



Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
N4IV



President Paul Patterson - N4CE	Vice-President Furman Lanier - WD4MKU	Treasurer George Brewer - WN4LTY	Secretary Tom Cox - KB5SYK
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# The RockingHAMmer News

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[www.rcarc.com](http://www.rcarc.com)

## President's Corner

I hope everyone had a happy Easter. I think Spring is finally here. When it's not raining, I know I plan to be finishing up some much needed work on some antennas. Need to get those done before all the yard work kicks in, hi hi.

The club will be participating in a number of upcoming events including our own swapfest next month. Please ask George - WN4LTY or Lamarr- WB4VVY how you can help. Also, be getting the word out on area nets you may check in or in QSOs you have.

I'm sure you have noticed that the 147.345 club repeater is up and sounding good. Thanks to several club members donating parts. If you like what you hear, please tell Tim thanks for all his efforts in getting it back on the air.

73  
Paul Patterson  
N4CE

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**About the Newsletter :** *This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. Computer/inter-net 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.*

*73, KF4LIK, Michael, your editor*



Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: <http://www.skywarn.org> . For a guide to reporting weather, see the website <http://www.wx4rnk.org/guide.html> .



## 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

**162.550** MHz    WXL58    RALEIGH NWS    PIEDMONT & CENTRAL N.C.

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). Other SAME numbers can be found at:

[nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm](http://nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm) . Complete information is at NOAA's website: [weather.gov/nwr](http://weather.gov/nwr) or [nws.noaa.gov/nwr](http://nws.noaa.gov/nwr) . For current weather forecasts on the inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) .

You can use either of the following URLs to access your complete weather forecast on a mobile device:

**HTTP** enabled wireless devices: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov)

**WAP** enabled wireless devices: [cell.weather.gov](http://cell.weather.gov)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **RCARC Meeting**

The RCARC meets the 3rd Tuesday night of every month at the Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Hwy 14 at 7:00PM. The next meeting will be on April the 16th, 2013. For more information on the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, please contact [N4IV@rcarc.com](mailto:N4IV@rcarc.com)

### **Rockingham County Swapfest**

The ninth annual Rockingham County Swapfest will be sponsored by Rockingham County A.R.C. on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 12 noon at the Reidsville Christian Church (parking lot and shelter) 2020 S. Park Drive, Reidsville, N.C. 27320, off of Freeway Drive near Reidsville High School. Talk-in is on the N4IV repeater, 147.345 MHz PL-103.5. For more information, please see the website link: <http://rcarc.com/SF2013.html> .

### **Freestate 2013**

The RFMD Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a free tailgate swapfest on Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the RFMD Headquarters (back parking lot only) located at 7628 Thorndike Road, Greensboro, N.C. 27409. Talk-in is 145.250 MHz, PL 88.5Hz. Email contact is [info@kd4rf.org](mailto:info@kd4rf.org). Check [kd4rf.org](http://kd4rf.org) for updates.

### **DurHAMfest**

The Durham FM Association will be sponsoring a hamfest on May the 25th, 2013, at the Little River Community Complex located at 8307 North Roxboro Road, Bahama, N.C. 27503. The website is <http://dfma.org> . Talk-in is 147.225. The public contact is Paul Van Doren , KE4OXN, 5309 Falkirk Drive, Durham, N.C. 27712. Phone: 919-309-2457. E-mail: [elivand@aol.com](mailto:elivand@aol.com)

### **Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest**

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a hamfest on June the 6th, 2013, at Summit School, located at 2100 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, N.C. The website is <http://w4nc.com> . Talk-in is 146.64 (PL 100). Public contact is Henry Heidtmann , W2DZO, 8812 Merry Hill Court Lewisville, N.C. 27023, Phone: 336-464-5402. E-mail: [hgheidtmann@gmail.com](mailto:hgheidtmann@gmail.com)

## **BREAKFASTS**

TUESDAY – 7:00am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville  
THURSDAY - 7:00am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

### **RCARC Social**

The RCARC Social will be held on Saturday, April the 20th at 6:00PM at Santana's Restaurant located at 436 E. Stadium Drive in Eden. This is located in the former Meadows Greens Country Club, across from Central Elementary School.

## **VEC TESTING**

The regularly scheduled VEC testing is held on the last Saturday of each odd-numbered month at the Eden branch of the Rockingham County Library located at: 598 S. Pierce St., Eden, NC. Registration begins at 9am, testing starts at 9:30am. For more info: <http://rcarc.com/vesched.html> (including the fee).  
The next VEC testing will be on May 25, 2013.

## AREA NETS

**Monday 8:00PM Southside 2-meter net 146.700 MHz 107.2 tone**

The Virginia Southside net meeting is held each week. Quite a few of our Virginia members check into this net. The repeater should be accessible to most of us. It is used to provide net business and for announcements. Let's support our neighbors up north.

**Monday 8:30PM RCARC 2-meter net 146.850 MHz 103.5 tone**

This club net is a weekly meeting for announcements, business, and comments. We will use **147.345 MHz, 103.5 tone** if the 146.850 is unavailable. Please make it a priority to check into our net. Jamey, K4RVJ, and Mike, KD4CSJ, are looking to fill empty NCS slots. Thanks for your help.

## OTHER 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	45.150, 100 Hz
Sunday 9:30pm	Central NC Traffic Net	146.820, no tone
Monday 8:00pm	Randolph County Net	147.255, no tone
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, no tone
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, no tone
Saturday 8:00am	Wake Forest, NC	50.200, no tone

## Daily Nets

5:30am	Possum Trot Net	147.225 no tone
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

# Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club

## Meeting Minutes

### March 19, 2013

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The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club held its monthly meeting on March 19, 2013 at the Red Cross building on Highway 14. There were 22 people in attendance. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Paul Patterson (N4CE) followed by introductions. Minutes were read by Secretary Tom Cox (KB5SYK) and with 1 correction was accepted. Treasurer's report was read by George Brewer (WN4LTY).

#### **Committee Reports**

**Technical** - The 146.85 repeater dead. The 147.345 repeater has developed a problem on the transmit side. Options were discussed and was decided by members to get it repaired. Fans and grounds still need to be installed.

**ARES/Skywarn** - MS Walk is on April 13 and the same day is Blues Lake Triathlon Grant (N8ICS) is going to help with that and if anyone can volunteer to help let Mike know. No other ARES updates available.

**Publicity** -Peggy needs help with write up for newspaper for the Swapfest.

**Swapfest** - Will be held on May 11, 2013 8:00 AM to 12 Noon at 2020 S Park Drive, Reidsville

**Historian** -N/A

**Inventory/Equipment** - Updated Log turned in to Paul

#### **Old Business**

Still checking on being able to use the old 911 center tower and antenna.

#### **New Business**

Rarsfest will be on March 30, and VE testing on the 30th also. Social will be at Santana's on Saturday the 23rd at 6:00 PM. It was reported that a full page ad was in the SERA Repeater Journal. Russ (NC4CN) and Dal (W4YQY) will donate \$500 with a challenge of the membership to match the \$500 within 60 days for a total of \$1000 to be used for repeater upgrade, repairs etc.

#### **Program**

"Good Radio Operating Procedures" presented by Jamey Nixon (K4RVJ)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 PM

Submitted By:

Tom Cox (KB5SYK)

Secretary, RCARC

## 147.345 Club repeater repairs

I'm hoping most if not all of you have noticed that the 147.345 has been restored to normal operation. Tim - WD4GXD and I went out a few weekends ago and found that the hardline connector was faulty. I've included a picture taken of the hardline connector with the outside coupler removed. We also found two questionable jumper connectors. The end connectors were resoldered and put back in service.

Tim and I went back out to the 147.345 repeater Saturday the 6th and did some additional maintenance.

- \* Tim completed the repair of the the hardline connector.
- \* We took out a connector on the receive side of the duplexer and replaced with a coax jumper with proper ends so the connector wouldn't be needed.
- \* Ground the polyphaser to the station common ground.
- \* Installed a fan to blow across the fins of the of the heat-sink to prolong life of the repeater.

I've included a couple of pictures of the polyphaser connected to the cabinet prior to grounding.

Please let Tim know you appreciate his time and connectors in getting these tasks done.

See you on the air....

Paul N4CE



*Hardline Connector*



*Polyphaser*



*Polyphaser*