



THE RICHMOND HAM

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April 2024

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting in person!

Our monthly meeting is on Friday April 12th, 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: Will be by Darrell Bassinger, WW4F on the Ciro Mazzoni Baby Loop antenna.

RARC Meeting Minutes March 8th 2024

Meeting was started at 19:01 by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM.

Minutes approved by voice vote.

Old Business: None

Ken Leidner, WV0L, introduced the new "Owl" video system used for the Zoom broadcast and meeting recording.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$20,323.58

New Business: Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU reported 16 students signed for the Technician class, 4 for Extra and 4 or 5 for General. He recognized Dan Bryant, N4DOB for a great job in getting the word out about the classes.

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

New Members: The club welcomed three new members this month. Robert Baskette, K4BWD, Adam Humphrey, KQ4OTH, and John Smith, KQ4OKP.

Business Meeting was closed at 19:10.

Members on Zoom and in person introduced themselves.

Lauren, W4LEW, invited all to the Dominion DX Groups March meeting and presentation by K3KW.

Judy, N4JDI, reminded us of the 10K Marathon's need for volunteers on April 20th. If interested please contact Jim Rubin, W4PKR, at w4pkr@arrl.net

Show & Tell: Bruce, W4BRU, demonstrated a contact mapping program and showed maps from the 10M Contest.

Rick, KA4OHM, performed the SK ceremony in recognition of the passing of John De Majo, K5HTZ.

The meeting ended at 19:28 followed by a short break.

This month's presentation was by J.B. Edmonds, N4NQY, on Pi-Star Hotspots.

The meeting was ended at 20:27.

Special Olympics!

From Darren Faulkner: Special Olympics VA have once again requested amateur radio support for their summer games this year. They will be held Friday June 7th and Saturday June 8th. Primarily on the campus of the University of Richmond but will also need a few volunteers at their softball and swimming venues. I'm looking for as many volunteers as I can get so would appreciate it if you can pass this on to your members.

Only equipment needed should be an analog UHF HT, a battery in good shape (and perhaps a spare), and an external audio accessory that allows you to hear, and be heard, in a high noise environment.

Please note that most positions will be outside or potentially strenuous.

Volunteers may sign up with me at darrenfaulkner@gmail.com and I'm happy to answer any questions anyone may have.

Thank You, Darren Faulkner, KG4IN

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 May 11th 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 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/>



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 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.

Tired of winter? Cabin Fever got you down?

Here is a list of upcoming hamfests and tailgate fests.

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

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

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

Mark your calendars and save all your loose change!

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented. Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system

more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The Public Notice can be found in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-219A1.pdf>.

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be. Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

From Digi-Keyer to DigiKey: The DigiKey Story

The real beginning of DigiKey was about 1969. Ron Stordahl was a Ham Radio enthusiast and, while a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, he developed an electronic keying device for sending Morse code which utilized integrated circuits and other electronic components. The device could not only smooth out the ham operator's dits and dahs, but could make them machine perfect.

He decided to sell this device in the form of a kit to other Ham Radio hobbyists. The kit included the components and an etched circuit board on which one could solder the components. He advertised this kit as the "Digi-Keyer."



The makers of radio transmitters liked digital keying so much, they eventually built it into their own machines. As a result, interest in the Digi-Keyer Kit was short lived. However, Stordahl pivoted quickly to meet the needs of others like him and began selling the components. And he decided to sell them individually, breaking the industry's pattern of only selling in bulk.

With a desire to provide key components and service tailored to those in the early stages of technology innovation, not just already-established companies, he began by advertising in magazines. What began as a modest inventory began to grow. From a one-page, typewritten and mimeographed "catalog" to becoming a pioneer in direct mail the DigiKey catalog became the holy grail for hobbyists and design engineers alike.

By 2010, the DigiKey catalog had essentially outgrown the capacity of efficient traditional printing, and the internet was robust enough to accommodate a product offering today that exceeds more than 11.7 million unique devices.

Long before buzzwords like Maker, Startup and Unicorn were a thing, a young man pursuing his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota launched what has since become a \$4 billion business that employs more than 4,000 people worldwide.

And it all started with an interest in ham radio.



Field Day will be here before you know it! Are you ready? Is your gear ready? June 22nd and 23rd are fast approaching. Don't wait till the last minute. Get those batteries charged and generators checked out!



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.***

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 FTDX-5000 HF + 6m All Mode 200W Transceiver. Includes Station Monitor SM-5000, Data Management Unit DMU-2000 and Yaesu RF u-Tune filter unit for 80 and 40 meters. A few scratches on top of the SM-5000, otherwise in very good condition. Pictures are available. Heil Gold Elite microphone, manual and original boxes are included. \$2,800.00 (pickup in Glen Allen, VA) No shipping.

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

If You Want Your Children to Listen, Try Talking Softly To Someone Else.

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Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
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