



Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Hello everyone. I hope you all have been catching up with mowing and gardening since we have gotten a reprieve from the rain brought courtesy of Hurricane Florence. It had been two weeks since my previous mowing, so it was quite unwieldy before it got done yesterday. Who knows what we will get for the last two days of summer, and into the fall season which is nearly upon us.

This was an update from the August message, but since we did not issue a newsletter I at least wanted to give you the information:

Well, if you had noticed, we were running 147.345 on the backup repeater for a few weeks. After the repair in June, we were running on the Yaesu DR-1x, and the results afterward were very good. Bob, AF4TZ had a Henry amplifier that we installed in early July, and that helped things even more, but the medium power setting on the repeater would not drive it to full output. A week or so later, we used the Yaesu alignment procedure to boost the output on the medium setting to optimize the drive level, but after reassembling the repeater would not transmit any output. We also suspected we had inadvertently gotten the frequency slightly off target while trying to figure out how to navigate the menus. After several attempts and some crafty sleuthing by Bob, I am happy to say that the System Fusion repeater is back online connected to the Wires-X system. I hope you take the time to explore and find new contacts around the world by using Wires-X.

At the August meeting I gave a presentation summarizing our long journey toward upgrading the antenna and feed line on the 147.345 mHz repeater. This highly successful project is a testament to what can be achieved with a plan and commitment. I can only hope that my retirement fundraising ends up going this well! We have been getting hams checking in on the repeater from much greater distances now – some as far as the other side of I-85 over toward the Virginia coast! We even have one ham who reports they heard 147.345 in Newport News! I have heard of several newer hams who are planning to be at our meeting, so be on “good behavior”!

Thanks to all who came out to El Parral last Saturday for our social. We had 24 in attendance – probably our largest gathering yet! The food was great, but the company was even better. Remember that we will not have a regularly scheduled meeting in September since we had the social

Please make every effort to attend our next club meeting at the Salvation Army building at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16th. We will be voting on a change in our bylaws, and you can preview the proposal made at the August meeting at www.n4iv.org. Click on the red link in the center of the page. A brief summary of the proposed changes is...

...Article II, sections A and E, clarified Board of Director members and meeting expectations. Article III, section D, removed all references to term limits of Officers. Article V, section A, removed location of meeting from text to accommodate changes, removed limit to the number of consecutive terms an officer may serve, Article 7, section A, removed non-staffed nor operational standing committees, section 3 added to allow other committees when deemed necessary provided someone serves to lead the effort.

Your presence is encouraged to voice your support. Please mark your calendars for 10/16/2018!

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, The Editor.

****** 2018 Membership Drive ******

At present, only 34 members have renewed their dues for 2018. **Please check your records and renew – the club needs your support!**

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 on the 3rd Tuesday night of the month. The October 16th, 2018 meeting will be 7pm at the Salvation Army facility at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

Upcoming Hamfests

10/06/2018 | 66th Annual Rock Hill Hamfest

Location: Rock Hill, SC

Sponsor: York County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.ycars.org>

11/18/2018 | JARSFest

Location: Benson, NC

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.jars.net>



Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org.

Blacksburg SKYWARN conducts a weekly net one Wednesday evenings at 9pm on 146.745 as well as numerous other linked repeaters in SW VA, Northern NC and SE WV. The net is available on Echolink via KF4YLM-R. All stations, regardless of prior SKYWARN training or experience, are welcome. The net provides SKYWARN spotters with information on training events, spotting tools, and severe weather potentials in the Blacksburg County Warning Area.

The full list of FM repeaters on which this net runs follows:

146.745 T107.2 K1GG/R Roanoke/Poor Mtn
147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV
145.130 T103.5 N4VL/R Galax/MtAiry
145.410 T103.5 N4VL/R Roanoke/Poor Mtn
444.600 T103.5 N4VL/R Pulaski
147.420 T103.5 N4VL/L (simplex) Big Walker Mtn / Wythe Co.

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

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 . Weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or cell.weather.gov

RCARC Club 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 8:00 PM RCARC System Fusion Ragchew, 147.345 MHz, C4FM mode

This is a new weekly informal net conducted in Yaesu C4FM digital mode to promote its use. Please put your radio in fixed C4FM .

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
7:30pm	Piedmont Triad Traffic Net	145.150, 100Hz

South Carolina Amateur Radio Volunteers Assist with Emergency Communication

09/16/2018

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (**ARES**) volunteers from several South Carolina counties are pitching in to help support emergency communication, as the state deals with the aftereffects of Hurricane Florence. The storm, now a tropical depression, continues to generate heavy rainfall in the Carolinas.

“Amateur Radio operators are far from ‘amateurs’ when it comes to providing communication in an emergency,” ARES Richland County Emergency Coordinator Ronnie Livingston, W4RWL, said. “Our volunteers here in Richland County have been staffing stations at the Richland County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as well as at the Red Cross, since the requests were first received.”

ARES District Emergency Coordinator EMEA Area 3 Earl Dean, W4ESD, said operators at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) have been keeping in contact with field volunteers in Marion and Dillon counties, after conventional telecommunications failed there. “We were able to deploy assets and personnel, thanks to our volunteers who managed communications between these areas and coordinated with the appropriate agencies,” Dean said.

“South Carolina ARES is fully activated,” ARRL South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Billy Irwin, K9OH, told ARRL in advance of the storm, adding that he’s been coordinating regularly with the SC Emergency Management Division.”

ARRL South Carolina ARES needs additional Amateur Radio volunteers to assist with the response effort and is in discussion with the ARRL Alabama Section to fulfill this need through a mutual aid agreement.

Gordon Mooneyhan, W4EGM, Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club (GSARC), said radio amateurs set up and managed organized communication networks to assist local government and emergency agencies, as well as non-commercial health-and-welfare messaging for residents affected by the disaster, to let family members outside the affected area know they are okay.

On-air operations for National Hurricane Center station WX4NHC, the Hurricane Watch Net, the VoIP Hurricane Net, and SATERN have concluded.

ARRLwebsite, SC Section PIC Tammy A. Livingston, N4TAL

Radio City Announces Closing, Owners to Retire

09/16/2018

Amateur Radio retailer **Radio City, Inc.** of Mounds View, Minnesota, has announced it is closing. “It’s been a wonderful 36 years for us at Radio City, and we have decided to retire and close,” owners Dan, KB0XC, and Maline Fish said in a message on the retailer’s website. “We are so thankful for the many years of support and we have enjoyed working you, our customers. The technical, intelligent and polite conversations plus advice have been invigorating, thus making this decision extremely difficult for us.”

The Fishes said they will shut down by year’s end, “or a bit sooner, as we empty our shelves of new and used materials.”

As part of a “final good-bye tour,” Radio City will attend SMARTSFEST in Cologne, Minnesota, on September 22, and Fallfest in Carlton, Minnesota, on September 29. A good-bye party is set for October 6 at the store.

Radio City said it will wrap up service on any items already in the shop but will not accept any additional out-of-warranty repairs. The store no longer will accept additional consignment items. Those not sold must be retrieved during the week of October 13.

ARRL website

WORLD OF DX

- Claudio, HB9OAU is on the air as SV5/HB9OAU from Karpathos, Dodecanese through the 20th of September. He is operating SSB and FT8 on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via home call (direct or bureau), LoTW or eQSL; also on Club Log.
- Members of the Saudi Amateur Radio Society are marking Saudi Arabia's 88th National Day by being on the air from the 16th to the 30th of September with the callsigns HZ88ND, 7Z88ND and 8Z88ND. They will be operating from Riyadh. The celebration marks the September 23rd anniversary of the kingdom's unification by royal decree in 1932. QSL via HZ1BF. Look for the logs to be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW.
- Stu, K4MIL, is operating from Guantanamo Bay as KG4SS starting September 25th and through October 9th. Listen for him on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. You will also find him in the CQWW DX RTTY Contest between September 29th and 30th. QSL via home callsign or LoTW.
- Hans, PA3HGT is operating as 3B8/PA3HGT from Mauritius through the 24th of September. He will be on SSB and possibly some digital modes on 40, 20 and 10 meters. QSL via home call, direct or Bureau.

AR Newsline

AN OCCASION TO CELEBRATE AT THE VOA

If you're in the shack anytime on September 22 between 1300 and 2100 UTC, tune to 20 meters or 40 meters and help the Bethany Relay Station of the Voice of America mark the 74th anniversary of its commissioning on Sept. 23, 1944. WC8VOA will be operating a special event station, offering both a QSL card and a downloadable commemorative certificate. Afterward, in another part of the distinctive Art Deco building in West Chester, Ohio, the National VOA Museum of Broadcasting will be hosting a fundraising event from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. local time to support needed building renovations. If you can't get there however get on the air. While WC8VOA's HF equipment and antennas aren't the original ones dating back to 1944, the spirit of VOA history is surely still there on the air.

AR Newsline

Editor's Note: The VOA museum is just north of my hometown, near Cincinnati. As a kid, anytime we drove by the big antenna arrays, I would be fascinated by the sheer size and always wondered what they were used for. Later as a late teen, I discovered the world of Shortwave Radio listening, and this eventually led me into ham radio. Likely, I will know some of the guys operating this special event station. Try to hut them down and get them in your log!

N8KSG