THE RICHMOND HAM

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November 2026

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday November 13th, 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

November Program: This month's program, following the installation of the club's officers, is an update on ARES in our area by Mark Roberson / N4MDR and Carl Cash / KF4UBE (both of the Powhatan Amateur Radio Club and Mark is an Assistant EC for Powhatan County).

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 9, 2026

Call to order: President Darrell Basinger WW4F called the meeting to order at 19:00 followed by recognition of visitors, NA4AX, Larry Lawhorn and guests and introductions.

Business meeting: began with the approval of the September meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Leidner, WV0L reported a starting balance of $13,326.08 in the, treasury. Ending balance was $13,131.31.

New Member: Phil Davis, KI4DX voted in. Welcome Phil.

School Report: All running fine.

D-Star: Also operating well. No issues at this time.

Remote Station: Down for a few days as church was without power due to an auto accident.

Club nets: Reminder to check the club calendar. Lots of nets – all need more check-ins!

Old Business: No new nominees for New Officers. Unanimous approval for proposed slate.

New Business: No new business.

Announcements: Alliance Richmond Marathon, RATS Club still needs volunteers. Sign up at the RATS website.

Kudos to Kathleen, K5HTZ, for ARRL newsletter article and making the 6 o'clock news.

Nora, N4POZ, asked for 4 or 5 members to go out to local groups to give a presentation about Amateur Radio.

Darrell asked club members to reach out to other club members who may need rides to club meetings or other events. Ken showed a map of Virginia showing the location of all club members and all Hams in the state. Its available on the club website.

The club luncheon was a big hit – do it again? Possibly in the middle of January?

RATS club has rescheduled their monthly talk from last month to next Friday the 16th.

Show and Tell: Gene, K4GNE showed the Pebble HF QRP SSB and CW transceiver.

Meeting Closed: at 19:42

Presentation by Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ, on the status of the ARRL Section.

From the Prez,

As my two-year term as President of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

Serving as president has been both an honor and rewarding. I have appreciated the opportunity to work alongside so many individuals who share a passion for amateur radio and a commitment to keeping our club active, engaged, and moving forward. I am grateful for the trust and confidence the membership placed in me and for the opportunity to serve our club in this capacity.

I especially want to recognize and thank the members of the RARC Board who have served with me over these past two years. I am grateful for your dedication, guidance, encouragement, and willingness to give your time and talents. Leadership is never a one-person effort, and your support, teamwork, and commitment have made my time as president both enjoyable and successful. Thank you for all that you do for our club.

I also want to extend my gratitude to the entire RARC membership. A club is only as strong as the participation and involvement of its members. Whether you have volunteered at an event, participated in club activities, supported our meetings and programs, assisted with communications and newsletter, shared your knowledge and experience, or simply encouraged others to get involved, your contributions matter. Your participation and willingness to serve are what keeps RARC a vibrant club.

As I look back on these past two years, I do so with appreciation for the experience, accomplishments, friendships, and lessons along the way. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve RARC and grateful to everyone who helped.

Although my time as president may be coming to an end, I remain committed to the Richmond Amateur Radio Club and its continued success. I look forward to continuing to participate and support club our activities, and work alongside all of you in the years ahead.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your president. It has truly been an honor, and I am sincerely grateful for your support, friendship, and dedication to the Richmond Amateur Radio Club.

73, Darrell

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 November 14th** 2026 at 10:am

Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch
9103 Rattlesnake Rd
North Chesterfield, 23235

The other one cost $12.00, 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 memerable 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

If the Navy is doing this what is the future of CW?

Navy Re-Institutes CW Training

After discontinuing mandatory Morse training around 2002, the US Navy determined that a generation of communications specialists lacked backup skills for environments in which primary systems fail. CW is not a requirement for all sailors, but the specialists responsible for maintaining communication links under adverse conditions now need to learn Morse as a backup. Official reasoning centered on three factors: satellite vulnerability to anti-satellite weapons and jamming, GPS denial in contested theaters, and the need for low-probability-of-intercept communication methods that require minimal infrastructure. Morse code over HF radio addresses all three simultaneously. Modern warfare targets communication infrastructure aggressively. Electronic warfare units jam voice radio, disrupt satellite uplinks, spoof GPS signals, and disable cellular networks. How does this affect the amateur radio operator? We know that communication is a necessity of life. Yet there are those who would, and have, shut down communications networks. Morse code in the hands of the radio amateur operator has the following advantages:

Narrow bandwidth: CW occupies roughly 150 Hz versus 2.4 kHz for voice SSB — harder to target and easier to copy through noise
Low-power effectiveness: A five-watt Morse signal can span oceans; voice at the same power often fails.
Human in the loop: No dependency on digital protocols, encryption key management, or network routing.
Equipment simplicity: A basic transceiver, wire antenna, and battery suffice — no satellite terminal required.
Jam resistance: Skilled operators copy through interference that destroys voice intelligibility.

If the Navy has come to this conclusion about the use of CW, how about the amateur radio community? Food for thought! For the full interesting story on the Navy's use of CW go to https://morsecoder.us/blog/morse-code-navy-2026/.

The Ham Shack

Ever wonder what Hams are doing on the other side of the planet when propagation is poor? Here is your opportunity to find out with yet another free Amateur Radio e-magazine. **https://thehamshack.co.nz/pages/new-zealand-and-australian-amateur-radio-magazine-nz**. The Ham Shack is a publication featuring goings on in New Zealand and Australia. Check it out and enjoy!



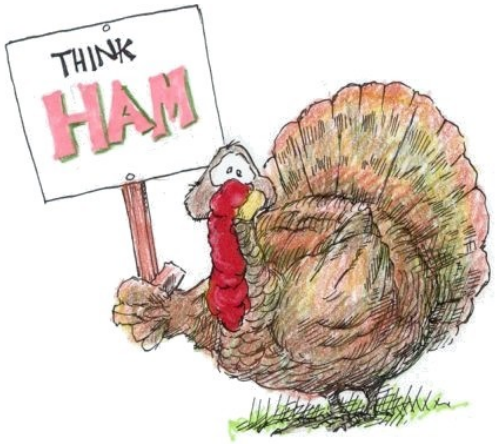
Do I need Another App on My Phone??

Well, I did and maybe you do too. I often monitor the W4FJ D-Star repeaters while puttering in the shack. Recently I began to hear about an app for your phone or tablet that would allow you to communicate on many of the digital modes including D-Star, DMR, and seven others! All for free (so far). After a short demo from Dave Stevens, WB4DES, I gave it a try. An easy download and set up. I was connected to Reflector 30C within minutes.

QSO One is available from your preferred app store. And while not exactly the same as linking through amateur frequencies, it will get you linked to the greater Ham Radio world when you are not within reach of the nearest repeater. If you have wanted to try D-Star and didn't want to invest in a costly radio, a smart phone will let you give it a try (for free).



WA1UQO





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.

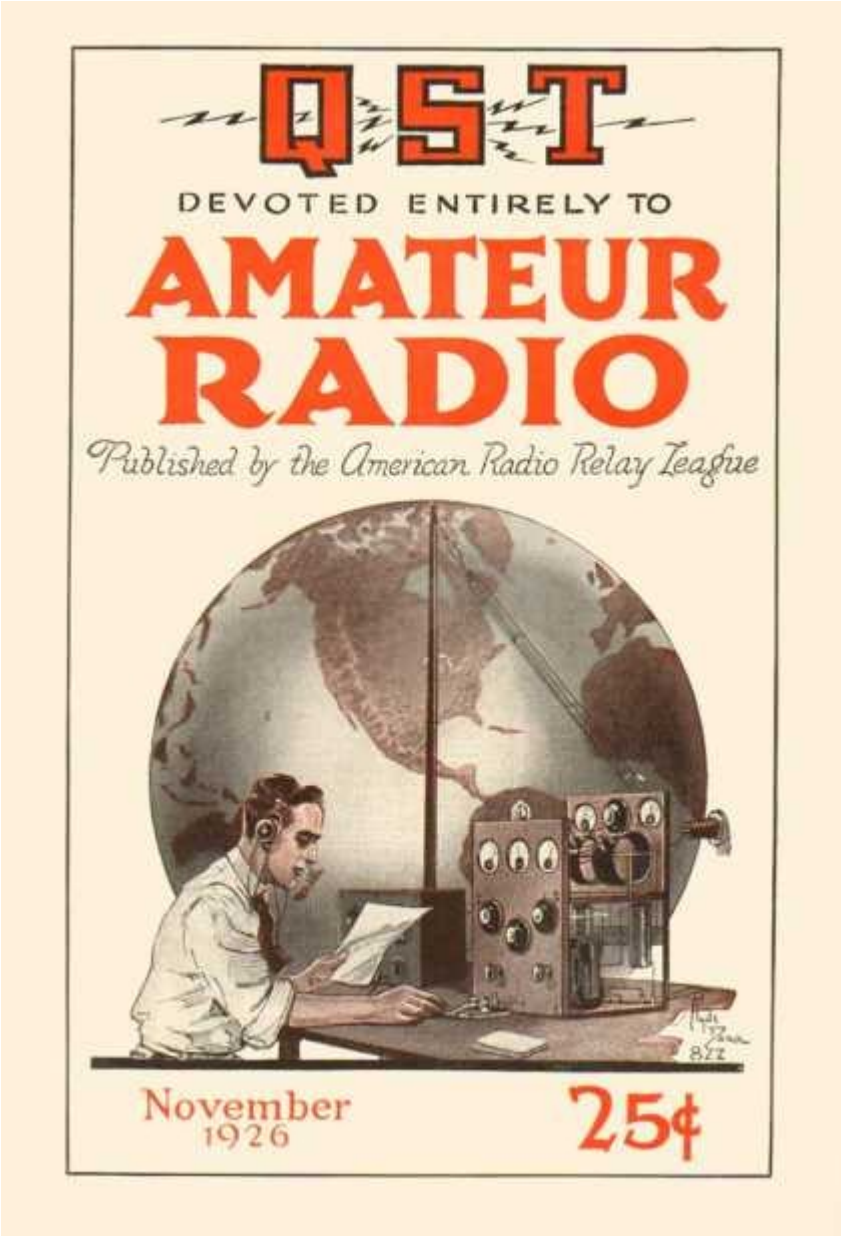
Photos, and videos of operational tests at http://rarcpio.net/Swan_350/

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

Thought For The Day

"True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country." ~ Kurt Vonnegut

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