



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



President
Michael Mansfield
WA3RFE

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

Treasurer
Michael Mosser
K4LIK

Secretary
John Swinney
KB4SHP

The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy March!

It looks like Spring has arrived! Flowers are blooming, grass is growing, and I have the honey supers on the beehives. With the warmer weather, it's a good time to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and activate a park for POTA.

No meeting this month, as we have the social at Turks.

I hope everyone has a great month.

73

Mike WA3RFE

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You can click on the title above and you can jump to that section without scrolling.

CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Minutes

RCARC February 20, 2024, Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes Street

Reidsville NC 27320

Members Present 12

Jim Clark N1YBH, Roger Joyner W4AYO, Furman Lanier WD4MKU, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Michael Mosser KF4LIK, Terry Mosser KF4KPM, Jamey Nixon K4RVJ, Bill Schwiegeraht N8KSG, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SHP, Tim Walker WD4GXD, Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA.

Guest 2, Edith Lanier and Jared Thompson KQ4MSA

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Mansfield at 1915

Program by Bill Schwiegeraht N8KSG on Wires X. Bill went over different parts of the Wires X Function of the Repeater and what it would take to add Wires X back to the 147.345 Repeater. When it was in operation before Bill and some of the other members paid for the internet connection to the repeater. At that time, it was around \$60-\$70 dollars a month. Bill advised this time it can be done by a remote radio set up at someone QTH that had a good coverage to the repeater and would require just a little bit of the members internet monthly. As of right now it is possible it is going to be set up at Barn. Bill advised he would set it up at his QTH to make sure it works like it is supposed to before going any further, He would also let the group know so it can be tested out. IF it is decided to move forward with the project of moving it to the Barn Location a Link Radio antenna and coax would need to be purchased along with possible computer. It would be bought back up before the club members before the items would be purchased.

New Business

Mike Manfield advised the old company had canceled the Clubs General Liability Policy. He Checked with NC Farm Bureau and got a Quote of 651.50 a year. Bill Schwiegerant advised he would get a quote from AARL. John Swinney advises the group he thought it would be in the club's best interest to get policy in effect before the VE Session April 13,2024, 0900 At Jim Smith QTH 660 Butter Road Reidsville NC 27320 at "The Barn".

Social will be Held on March 16,2024 at 1800 at Turk's 1836 South Scales St Reidsville

Only have 4 VE testers that are registered with the FCC New software for the Club, if anyone wants to be a VE contact Jim or Bob.

Treasures Report:

Opening Balance \$ 3752.11

Dues and Donations \$ 518.04

Ending Balance \$ 4270.15

Only have 4 VE testers that are registered with the FCC New software for the Club, if anyone wants to be a VE contact Bob or Jim.

Motion Made by Jamey Nixon K4RVJ it was 2nd by Firman Lanier to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2007 Hrs.

John Swinney KB4SHP

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.

****** 2024 Membership Drive ******

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2024. 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 2024. Your continued support is appreciated!

The following members have paid their membership dues for 2024. Paid up for two years (2024-2025)**

| | | |
|--------|--------|-------|
| KF4LIK | KN4YFA | N1YBH |
| KI4PRU | KO4OTI | N4CE |
| KJ4CIW | KX4IQ | N4RFX |

Honorary members:

W4WBP

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

The monthly meeting is at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville. The meeting begins around 7:15 PM.

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's time to go out and look for a bargain and have a good time.

04/06/2024 - Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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

Robinhood Road Baptist Church

04/13/2024 - Winston-Salem Springfest

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: www.w4nc.com

1st PH Church

05/04/2024 - UnFest

Location: Goldsboro, NC
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Wayne County Amateur Radio Assoc.
Website: <http://www.k4cyp.com>
Salisbury Civic Center

07/13/2024 - Firecracker Hamfest /Salisbury, NC

Location: Salisbury, NC
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Rowan County Amateur Radio Society
Ritter Park

07/20/2024 - 51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest

Location: Cary, NC
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Cary Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://caryarc.org>
Smokey Mountain Event Center (Former Haywood County Fairgrounds)

07/20/2024 - WCARS Hamfest

Location: Waynesville, NC
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://wcars-club.org/>

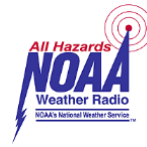


Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org.

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 8:30PM 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 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

#####BREAKING##### - Bob Heil (K9EID), Silent Key

As Newline was released Friday morning, we learned of the unfortunate passing of Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID.

This is the statement from the Heil Ham Radio page: Our beloved founder, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, is now a Silent Key. Bob fought a valiant, year-long battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family. Bob's lifelong passion for amateur radio was clear to everyone involved in the hobby. Everything Bob did for the betterment and growth of amateur radio - from his instructional handbooks and countless presentations to his support of the ARRL and youth programs - was based on the foundation and spirit of service. Bob was an Elmer to all of us. While Bob's presence will dearly be missed, his impact on the hobby and everyone in it will forever be felt. On behalf of Bob to all ham radio operators worldwide, 73.

Be sure to listen to next week's newscast for an expanded remembrance of Bob.

For Amateur Radio Newline, Paul Braun WDGCO

VINTAGE RADIO MUSEUM'S HAM SHACK IS BACK ON THE AIR

NEIL/ANCHOR: A beloved radio museum near Dublin is QRV again. Here's Jeremy Boot G4NJH with the good news.

JEREMY: Amateur Radio Station EIØMAR is back on the air from the Ye Olde Hurdy Gurdy Museum of Vintage Radio near Dublin. Two powerful storms in early January left its antenna unusable and the museum went silent for about three weeks. Tony, EI5EM, who holds the callsign

for the museum station, told Newsline in an email that the historic site did not stay idle for long thanks to Tom May, EI9LA, who donated an X8Ø vertical antenna that he had not been using. Tony and Joe, EI2JZ, installed the replacement antenna, swapping out the coax at the same time.

Challenging weather is a way of life at the historic tower that houses the museum. The location overlooking Howth Harbour played a key role in the pioneering days of wireless where both Lee de Forest and later, the Marconi Company, carried out numerous experiments. The museum is open on weekends from 11 am to 4 pm local time.

This is Jeremy Boot G4NJH.

OLDER STARLINK SATELLITES MARKED FOR DEORBITING

NEIL/ANCHOR: Starlink has announced it is deorbiting 100 of its older satellites in the interest of safety. Travis Lisk N3ILS brings us the details.

TRAVIS: SpaceX will be deorbiting 100 Starlink satellites launched in 2019 and 2020 to prevent them from becoming hazards in low Earth orbit, the company said recently. While deorbiting satellites is not uncommon for Starlink, these so-called "controlled descents" are deemed necessary because the company has identified a defect that could cause issues. SpaceX did not specify what the defect was but said that the 100 satellites risk becoming unavailable for further maneuvering and must be taken out of service. The deorbiting is to occur gradually over a period of months, with the satellites retaining maneuverability throughout the process. Starlink, which is owned by Elon Musk, maintains the largest satellite constellation in orbit. SpaceX said that removal of these older satellites will not have an impact on Starlink's broadband services.

This is Travis Lisk N3ILS.

PEDESTRIAN MOBILE BECOMES A WALK IN THE PARK

NEIL/ANCHOR: For our final story this week, we visit a Wisconsin amateur who decided to put his portable antenna up front - way up front - and carry it where he could see it: on his chest. The results surprised and delighted him, as we learn from Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

KENT: For the past year or two, activating POTA has been a walk in the park for Martin KØBXB. After more than six decades of amateur radio from his home shack, he discovered that operating portable could give him an even bigger shack and a chance to channel his good engineering talent into creating an efficient way to deploy his antennas and his gear in the great outdoors. Most recently, he took that a step forward - actually a few huge steps forward - and that's what led to the walk in the park: He started operating pedestrian mobile. Carrying his gear in a light backpack, he said most of his pedi-mobile trips have lasted an hour or two, working stations in the US and Canada. His 5-watt CW signal has even grabbed an occasional DX from whatever park he may be at in Wisconsin.

Ever the tinkerer, Martin believed he could make a good thing even better. He was troubled by lack of access to the antenna, which was mounted behind him. So he decided to move it to the front where he could see it by adding a wearable breast panel. He said that using an operating power of 5

watts, he wasn't necessarily concerned about a radiating antenna being inches from his head.

On Friday, February 16th, Martin did his first field test of the new configuration and proclaimed it a success: His first QSO was a park-to-park contact on 20 meters with Drew N2AKJ, in New York, some 774 miles away. He told Newsline in an email: [quote] "That little setup that I was testing when I talked with N2AKJ was my best yet." [endquote] He said a few more activations have followed since then and he called them [quote] "some of the most fun activations to date." [end quote]

While pedi-mobile is not his preferred activation method, he told Newsline that he intends to quicken his pace. In fact, with his newest configuration he's certain to be putting his best foot forward.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.