



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

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# *The RockingHAMmer News*

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

**October 2018**

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

## **President's Corner**

Hello everyone. Here all along we thought Florence was going to be the “storm of the century”, only to have a minimal effect upon our immediate area. But then...

It seems we took a much greater wallop from Hurricane Michael (was that Hurricane WA3RFE?) than Florence even thought about laying upon us. I hope that you were one of the fortunate few who never lost power during the storm. While impact at my household was limited to about 53 hours without power, water, and some lost food, we experienced not much more than minor inconvenience.

Power was lost at my house about 1:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, and a neighbor reported to me that it was restored at 8:30 p.m Saturday evening while we were away. We had plans to attend the Oktoberfest up in Hickory, NC, so when reports indicated it would be several days before power would be restored in my area, I decided to make an excursion of it, and I was able to find an inexpensive hotel in Hickory so we made the “spur of the moment” decision stay in Hickory for the festivities as we rode out the power outage elsewhere. Upon return home at noon on Sunday, all was back in order and things were in working condition! One lesson I learned that has been missed over many outages in past years – empty your ice bin in the freezer. When it thaws a bit and refreezes, you have one big jumbo cube that won't fit into any glass!

I know not all were so lucky to have simply lost power for a while. Many in our area are dealing with a substantial amount of damage from downed trees, erosion, and are still without power. The effects along the Florida coastline are hard to fathom. It will be many weeks before basic services are back on line and debris cleared, and possibly years before the rebuild is complete. Keep our friends who were in the path in your thoughts and prayers as the weeks pass.

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](http://www.n4iv.org). Click on the red link in the

center of the page. As I presented in the last newsletter, a brief summary of the proposed changes are...

...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. I hope to see you tomorrow evening!

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.*

*73, The Editor.*

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

At present, only 35 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**

**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](http://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](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) . Weather forecast on a mobile device: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](http://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

## **HAMS RESPOND TO DEVASTATION IN INDONESIA**

A series of earthquakes and a tsunami have left more than 800 people dead and countless more injured in the Central Sulawesi province of Indonesia where amateur radio operators were activated immediately to assist with disaster communications.

A report from Dani Halim YB2TJV, the IARU's new Region 3 Disaster Communication Coordinator said that the 7.7 magnitude quake on September 28th cut off utilities including power and communications. Emergency operations were established about 700 km, or 434 miles, from the quake's epicenter at the Luwuk Disaster Management Agency. Indonesia's national radio society, ORARI, began an emergency net on 7.110 MHz to gather details about landslides and other dangerous conditions. ORARI has also activated a satellite for backup use, much the same as it did during the earthquake that struck in August in Lombok.

A second net was set up on 7.065 MHz because of excessive QRM on the first frequency. Communications were established early on with two mobile stations in Palu, Sutrisno YB8NT and Ronny YB8PR. Atenk YD8MII and Budi were also operating on the emergency net to gather details about landslides. The earthquake was followed by a tsunami and some videos posted on social media showed waves as high as 6 metres, or nearly 20 feet, striking one beach where festival preparations were being made. Everything was swept away.

*AR Newsline, Southgate AR News, IARU Region 1, BBC*

## **INDIAN AMATEURS HAVE BIG PLANS FOR CUBESAT**

November promises to be a big month for the eight members of the development team in Hyderabad, India who built an ExseedSat CubeSat. The 10-centimeter satellite, which carries an APRS digipeater and an amateur radio FM transponder for voice communication, is to be sent into space by the U.S.-based SpaceX company. The satellite is expected to be on a polar orbit, giving it two daily passes over India. Its beacon will be transmitting on 145.900 MHz FM using a TV tuner and a USB dongle.

Gurudatta Panda VU3GDP, one of the development team members, gave the details recently to The Hindu newspaper, noting that the satellite will be especially useful for radio amateurs during natural calamities when communications get disrupted.

An eight-member team worked on the design and construction at Exseed Space Private Limited, which was cofounded by communications engineer Ashhar Farhan VU2ESE. Exseed Space notes on its website that it is in the process of setting up the first contract satellite building facility in India with a focus on nanosats, cubesats and microsats.

Gurudatta is especially aware of the need for communications during weather events and other emergencies. He assisted with radio operations in 2013 when a cyclone hit the Ganjam district in India.

*AR Newsline*

## **Northern Florida ARES Teams Handle Hurricane Duty**

Over the past week, Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) teams in the ARRL Northern Florida Section went on alert and some activated to support emergency communication before and during Hurricane Michael.

Miller Norton, W4EMN, the Communications Watch Officer at the Duval County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Jacksonville, Florida, was monitoring **SARnet** — a UHF-linked repeater network in Florida — when he heard an urgent call for help that needed to be sent to the State EOC in

Tallahassee. All other forms of communication were out, but Norton was able to relay the message to via Amateur Radio. He also passed along messages and requests from the Jackson County EOC to the American Red Cross. Norton said officials in Tallahassee and Jackson County were both “incredibly grateful” for the way the SARnet system functioned during the weather emergency.

Jackson County Emergency Coordinator Ricky Whittington, KD4AST, deployed to the county EOC in Marianna.

“We took a direct hit by the center of the storm at 140 MPH,” he told Clay County ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC) and Public Information Officer Scott Roberts, KK4ECR. “[The] county maintenance building across the road from the EOC was picked up and slammed into the north side and over the roof of the EOC just prior to the eye passing over.”

The incident took out the HF antenna, which has since been restored. Whittington said the internet failed, as did cell service for a while. Hams have been passing material and resource orders to the State EOC via HF and SARnet.

Whittington reported “total devastation of Bay, Jackson, and Gulf counties,” with loss of electrical power and water service, in addition to damage in Franklin, Holmes, and Leon counties.

“[The] *only* mode of communications after the eye came across was ham radio, until we got minimal cell service a few hours ago,” he reported on October 11.

ARES teams in other counties reported activations, although some teams remained in monitoring mode.

- Escambia County ARES activated on October 9 at 2300 CDT to support two shelters — special needs and pet-friendly — until they closed on October 10 at 1700 CDT
- Although the Alachua County EOC activated at Level 1, the ARES volunteers never activated beyond Level 3. However, AEC Susan Halbert, KG4VWI, spent a day at the EOC coordinating with emergency managers in case they needed to open a shelter for local evacuees or for host county operation. No hams were needed for shelters, but one or two shelters opened for outside evacuees.
- The Gilchrist County EOC activated at Level 2 and shelters opened. The local 2-meter repeater was excellent, and no power outages were reported. ARES primarily remained at Level 3 in monitoring mode. Daily nets were held for hurricane weather briefings and the Northern Florida Section Emergency Net on HF was able to provide up-to-date storm location information to the State EOC when it lost internet service.
- Citrus County ARES was called to activate on Monday, October 9, at 5 PM CDT. At that time, emergency managers had opened four shelters, serving 38 clients (and 13 pets). Telephone and internet service remained operational throughout the weather event, although ARES volunteers staffed two shelters on a precautionary basis, as well as the EOC at activation. All shelters closed by 6 AM on Wednesday, October 11. Citrus County ARES volunteers covered two back-to-back 12-hour shifts at the EOC. ARES personnel stood down at 6 PM on Tuesday, October 10.
- Duval County activated to Level 3 monitoring status along with the activation of the Duval County EOC. No shelters opened in Duval County, and there were no reports of serious damage.
- Clay County also activated to Level 3 monitoring, when two tornadoes touched down in the county. No shelters were opened, and no official activations were requested.

*ARRL Website*