



# THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

December 2023

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday December 8th, 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 10th Meeting Minutes

The November meeting was called to order at 19:02 by Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU. A brief recapp of the club's achievements was given by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM. This was followed by the swearing in and installation of the new officers and Board members for 2024 by Win Grant, W4WIN.

The November business meeting was opened by President Rick Waller at 19:12. Last months meeting minutes were approved followed by the treasurer's report of a balance of \$21,496.47.

New members voted in were Richard Window, Martin Wigglesworth and Sabrina Llorance, KQ4KZT. Welcome to all!

A request was made to the club to mention the Central Virginia 6 Meter SSB net in the newsletter.

Tom Flippin, KD4CMK thanked the volunteers that helped with the reinstallation of the club's remote station.

Ken Leidner, WV0L asked for volunteers for the Zoom cart control.

Ken Zutavern, K4ZUT mentioned that the builders group meetings would resume in January.

The December meeting will be the time to bring in any equipment to give away or sell. Snacks will be welcomed as well.

Bruce Mac Alister brought in a donated VarActor to be added to the club's test equipment.

Business meeting was closed at 20:28.

There was no presentation this month, however Rick Waller did a workshop demonstration on how to determine if a piece of coax cable is bad using a RigExpert antenna analyzer and other pieces of test equipment.

Submitted by Armand, WA1UQO

## From The Prez



## 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 January 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 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](http://www.rarclub.net) or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or [ve@rarclub.net](mailto: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](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
	7:30 pm	52.525	FM
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
<b>Thursday</b>	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/>



Universal harmony through communication

**50.215Mhz @ 8:00am daily**

### 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 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](mailto:wa1uqo@gmail.com) or call @ 508-838-8353. Thanks!

### Interested in Electronics?

Some hams like to dig deeply into electronics. Some don't; chatting, nets, or contesting suits them just fine.

For those who want dig into basic electronics, there are at least two online portals and/or magazines that do this pretty well. ARRL has "On the Air" that is both operator and technically oriented . You automatically get the online version if you are an ARRL member, see <https://www.arrl.org/> . A second source is "Nuts and Volts" that covers the history of electronic as well as basic electronics and circuits. Check it out at <https://www.nutsvolts.com/> . And, of course, QST , the ARRL flagship magazine, gets very technical very often.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU



## HMMMM? How to Learn Morse Code-- Semiconsciously

Learning Morse code, with its tappity-tap rhythms of dots and dashes, could take far less effort—and attention—than one might think. The trick is a wearable computer that engages the sensory powers of touch, according to a recent pilot study. The results suggest that mobile devices may be able to teach us manual skills, almost subconsciously, as we go about our everyday routines.

Ph.D. student Caitlyn Seim and computer science professor Thad Starner of the Georgia Institute of Technology tinker with haptics, the integration of vibrations or other tactile cues with computing gadgets. Last September at the 20th International Symposium on Wearable Computers in Heidelberg, Germany, they announced that they had programmed Google Glass to passively teach its wearers Morse code—with preliminary signs of success.

For the study, 12 participants wore the smart glasses while engrossed in an online game on a PC. During multiple hour-long sessions, half the players heard Google Glass's built-in speaker repeatedly spelling out words and felt taps behind the right ear (from a bone-conduction transducer built into the frames) for the dots and dashes corresponding to each letter. The other six participants heard only the audio, without the corresponding vibrations.

After each run of game playing, all the players were asked to tap out letters in Morse code using a finger on the touch pad of the smart glasses; for example, if they tapped “dot-dot,” an “i” would pop up on the visual display. The brief testing essentially prompted them to try to learn the code. After four one-hour sessions, the group that had received tactile cues could tap a pangram (a sentence using the entire alphabet) with 94 percent accuracy. The audio-only group eventually achieved 47 percent accuracy, learning solely from their trial-and-error inputs.

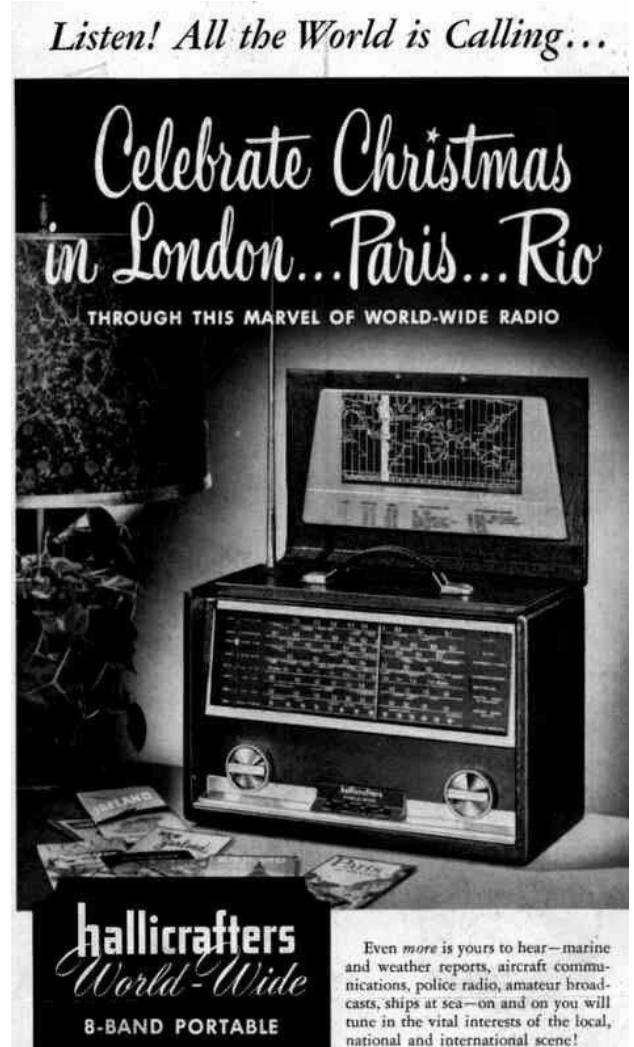
The work shows that “it is possible to teach a system of typing without the user paying much attention to it,” Starner says. Passive haptic learning could help users quickly master new text-entry methods for accessory keyboards or an eyes-free, Morse code-like system of taps on a smart watch, he adds, noting: “That might really change how people use mobile and wearable devices.”

The results are also “exactly congruent” with other effects of passive haptic learning that the researchers have found in past studies, Seim says. For example, the group has developed computing gloves that

deliver vibrations to the fingers to teach the “muscle memories” for playing a piano song or typing Braille.

Although it was small scale, the experiment demonstrates how wearable computers could permit users to “go about your daily business—and while you do that, you can get information to actually learn things,” says Paul Lukowicz of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, who was not involved in the study. Now if only listening to Mandarin in your sleep could impart fluency.

From Scientific American February 1, 2017



### 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.**

#### 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](mailto:wingrant@gmail.com)

### Estate Sale

Elecraft K2 - HF Transceiver - \$1,200.00

ACOM 1000 - 1KW amp. 160 - 6 meters - \$1,600.00

AT1500DT - 1500 watt Ant. Tuner - \$380.00

MFJ-815B - SWR/Power Meter - \$60.00

MFJ-4125 - 35 watt Power Supply - \$69.00

MFJ-993B - Automatic Ant. Tuner - \$320.00

Yaesu MD-200A8X - Microphone - \$225.00

TS-930 - HF Transceiver - \$300.00

Swan 500C - HF Transceiver - \$300.00

FT-1000 Mark V - Automatic Ant. Tuner - \$800.00

These are very fair prices but will consider all offers.

Contact: Phil, WB2DHY - [wb2dhy@arrl.net](mailto:wb2dhy@arrl.net)

**WB3D Estate sale – please visit this website:**

<https://c-v-c-c.us/wb3d-estate-sale/>

Contact information is posted in the list.

**Thought For The Day**

***There are two sources of unhappiness in life. One is not getting what you want and the other is getting it.***

Rick Waller	KA4OHM	President	(804) 971-5815	<a href="mailto:president@rarclub.net">president@rarclub.net</a>
Darrell Basinger	WW4F	Vice President	(804) 672-7928	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@rarclub.net">vicepresident@rarclub.net</a>
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

