



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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December 2024

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

Our monthly meeting is on Friday December 13th, 2024, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

This month's meeting will be in-person and also on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518058584>

**QR Code for Zoom Link**



## Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) Monthly Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 8, 2024

President Rick Waller (K4OHM) called the meeting to order at 19:02 EDT (23:02 UTC). President Rick introduced Win Grant (W4WIN) from the Nominating Committee to begin the installation of 2025 officers.

### 2024 Year in Review

President Rick recognized the club members we lost this year who became Silent Keys: Past President John DeMajo (K5HTZ, succeeded by daughter Kathleen Adams), former Agent Mac McNeer (K4YEF, Silent Key), and former Treasurer Richard Arnold (WA4FEH, Silent Key). President Rick our club's Radio School and public activities, particularly the RVA MakerFest and the Monument Avenue 10k. President Rick thanked the volunteers dedicated to keeping the Club's repeaters running especially Win Grant (W4WIN) and Mike Owens (K4RKO). He also thanked Bon Air United Methodist Church for their continued and gracious hospitality of RARC and Tom Flippin (KD4CMK) for his liaison to the church and locking up after meetings. President Rick also recognized the younger HAMS filling leadership positions this year:

Lauren Ware (W4LEW), Volker Schweyer (KQ4GPE), and Will Jackson (KR4CE). Finally, President Rick thanked Treasurer Ken Leidner (WV0L) for his support in securing the OWLs for Zoom and ongoing web meeting efforts.

### Installation of 2025 Officers

Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) of the Nominating Committee took over for Win since Win was slated to be installed as a director.

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### Bruce recognized the 2025 RARC officers:

President – Darrell Basinger (WW4F)  
Vice President – Lauren Ware (W4LEW)  
Treasurer – Ken Leidner (WV0L)  
Secretary – Will Jackson (KR4CE)  
Directors – Volker Schweyer (KQ4GP),  
Dan Bryant (N4DOB),  
Win Grant (W4WIN)  
Past President – Rick Waller (K4OHM)

Bruce reviewed the tradition of the ARRL Wouff Hong.

Bruce administered the Oath of Office to the candidates, and the 2025 officers were installed. Congratulations to our new leadership team!

Bruce passed the RARC Gavel & Wouff Hong to incoming president Darrell Basinger (WW4F), and President Darrell began the business portion of the meeting.

### Business Meeting

President Darrell welcomed the following visitors to RARC:

1. Anthony Young
2. Aidan (recruited from MakerFest!)
3. Davis McDonald (K4ZDB),  
elmered by Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) in Extra Class

President Darrell invited in-person & Zoom attendees to introduce themselves.

President Darrell asked for a motion to adopt the October 2024 Meeting Minutes, available to the members in the

Newsletter. Dave Robinson (KJ4LHP) moved, and Bob Fierro (KG4ZIK) seconded. The October 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Ken Leidner (WV0L) delivered the Treasurer's Report. The October ending checking account balance was \$17,481.49. Treasurer Ken announced the following new member applicants:

Joseph Cowdrick (KD4HRB), Novice,  
Diane Enroughty (KQ4VYJ), Technician,  
Matthew Harris, Not Yet Licensed,  
Hebert Niemeyer (K17UMB), Extra and  
Anthony Young, Not Yet Licensed.

Treasurer Ken asked for a motion to approve the applicants as club members. Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) moved, and Will Jackson (KR4CE) seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome to our five newest members!

Radio School Head Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) gave an overview of the club's participation in the RVA MakerFest. Bruce announced great turnover in the Radio School and introduced the new instructors:

Technician Class: Dan Brown (W4ERF) and  
Dave White (W4IIA)

General Class (continuing): Dave Stevens,  
(WB4DES)

Extra Class: Dennis Farmer (K4DAF) & Will  
Jackson (KR4CE)

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

Bill Catogni (N4WLC) asked for more volunteers for the Richmond Marathon on behalf of RATS.

Win Grant (W4WIN) said the Club is looking at IT upgrades for the D-Star Repeater within 60 days.

Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) says the Club's Remote Station is working well. President Darrell followed with a reminder that this resource is available to all members.

#### **Show & Tell**

Dan Brown (W4ERF) shared an extension cord that bridged radio power cables to solar panels.

#### **Closing**

President Darrell asked for a motion to close the business portion of the meeting. Lauren Ware (W4LEW) moved, and Dave Robinson (KJ4LHP) seconded.

The business meeting closed at 19:31 EDT (23:31 UTC).

#### **Meeting Program**

We were joined by special guest Patrick Bolan (KJ7ZSU), Head Wrangler & Owner of Geochron Clocks. Patrick gave a demo of his product and answered questions about potential upcoming features.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Jackson KR4CE, Secretary

#### **From The Prez**

I am looking forward to our club's Christmas celebration with fellowship and everyone's favorite treats immediately following our December business meeting. Please remember to bring your favorite holiday treat, be it cookies, donuts, brownies or another delicious holiday dish. Cold drinks will be provided. A table will be set up for any ham related gear you wish to gift to a club member.

The holiday season is a perfect time for us to reflect on our club's shared experiences, achievements and goals, and to look forward to another year of collaboration and success. I am grateful for those supporting the school's amateur radio license classes, our informative newsletter, the array of interesting meeting programs, our builder group, our maker group, our Zoom meeting controllers making our club meetings more accessible, our POTA group, those maintaining our repeater and remote station and finally our net controllers on HF, VHF, UHF and D-Star frequencies and reflectors inviting us each week to gather on the amateur radio bands. Your contributions and dedication make our club a continuing success.

Merry Christmas to all and may this season be full of light and laughter for you and your family.

73, Darrell

#### **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 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 10:am**

**Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch**

**9103 Rattlesnake Rd**

**North Chesterfield, 23235**

The other one cost \$15.00, but offers testing sessions on the 1st Saturday of every month.

## THE RICHMOND HAM December 2024

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)

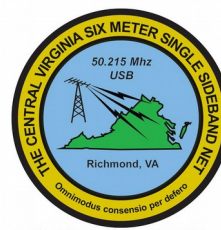
<b>Sunday</b>	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 pm	52.525	FM

### 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/>



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 or call @ 508-838-8353.

### Headphone for a noisy location

For the Special Olympics, various charity walks, and the Richmond Marathon I've tried several headsets and earphones. I didn't find any of them to work satisfactorily. This over-the-ear speaker does exactly what I want it to do. It's loud, very loud. Even with noisy racers and volunteers talking, yelling, and cheering you can still hear the radio traffic. I find it comfortable with just the right adjustments as to how it fits over the ear. It has a standard 3.5mm plug that fits the speaker/headphone jack of most HTs. It plugs into the headphone jack on my speaker-mic so I still have a handheld mic. The brand is "EXMAX 3.5mm Single Side Earphone Earbud One Ear Headphone."

I bought it on Amazon for a mighty \$10. I used it for the first time with the 2024 marathon and this is exactly what I wanted in a headphone.

Bruce Mac Alister, W4BRU



## Dues are Due!!

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 button at the bottom of the form.

The renewal form will be available December 1, 2024 until February 1, 2025

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 January 1, 2025.



## The RARC at the November MakerFest

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the “RVA MakerFest Resurgence” took place Deep Run High School near Innsbrook and the RARC was there with members of the Powhatan Area Radio Club (PARC) and Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society (RATS) lending support.

Since this restart of the local maker movement was to be held at a high school in a less visible location than the well known science museum, we were not sure whether we would have many visitors. So we decided to have plenty of adult play-toys for the adult hams. That meant a VHF station to demonstrate Winlink on VHF and two low power HF stations plus antennas set up behind the tables. We brought a bunch of HTs. Then if no one showed up, at least we would have fun on the air playing radio.

Surprise! We should have been putting up antennas and getting on the air in earlier maker fests! I watched passers-by notice the antennas sticking up and come over to see what they were about. It had not occurred to us that we were making stuff that didn't have an apparent use. Showing how we used this gear we made was a big step forward. It resulted in lots of conversations about ham radio and what you can do with it, from balloon chasing to marathon support to talking to distant lands.

We were outside in a V-shaped grassy area. We put three six foot tables in a U shape with the stations on the side tables. The photo of the antennas shows the table layout.

The code practice keys were very important. They were designed by club member and industrial designer Rob Thomas, KC4NYK, and assembled by the builders group for the Hopewell ARISS project. Middle schoolers and early teens love codes and ciphers. Therefore Morse code is attractive. And it's a “language” their parent don't know! We showed the kids how to use the keys, handed them a souvenir code-phonetic sheet to take home and they began using code. Their parents hovered over them interested in seeing their children so engaged.

The poster was laid out by Rob with contents developed by the team. It attracted plenty of attention and, like the antennas, drew people to the tables to ask questions. As we hear so often “I didn't know ham radio still existed. I had a (named an older relative) who used to talk on the radio all the time.” It is nice for them to see us very much in existence with 3,000 in the greater metropolitan area and 17,000 in Virginia.

On the front table John King, WB4NHX, had a

computer connected to SDR receiver showing a spectrum display. Also on the front table were examples of ham-built gear. Having gear opened up gets the most interest and gives the hams a chance to explain what the “guts” are and what they do. Next is the test equipment provided by me. We selected a DMM, a nano spectrum analyzer, a nanoVNA, and a soldering iron. Beside them were the keys, the code-phonetic strips, some wooded coasters with Morse on them, designed and etched by Dennis Farmer, K4DAP. We had ARRL brochures, older copies of ARRL's *On the Air* magazine to give away, and our “business” cards. These cards have information on our exam prep classes. The QR code on the back leads to the get-licensed page of the club's website. On the left table Dave White, W4IIA, had the VHF station demonstrating Winlink with explanations of how ham radio is used in emergencies.

The right table had my sBitX HF station in the morning. One photo show the sBitX HF transceiver and the visitors. In the afternoon Bill Catogni, N4WLC, and Judi Lehuquet, N4JDI, brought their IC-7300 and a loop antenna. And made a contact in France on 10 watts.

In addition to the hams named above, those present included Dan Bryant, N4DOB, Dave Stevens, WB4DES, David Robinson, KJ4LHP, Jim Rubin, W4PKR, Mike Owens, K4RKO, and Steve Boles W4SB.

Over the 12-hour day about 20 hams showed up to talk to visitors and each other. There was plenty of interaction with the public.



## Radio Exhibit



While driving through Colonial Heights on I-95, look for the Keystone Truck and Tractor Museum. Despite the name, the museum houses a vast collection of must-see wireless communication equipment dating back to the late 1800s. The Radio Exhibit offers viewers a tangible explanation of the development and technological advancements that led to modern-day communication. Topics include telegraphy, military communications, commercial broadcasting, and HAM radio. Explore the pieces and parts that made these items operational including an awe-inspiring assortment of vacuum tubes and the spark g generator. Also, see Charlie McCarthy, learn about the superheterodyne radio circuit, test your Morse code skills, and ring the NBC chimes. At The Radio Exhibit, every item has a story and there is something for everyone to explore.

Kathleen DeMajo Adams, K5HTZ



## The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@gmail.com](mailto:wa1ugo@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:

Yaesu FTDX-5000 HF/6m 200w transceiver, with original box, mic, power cord, remote control, manual available online - \$1900

Yaesu FT-736R transceiver w/mic - 2m&70cm all mode with built in power supply - \$400

Icom IC-756Pro w/mic, PowerPoles on power cable - \$700

Icom IC-7300 w/mic - \$800

TYT TH-9000D 2m mobile 60w - \$90

Tailtwister T2XR - rotator only, no control head, new in box, bought for a spare - \$800

Drake W-4 wattmeter 200/2000w - \$100

Astron RS-20A - 20A Power Supply - \$95

Astron RS-50M - 50A Power Supply - \$225

TrippLite PR-40A - 40A Power Supply - \$120

250' nylon 3/8" rope w/ ratchet pulley - \$50

Most of this is from K4DET estate. Many more items at <https://c-v-c-c.us/> Look for the K4DET Estate+

Contact: Ronnie Bolton, WU4G 804-651-3504 or [wu4g@comcast.net](mailto:wu4g@comcast.net)

## Thought For The Day

*"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears this is true." —James Branch Cabell*

Darrell Basinger	WW4F	President	(804) 219-8167	<a href="mailto:president@rarclub.net">president@rarclub.net</a>
Lauren Ware	W4LEW	Vice President	(804) 513-4950	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@rarclub.net">vicepresident@rarclub.net</a>
Will Jackson	KR4CE	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

Happy Hanukkah!



