



THE RICHMOND HAM

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May 2018

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, May 11th 2018, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

Coming Events:

Radio Run Starts June 1st !!!

Special Olympics, June 8th & 9th. Sign up @ <http://rvahams.com/signup/>

Field Day, June 23rd & 24th.

This Month's Program: STEM programs for young folks explained.

APRIL 2018 RARC MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 13, 2018

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Presiding Officers: Jim Bates, K8OI, President; George Gelding, W3PPY, Vice President; Tom Newman, KJ4LVC, Secretary; Ken Leidner, WVOL, Treasurer. Directors: Tom Flippin KD4CMK; David Robinson, KJ4LHP; Trustee for W4FJ, Mike Owens, K4RKO; Armand Hamel, WA1UQO, Newsletter Editor.

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. After a warm welcome he invited each member present to introduce themselves and give their radio call sign. After calling for those who had added upgrades to their radio ratings it was found that two had. These were a husband and wife team. Ben Vecchio, KF4HEV had upgraded from General to Extra and his wife Jen Vecchio, KF4JVP had upgraded from Tech to General. The club expressed pride in their achievement. The minutes for March was voted on and approved.

Ken gave the treasurer's report for March. It was

noted the amount received for dues, books, classes and 50/50 was slightly less than expenses as money was spent for radio repair, purchase of radios and newsletter postage etc. was slightly more. He then introduced 15 who were applying for membership in the club. They were voted on and approved by the club members.

For Tech Reports it was mentioned that the D Star Repeater was working well. Tom Flippin continued by stating that the Remote Station was working well after some adjustments.

New Business included reminding the group that Ettrick-Matoaca Train Day would be Saturday May 19, 2018. Remote Hams would meet Saturday May 14 at 9:00 am. The Radio Run would be all month in June. Jim mentioned that he continues to get calls about donations of radio equipment to the club. Related to that was a consideration of changing the clubs status from 501 c 3 to 501 c 7, but after investigating it was felt that we probably could not qualify plus it would require higher costs and meeting more reporting requirements. Tom Flippin expressed a view that for radio historical purposes it would be good to maintain much of the offered equipment as they often included the older tube type radios that many younger persons would not be familiar with. The other problem noted was a lack of storage space for this equipment.

For Show and Tell Rob Thomas KC4NYK gave an explanation for a type of computer also used with radios called a Raspberry Pi. He says it uses a Unix system and is as powerful as earlier IBM computers. It is the size of a credit card and has ports for a screen, keyboard, sound system, ethernet connection and 4 USB ports. An advantage is a low cost – about \$35. It is a good platform for computer learning and using ham radios for students especially with programs included like Mathematica and Python.

George Golding then spoke to the upcoming Disaster Day in April conducted in the surrounding counties of Henrico, Hanover, Chesterfield, Richmond, Prince George and Hopewell. Those who join would learn much and could support the use of Ham Radio at such times. George also asked members to let him know if they could help with the Field Day scheduled for June 23, 2018.

After the 50/50 drawing was held, a motion was made and approved that the meeting be adjourned followed by a break and then return for the nights presentation. The presentation was given by Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU and titled DMR -What it is-Setting it up.

Respectfully submitted by Tom KJ4LVC.

Letter from the President

May 2018

I don't know how many of you remember your very 1st experience with something electronic that made you say, "This thing is cool/neat/super/<you're era's word for super fun>!" I can remember three things, they might have all been the same year but were instrumental in setting my ideas of fun. The three things were: a crystal AM radio set that did NOT need a battery, a race car track and seeing a neighbor's Atari 2600.

The crystal radio set kept me company for many nights; I lay in bed with that big 'ol earpiece stuck in my ear just tuning around listening to cities far and wide. I didn't know anything other than I hooked up a few wires; wrapped some wire around some kind of small rod and it worked. The "magic" of radio and "wires" would always be part of my life. It was just the beginning of curiosity about how things worked.

The race track was a bit of the same thing; while I liked racing my brother; what I really liked most was taking the car "shell" off and watching that little motor spin! Keep the contacts on the track, get those wheels spinning and let 'er rip - usually off the track and into a wall... Oh well, what's a kid to do. Regardless, the same love of the power of electricity and it making the car motor spin based upon a trigger in a "gun" would cause me to wonder how I could use it for other, nefarious, purposes.

The final, and of all things, MOST compelling was my introduction to an Atari 2600. It must have been around 1977 or 1978; my neighbor across the street

purchased one. I could NOT believe it; it was AWESOME - more than AWESOME; it was something that was entirely out of my reach but I thought about it every day. I needed one of those; I mean it - this was my version of the "Christmas Story's" Red Ryder. The introduction of what a computer, gaming though it was, changed my life forever. While my hobbies have waxed and waned over the decades - gaming and computers have ALWAYS been a part of my experiences since the time I could afford one.

My family was interested in fishing, camping, and boating. The boating was kinda fun, camping was never my thing and I've eaten enough fish to last a lifetime. The challenge for me was that MY interests weren't in the list of family interests. So, while I had a casual friend of a friend whose dad worked at NASA - there wasn't any relationship. I really wish I'd known someone much earlier in my life who shared my same interests.

So, when I hear about how folks are working with our youth with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) type projects, I get really excited. I hope you do too :) The core value of mentoring is at the heart of Amateur Radio - the term is "Elmer." This month's presentation is about helping today's youth learn about the opportunities that STEM has to offer. My request of you is to find a way to help someone else; whether young or young at heart there has got to be something you can do to help; please find a way to be someone's Elmer!

73 de K8OI

From ARRL: <https://www.arrl.org/elmer-award>
Origin of the term "Elmer"

The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in QST in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (SK). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world:

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Newkirk went on to say, "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game

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young and fresh."--Rick Lindquist, N1RL

RARC VE News

FCC EXAMS EVERY OTHER MONTH

RARC offers VE Testing Sessions on the second Saturday of odd months except June to cover Field Day instead of July: Bon Air United Methodist Church, 9 AM.

The May testing session will be on the 12th at the Bon Air United Methodist Church at 9:am.

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

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.

RSS – a quick summary of RARC news

Look near the top of the club web site, <http://rarclub.net/>, and on the left you see an icon that looks like something radiating a signal. Actually it is a quick way to check on new entries on the website called an "RSS feed." Click it and you get a summary of the last few posts. You can have it put as a link in your on the browser list as you see in yellow. So each day or four you click the that link and you get a quick list of the most recent posts. If one looks interesting, click it in the list and it takes you directly to it. If everything looks boring, just go back to what you were doing.

Reported by Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

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 \$20.00

Lots of information about the Club and our activities is available on our website, www.rarclub.net.

Nets

RARC has the first and only D-STAR digital repeater in the area. 147.255 (+ 600), 443.7125 (+ 5) and now 1284.0000 (-20). In addition to our Wednesday local D Star net (below), we link the D Star VHF module for the National Capital Region D Star Net on Wednesday nights at 9pm. On Tuesday nights at 9pm, we link our VHF module to the North Carolina D Star Net, and on Sunday nights at 9pm to the South Eastern D Star Weather Net.

Beginning on March 5, 2014, the RARC D Star Net which meets on Wednesday nights at 8:00pm will be accessible on our three D Star modules, all of which will be linked.

You can use any of the three frequencies, 2 meters, 70 cm or 23 cm, and you should hear and be heard by everyone.

If you participate in the net via DVAP or DV Dongle, you must link your device to Ref 007D rather than to any of our modules. Since the W4FJ stack will all be linked to Ref 007D, anyone linked to that reflector will be connected to the net.

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
	8:15 pm	145.730	Packet

MRA

Interested in information or support of the **Metropolitan Repeater Association (MRA)?**

Call Ed, KG4SNK, at 804-513-1947. The sole business of the MRA is to own, operate and maintain the 145.430 repeater.

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!

Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)

7th Annual June 2018 "Radio Run"

Purpose:

RARC wants to encourage ALL amateur radio operators to be MORE active on ANY band, frequency, or mode! Even if you are not (yet) a licensed amateur radio operator, you can still participate!

Rules:

1. You must make at least 1 (one) QSO each day of the month of June
2. You must operate on an Amateur Band/Frequency
3. You must generate RF on an Amateur Band/Frequency at your station
4. If you are NOT a licensed Amateur Radio Operator you must listen to an Amateur Band/Frequency using an RF receiver

5. Not Allowed (QSO does not count)
 1. DV-Dongle (the blue model)
 2. IRLP using your phone
 3. Echolink, etc.
 4. No "radio-reference.com" or internet based radio monitoring sites for listening
 5. Remember, if you don't generate or receive Amateur Band/Frequency RF, the QSO does not count!
6. We're going to use the honor system for keeping track of all who complete the "Radio Run"! (Be honest – which is a pretty good policy anyway ☺)
7. IF you have made at least 1 (one) contact on each and every day of the month of June, please contact Jim Bates with the following information:
 1. Call Sign (required unless you're a SWL)
 2. Name (optional)
 3. E-Mail Address and/or Telephone Number (optional)
 4. If you kept track of your contacts, the # of contacts you made during the month of June, 2018 (optional)

If you have questions, comments, or concerns please contact Jim Bates or RARC.

Contact Information (e-mail is preferred)

Jim Bates/K8OI
(804) 690-9143
jim.bates@protonmail.com

p.s. I respond to every e-mail. If you don't receive a response to your e-mail back within 24 hours, please double check the e-mail address and resend your e-mail or CALL ME :)

Radio 101, #11 **By John DeMajo, K5HTZ**

In this month's installment of Radio 101, we are highlighting another notable player in the 1900s radio manufacturing arena, Oscar Hammarlund, founder of the Hammarlund Manufacturing Company.

Hammarlund, who was born in Stockholm in 1861, became interested in engineering early in his life. After graduating from college, he landed a position as an inspector for the L. M. Erichson Telephone

Manufacturing firm of Stockholm. He worked in Sweden for a period, then decided that he would like to venture to the United States, because of it's industrial advancements, so he soon obtained a position with the Elgin Watch Company, arriving in the United States in 1882.

While employed by Elgin, he was introduced to Elisha Gray, a development partner of Alexander Graham Bell, who then recruited him to Western Electric. His work there involved development a device known as the teleautograph, that was forerunner to the teletype. The project was plagued with problems mainly due to failure of the pencil like writing device upon which it depended. Hammarlund is credited with inventing a pressure sensitive stylus with retractable lead, that was to later become the basis of the lead advancing mechanical pencil that we know today.

As wireless communication and broadcasting were starting to develop in the beginning of the 20th Century, Hammarlund decided to invest in this new technology, and he formed a company that allowed him to move into the radio field. The progress was slow at first, but as radio broadcasting was being introduced around 1920, Hammarlund produced a variable tuning capacitor that would become the standard of the industry for many years to come. The schematic symbol for this device was adopted as the company's trademark. Most of the receivers of that era utilized Hammarlund's variable capacitor. The company produced a number of non-radio related devices as well, including the first automotive burglar alarm, thermal fire detection devices, the Armagraph which was a device that generated Morse Code characters from holes punched in a disk, the medical centrifuge, and a call box that enabled Western Union customers to summon a courier with the mere twist of a knob.

The first really notable Hammarlund produced receiver was the Comet Pro, which gained extreme popularity because of it's sensitivity and features. It was widely advertised that the Byrd Antarctic Expedition carried a Comet Pro, and ham radio operators considered it one of the best radios available at the time. Five years later, the company introduced the "Super Pro" which would set the design standard for their entire future line of "HQ" receivers. Features that were introduced first on Hammarlund receivers, included shielded RF coils, user adjustable beat frequency oscillators, and variable bandwidth IF stages.

Like most manufacturers of equipment in the 1940s, Hammarlund's products went to war, led by a military version of the popular HQ-120 that was designated the "RBG." After the war, most airport control tower VHF radios in use at the time were Hammarlund products. Like their competitor Hallicrafters, the company produced a line of transmitters as well. Hammarlund transmitters saw somewhat limited popularity until single side band was introduced in the early 1960s. Their HX-500 SSB transmitter became a popular small multi-mode offering, and they also offered the HLX-1, a rugged 1500 Watt RF amplifier.

Oscar Hammarlund died in 1945, but the company continued under the leadership of his son, Lloyd. In 1965, the manufacturing facilities were relocated from New York to North Carolina. Late in the 1950s, the company was sold to Telechrome Corporation, and by the 1973 model year, all manufacturing under the Hammarlund name ceased, ending yet another story in the pioneering history of communications and amateur radio.

Footnote: Much of the information contained in this article about the history of Hammarlund Company, was provided from documents by the late Stuart Meyer, W2GHK, who served as the company's chief engineer.

Included photographs from the Museum Of Yesterday collection, are:

Hammarlund's Western Union call box control

The Comet Pro and Super Pro

The 420 Transmitter

Hammarlund HQ 129X and HQ 140 receivers.



The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at wa1uqo@arrl.net, or call me at 804-454-0564. 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.**

COMPLETE AMATEUR RADIO STATION

At age 91, must sell my amateur radio station after operating some 50+ years.
In last 11 years have checked into Central Virginia 6M SSB Net 50.215 MHZ USB
(web site www.50215.NET).

All items included for \$1500 cash:

ICOM I-C 746 Pro all band transceiver, includes instruction manual

Matching power supply (original box), foot switch can also be used

Tailor-made cover

Ear phones, RCA stereo 10R-216

HO Square loop antenna, mounted set for 6 meter band

100' coax, 40' green copper grounding wire

50' hard copper grounding wire

Dual tracking one thousand channel Pro 2052 scanner with owner's manual (serial #96012176-10A-99) with AC adapter

Serious inquiries only.

Floyd Callihan K4ROG

(804) 424-6009

Thought For The Day!

"Take Risks: if you win, you will be happy; if you lose, you will be wise."

Jim Bates	K8OI	President	(804) 592-1068	jl Bates4@gmail.com
George Golding	W3PPY	Vice President	(804) 318-6951	w3ppy@arrl.net
Tom Newman	KJ4LVC	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		



Who was your Elmer??