



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

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N8KSG

Vice-President  
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W4SH

# *The RockingHAMmer News*

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323

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

## President's Corner

Hello all. I hope this note finds each of you healthy and active in our favorite hobby – amateur radio. Despite the much needed rain over the past three weeks, we have had enough peeks in between of some really nice weather as well, and I look forward to more of it! The spring gardening and yard scaping work at the QTH is going well, except for the hole that was dug yesterday for a little septic maintenance. But a little grass seed should make short work of patching that back up.

First, let me remind all to mark your calendar for next Saturday, May 13th for our annual RCARC SwapFest. We will once again, be holding it at the Reidsville Community Baptist Church. Bring any un-needed equipment to sell at the club table, and if you can designate the proceeds to benefit the 147.345 restoration project, as I will discuss below. If you haven't already been contacted, get in touch with Paul, N4CE or Roger, W4AYO to see how you can help out.

### 147.345 Repeater Update:

If you attended last month's meeting, you got a glimpse of the condition of the feed line and antenna at the 147.345 site on Lowe Road. Anyone using the repeater over the last 12 months has noticed a marked drop in performance, and the troubleshooting that has gone on along with the pictures supplied by the tower climber tell a story that we need to address. Three separate analyses have shown that we are experiencing deterioration of the feedline and/or antenna, and while it will not be easy or inexpensive, we **MUST** make a plan to get both replaced. If we fail to address this, we can expect continued degradation of the system, and eventually the repeater will become totally unusable.

I presented an estimate of what it would take to do the repairs, and it is repeated here for all to consider. The costs for materials are good numbers – prices could change some, but it wouldn't be much. The labor to replace the antenna and feedline however are the rougher part as I am still figuring this out with the tower service companies. Regardless, we have a decent picture of what we face, and with the help of all our members, this project is very achievable!

Last thing this month - just as a friendly reminder, If you haven't paid your dues, the time is now. RCARC needs your support, so please consider paying your dues at the next meeting, but even if you cannot make you can pay dues by mail. Just send a check to **RCARC, Inc. PO Box 2264, Reidsville, NC 27323.** Your support is needed and appreciated!

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 next meeting will be on Tuesday, the 16th of May, at 7pm.

#### **13th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest**

The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club will host a swapfest on Saturday, May the 13th, from 8am until noon at the Community Baptist Church located at 509 Triangle Road, Reidsville, NC 27320 **Website:** <http://n4iv.org> **Talk-In:** 147.345 (PL 103.5) **Public Contact:** James Patterson, N4CE 125 Woodstone Drive Stoneville, NC 27048 Phone: 336-548-2027 **Email:** [n4ce@mail.com](mailto:n4ce@mail.com)

#### **DurHamFest**

The Durham FM Association will host an ARRL Hamfest on May the 27th at the Durham Public Schools Staff Development Center located on 2107 Hillandale Road Durham, NC 27254. **Website:** [http://dfma.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=402&Itemid=16](http://dfma.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=402&Itemid=16) **Talk-In:** 145.45 (PL 82.5) **Public Contact:** Jack Hill , KM4MBG PO Box 2411 Durham, NC 27715 Phone: 919-724-2576 **Email:** [durhamfest@dfma.org](mailto:durhamfest@dfma.org)



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 Triad area including Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point. 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**

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)**

PHIL SMITH

Phil, WB4DPO - S K 11-10-10, active club member willing and helpful at club events and activities. As a member of Liberty Baptist Church and with his influence, we were able to use all of their facilities for our first hamfest and several years there after.

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### **HAMS AID RESCUE ON THE RIVER**

Hams in West Bengal responded to a dramatic rescue effort on a riverfront outside Kolkata, India after an aging wooden jetty in disrepair collapsed, sending at least four people to their death and injuring more than a dozen. The jetty, which was in disrepair, was crowded with more than 150 commuters, including school children, at the time of its collapse in the Hooghly River about 22 miles north of Kolkata on April 26. The commuters were waiting for boats to ferry them to jetties on the opposite bank.

As local fishermen took their boats out into the water to pull victims from the water, and others dived in, members of the West Bengal Radio Club arrived on the scene with their 2-meter handheld transceivers and using EchoLink, contacted the club station VU2MQT 15 kilometers away to assist in the rescue effort. Rinku Nag Biswas VU2JFB was at the club station and able to relay information. The EchoLink station utilized the KM6EOM repeater of the Wanderers Amateur Radio Club in Los Angeles, California after contacting its custodian Greg KI6GIG. (AR Newslines, Hindustan Times)

## MALTA, UAE GET ON 60 METERS

It's getting a little bit busier on the air these days between 5351.5 kHz and 5366.5 kHz as hams in Malta and the United Arab Emirates get the green light to get on the band. The Malta Communications Authority's new national plan gives amateurs there access to the 60 meter band on a secondary basis. The maximum power permitted is 15w EIRP. Likewise, hams in the UAE are permitted to a maximum power of 15w EIRP. Malta and the UAE join a number of nations that have been enjoying privileges on 60 meters, including hams in the U.S. who were given access by the FCC in 2012 for the band's use on a channelized basis. Eight channels have also been available for hams in Israel since 2013 for General and Extra class licensees. The Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic and Greenland are among those nations also having access using channelized operation.

Since the agreement at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 many countries who are new to the band are adopting the 15KHz band rather than channels along with the 15 watts effective isotropic radiated power limit.

(AR Newslines)

## THE WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, we have a few CW operators who'll be calling QRZ. You have a few more days to listen for S79J operating from Mahe Island in the Seychelles Islands. The callsign is being used by Ivan LZ1PJ until the 10th of May. Listen for S79J operating in CW on the HF bands and on 6m. QSL to the home call.

Martin MW0BRO is operating from Qatar as A7/MW0BRO through the 18th of May. He is transmitting from the Qatar Amateur Radio Society club station in Doha. Listen for him operating in CW on 80 through 10m. QSL to his home call.

Gab HB9TSW is operating as Z68BG from Slatina Air Base in Pristina, Kosovo until the 23rd of May. He will use CW on 40m to 10m. QSOs with Kosovo do not count for the DXCC Award at the present time.

On Saint Martin Island, John K9EL is operating as FS/K9EL on SSB, CW and RTTY through the 15th of May. Listen for him on 80 meters through 6 meters. Send QSL cards via the home call, OQRS, LoTW and eQSL.

(DXcoffee, Irish Radio Transmitters Society)

## IN INDIA, ATTENTION TO ANTENNAS

In India, where mountaineering and amateur radio are starting to converge for reasons of navigation and safety, one club is helping adventurers sort out the important business of antennas.

Mountaineer Chanda Gayen became the third woman from West Bengal to successfully scale Mount Everest in 2013. The following year, she and her two Sherpa guides were killed in an avalanche at an altitude of more than 26,200 feet on Mount Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain in the Himalayas.

Members of the West Bengal Amateur Radio Club have not forgotten this tragedy, particularly now that the club reports that its membership has been expanding thanks to mountaineers who hope to learn how to use radio when disasters like this happen. With this in mind, the club recently hosted its first antenna workshop in cooperation with the National Institute of Amateur Radio, coinciding with World Amateur Radio Day on April 18th.

The 46 participants not only learned about the design of four-element VHF Yagi antennas but built them with an eye toward using them with a hand-held transceiver on 2 meters. Workshop leaders Ambarish Nag Biswas VU2JFA and Samar Kumar Biswas VU3ZHN both said the antenna and radio combination will provide vital tools for rescue work whether on a summit or any other place where people can get lost.

Organizers said these antennas, which can be used well in fox-hunting, are especially useful in finding distress signals.

(West Bengal Amateur Radio Club, AR Newslines)

## **04-18-17 RCARC Minutes**

Bill N8KSG, called the meeting to order at 7pm

February meeting notes read by Trey, W4SH. Minutes approved

Treasury Report was read by Michael, KF4LIK. Budget approved

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **ARES/Skywarn:**

Nothing to report

#### **Publicity:**

Peggy will have the swapfest date placed in the local paper. It is also in this month's QST. Hobby Con is on June 17th, 12pm to 3pm in Danville and the Club is looking for volunteers to host a booth there.

#### **Swapfest:**

Everything is still on schedule for the swapfest to be held on May 13th. Paul N4CE, passed around a sign-up sheet asking for Club Members to select a position that they can help with the day off the event. Paul will also get new tickets made for future Hamfests at Wright Printing. 1000 tickets for \$178. Motion made and seconded to purchase the tickets.

#### **Historian:**

Nothing to report

#### **Equipment:**

The current equipment list was passed around for review. No changes were made

#### **Technical:**

Bill N8KSG, has discussed with Dimensional Tower on possibly repairing or replacing the antenna and or feedline on the 147.345 repeater site. Bill presented a price list with the various items that need to be replaced. A rough estimate would be around \$7000 to \$8000. Bill asked the members to consider a donation or other means to help fund the replacement. When a more definite price is known, more options will be considered and discussed.

### **Old Business**

Nothing to report

### **New Business**

Field Day will be at the Red Cross on June 24th & 25th. Paul N4CE and Michael KF4LIK will be Co-Chairman.

George WA4LTY, thanked the hams who helped with the Boy Scout merit badge class on April 1st. Tim WD4GXD, gave an overview on the Odyssey of the Mind competition on April 1st and how the Ham Radio aspect of the event was successful.

### **Program**

Bill N8KSG, gave a presentation on "Reflecting on Reflections" which focused on SWR and some of its characteristics. More to follow on this subject at future club meetings.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 8:23pm

Respectively submitted by Trey Belton W4SH