



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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WD4GXD

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## *The RockingHAMmer News*

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

### President's Corner

Greetings;

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to the club members who served us all last year by their contribution as club officers, program presenters, swapfest coordinators, net control operators, volunteer examiners and in capacities of organizing social events, newsletter publication, repeater site lawn maintenance, repeater technical support and those who served on various temporary committees. It was only by our mutual and willing efforts that we enjoyed such a successful year.

Here is a list of events and dates planned for this year. Please make advance preparations now to participate in these activities.

### **2020 RCARC Scheduled Events**

January 21	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM (see program note below)
February 18	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
March 14	Maker Faire ~ 4 PM followed by club dinner social 6 PM
April 21	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
May 9	RCARC Swapfest
May 19	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
June 13	Maker Faire ~ 4 PM followed by club dinner social 6 PM
June 27-28	ARRL Field day (@home or as a group---maybe at the coast!)
July 21	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
August 18	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
September 12	Maker Faire ~ 4 PM followed by club dinner social 6 PM
October 20	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
November 17	Regular Club Meeting 7 PM
December 12	Club dinner social 6 PM

Regular club meetings and Maker Fairs are generally held at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville. Club dinner socials are generally at the Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, 706 S. Van Buren Road, Eden. Changes to location, dates or times will be announced on the RCARC Monday two meter net. In-climate weather cancellations will be announced on the club repeaters prior to the event(s).

**The program topic for our January meeting is on the “Copper Loop Antenna”;** a very small but rugged VHF antenna; suitable for deployment in remote, nearly inaccessible locations; capable of either vertical or horizontal polarization.

On December 9, 2019 the Madison repeater was unexpectedly out-of-service. George (WA4LTY), net control operator for that Monday Night Club Net session, immediately activated the net on the Reidsville repeater and conducted an organized and efficient net. Although generally underutilized, stations from Stoneville, Reidsville, Sandy Ridge and Eden were able to check-in and and pass traffic with all stations expressing surprise and relief at the coverage this repeater offered that evening. Base, mobile and portable stations were able to use this repeater that evening. Lesson: The Reidsville repeater may surprise you with its range so use it!

73s  
Tim (WD4GXD)

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## CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Minutes

No minutes, Social December 14<sup>th</sup>

### \*\*\*\* 2020 Membership Drive \*\*\*\*

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2020. 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 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

2/01/2020 | **FrostFest, ARRL Virginia State Convention 2020**

Location: Richmond, VA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society

Website: <http://frostfest.com>

Richard Ernst Community Center, Northern Virginia Community College

02/01/2020 | **CARS Hamfest and Computer Show, ARRL SC State Convention**

Location: North Charleston, SC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://wa4usn.org/>

03/29/2020 | **Winterfest, ARRL Virginia Section Convention 2020**

Location: Annandale, VA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Vienna Wireless Society

Website: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>

04/11/2020 | **Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention**

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

Learn More

Burke County Fairgrounds

04/25/2020 | **Catawba Valley Hamfest**

Location: Morganton, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: McDowell Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://cvhamfest.com>

05/15/2020 | **Dayton Hamvention 2020**

May 15 - 17

Green County Fair Grounds and Expo Center

Xenia, OH

Get Hamvention Alerts – text: Hamvention to 888777



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

#### **SOTA OPERATORS TURN TALENTS TOWARD BUSH FIRE CRISIS**

PAUL/ANCHOR: As the bush fire crisis worsens in Australia, groups of highly specialized amateurs turn their talents toward the crisis. Jason Daniels VK2LAW tells us about these operators who are normally found on high summits.

JASON: In Australia, they're familiar to one another largely as activators and chasers on SOTA summits. Now they are part of the burgeoning roll call of well-known hams supporting emergency response agencies battling the historic bush fires:

WADE: So we've got the two Andrews, VK1DA and VK1AD. We've got compton VK2HRX, Matt VK1MA, Tony VK1VIC/VK2VIC as well. And Graham VK1GVC who has been helping us out in the Fire Control centres as well and myself Wade VK1MIC.

JASON: That was SOTA activator Wade Smith VK1MIC, a volunteer in the Australian Capital Territory VK1 and on the local committee for the state WICEN Group. He and so many other summit chasers and activators are supporting emergency responders by harnessing the creative problem-solving they use on the summits, along with stamina, topographic acumen and the ability to communicate concisely.

WADE: It's a credit to the relationships and to the friendships born through this section of the hobby that we were able to not only step up but we were asked. I think a lot of skills that come through SOTA were seen and recognized for what they were - an asset to the emergency services that we were supporting.

JASON: They are volunteers of all ages, deployed in rotation to sit with Rural Fire Service communicators or assist with logging, relaying weather and welfare, restoring repeaters - even cooking meals. If they weren't part of the emergency services before, they are now - and it puts them on a very different kind of summit.

WADE: It's a horrific tragedy but we're also seeing the very best.

For Amateur Radio Newline I'm Jason Daniels VK2LAW.

## TROPO CREDITED FOR NEW UHF WORLD RECORD FROM SCOTLAND

JIM/ANCHOR: A ham in Scotland is believed to have set a new world record thanks to troposcatter. Jeremy Boot G4NJH has those details.

JEREMY: Troposcatter conditions were tops for a couple of ham radio operators who set what they believe to be a new world record. On the 28th of December, Scottish operator Ian White GM3SEK made contact with D41CV on the Cape Verde Islands using FT8 on 432 MHz. At 4,562 kilometres, or more than 2800 miles, this beats the previous tropo record in IARU Region 1, according to the EI7GL Blog. It is also believed to be a new world tropo record for 70 cm. The path for the contact between the two stations was mostly over water, strongly suggesting that marine ducting played a role. Ian's QTH is on the northern edge of the Irish Sea.

The blog reports that at the same time, conditions were so exceptional that many stations in Ireland and the UK also made good DX contacts with the Cape Verde Islands station using 144 MHz.

For Amateur Radio Newline I'm Jeremy Boot G4NJH

## WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for a team of 8 operators from the UK who are on the air from the Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus until the 7th of January. They are using the callsign ZC4UW and are operating on all bands 160 □ 10m using CW and SSB. QSL via Club Log OQRS.

Listen for the call sign VO2AC which will be in use by Chris VE3FU, Frank VO1HP and Dave VE9CB during the 2020 CQWW 160M CW Contest between January 24th and 26th. They will be operating from the Point Amour Lighthouse, the tallest lighthouse in Atlantic Canada. Expect them to be on the air before the contest, using the call signs VO2AC, VO1HP/VO2 and VO2AAA on 160m as they get their wire vertical array and beverage antenna working.

Fred, WB4M, is on the air as V4/WB4M from St. Kitts between January 5th and 11th. He will be on various HF bands and operating all modes including digital. Send QSLs to his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

In St. Lucia, listen for John, AI6LY, using the call sign J6/AI6LY between the 4th and 11th of January. He will be operating holiday style on various HF bands. Send QSLs to his home callsign.

(IRTS, OHIO PENN DX)