



THE RICHMOND HAM

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July 2026

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday July 10th, 2026, 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



July Program: Win Grant, W4WIN & Michael Miller, KN4VA will be presenting a History and overview of RARC's D-STAR repeater.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 12 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 addition of Adam KQ4OTH to W4LEW as presenters of last month's Checking presentation.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Leidner, WV0L reported a starting balance of \$14,137.16 in the treasury. Income included refund from RATS Field Day contribution, 3 membership dues. Expenses included Wordfence software \$268.20, which appears to be excluding intruders, Victoria Day banners \$95.98 and \$91.76, Solder Kits for Seminar \$51.78, Zoom renewal \$178.40, Paypal charges leaving \$13,713.15. Membership stands at 137, after voting in 3 new members.

School Report: Bruce W4BRU, was pleased to announce 5/8 passes at Tech, 2/5 General and 2/3 Extra. 2 who passed Tech also passed General. Teaching methods to be reviewed, online classes and traditional methods to be evaluated. Seminars doing well, also mentoring. Instructors sought for 5 week courses.

D-Star: Win W4WIN reported it working well, though an occasional reset issue remains to be solved.

Remote Station: working well with new computer.

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. KG4BIZ and KD4CMK encouraged members to participate. The New Hams Net meetings on Tuesdays 7pm, 145.43 DMR repeater. KD4CMK encouraged new hams to also try the 6m and 10m nets. 6m morning net recommended.

Announcements:

KQ4LDA's son Owen won ARRL scholarship, noted in QST, and thanks to Darrell for letter of recommendation.

Keystone Truck and Tractor Museum, Radio Day August 8th.

Ole Va Hamfest, Manasses, June 20. 13833 Dumfries Rd. (New Location).

6m Tailgate now Sep 12.

Field Day to partner with RATS, Laurel Recreation Park, to include big loop antenna. 27-28 June. (To include "tape measure Yagi". Details on RARC website.

ARRL VHF contest June 13.

Kathleen commended for kindness and support after unfortunate comments made by some hams, not from RARC.

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

Show and Tell:

QRP Kits: QMX with programmable WiFi display.
Supports FT8 and many modes.

Business Meeting Adjourned. 19:45

Presentation followed: Get on the air!

Respectfully submitted,
JMW-P, KX4QC
Secretary.

From the Prez

RARC D-STAR Repeater Continues to Serve the Amateur Radio Community

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club's D-STAR repeater continues to be a valuable resource for local and regional amateur radio communications. From routine local QSOs to reflector connections that extend communications well beyond the Richmond area, the system provides members with an excellent opportunity to explore the capabilities of digital voice technology.

Whether you are an experienced D-STAR operator or just beginning to explore digital modes, the repeater offers an excellent platform to learn, experiment, and expand your operating experience. Members who have not yet tried D-STAR are encouraged to get on the air. If you need assistance programming your radio or making your first contact, experienced club members are always willing to help.

The continued reliability of the RARC D-STAR repeater is made possible through the dedicated efforts of Win Grant, W4WIN and Jim Bates, K8OI. Their ongoing maintenance and technical support ensure that this important club resource remains available to serve both RARC members and the broader amateur radio community. The club extends its sincere appreciation to Win for his commitment and many hours of volunteer service.

As interest in digital operating continues to grow, we encourage more members to make use of the D-STAR repeater, participate in local and regional nets, and enjoy the many opportunities digital voice has to offer. We look forward to hearing both familiar and new call signs on the system in the months ahead.

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 September 12th 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 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.

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**

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

Richmond Amateur Radio Club by Emily Boots -WB4EMY

Originally, Bon Air, Virginia, was conceived in 1877 as a Victorian summer resort for city-weary Richmonders. They came in droves to the resort by way of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, wanting to escape the heat, as well as, the factory and animals' smells for a day excursion, and for many the entire summer in the big hotel or their cottages. A dance pavilion, bowling alley, saloon, bicycle, and horseback trails, were just a few of the amusements they discovered as they embarked off the train station and climbed up the elaborate Gothic steps.

Today, Bon Air is a historic village, and the home of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club and School. It is only fitting that this club, founded in 1916, celebrate Victorian Day with the Bon Air Historical Society. RARC had three entries in the parade this year, as well as, a hands-on demonstration booth where the festival took place after the parade. There was a lot of excitement about RARC's participation, and it was a wonderful fun place to showcase and talk about the many facets of this amazing hobby to the curious. It is hoped that many of the curious will join with us on this adventure we call HAM RADIO.

Welcome New Members!!

Gerard Gronboldt W4SPT Extra
Robert Harris W4RTH General
Cynthia Stone KC4RFO Technician
George Stone WA1JQC Extra

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, 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: 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

“Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.” ~ Oscar Wilde

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		



More from Victorian Day!



(Left-Right) Mike Owens-K4RKO,
Emily Boots-WB4EMY, Lorrain , Doug Rumburg-KK4LSE,
Patee , Bruce MacAlister-W4BRU, David Kryniski- KR4EYF



Berryville Hamfest 2026

As always, the Berryville Hamfest will be on the first Sunday in August. Hosted by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club at the Clarke County fairgrounds in Berryville Va. This will be the 75th annual Hamfest and worth the trip even if you don't buy anything! Mark your calendar and come along!

