



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

This month, September, the club omits the regular business meeting in lieu of an autumn picnic/social. This club picnic will be held at N3UZ's (Jim) "barn", 660 Butter Road, Wentworth, 5 PM, Saturday, September 12th. No business, no program, just for some good ole southern food and visiting with friends in a less restrictive setting than the local restaurants can offer. The preliminary menu includes brisket (prepared by Jim and Lynn), slaw, potato salad, mac&cheese and dinner rolls. Be sure to **BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE(S)!** This is the same day/location of the VE Test session (9AM - 1 PM) so you'll have time to celebrate your new license privileges before enjoying a fabulous meal with fellow hams. We do need a headcount to assure that there is plenty of food. You can "sign up" with me during any Monday evening net (or whenever you catch me on-the-air) or email me at president@n4iv.org with the number in your family that plan to attend. Be sure that you are current with 2020 club dues! Hope to see you this year.

The RCARC extends special thanks to Jim (KM4MBH) for "paying the rent" on the 147.345 repeater site with his grass mowing expertise. Also, thank you Bill (N8KSG) for all the work you are doing to economize the 147.345 repeater's internet connection.

73s Tim (WD4GXD)

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CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes

Minutes August, 2020 RCARC

The August meeting was held at N3UZ QTH, 10 present.

Roger and Tim discussed lightening grounding for antenna systems, and system failures.

Treasurer report presented to club by Paul N4CE.

20 Astron power supply, (from WA4LTY) now stored at N3UZ QTH.

Bill N8KSG in process of switching wireless at 147.345 to their service.

Nominations committee for 2021 are Bill N8KSG, and Roger W4AYO.

Trey W4SH up-dated QRZ N4IV web-page Trustee Bill N8KSG.

On Sept. 12 The W5YI V E team will start at 9:30 until 11:30, and the Maker Fair will start shortly after test session is completed. Our Social/meeting will also be held at this location, N3UZ, Jim's QTH 660 Butter Rd.

**** 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 July 7, 2020. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign

N4JRA	N1YBH	KF4KPM	N8KSG
KK4IFG	N2ECS	N4RFX	N3UZ*
W4SH	KE4WSF	K4RVJ	N3WKW
W4SIX	WD4MKU	WA4RDX	KN4BBA
WA4LTY	WA43RFE	N4CE	W3EBM

KJ4ANA
W4AYO

KF4LIK
KN4ODM

KI4PRU
KJ4WRE

WD4GXD
WF4I

Honorary Members:

W4WBP

WB4JYC

Please consider **renewing** your membership OR sharing the membership application with non-member local hams. Membership is open to all licensed amateurs. Dues are \$25 annually. To join, fill out the application below or speak with any of our members or officers for more information. Here's the link to the membership application: **Membership Application**

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

09/12/2020 - The Annual Blue Ridge ARS Hamfest

Location: Spartanburg, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://BRARS.CC>

Madison County Fairgrounds

09/19/2020

Richmond Hamfest -- **CANCELED**

Location: Richmond, KY

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: CKARS

Website: <https://www.ckars.org/hamfest>

Learn More

Sevier County Fairgrounds

09/19/2020 - Sevier County Amateur Radio Society

Location: Sevierville, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Sevier County Amateur Radio Society & 470 Amateur Radio Group

Website: <http://seviercountyars.com>

10/24/2020 - CARES 2020 Tailgate Hamfest

Location: Gaffney, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Carolina Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Editor's Note: Most all Hamfests and Conventions for the rest of 2020 have been cancelled within 250 miles of Rockingham County.



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

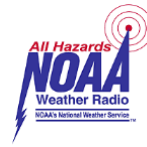
147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV

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

FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

From ARRL website.

08/28/2020

[UPDATED 2020-09-01 @1845 UTC] Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC’s fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

“[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review,” the FCC said in its NPRM. “For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to

automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required.”

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. “Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee,” the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. “For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge,” the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. “The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services,” the FCC said.

The Ray Baum’s Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

ARRL is reviewing the matter and intends to file comments in opposition.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. Interested parties may file comments by using the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open to accept comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

NEXT-GENERATION' RADIO SYSTEM ACTIVE ON ISS

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: We begin this week's report with good news being delivered from some 250 miles above the Earth. The first element of the InterOperable Radio System has been set up and installed on the International Space Station for use in ARISS contacts, replacing the old Ericsson radio system and packet module first certified for amateur radio use in July of 2000.

The new system began its operations on Wednesday, September 2nd, in FM cross-band repeater mode with an uplink frequency of 145.99 MHz and an access tone of 67 Hz. The downlink frequency is 437.800 MHz. It's been a bit of a wait for this next-generation system, which was years in the making. In March, it rode the SpaceX CRS-20 resupply mission to the ISS from Kennedy Space Center.

Its creation was the culmination of five years of work by ARISS' volunteer hardware team.

With its higher power radio, APRS capabilities, voice repeater and slow-scan TV system, it is expected to have a profound impact for hams, students and even members of the public watching future ARISS events. (ARISS)

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for Reiner DL2AAZ who will be operating with the special call sign 9H3SAT in Malta throughout September. Reiner will be on the HF bands and 6 meters as well as the

QO-100 satellite, using CW and SSB. Send QSLs to his home call.

In Iceland, you will find Norbert DJ7JC using the call sign TF/DJ7JC until October 18. He is on the air holiday style on 160 to 10 meters using CW, RTTY and FT8. Send QSLs via DJ5BWD.

Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club will be on the air with special call sign LZ595IP during the month of September to honor the memory of Orthodox saints. QSL via the bureau. For more details about the diploma program and other certificates visit the club's page on QRZ.com

Be listening for Peter HB9DVG operating as 4L/G4ENL while working at a hydropower plant in Georgia. He will be on the air during his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. It is unclear how long he will be in Georgia. Send QSLs direct to his home call.

(OHIO PENN DX, DX-WORLD)