



Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



N4IV

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

# The RockingHAMmer News

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

## President's Corner

I sure hope that no one has floated away from all the rain we've had. I'm really getting tired of trying to squeeze in a time where I can mow my grass. Hopefully no one has encountered any serious water damage.

Club activities are calming down a bit now that swapfest and Field day are over. Still plenty of hamfests to go to. Shelby, the grand-dad of NC hamfest, is one marked on my calendar to attend. I hope to see plenty of RCARC hams there. It should be fun.

Also, please note that a weekly ARES net has be reactivated. It follows our Monday night net and starts promptly at 9:15pm on our 147.345 repeater. I'm sure I speak for Mike, WA3RFE, in that we hope you will join the net even if you do not yet have your FEMA certification.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the August club meeting.

73  
Paul (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) or by calling: 1-888-NWS-SAME (1-888-697-7263). 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 the 20th of August, 2013. For more information on the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, please contact [N4IV@rcarc.com](mailto:N4IV@rcarc.com)

### 15th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest

The Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society will be sponsoring an ARRL Hamfest on August the 3rd, 2013 at the Cumberland County Shrine Club located at 7040 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301

**Website:** <http://www.cfarsnc.org> . **Sponsor:** Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society. **Talk-In:** 146.910 (PL 100) **Public Contact:** David Cowart , KR4OE, 637 East Raynor Drive Fayetteville, NC 28311. Phone: 910-624-1394. **Email:** [kr4oe@nc.rr.com](mailto:kr4oe@nc.rr.com)

### Roanoke Hamfest

On August the 3rd, 2013, the Roanoke Valley ARC will be sponsoring an ARRL Hamfest at the William Byrd High School located at 2902 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179. **Website:**

<http://www.w4ca.com> **Talk-In:** 146.985- (PL 107.2) **Public Contact:** Phillip Roark, K4WFO, 405 Yorkshire Street Salem, VA 24153. Phone: 540-387-4487. **E-mail:** [k4wfo@arrl.net](mailto:k4wfo@arrl.net)

### North Carolina Section Convention (Shelby Hamfest)

The Shelby Amateur Radio Club will sponsor the an ARRL Hamfest (Shelby Hamfest) on August the 31st and September the 1st at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds located at 1751 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150. **Website:** <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org> . **Talk-In:** 146.880 - . **Public Contact:** Todd Vickery , WA4TV, 906 Manor Drive Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Phone: 980-295-5151. **Email:** [wa4tv@arrl.net](mailto:wa4tv@arrl.net)

## BREAKFASTS

TUESDAY - 7:00am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville

THURSDAY - 7:00am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

### RCARC Monthly Social

The monthly club social will be at 6 o'clock on Saturday, the 24th of August 2013, at Red River Grill located at 247 W. Kings Highway in Eden, N.C.

## 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 the 27th of July, 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  
July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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The Rockingham County amateur Radio Club held its monthly meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Red Cross building on Highway 14 between Eden and Reidsville, NC. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Furman Lanier (WD4MKU) in the absence of President Paul Patterson (N4CE). Introductions were made by the 17 members present. The Minutes from June 18<sup>th</sup> were read by Ambra Janney (KJ4YOC) in the absence of Secretary Tom Cox (KB5SYK). The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer George Brewer (WN4LTY)

**Committee Reports:**

**Technical:** Note from Paul (N4CE), price to replace repeater feed. No action taken.

**ARES/Skywarn:** From Mike Mansfield (WA3RFE), the ARES net will start up next Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:15 PM. The net will assist interested members with FEMA classes.

**Publicity:** Peggy Brewer (KJ4ANA) was thanked by Furman (WD4MKU) for the publicity she obtained recently for the club.

**Swapfest:** No report

**Historian:** No report

**Inventory/Equipment:** CAM (KU4VY) gave Furman (WD4MKU) latest spreadsheet; no changes from last month.

**Old Business:**

Field Day Report:

QSO points:	CW	407	
	Digital	177	
	Phone	171	
	Emergency Power		
	Publicity		
	Public Place		
	Site Visit		
	Submitted by web		
	Total points	2,678	(2012 points were 3,612)

Jamey Nixon (K4RVJ) asked about the status of the 85 repeater on the 911 tower. Both parties have given the "OK" but still need to coordinate with each other.

**New Business:**

Social for July will be at the Red River Grill, Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM.

Address for Red River Grill is 247 W. King's Highway.

**Program:**

Tim Walker (WD4GXD) opened the program with an explanation of efforts to make a simple, small AM antenna. Ed Durham (N2ECS) told of his experience with the antenna; he had good reception from 77 miles away from a 1,000 watt station in Annapolis, MD.

A demonstration followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM following a motion by Jamey (K4RVJ).

Submitted by:

CAM (KU4VY)

For Tom Cox (KB5SYK), Secretary, RCARC

## **The Weakest Solar Cycle in 100 Years**

(An article by Monica Young, published on July 24th, 2013 in the Sky & Telescope)

Scientists are struggling to explain the Sun's bizarre recent behavior. Is it a fluke, or a sign of a deeper trend?

The Sun is acting weird. It typically puts on a pageant of magnetic activity every 11 years for aurora watchers and sun-gazers alike, but this time it overslept. When it finally woke up (a year late), it gave the weakest performance in 100 years. What's even weirder is that scientists, who aren't usually shy about tossing hypotheses, are at a loss for a good explanation.

A well-behaved Sun flips its north and south magnetic poles every 11 years. A cycle starts when the field is weak and bipolar—basically, a giant bar magnet. But the Sun's rotation is faster at its equator than at its poles, and this difference soon stretches the field lines like distended rubber bands around the solar surface. Frenetic activity ensues, with magnetic tangles producing sunspots, prominences, and sometimes flares and plasma explosions. All of that dies down when the Sun-wide magnetic field lines finally snap into simpler configurations, re-establishing the dipole field and beginning the next cycle.

The Sun has been doing all of that, just to a lesser degree. “Not only is this the smallest cycle we've seen in the space age, it's the smallest cycle in 100 years,” says Hathaway, who took part in the Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel back in 2007.

The peak sunspot number seems to be less than 70, and the maximum arrived later than expected. Cycle 24 should have peaked in 2012, 11 years after its last minimum in 2001, but the Sun overslept by a full year, waking up in 2013 instead.

“If this trend continues, there will be almost no spots in Cycle 25, and we might be going into another Maunder Minimum,” Penn states. The first Maunder Minimum occurred during the second half of the 17th century. Almost no spots were seen on the Sun during this time, which coincided with Europe's Little Ice Age.

Regardless of what's causing the Sun's strange behavior, Hathaway and Penn, who are both in the solar prediction business, anticipate that Cycle 25, expected to peak in 2024, will be the weakest yet.

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## **Field Day 2013**

This year's Field day 2013 was as usual, a heck of a lot of fun! It was good to see all of those that could make it out to the event. Thanks to Peggy and Margie for coordinating the food and of course to all those who brought out radios, antennas, coax and other equipment.

If you have not heard our claimed score was 2,678 points. We were in the 3F category. The club produced 407 CW contacts, 177 digital and 171 phone contacts. Our overall score was down a bit from last year but I think we can all agree it was equally fun! And hopefully a learning experience for some.

73 and Thanks!  
Paul N4CE



# Field Day 2013 Photos



Thanks to Paul (N4CE) and Grant (N8ICS) for the pictures.