



THE RICHMOND HAM

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August 2026

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday August 14th, 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



August Program: This month's program will focus on hotspot setup and programming for access to the RARC D-Star repeater and others. The presenters will be Michael Miller (KN4VA) and Win Grant (W4WIN).

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 10 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 June meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Leidner, WV0L reported a starting balance of \$13713.66 in the treasury. Income included 3 membership dues. Expenses included printing of Club brochures, a Google-recognized mailserver (Google no longer recognized the Club server) and SMTP interface, the club mail server address, internet service provider, and Paypal services, a total of \$193.78, leaving \$13,574.88. One new member, Mark, W4MFV (General), voted in.

School Report: Bruce W4BRU, announced Tech, and General, with Extra planned for next year. Details are on the Club website, and a handout passed round the meeting. Teaching methods are under review; differences noted between online classes and traditional methods include the valuable interaction of in-person participants. Seminars doing well, also mentoring. Future topics planned include Antenna modeling, Remote station setup, hotspot configuration, Soldering workshop, and CHIRP. Ideas invited for seminars.

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

Remote Station: working well, and good progress made with transition to new hardware.

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 MRA repeater.

Neighboring Club activity: RATS celebrated a successful Field Day, including a very popular 'Fox' Hunt, to include tape-measure user-constructed Yagi antennas (W4BRU). A suggestion made to reduce the steel sharpness, for handling safety.

New Business: Nominating Committee: Win, Bruce and Rick have agreed to serve, meeting once already. Members interested in serving as Club officers should contact the Nominating Committee. A slate of prospective officers to be submitted and announced in September, with an opportunity for other members to be considered to stand for election in October.

Announcements: Emily thanked for pictures to submit to ARRL Year of the Clubs.

Keystone Farm Truck and Tractor Museum, Radio Day, August 8. Kathleen K5HTZ plans to operate.

Berryville Hamfest, August 2.

6m Tailgate now Sep 12.

From the recent Board meeting: An Estate Coordinator was discussed, to help surviving family members appropriately dispose of Silent Keys' stations and radio items. Possibilities include a simple radio to extensive and maybe valuable collections. Two volunteer members sought for this important service.

Call 12 TV presentation to advertise the Club, and other means to increase membership and School participation. Suggestions included Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Emergency Management (ARES), Chesterfield Survival Day, Liaison with neighboring Clubs, a luncheon.

Pictures sought for to show Club activities. Submissions should be smaller size.

Mentorship encouraged.

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

Members were reminded to support the Club Newsletter. Submissions to Armand, WA1UQO.

AI4TH Thomas, requests help configuring a vintage 599 Kenwood rig.

Show and Tell: Dave, KY4EYF showed a short presentation on his First Year of Radio, and his visit to Hamvention. Anyone 890 HT.

Business Meeting Adjourned. 19:49

Presentation followed: Win W4WIN

Respectfully submitted,

JMW-P, KX4QC, Secretary.

June 24, 2026

From the Prez

One of the greatest strengths of our amateur radio club has always been the willingness of members to share their time, knowledge, and enthusiasm. Whether it's helping with a meeting program, teaching a licensing class, supporting public service events, or simply welcoming a new operator, every contribution helps make our club successful. As we look ahead to a new season of club leadership nominations, I'd like to encourage members to consider taking the next step by serving RARC in a leadership position.

Many hams hesitate because they think they need years of experience or extensive technical expertise. The truth is that the qualities we value most in our leaders are reliability, a willingness to learn, and a desire to serve the membership. No one starts out knowing everything about running a club. Every officer and director has learned along the way, often with guidance from those who served before them. Leadership is about helping shape the future of our club. New ideas keep us growing, whether it's

introducing fresh educational programs, planning interesting activities, expanding our community outreach, or finding new ways to attract and retain members. Every new leader brings a unique perspective that strengthens our organization. Serving as an officer or director also offers personal rewards. You'll build lasting friendships, gain a deeper appreciation for everything that goes into making our club thrive and have the satisfaction of knowing you've helped preserve and strengthen amateur radio in our community. Our club's continued success depends on members who are willing to step forward. As current leaders complete their terms, we need others to continue the tradition of service that has made this club such a welcoming and respected organization. If you've ever thought, "Maybe someday," I encourage you to make that someday now. Talk with one of the current officers or directors about what's involved. Together, we can ensure that our club remains active, innovative, and welcoming for both longtime members and newly licensed amateurs. I hope you'll consider becoming part of the team that guides our club into its next chapter. 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 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 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 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

In Case You Missed It!

Last months newsletter featured an article by Emily Boots, WB4EMY. Well, congratulations to Emily again as her article was featured in the ARRL Club News. <https://www.arrl.org/clubletterissue?issue=2026-07-21>.

Ham Antenna Raising Party

You've probably heard of Amish barn raising (<https://amishamerica.com/what-happens-at-an-Amish-barn-raising/>). Well, we hams have antenna raising parties.

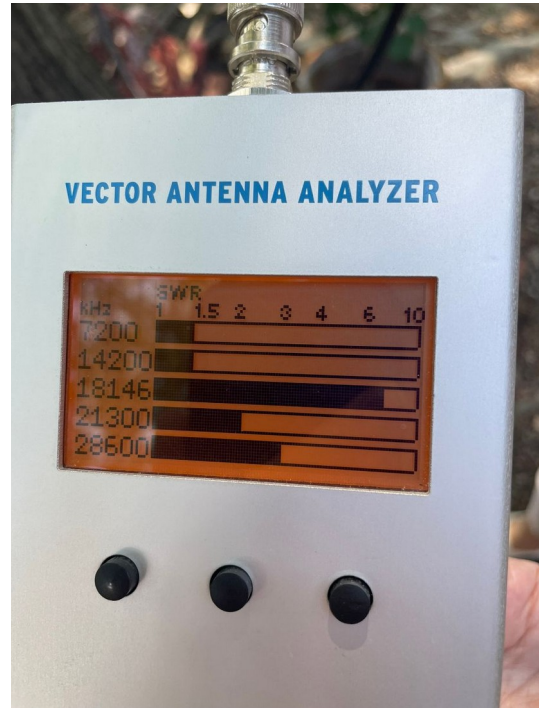
In early August Nora (N4POZ) hosted an antenna raising party at her house. She had passed her General test and, through Russ Hummel (W4PGT), had bought the Icom-7300 of a ham who could no longer use it. As part of hams helping the new hams get on the air, Tom Tinsley (KJ4WQ) gave her a 65-foot "An Antenna" brand off-center-fed dipole. It was time to hang wire. She has a small lot but no HOA (home owners' association) restrictions. Mike Owens (K4RKO) and I (W4BRU) sighted likely places to hang the wire and did the measurements in her back yard. It would just fit from her chimney to two trees with a 60° angle in the middle. With the antenna came a long piece of very stout UV-tolerant rope. Time to call in the antenna raising team.

Bill (N4WLC) had the sling shot and the skill. Mike (K4RKO) had the experience. Doug (KK4LSE), Nora, and I hauled up the ends and the balun and I used my long-ago Navy training to tie the bowline knots. Supervising and photographing were Emily (W4EMY) and Judi (N4JDI). Nora rewarded us with lunch at nearby Mama Siam. These parties aren't quick. Including lunch it was a 6-hour party.

The antenna analyzer gave us the expected good news, all but 17-meters need no tuner. Still to be done are ground rods and the coax to go to the static arrestor and into her radio. That's a party for the near future.

73, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU





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

Icom IC2300H, 2 meter, 65w, 207 memory channels, like new, only used as base station: \$125 Dan Bryant-N4DOB-danbryant02@gmail.com

Thought For The Day

"Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest." ~ Mark Twain

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