



THE RICHMOND HAM

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P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

August 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 August, 14th, 2020, will be a virtual one. The Zoom meeting will start at 7:00pm.

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.

Kenneth Leidner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: RARC Monthly Meeting - Virtual
Time: Aug 14, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Fri.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

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

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 885 1805 8584

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88518058584# US

(Germantown)

+13126266799,,88518058584# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown, MD)

Meeting ID: 885 1805 8584

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518058584>

Ken Leidner , WV0L

This Month's Program:

This month's presentation will be on the history of radio equipment in the early days of the technology by Alex Sahhar, KN4QGQ.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2020

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:00 on July 11 th, 2020 on Zoom by President John DeMajo, (K5HTZ)

Members Present

Roll called on air by Tom Flippen (KD4CMK)

Last month's Minutes – Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

1) Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$13,000.51. The Report was approved unanimously.

2) Ken presented new membership applications: John Butler (KO4EWE), Eric Olson (KA4YA), and George Mayo IV (KO4EVT) all accepted unanimously

Committee Reports

1) Builders Group is meeting on ZOOM. Contact Ken Zutavern (K4ZUT) for details

2) The Club has rented a climate-controlled Storage Locker for storage of surplus equipment pending auction

3) The Club has begun online auction of surplus equipment

4) MRA needs donations due to repeater replacement

5) Red Cross/Ares exercise was successful

6) Testing on Field Day resulted in 10 new or upgraded licenses, 1 went from zero to General.

7) Show and Tell: President John DeMajo brought a portable 2 meter transceiver, circa 1938-40.

Radio is an all tube rig made by Abbott Industries
Adjournment at 07:25

Program

George Starke (WB4VWR) gave a presentation on the NANO VNA

The next general meeting:

August 14, 2020 via ZOOM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

David F. Robinson, (KJ4LHP), Secretary

From The Prez

Greetings,

This year has been a trying one for our club. We have had to jump through hoops when it came to finding a platform for us to meet virtually, getting everyone on board and proficient with software that was developing as we were using it. A lot of our normal activities had to be put on hold because of the inability for us to gather in person.

I am happy to announce that we have now worked through a number of hurdles, and that our Fall license school will be available as a virtual offering. Kudos to Bruce McAlister, Ken Leidner, Ken Zutavern, and the other instructors who participated in the testing and development of techniques that would allow the classes to go forward. I would also remind everyone to visit our auction site that lists donated and surplus equipment that the club has for sale. What was originally set up as a one-week auction, is now accepting offers on the remaining items. New items will also be posted soon, so check back often as you may find something that you can use at a reasonable price.

I am happy to announce that this month, one of our younger members will be presenting the educational portion of our meeting. Alex Sahhar will be offering a program on the development of equipment in the early days of Ham radio. I am very much looking forward and I hope that you will join us for the meeting and for Alex's show.

In closing, I just want to let everyone know that we are always happy to hear your suggestions and ideas to improve our meetings and the operation of the club in general. Members are welcome to contact me any time, whether it be a suggestion, comment, or something with which I can help.

73,

John DeMajo K5HTZ

Fall Class schedule and registration form

The fall class schedule & registration form are posted at <https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/>.

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 September 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. All meetings will be virtual until the pandemic situation is resolved.

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!

Joe Troutman, N4EHD SK

Joe Troutman, N4EHD long time RARC member became a Silent Key on July 29th.

Dennis Richardson, KD4YSN SK

Dennis Richardson, KDYSN, RARC member became a Silent Key this last weekend.

July August 2020 VIRGINIA SECTION UPDATE LETTER

This is another dual month letter due to Covid-19 Virus and the effects it has had on the Amateur Radio community in Virginia and around the world. I do not need to repeat the details of all the ham radio activities that have been canceled. However in some few cases as a result of some partial reopening of activities, hams have been able to partially create some activities.

Virtually all of Virginia Hamfest's have been cancelled for 2020. Normal ARRL Field Day plans and activities were operating using modified rules for those operating from home stations, etc so they could still develop scores for their activities. There are a few ham groups and individuals that actually did operate under actual field conditions.

There are always a few individuals who are willing to take chances with their own safety. From initial reports, we had a fair amount of successful modified Field Day activities.

June VHF contest turned into some great old time contacts on the 6m band especially. Contacts from all over the US were had along with long path to Japan, Europe, Asia and Caribbean areas. Speaking of these special contacts, the sunspot levels forecasted verses what is actually occurring are in major contrast to each other. This is why we had these special opportunities.

We do have several activities that will be occurring within the next couple of months: A great example, is Wayne Rash N4HCR an internationally known author of electronic and scientific articles and books was asked by FORBES Magazine to write an article about Amateur Radio.

Thousands Of Radio Operators Band Together To Practice For The Worst-----

For twenty-four hours over the weekend of June 27 and 28, 2020, thousands of amateur radio operators across the United States and Canada set up

temporary emergency communications centers where everything had to be done without external services. This meant they had to erect their own temporary antennas, provide their own emergency power and operate their equipment in temporary locations. Their goal was to prove that they can communicate with each other in times of an emergency when there's no infrastructure available. These amateur radio operators, also known as hams, devote seemingly endless hours preparing their radio equipment, computers, cables and antennas required to conduct radio communications in today's demanding environment. What's more, these radio operators volunteered their time, provided their own equipment and transported it to a remote site without electrical power, frequently without shelter and with only the supplies they could carry. And this time, they were doing it in the middle of a pandemic where they met crowd size requirements and social distancing laws. "They do this for the same reason we always exercise," said former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "It's better to have it break in practice than break for real."

In this case, the radio operators were having to work around Covid-19 requirements, but Fugate thinks that's a good thing.

"One purpose is to practice making contacts under really difficult conditions," he explained. "Finding clear channels is hard. These are some of the problems you find in an emergency." While the conditions the radio operators were working in only simulate a real emergency, they can be unpleasant. Fugate pointed out that ham radio operators are essential to communications such as hurricanes in the south or wildfires in the west.

"It's a good practice to make sure I can get my station set up, and that I can make contacts on a lone radio with a long wire," Fugate said. He pointed out in a recent op-ed in The Hill newspaper that when there's an emergency, amateur radio may be your only choice. "A lot of this is doing stuff in emergency conditions," he said.

"You're going to work with whatever you've got."

Fugate pointed out that in a real emergency, your normal channels of communication may not be there when you need them. "When all else fails there's amateur radio," he said. "We saw what Hurricane Michael did to cellular networks in the Florida panhandle. One county didn't have any contact with the state emergency operations center until a ham got there." "That's the environment that ham radio excels in," Fugate said.

Field Day-----

The weekend event, known as Field Day, is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, a national organization that supports amateur radio

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and helps watch over its interests, especially in Washington. "Field Day started in 1953 as an annual event for the amateur radio community as an exercise for their communications emergency capability," said Bob Inderbitzen, a spokesperson for the ARRL. He noted that it's called "Field Day," because it's a time when amateur radio operators take their equipment out into a field, or perhaps a public park or picnic shelter, and test their ability to assemble and operate an emergency communications center. The exercises include contacting as many hams as possible in the U.S. and Canada, passing simulated emergency message traffic, communicating with emergency services and explaining the effort to local officials and first responders. Inderbitzen said that the exercise also gives the radio amateurs a way to learn to work as teams under emergency conditions. "Ham radio operators know how to use their radios in a moment of crisis," he said. Fugate said that while he was FEMA Administrator, he decided to try to contact every state EOC without the use of the telephone network, reasoning that in a true emergency, the phone network would likely be unavailable. "The only solution was ham radio," he said.

Those of you who have been keeping up with ham radio news have seen a big increase in Podcasts on various subjects, from learning to solder, designing antennas, to testing of new equipment. These podcasts have grown more popular each week. Online Zoom meetings for ARRL Section Managers, SEC's, etc's have given voice to ARRL field appointees as well as individuals so their opinions and questions can be heard and presented to ARRL HQ leadership.

As everyone knows the C-19 has created untold problems in everyone's health, especially those whose health was challenged to start with. In addition, it has created havoc with our economy and caused catastrophic unemployment problems. Virtually all hamfests, meetings, and all other meet and greet events have been cancelled for several months into the future. Many clubs and other applicable events have resorted to on line zoom meetings. Many new local nets have been created by clubs as daily health and welfare nets because of the virus. These have become very popular and as an example our local RATS club in Richmond has a nightly net at 7 PM local time on their 146.88/74.4 repeater. This has already turned up several requests in the last few weeks. There is also a weekly a Medical Net on Wednesday's 0130 UTC on 7.222 band.

The May 30th Red Cross sponsored Emergency Communication exercise was an event exercise created because last fall, a similar exercise was created and run with ARES cooperation with stations from South Carolina to Maine. That exercise utilized

all forms of message handling and really utilized Winlink for one of the first times as a lead message format. The May 30th exercise was created to show the capabilities of Amateur Radio on a nationwide basis to pass emergency communications messages across the country even if nationwide infrastructure was down. WinLink as well as voice messaging and other digital abilities were tested this time in a more structured, sophisticated drill exercise event. Over 38 states participated with over 2,500 individual amateur radio operators. A full after action report is being compiled at this time to provide for the first time real details and statistic's of a national drill exercise. I will publish this report when it becomes available.

ARRL has announced a NEW LIFE Membership 70+ program. Details are on the ARRL HQ web page.

73,
Dr Joe Palsa
ARRL Virginia Section Manager
K3wry@arrl.org
804-350-2665

Many thanks to Dr. Joe for all of the time and effort he spends!



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

The only reason people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory.

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		



This is not the RARC Builders Group!