



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

**President**  
Bill Schwiegeraht  
N8KSG

**Vice-President**  
Roger Joyner  
W4AYO

**Treasurer**  
Paul Patterson  
N4CE

**Secretary**  
Trey Belt on  
W4SH

# *The RockingHAMmer News*

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

May 2019

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

## **President's Corner**

Hello All,

Welcome to the May edition of your RCARC club newsletter. With the leadership of Ralph, N4RFX, I hope you'll find much useful information inside to keep you up to date on club happenings and such.

Are you ready for Saturday May 11th? No, that is not the date of the Dayton HamVention – it is time for our own RCARC Swapfest which will again be held at Community Baptist Church at 509 Triangle Rd in Reidsville from 8 am until Noon. If you haven't volunteered to help with the effort, please contact Roger W4AYO or Paul N4CE this week to see what remains to be done and what help is needed the day of the swapfest. For those who have less time, please encourage any hams you know to stop in and buy something they just can't live without! Let's make this a worthwhile effort for the vendors and tailgaters who stop out to part with their wares. And for we who are forgetful, remember this is the Saturday before Mother's Day – you have been reminded, so no excuse forgetting Mom now!

I was happy to run into a number of our members at the RARSfest in Raleigh during April. I would say that the attendance there has seemed steady for the last few years, and I'm hoping with the format change we're trying out this year that our attendance might get needed spark. Last night I was monitoring the Sunday evening net on 145.15 W5GSO repeater in Greensboro, and the host did announce the RCARC swapfest, and I've heard it on other nets and in general conversation as well, so I'm optimistic this will prove to our benefit.

Have you noticed any unfamiliar call signs on the repeater lately? I know I have met a number of folks – newly licensed amateurs, hams becoming active again, and curious individuals just looking to see what repeaters they can reach out and make a QSO through. Please monitor when you are around, and when you hear someone calling, engage them. This is the single best thing we can all do to help promote RCARC and amateur radio in general. While we all cannot climb towers, put up antennas, and our interests take us in varied directions, engaging other amateurs gets new hams involved and excited, and it

makes experienced hams interested in RCARC and what we do. Tell them about our nets, about System Fusion and digital modes, and invite them to our next meeting! It all adds up to the betterment of the craft.

Our next club meeting is next Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm. The location will be the Salvation Army Community Center at 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville as usual. I hope to see each of you there!

73, Bill, N8KSG

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You can click on the title above and you can jump to that section without scrolling.

## CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Please keep Peggy (KJ4ANA) and Perry in your Thoughts and Prayers. Their daughter has a serious illness that maybe Terminal.

Jamey

### Meeting Minutes

04-16-19

RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7pm

Trey W4SH read the January meeting notes. Approved and seconded.

Paul N4CE read the Treasury Report. Approved and seconded

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

No Report

Publicity:

No Report

Swapfest:

Paul N4CE passed around a list for volunteers to sign up for the various positions needed. Paul also discussed expectations of what was needed to make the event run smoothly.

Historian:

No Report

Equipment:

No Report

Technical:

146.850 is now on the air on top of Annie Penn Hospital and seems to be working well. Currently the squelch is set at a high level to help prevent interference from the Hospital paging system.

147.345 now has an amplifier installed which allowed reducing the output power of the repeater to around 30 watts. This now puts the repeater at 100 watts transmitted output. The crackling sound heard earlier has disappeared from the transmitted signal.

Field Day

No volunteer for coordinator as of the April meeting.

Old Business

Discussed removing the member list from the website and also ideas to improve getting out current information to members more efficiently using different methods. The Club's Facebook page was mentioned as another means to get information out quickly. Motion was made to remove the member list from the Club website leaving the Officers and the Silent Keys still listed.

New Business

Jamey K4RVJ mentioned N3UZ has volunteered to be the lead VE for the Club's VE Team. Any current VE from the most recent team can assist or any others that would like to assist that meet the criteria. This Team will be associated with W5YI.

Program

Tim WD4GDX gave a presentation on Jamie K4RVJ's magic piece of 11.5' coax.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Jamey K4RVJ to adjourn at 8:25pm

Submitted by Trey W4SH

**\*\*\*\* 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!

Thanks to the following Amateurs who have renewed their RCARC membership for 2019. Your continued support is appreciated!

Received as of May 9, 2019. Family memberships \* are listed by the primary call sign

N4JRA	KK4IFG	W4SH	N4ZZC*
W4SIX	WA4LTY	KJ4ANA	WF4I
KF4AX	N1YBH	N2ECS	KE4WSF
KN4ODM*	W4AYO	WD4MKU	KN4PUN
WA3RFE*	K2CPR	KF4LIK*	KF4KPM*
WB4VVY	K4RVJ	WA4RDX	N4CE
KG4CRJ	KI4PRU	N8KSG	KJ4WRE
W3EBM*	WD4GXD	KN4NBH	KX4IQ
AF4TZ	N4SOI	KJ4FWT	N4RFX

Honorary Members:                   W4WBP                   WB4JYC

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 2010 are March 9, June 8, Sept. 14, December 14, all being Saturdays. Please remember that there is no regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday club meeting during the month.

## Upcoming Hamfests

## **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>

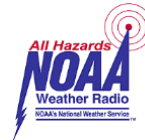


Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: [skywarn.org](http://skywarn.org).

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 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](http://nws.noaa.gov/nwr). For current weather

forecasts on the internet, 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 8:00 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**

I didn't understand much about Sun Spot Cycles at that time, all I knew was 6 meters was the band for me. At least weekly band openings, sometimes daily to all parts of the country. My first DX contact came in my second week, SM7ZM Sweden, after receiving my ticket. The way we could tell if the band was about to open was watch channel 2, if the picture had a lot of snow or weak signal everyone got on 6 meters. There was a channel 2 beam antenna that worked very good on 6 meters. BUT! The band died, so I bought a 8 track tape with random

C W characters from 5 to 20 wpm and after listening 30 minutes every day for one year, I passed the general. (although I had no idea what message was being sent).

K4RVJ, Jamey

### **INTERFERING WITH INTERFERENCE ITSELF**

PAUL/ANCHOR: A group of interference-busting hams in Australia is helping others tackle those troublesome sources of RFI, as Ed Durrant DD5LP tells us.

ED: The latest addition to the Australia-based qrm (dot) guru website is a list of parts to make up a "Kill QRM" kit that will enable a Radio Ham to seek out and hopefully reduce if not remove sources of RFI. While the references are made to buying from a local Australia-wide electronics retailer, the list will be of value no matter where you live.

For clubs in Australia they are suggesting a combined bulk purchase of the items to reduce costs.

The article on qrm (dot) guru states: This QRM GURU Kill-QRM-Kit is an excellent starting point for the equipment needed to find and resolve interference issues. It would be useful to supplement this kit with other items, such as a general coverage portable receiver, an audio recording device and a camera. Many operators already have these items at their disposal. The kit includes the parts needed to create a simple Direction Finding loop antenna which should only take 10-15 minutes to prepare.

There is no one universal solution to resolving interference issues. The way forward may require a combination of the kit items, or more specialised items not listed here. It is a starting point that will allow the investigation to proceed.

The list can be found at the reference in our text script located at arnewsline.org.

<https://qrm.guru/kill-qrm-kit-information-sheet/>

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I am Ed Durrant DD5LP.



## **KICKER: COLORADO SCHOOL LEARNS REALITY OF RADIO RESCUE**

JIM D/ANCHOR: Our final story reminds us that school shootings have, sadly, become a common reality -- but so too has the fact that radio can make a difference even in the face of such horror. Here's Mike Askins KE5CXP.

MIKE: Administrators at one high school outside Denver, Colorado, are true believers in what amateur radio operators have known for years: radio helps save lives. The school is the STEM School Highlands Ranch where on Tuesday May 7th, two students with guns killed one teenager and injured eight other people. It was radio, however, that was credited with getting quick police response. Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said in a recent NBC News report that the school's use of their on-premises police radio got word out about the active shooter situation immediately. That frantic message was, in effect, a broadcast to local law enforcement.

The fact that one of the suspects was in custody within minutes was attributed by experts to a healthy two-way radio link from the campus to the cops. Curtis Lavarello of the School Safety Advocacy Council told NBC that fewer than 10 percent of school agencies have such radio links. He said providing them is as easy as adding police channels to existing radios a school may have or giving the schools unused police radios.

Whether it's cyclones ravishing Asia or hurricanes trouncing the U.S. Atlantic Coast or nightmare situations in schools, radio remains the wireless lifeline for us all. Ask any ham.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Mike Askins KE5CXP.

## **LOOKING FOR NEWSLINE'S NEXT YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR**

JIM/ANCHOR: In the schools and elsewhere, the next generation of amateurs will carry the future of our hobby. If you know a bright young U.S. or Canadian radio amateur who gives of himself or herself to the hobby and the community, nominate them by May 31st to be Amateur Radio Newsline's next Young Ham of the Year. The honor is named in memory of Bill Pasternak WA6ITF. Information about candidate eligibility is available on our website, [arnewsline.org](http://arnewsline.org), under the YHOTY tab. You can download a nomination form there as well. Don't forget, the deadline is May 31st - and that's coming up fast.