



THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

November 2023

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday November 10th, 2023, 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

1. Installation of officers and directors by Win Grant, W4WIN and Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU
2. An informal workshop with demonstration centered around how to test an unknown piece of cable by Rick Waller, KA4OHM

October 13th Meeting Minutes

The October meeting was called to order at 19:11 by Vice President Darrell Basinger, WW4F followed by a roll call and introduction of visitors.

Business Mtg: Minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The club had a balance of \$21,168.01.

Six new member was voted in: Terry Cutlip, N4CFM, Steven Walker, KB8MAN, Christopher Boone, N4CPB, Ronald Buchanan, KQ4LDA, Calvin Wiggins, K4WCJ and David Haywood, W1DRH. Welcome all!

Club School: Radio sport and Contesting 101 Seminar will be held at the church on the 21st

Old Business: None

Richmond Marathon: Volunteers still needed. Interested volunteers can contact Jim at W4PKR@arrl.net.

D-Star: VHF repeater working and better than the old. UHF unit dead with replacement from ICOM being delivered to Win, W4WIN.

Remote Station: Base and pole installed on the church roof. Remainder of equipment and antennas to be installed as weather permits.

Election: Slate of candidates voted in unanimously. Installation at the November meeting.

The business meeting was closed at 19:34

Meeting Presentation: Description and demonstration of the sBITX transceiver by Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU.

Meeting Closed at 20:35.

Submitted by Armand, WA1UQQ

From The Prez

Greetings fellow RARC members. On behalf of the club I want to thank Darrell Basinger, WW4F, and his crew of volunteers for reinstalling the antennas on the church roof and getting our remote station back on the air. We will have installation of officers at the November meeting. We don't have a formal program scheduled but I wanted to have an informal workshop on testing coaxial cable. I can bring in my Rig Expert antenna analyzer, nano VNA, DVM, LC checker, 50 ohm dummy load and some cable known to be good. I would like for members who wish to participate to bring in their favorite test gear and demonstrate their preferred cable testing techniques. Here is the main question I want to focus on; "I've had this run of coax going outside to my antenna for 15 years. I want to know if my cable is still good or needs to be replaced?" If members have some cable known to be bad please bring it in. 73, Rick, KA4OHM.

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 11th 2023 at

Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch
9103 Rattlesnake Rd
North Chesterfield, VA 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 Cats Vet (Cats Volunteer Examination Team) offers VE Testing Sessions that cost \$15.00 on the 1st Saturday of every month. Currently all testing starts at 10:00 AM and is at: Gospel Light Church 2109 Anderson Hey Powhatan VA. 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 \$15 which goes directly to the ARRL (cash or check made payable to "ARRL VEC"). We can provide pencils and a very simple calculator or you can bring your own. See <http://kc4ts.org/> for more information.

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:

80 and over \$0

Regular Membership \$22.00

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
	7:30 pm	52.525	FM
Wednesday	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
Thursday	8:00 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 repeater. For information please visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/kg4mra/>.

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 costs!

Articles Requested!

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. Thanks!

Volunteer for the Richmond Marathon!

Dear Fellow Hams,

The Richmond, VA Marathon is on November 11th, 2023. We will be needing up to 40 operators of varying skill sets. You do not have to be experienced at operating events for some of the positions, as you will be trained. If you are interested and available on Nov. 11th, please email: Jim Rubin, W4PKR at: W4PKR@ARRL.NET.

In the subject line, please include "2023 Richmond Marathon".

In the body of the email, please include the following:

- Your name and call sign
- Your cell phone number
- Your tee-shirt size (I'm not 100% sure there will be tees for a November event, but just in case!)
- What, if any, experience you may have operating at events, including ARES events and especially if you have experience as a Net Control Operator for local nets or in any other capacity.
- What portable equipment you have available.

I will follow up with you and let you know I have received your email and you will be included in all updates regarding the race, as well as any information needed to attend. Operating events as a volunteer is fun and a great way to serve the public, as well as to show people what hams can do. It's also a good experience for anyone at all interested in emergency operating, as we follow net control protocols similar to what would go on in an emergency setting, as opposed to an average weekly discussion net.

Thank you all in advance for taking part in this event!
73,

Jim Rubin, W4PKR

Lead Amateur Radio Coordinator

2023 Richmond Marathon

646-528-6280



Dates for Spring RARC exam prep & skills seminars set

These are the exam prep and seminar dates for the Spring:

Exam prep

Technician - 1st license

Tuesday nights, 7pm to 9pm

10 weeks, March 5 to May 7

George Starke, WB4VWR

General - 2nd license

Thursday nights, 7pm to 9pm

5 weeks, April 11 to May 9

Dave Stevens, WB4DES assisted by Maylon Pearman, N4EG & Lauren Ware, WD4FMG

Extra - Top license

Tuesday nights, 7pm to 9pm

6 weeks, April 2 to May 7

Ken Liedner, WV0L & Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

Skills seminars

Antenna Modeling

Use of EZNEC

Thursday night, 7pm to 9pm

1 meeting March 21

Robert Orndorff, W4BNO

DStar Setup & operation

Saturday, 9 to 11 am

1 meeting April 27

Win Grant, W4WIN

Radiosport & Contesting 101

Saturday, 9:30am to 1pm

1 meeting April 20

Ronnie Bolton, WU4G & Lauren Ware, WD4FMG

Remote Station Setup & operation

Wednesday nights, 7 to 9pm
2 meetings March 6 & 13
Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

Station setup 101 – Setup your station

Saturday, 9am to noon
1 meeting May 25
Group of RARC members led by Bruce MacAlister,
W4BRU

Sign up

To register for a class or seminar, go to
<https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/>
. Note that each class
and seminar has a registration deadline.
For more information, send a note to
school@rarclub.net

RARC renewal time!

Hi RARC member, it is that time of year again, your dues are due.
Please complete the Required fields; Name, Call Sign (if None, enter None), Year of Birth, and Email address on the renewal form. Plus any of the optional fields if your information has changed. The [form is located on our website here](#). Select your choice of Payment options and press the Submit bottom at the bottom of the form.
Submitting, emails the form to us and transfers you to one of two pages depending on the Payment option you selected.
Cash or Check - A page that describes how to send a check. You do not have to send the form with the check as we will already have that information. You can put a blank piece of paper around the check if you want.
PayPal or Credit/Debit card - To a page at PayPal that allows you to pay by your PayPal account or if you don't have one as a Guest of PayPal and just use your Credit or Debit card.
Thanks for being a member of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)
The form is DUE to be returned by November 1, 2023.



The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at waluqo@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.**

For Sale:

Comet CX-333 tri-band antenna. Used 3 years, still in very good condition and had a low SWR on all bands when decommissioned.

SPECS: Coverage: 2M, 1.25M, 70cm, VSWR: 1.5:1 or less, Max Power: 120 watts, Length: 10' 4", Weight: 3 lbs 8 oz , Connector: SO-239.

Construction: Heavy-duty Fiberglass, 2 sections

Asking \$90. Contact Dave White, W4IIA for information.

804-501-8857

For Sale: Icom IC-2820H mobile or base transceiver. FM analog and D Star digital, VHF-UHF, 50 watts, 500 memory channels, detachable control head. Includes GPS/D Star option. Dual receivers. Wide coverage receiver covers 220 MHz and 900 MHz bands. Diversity receive function. \$225. Win Grant, W4WIN. wingrant@gmail.com

For Sale:

Cushcraft 215WB – 2M 15 element Broadband Boomer \$130

KLM 432-20LBX – 70cm 20 element \$120

Kenwood TM-441A - 70cm FM mobile - \$115

Stainless steel mast - 21' heavy duty seamless tube - 1 7/8" O.D. , 1 1/2" I.D. 3/16" wall thickness, no holes have been drilled in it - \$500

Hygain CD-45II rotator with control. New rheostat and stainless terminal strip in rotator. Cleaned and re-lubricated. - \$275

Rohn TB3 thrust bearing - \$90

16 QTY - 4' Standard stackable aluminum tubing mast sections (not the light duty ribbed ones) with 3 guy plates - \$325

Guy anchors – 3 galvanized screw anchors 48"x3/4" shaft – all 3 for \$50

Contact Ronnie Bolton, WU4G 804-651-3504 wu4g@arrl.net

Thought For The Day

***If it won't matter in 5 years, don't spend more than 5 minutes worrying about it.
(5 by 5 rule)***

Rick Waller	KA4OHM	President	(804) 971-5815	president@rarclub.net
Darrell Basinger	WW4F	Vice President	(804) 672-7928	vicepresident@rarclub.net
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club's Remote Station is back!

I am pleased to report RARC's remote station is once again on the air, available to all club members according to each member's FCC operating privileges.

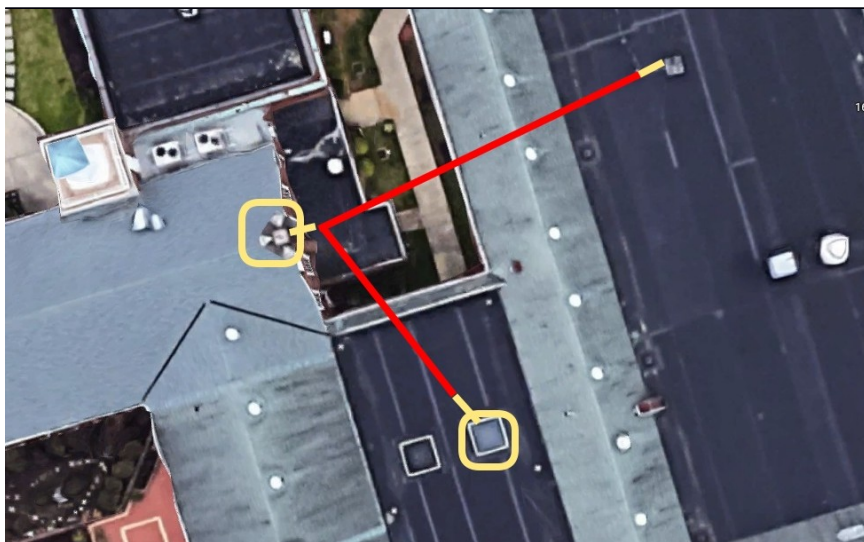
The VHF/ UHF vertical and HF end fed long wire antennas had to be removed in June as contractors were to begin work replacing the roof of the Bon Air United Methodist Church. Club members turned out to remove the antennas and the weighted support frame and pole.

By October the club received the "all clear" to re-install the antennas. Again, club members responded to the call to join the re-installation effort. Unfortunately, the weather was not as cooperative as rain interrupted completion of the installation.



Club members returned two weeks later to finalize the installation. Pictured below the VHF/ UHF and HF end fed wire antennas are being terminated. An ICOM A4 remote tuner tunes the HF antenna from 80 to 10 meters. The weighted support pole is placed over the gym roof in close proximity to the hatch access located in the second floor storage room where an equipment cabinet houses the ICOM 7100, power supply, PC, router and remote control hardware.





The HF antenna is a 95ft end fed long wire installed in a "L" configuration from the sky light over the commons area of the church to the chimney / ladder over the kitchen and across the courtyard to the gym roof.



THE RICHMOND HAM November 2023

Very grateful to Bill Catogni (N4WLC) and Judi LeHuquet (N4JDI - pictured in the shadows below) for climbing from roof top to roof top routing the long wire antenna.



THE RICHMOND HAM November 2023

After the antenna installations were complete Bruce MacAlister and Ken Leidner conferred via phone. Ken could see the remote station was having internet connection issues. Bruce was able to remotely boot the router and the station was up and running!

I encourage all members to give the remote station a try. Feedback from John Drum who frequently operates the remote station was very positive.

Delightful to have the RARC remote back and working! I made several QSOs pre net time on 7191 Recreational Vehicle Service Net.

Thanks!

John Drum W4BXI

Thank you to all who participated in getting the antennas installed and the station back on the air.

Tom Flippin / KD4CMK

Rob Thomas / KC4NYK

Bruce MacAlister / W4BRU

Ken Leidner / WV0L

Gene Damon / K4GNE

Rick Waller / KA4OHM

Mike Owen / K4RKO

Bill Catogni / N4WLC

Judi LeHuquet / N4JDI

Doug Rumburg / KK4LSE

Armand Hamel / WA1UQO

Will Jackson

73, Darrell Basinger / WW4F