



*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*

**Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323**

**July 2016**

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[www.n4iv.org](http://www.n4iv.org)

## **President's Corner**

Welcome to July RCARC friends!

Is anyone enjoying the heat yet? I hope this finds all of you having had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday with family and friends, and that all have survived in safe fashion.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in Field Day this year. After having to cancel last year, it was encouraging to see so many of our members get involved and turn out for setup, tear-down, and the operating in between. As many of you know, this was the first time in my 35 years as a ham that I have ever participated in a Field Day event, and I'm sure it won't be my last! While I don't have the final score to mention, I do know we had on the order of 550 QSOs between our stations, and given the poor band conditions on Saturday through Sunday morning, I'd say it was a successful effort – especially for the OM in the back room working CW! Many thanks go out to Michael, KF4LIK and Terry, KF4KPM for doing the planning to get things organized. Great job guys!

Of course, we'd all like to give a special "thank you" to Peggy, KJ4ANA, for organizing our nice hot dog dinner on Saturday evening. I don't know what we'd have done without her & the George Foreman grill! I'd be amiss if I didn't recognize all those who loaned equipment: Through the generous loans we were able to have three complete HF stations available continuously, and a VHF station as well.

Now, with SwapFest and Field Day behind us, we come into a time where we can relax and grab a breather. Did I actually say that? Of course that's not true – the repeater site is in need of mowing, so we need to organize a party very soon! It is also time to start thinking about sending the 146.85 machine back to Yaesu for the same upgrade at 147.345 has had already.

So, while there may not be such big events to prepare for in the next few months, there is still plenty to get involved in, and YOUR club needs YOU! Be sure to mark your calendar for our next meeting next week on Tuesday, June 19th at 7 p.m. The location as usual, is at the Red Cross Building on NC Hwy 14, between Eden and Reidsville.

Bill, N8KSG

## **NEWSLETTER CONTENTS :**

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.*

*73 (KF4LIK) Michael, your editor.*

## **Events**

### **BREAKFASTS**

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

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

THURSDAY - 7:00 am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

### **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. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July the 19th at 7pm. The program presentation for the July 19th club meeting is scheduled to cover GPR. Is GPR the predecessor of GPS? Find out at the next club meeting.

July 16: Mid-Summer SWAPFEST, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC, <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>

July 30: WCARS Hamfest, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC, <http://wcars.org>

August 13: 18th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org/>

September 2-4: 60th Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL NC State Convention, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC, <http://shelbyhamfest.org>  
(source: ARRL website)

September 24th: Free Gate 2016 - Qorvo Headquarters, (formerly RFMD) Back parking lot only, 7628 Thorndike Rd. Greensboro, NC 27409. Talk-in is 145.250MHz, PL 88.5Hz. This is not a rain or shine event. Check back in the event of inclement weather. <http://kd4rf.org/>

### **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.



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> .



### 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](http://nws.noaa.gov/nwr) . For current weather forecasts on the inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) . Your weather forecast on a mobile device: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](http://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 YSF C4FM**

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 with the Yaesu System Fusion in the C4FM digital mode.

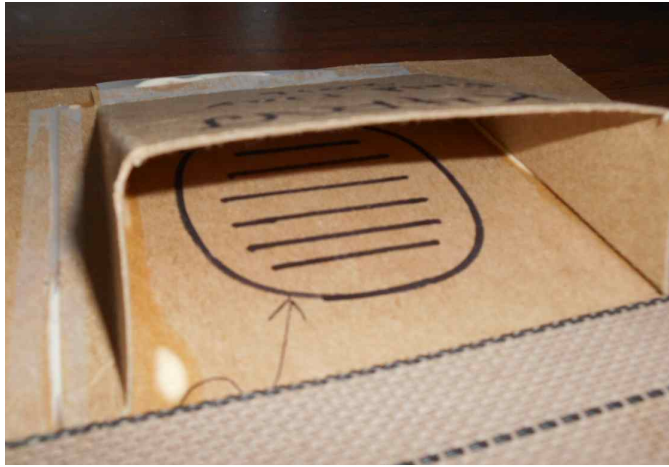
## OTHER AREA NETS

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

**Can you identify the purpose of this mystery apparatus? Answer coming at the July 19th club meeting.**



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See! The wind can rotate your radio wave polarization. It shifted this 25 foot vertical array atop the Reidsville Fire Station to the horizontal position during the June 30th wind storm.



*Thanks to Tim, WD4GXD for the photos.*

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### **Echolink link to 147.345 Monday night net**

Available to those that would like to use as a way to check-in to the club net. Download program on P C or phone, click on Explorer View, click on United States, click on area 4, click on K4RVJ-R (a good way to check-in to the net when out of repeater range)

### **Back-up net controls for our Monday night club nets**

If you would be interested in calling the net on an occasional bases, when NCS have a conflict, vacations, etc. please let me know.  
K4RVJ, Jamey

## Ham Articles

### **Amateur Electronic Supply Shutting Down**

Electronic Supply, the second-largest ham radio dealer in the U.S., is closing. The Milwaukee-based seller plans to shut its doors at the end of this month after more than 50 years of serving the amateur radio community. All of the Amateur Electronic Supply locations, corporate headquarters in Milwaukee, Cleveland, OH, Las Vegas, NV and Orlando, FL stores will be closing.

The business began as a venture by a then-18-year-old Terry Stermann, W9DIA, in Milwaukee in 1957. It was founded as Amateur Electronic Supply, LLC in 1998, according to business records, including Bloomberg. Terry Stermann became a Silent Key in 1999. Reports indicate that all remaining inventories will be purchased by an undisclosed 3<sup>rd</sup> party, so "fire sales" are not expected.

*(modified by N8KSG using information from AR Newslines)*

### **IN CANADA, A FAKE QUAKE BUT REAL RESPONSE**

The special effects company spared no effort when it came to simulating the devastating after effects of a magnitude 9 earthquake, but this Pacific Coast scene wasn't conjured up by some Hollywood script. This was the West Coast of Canada's Vancouver Island, where disabled landlines and knocked-out cellular service could have been real, but weren't. What WAS real, however, were the Canadian Forces patrol planes flying over the Rockies, and the ham radio operators on the ground, relaying disaster and rescue information to them using amateur radio frequencies.

The fictional earthquake was followed by at least two equally fictional tsunamis, bringing disaster to Port Alberni, northwest of Victoria, Canada. That region is home to about 18,000 people – and that part is NOT fiction. Hence the need for the drill, called Exercise Coastal Response.

In all, more than 600 people and 60 organizations took part in the three-day response staged by the government of British Columbia and thankfully, not Mother Nature.

*(AR Newslines)*

### **THOUSANDS GATHER AT FRIEDRICHSHAFEN EXPO**

While radio amateurs had their Field Day in the States, in Europe, in Germany, in Friedrichshafen, there was a ham radio expo with over 17,000 visitors from around the world. During the three days, 198 companies and associations from the 36 countries presented their services and products related to radio and telegraphy in ham radio. The many visitors were from the United States, Japan, Taiwan, China, Australia and India and were all represented there. It opened, for its 41st year, with the new motto: "Amateur Radio - on land, on water and in the air."

*(AR Newslines)*

**06-21-16**

**RCARC Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG at 7:02pm

Treasury Report read by Michael KF4LIK. Motion made to approve and seconded

Meeting minutes read by Trey W4SH. Motion made to approve and seconded

**Committee Reports:**

ARES/Skywarn:

Nothing to report.

Publicity:

Peggy mailed out and hand delivered letters to invite the various public officials to this year's Field Day and also sent announcements to the local papers for the event.

Swapfest:

Jim N4ZZC will let us know how to pay the church for use of the faculty for the Swapfest regarding the payment going to a specific fund for the church.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Updated list was passed around for review.

Technical:

The 2 additional MFJ Noise Canceling devices that were purchased for Field Day are here and ready for use.

At times, it appears the transmitted tone is not working on 147.345. WiresX was disabled to see if it may be part of the problem. Bill will enable it again soon to see if the problem comes back or not.

**Old Business**

None to report.

**New Business**

A list was passed around for members to sign up for operating times at Field Day. The list also included items members could bring for dinner and snacks. Paul will provide the logging software, which is an updated version to the same one we have used in previous years.

The proposal to eliminate the 2 board positions was approved. The positions can be added back if the Club feels they are needed. Motion was made and seconded.

Jamey K4RVJ, read a nice letter written by Russ NC4CN, speaking of his friendships and love for the club and its members.

Jamie K4RVJ, brought the clubs reflective vests back and Bill N8KSG, will keep them.

**Program**

Tim WD4GXD, gave a presentation on The Case of the Misleading VSWR Meter

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion made to adjourn at 8:23pm