



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

With the arrival of 2022 comes the implied reminder that it is time to submit your \$25 annual club membership dues! You may pay in person at our next business meeting on January 18, 2022 at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville beginning at 7 PM. Alternatively, you may pay by mailing your payment (payable to RCARC) to RCARC, PO Box 2264, Reidsville, NC 27323. As an inducement to encourage prompt payment this year, the club will present a \$20 gift card to the member winning the drawing at the February meeting. To qualify for the drawing, submit your payment by January 31, 2022. Roger, W4AYO, plans to present the aborted program from the November meeting this month. Thank you for continuing to support our club with your dues, presence at meetings and participation at club activities. Happy New Ham Year to all!

Tim Walker
WD4GXD
2022 president

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***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, last month was a social meeting.

Club News

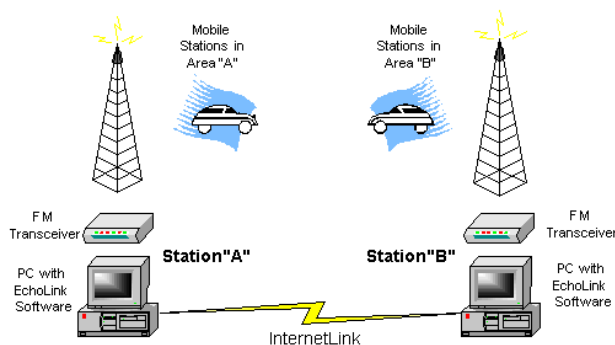
ECHOLINK UP AND RUNNING

By Roger Joyner

After much trial and tribulation, the EchoLink option is now operational on 147.345. I hope it continues that way.

For those of you not familiar with the mode, here is a brief description from the EchoLink website: "EchoLink® software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 300,000 validated users worldwide — in 151 of the world's 193 nations — with about 6,000 online at any given time."

Linking Example



To use EchoLink, you will need a cell phone and the EchoLink app which is available for Apple and Android devices. To access EchoLink on our repeater look under locations for W4AYO-R. You may store it for later use under favorites (the star icon).

Actual operation is straight forward. Once you are connected, just tap the transmit icon at the bottom to transmit and the large microphone icon to stop. You need to remember that there is a delay when using EchoLink. You need to wait a few seconds before keying up EchoLink and wait a few seconds after an EchoLink transmission for the system to reset. Leaving a pause between transmissions in a regular QSO is a good idea in case a EchoLink user wants to join in. Mainly just don't be so quick on the trigger. I hope this new EchoLink set up will prove useful. If you're down at the beach, traveling for work, or you just want to talk to your brother-in-law in Cleveland, EchoLink is your friend.

Editor's Note: Roger, thank you for providing the equipment, building, testing, and implementing Echolink for our repeater.

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) TGIF Network Talk Group

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Gary Benson (WA4WGY) and I (N4RFX) have been working to set-up a Talk Group just for the club for use by those of you that have DMR radios and hotspots. As well as for those of you that are interested in learning about and getting into DMR. Gary, obtained the **TGIF Talk Group 345** for us and it's available for your use now. As stated, it's on the TGIF network via a DMR radio and a hotspot. The TGIF network was chosen because it's currently difficult to get a Brandmeister TG. Brandmeister and TGIF are the most popular networks for DMR, there are several other networks as well.

At the April club meeting I will be doing a brief overview of what Digital Mobile Radio is and some ways to use it locally. I hope that if you are interested in DMR you can attend.

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.](https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/) 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.

**** **2022 Membership Drive** ****

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2022. 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!

RCARC Membership Roster 2022

Members as of December, 2021. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign

N4JRA	N1YBH	KN4ODM	KO4OTI	WA4RDX	N8KSG	Honorary members:
KK4IFG	KM4UHU	KO4HMB	KI4TFA*	KK4KFG	KK1TLS	W4WBP
W4SH	KO4JRX	WD4MKU	KF4LIK	KJ4CIW	N3UZ	
W4SIX	KB4WNT	WA3RFE	WB4VYV	N4CE	N3WKW	
KJ4ANA	K4BYX	KN4YFA	N4RFX	KO4HLZ	KJ4WRE	
WF4I	KO4KWD	KF4KPM	K4RVJ	KI4PRU	K4SWS	
KO4SWH	KO4UZO	W4AYO	W4JLN	KO4UHO	KB4SHP	
N4ZZC	WD4GXD	KN4BBA	KN4NBH	WK4O		

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.

03/11/2022 - 03/12/2022

Charlotte Hamfest

Location: Concord, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

04/16/2022 - Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Website: <https://www.rarsfest.org>

09/02/2022 - 09/04/2022

Shelby Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina Section Convention

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://Shelbyhamfest.com>



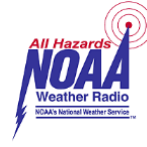
Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org.

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.
 You can now check-in via **EchoLink**, just search for **W4AYO-R** in your EchoLink app.

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
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
	<u>Daily Nets</u>	
• 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

ARRL REDEFINES 'LOW POWER' FOR CONTESTS

PAUL/ANCHOR: The ARRL has redefined what is considered "low power" in its contests. Stephen Kinford N8WB brings us that report.

STEPHEN: New Year's Day marked the start of a new definition of low power for operators in HF contests sponsored by the ARRL. The league now defines low-power as 100 watts or less. Although the ARRL says it made the move to standardize its categories with those in other low-power contests, the league also recognizes that 100 watts is now the most common maximum output of most modern HF transceivers. The previous power limit was 150 watts.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Stephen Kinford N8WB.

(ARRL)

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, be listening for members of the West Bengal Radio Club, VU2WB, in India operating with the special callsign AU2GSI from Sagar Island, AS-153, between the 9th and the 16th of

January. The activation coincides with the Gangasaga Mela Celebration. Be listening on 40, 20 and 15 metres. Send QSLs via eQSL.

Jacques, F6HMJ, is on the air in southern Senegal as 6W7/F6HMJ through to February 22nd. Listen for him on 40-10 metres where he will be using CW and SSB. Send QSLs to his home call.

There's still time to work Andrea HB9DUR who is using the callsign EX0DX from Kyrgyzstan. He is there until the 10th of January. Listen on various HF bands. QSL to his home call, or via LoTW, Club Log OQRS or eQSL.

A small team of operators will be on Friars Island, SA-023, Brazil from January 20th to the 23rd. Listen for ZY6A. The team will be operating on various HF bands. QSL details are on QRZ.COM

The Bouvet Island 3Y0J DXpedition recently announced some replacements in its team. Cezar VE3LYC and Otis NP4G have come on board for the November trip, which is going ahead after the departure of Sandro VE7NY, Laci HA0NAR and Dima RA9USU. The team expects to be on the island for three weeks.

(DX-WORLD.NET, 3Y0J WEBSITE)

THIS SHOPPING LIST INCLUDED A SURPRISE QSO

PAUL/ANCHOR: You never know what's going to happen when you call CQ. One ham in Tennessee found out that if you do it in an unlikely place, using an unlikely method, you may just be surprised at what happens. Here's Skeeter Nash N5ASH with our final story for the week.

SKEETER: There was no doubt about it: Bill Price K4FLH was calling CQ and the sound of his Morse Code practice could be heard loud and clear, everywhere. In this case, "everywhere" turned out to be the inside of the huge Walmart store where he was shopping. Instead of using a keyer, Bill was practicing his CW using the small high-pitched electronic horn that's attached to the riding cart that the store provides for disabled shoppers like him. The horn is there to warn other shoppers of the cart's approach.

Bill told Newsline he's been practicing that way since the summer and he never once thought anything would come of it except improved code practice -- that is, until late December. Bill wrote on Facebook that to his surprise, that day his Morse message caught the ear of another shopper: a fellow ham also using a cart with a horn. What followed was a 10-minute QSO between the two. It ended when they agreed to meet up at the checkout for an eyeball QSO.

Bill not only got his shopping list completed - he ended up with something that wasn't on his list. He wrote [quote] "I now have a new friend." [endquote]

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Skeeter Nash N5ASH.

(BILL PRICE K4FLH)