



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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## **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 June, 12th, 2020, will be a virtual one. The Zoom meeting will start at 7:00pm. No download needed, just click on the link below.

Upon joining the meeting you will be muted. You may exchange greetings with members through the chat feature (keyboard).

Cell phone and tablet users please use Landscape orientation for better imaging.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83323473831>

Meeting ID: 833 2347 3831

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:**

Dr. Rick Waller, KA4OHM is going to give a presentation, from the standpoint of a medical professional, on how RF from ham radios could affect hams, or their families who have heart pace makers.

## **Richmond Amateur Radio Club**

Meeting minutes May 8th 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 Kenneth Fowler, N4VKF was voted in by unanimous vote. Bruce, W4BRU reported on the club's remote station. It had been down for two to

three days. Station was back on line after the FIOS input had been fixed.

## **From The Prez**

While we still have not been given clearance to resume our regular in-person meetings at BonAir Methodist Church, things in Richmond are beginning to show signs of opening again, and hopefully we can resume meetings, classes and testing in the near future. In the case of our June meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, June 12th at 7:00 PM, we will again meet simultaneously on Zoom and on the Chester repeater. The information to log into the Zoom meeting should be published in this issue of the newsletter and on the club website. Hope to see or hear all of our members attending that meeting.

I want to again mention that the club has been given several donations of parts and equipment from successions and from fellow hams who are down sizing. While our flea market that was scheduled for May had to be canceled because of access to the church, we are planning to have some kind of a sale as soon as we can find a suitable location. Remember too that the club presently has no facilities to store donated items, so if anyone knows of some free or cheap storage space that would be suitable to store electronic parts and equipment, please let us know. With the demographics of our membership, many of us older hams may be down sizing in the future, and the club can always benefit from donations of usable equipment as long as we can store them.

I hope that everyone is staying healthy. I look forward to our next meeting.

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](http://www.rarclub.net) or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or [ve@rarclub.net](mailto: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](http://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.

<b>Sunday</b>	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
	7:30 pm	52.525	FM
<b>Wednesday</b>	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!

**Virginia QSO Party**

We normally hold the awards ceremony for the Virginia QSO Party at the Manassas Ham Fest. Unfortunately, that event has been cancelled.

This year we will hold an on-line ceremony on Saturday, 13 June 2020, at 0900 local (1300 UTC).

At the awards ceremony, we will review the results of the Party and announce the plaque winners to the assembled audience. At that time, the plaque sponsors may make a few comments and the plaque awardees may make a few comments.

If you want to participate in the ceremony, please email back with your name, call sign, and email address. We will send out the on-line meeting link to you before the video conference. If you cannot participate or if you also want someone else to participate, please email their email address (and name/call sign) to me also.

Thank you again for supporting the Virginia QSO party by sponsoring a plaque or by getting on the air and then submitting a log.

73, Gordon, NQ4K

**Fifty Years Later**

In 1971, my friend since fourth grade, Wray, then WA4VXR (now AB4SF) enlisted in the Coast Guard, and was assigned as an Electronics Technician on the Coast Guard Cutter Ingham. Although the Vietnam War was in full swing, the Ingham's primary duties in those days were to be available for rescue operations in the North Atlantic, launch weather balloons and perform other duties now performed by satellites. They spent 30-45 days at sea, and then 2-3 weeks in port at Norfolk.

This was the era before satellite communication and the internet. Phone patches were one of the most prominent public service activities that ham operators performed, and were often the only opportunity for service personnel to speak with family members when deployed. Like most Coast Guard and Navy ships, the Ingham had a ham station on board. For the three years that Wray was on the Ingham and when he was at sea, we had a schedule to meet on 20 meters every afternoon. We ran hundreds of phone patches for the Ingham crew. It was one of the most satisfying activities of my 59 years of being a ham. My Heathkit SB series station (the poor man's Collins S Line) and TA-33 antenna, and the ham station on the Ingham, with a rather impressive salt water ground system, produced "land line" quality SSB QSO's every day.

In February of this year, my wife and I took a "get away from cold weather" cruise out of Miami before the shutdown. A few days before we left, I realized that our first stop would be in Key West, and I remembered that Wray had told me that the Ingham was now a museum ship in the port of Key West. Wray contacted Bill Verge, KK4INP, who is largely responsible for the Ingham being spared from the graveyard and turned into the museum that it is today. When Jo and I arrived at the Ingham and said we were friends of Wray, the VIP tour began.

Being on the ship where Wray and I had conversed so many times 50 years ago was nostalgic, but what is most impressive is that the Ingham is truly a museum. The day she was de-commissioned, time stood still. There are still logbooks on desks that were left there. There are calendars on the wall from 1988. The majority of the radio equipment and all of the fixtures are still there. The ship looks like it could go to sea today.

Bill timed our tour to wrap up just as the Saturday Coast Guard Veterans Net was about to begin on 20 meters, so we adjourned to the ham shack where Bill was checking in as we had to get back to our cruise ship. We had a rare opportunity to see what life was like on a Coast Guard cutter in the 1970's. The Ingham has a very illustrious heritage going back to 1938. You can read more about the ship at [USCGCIngham.org](http://USCGCIngham.org). If you are in Key West, make sure to visit the ship in Old Town Key West on the historic Truman Annex Waterfront. And imagine WA4VXR/MM at the radio. Below you can see what WA4SSG looked like in 1971 at the other end of the QSO.

**Win – W4WIN**



WA4SSG in 1971

## Knives Out

The Federal Communications Commission should really consider updating its motto. “Firm, fast, flexible, and fair” has a bit of an old-fashioned ring. As mottos go, it fails to keep up with the times.

“Knives Out” would be so much better. More accurate, more in tune to what the FCC actually does: slice out bits of spectrum here and bits of spectrum there, to toss into the yawning maw of broadband, the Internet, Wi-Fi, whatever name can be put to this many-headed hydra.

Two recent FCC carve-ups come to the fore. The first is chronicled here: the admittance of powerful ground transmitters into a spectrum band that has long been reserved for much weaker satellite signals. All GNSS, (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) not only GPS, about which the argument in the United States has raged, but all GNSS will suffer. Let us count the users and the critical infrastructures in their straits.

Following in short order on the stealthy gerrymandering of the satellite districts came a slash at the backside of the energy grid. The FCC also voted to open up 1,200MHz of spectrum in the 6GHz band for “unlicensed use.”

Basically this means Wi-Fi routers. The newly accessible spectrum quadruples the amount of space available for routers and other devices, meaning a lot more bandwidth for faster video streaming, Zoom meetings and the like.

Who got robbed? Or shall we say, taken? Utilities that heretofore used those frequencies to control pipelines and electric grids. Public safety lost out again. Google and Apple and Facebook and YouTube and Amazon and Netflix and Broadcom and Qualcomm and Intel and Comcast and T-Mobile rejoiced.

Next up, the automakers. Big Tech is not about to get fazed by Big Wheels.

In December, the FCC began a process to re-assign the lower 45MHz of spectrum in the 5.9 gigahertz band, previously allocated to vehicle- to-everything (infrastructure and other vehicles, commonly known as V2X). Whither will it be re-assigned? Why, to “unlicensed uses,” our new friend Wi-Fi. Just as connected car technology is about to come fully online to save lives, energy, time, resources, highway space and more, it will be relegated to a sliver of its former spectrum.

Cable companies and streaming services and massive app players, hungry for additional wireless bandwidth, swing a lot of cats in the FCC boardroom. So far, opposition by automakers and state and federal transportation officials, arguing the move will undercut road safety, has not found sympathetic ears at the agency.

The FCC has at the center of its name and its consciousness the word-concept of communications. Yet nothing about the radio frequency spectrum says communications and communications only. Radio waves can be and are used for many other purposes in addition to communication. Positioning, navigation and timing come to mind. So do transportation and energy and financial transactions.

K, so technically all of these things are communication of one kind or another: the exchange or transmission of data between two or more points. But they are not communication in the literal sense that the FCC and Big Tech see, and see only. So they become second-class citizens, with second-class treatment.

There’s a lot of money being made in Big Tech. FCC board members are very conscious of this, some of them intimately familiar with it from their prior work experience.

The fully unfettered right to make money, regardless of consequences to the public good or public safety, long an American tradition, has asserted itself supreme by now. In many realms.

The situation echoes another recent government edict that says public safety, worker safety be damned. Just keep the beef, pork and chicken coming.

Knives out.

By [Alan Cameron](#), Editor-in-chief

IG Inside GNSS

Thanks to Bruce, W4BRU



## Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day

With one month to go before 2020 [ARRL Field Day](#), June 27 - 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

**1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.**

[Field Day rule 4.6](#) defines Class D stations as "Home stations," including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

**2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).**

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from [any Class](#) to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky, W1BXY, and Hiram, W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day -- Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station -- both can include the radio club's name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.



The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27, 2020.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar, with over 36,000 participants in 2019, including entries from 3,113 radio clubs and emergency operations centers. In most years, Field Day is also the largest annual demonstration of ham radio, because many radio clubs organize their participation in public places such as parks and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and

club participation regardless of entry class.

ARRL is contacting logging program developers about the temporary rule waivers so developers can release updated versions of their software prior to Field Day weekend.

Participants are reminded that the preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the [web applet](#). The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions for [submitting entries](#) after the event. Entries must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

The ARRL Field Day [web page](#) includes a series of articles with ideas and advice for adapting participation this year.

## The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@arri.net](mailto:wa1ugo@arri.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kj4it.jw@gmail.com) 73, Jerry KJ4IT

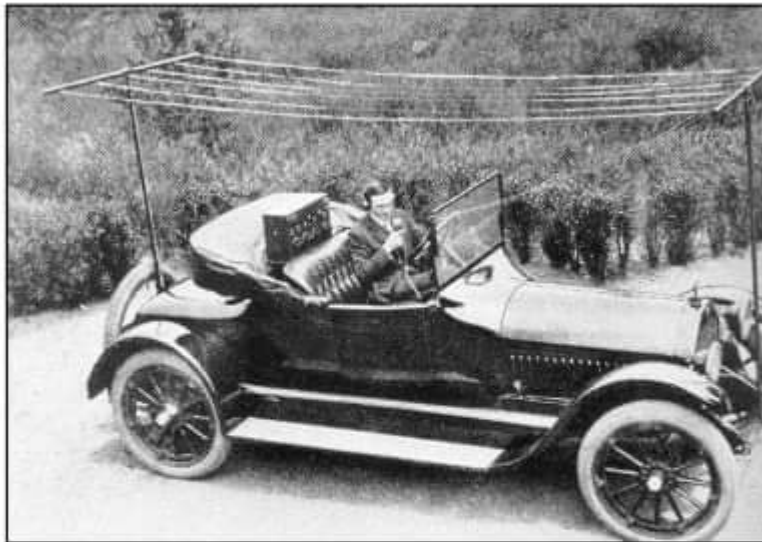
I am selling a GE MVS 40w 2 meter radio with APRS cable mod, Garmin marine GPS, TinyTrak3 interface module and home built MVS programmer / tinytrak programmer. This is a complete functioning system; just connect to an antenna, plug it into a cigarette lighter and it's on the air. It is currently programmed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

### ***Thought For The Day***

***Always forgive your enemies - nothing annoys them so much.***

John DeMajo	K5HTZ	President	(504) 858-7689	<a href="mailto:jdemajo@demajo.net">jdemajo@demajo.net</a>
Allan Johnson	WA3J	Vice President	(804) 318-6951	<a href="mailto:wa3j@arrl.net">wa3j@arrl.net</a>
Dave Robinson	KJ4LHP	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		



Radio manufacturer Alfred H. Grebe installed an amateur radio station in his vehicle in 1919—even before entertainment radio began. Notice the elaborate wire antenna stretched between the two masts.