



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

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N8KSG

**Vice-President**  
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# *The RockingHAMmer News*

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

**January 2017**

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

## **President's Corner**

Welcome to 2017 all, and I hope you now have all of your holiday decorations and the business and chaos of the season behind you. With my kids in college and only home for a few weeks, Christmas had a much different feel than in years past. While we still decorated and had far too much clutter to remind of the season, I can say it was much less than in years past. The nice thing about spending less time on holiday decorating and fuss was that we simply spent more time just relaxing. It allowed us to focus on the reason for the holiday instead of the business of it all!

So what else has been going on? Oh yes: the first major weather event came upon us. I went to bed Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> expecting to see an inch or two of snow on the ground, and hoped to wake up the next morning without too much more. But to my great disappointment, there was approximately seven inches of fresh snow to greet me! While I was not “pleasantly” surprised, it was a nice sight in the morning, especially since I didn’t have to prepared to go to work! I have noticed since December or so, that my HF antenna has been tuning with settings that had been a little different, and I discovered that when snow covered, it wouldn’t operate stable. I could tune, but it seemed to very quickly become unstable with the SWR jumping around and the power pulsing wildly. Of course, I did not go rushing out to find the issue first thing, but I could see that everything was still in the air – no wires on the ground. Typical of a Carolina snow fall, just a few days later and nearly all the white stuff was gone, and wouldn’t you know the antenna is back to tuning just as it had before. I have not found anything unusual, but I will keep on looking so the next time I get stuck in the house for a couple days, I can at least partake of my favorite hobby!

This Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> is the initial club meeting for 2017, and I hope to see each of you at the meeting at 7 pm at our usual location at the Red Cross building. As I write this, I’m not sure who has the presentation, but you know it is always going to be a good one. See you there!

73 de 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 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 American Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. The January 2017 meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th at 7pm. This month's presentation will consist of RF connector characteristics and rechargeable batteries for HTs.

#### **Charlotte Hamfest**

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest/Convention on Friday, March the 10th and Saturday the 11th at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center located on 5751 NC Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025 Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org> Talk-In: 146.655- (no PL tone) Public Contact: Gary Chernega, KN1GMC, 13629 Pine Harbor Road Charlotte, NC 28278 Phone: 704-564-4684 Email: [gmc1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gmc1@carolina.rr.com)



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

## 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.

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### **In Memory of RCARC Silent Key (Things I Remember, K4RVJ)**

Bill Fisher, N4IV (July 4, 1997) electronics school teacher for Reidsville school system, donated his ham station and call to our club. He was a great Field-Day person and C. W. operator. He built quad beam antennas for F D, out of bamboo poles & wire and would do CW while riding a bicycle or mobile. And, he was a great Elmer to new hams.

John Evans N4HLB (12-28-2003) became interested in ham radio serving as a Navy radio operator. He was a great story teller of his life, (he loved people and close friend to Henry Pollock (K4UUM). He liked for his friends to stop and talk for hours sitting on his front porch. He would tell about leaving the farm and going to Elon college playing football, joining the Navy, marrying Mildred, their children, without leaving a word out each time he would tell the story.

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### **THE WORLD OF DX**

In the world of DX, be listening for the German Antarctic Research Base called "Neumayer (NOY-MY-ER) 3," which is on the air throughout this month until February. Operators are using the call sign DP1POL and mainly transmitting in CW and digital modes. This activity counts as AN-016 for the IOTA program. The QSL Manager is DL1ZBO. Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of The World.

The operators of Lions Clubs International Belgian Amateur Radio are using the call sign OR 100 LCI to mark the Lions Club's 100th anniversary. They will be on the air until March, using CW, SSB and RTTY on the HF bands. Send QSL cards via ON8ZL.

Three stations are on the air this month from the Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus. The call signs for this rare location are ZC4SB, ZC4DB and ZC4JB. Check out qrz.com for QSL details.

Tom PA3TG is operating from Lagos this month using the call sign 5N40TG. Send QSL cards to his home call sign. Stan, K5GO, will be active as ZF9CW from Cayman Brac Island between January 22nd and February 23rd. He will be operating as well during the CQWW 160m CW contest on January 29th through January 31st. Listen for him also during the ARRL DX CW Contest on February 18th and 19th. Send QSLs via his home callsign direct.

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Listen for Mike/W1USN and Bob/AA1M who will be active as HP/W1USN and HP/AA1M, respectively, from Panama between February 10th and February 22nd. They'll be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Send QSL cards to Mike via W1USN direct or LoTW. Send QSL cards to Bob via AA1M direct or LoTW.

Erwin, PY2QI, will be active as PY2QI/PY0F from Fernando de Noronha Island (SA-003) between February 15 to February 21st. He will be on 40-10 meters including the 30/17/12m bands using CW only. Send QSL cards via his home callsign direct.

*(WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA, IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS via AR Newsline)*

## **POLITICS ASIDE, INAUGURATING THE AIRWAVES**

As the United States gets ready for the transition to a new president on Friday, January 20th, one special event station has solemnly sworn to inaugurate as much of the radio spectrum as it can. Two teams of amateurs from the Washington, D.C. area will operate Special Event Station W3T from 12:01 am Eastern on Thursday, January 19th through midnight Eastern on Saturday, January 21st to recognize the inauguration of the 45th United States president.

Carrying on the tradition of a commemorative special event station during the inauguration, Michael Lonneke, W4AAW, will have his remote multi-multi contest station active from Round Hill, Virginia; while a Maryland amateur, Jim Nitzberg, WX3B, will host from his multi-multi station as well. A third VHF station is also in the works. Richard Maylott, W2YE, will supervise the distribution of the thousands of commemorative QSL card requests. One station will be on the traditional contest bands 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, while the other will focus on the WARC bands. All modes will be used throughout the 48 hours of operation.

W4AAW explains the recognition behind the special event station, "The main thing that I wanted to put across is that it marks the peaceful transition of administrations, which has always happened in this country since the beginning. And I think that's unique to the United States that we've never had....you know, it can be contentious as this one apparently is, but we are, after all, all Americans. The president has been chosen according to the Constitution, and that's the way the power changes. It's as just as much as honoring the new president. When Obama was the new president, he was honored. And now Trump's going to be the new president, and he's going to be honored. I think we're looking at the bigger picture, and not anything political".

Those desiring QSL cards can send them direct to W4AAW or by the W3 bureau. If sending direct, please include an SASE, and DX stations are asked to add \$2 in U.S. currency for postage.

*(AR Newsline)*

## **CANADA CELEBRATES COMING OF AGE IN BATTLE**

Ham radio will help mark another 100th anniversary this year - the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Battle of Vimy Ridge, 100 years ago, is often called a defining moment for Canada. Though soldiers paid a terrible price with their lives, the Canadian World War One victory in France in 1917 is said to mark the birth of Canada as a nation.

Special Event Station VE100VIMY will be calling throughout each of Canada's 13 call areas from now through March 30th. All of this will culminate in the actual battle commemoration in April with stations located at the Vimy Memorial site in France, operating around the clock.

The special event was organized by the Vimy Commemorative Station Society in British Columbia. For details visit [www.ve100vimy.ca](http://www.ve100vimy.ca).

*(AR Newsline)*