



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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June 2024

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday June 14th, 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 a Hamvention Update by Win Grant, W4WIN

### RARC Meeting Minutes May 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

Meeting was started at 19:00 by president Rick Waller, KA4OHM, followed by member and visitor introduction.

Minutes approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance of \$18,090.50. No new members this month.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Tom Ebbert, KG4BIZ, reminded the members of the club nets.

Business Meeting was closed at 19:14.

Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU, reported a very succesful semester for the school. Best since COVID.

16 for Technician, 5 for Extra and 5 for General. All the seminars went very well also.

The meeting ended at 19:19 followd by a short break.

This month's presentation was by Rob Thomas, "Things you can do with a 3-D printer".

## 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 June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:pm** 2024 at

**Laurel Park**

**10301 Hungary Spring Rd  
Glen Allen, 23060**

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
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
<b>Thursday</b>	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**

**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.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Roanoke Hamfest, Vinton, VA by the Roanoke Valley ARC.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>** - Berryville Hamfest by the Shanandoah Valley ARC.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>** - Tidewater Hamfest and swap meet in Portsmouth, VA

Mark your calendars and save all your loose change!

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** - 6M Tailgatefest, 2300 Dumbarton Road, Henrico, VA.

**Field Day will be here before you know it!**

Are you ready? Is your gear ready? June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> are fast approaching. Don't wait till the last minute. Get those batteries charged and generators checked out!



**Richmond Amateur Radio Club Field Day**

Bryan Park about 1954, callsign was probably W4FJ.

The main mode was CW with the Chief Operators W4BZE, Tom Jones (later call K4JM) with a Vibroplex and W4JHK, Monk Bullington with a Mon-key electronic keyer.

Tom and Monk would take turns calling CQ FD, then with separate receivers ( both Hammarlund HQ-129-X), Monk would tune UP and Tom would tune Down for calls, (Many stations were crystal controlled, ie, no VFO).

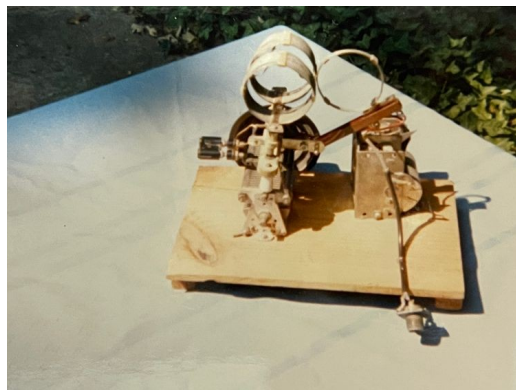
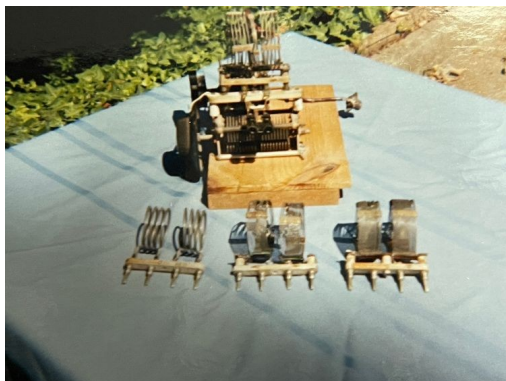
Separate logging and duping was done manually by other club members.

The manual Dupe Sheet was something to behold! The antenna was fed by ladder line into the shack (the park pavilion). The Antenna Tuner was a "Link coupled Split Stator". Separate coils for the different bands.

This review by John Drum WN4BXI who was there as an eager kid!

see pictures taken by Tom in about year 2000 at his home in Richmond.

Submitted by JohnDrum, W4BXI



## Ground is a Myth!

Every ham knows about grounding, right? What if what you've been told isn't exactly true? ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, tackles this topic in a compelling presentation called "Ground is a Myth!" She lays out the case that ground means different things at different times and in different cases, and that much of what many operators have accepted as fact may just be legend. The presentation was a part of the 2024 ARRL National Convention forums hosted at Dayton Hamvention and may be seen on [YouTube](#).



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## 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.***

**WANTED:** ICOM 706 MKII G . Contact Jon Bennett, NQ4A. [motexa@verizon.net](mailto:motexa@verizon.net).

### 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**

Below is a partial list of a SK Estate which Alan Swinger is selling on behalf of the widow. Although the SK's estate is in Hanover, VA, almost all items listed are at Alan's QTH for test and check out. Details and photos are available to anyone who contacts Alan directly at: [alan.swinger@gmail.com](mailto:alan.swinger@gmail.com).

-MFJ 409D Deluxe Keyer & Manual copy - \$85

-HF Go-Bag Complete HF Station: IC-718 & PS w/ MIC & Headphones, MFJ Versa Tuner II, Vibroplex Paddle, etc, w/ Manuals - \$785 OBO (Will consider selling individual pieces)

-Murch UT-2000A Transmatch and manual copy - \$190

-Heath 610 Station Console w/ manual copy - \$135

-400 ft roll of 1/4" steel Cable (Retail \$0.82/ft) - \$180

-Dummy Loads – have 2; oil filled can type - \$50 ea

-Other equipment includes Kenwood TS-830 & VFO 230, Swan 350 & PS, Drake line: TR3, TR4c, TX4s, R4s, RV3s and various AC4 and MS4 power supplies and speakers. These are all in various states of test and check-out but will negotiate if interested.

--500 ft of Anderson 50 ohm Heliex hardline (FSJ4-50) - \$800

and 8 PL-259 connectors (\$5 ea) and tool to mount available (\$40)

More to come later, including some Vintage Heath radios -SB-102, Mohawk, etc

73, Alan Swinger K9MBQ

Charlottesville, VA 22903

434-975-6237 (H); 434-760-0258 (Cell & Text)

***Thought For The Day***

***Half the people you know are below average.***

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<b>Ken Leidner</b>	<b>WV0L</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	