



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



President
Tim Walker
WD4GXD

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

Treasurer
Paul Patterson
N4CE

Secretary
Furman Lanier
WD4MKU

The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

October 2021
www.n4iv.org

Vol. 19 No. 10

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

The regular club business meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021 at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville at 7:00 PM. Expect to hear a report from the technical committee on progress on the club's VHF/UHF repeaters, an update from the Echolink and Walt Williams memorial investigative groups. Also, Charlie, KO4OTI (chair of the officer nominations committee) submits the committee's nominations for the 2022 year. Charlie welcomes your suggestions for consideration of nominees for all four club offices. You may contact Charlie over-the-air (KO4OTI) or via email him at pastork@hotmail.com with your nominations for the committee's evaluation. Officer elections will take place at November club meeting.

Thanks so very much to Jim (N3UZ), Lynn (N3WKW), Bob (KN4BBA) and Lisa for entertaining us at the September club picnic. The food and company were spectacular! Jim and Bob also took time-out of their busy autumn schedules to fulfill of our grass mowing obligations at the 147.345 repeater site. Please thank them personally. As always, they did a marvelous job.

73s Tim (WD4GXD)

Editor's note: Be sure to read the newsletter to the end. There's an article and link to a short amateur radio related movie.

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

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

***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

Minutes

No Minutes, September was a social gathering.

Club News



"The 147.345 repeater site building and tower base lawn after receiving last month's **Jim-Bob treatment**. Thanks guys, wish our lawns were as well-manicured!"

Equipment for Sale

Folks looking to get an HF station on the air, this is a nearly complete station at a great price, just add one of those antenna thingy's and you'll be good to go.

Icom 718 HF Radio

Icom SM-8 two radio capability desk mic

LDG AT-100 Proll Auto Tuner w/ Icom cable
Icom SP-24 External Speaker
MFJ-260C 300 watt RF dummy load w/ jumper

Price: \$600 for everything. Package deal, will not separate.

Contact: Eddie Durham (KB4WNT) at 41mag1959@gmail.com

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)

A word about a work in progress. A former Rockingham County resident and a former club member, Gary Benson (WA4WGY) and I (N4RFX) are collaborating to possibly create a DMR/Brandmeister Talk Group for Rockingham County. It will not require a DMR repeater.

You'll be able to access it several ways over the internet including:

- Via a DMR radio and a hotspot
- Android or Apple IOS app like Droidstar

I only know of three hams in the club that have DMR radios (Mike (WA3RFE), Bill (N8KSG) and myself. If there are others, please let me know.

So, if you've been wondering about DMR this may be a way for you to start exploring a little bit about it. As this develops, I'll share more details.

- Ralph N4RFX (n4rfx.1@gmail.com)

HAM BOOTCAMP – GETTING STARTED WITH HAM RADIO

With so many new hams getting licensed and or upgraded, the link below can serve as a great resource to supplement what was learned in preparation for the exam. An electronic Elmer if you will. There are many areas not covered on the exam that contribute to learning and practicing good on-air techniques and courtesy.

<https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>

VE TESTING SESSION NEWS

**** Please note:**

*****ATTENTION FCC, VE CHANGES*****

If you or someone you know is looking to take their ham radio test, the FCC will no longer accept SSN on the 605s. It must be an FRN from now on. You can obtain an FRN without having a call.**

You can email veteam@n4iv.org anytime with any questions about testing.

Note From Jim, N3UZ

This is the latest information that we have:

Schedule of Application Fees of the Commission's Rules

The final rule change was published in the Federal

Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/19/2021-03042/schedule-of-application-fees-of-the-commissions-rules>

Even though the rule has been published in the Federal Register and has an effective date of April 19, the Amateur Radio fees "will not take effect until the requisite notice has been provided to Congress, and the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated" **which will most likely be in the summer.**

Thank you

Tracy Dye

W5YI VEC Manager

800-669-9594

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

****** 2021 Membership Drive ******

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2021. 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 2021. Your continued support is appreciated!

Members as of March, 2021. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign					
N4JRA	KO4JRX	KO4HMB	WB4VY	N4CE	KJ4WRE
KK4IFG	KB4WNT	WD4MKU	N4RFX	KO4HLZ	K4SWS
W4SH	KE4WSF	WA3RFE	K4RVJ	KI4PRU	KB4SHP
W4SIX	KO4KWD	KN4YFA	W4JLN	N8KSG	KN4BBA
KJ4ANA	KN4ODM	KF4KPM	WA4RDX	KK1TLS	WD4GXD
WF4I	W4AYO	KI4TFA*	KK4KFG	N3UZ	KN4NBH
N1YBH	KO4OTI	KF4LIK	KJ4CIW	N3WKW	WK4O
Honorary members:					
W4WBP					
WB4JYC					

Please consider **renewing** your membership AND 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

Breakfast

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST and RCARC BREAKFAST will be held on **WEDNESDAY'S at 7:00 am at the Sanitary restaurant**, in Reidsville.

RCARC Meeting

Due to COVID-19 restrictions RCARC meetings normally held the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm, at the Salvation Army 708 Barnes street in Reidsville. An ALTERNATE location will be announced prior to each meeting, while restrictions exist.

Club Socials

Once each quarter a social event will replace our monthly meeting, normally held on that 3rd Tuesday. The months of MARCH, SEPTEMBER, and DECEMBER, the SECOND Saturday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm (Location to be announced) prior to the social.

For the month of JUNE, that social will be held in conjunction with Field-Day.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

It looks like we are getting back to in person Hamfests again. Time to go out and look for a bargain and just have a good time.

10/16/2021 - W4NC FallFest

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W4NC.com>

American Legion Building

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/21/2021 - JARSFEST

Location: Benson, NC

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.jars.net/jarsfest-2021/>

Cabarrus Arena & Event Center - Gold Hall

03/11/2022 - 03/12/2022

Charlotte Hamfest

Location: Concord, NC
 Type: ARRL Hamfest
 Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society
 Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>



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
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

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 |

APPALACHIAN TRAIL ACTIVATIONS LIGHT UP AIRWAVES

JIM/ANCHOR: When POTA, SOTA and Worldwide Flora and Fauna operators activated sites along the Appalachian Trail in the eastern United States recently, the airwaves above apparently blazed a few trails of their own. Dave Parks WB8ODF brings us that report.

DAVE: Saturday, October 2nd was a busy day for Appalachian Trail activations, as more than 60 stations called CQ from points along more than two thousand miles of trail. David, ND1J, and Mike KB7THL operated POTA stations in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, respectively, and Jonathan, W4UYE, and Bob, AC1Z, activated SOTA summits in Georgia and Virginia, respectively. According to organizer Mike WB2FUV, the day ended with at least 25 unique SOTA summits activated and at least 26 POTA participants in 11 of the 14 states. Mike himself was operating QRP CW on West Mountain along the original section of the trail and logged 77 contacts. He said many SOTA stations were also making summit-to-summit contacts with W7A SOTA stations on the 10 point peaks in Arizona.

The event marked the trail's 100th anniversary. But the celebration extended beyond the US: Preliminary results on the event website showed that the farthest DX went to Heinz, OE5EEP/p in the Austrian mountains. He broke through the stateside pileups to work two SOTA stations on the trail.

For Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Dave Parks WB8ODF.

PROPOSAL EYES REMOVAL OF AMATEUR SATELLITE ALLOCATIONS

DON/ANCHOR: A proposal to give radio astronomy operations use of frequencies between 300 MHz and 2000 MHz within the Shielded Zone of the Moon would remove amateur satellite allocations at 435 MHz and 1260 MHz for communications such as those with Lunar-OSCAR 93 and Lunar-OSCAR 94, two satellites in lunar orbits. The proposed changes by the Space Frequency Coordination Group, reported in the online journal, Inside GNSS, would also apply to Mars. According to the article in the journal, the purpose of the proposal is to protect radio astronomy from RF interference. The article identifies several affected projects already in the works, including one from China that would include between 5 and 8 satellites forming a radio astronomy antenna array in orbit around the moon.

(AMSAT NEWS SERVICE, SOUTHGATE, INSIDE GNSS)

HAM RADIO FILM SHORT, 'NIGHT,' COMES TO LIGHT

JIM/ANCHOR: Our final story takes us to the movies—namely to the screening of a short film featuring student actors....and amateur radio! Mike Askins KE5CXP wraps it up for us this week.

MIKE: In 34 harrowing minutes, a world awakens darkened by a sudden and unexplained absence of morning sun. Amateur radio provides a lifeline for a group of terrified children who've discovered they've been plunged into an endless state of midnight. This is the plot of the film short, "Night," which premiered recently on YouTube following its release by John D'Aquino's Young Actors Workshop, a California-based drama school. The workshop had reached out to the Edmond Amateur Radio Society K5EOK for technical assistance to prepare for the filming in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The young actors may all be relative unknowns for now but hams in Oklahoma and beyond might recognize two of the names in the credits: Marcus Sutcliffe, N5ZY, and Kevin O'Dell N0IRW. Marcus gets special thanks for making the connections with the club and Kevin is credited as technical advisor. Kevin, who has an extensive film and video production background, is also featured in a key speaking role as The Colonel, the radio operator the youngsters reach out to for guidance. The Colonel tells them that a nuclear blast has occurred, putting a shroud of darkness between the Earth and the sun.

Written and directed by John D'Aquino, the film is a showcase for the young student actors and was created with assistance from the Oklahoma Film and Music Office. But even within its plotline of darkness and destruction, amateur radio emerges as a shining light and a ray of hope for making meaningful connections in troubled times.

To view the film, see the link in the printed version of this week's script at arnewsline.org

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Mike Askins KE5CXP.

To watch this short film, click the link below or copy it into your browser for viewing:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KF1Q4TS32WWWW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF1Q4TS32WWWW)