



THE RICHMOND HAM

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August 2021

THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting Virtually Happening !

Our monthly meeting on Friday August 13th, 2021, 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:

august 13th, 2021 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:

The program for August meeting will be Fred Kemmerer (AB1OC) who will speak on matters related to increasing membership and bringing youngsters to amateur radio.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes July 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:00 on July 9th, 2021 on Zoom by President John DeMajo, (K5HTZ) with a Quorum present online.

Members Present: Check-ins on Zoom

Last month's Minutes – Motion to approve and seconded. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

1) Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$16,382.85 The Report was approved unanimously by voice vote.

2) 1 new membership application: Clyde Mawyer (no call yet!) and approved unanimously.

3) A Silent Key service was held for Dow Pierce, W4DOW.

4) Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU) reported on the remote station issues including the purchase and installation of a new internet control switch.

5) President John DeMajo, (K5HTZ) reported on the passing of a law in Virginia banning the release of most balloon types.

6) Ken Zutavern reminded the club of an upcoming Builders Group meeting on July 20th.

Adjournment at 07:36

Program:

This evenings presentation was by Rob Thomas, KC4NYK on Circuit Python and its applications to the hobby and was adjourned at 8:26pm.

The next general meeting: August 13th, 2021 via ZOOM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Armand Hamel,WA1UQO

THE RICHMOND HAM August 2021

From The Prez

Well just when we thought the coast might be clear for us to resume in-person meetings, conditions are changing and there is again uncertainty in the air. We will be monitoring things and working with BonAir Methodist Church to determine when we can again hold in-person meetings, but for now, it looks like we will be meeting on Zoom for the near future at least.

Please remember that November 1 begins our next year, so dues will be due once again. No decision has been made regarding a banquet, but it looks doubtful at this point that conditions will permit us to hold such a function. We are, however, looking for people who may want to get involved in leadership. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in holding office, please contact Mac K4YEF at [prowinship\(at\)aol.com](mailto:prowinship(at)aol.com) to be considered for the upcoming election.

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 September testing session will be on the 11th. 10:AM at Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch 9103 Rattlesnake Rd, North Chesterfield.

Pre-registration Required.
Walk-ins Accepted.

Pre-Registration required for Techs and for special needs applicants. Also anyone taking the Tech exam needs a FRN from the FCC (Google obtaining a FCC FRN) and bring that info to the session.

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 \$22.00

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!

RARC ELMER PROGRAM

Over the last few years, our license school and volunteer examiner programs have added many new hams to the ranks. When asked about the services they receive from the club, many new hams say that they need some further help in order to set up a station and to feel comfortable in communicating on the air.

To this end, it has been suggested that we place more emphasis on helping newly licensed hams gain the confidence and technical help that they need to get started. Suggestions have centered around the

need for a formal Elmering program. In order to fulfill that need, we would need a committee of volunteers who would be willing to help, on an as-needed basis, one or two new hams per Elmer. This would involve possibly a few Zoom sessions, and perhaps answering an occasional question. To assist new hams, and minimize the need for help by the Elmers, we will be designing a kit of material that will be issued to anyone who obtains a technician license through our programs. It will include items such as a script that could be followed when attempting to use repeaters, a chart of allowable frequencies and modes, an explanation of how to program a VHF/UHF radio, and most importantly a membership application to the RARC.

Along with the kits, we would like to establish a pool of persons who would be willing to assist these new hams while they are getting started. Any member who would be interested in helping in this way, please contact Bruce McAlister, W4BRU.

Fall Class change for new Covid variant

Owing to the problems our nation is having with the Covid variant, we are changing how we will teach our classes this fall:

1. The three September classes will all be done via Zoom not in person.
2. If the medical advice and our host church agrees, we will do hybrid classes starting in October. They will be held in-person but on Zoom at the same time.
3. All who plan to meet in person need to bring proof of full Covid-19 vaccination. Proof is a CDC "COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card" from the medical staff that administered the vaccine. It appears that is the only way to keep this virus from spreading and mutating.

FCC Investigating Alleged "Jamming" on 40 Meters

Reports suggest that jamming stations have been deployed on the lower portion of 40 meters. The jamming appears to be coming from Cuba. The signals, spaced at regular intervals, exhibit a squishy, popping noise. The apparent jamming showed up after anti-government protesters took to the streets in Cuba, followed by a government crackdown. So far,

there's no proven connection between the jamming and the protests, as evidence has been circumstantial. DX spots suggest that Cuban hams are on the air on SSB but do appear rare on 40 meters. A lot of Cuban spots point to FT8 activity. The jamming issue has drawn the attention of the FCC, which is looking into the matter, according to one tech publication.

"Too many people around the world are fighting uphill battles to be able to use technology to expand economic opportunity, express themselves, and organize without fear of reprisal," an FCC spokesperson **told Motherboard**. "The FCC is committed to supporting the free flow of information and ensuring that the internet remains open for everyone. We are assessing these reports in conjunction with our field agents and communicating with the Department of State as this issue develops."

Outside of ham radio, the ability to connect with some social media sites and even with the internet inside Cuba has been reportedly tricky. Connecting to the Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba (**FRC**) website (Cuba's IARU member-society) from outside of Cuba has been unreliable. This week, users attempting to do so — at least those in the US — got a shrugging cartoon character and the legend, "Acceso Denagado" — access denied. The FRC Facebook page is accessible, but links to the FRC website are blocked. FRC had warned of "possible outages" a week ago, attributing the problem to maintenance being done in the data center where FRC is housed.

Well-known amateur radio contester and DXer Fred Laun, K3ZO, pointed out in a July 17 post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club reflector that typical ham radio contacts with Cuba "are not normally about politics, though I suppose in the wake of recent events they may have become so." Josh Nass, KI6NAZ, of the YouTube channel, *Ham Radio Crash Course* (HRCC), is calling the interference "The Cuban Rum Runner," an oblique reference to the "Russian Woodpecker" of yesteryear. And Matthew Kaskavitch, K0LWC, recorded an **emergency broadcast message** on his YouTube channel, to advise viewers of the purported jamming.

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 (the Americas) President Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, said no complaints had been received by July 20.

ARRL 07/22/2021



Fall Radio School Classes

Register online

Exam prep: <https://rarclub.net/fcc-license-class-registration/>

Skills seminars: <https://rarclub.net/seminar-registration-form/>

Deadline: September 7 at 8pm. In-person registration at class location, see below

Schedule: week of September 13 to the week of November 15

Exam prep:

- **Technician (first license) taught on Wednesday nights, 7pm to 9pm** – instructors: George Starke, WB4VWR & John DeMajo, K5HTZ
- **General (second license) meets Thursday nights, 7pm to 9pm** – instructors: Ken Zutavern, K4ZUT & Maylon Pearman, N4EG
- **Extra (highest license) class is Tuesday nights, 7pm to 9pm** – instructors: Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU & Ken Liedner, WV0L

Skill Seminars:

- **D-Star Setup & Operations** – classroom, Zoom if requested, Saturday, September 25, 9am to noon – instructor: Win Grant, W4WIN
- **NEC Antenna Modeling** – classroom, Zoom if requested, Saturday October 9, 9am to noon – instructor: Robert Orndorff, W4BNO
- **Remote Station Remote Setup & Operations** – Zoom only, two (2) evenings, October 4, follow-up October 18, 7 to 8pm, instructor: Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

Costs:

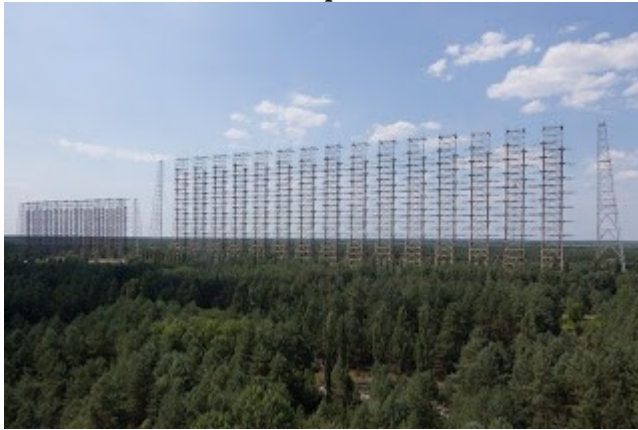
- Exam prep – \$22 tuition (discounted to \$20 by check or cash), \$33 textbook
- Seminars – \$12 tuition each (discounted to \$10 each by check or cash)

Location:

Bon Air United Methodist Church second floor classrooms. Should the Covid-19 infection require closing the classrooms, we will use Zoom as we did in 2020.

See <https://rarclub.net/license/class-schedules/> for details.

Ukraine Declares "Russian Woodpecker" Antenna Site a Cultural Monument



The Duga-1 radar antenna array near Chernobyl.

The government of Ukraine has declared the massive Duga-1 antenna array near Chernobyl – the source of the infamous "Russian Woodpecker" over-the-horizon radar signals in the 1970s and 80s – as a protected cultural monument. According to the *Vice* online newsletter, the designation is part of an effort by Ukraine to get the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and surrounding buildings all declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition, the Association of Chernobyl Tour Operators reported that vandals were removing pieces of the huge structure and that added protection was needed.

For those too young to remember, the "woodpecker" was a Soviet-era early warning radar system built to detect incoming nuclear missiles from the United States. Its tapping signals caused havoc on the HF ham bands as they swept through the shortwave spectrum. Chernobyl, of course, is the site of the world's worst nuclear power disaster in 1986 and the Duga-1 array is within the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. It is speculated by some that the Chernobyl power plant was built primarily to provide electricity to the Duga radar.

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.**

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) if interested.

For Sale: Estate Items of W4JHM, SK. ICOM IC-756 PRO II Transceiver with desk mic and Matching speaker. ICOM IC-7000 Transceiver with matching speaker and matching LDG AT-7000 Autotuner. Ameritron AL-80B Amplifier wired for 120V A/C. LDG AT-1000 Autotuner. Daiwa CN-101L SWR/Power Meter. Alinco DM-34 OMV Power supply. MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer. MFJ-267 Dummy Load/Wattmeter. MFJ-912 Remote Balun Box. Radio Shack Power Meter, 2000 Watt Range. Uniden Scanner BC 560 XLT. Direct inquiries to Diane Clarke at (804) 276-7913 or dgclarke@verizon.net

For Sale: Yaesu 857 with LDG YT-100 Autotuner. \$700.00 Contact David Robinson at (804) 833-3351 or thedarbinian@comcast.net.

Thought For The Day

The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30 percent of their ice cream.

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		



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