



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

President Bill Schwiegeraht - N8KSG **Vice-President** Tim Walker - WD4GXD **Treasurer** Michael Mosser - KF4LIK **Secretary** Trey Belton - W4SH

The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Welcome to October! With our social in September, I feel a little bit disconnected and am looking forward to getting back to business this month as well as an informative program.

In late September, I was able to apply the latest firmware patch on the 147.345 repeater. The patch from Yaesu was released on July 15th, and its primary purpose was to facilitate the remote shutdown of the TX function by tone control. After following the instructions to flash the firmware, the display did not seem to be responding as the instruction document indicated, and I finally had to call Yaesu Tech Support. Quickly, we both realized that I had not been toggling the appropriate switch on the circuit board which allows firmware writing, and once I understood where to do this, all went perfectly according to the instruction sheet. Yes, I'm a guy, but I have to admit that sometimes actually reading instructions versus "skimming" can be of help! To be clear for all, this is NOT the long-awaited patch that permits C4FM digital voice to be passed through the Wires-X internet connection system: We are still waiting for Yaesu to come out with that.

The same day as that the firmware was upgraded, we were able to get a DSL internet connection set up at the site as well. I am happy to say that the speed is pretty decent, and the connection seemed very stable. At home I continue to fool around with the Wires-X interface that I purchased for the machine, and so far things are progressing, but I do need to put some more time into it to get proficient. I am hoping to be sufficiently up the learning curve that I can have it installed on the repeater before the club meeting in October.

Many of you replied to my email offering your support for the internet access for 147.345, and I thank you for that. I currently have 10 months of services covered, but we still have two more months that present an opportunity for someone to help share in the cost of adding internet service. If you would like to help, please email me directly at bswag@yahoo.com, and I thank you for your help.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the next couple of meetings are critically important for the long term health of RCARC as we begin to make plans for next year and hold elections for club officers.

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RCARC has had difficulty garnering enough interest from membership to serve as officers, and as you know, last year was not truly an “election” since there were no second candidates for any position. Additionally, I am hoping to nail down plans for the swap fest much earlier than we have been accustomed to, so that we can do a better job of planning and promoting the event. As the old saying goes, your either moving forward, or your moving backward!

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is coming up on Tuesday, October 20th at 7 pm. It is always good to see each of you, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. I hope that each of you can make it to the meeting!

73's, Bill, N8KSG

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About the Newsletter : *This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. Computer/inter-net users should be able to click on the website links that are usually underlined. Please advise me of any change of address or mail preference. Please have all articles to me by the 2nd Tuesday of each month.*
73 (KF4LIK) Michael, your editor.

PHISHING

If you use an arrl.net email alias and the ARRL email forwarding service, be on the lookout for a phishing scam. A number of ARRL members have reported to the League that they received an email from “Arrl Webmail Admin” with “account upgrade” in the subject line. The email requests such personal information as user names and passwords, and includes a bogus message telling the recipient that the accounts are being removed and upgraded to an enhanced service. The ARRL emphatically states this is not an official message and is cautioning recipients of these emails.

Andy Shefrin, KB1YHB, the ARRL's IT Infrastructure and Operations Manager, says: QUOTE “The ARRL is aware of this phishing scheme and is working to block the sender's email address at our upstream provider. As with any emails of unknown origin, do not open or reply.” ENDQUOTE

In short, ignore it. If you do develop a problem with e-mail forwarding, contact the ARRL IT Department. And be careful out there.

From Amateur Radio Newslines

Events

RCARC Meeting

The RCARC usually meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month at the Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. Quarterly meeting/socials will be announced. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October the 20th, 2015.

Grand Strand ARC "Beachfest" 2015

The Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest on October the 31st, 2015, at the Old Pee Dee School / Academy of Hope located at 3521 Juniper Bay Road, Conway, SC 29526.

Website: <http://www.w4gs.org> **Talk-In:** 145.110 (PL 85.4) **Public Contact:** Edward Jordan, KF4ECK, PO Box 2135 Myrtle Beach, SC 29578. Phone: 843-458-3856. **Email:** kf4eck@w4gs.org

Georgia Section Convention (Stone Mountain Hamfest)

On November the 7th and 8th, 2015 the Alford Memorial Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Convention at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30042. **Website:**

<http://www.stonemountainhamfest.com> . **Talk-In:** 146.76 (PL 107.2). **Public Contact:** Chris Balch, KS4MM, 948 Boulevard SE, Atlanta, GA 30312. Phone: 855-786-8643. **Email:** hamfest@stonemountainhamfest.com

JARSFest 2015

The Johnston Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest on November the 11th, 2015. The location will be the Benson American Legion on 605 North Wall Street, Benson, NC 27504. **Website:**

<http://www.jars.net> . **Talk-In:** 147.270 +.600 . **Public Contact:** Michael Callam , KD4MC, PO Box 302, Benson, NC 27504. Phone: 919-934-9623. **Email:** jarsmember@yahoo.com

BREAKFASTS

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

TUESDAY - 7:00 am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville

THURSDAY - 7:00 am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

VEC TESTING

The regularly scheduled VEC testing is held on the last Saturday of each odd-numbered month at the Eden branch of the Rockingham County Library located at: 598 S. Pierce St., Eden, NC. Registration begins at 9am, testing starts at 9:30am. Effective September 1, 2015 the Rockingham County VE Testing will be conducted on a "Preregistration Only" basis. The preregistration must be received by the Monday prior to the scheduled test date. Applicants should call Dal Williams, W4YQY at 336-627-7076 for preregistration info and details. The next sessions are on Saturday 9/26/2015 and Saturday 11/28/2015.

ATTENTION EXPERIMENTERS!

For those who like to experiment with Ham related projects, this website from KC4GZX is packed full of information and project ideas!

<http://www.qsl.net/kc4gzx/kc4gzx/project10.htm#ANT>



Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: <http://www.skywarn.org> . For a guide to reporting weather, see the website: <http://www.wx4rnk.org/guide.html> .



Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES website: <http://www.rc-aa.org/>

AUXCOMM's main responsibility is to support the **Rockingham County Emergency Management** during times of Severe Weather, Disaster, or Emergency situations. ARES has a broader responsibility to support the community as a whole.



NOAA WEATHER RADIO BANDS

CHANNELS-FREQUENCIES-S.A.M.E. Codes

162.400 MHz WXL42 WINSTON-SALEM NWS PIEDMONT AREA
Rockingham County, N.C. SAME code: 037157

162.475 MHz WXL60 BLACKSBURG NWS ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
Rockingham County, N.C. SAME code: 037157

162.550 MHz WXL58 RALEIGH NWS PIEDMONT & CENTRAL N.C.

All stations listed for travel (in MHz):

162.400	162.425	162.450	162.475	162.500	162.525	162.550
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A nation-wide network of radio stations broadcast continuous weather information from nearby National Weather Service (NWS) offices. You can get weather 24 hours a day. NOAA weather radios are the best way to receive warnings from the NWS. It is best to have a battery back-up and Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) that will alert you when a watch or warning is issued for Rockingham County, N.C. (037157). Complete information is at NOAA's website: nws.noaa.gov/nwr . For current weather forecasts on the inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: weather.gov . Your weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or cell.weather.gov

Dial-A-Forecast is 919-515-8209 (option 2) for the Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point area. The New River Valley, Roanoke, and Lynchburg, Virginia's area number is 540-552-0497.

AREA NETS

Monday 8:30PM RCARC 2-meter net 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone

This club net is a weekly meeting for announcements, business, and comments. Check-ins will be taken in analog (FM) mode. Please make it a priority to check into our net.

Thursday 8:15PM RCARC-DIGITAL 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone

Until the AUXCOMM/ARES net is reactivated, digital stations are invited each Thursday to participate in a round table group rag-chew session. This is not a formal net, with a net control station. Any and all stations are invited to this digital group.

OTHER AREA NETS

Sunday 8:00pm	Sherrills Ford, NC	50.150, no tone
Sunday 8:30pm	Southern Alamance Net	146.670, no tone
Sunday 9:00pm	Greensboro News & Info Net	145.150, 100 Hz
Sunday 9:00pm	Southeastern D-Star Weather Net	REF002A
Sunday 9:30pm	Central NC Traffic Net	146.820, no tone
Monday 8:00pm	Randolph County Net	147.255, 82.5 Hz
Monday 9:00pm	Lynchburg, VA	50.400, no tone
Tuesday 8:00pm	Sandlappers, Lexington, SC	50.250, no tone
Tuesday 8:00pm	Burlington ARES Net	146.670, no tone
Tuesday 8:30pm	Triad Skywarn Net	147.255, 82.5 Hz
Tuesday 9:00pm	N.C. D-Star Net (W4GSO) REF054C	442.86250
Wednesday 8:00pm	Roanoke Amateur Club Net	146.985, 107.5Hz
Wednesday 8:30pm	Forsyth County ARES Net	145.470, 100 Hz
Wednesday 8:45pm	Greensboro Amateur Society Net	145.250, 88.5 Hz
Thursday 8:00pm	Pink Hill, NC	50.200, no tone
Thursday 9:00pm	Guilford County ARES Net	145.150, 100 Hz
Saturday 8:00am	Wake Forest, NC	50.200, no tone

Daily Nets

5:30am	Possum Trot Net	147.225, 82.5 Hz
8:00am	Richmond 6 Meter Net	50.215, no tone
2:30pm	Vag-A-Bon Net	145.470, 100 Hz
7:30pm	Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES)	3.923 lsb

WEBSITE WOES

In the latest in a series of online security issues affecting hams around the world, the Radio Society of Great Britain reports a breach that has affected users' passwords on the website for RSGB's Islands on the Air. A bug in the online code was apparently exploited, allowing the intruder to reset the passwords of all the website's users, which prevented anyone from logging in.

Immediately following the Sept. 27 breach, IOTA issued a statement of reassurance saying, QUOTE "There is no sign in the system logs that any data was read or that personal data was compromised". The website has been encouraging users to change their passwords and to contact them directly with any additional concerns.

From ARRL, THE DAILY DX

HAMVENTION INTERVENTION

A published report in Dayton, Ohio, has cast doubts on the location of next year's Dayton Hamvention. An Oct. 2 report published in the Dayton Daily News notes that this global gathering of more than 25,000 amateurs, which infuses the local economy with \$8.5-million each year, may face relocation from Hara Arena. Hamvention has been held there since 1964. It is no secret that the arena has been beset with financial challenges in recent years.

Emails obtained recently by the newspaper raise questions about the arena's future, and describe how city and tourism officials are scrambling to compile alternative sites to keep Hamvention in the Dayton region. An Aug. 26 email from Dayton Convention Manager Michael Cashman to one Dayton official described the prospect of holding Hamvention 2016 at Hara as "highly unlikely". Cashman's message reported that the Dayton Amateur Radio Association had already been given tours of such alternate venues as the Dayton Convention Center and the Dayton Airport Expo Center.

But Jim Tiderman, N8IDS, general chairman of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, has been downplaying the somber prospect of relocation. Tiderman says the board does not foresee any relocation unless "something catastrophic" happens. And the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau agreed this is not the first year that alternative sites have been put on the table for Hamvention.

Meanwhile, it's business as usual, as planning sessions continue for Hamvention 2016. The Dayton gathering is set to run May 20 through the 22nd.

From DAYTON DAILY NEWS, ARRL

ROME ON THE RADIO

Barely two weeks after Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States, the Vatican is making news again in the amateur radio world. On the weekend of Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 11, Rome will host a DX Summit and Vatican City's station, HV0A will be active on several bands. The summit will feature a presentation on easing traffic during a DXpedition, and other ways to improve the DX experience. According to Finland's Martti Laine, OH2BH, the summit agenda also includes plans to unveil a new Q code. Laine helped organize the event with Italy's Giordano Giordani, IK0XFD and Francesco Valsecchi, I-K-ZERO-F-V-C (IK0FVC). If you work the Vatican, send QSL cards to Valsecchi, IK0FVC, and Logbook of the World. The summit will also feature a paper from DX University given the working title, "How to Work Everything with No Pain — Even Europe." — *From ARRL*

RCARC is in need of a SwapFest Chair immediately. There are plenty of persons who help, so the load is not too great. Below is a list of duties, but many things can be shared - there is plenty of time that everything does not have to be done all at once. Please consider how you can help lead this important event and let your interest be known at the next meeting or by emailing Bill, N8KSG at n8ksg@arrl.net

Chair Duties:

- Confirm location
- Prepare advertisement for SERA Repeater Journal (Send in early December)
- Contact ARRL to become a sanctioned event and be advertised in magazine and on website
- Send out mailing to all previous attendees, local clubs, etc.
- Seek donations for door prizes
- Confirm vendors (DBJ, Triad Electronics, and others)
- Confirm purchase of 2m radio for grand prize with DBJ
- Seek assistants for parking, setup, take-down, etc.
- Seek volunteer for Talk-In
- Get change for cash box
- Have trash bags, arrange someone to do refreshments
- Arrive early to assist with setup, put out signs

Running with the Cows Photo



RCARC Unofficial Meeting Minutes 08/18/15

Introductions

Secretary Report:

Trey, W4SH read the minutes from the June Meeting. Motion made and seconded

Treasurer's Report:

Michael, KF4LIK read the treasurer report. Motion made and seconded

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

Net on Thursday night has been canceled. Mike WA3RFE has resigned from his position as EC for Rockingham County. Running With the Cows event is September 27th.

Publicity:

Social at El Parrell on September 12th. 6pm to 8pm.

Swapfest:

Nothing to report

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Updated list passed around. The Club Banner and Coffee Maker are not accounted for.

Technical:

Bill N8KSG found a loose connection on the receive side of the 345 repeater and tightened it up. It seems to have helped with the noise problem but the issue is still there. The additional problems could be external interference. More to follow.

Internet is available for \$34.95 and an additional phone line for voice does not need to be purchased for the 345 repeater.

Paul N4CE mentioned using Echolink for Russ NC4CN to be able to check into the club net and is working towards setting that up for him and others to use.

Field Day:

Nothing to report

Old Business

Nothing to report

New Business

Bill N8KSG searched along US 29 for any promising tower sites for the 58 machine. 4 were found and he is investigating them further. Other options are being explored for tower space also.

The nominating committee for new officers will be composed of Bill N8KSG and Roger W4AYO with a 3rd person to be determined.

Jamey K4RVJ proposed having a digital net on 147.345 Thursday night at 8:15pm in place of the ARES net.

Cam KU4VY was the winner of the SERA Repeater Journal.

Program

Tim WD4GXD presented a program on Antenna Frequency Scaling

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm