

RICHMOND THE HAM October 2020

for the Club storage unit. Also a call for presentations for upcoming meetings .

The business meeting was adjourned and a presentation was given by Bruce MacAlister on Rig control by Raspberry Pi.

Post Presentation

The recommendations by the Nominating Committee were read:

President: John DeMajo, K5HTZ

Vice Present: Allan Johnson, WA3J

Secretary: David Robinson, KJ4LHP

Treasurer: Ken Leidner, WV0L

Director: Robin Jones, KM4TWQ

Director: Joey Hairfield, WJ3H

No new nominations were received from the attending members.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:02

From The Prez

Greetings

Lots of activity to report on this month. First, the club received an unusual donation of radio equipment from the family of silent key Harold Stang WD4MDA. Included was a new, still in-the-box Icom 7300. That radio will be stored and kept as a field day radio for the club and also as an emergency stand-by for the transceiver at the remote station. This very generous donation by Mr. Stang's son Brad, is greatly appreciated. And speaking of donations, Win Grant was kind enough to draft a legal document for the club to use when receiving donations. These documents will be used in the future whenever a material donation is made to RARC, and it protects the club should any donor, or heirs there of, question how the club made use of or disposed of the items.

That brings us to a related subject. We now have a safe rented storage facility that contains club historical records as well as items that were donated to us. Most of the equipment stored could potentially be of use to our individual members or to other clubs in the area. We have been successful in selling some of the items to date, but the remainder of the items are for sale with reasonable offers. If you need something for your station or project, be sure to check our inventory listing to see if we might have one for sale. All sales benefit the club 100%.

Finally, we are in the middle of our fall classes. While I am sure Bruce W4BRU will have an update for us at the next meeting, the tech class, which I am teaching this time, has excellent participation this time around, and I expect that we will have several newly licensed hams come the end of the year. Our Zoom classes

and meetings seem to be working well, so despite the Covid19 problem, we have been able to hold our school and our meetings thanks to our members who worked to get the Zoom technology stuff set up and working. I also want to remind everyone that this coming meeting will be our election meeting, so please show up on Zoom and participate in this important annual function.

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 November testing session will be at 9:am. The testing site has yet to be determined.

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!

Elections for Club Officers for 2020 - 2021

Elections for Club Officers for 2020 - 2021 will be held at the October meeting. By-Laws provide for a Nominating Committee to endorse a slate to be presented to the membership. The Rules also provide for nominations from the membership at the same October meeting. The election is then held and the elected Officers serve for a one year term and installed at the November meeting.

Committee endorsements for the coming year, 2020 - 2021 are as follows:

President: John DeMajo, K5HTZ
Vice Present: Allan Johnson, WA3J
Secretary: David Robinson, KJ4LHP
Treasurer: Ken Leidner, WV0L
Director: Robin Jones, KM4TWQ
Director: Joey Hairfield, WJ3H

Questions may be directed to our current President or to Mac McNeer, K4YEF, Chair, Nominating Committee.

Hello Solar Cycle 25 Analysis determines we are in Solar Cycle 25

September 15, 2020 - The solar minimum between Solar Cycle 24 and 25 - the period when the sun is least active - happened in December 2019, when the 13-month smoothed sunspot number fell to 1.8, according to the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel, co-chaired by NOAA and NASA. We are now in Solar Cycle 25 with peak sunspot activity expected in 2025, the panel said.

Solar Cycle 24 was average in length, at 11 years, and had the 4th-smallest intensity since regular record keeping began with Solar Cycle 1 in 1755. It was also the weakest cycle in 100 years. Solar maximum occurred in April 2014 with sunspots peaking at 114 for the solar cycle, well below average, which is 179.

Solar Cycle 24's progression was unusual. The Sun's Northern Hemisphere led the sunspot cycle, peaking over two years ahead of the Southern Hemisphere sunspot peak. This resulted in solar maximum having fewer sunspots than if the two hemispheres were in phase.

Solar Cycle 25

For the past eight months, activity on the sun has steadily increased, indicating we transitioned to Solar Cycle 25. [Solar Cycle 25 is forecast to be a fairly weak cycle](#), the same strength as cycle 24. Solar maximum is expected in July 2025, with a peak of 115 sunspots.

"How quickly solar activity rises is an indicator on how strong the solar cycle will be," said Doug Biesecker, Ph.D., panel co-chair and a solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center.

"Although we've seen a steady increase in sunspot activity this year, it is slow."

The panel has high confidence that Solar Cycle 25 will break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles. "We predict the decline in solar cycle amplitude, seen from cycles 21 through 24, has come to an end," said Lisa Upton, Ph.D., panel co-chair and solar physicist with Space Systems Research Corp. "There is no indication we are approaching a Maunder-type minimum in solar activity."

"While we are not predicting a particularly active Solar Cycle 25, violent eruptions from the Sun can occur at any time," Biesecker added.

Solar cycle prediction gives a rough idea of the frequency of space weather storms of all types, from

radio blackouts to geomagnetic storms and solar radiation storms. It is used by many industries to gauge the potential impact of space weather in the coming years.

New satellites will provide enhanced observations of the Sun

In 2024, before the peak of sunspot activity in Solar Cycle 25, NOAA is slated to launch a new spacecraft dedicated to operational space weather forecasting. [NOAA's Space Weather Follow-On L-1 observatory](#) will be equipped with instruments that sample the solar wind, provide imagery of coronal mass ejections, and monitor other extreme activity from the Sun in finer detail than before. NOAA's next Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-U) is also scheduled to launch in 2024. GOES-U will carry three solar monitoring instruments, including the first compact coronagraph, which will help detect coronal mass ejections. Enhanced observations of the Sun from these satellites will help improve space weather forecasting.

The Solar Cycle Prediction Panel forecasts the

number of sunspots expected for solar maximum, along with the timing of the peak and minimum solar activity levels for the cycle. It is comprised of scientists representing NOAA, NASA, the International Space Environment Services, and other U.S. and international scientists.

For the latest space weather forecast, visit NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center, the nation's authority for space weather alerts, watches, warnings, and advisories at <https://www.spaceweather.gov/>.

(From the National Weather Service.)

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 20Mhz oscilloscope for sale . 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. The club also has a 100 year collection of QST for a reasonable offer. Contact John DeMajo, K5HTZ (jdemajo@demajo.net) if interested.

Thought For The Day

No amount of advance planning will ever replace dumb luck.

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		



In April 1953, 15-year-old Doris Ann Williams operated her ham radio; she was the youngest female amateur shortwave operator in Richmond. The John Marshal High School freshman began learning short wave code the year before. Her father, Roland, was a former radio operator for the city Police Department, which sparked his daughter's interest in the hobby.

Richmond Times Dispatch Staff photo