



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Trees are blooming, mowing season has begun – Welcome to April in North Carolina, and hello to everyone in The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. The tax man cometh! There are only a handful more days to prepare your tax returns on time, and I'm sure a few reading this will be working feverishly to get them done on time.

It was nice to see many of you at Ruby Tuesday last month for our social. I believe we had 26 in attendance for the gathering, and I know there were at least two new faces to put with voices, along with many regular attenders. Our next social will be in June, so get ready!

April and May mark a busy time for the club each year. Last week, Mike3 WA3RFE and his team of volunteers descended on Reidsville to support communications for the annual MS-Walk, and they successfully provided the organization with the help they sought. Thanks to Mike and all who participated in this event. During the MS-Walk, the group used the newly installed 146.85 repeater on the Annie Penn Hospital, and I hear it performed well! We also need to extend thanks to Mike3 and Patrick, K2CPR, for making the time a few weeks back for spending part of their Sunday installing the equipment on the roof of Annie Penn. There was much concern over the potential interference from a paging system onsite, and while it may overload the repeater on occasion, it hasn't been too great of a problem. Reports from the MS-Walk indicate that no interference was experienced during the event, so was that just luck or is the issue more localized to those close to the hospital, not getting into the repeater input itself? Time will tell, but this no location surely beats the performance when it was in service at the old Red Cross location, so we had nothing to lose by trying. I will also add, I can bring the 146.85 machine up from time to time while mobile out in Patrick County, VA. I wouldn't be able to do that in the past, and from my home QTH I am sure I could hold a QSO with a bit of white noise on my signal – not too shabby!

Remember to plan for Saturday May 11th as the club will be hosting our 15th annual RCARC Swapfest at the Community Baptist Church, 509 Triangle Rd. in Reidsville from 8 am until noon. Paul, N4CE and

Roger, W4AYO need people to show up early to help set up for the event, and a few afterward to help with cleanup. As most ham fests have experienced, we have noted a decline in attendance over the years, so we are trying a new format this year with no admission charge. Instead, we are opting for donations, so encourage all hams you know to attend, and mention to bring some extra cash to help support the club. Please get the word out at any and all meetings, ham fests, and nets that you may check into. If you head to another ham fest prior, please print some flyers to place on their communications tables – all ham fests have a table promoting events of interest to all amateurs.

Our next club meeting is next Tuesday, April 16th at 7pm. The location will be the Salvation Army Community Center at 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville as usual. I know there is going to be a very good presentation on feedlines and matching – a topic very few hams would want to miss!

73, Bill, N8KSG

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

PAGE	CONTENT
1 - 2	<u>President's Corner</u>
2 - 3	<u>Club News & Meeting Minutes</u>
4	<u>Events</u>
5	<u>Skywarn, NOAA / NWS</u>
6	<u>Net Information</u>
7 - 9	<u>General Amateur Radio News</u>

***The content headings are now hyperlinks to the specific content.
You can click on the title above and you can jump to that section without scrolling.

CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

No meeting in March.

**** 2019 Membership Drive ****

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2019. At only \$25, RCARC membership is a bargain, and your renewal is CRITICAL to maintaining the activities and club repeater. We have been averaging about 35 paid memberships the last couple years, and many active hams just simply forget to renew, and this creates a strain on predicting how our needs will be met. Please bring a check to the January meeting to renew, or better yet - put your renewal in the mail to the PO box listed at the top of the newsletter today. Thanks!

April Meeting Program

For years we've heard frequent mentions of K4RVJ's "magical 11.5 foot coax" that permits the antenna tuner to match antenna and transceiver on 12 and 15 meters. During the April regular club meeting program presentation, we'll explore why. No math, I promise, so leave your calculators at home.

- Tim Walker, WD4GXD

Drone 160 M Antenna Raising at N4CE's Place

In the afternoon of Saturday, March 23rd Paul (N4CE), Mike3 (WA3RFE) and myself (N4RFX) got together to raise Paul's 160 M antenna up higher in his trees. We used my DJI Inspire1 with a Skymirz Stork payload device attached. The set-up is simple. We place a heavy weight, in this case a very large pin that weighs just under a pound (14.4 oz), on the end of some high strength fishing line and drop it from the drone once in position. Mike3 and I have successfully accomplished this feat for a few other club members (N4RFX (twice), WA4LTY, N8KSG and now N4CE) in the past. It works well and is fairly quick. Here are some photos as well as the link to a video that Paul captured:

Click this link to watch Paul's video: <https://vimeo.com/330213430>



Thank you Paul and Mike3 for the video and stills.

146.85 is Back on the AIR!!

Thank you to Patrick, K2CPR and Mike3 (WA3RFE) for getting 146.85 (tone 103.5) up and running on top of Annie Penn hospital on Sunday, March 24th. As Bill (N8KSG) mention's in the President's Message, "There was much concern over the potential interference from a paging system onsite, and while it may overload the repeater on occasion, it hasn't been too great of a problem. Reports from the MS-Walk indicate that no interference was experienced during the event, so was that just luck or is the issue more localized to those close to the hospital, not getting into the repeater input itself?"

Here are some photos of the 146.85 project contributed by Patrick and Mike:





This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. Computer / internet 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 1st Tuesday of each month.

73, The Editor (n4rfx.1@gmail.com)

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 January 15th, 2019 meeting will be 7 p.m. at the Salvation Army facility at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

Club Socials

RCARC holds a social once per quarter. For 2019 we will gather at Ruby Tuesday in Eden at 6:00 p.m., enjoying dinner together after a few brief announcements. Planned dates for 2019 are March 9, June 8, Sept. 14, December 14, all being Saturdays. Please remember that there is no regular 3rd Tuesday club meeting during the month.

Upcoming Hamfests

APRIL

04/06/2019 | Down East Hamfest

Location: Kinston, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Down East Hamfest Association

04/20/2019 | RARSFest

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

04/27/2019 | Catawba Valley Hamfest

Location: Morganton, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: McDowell Amateur Radio Assn.

Website: <http://cvhamfest.com>

04/27/2019 | RV Radio Network Rally

Location: Linwood, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: RV Radio Network

Website: <https://rvradionetwork.com>

MAY

05/11/2019 | Rockingham County ARC Swapfest

Location: Reidsville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, inc

Website: <http://n4iv.org>

JULY

07/06/2019 | 34th Annual Firecracker Hamfest

Location: Salisbury, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Rowan Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.rowanars.com/events>

07/20/2019 | Mid-Summer SWAPFEST

Location: Cary, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cary Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>

07/27/2019 | WCARS Hamfest 2019

Location: Waynesville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.wcars.org/wcarshamfest.htm>

AUGUST

08/10/2019 | 21st Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Swapfest

Location: Fayetteville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://cfarsnc.org>

08/30/2019 | Shelby Hamfest

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://shelbyhamfest.org>

OCTOBER

10/12/2019 | W4NC Fall-Fest

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W4NC.com>



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 is:

- 146.745 T107.2 K1GG/R Roanoke/Poor Mtn
- 147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV
- 145.130 T103.5 N4VL/R Galax/Mt. Airy
- 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 internet, 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 8:00 PM RCARC System Fusion Ragchew, 147.345 MHz, C4FM mode

This is a weekly informal net conducted in Yaesu C4FM digital mode to promote its use.

Please put your radio in fixed C4FM "VW" Mode.

Monday 8:30PM RCARC 2-meter FM 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 weekly informal net conducted in Yaesu C4FM digital mode to promote its use. Please put your radio in fixed C4FM "VW" Mode.

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 or |
| 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 | 145.250, 88.5 Hz |

Other Amateur Radio News That May be of Interest

THE GOOD OLD HAM DAYS

Getting my first license, My friend and I started studying the technician manual, and practicing C W using a code oscillator, at that time you were required to have solid copy, (at 5 wpm, 25 charters in a row out of 5 minutes, and send at 5 wpm).

The written test for technician included the novice and general theory, so to up-grade you had to solid copy at the rate of 13 wpm, 65 charters out of 5 minutes.

We took the test mid-July 1957 and received our license the 2nd week in September. My favorite band was 6 meters, his was 2 meters.

K4RVJ, Jamey