



RARC Radio School Fall 2020 Teaching Plan

All fall 2020 Richmond Amateur Radio Club classes will be taught using the Zoom teleconference software.

The club bought a single one-year license so the three classes will be spread out over three different nights. (All in-person classes are taught on the same ten Tuesday nights.)

General and Extra are each taught by two instructors. They are set up as “co-hosts” in Zoom parlance.

The instructors have met a few times on Zoom for practice sessions.

The primary Zoom functions that we find most useful for teaching:

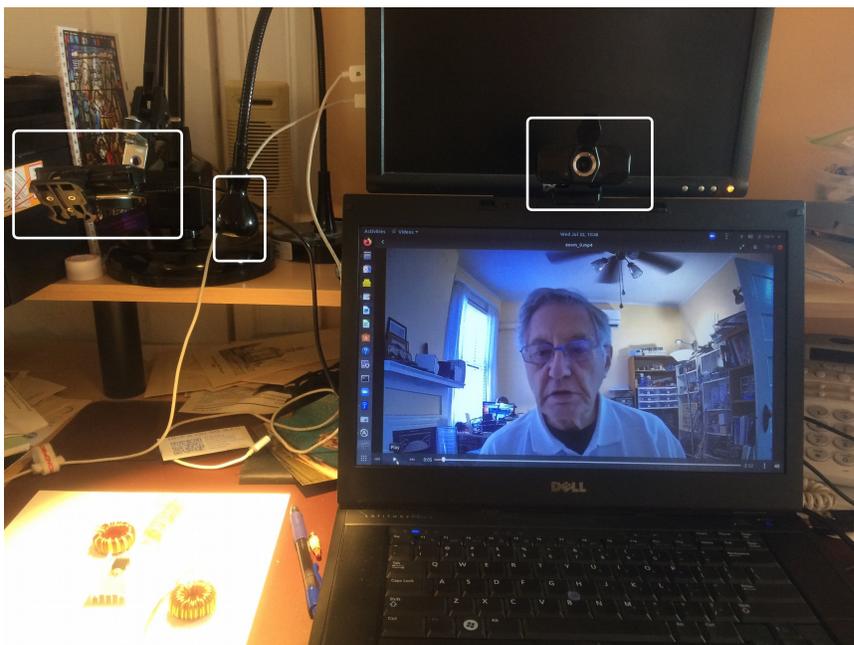


Illustration 1: Highlighted from left downward-facing camera, light source for camera, instructor-facing camera

- Show the desktop
 - the Tech course is done mostly with slides and this is the tool that allows it. It takes some practice to figure out the sequence of (1) launch slide-show or video, (2) click show desktop, and (3) pick the slide-show or video from the desktop contents.
 - the Extra course has many demos. For 2020 the more complex demos were recorded as videos to be shown during the class using “show desktop.”
- The Extra and General instructors use the “white board” feature since they use a real white board in person. The laptop mousepad works better than a mouse since it’s more like writing with finger-paint and yields straight lines. It requires lots of practice to quickly pick a color and draw.
- The Extra instructors use a second down-facing camera to show components, etc. Zoom has a function for that.
 - The down-facing camera shows parts well and handling the components helps show the size, etc.

- The down-facing camera can't seem to focus on the textbook diagrams so we have scanned them and use the "show desktop" function to show them as photos for discussion.
- As inspiration for the students we set our cameras so the instructors' stations and/or electronics workbenches are in the background.
- We us all-mute when a student's feed gets noisy and we don't know which student it is. The students can individually re-activate their audio.
- We do not yet know whether or not the "raise hand" function will be useful. In rehearsal it seemed cumbersome for the instructor to see and react to.
- For security we use the "waiting room" feature. Although we try to limit who gets the Zoom class meeting ID info, it can be easily spread allowing people to crash the class. We can see who is in the waiting room and let them in individually to keep out the crashers.
- We have done – and would recommend – several rehearsal Zoom sessions with other instructors as audience covering what tend to be the most difficult or visual.



We have not a clue on how many students we will attract and from where.

This is written in late July 2020 with only a few instructor practice sessions for experience. The actual teaching is likely to have a few surprises!

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