



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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N8KSG

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

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Secretary
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The RockingHAMmer News

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www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Hello everyone – I trust that each of you is doing well as we come into the summer months. Things sure have heated up the last few weeks! I'd like to thank all those who came out and helped to make our SwapFest a success back in May. Turnout was decent, and the threatening weather held off, even though it may have kept some from coming out. Thanks to Paul and Roger for co-chairing the team!

There is something important I need to let everyone know about. While not public knowledge yet, we will be losing our meeting space at the Red Cross building on Hwy 14. They are undergoing some changes there, and the food pantry will be expanding and adding shelving which will eliminate the big open space that we use. The Red Cross has not publicly announced these changes yet, and they have asked us to keep this low profile for the time, so please respect that request. The conference room they will have remaining is not sufficient for our meeting needs. Now, don't worry because there is very good news along with this – we have already secured a new meeting place! The plan is to hold our July meeting at The Salvation Army facility at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville at our normal time of 7 pm. They have built a Community Center that has a gymnasium and community meeting space which should meet our needs very nicely, and the staff there has been tremendously welcoming from the first moment I contacted them. Let's just say, it sounds like this will be the start of a great relationship with their organization. For now they have put us down for the third Tuesday of each month – our normal meeting dates, so we will give this a try and see how it goes! One last thing – The Red Cross has said they will have space for us to keep our repeater equipment at their facility, so while we will need to move the cabinet and re-route cables, we still have a home for the 146.85 repeater. They don't expect that we will need to move the equipment until August, and we will discuss this further at the July meeting.

In the meantime, Paul N4CE will be hosting the June 20th meeting which will still be at the Red Cross building on HWY 14 to discuss planning for Field Day arrangements. I will be out of town for vacation Tuesday and over Field Day weekend, so I wish you a great turnout and lots of fun, but please join Paul on Tuesday at our regular meeting time and place to help finalize the details.

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I would like to mention that I have been getting things prepared to file for IRS federal tax-exempt status for the club under the 501c3 statute, but we do need to make a couple minor changes to our articles of Incorporation. The IRS specifically requires that we have wording that says we will not engage in any for-profit endeavors, and that any club assets will only be used for exempt purposes - this is not in our documents now. Once done, these changes must be filed with the NC Secretary of State before we file with the IRS hand. I will be covering these items at the July meeting, and we will need a quorum of members to vote on these changes, so please attend the July meeting at the new location so we can conduct a valid vote.

147.345 Repeater Update:

Our campaign to raise funds for the replacement of the feed line and antenna at the 147.345 repeater site began with fireworks, but has cooled off to a slow fizzle the last couple of weeks. We need your help now to avoid having the repeater slowly degrade until it is useless! I am personally asking each one of you to make a pledge no matter how large or how small – big things are accomplished with small steps! Please think about how you can participate – not every donation has to be huge - even \$25 helps. The fact is we still do not have enough funding to get the repeater working well - and it will continue to get worse unless we do something about it. That is a responsibility we all share. We still have to raise about \$1500 more, so if you are not listed, please email me at president@n4iv.org to make your pledge. I would like to recognize the following individuals for making their pledges:

- George Brewer
- Trey Belton
- Tim Walker
- Bob Wiggins
- Jamey Nixon
- Bill Schwiegeraht
- Bill Bennett
- Mike Mansfield
- Jim Clark
- Paul Patterson

We still have a number of members who have not renewed their membership dues for 2017 yet. RCARC needs your support, so please consider paying your dues at the next meeting, or simply print out a form from www.n4iv.org and mail 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 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 meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month. Paul N4CE will be hosting the June 20th meeting which will still be at the Red Cross building on HWY 14 to discuss planning for Field Day arrangements. The July meeting will be at The Salvation Army facility at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

Firecracker Hamfest

On Saturday, July the 8th, the Rowan Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the Salisbury Civic Center located at 315 Martin Luther King Avenue South, Salisbury, NC 28144. Website: <http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest/> Talk-In: 145.41 (PL 136.5)
Public Contact: Douglas Spriggs, W4DCS, 155 Waterford Drive Salisbury, NC 28147.
Phone: 704-762-0192. Email: w4dcs@arrl.net

Mid-Summer SWAPFEST

The Cary Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest on Saturday the 15th of July at Ritter Park located at 301 West Lochmere Drive, Cary, NC 27511.
Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc> Talk-In: 146.88 Public Contact: Herbert Lacey, W3HL,
1022 Medlin Drive Cary, NC 27511. Phone: 919-467-9608. Email: infoman@bellsouth.net



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 . 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 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.

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

Patricia Patterson

Pat N4SLP, S K, 11-25-10, Pat had Master degrees in special education and taught that for years. Later, she got a Masters in Speech Pathology and was a speech therapist in Rockingham County Schools at Lawsonville Elementary, Williamsburg, New Vision and lastly at Stoneville. An active club member and club officer, she was a very sociable and funny person. She seemed to always get the best of Paul N4CE, her husband.

UPDATED ARRL "US AMATEUR RADIO BANDS" CHARTS NOW AVAILABLE

The ARRL has revised and updated its "US Amateur Radio Bands" charts, and these now are available for download. These are PDF documents, available in color or grayscale presentations. The revised charts reflect the new 630- and 2,200-meter bands, but also emphasize that these bands are not yet available for Amateur Radio use. The effective date of the recent FCC Report and Order granting these allocations has not yet been determined, and until the start date has been set, it is not legal under an Amateur Radio license to transmit on either band. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/updated-arrl-us-amateur-radio-bands-charts-now-available>

ARRL website

Hamvention Improvements Already in the Works for 2018!

Even before Hamvention® 2017 had wound down at its new Xenia, Ohio, location, plans were on the drawing board to enhance next year's show. Hamvention 2017 "went reasonably well," spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI, allowed, but he acknowledged that there are still a "lot of things to work on" for 2018. Kalter, who lives in Xenia, made the remarks in a [video interview](#) with DX Engineering's Tim Duffy, K3LR, in the wake of the May 19-21 show, which is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)).

Kalter told Duffy that the staff of the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center on its own initiative met with him, Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, and others to say they were already formulating plans for improvements. The food and forum venues at the new location got high marks, Kalter told Duffy, but the flea market suffered badly from the effects of heavy rainfall.

"It rained hard, and it rained a lot," Kalter recounted, adding that the flea market area was not as well drained as organizers had expected. "What exactly we're going to do at this point, I don't know," he conceded. "We felt bad about that."

The exhibitor tents were another issue, with crowded quarters, wind-blown rain getting into booth spaces, and a lack of lighting. Kalter told Duffy that DARA didn't get the tents it wanted, and that more and better tents are high on the list for next year. DARA also has asked the Greene County Commission to purchase another building for the site, and the Commission will be installing air handlers in buildings for 2018.

On-site parking improvements also are in the works, after a massive traffic jam on opening day. "Traffic on Friday morning was pretty rough, for those that got caught in that, but we worked with the officials...and they fixed it overnight," Kalter said.

"We know that we are stewards of a very important event [for Amateur Radio]," Kalter told Duffy. Hamvention "is not just DARA's show," and exhibitors and organizers alike are buying into the concept of "our Hamvention" and contributing to an effort to improve the event. Kalter called Hamvention "a pillar" that helps to keep Amateur Radio alive and "growing and functioning at a much higher level" than anywhere else.

"We're out in front of it," Kalter assured, "and I want to thank all of our volunteers," referring to the 657 individuals who made Hamvention 2017 happen. "Most of what I heard was very positive."

In a [separate interview](#) with [HamRadioNow's](#) Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Kalter said that while he could offer no firm numbers, attendance was "the biggest I've seen at any Hamvention I've ever been to. It was absolutely wall to wall, from one end to the other."

ARRL website

FCC AND OSHA RELEASE COMMUNICATIONS TOWER BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

The FCC and OSHA have announced the release of a free publication, Communications Tower Best Practices Guide. While aimed more at those who tend commercial communication towers, the guide offers guidance applicable to the Amateur Radio community and contractors working on Amateur Radio antenna support structures. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-and-osha-release-communications-tower-best-practices-guide>

ARRL website

WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, the Frontenac Amateur Radio Club is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation. The Federation was Canada's first successful national amateur radio society. In 1993 it joined with the Canadian Radio Relay League and formed Radio Amateurs of Canada. Listen for them operating as XM3CARF through the 3rd of July.

Now through the 23rd of June you can work J48GEO from the GeoPark on Lesbos Island, where members of the Radio Amateur Union of North Aegean SZ8LSV are set up. They are on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and Digital modes. QSL via SZ8LSV, direct or LoTW.

Meanwhile, don't forget Brian WB6RQN is on his Aeronautical Mobile flight around the world operating on HF as he goes - see projectameliaearhart.org for details, including real-time tracking.

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY, OHIO PENN DX BULLETIN

HAMS BRAVE SRI LANKAN MONSOON

This story shows the courage that hams can have even in the face of the most extreme obstacles. It takes more than carrying an HT -- it takes a special kind of heart -- to fly into dangerous conditions following devastation of a storm. But that's what radio amateurs did in southwestern Sri Lanka, where dozens of people died in a monsoon, and hundreds more were left in need of critical assistance.

During a torrent of monsoon rains that battered southwestern Sri Lanka in late May, hams responded to some greater challenges -- namely, how to get in there and respond to the government's requests for help. The siege that left nearly 200 people dead amid landslides and flooding presented few options. With communications down and roads impassable, the Sri Lankan Air Force was called upon to help by providing air rescue support, which included the airlift during challenging weather conditions, of radio amateurs who could establish communications links. One of the hardest hit areas was remote Kalawana village which had been cut off from Ratnapura, the base of one of the government's main coordinating centers.

The president of the Radio Society of Sri Lanka, Jaliya Lokeshwara 4S7JL, was among the two teams of hams flying in on the MI-17 military helicopters. He worked with other hams, establishing an HF link on 40 and 75 meters within 30 minutes of landing. Another link was set up on 2 meters. This enabled communications support for patients' transport for medical care as well as other rescue flights and food drops.

The radio society's website noted that it was the first time this kind of mission has been undertaken by the hams in Sri Lanka. Emergency radio communications stayed intact until mobile phone services were operational again and the roads were open. By May 30th, the hams were safely on their way home.

RADIO SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA, IARU

Radio Equipment Sale

1. Wilson Electronics Corp., Model SY-3, 3 Element Tri band Antenna (10, 15, 20M).
2. WEC, Model SY-1, 5 Element Tri band Antenna (10, 15, 20M)
3. Crushcraft, Model AV-4 Vertical HF Antenna (40 through 10M)
4. Crushcraft, Model A28-4, 10M, 4 Element Beam
5. Hy-gain, Model 14AVO/WB-5, 40, 20, 15, 10M Trap Vertical

Please contact Sharon Marshall of 520 S. Woodberry Ave. Danville, Va. 434-793-0772.

05-16-17 RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7pm
April 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:

Paul N4CE, Roger W4AYO, and Tim WD4GXD will man the booth representing the Club at Hobby Con on June 17th in Danville, Va

Swapfest:

Paul N4CE and Roger W4AYO said they thought the Club had another successful swapfest. Paul N4CE, passed around one of the new Swapfest tickets with the updated club information for everyone to view. Motion made and seconded to donate \$150 to the church for the use of their facility.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

No changes to the current list.

Technical:

Bill N8KSG, reminded members who would like to contribute to the internet fund to maintain the System Fusion WireX capabilities of the 147.345 repeater to please do so when they can. Tim WD4GXD, did a TDR scan of the 147.345 antenna feedline and found a new section that appear to have issues at 47.5” in addition to the one that previously has existed at 590” The SWR is also continuing to rise. In 2013 the readings were 1.8 to 1 and now, 2.4 to 1.

Old Business

Paul N4CE, suggested at Field Day this year to only set up one CW & Phone station due to lower turnout of members for setup/teardown and to operate the station.
There will be a Field Day Committee Meeting June 20th 7pm at the Red Cross.

New Business

Bill N8KSG has researched getting the club 501C3 Non-Profit Statue using Legal Zoom. The fee for this should be \$99. Motion made and seconded to get the Club 501C3 status.
Bill N8KSG, mentioned setting up a Go Fund Me account to help fund the 147.345 repeater upgrade. Listing the info in other local club newsletters and with the ARRL are other options to help get the word out for additional help with the costs.

Program

Roger W4AYO, gave a very interesting program on Grounding and Bonding

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm. Motion made and seconded.
Respectively submitted by Trey Belton W4SH