



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

**President  
Bill Schwiegeraht  
N8KSG**

**Vice-President  
Roger Joyner  
W4AYO**

**Treasurer  
Paul Patterson  
N4CE**

**Secretary  
Trey Belton  
W4SH**

# *The RockingHAMmer News*

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

November 2019

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

## **President's Corner**

Hello RCARC Members,

Greetings everyone. Let me start explaining how excited I was this weekend when I got a QSL via LoTW for S92HP, Helio Pereira from the Island of Sao Tome (dxcc – Sao Tome & Principe)! It never ceases to amaze me the connections amateurs make from around globe despite cultural, language, and social barriers. That brings my confirmed DXCC count to 153 entities, and though the pace of ATNOs (all-time-new-ones) has slowed down, it is still a thrill when a new confirmation is made. Whenever I make contact with a new dx country or lookup an interesting QSO on qrz.com, I like to use the map feature to zoom on the satellite picture and actually see where my signal is reaching, and who is at the other end of the contact. Often, I will switch to Google Maps & scroll into maximum zoom, and if the region has had “street level” footage recorded, you can actually see the home on the other end. Some decry the fall of QSL card exchanges as an impersonalization of the hobby brought on by the internet, but I feel tools such as QRZ and Google Maps have brought me so much more information about the ham at the other end, bringing me a greater appreciation for that person and their life than a card ever could. I’m sure opinions will vary, but that is my view on it.

The nominations team submitted the following slate for RCARC Officers in 2020:

- Tim Walker – President
- Roger Joyner – Vice President
- Secretary – Jamey Nixon
- Treasurer – Paul Patterson

Others interested in these offices can still be nominated from the floor at the November club meeting, and one can nominate themselves. Who knows; there still is a chance we may need to hold an actual election!

In case of an actual election, we will need to establish a quorum for the election result to be official. The reason I mention it is that I really need good attendance at the club meeting so we accomplish this important task. Our rules toward establishing a quorum are pretty simple, but suffice it to say that a member must have attended at least one of the previous three meetings to count toward the quorum, so if that is you, I am asking you to make the effort to be present in November. This is important! .

I hope to see all of you at the November club meeting to help set future direction of RCARC. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19th at 7 pm, at the Salvation Army building at 708 Barnes St.

73, Bill, N8KSG

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### CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

#### It's Almost Time to Vote – Please Join Us

The nominations committee has presented the following list of RCARC Officers candidates for 2020, and it is being made available for review by the general membership. Thanks to Tim Walker for spearheading this effort! Nominations may still be made prior to the next club meeting on November 19th, and a final call will be made at the meeting prior to the vote, so if you are interested in nominating yourself or another member, the time is drawing near! Wouldn't it be nice to actually hold a real election?

| Office          | Candidate            |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| President:      | Tim Walker, WD4GXD   |
| Vice-President: | Roger Joyner, W4AYO  |
| Secretary:      | Jamey Nixon, K4RVJ   |
| Treasurer:      | Paul Patterson, N4CE |

**We need your attendance at the November meeting as we must have a quorum to finalize the results – please make it a priority to attend!**

## **Meeting Minutes**

10-15-19

### RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Trey W4SH read the minutes. Approved

Paul N4CE read the Treasury Report. Approved

### Committee Reports:

#### ARES/Skywarn:

Nothing to report

#### Publicity:

Nothing to report

#### Swapfest:

Nothing to report

#### Historian:

Nothing to report

#### Equipment:

Nothing to report

### Technical:

No issues reported with 147.345 this past month. 146.850 seems to be working ok with minimal interference from the Hospital paging system. Discussed the possibility of linking 147.345 and 146.850 together and what is needed for this to happen with WireX and otherwise.

Jim KN4NBH mowed the repeater site and it should not need it again this year.

### Old Business

19 people attended the social at Ruby Tuesday in September.

The Clubs VE team has set up the first test session at the Eden Library on November 16th. Registration will begin at 9:30am and testing at 10am. The session will be held in the meeting room at the south end of the Library.

### New Business

#### Slate of candidates for 2020:

Tim Walker WD4GXD, President

Roger Joyner W4AYO, Vice President

Jamie Nixon K4RVJ, Secretary  
Paul Patterson N4CE, Treasurer

The Election will be held at the November meeting

Program

Bill N8KSG gave a program on the Hex Beam antenna

Motion to Adjourn

Given by Jamey K4RVJ at 7:58pm

Submitted by Trey W4SH

### Testing Session

Per Jamey Nixon: The W5YI VE team will be at the **Eden Library Saturday November 16, 2019** to administer the test for amateur radio license. **Registration 9:30 am**, Test starts at 10:00 am, **Test fee \$14.00**. 2 forms of ID is required (with copies) 1 form must have your picture on the ID.

### \*\*\*\* 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 August 19, 2019. Family memberships \* are listed by the primary call sign

|        |          |         |        |
|--------|----------|---------|--------|
| N4JRA  | N1YBH    | K2CPR   | N8KSG  |
| KK4IFG | N2ECS    | KF4LIK* | N3UZ   |
| W4SH   | KE4WSF   | KF4KPM* | KJ4WRE |
| N4ZZC* | KN4ODM*  | WB4VVY  | KN4BBA |
| W4SIX  | W4AYO    | N4RFX   | KK4KFG |
| WA4LTY | WD4MKU   | K4RVJ   | W3EBM* |
| KJ4ANA | KN4PUN   | WA4RDX  | WD4GXD |
| WF4I   | KJ4FWT   | N4CE    | KN4NBH |
| N4SOI  | WA43RFE* | KG4CRJ  | KX4IQ  |
| KF4HX  | KN4AWV   | KI4PRU  | AF4TZ  |

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 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**

### **11/17/2019 | JARSFEST**

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://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 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 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

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**

#### **HAM ISSUES A 10-METER CHALLENGE**

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: When was the last time you were on 10 meters? It might be time again, as Neil Rapp WB9VPG tells us.

NEIL: Is there something magic about 28.400 MHz? Gary K8JCR is hoping so. In recent posts on the QRZ.com forum, he has issued an open invitation to hams everywhere: He writes: "Get Back On Ten Meters." His QST is inspired by a 10 meter QSO he had in October with a friend in Ohio that ended up being joined by a ham in northern Florida. That pleasant surprise got him thinking about the possibilities of the band, which he believes most hams rarely think about and don't really appreciate. He calls 10 meters one of radio's "greatest treasures."

Since then he's been monitoring 28.400 MHz as much as he can in the hopes of finding others who want to keep the band alive and busy. He has also devoted a website to this activity. It's at [geton10meters dot yolasite com](http://geton10meters.yolasite.com) - with the "ten" written as "one" and "zero" ([geton10meters.yolasite.com](http://geton10meters.yolasite.com)). The website considers all the possibilities the band can hold.

Imagine getting Worked All States on 10 meters?

It could happen, Gary says, but only if hams act to keep the band alive. As Gary notes on his website: "Use it or lose it."

### **KICKER: NO 'STRANGER THINGS' THAN HAM RADIO AND SCI-FI**

**MIKE:** Mike Baxter Kay Ay Zero Ex Tee Tee (KA0XTT) returns to the living room screen in January as the American TV sitcom "Last Man Standing" with Season 8. Until then, however, how have TV fans in the U.S. been getting their ham radio fix? They've turned to Netflix and the popular sci-fi horror web TV series "Stranger Things" which made its debut in 2016.

For hams, the show's real stars haven't been the teenage characters growing up in the American Midwest but the vintage radios like the Realistic TRC-214 or the Heathkit DX-60. Most recently in an episode called "Suzie Do You Copy?" there's been a sort of homebrew but very advanced handheld radio created by one of the young characters. The teenager built it - and named it Cerebro - to talk to a girl he met at summer camp. As that episode winds down however he begins to notice he's copying signals coming from Russia. Not bad DX for a handheld. Just remember however that in our own time period of low sunspots this is less science and a lot more fiction.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mike Askins KE5CXP.