



THE RICHMOND HAM

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May 2020

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

RARC Meeting Virtually Happening !

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

Our monthly meeting on Friday May 8, 2020, will be a virtual one. The Zoom meeting will start at 7:00pm. You will receive an email with the URL and password.

You need not download any software, the URL will do it all. The session will start with all sign-ins muted to allow the speaker to preside. We hope this will be a pleasant and productive meeting during this time of isolation.

We will meet at the same time on the Chesterfield repeater - if we can.

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.)

This Month's Program:

TBA

Richmond Amateur Radio Club

Meeting minutes April 10th 2020

The RARC meeting was held as a virtual meeting over the internet on Skype and on the 147.36 Repeater. Tom Flippin KD4CMK, acted as a net control and took a roster count of those members and visitors present through the repeater. A new member Dennis Ayling, KN4QGO was voted in by unanimous vote. Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$12,928.28. The Report was approved unanimously.

From The Prez

Well for the second month, we appear to still be mandated to remain in our homes, and therefore not able to meet face-to-face. Thanks to technology, that will not stop us from getting together virtually. This month, we are going to try to meet with Zoom. Zoom's owners have

apparently fixed the major security concerns that we had, and Zoom does seem to be more easily able to handle a meeting like ours, so you will see instructions in this issue on how to join the meeting at 7PM on May 8th. As was the case last month, Rob Vest has kindly allowed us to use his repeater, so those who wish to join by radio can also find the repeater info in this issue. We will have a roll call via the repeater, so if you have a radio, please consider using both platforms.

Since most of us have been confined in some ways, I don't have much to report this month, but hopefully Friday's meeting will give us all a chance to update.

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 is cancelled due to the lock down situation.

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!

A Little Spare Time Lately?

Tired of being confined indoors these days? Bored with what's available on TV at night. HF bands quiet in the evening? Try some of these Ham related podcasts and videocasts that are available on the internet.

Audio podcasts:

<https://www.icqpodcast.com/>

<http://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.qsotoday.com/>

<https://www.arnewline.org/>

<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>

<http://www.arrl.org/doctor>

<http://www.arrl.org/eclectic>

Videocasts:

<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>

<https://www.amateurlogic.tv/blog/>

These are only a few of the many available. Give them a try. Great to listen to while puttering at the workbench!



RSGB's RadCom Magazine May Edition Available to All Online

As another facet of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) "[Get on the air to care](#)" campaign, the May edition of *RadCom* magazine is being made available to radio amateurs around the world online as a sample edition.

<https://rsgb.org/main/publications-archives/radcom/sample-radcom/> A number of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-societies have taken similar steps.



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 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

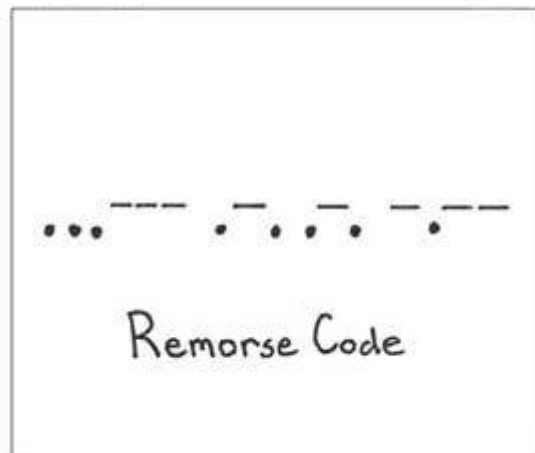
I am selling a GE MVS 40w 2 meter radio with APRS cable mod, Garmin marine GPS, TinyTrak3 interface module and home built MVS programmer / tinytrak programmer. This is a complete functioning system; just connect to an antenna, plug it into a cigarette lighter and it's on the air. It is currently programmed 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

Acquiring a dog may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative.

John DeMajo	K5HTZ	President	(504) 858-7689	jdemajo@demajo.net
Allan Johnson	WA3J	Vice President	(804) 318-6951	wa3j@arrl.net
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		



Alfred Vail Forgotten Inventor

Type “history of the telegraph” into a search engine and the results will point you to Samuel F. B. Morse. History largely credits him with the invention of both the electromagnetic telegraph and Morse code, which enabled people to send instant messages across long distances. With Morse’s successful test of the electromagnetic telegraph on May 24, 1844, the potential for worldwide communication changed forever. The message he sent, “What Hath God Wrought?” traveled via his electromagnetic telegraph from Washington, DC to Baltimore, MD. But who, you might wonder, was on the other end of the line? Alfred Vail, Morse’s colleague, received Morse’s message in Baltimore and then successfully returned the same message back to Morse in the national Capitol Building’s Rotunda. For Vail, this event was the culmination of years of his own labor and financial investment, yet his influence has largely been lost in the historical record.

Born to Bethiah and Stephan Vail on September 25, 1807 in Morristown, New Jersey, Vail’s father owned the Speedwell Iron Works where, after completing public school, Vail worked as a machinist. In 1832, he began coursework in theological studies at the University of the City of New York, now New York University, with the hope of becoming a Presbyterian minister. However, in 1837 Vail saw Morse demonstrate an early version of his electric telegraph at the university, and shortly after convinced Morse to take him on as a partner. The contract between the two, stated that Vail—for a share of interest in Morse’s rights to the telegraph—would work on constructing the telegraph machines and financing the American and foreign patents.

Vail vastly improved Morse’s original design of the machine. Instead of using pendulums, Vail added weights to the machine’s turning key. He also substituted a steel pointed pen for the pencil Morse had employed, to indent the code into the paper tape the machine used and improved the mechanics of the register, the instrument that punched out the code via electric impulse, as well. Additionally, Vail developed a simpler alphabetic system of code to replace Morse’s original, but more complicated numerical code, in which dashes and dots were interpreted as numbers and then translated into words in a code book. Vail’s alpha code greatly sped up the process of deciphering messages. Though his contributions to the project were extremely significant, it was Morse’s name that appeared on the patents. Consequently, Morse is remembered, and Vail is often not.

