



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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March 2024

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday March 8th, 2024, 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**



### This months program:

J.B. Edmonds, N4NQY will give a presentation on Pi-Star Hotspots. The various kinds, and how to pick one for yourself.

### RARC Meeting Minutes February 9<sup>th</sup> 2024

Meeting was started at 19:05 by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM followed by attending member introductions.

Two visitors tonight, Craig Rader, KC9CR and Adam Humphrey. Welcome to both!

Minutes approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of \$19,834.46

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU reported 8 students signed for the Technician class. Other classes may not have enough signed up to warrant a class. At the church's request, classes will run from 6:45pm to 8:45pm.

Win Grant, W4WIN reported that the D-Star repeater has been working well.

Ken Leidner, WV0L gave a presentation to amend the By-Laws to change the date Dues are due to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and the grace period to March 1st. The motion to make the changes was voted on by the membership and passed.

Virginia QSO Party will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Plans are that a RARC and RATS will jointly hold the event at the Laurel Park site.

Business Meeting was closed at 19:19.

**Show & Tell:** Dan Brown, W4ERF demonstrated his 18Mhz portable oscilloscope.

Melanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY asked for some assistance to set up a voice module for her transceiver.

A break was taken at 19:24 followed by a presentation by Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU on the use of the clubs remote station.

The meeting was ended at 20:32.

### 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 March 9<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

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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.

## Tired of winter? Cabin Fever got you down?

Here is a list of upcoming hamfests and tailgate fests.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** – Winterfest, put on by the Vienna Wireless Society.

<https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest-key-info/>.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** – Thawfest, put on by The Green County Amateur Radio Clubs, <https://gcvarc.net/thawfest-flyer/>. Download pdf.

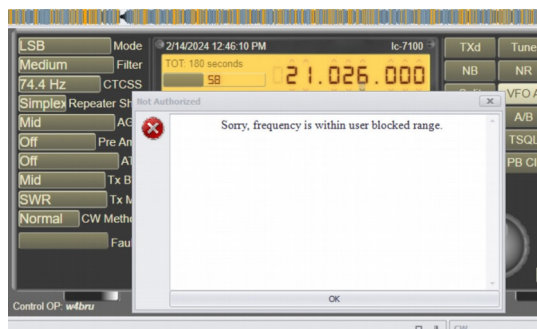
**April 20<sup>th</sup>** – 6Meter Tailgate Fest, <https://www.50215.net/>.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** - Manassas tailgate, put on by Ole Virginia Hams, <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>.

Mark your calendars and save all your loose change!

## Remote Station License Frequency Enforcement

On the RARC remote station, W4FJ, you can only tune to the frequencies on which your license permits you to transmit. You can't even tune to listen outside your license limits. If you key in a frequency or tune to one that your license doesn't cover, you get a message like this one.



It keeps you and the club out of trouble with the FCC. If you want to listen to frequencies outside your license limits, try an online SDR receiver like the kind you find on <http://websdr.org/>.

As you remember from the January 2023 RARC program, John Drum, WB4BXI, explained how he used the RARC remote station and an online SDR receiver together. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PanQ2IGvfVg>.) The SDR receiver gave him a spectrum display. He could see signals on the display, hear the other ham, and if he wanted to contact that ham, he tuned the RARC radio to that frequency and away he went. It is also a neat way to listen to how your signal sounds. Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU

## Bob Heil, K9EID SK

**Robert G. Heil** (October 5, 1940 – February 28, 2024) was an American sound and radio engineer most well known for creating the template for modern rock sound systems. He founded the company Heil Sound in 1966, which went on to create unique touring sound systems for bands such as The Grateful Dead and The Who. He invented the Heil Talk Box in 1973, which was frequently used by musicians such as Peter Dinklage, Joe Walsh and Richie Sambora, and is still in use today.

Heil was an innovator in the field of amateur radio, manufacturing microphones and satellite dishes for broadcasters and live sound engineers. In the late 1980s Heil Sound became one of the first American companies to create and install home theaters, and Heil has lectured at major electronic conventions and taught classes at various institutions.

Heil won multiple awards and honors, and in 2007 he was invited to exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



### Bill to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

Senators Roger Wicker and Richard Blumenthal Introduce S.3690 to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio.

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced S.3690, the Senate companion bill to H.R. [House of Representatives] 4006, introduced last June. Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by ARRL to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications."

In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

From the ARRL Letter for February 15, 2024

### Ham Radio & Scouting

Amateur Radio and Scouting have had a long relationship going back many years. Many amateurs got their first taste of radio while a scout and that continues today. You can help in a small way by supporting them by visiting their website, <https://www.grz.com/db/k4tbs>.

A request from Mac Lyle, K4ZX - We are trying to build our mailing list out for an eventual quarterly Radio Scouting newsletter and similar mailings. So if you would, please use the link below to sign-up as a member / mailing list. Future email will come from [k4tbsarc@gmail.com](mailto:k4tbsarc@gmail.com) from MailChimp, so please lookout for that and add to your safe senders list. <https://forms.gle/y7avMMJPNQHsCPKb8>



## **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

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

**New items have been added and many prices have been lowered.**

<https://c-v-c-c.us/wb3d-estate-sale/> Contact information is posted in the list.

Ronnie, WU4G

### **For Sale**

YAESU FT-2000D HF + 6m All Mode 200W Transceiver. Dual receiver. Separate power supply. Includes SP 2000 speaker. A few minor scratches on top, otherwise in very good condition and good on the air reports. Pictures are available. Manual and original boxes are included. No microphone. \$1,200.00 (pickup in Glen Allen VA) No shipping. Contact Darrell Basinger at [darrell.basinger@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.basinger@gmail.com) or 804 672-7928.

### **For Sale from the estate of John DeMajo - K5HTZ**

Selling as a bundle: ICOM 706MKIIG, LDG Z100 Autotuner & Astron RS-35A power supply: \$750.00 Contact Kathleen Adams-DeMajo (504)-458-1387

## ***Thought For The Day***

***Life is the only game where the object of the game is to figure out what the rules are.***

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	

