



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Hello everyone! My article is going to be a little shorter than most months this time around. While many of you are at El Parral for the social, I am packing my bags for vacation getting ready to head out bright and early tomorrow morning. I figured I'd better take a couple minutes to get my material to Michael before I left though.

I mentioned last month that the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been introduced in the US Senate, so if you haven't done so yet, please do so on-line at <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>.

In August, we have received no new pledges for the repeater and we are kind of at a stand still. Now that we have been granted IRS 501c3 tax-exempt status, it is a good time to consider being part of this important project. I've said it before: The long-term health of the 147.345 MHz repeater is at stake, and it is too important a task to be left to the 12 pledges so far.

Be sure to attend the club meeting on Tuesday, October 17 at 7 pm at the Salvation Army building at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73,
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. The October 17th meeting will be 7pm at The Salvation Army facility on 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

Asheville Radio Museum Surplus Equipment Sale

More than fifty amateur and home/farm radio items will be sold from the museum's storage unit in Asheville on Saturday, September 16 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Please see <https://www.avlradiomuseum.org/surplus> for an item listing, directions and complete details.

FreeGate 2017

Qorvo Amateur Radio Club presents a free tailgate swapfest! No admission fee and no space rental! A paved parking lot and indoor toilets will be provided. You provide everything else: tables, canopies, power, drinks, food and merchandise. September 23, 2017 starting 8:00 AM at the Qorvo Headquarters (formerly RFMD) back parking lot only, 7628 Thorndike Rd. Greensboro, NC 27409. This is not a rain or shine event. Check back in the event of inclement weather. Website is <http://kd4rf.org/> . Talk-in is 145.250MHz, PL 88.5Hz. For more information, contact info@kd4rf.org .

South Carolina Section Convention

On Saturday, October the 7th, the York County Amateur Radio Society (YCARS) will sponsor an ARRL Convention at New Kirk Baptist Church located on 175 Museum Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730. Website: <http://www.ycars.org> Talk-In: 147.030- (PL 88.5). Public Contact: Andy Kunik , AE8J, 1625 Restless One Lane, Rock Hill, SC 29730. Phone: 803-324-4024. Email: Akunik@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 Virginia 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)

Mike Lewis

Mike, KD4CSJ, S K, 8-27-14, Another dear friend I could write a book on! He loved ham radio more than anyone I know. I talked with him every day. He seemed to monitor every ham frequency, and loved 6 meters; he was our net manager as long as he lived. His wife Fran, KE4PGR a ham, his family and Church was two things that came before ham radio.

2018 Club Officers

We are approaching the time of year to nominate a slate of officers for the coming year. If you would like to be a candidate for one of the following positions, (President) (Vice President) (Treasurer) or (Secretary) please contact Peggy KJ4ANA, Paul N4CE, Jamey K4RVJ or any present club officer.

SPEAK UP: FCC REVIEWING ITS REGULATIONS

The FCC is looking to change some of its technical regulations and wants to hear from you. If you have suggestions or an opinion on technical regulation reform for radio, you have until October 30th to let the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology know about it. The FCC's Technical Advisory Council has opened a public inquiry, looking to either update existing regulations or adopt new ones. The FCC wants the council to single out any rules that are obsolete or in need of being brought up-to-date. The Council also wants comments on how the agency's regulatory process on specific technical rules could become more efficient. The agency stresses that the issues being considered are those of a technical nature.
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If you have an opinion on this or want to share thoughts, file your comments in ET Docket 17-215 using the agency's Electronic Comment Filing System. You can get additional information from Walter Johnston, the TAC working group's FCC liaison or Greg Lapin N9GL, who chairs the ARRL RF Safety Committee and represents the ARRL on the Council.

Again, keep in mind that deadline of October 30th.

Meanwhile, the FCC has updated its regulations as they affect wireless devices, radio-controlled models, medical implant devices and personal locator beacons. At the same time, the agency moved to allow new digital applications for the General Mobile Radio Service, setting up intervening channels and extending licenses from 5-year terms to 10 years. The agency also gave additional channels to the FRS, allowing greater power on certain channels, up to 2 watts as well as CB radio operators being given permission to use hands-free headsets.

(FCC, ARRL)

FT8 Mode is Latest Bright Shiny Object in Amateur Radio Digital World

It's still in beta testing, but FT8 — the latest digital bauble to capture the imagination of the Amateur Radio community — has been luring away many of those already using the popular JT65 “weak-signal” mode. FT8 is included in a beta release of [WSJT-X](#), version 1.8.0-rc1. Among its biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, meaning quicker contacts. The [notes](#) for the “candidate” release say that FT8 offers “sensitivity down to –20 dB on the AWGN channel.” Contacts are four times faster than with JT65 or JT9, and an entire FT8 contact can take place in about 1 minute.

The new mode is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's 8-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Unlike JT65 or JT9, transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. Like JT65, FT8 requires accurate time synchronization. An auto-sequencing feature offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

“FT8 is an excellent mode for HF DXing and for situations like multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable,” Taylor's release notes assert.

The beta release came out just days before the July CQ VHF Contest and proved to be a boon to many operators who took advantage of FT8 on 6 meters. In a limited outing for the CQ VHF, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, made 22 FT8 contacts on 6 meters, “during which the FT8 software reported SNRs from my receiver below –10 dB (measured in a 2,500-Hz bandwidth). Some of the 22 QSOs may have been difficult to complete on CW.”

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Enthusiasts will have to wait a little longer for Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) to accept FT8 contacts as FT8 contacts. Because FT8 is still in beta, it has not yet been added to the ADIF tables. [Configuring TQSL](#) to automatically map FT8 contacts to "DATA" will enable users to upload FT8 contacts now, and confirmations will be valid for DXCC Digital, VUCC, WAS Digital, and WPX Digital awards. A new TQSL configuration will be released once the new mode has been accepted to ADIF, which could happen within a week.

Operational documentation for FT8 has not yet been finalized. "We know that the advent of new mode FT8 means that new material is needed for the *User Guide*," Taylor told the Yahoo [Meteor Scatter and Weak Signal Group](#) this week. "We will be working on that in the near future."

A new [Facebook group](#) has been established for FT8 experimenters.
(ARRL website)

THE WORLD OF DX

Tev TA1HZ and Golkem TA7AZC are in Morocco until the 13th of September as CN2HZ and CN2ZC respectively. They will participate in WAE DX - SSB Contest with their CN callsigns. Their logs will be uploaded to LoTW. The QSL manager for CN2HZ is LZ3HI. For CN2ZC please send directly to TA7AZC.

Be listening for Hans PA3HGT operating as 3B8/PA3HGT from Mauritius through the 22nd of September. He is on the air holiday style on 40/20/10 meters using SSB and possibly some digital modes. Send QSLs via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

If you're a fan of Special Events, you can contact a group of Colombian operators using the special callsign 5K300PF through the 15th of September. The hams are commemorating the visit of Pope Francis. They are operating on all modes and bands. Send QSLs via HK1X.

Be listening too for Bodo DF8DX active from Algeria as 7Y0A from the 11th of September to the 22nd. Bodo will be on the HF bands using SSB as well as CW. QSL via info on QRZ.com.

(OHIO PENN DX BULLETIN)

KICKER: SUMMITS IN THE SKY??

If you remember the time you took that big leap into ham radio, perhaps you can relate, even a little, to Rob KC6TYD, Troy W7BIG and Mark AF6IM. When these three took their leap as amateurs just a few weeks ago, it was out of an airplane flying at an altitude of twelve thousand feet over Tracy, California.

Parachute Mobile Mission 28 in late August marked the team's latest try as Parachute Mobile operators, activating a piece of the sky for their very own twist on Summits on the Air.

Rob said the four jumps made at Skydive California consisted of three operations on 2 meters with the last one being an HF activation on 20 meters. The team logged a total of 62 contacts, 12 of them on HF. Although almost all the stations they logged were in and around central California, the team did score a contact in Florida which -- yes -- counts as DX.

Rob said that the hard part wasn't the jump itself but getting ready to go on - and in - the air. Setting up the gear and completing the safety checklist and manifest can take up to 30 minutes, with another 30- to 40-minute wait for an airplane. Then - the pressure is on! "Keep in mind," he told us, "the jumper only has about a ten to fifteen minute window to make as many QSOs as possible."

The team isn't quite done yet. Mission 29 is is next on the agenda, and that's in a few short weeks. It's scheduled for October 21st. Visit their website parachutemobile.wordpress.com for more details. As Rob noted, plans for that are anything but up in the air.

(PARACHUTE MOBILE, ROB FENN KC6TYD)

08-15-17 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:

Social will be held on September 9th at El Parrel in Eden from 6pm to 8pm

Swapfest:

Michael KF4LIK will send a donation to Community Baptist Church for the use of their facility for the club's Swapfest.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Nothing to report

Technical:

No work has been done on the 147.354 repeater in the last month. Bill N8KSG and Mike WA3RFE did mow the site. Bill N8KSG will try and get Wires-X reconnected and back in operation soon

Old Business

Changing the meeting time to 6:30PM was discussed due to the Salvation Army closing at 8:30pm It was decided to currently leave the meeting time at 7pm for now unless time becomes an issue.

Bill N8KSG discussed the repeater fund and at the time of the meeting, the club needs \$2,800 more to reach our goal. Possibly will solicit local businesses for donations and look at other means for funding.

The Club is still waiting for the 501C status to be finalized.

New Business

Bill N8KSG discussed the Ham Radio Parity Act and how it affects us as Amateurs.

Bill N8KSG reminded the members that elections are coming up in November and a committee to select new officers is needed.

Paul N4CE reminded members about next year's Field Day and asked the members to be thinking about a new location since the Red Cross will no longer be available.

Discussed the status of the 146.850 machine and possibly moving it to the other side of the Red Cross from the food pantry area.

Program

Tim WD4GXD gave a presentation on Ultra Wideband Antennas with a very interesting example of a pizza pan antenna.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 7:52pm and seconded.

Submitted by Trey Belton W4SH