



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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June 2026

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday June 12th, 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



### June Program: "Get on the Air"–

Following the business meeting, portable HF stations will be available to help new hams practice operating and making contacts. Members are also invited to bring their own portable HF stations. This is good practice for field day!

## Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

### Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 8, 2026

**Call to order:** President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:00 followed by recognition of guests and introductions.

**Business meeting:** began with the approval of the April meeting minutes, to include clarification that the D-Stat repeater software is currently free.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken Leidner, WV0L reported a starting balance of \$14,963.59 in the treasury. Income included dues, FCC classes and a Soldering Seminar. Expenses included \$40 for Victoria Day Parade, PayPal \$13.44, Cables from

Best Buy \$21.19 and \$8.47, and \$899.94 for a new Compaq computer and monitor \$95.39, for the Remote Station. New member: Shawn Sweeney N4SPS General. Balance ended at \$14137.16.

The club website was hacked again, and repairs are in progress.

Club badges available for collection; members invited to do so.

**School Report:** Bruce W4BRU, was pleased to announce several passes at Tech, General and Extra. Soldering Seminar a success.

**D-Star:** Win W4WIN reported it working well, small issue with UHF restart, but coverage good.

**Remote Station:** Cooling fan issue continued, but replacement new computer now purchased. Software loaded, tested and appears to work on dummy load. Loan of IC-7100 (KD4CMK) much appreciated.

**Club Nets:** President noted the Club has now 9 nets, including 80m, two on 40m, 6m, 2m and D-Star all running well. President recommended nets as way to meet club members.

**New Business:** Announcements: Bon Air Victorian Memorial Parade – with Club representation – May 9.

All Va Hamfest , Manassas, June 20. 13833 Dumfries Rd.

6m Tailgate now Sep 12.

Field Day to partner with RATS, Laurel Park, to include big loop antenna.

### Show and Tell:

Distributor Cap repurposed by Steve W4SB as pen and pencil holder.

KiCAD free design software.

### Business Meeting Adjourned.

**Presentation followed:** Logging Software – W4LEW.

Respectfully submitted,

JMW-P, KX4QC

Secretary.

June 6, 2026.

## From the Prez

Reminder: ARRL Field Day 2026

Mark your calendars for the premier amateur radio operating event of the year -ARRL Field Day 2026, taking place June 27-28, 2026. Field Day begins at 1800 UTC (2:00 PM EDT) on Saturday, June 27, and continues through 2059 UTC (4:59 PM EDT) on Sunday, June 28.

Field Day is amateur radio's largest annual on-the-air event, bringing together more than 30,000 operators across North America. It combines emergency preparedness, public service, technical skills, and operating fun in a single weekend. Participants set up temporary stations, often using emergency or alternative power sources, to demonstrate the capabilities of amateur radio under less-than-ideal conditions.

Whether you are a seasoned operator or newly licensed, Field Day offers an excellent opportunity to sharpen operating skills, experiment with portable station setups, and introduce friends and family to amateur radio. Visitors are always welcome, and many clubs provide opportunities for newcomers to get on the air.

We encourage all RARC members join RATS to participate and help showcase the value of amateur radio to our community. Additional information, rules, and resources are available from the [ARRL Field Day page] ([https://www.arrl.org/field-day?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.arrl.org/field-day?utm_source=chatgpt.com)).

We look forward to hearing you on the air for Field Day 2026!



## 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 June 27th 2026 at 12:pm**

**Laurel Park**

**10301 Hungary Spring Rd  
Glen Allen, 23060**

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**

**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.

## SWR Magazine



One of the benefits of being a subscriber to a few io groups is that you come across all sorts of things you would have otherwise have missed. Recently I ran across an item that caught my attention. A new Amateur Radio Magazine! Not a print magazine, but a free e-magazine. Hmmmm – well, with nothing to lose, I gave it a try.

Honestly, I was quite impressed. Articles for all levels, very professionally done. The May 2026 issue marked their one year anniversary. Have a look for yourself. I think you'll be impressed as well.

<https://swrmagazine.org/> & here is a link to their back issues.

<https://fliphtml5.com/site/85123127/index.html>.

WA1UQO

During our May meeting, we were honored by the visit of Mr. Pethuraja (VU2KPR), the Managing Trustee for the Rajapalayam International Radio Communicators Club (RIRCOM). Mr. Pethuraja is currently in the US visiting family and plans to attend the June RARC meeting. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Pethuraja and his family.



## Radio Day Comes to the Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum

**August 8, 2026 | Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum | Colonial Heights, Virginia**

Join us for a special celebration of radio history, amateur radio, and communications technology at **Radio Day** on Saturday, August 8th, at the Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the museum's growing radio exhibit, featuring vintage broadcast receivers, amateur radio equipment, early communications technology, and artifacts that tell the story of how radio has connected people across generations.

Throughout the day, amateur radio operators will be on hand to demonstrate modern ham radio communications and answer questions about the hobby. Whether you're a longtime operator, a newly licensed ham, or simply curious about how radio works, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The radio exhibit showcases equipment spanning more than a century of communications history, from the earliest days of wireless technology to the amateur radio stations that continue to serve communities today. Visitors can learn about vacuum tubes, Morse code, broadcasting, emergency communications, and the role amateur radio operators play during disasters and public service events.

Radio Day is designed to be family-friendly and educational, offering a chance to experience radio not just as technology, but as a living connection between people, communities, and history.

The radio collection has been assembled and preserved through the efforts of dedicated collectors and volunteers who believe these important pieces of communications history deserve to be shared with future generations. Admission includes access to both the Radio Day activities and the museum's extensive collection of antique trucks, tractors, engines, and transportation artifacts.

Whether you're interested in vintage electronics, local history, engineering, or simply enjoy seeing remarkable machines brought back to life, we invite you to spend the day with us.

**Radio Day**  
**Saturday, August 8, 2026**  
**Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum**  
880 W. Roslyn Road  
Colonial Heights, Virginia

Come discover how radio changed the world—and continues to bring people together today.



### **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: 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.

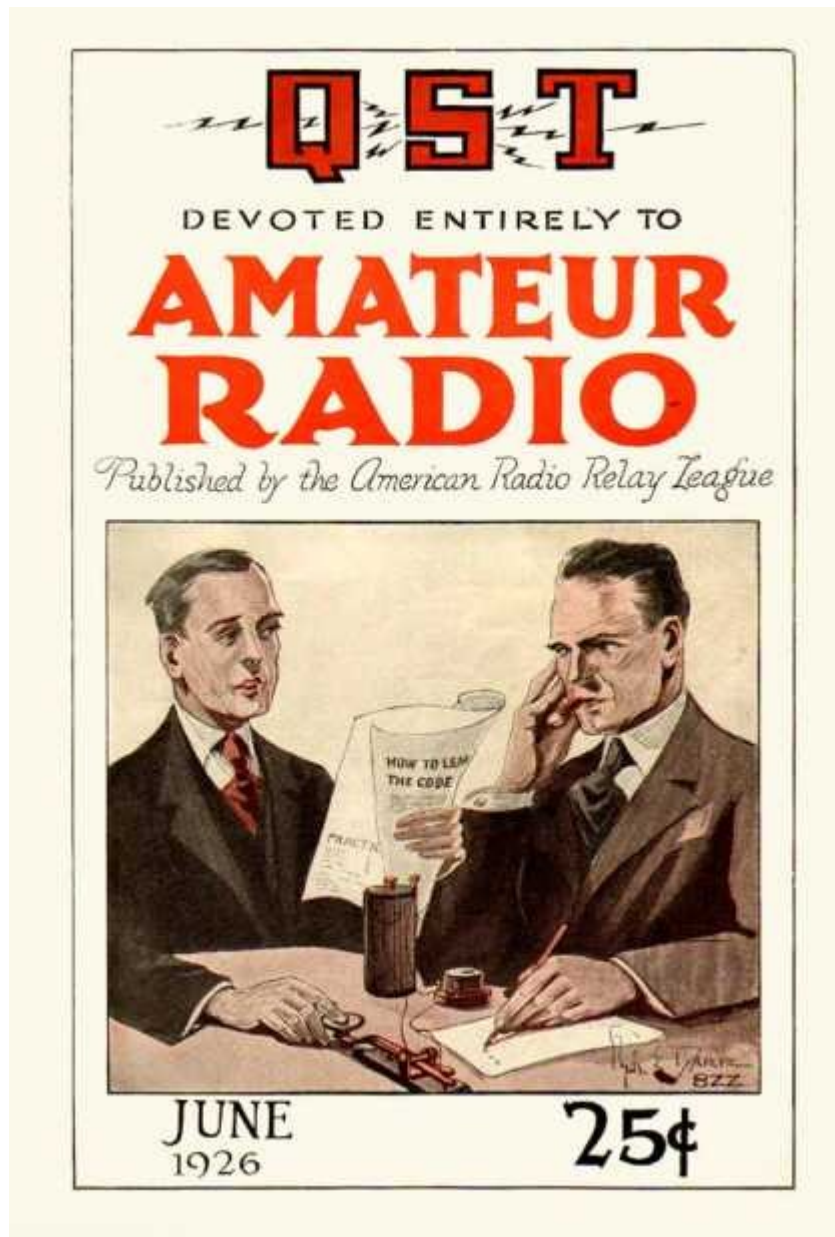
Photos, and videos of operational tests at [http://rarcpio.net/Swan\\_350/](http://rarcpio.net/Swan_350/)

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

**Thought For The Day**

***You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.***

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>
John M Watkins-Pitchford	KX4QC	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		



*THE RICHMOND HAM June 2026*  
RARC Field Day circa 1950's

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*Victorian Day!*

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) had a great time sharing amateur radio with visitors at Victorian Day! From live radio demonstrations to hands-on activities for kids, it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase how radio continues to connect people, communities, and generations.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table, asked questions, and helped make the day a success.

K5HTZ







*THE RICHMOND HAM June 2026*

