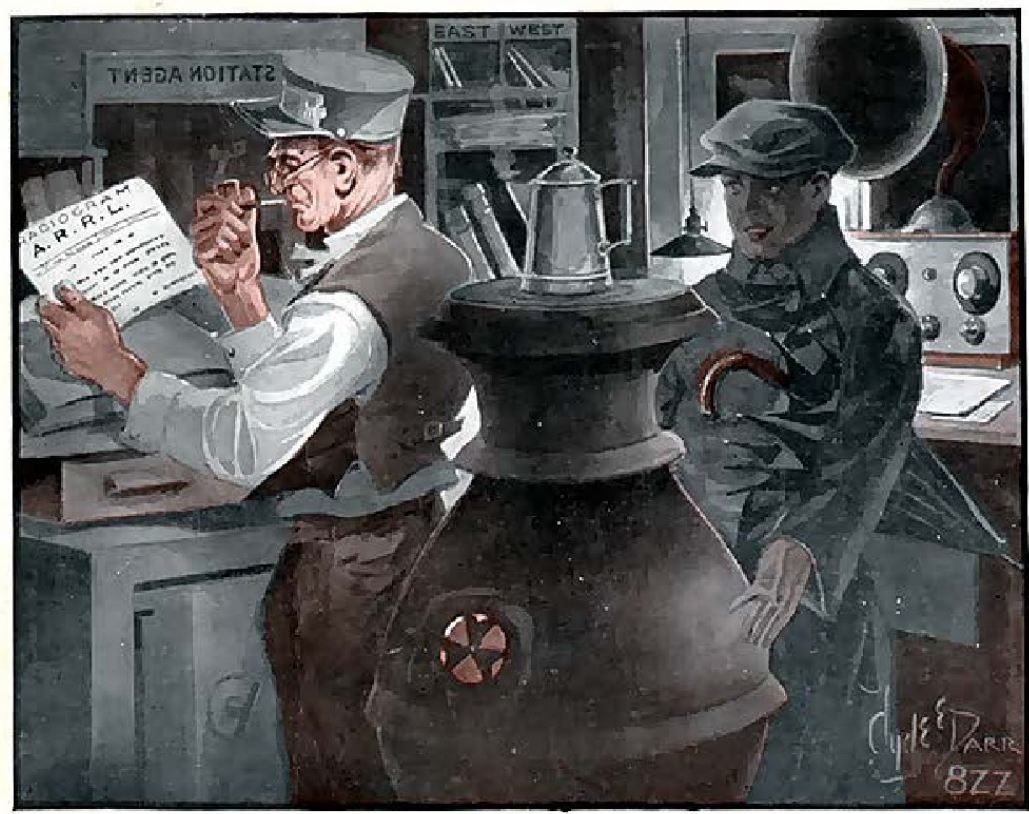


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