



THE RICHMOND HAM

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April 2020

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting Virtually Happening !

We are meeting in one place for sure and another if we can.

We are meeting for sure on Skype at 7pm sharp on 13 April 2020. Skype runs on anything from a phone to a Mac, Windows, or Linux computer or tablet.

It's free. You need to download it but it's pretty quick:

<https://www.skype.com/en/get-skype/>

The first 50 who sign in Friday night get a place.

We're not quite sure what happens after 50.

We will meet at the same time on the Chesterfield repeater - if we can. We don't know if it has a Friday night net so it's chancy. We've not been able to contact the repeater trustee. If it's busy, don't interfere.

147.3600 +0.6 MHz CSQ / 74.4 Chester

(We considered 146.88 and 145.43. A regular net meets at that time on 146.88. We found that hams in the most southern and southwestern parts of Chesterfield and in Powhatan can't reach 145.43.)

Coming Events:

RARC VE testing session May 9th if possible.

This Month's Program:

TBA

Richmond Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes March 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:00 on March 13th, 2020 at Bon Air United Methodist Church by President John DeMajo, (K5HTZ).

Members Present

All present signed RARC Log Book

Last month's Minutes – Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

1) Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$12,864.07. The Report was approved unanimously.

2) Ken presented new membership applications: Clifford Alves (KM4PID), Peter Udell, and Keith Udell. All were accepted unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Reports

1) Richmond Public Schools has asked if RARC would provide technical support for School Amateur Radio Clubs at two Richmond schools.

2) Due to the Corona virus, Powhatan Area Radio Club will be holding online meetings.

3) .Show and Tell: President John DeMajo brought a home brew Linear Oscillator and provided a history of it. He also showed a home brew 30 watt 2 meter transmitter and one of Heathkit's first 300 radios.

4) Membership was made aware of possibility of RARC accepting credit cards. 31 members are not in favor of accepting credit cards due to add expense for the club.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by David Robinson (KJ4LHP) and seconded by Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU). Meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Program

AM/FM Broadcast Hybrid Digital Radio and a TV repack update by Mike Friedman, W4MAF

The next general meeting: TBA

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

David F. Robinson, (KJ4LHP), S





From The Prez

It has become painfully evident that life, as we knew it, has been seriously disrupted by the Corona virus pandemic. People who were able to move about and assemble freely are now being cautioned to stay home and not to gather in groups. This has taken its toll on our club gatherings since the church where we hold our meetings is now closed until further notice. Our builder's group has also been affected since it is not advisable, at this time, to bring a sizable group into someone's private home, especially that some of us are in the high risk demographic. Because of the limitations, we have an excellent opportunity to polish up our skills when it comes to finding other avenues of communication, something that we, as hams, pioneered. In order to allow our group to meet on a somewhat face-to-face basis, our builder's group is actively checking out programs such as Skype and Zoom as a means of virtually gathering. While it looks pretty certain that the churches in the area still will remain closed at the time of our April 10th club meeting, we plan to have an alternative ready that will allow the entire group to hold a meeting on-line. As soon as we have the procedure set up and tested, we will be sending out information to each member on how to access the monthly meeting with both video and audio, so please look for a message some time prior to the meeting date.

In the mean time, we hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. Hopefully, this situation will soon pass into history, and we can all pick up where we left off with enjoying life, our hobby, and the comradery we share as hams.

Stay safe and 73,

John DeMajo K5HTZ

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.

The May testing session will be on the 9th at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 9 AM if possible.

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.

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 062D rather than to any of our modules. Since the W4FJ stack will all be linked to Ref 062D, 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!

Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt

03/27/2020

Many individuals and groups organizing events for **Field Day 2020** have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty. "Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new," ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. "Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances."

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won't work this year, then it's time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

- Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Use the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.

- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It's okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities. Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

"With any emergency preparedness exercise, it's not about adapting the situation to your operation, it's about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself," Bourque said. "Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you're up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 - 28 weekend." — *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*

ARRL



A Few Words About Our Hobby From a Federal Court

On a recent Saturday night I was listening to the KC8MTV Fusion Net on the Bear Den Mountain repeater (145.290 MHz). Each Saturday night Kevin, the repeater owner and frequent net control operator, asks stations checking in to comment on a particular topic. The topic of conversation was how the FCC third party traffic rules worked in practice. I was asked to comment, maybe because I was the oldest guy on the net. I offered my understanding of the rules (see Section 97.3 for a definition of "third party communication" and Section 97.115 for the rules governing third party communication), but as I was doing a quick Google search to see if there were any more guidance from the FCC on this topic than the actual regulations themselves, my search turned up an opinion from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1973. The case is *Gross v. FCC*, 480 F.2d 1288 (2nd Cir. 1973). It involved a challenge by two amateur radio licensees (Reuben Gross was apparently a lawyer who argued the case for himself and the petitioner with the same last name) to the FCC's promulgation of a rule which at the time sought to address a problem with various non-amateur organizations such as the Red Cross and March of Dimes, which had been using amateur radio for their own communications. The court explained that this usage went largely unchallenged because everyone agreed such organizations were meritorious. But in response to a proliferation of non-amateur organizations which sought to use amateur stations for "less meritorious purposes" the FCC promulgated Section 97.114(c) which prohibited the use of amateur radio facilities "for transmission of business communications." The Gross petitioners objected to the rule, claiming it violated the First Amendment and the anti-censorship provision of the Communications Act of 1934. The Court of Appeals rejected the challenge and upheld the regulation, but along the way, the court made some very complimentary statements about amateur radio.

The Court stated:

The Amateur Radio Service (ARS) has long been recognized by Congress . . . by the FCC . . . , and by our Court . . . Much of the highly developed radio communication technology existing today is the result of advances and discoveries made by amateur radio enthusiasts during the past 70 years. They have provided

service to the public in times of disaster and emergency.

In upholding the 1972 rule, the Court stated:

In short, here is a situation where a restriction has been imposed so that certain uses of radio, which over the past 70 years have proven to be invaluable to the radio industry and to humanity, will not be seriously impaired. The FCC was empowered in the public interest to prohibit communications from ARS stations which did not perform a valuable public service and which might seriously reduce the beneficial operations of the ARS.

As we enjoy our privilege to use the small portions of the limited radio spectrum allocated to amateur radio, we should be mindful that our use of the spectrum depends on using it for the intended purposes which are now spelled out in Section 97.1 as: a) a noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications; b) continuation of amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art; c) advancing skills in both communication and technical phases of the art; d) expansion of the reservoir of trained operators, technicians and electronics experts; e) continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

In case you are interested, the 1972 provision previously found at Section 97.114(c) was eventually eliminated. The prohibition on "business communication" in that section is now addressed in different terms at Section 97.113 – Prohibited transmissions, which should be read in conjunction with the third party communications regulation at Section 97.115. The FCC has a useful website that answers many questions about amateur regulations in a plain language, FAQ format at <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/amateur-radio-service/amateur-communications-operations>.

Win Grant – W4WIN

The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at wa1ugo@arrl.net, 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: sub-miniature electron tubes military surplus of the types JAN-CK6418 and JAN-CK6206 or equivalent pentodes with 1.25 vdc filament voltage rating. Will buy or trade.
Contact Alex Sahhar KN4QGQ at agsahhar@gmail.com

For Sale: Kenwood TS430s, PS430 power supply and AT250 antenna tuner for sale \$950 plus shipping in US. It passed all the tests, USB, LSB, CW & AM on the Ham bands. Bought new in the box, 1984. call Bruce Haynes at brucehaynes@comcast.net

Cushcraft A4S 20-15-10 Beam Antenna <https://www.cushcraftamateur.com/Product.php?productid=A-4S>. A4S is the true, high performance tribander for 2-15-10. Precisely tuned high-power traps, carefully selected element lengths, and proper spacing combine to make the A4S the preferred antenna for your HF work! This is the premium antenna with all the features that you want. High gain, low SWR, and wide bandwidth keep the contacts coming in. All U-bolts, clamps and hardware are stainless steel. A4S has pinned boom sections and formed aluminum brackets to keep elements straight in all conditions. Our solid construction keeps the A4S on the tower! The antenna is only 2-years old and is ready for immediate pick up at my QTH. I am asking \$450.00 . Please contact me at 804-730-0221 or e-mail me at kj4it.jw@gmail.com 73, Jerry KJ4IT

2225 Tektronix Analog Oscilloscope: The Model 2225 is a 50 MHz analog oscilloscope from Tektronix. Measure voltage or current signals over time in an electronic circuit or component to display amplitude, frequency and rise times, etc. Applications include troubleshooting, production test, and design. This scope comes with an operating manual, and 10:1 Scope Probe. I am asking \$275.00 . Please contact me at 804-730-0221 or e-mail me at kj4it.jw@gmail.com 73, Jerry KJ4IT

I am selling a GE MVS 40w 2 meter radio with APRS cable mod, Garmin marine GPS, TinyTrak3 interface module and home built MVS programmer / tinytrak programmer. This is a complete functioning system; just connect to an antenna, plug it into a cigarette lighter and it's on the air. It is currently programmed with my call sign; I could tell you how to reprogram it with yours. \$150. Call John Harlow @ 804 464 8248.

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club has a set of original complete years of QST from 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931, available for sale in ARRL binders, for \$25 per year. We also have a B&K 15Mhz oscilloscope for sale \$40. Proceeds of sales go directly into the RARC club treasury. These old issues of QST are priceless for anyone interested in the history of ham radio and are being offered for way below what QSTs are selling for on EBAY. Contact John DeMajo, K5HTZ (jdemajo@demajo.net) if interested.

Thought For The Day

An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing.

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Allan Johnson	WA3J	Vice President	(804) 318-6951	wa3j@arrl.net
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		



Ham Radio – Practicing Social Distancing for over 100 Years!