



THE RICHMOND HAM

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October 2022

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

Our monthly meeting on Friday October 14th, 2022, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road, and also 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:

October 14th, 2022 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

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/kbj882gslc>

Ken Leidner , WV0L

This Month's Program:

This months topic will be about the clubs Remote Station by Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU.

Richmond Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes September 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 19:06 on September 9th, 2022 on Zoom and in-person by President John DeMajo, (K5HTZ) with a Quorum present online. Agenda was displayed on screen.

Members Present:

Check-ins on Zoom and in-person at the Church **Last month's Minutes** – Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

1) Ken Leidner, (WV0L) gave the Treasurer's Report. We had an ending balance of \$19131.76. The Report was approved unanimously by voice vote.

2) 1 new membership applications: Joseph Kirwin, No Call; Approved unanimously.

Nominations:

1) Joey Hairfield (WJ4H) Nominated for Vice President by David Robinson (KJ4LHP)

Fall Classes and Club Station:

1) Fall 2022 Class Schedule is on the RARC website. Seminars are still to be set up.

2) Club Station is being plagued with short internet outages that kick the station offline. We are still trying to determine the source of them.

2 meter Simplex:

Mike Friedman(W4MAF) reported on 2 Meter Simplex Net. Held 1st Friday of every month at 19:00. Information at N4POW.com.

Builder's Group

Ken Zutavern(K4ZUT) will be starting the Builder's Group back up in September. Contact Ken at K4ZUT.ham@gmail.com

From now on, we must use the side Church entrance.

Meeting adjourned at 19:55.

The next general meeting: October 14th, 2022 at 19:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

David F. Robinson,(KJ4LHP), Secretary

From The Prez

Well, another year has gone by and it's election time for the club again. I want to thank everyone for allowing me the honor of serving as president and, although I never planned to stay in the position for three years, I was glad to be able to see the club through the Pandemic. RARC is a great and unique organization, not only because of its long history that dates back almost to the beginning of ham radio, but because it is more than just a group of people with a similar interest. We offer opportunities for education and licensing, as well as a platform for those who want to experiment and build their own equipment. There isn't enough room here to individually thank all of you who helped and contributed to the betterment of the club during my term, but I want to especially thank all of you who worked directly with me in the various programs, and those members who hung in there during one of the most trying situations in the history of our nation.

RARC is a great group of people, and I am honored to have been able to serve in a leadership position. Best wishes to the incoming board, and I look forward to what the future brings for the Richmond Amateur Radio Club, and for ham radio.

John DeMajo, K5HTZ

RARC VE News

We have two different groups that provide testing.

1. One is free, but only offers testing sessions on the second Saturday of odd months except June (Field Day) replaces July. **The next session will be on Saturday November 12th.**
2. The other one cost \$15.00, but offers testing sessions on the 1st Saturday of every month.
 1. RARC offers Free VE Testing Sessions on the second Saturday of odd months except June (Field Day) replaces July. Currently all testing starts at 10:00 AM and is at: Chesterfield Library Bon Air Branch 9103 Rattlesnake Rd North Chesterfield, VA 23235. Pre-registration Required. Walk-ins Accepted. Pre-Registration required for Techs and for special needs applicants. 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
 2. KC4TS Cats Vet (Cats Volunteer Examination Team) offers VE Testing Sessions that cost \$15.00 on the 1st Saturday of every month. Currently all

testing starts at 10:00 AM and is at: Gospel Light Church 2109 Anderson Hey Powhatan VA. Check-in is between 10am and 12pm and we stay as long as needed to finish all the exams. Walk-in candidates are welcome! You just need a valid ID, an individual FCC FRN, and the testing fee of \$15 which goes directly to the ARRL (cash or check made payable to "ARRL VEC"). We can provide pencils and a very simple calculator or you can bring your own. See <http://kc4ts.org/> for more information.

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.

Nets

RARC has the first and only D-STAR digital repeater in the area: 147.255 (+ 600), 443.7125 (+ 5) and 1284.0000 (-20). In addition to our Wednesday local D Star net (below), we link Module C (VHF) to REF 062A for the National Capital Region D Star Net on Wednesday nights at 9pm. On Tuesday nights at 9pm, we link Module C (VHF) to REF 054C for the North Carolina D Star Net.

The RARC D Star Net meets on Wednesday nights at 8:00pm and is accessible on our three D Star modules, all of which will be linked together via REF 062D. So if you are in RF range of the repeater, you can join the net on any of the three RF modules and be heard by everyone.

If you participate in the net via DVAP, DV Dongle or a Hotspot (such as Pi Star), you should link your device to REF 062D rather than to any of our modules which will allow you to be heard by everyone.

Any questions, contact Win - W4WIN at wingrant@gmail.com

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

Show and Tell!

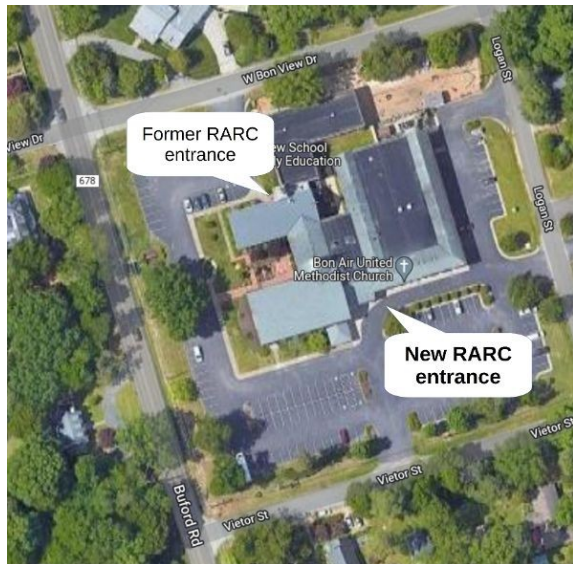
If you have an item, idea, latest and greatest, or whatever gizmo; please bring it to the RARC meeting. We have a table (usually) set up near the front where you can place your item and share/discuss it with others as they arrive. We also have a section of the agenda set aside for members to discuss 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!

New RARC meeting and class entrance

Club members and students of our classes will use a new entrance starting in October. It is the main church entrance on the south side of the building. The old entrance was on the north side of the building. The reasons for the change:

- No steps; nice for the older members and necessary for the handicapped
- Better security; the armed crazies keep looking for soft targets to attack. Places of worship are a favorite. We and the church aim to not be so soft.

Once admitted to the lobby, you walk straight ahead through a small door into the hall where we usually meet.



The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) To Host The Transatlantic Centenary Tests

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) will host The Transatlantic Centenary Tests during December 2022. The international event celebrates the centenary of the transatlantic success of the RSGB in

December 1922.

On December 24, 1922, the very first verified amateur radio signal from Europe was received in North America. The signal originated from the RSGB station (G)5WS at Wandsworth in South London, as part of the Third Transatlantic Tests.

Unlike the tests of the 1920s, which consisted of one-way communication, the December 2022 tests will encourage worldwide two-way communication with the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies. There will be a series of awards available for making contacts with those who are activating special call signs.

For this centenary celebration, the RSGB has renewed five call signs, which they held in the 1920s:

G5WS, from the 1922 tests -- "the first to get across"

G5AT, from the 1923 tests

G6XX, from the 1923 tests

G6ZZ, used for the first amateur tests on a moving railway train in 1924

G3DR, Scottish Highlands Call -- GM3DR

These historic call signs will be activated by RSGB members and clubs, using G5WS, G5AT, G6XX, G6ZZ, G3DR (England), GM5WS (Scotland), GW5WS (Wales), GU5WS (Guernsey), GD5WS (Isle of Man), GJ5WS (Jersey), and GI5WS (Northern Ireland).

Full details of how to participate are available on the RSGB website at <https://rsgb.org/transatlantic-tests>.



What Does the Solar Flux Index Mean?

Solar flux is measured in **solar flux** units (SFUs). It is the amount of radio noise or **flux** emitted at a frequency of 2800 MHz (10.7 cm, hence is it also called the 10.7 cm **flux index**).

A and K INDEX

When talking about the solar cycle the numbers are based on 'smoothed' numbers, this means the monthly average rather than the figures for each day. Using 'smoothed' numbers gives more accurate results, daily solar activity varies dramatically, making accurate results difficult. A and K INDEX are measurements of the magnetic field activity that are used in predictions.

The K index is a reading of the magnetic activity as compared to a 'quiet' day made from various locations. This index in the range 0-9. The K index is the average of of these readings.

- K = 0 Inactive
- K = 1 Very quiet
- K = 2 Quiet
- K = 3 Unsettled
- K = 4 Active
- K = 5 Minor storm
- K = 6 Major storm
- K = 7 Severe storm
- K = 8 Very severe storm
- K = 9 Extremely severe storm

The A index relates to geomagnetic stability and is calculated from K indices for the previous day.

- A = 0 - 7 Quiet
- A = 8 - 15 Unsettled
- A = 16 - 29 Active
- A = 30 - 49 Minor storm
- A = 50 - 99 Major storm
- A = 100 - 400 Severe storm

A quick example of the A & K numbers

Say we are waiting for excellent conditions on the HF bands, then we are looking A and K indices of 0 lasting for a few days. Combined with a SFI (above 250). This can get all messed up by various random things happening on the sun, with these numbers you would be having a good time on HF.

If your interests are the lower HF bands, low A and K indices with very low SFI numbers would be the go.

In the real world generally propagation conditions are OK when the A index is 10 or lower, and the K index is 3 or lower and the SFI above 90.

Cheat notes (for the non readers)

The A index [LOW is GOOD]

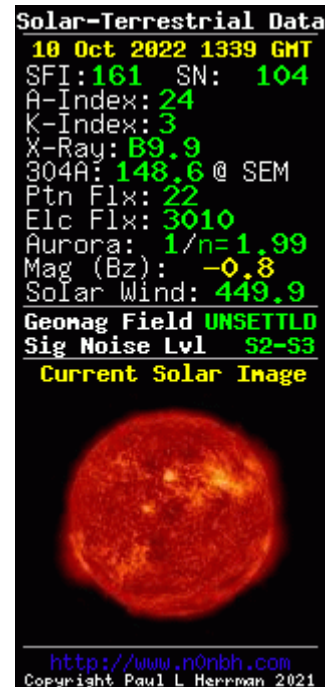
- 1 to 6 best
- 7 to 9 is OK
- 11 or more not so good

K index [LOW is GOOD]

- 0 or 1 best
- 2 is OK
- 3 or more not so good
- 5 is really terrible

SFI index [HIGH is GOOD]

- 70 not good
- 80 good
- 90 better
- 100+ best



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.***

Thought For The Day

The easiest way to organize your stuff is to get rid of most of it.

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		

Halloween Ham!

