



*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

August 2016

Vol. 14 No. 8

www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Hello to all my RCARC friends! Welcome to August and the serious dog days of summer. Well, though it's still quite hot, it seems the rain has been visiting us some as of late, taking a bit of the edge of the extremely high temperatures we'd been experiencing a few weeks back. I don't know about you all, but I'll take 90 degrees any day when we had been pushing the 100 degree mark on a regular basis!

Last month we had discussed changing the Wires-X connection on 147.345 over to the digital mode instead of analog. That has been done, but I'm not as happy to report that I just haven't had much time to fool with it so I can prepare a presentation on the topic. Unfortunately, the demands of work related equipment not cooperating and nearly constant weekend travel plans have taken a toll on available free time. Additionally, as I sit here writing this, in two days I start taking my kids away for their respective colleges for the fall semester, and this being new to me, I just can't take my mind off what is being forgotten and what will go wrong over the next several months. And here silly me thought that things would become easier once my daughter graduated from high school! It certainly has become a strain on my ham radio budget!

I have found that when I change rooms in the Wires-X software (by connecting to the computer at the site remotely), I can pass digital voice through the internet and talk C4FM with stations around the world, but for some reason when we try to use the features to search for rooms and activity from our System Fusion radios, it reports that it finds no data. I have found no settings in the Wires-X software that seem to indicate an effect in this manner, but we'll keep trying and perhaps make a call to Yaesu USA to shortcut the process.

On the 147.345 machine, I have a message into the station engineer for iHeartMedia to see about having antenna and feedline inspected the next time they have a tower crew planned to do work. I am hoping to get a freebie or at least a very inexpensive check so we know what is really going on up there. It seems all this hardware has been in place since the 1980's, and I

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

am hoping that we find the feedline in relatively decent shape, as it would be much more affordable to replace an antenna. Bob, AF4TZ has shared experiences he had in Nashville with professional tower crews at sites he maintained, and he has told me a good relationship with these guys can lead to them keeping an eye out for free or cheap discoveries of nice equipment that we may be able to get our hands on. Now, I just need to find out who they are so the schmoozing can begin!

Here is a reminder that in September there will be a social on Saturday the 17th at El Parral in Eden, starting at 6 pm., so there will be no meeting on the 20th. I will be out of town that weekend up in Asheville, NC, so I sure will miss seeing everyone as I pound down carnitas, but I do look forward to seeing you all at the August meeting this Tuesday, 8/16 at the Red Cross building. Be there – 7 pm sharp!

73 de Bill, N8KSG

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS :

- p. 1 President's Corner
- p. 2 Events
- p. 3 Skywarn, AUXCOMM/ARES, NOAA
- p. 4 Area Nets
- p. 5-7 Ham Articles
- p. 8 Unofficial Meeting Minutes

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.

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, August the 16th at 7pm. The September meeting will be a social at El Parral on Saturday the 17th at 6pm.

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
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

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 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

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

Silent Key

NC4CN, Russ Harrison, passed away Wednesday, June 15, 2016. Sometime back Russ asked me to convey to the membership of RCARC that he considered everyone his friend, and he loved each and everyone of us.

K4RVJ, Jamey

SUMMER WRAPPING UP FOR K2BSA

Philmont Scout Ranch is still on the air as K2BSA/5 while summer camp season wraps up. We received a report that there were Summits on the Air activated from the scout camp as well. Mike Crownover AD5A, did an 84 mile hike with his son, Roy AE5EB, and grandson, Logan KF5GYD, where they planned on activating two peaks in the 136,000 acre Scout Camp. He had a crew of 8 (2 Adults and 6 Scouts) on this trek which was classified as "Extremely Strenuous" according to the camp's rating system. They were able to work 39 chasers on the two peaks that they summited.

RoverWay 2016, a gathering of 5,000 rovers in Jambville, France, is underway through August 14th. There will be Scouts on the air and online thanks to Radioscoutisme Français. Their call is TM16RW and they will be operating on 7090 and 14290 kHz.

JOTA or Jamboree on the Air will be the weekend of October 14th through the 16th. Scout groups from all over the world will be on the air trying to contact each other and those interested in working scouts. The patch design is out, and now is the time to start planning your JOTA event with your local council and district. For more information on K2BSA, JOTA resources, and radio scouting, please visit <http://www.k2bsa.net/>

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON WAIVER REQUEST FROM EXPERT

The FCC is inviting comments on a June 11 request from Expert Linears America LLC to waive §97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules to permit it to import, market, and use its model 1.3K FA amplifier in the US. The Texas company is seeking the waiver pending resolution of its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-11767), which called on the Commission to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on Amateur Radio amplifiers altogether. Expert said the version of the model 1.3K FA amplifier it now imports has been modified to comply with current rules. On May 26, ARRL told the FCC that it “strongly supports” Expert’s petition seeking to eliminate the Amateur Service rule, spelled out in §97.317(a)(2), that amateur amplifiers not be able to boost the RF input signal by more than 15 dB. Comments on the waiver request are due by August 29, reply comments by September 13. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-comments-on-waiver-request-from-expert-linears>

(ARRL website)

FUTURE FAA RULES COULD AFFECT SOME AMATEUR RADIO SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Yet-to-be-developed Federal Aviation Administration (**FAA**) rules stemming from the recent passage in Congress of **H.R. 636**, the FAA Reauthorization Act, could pose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers. The bill instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of meteorological evaluation towers (METs) set up in rural areas. In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs, often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws — sometimes called “crop duster” statutes — requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop duster laws exempt ham radio towers, the federal legislation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts application of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers.

“The FAA Reauthorization Act has very little application to Amateur Radio antennas. We will have a good opportunity to address the final FAA rules through the normal rulemaking process,” Imlay said. “We’ll be meeting soon with FAA officials to learn their intentions as well as to advance our own concerns to the agency. Uniform federal regulation is beneficial to hams, because it eliminates a patchwork of state statutes that can impose significant constraints on ham antennas in rural and agricultural areas.”

The FAA Reauthorization Act gives the FAA 1 year to issue regulations requiring the marking of towers covered by the new legislation. Marking of towers covered by the legislation will be in the form of painting and lighting in accordance with current FAA guidelines.

The law covers towers that are “self-standing or supported by guy wires and ground anchors;” are 10 feet or less in diameter at the above-ground base, excluding concrete footings; are between 50 feet above ground level at the highest point and not more than 200 feet above ground level; have accessory facilities on which an antenna, sensor, camera, meteorological instrument, or other equipment is mounted, and are located outside the boundaries of an incorporated city or town or on land that is undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Imlay said the law excludes towers erected adjacent to a house, barn, electric utility station, or other building, or within the curtilage (enclosed area occupied by a dwelling, grounds, and outbuildings) of a farmstead, among other exclusions. He said “undeveloped” land refers to a defined geographical area where the FAA determines that low-flying aircraft routinely operate, such as forested areas with predominant tree cover below 200 feet, and pasture and range land.

The FAA will develop a database containing the location and height of each covered tower, but Imlay noted that the database contents may only be disclosed for purposes involving aviation safety.

“We do not anticipate that a significant number of Amateur Radio antennas will be subject to these rules,” Imlay said, “but we need to monitor the FAA rulemaking process carefully to head off requirements that could put the cost of installing and maintaining affected structures out of any reasonable reach.”

(ARRL)

NET MGR AND NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED FOR TAR HEEL EMERGENCY NET

The Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) is looking for a Net Manager and additional Net Control Stations. All individuals with ARES appointments – Assistant Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and District Emergency Coordinators – should consider participating as the Net Manager or as a Net Control Station. For further information, see <http://www.ncarrl.org/nets/THEN/index.html> or contact Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager, at w4chx@arrl.com.

(NC ARRL website)

07-19-16

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:

The two remaining Socials for the rest of the year are **September 17th** and **December 17th** at El Parral in Eden. 6pm

Swapfest:

Nothing to report

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Current list was passed around for members present to review. No changes were made.

Technical:

Bill N8KSG, found that the power was lost to the 345 repeater. The AC power switch which allows the repeater to be turned off remotely was reset and did not power the repeater back up. It was restarted locally. Suggestions were made to acquire a UPS to back up the repeater for protection and also to cover the time between when commercial power is lost and the generator starts. WiresX was also restarted.

Motion was made to purchase a UPS for a backup for the 147.345 repeater. Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Motion made to to put the WiresX in digital mode and leave it in digital only. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

An updated copy of the Club By-Laws will be placed on the Club's Website. This update will indicate the new changes that were voted on and added in the June Meeting.

New Business

Grant, N8ICS has asked to use the 147.345 repeater one Wednesday a month for the AMMRON group. Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Jamey, K4RVJ made mention that the Club does not have a net manager since Mike, KD4CSJ became a SK. The Club is looking for a net manager volunteer.

See Jamey or Bill if interested,

Program

Tim WD4GXD, gave an interesting presentation on Ground Penetrating Radar.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm