



# THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

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December 2021

## THE RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RARC Meeting Virtually Happening and in person!

Our monthly meeting on Friday December 10th, 2021, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road, and 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: December 10th, 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/meeting/tZwoduGoqzMvEtBdpM3wG1LJ7Ro1ZcdB0qf1/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqzoiGtGdtRGDRpw-GYj4WfTwmFxyj7d\\_mA\\_IUDd0My\\_cYdBNY4h8FPqA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwoduGoqzMvEtBdpM3wG1LJ7Ro1ZcdB0qf1/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:

December is traditionally RARC's social meeting and great food bash. This months meeting is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting of in person and on Zoom.

## Richmond Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes November 12th, 2021

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:00 on November 12th, 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 \$16,521.19 The Report was approved unanimously by voice vote.

2) 2 new membership applications: Robert Ellis, W4RYQ General and Thomas Williams WB9DZS Advanced. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Bruce MacAlister**, (W4BRU) reported that the license classes were going well with more out-of-towners applying. Also that the Hopewell Middle school classes were preparing for the ISS contact.

Next VE session will be on the second Saturday in January.

### Adjournment at 07:28

**Program:** Bruce MacAlister gave a progress update on the Middle school classes and preparations for the ISS contact.

Meeting closed at 7:48

Respectfully submitted by Armand Hamel, (WA1UQO)

### From The Prez

As the holidays approach, it's the time of year to reflect. We have been fortunate as a club, in that we are still a strong organization thanks to the loyalty our members. Our membership continues to grow, and our educational and outreach programs are strong. Let's pray that in the coming year, we will get passed all of the disruption that Covid has caused us, and be able to move on to greater things. That said, I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, and a happy New Year.

This Friday, we will hold our December meeting as both in-person and on Zoom. Some of the members have asked that we hold the meeting in person so that they can spend time with friends during the holiday season. We will be social distancing for those who do attend in person. To make this work smoothly, the club has purchased some new equipment to hopefully improve the audio and video quality for those who choose to attend via Zoom. The meeting will be an opportunity to test and tweak the process so that we can continue to offer a choice on how members can attend future meetings, and our license school can continue to extend to students who are outside of the Richmond area.

Finally, I was informed this morning of the passing of Dr. Joe Palsa. Dr. Joe has been a fixture in ham radio for many years, and his knowledge, willingness to help hams who needed advice, will be sorely missed. Please remember Joe and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this special season.

73 and peace to all,

John DeMajo



### 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](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 \$22.00

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!

### 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.

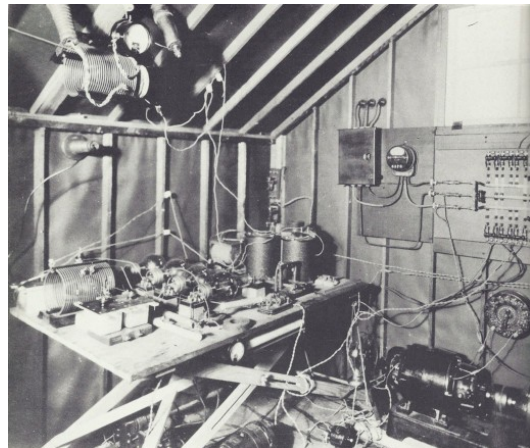
Along with the kits, we would like to establish a pool of persons who would be willing to assist these new hams while they are getting started. Any member who would be interested in helping in this way, please contact Bruce McAlister, W4BRU.

### The 1BCG Special Event

In 1921, on December 9, 10, 11, radio amateurs who were members of both the Radio Club of America (RCA) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) successfully spanned the Atlantic Ocean for the first time, from the United States to Ardrossan Scotland, with Morse code signals. Not only were the signals heard in Scotland, but also in Amsterdam Holland (3600 miles), England, Germany, Puerto Rico, Vancouver British Columbia in Canada, Catalina island California (2470 mi.), and the State of Washington.

The transmitter on the U.S. side, station 1BCG, was located in a 10 ft. x 14 ft. wooden hut in a farmer's field in Greenwich Connecticut. The transmitter had an input power of 990 watts, a T cage antenna, 100 feet long and 70 feet high with a radial counterpoise, and the wavelength used was 230 meters (1.3 MHz).

This Transatlantic Test Project, which was conceived of by radio amateurs, proved that even with modest equipment, the Atlantic Ocean could be spanned with shortwave signals, opening up improved communications for many more purposes. These "short" wavelengths below 200 meters had been considered useless by commercial and governmental interests, resulting in the Radio Act of 1912 banning amateur activity in the wavelengths longer than 200 meters. As a result of the successful efforts of radio amateurs in Transatlantic Test Project, over the last 100 years many experimenters and inventors became focused on continually improving wireless technologies and devices. The direct results of that inventing are the smart phones, smart watches, smart TVs, wireless Internet routers, GPS tracking devices, and Bluetooth headsets, all of which depend on wireless technologies. Those pioneers 100 years ago could never have envisioned the way society has been enabled and transformed by wireless!



2021 marks the 100th year anniversary of the historic Transatlantic Tests. On December 11, 2021 The 1BCG replica transmitter will be operating as W2AN/1BCG on 1.821 MHz, plus or minus, using CW, from The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut. Transmissions from W2AN/1BCG will be one-way, just like the original transatlantic tests in 1921. You can get a SWL certificate for this Special Event by sending a copy of the transmitted message to [1BCG@AntiqueWireless.org](mailto:1BCG@AntiqueWireless.org)

Schedule: Transmissions start on December 11, 2021, on 1.820 mhz, +/-, at 1800 EST or 2300 UTC, then every 15 minutes thereafter for a total of five hours thusly; 1815, 1830, 1845, 1900, 1915, 1930, 1945, 2000, 2015, 2030, 2045, 2100, 2115, 2130, 2145, 2200, 2215, 2230 and the last transmission at 2245 EST.



### Low Best, W4LEW – SK

It is with deep sadness we mark the passing of Low Best, W4LEW. Low lost his long battle with COPD and cancer on November 26, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kay. Long time club member and active Dxer, Lew will be missed.



### The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@arrl.net](mailto: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.**

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


### Thought For The Day

**Friends are people who know you really well and like you anyway.**

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		

**QST**  
DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO  
**AMATEUR  
RADIO**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1915 BY THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE INC.



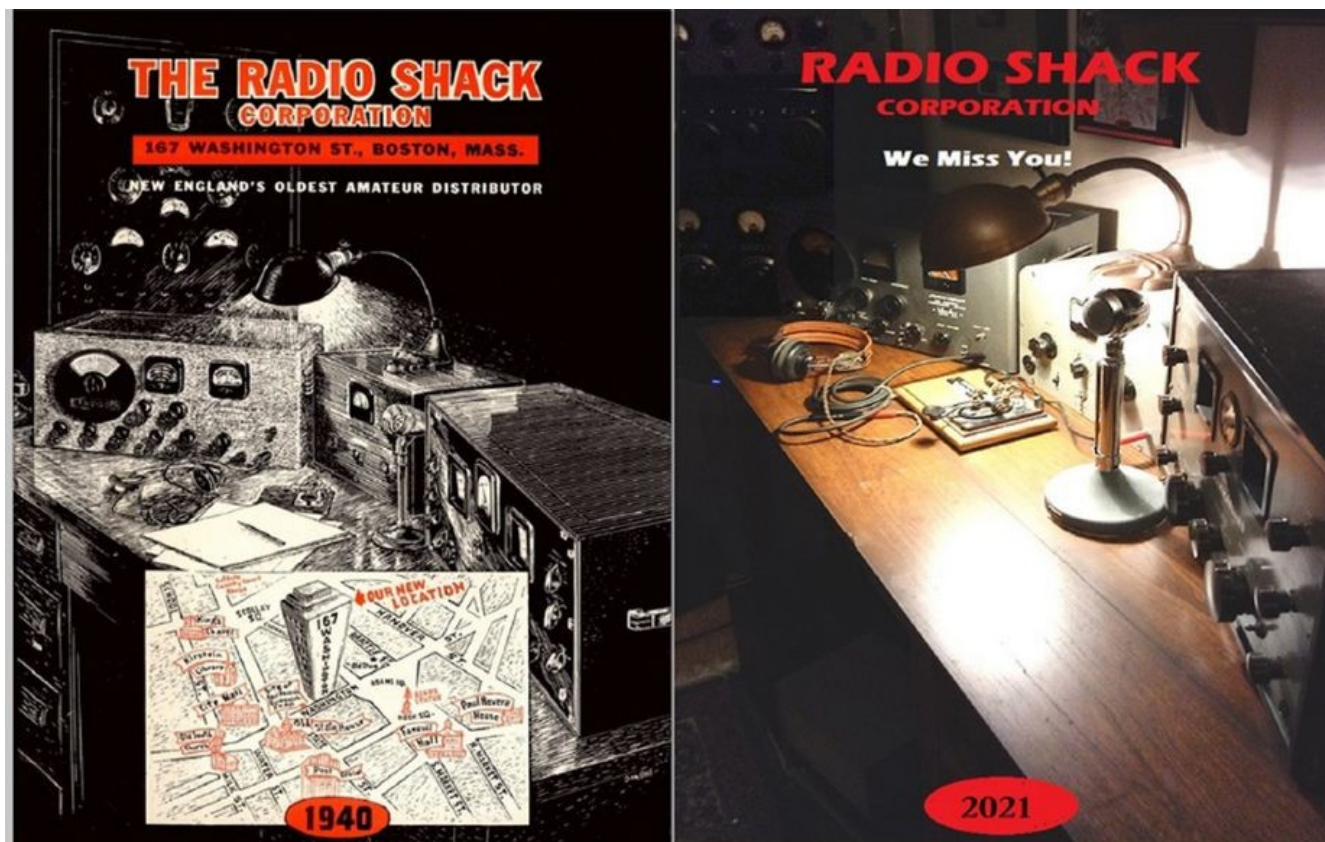
**DECEMBER, 1929** **25¢**



**NATIONAL  
SW-3 Thrill Box**

The SW-3 thrill box employs the same circuit, and all other essential features, as the famous SW-5, except for a more compact layout and the elimination of the last or P. P. stage. It is designed especially for aircraft, portable and amateur communication use. Utilizes 2-58's and 1-27 tubes. Can be operated from a filament transformer and coils.

135 volt B batteries. Shpg. wt. 20 lbs. Less tubes and coils.	<b>\$17.70</b>
<b>N13817</b> —List \$29.50 <b>Your Cost</b> .....	
Complete with three sets of band spread coils for 20-40 and 80 meter bands. Less tubes.	<b>\$26.70</b>
<b>N13818</b> —List \$44.50— <b>Your Cost</b> .....	
National B Eliminator and Filament Transformer described below, especially designed to operate the above SW3 receiver, supplying all the necessary voltages.	
3850—National B Eliminator. Operates 1 to 6 tube sets. Adjustable taps: 22-45 V., 45-90 V., 90-135 V. Full 180 V. at 35 ma. for power tube, non-adjustable. Utilizes a 280 tube.	<b>\$9.90</b>
<b>N14380</b> —List \$16.50— <b>Your Cost</b> .....	
<b>CFL</b> —A compact, easily mounted filament transformer secondary winding, 2½ volts at 10 amps.	<b>\$1.80</b>
<b>N14395</b> —List \$3.00— <b>Your Cost</b> .....	



Vintage Radio Shack Reconstructed by John DeMajo K5HTZ

