



# THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

December 2020

## THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting Virtually Happening !

Our monthly meeting on Friday December, 11th, 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: Dec. 11th, 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/meeting/tZwoduGogzMvEtBdpM3wG1LJ7Ro1ZcdB0qf1/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqzoiGtGdtRGDRpw-GYj4WfTwmFxYj7d\\_mA\\_IUDd0My\\_cYdBNY4h8FPqA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwoduGogzMvEtBdpM3wG1LJ7Ro1ZcdB0qf1/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqzoiGtGdtRGDRpw-GYj4WfTwmFxYj7d_mA_IUDd0My_cYdBNY4h8FPqA)

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/u/kbj882gslc>

Ken Leidner , WV0L

## This Month's Program:

None Scheduled

## Meeting Minutes November 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:00 on November 13th, 2020 on Zoom by President John DeMajo, (K5HTZ).

### Members Present

Check-ins on Zoom

**Last month's Minutes – Approved unanimously.**

### Treasurer's Report

1) Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$14620.22 for the year.. The Report was approved unanimously.

2) Ken presented 2 new membership applications: Gerald B. Snead II (KO4HFX) and Allison P Andrews (KM4TWH), were accepted unanimously.

3) Mike Friedman (W4MAF) has volunteered to form a committee and update and maintain the Repeater Listings on the RARC Website using Ken Leidner's, (WV0L) .kml file and other available databases. Mike would like volunteers.

### Committee Reports

1) Bruce (W4BRU) reported on the License School. Testing on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. One more Class and then those students who did not test on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> will test. Working on Ham Boot Camp using the Club's Internet connected station to help get new Hams cope with "Mic Fright". The License School is also looking for a source for low-cost used HF Rigs.

2) Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave an overview of proposed By-Law changes being presented to the Board and Win Grant commented that we needed to make some parts of the By-Laws more clear and understandable.

3) Ken Zutavern (K4ZUT) told the Club that those wishing to be on the Builder's Group email

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list should send an email to  
[K4ZUT.Ham@gmail.com..](mailto:K4ZUT.Ham@gmail.com..)

- 4) Mike Friedman (W4MAF) announced that District 1 ARES Net has moved to the MRA Repeater on Thursday nights.
- 5) Dr. Joe Palsa (K3WRY) clarified information on Ares District 1. VDEM has reorganized ARES Districts to conform to VDEM Districts.

### **Adjournment at 07:28** **Program**

Brewer Pedin, W4MGA presented a detailed, high-level overview of 5G

The next general meeting: December 11, 2020 via ZOOM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
David Robinson, KJ4LHP  
Secretary

### **From The Prez**

Greetings,

Thankfully this crazy year is almost behind us. As we prepare for the holiday season, I want to wish all of our members the merriest. It will be a little strange this year with no big parties and gatherings, but with a little inventiveness, we can keep the spirit alive.

From my vantage point, it appears that the Covid situation has done something positive for Ham Radio in that people who are more confined to their home QTH, have increased their on-air time, which has resulted in some welcome QSOs. Our first virtual license school seems to have worked out well, and several new hams were added to the ranks at the last exam session. This brings to light another positive result of the pandemic in that our license school, for the first time in history, has expanded beyond the local community, having had a number of students who studied with us virtually from other states.

The comments to the FCC regarding the enacting of license fees seem to indicate a negative response to the whole idea from those

who responded. As we endeavor to attract young people into the hobby, it's important that license fees not be set at a cost where they prohibit or discourage students from considering obtaining licenses.

So in closing, I want to wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas, a wonderful holiday season, and most of all a happy and peaceful 2021.

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 January testing session will be on the 9th at 10:am. At the Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch 9103 Rattlesnake Rd North Chesterfield

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. 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](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!

### Arecibo Observatory Instrument Platform Falls into Iconic Dish

[UPDATED 2020-12-02 @1609 UTC] The 900-ton instrument platform of the 305-meter radio telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico fell some 400 feet Tuesday morning, crashing into the huge, already-damaged dish below, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported in a December 1 Tweet. "No injuries were reported," NSF said, adding that it is still assessing the situation. "Our top priority is maintaining safety." The calamity not only was a final and fatal blow for the observatory but for the people of Puerto Rico.

Head of Telescope Operations Angel Vazquez, WP3R, called December 1 "indeed a sad day." Vazquez was in the Observatory's control room at the time, salvaging important instruments when he heard a loud noise.

"At around 7:55 AM, the platform collapsed due to the extra stress on the existing cables because of the main cable failure in November. Strands were starting to pop all weekend long, and it was just a matter of time," he told ARRL. "It came off the easternmost tower (T4) and took about 15 seconds. The azimuth arm that housed the dome came off the track, fell into the dish a little north of center and the triangle was pulled by the other existing cables to the northwestern part of the dish. The tops of the towers broke as well. This was a 900-ton platform, and the dome was smashed like an eggshell."

The towers supported the massive instrument platform, which was suspended on cables above the dish. On August 10, an auxiliary cable that helped to support the platform snapped and fell, causing a 100-foot gash in the reflector dish. After an extensive evaluation, NSF announced on November 19 that the damaged radio telescope — in service for nearly 60 years — was beyond repair and would be decommissioned due to safety concerns. Arecibo, which, among other accomplishments had contributed to the observation of black holes, was the second-largest radio telescope in the world.

The iconic dish has served as a backdrop for several science fiction movies. The Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club, KP4AO, is headquartered at the research facility, and several other radio amateurs are employed there in addition to Vazquez. Operations at the world-famous observatory have been managed by the University of Central Florida (UCF).

Engineers were ready to implement emergency structural stabilization of the auxiliary cable system, but while arranging delivery of two replacement

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cables and two temporary cables, a main cable broke on the same tower on November 6. Based on the stresses borne by the second broken cable, engineers concluded that the remaining cables were likely weaker than originally projected.

Antenna designer and electrical engineer Jim Breakall, WA3FET, who conducted research at the world-famous facility over more than 45 years, told ARRL that his experience with Arecibo began in 1974 when he was a student, and he worked on the first HF ionospheric heating design and calibration of the dish for ionospheric research. He also conducted amateur radio moonbounce experiments there. Later, he designed feeds for radio astronomy and designed and built the HF ionosphere modification facility that fed the dish with a dipole array at the bottom of the huge dish, after Hurricane Georges destroyed the

first HF facility some 10 miles away in 1998.

"I built a super contest station on my farm there about 2 miles away using Angel's call sign, WP3R. It got destroyed in Hurricane Maria in 2017," Breakall recounted. "I also was on the team for KP4AO in 2010 for EME [moonbounce] and my photo was on the cover of QST with Joe Taylor, K1JT."

"I was prepared for this, but still never wanted to hear it," Breakall told ARRL. "It is like losing a loved one when you know they are dying. Wow. Who would have ever believed it."

NSF said it was saddened by the latest development regarding the aging radio telescope. "As we move forward, we will be looking for ways to assist the scientific community and maintain our strong relationship with the people of Puerto Rico."

ARRL Website

## The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@arrl.net](mailto: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](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

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**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 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. Contact John DeMajo, K5HTZ ([jdemajo@demajo.net](mailto:jdemajo@demajo.net)) if interested.

***Thought For The Day***

***The worst part of having success is trying to find someone who is happy for you.***

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		

"Let me get this straight:  
You have thousands of  
dollars of ham gear,  
but you still can't  
hear me calling you  
from the kitchen?"

