



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

**President** Bill Schwiegeraht - N8KSG    **Vice-President** Tim Walker - WD4GXD    **Treasurer** Michael Mosser - KF4LIK    **Secretary** Trey Belton - W4SH

# *The RockingHAMmer News*

**Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323**

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[www.n4iv.org](http://www.n4iv.org)

## **President's Corner**

Well, it's sure has been busy since the start of 2015! Most of you know by now that our two new Yaesu DR-1X System Fusion Repeaters have been installed and are performing well. Both repeaters were delivered to Furman's house about three weeks ahead of when promised by Yaesu – a pleasant surprise indeed. After “fooling around” with them for a short time, to get comfortable with proper configuration, Furman (and sorry, not sure who else was there at the Red Cross) installed the first system on 146.85 without a hitch. The DR-1x seemed to be working well, and those with the System Fusion radios began to get familiar with the new mode. Grant (N8ICS) brought his FTM400 mobile into the January club meeting and gave a short demo of the radio and its functions. The FTM is their mobile rig, and the nice color touchscreen was sure impressive. Terry (KF4KPM) and I believe Paul (N4CE) also had their FT1DR handy talkies, so we were able to witness the “group monitor” function in operation. Group monitor lets you see who is in your range at a given time, and you can set up groups as you'd like, such as ARES, RCARC, or whatever you would like. I think it was a week or two after 146.85 went up, Furman, Paul, Eddie, and myself all met in Madison to install the repeater at the 147.345 site, taking before/after readings. I was truly surprised just how easy it was to get the system online. Had we not been taking readings along the way, it would have been less than 30 minutes. I told my wife I would be gone for a few hours, so I wasn't sure what to do with all that free time! The System Fusion has many other capabilities, and I expect we will be learning more about them at upcoming meetings.

The club has finalized arrangements to hold our 2015 Swapfest at Community Baptist Church in Reidsville, a location that had been used in the past. While I had not been to the Swapfests at this location, I understand that the facility is very nice with ample indoor room for vendors who so chose, and plenty of tail gate space as well. Thanks to Jim, Jamey, Paul, and others who checked the facility out and drove this issue to completion. And thanks to Matt for quickly getting this up on the website so those who see our advertisement in the SERA Journal will have all the details.

Once again, ham fest season is upon us. Several members ventured up to Richmond, VA. For the FrostFest last weekend, and I am concerned to note that they have reported it was not up to its usual past. There were none of the larger manufacturers and retailers present, and George (WA4LTY) wasn't able to find anyone who would sell him an FTM400 mobile rig: Talk about disappointment – money in the pocket and no one to take it from you! Be sure to check out the announcements elsewhere in this newsletter and in the ham radio magazine of your choice for all the upcoming hamfests, and let the

members know if you plan to go. Perhaps a few carpools can be arranged for some social time along the way. A few of us will be heading up to Dayton in May on the bus trip organized annually by Bill Lundy (NC4BL, Mt. Airy, NC), and I hope to find a good deal on one while there. But I will mention for anyone considering a mobile System Fusion radio, Yaesu is offering a \$100 mail-in rebate through the end of March, and most retailers have it at \$599, so you can have one now for \$499 after the rebate. If my tax refund hits soon, I may not be able to contain myself until Dayton.

I hope to catch each of you on the air soon! 73's for now,

Bill, N8KSG

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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.

**RCARC January 2015 Presentation/Meeting**

The RCARC January 2015 meeting included a presentation on Practical Antenna Design, presented by Tim Walker, WD4GXD. The link to the document is: <http://bit.ly/1irFrVh>



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> .



**Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES** website: <http://www.rc-aa.org/>



### 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). Complete information is at NOAA's website: [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 the following URLs to access your weather forecast on a mobile device: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](http://cell.weather.gov) .

**Dial-A-Forecast** is 919-515-8209 (option 2) for the Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point area.

## Events

### RCARC Meeting

The RCARC meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month at the Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015.

### North Carolina QSO Party 2015

The 2015 North Carolina QSO Party will be on March 1, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please visit the website at [ncqsoparty.org](http://ncqsoparty.org) for more information.

### North Carolina Section Convention (Charlotte Hamfest)

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will host an ARRL Convention on March the 13th and 14th at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center located 4751 NC Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025.

**Website:** <http://www.charlottehamfest.org> . **Talk-In:** 146.655 - (no PL tone). **Public Contact:** Andy Hawkins, K4GKK, 1421 Carolyn Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205. Phone: 704-537-7891. **Email:** [k4gkk@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4gkk@w4bfb.org)

### Winterfest

The Vienna Wireless Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest on March the 22nd, 2015, at Northern Virginia Community College located at 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003. **Website:** <http://viennawireless.org> . **Talk-In:** 146.91 **Public Contact:** Doug Reece, AK4AO, 3630 Camelot Drive Annandale, VA 22003. Phone: 703-203-3247. **Email:** [dougreece@yahoo.com](mailto:dougreece@yahoo.com)

### 25th Annual Down East Hamfest

On March the 28th, 2015, the Down East Hamfest Association, Inc. will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the Lenoir Community College Gymnasium, 231 Highway 58 South (Please use Hwy 58 entrance) Kinston, NC 28501. **Talk-In:** 146.085 / 146.685 (PL 82.5). **Public Contact:** Byron Highland, K4BMH, PO Box 1778 Kinston, NC 28503. Phone: 252-347-1498. **Email:** [bhighland@nc.rr.com](mailto:bhighland@nc.rr.com)

### North Carolina State Convention (43rd Annual RARSFest)

On April the 4th, 2015, the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Convention at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds - Jim Graham Building, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27601. **Website:** <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest> **Talk-In:** 146.04 / 146.64 (no PL tone). **Public Contact:** Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, 2005 Quail Ridge Road Raleigh, NC 27609. Phone: 919-872-6555. **Email:** [k4hf@arrl.net](mailto:k4hf@arrl.net)

## BREAKFASTS

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST  
TUESDAY - 7:00 am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville  
THURSDAY - 7:00 am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

## 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. The next VEC testing will be on the 28th of March, 2015.

## 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 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone**

This club net is a weekly meeting for announcements, business, and comments. Please make it a priority to check into our net.

**Thursday 8:30PM Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES Net  
147.345 MHz 103.5**

The Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES Training net.

## 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	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, 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
Tuesday 9:00pm	N.C. D-Star Net (W4GSO) REF054C	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
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

## FCC Paperless Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17, 2015

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization (Active status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization as well as an unofficial reference copy from the ULS License Manager.

Under the new procedures, a new license applicant who already has an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and provides a valid e-mail address under Applicant Information in the ULS will receive an official ULS - generated electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants lacking an FRN will receive in the mail an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

New applicants will no longer automatically receive a license document and must request one by changing their "Paper Authorization Preference" in the ULS License Manager.

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark Official Copy will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on standard, white recycled paper.

73 Paul, N4CE

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### January 2015 VE Test Session

The VE test team held their January 31st test session at the Eden public library. There were two applicants. Both passed their Technician class license. Gary, one of the applicants went on to pass his general as well! Congratulations to Gary Shaw and Chris McCulloch! Thanks to the VE test team that attended: George Brewer - WA4LTY, Jamey Nixon - K4RVJ, LaMarr Neese - WB4VVY and Paul Patterson - N4CE.

73, Paul Patterson, N4CE



*Gary Shaw*



*Chris McCulloch*

## **Unofficial RCARC Minutes 01/20/15**

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Bill N8KSG.  
Bill reminded everyone to pay their membership dues.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Michael KF4LIK. Approved and seconded.

November meeting notes read by Trey W4SH. Approved and seconded.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### ARES/Skywarn:

Nets have started back. MS Walk and Belews Triathlon. Both on April 11th.  
ARES will get training on the digital viper system presented by the County EC, Johnny Bowles.  
CERT - 2 teams in Rockingham County now, an East Side and West Side team.

#### Publicity:

Peggy KJ4ANA brought menus from various restaurants around Eden. Some require deposits and a minimum headcount. Decision was made to meet at El Parrel on March 14th at 6pm. Motion made and seconded.

#### Swapfest:

Still in contact with Eden Drive Inn about hosting there but the owner is very difficult to contact.  
Community Baptist Church in Reidsville is still an option and the church has said we can use it for a \$100 donation. Jamey will attempt to contact Jim N4ZZC about having it at the church. Motion made and seconded to have at the Community Baptist Church if it can be arranged. This information will be need to be added to the N4IV website.

Historian: Nothing to report

#### Equipment:

Current inventory list was passed around for each member to review. Insurance for the club will be based off of this list. The new repeaters will be added.

#### Technical:

2 new repeater. 85 setup. 345 will be soon. Looking into possibly linking both repeaters to the internet in the near future.

### **Old Business**

Field Day - Discussed having at the Red Cross but the powerline noise is very noisy there and is making contacts difficult. Paul N4CE mention moving back to Reidsville Lake. Motion was made to have FD there if shelter 1 is available. If not he will report back to the club what is available.

Flower Policy - Policy was approved to increase the minimum amount to \$75 and pass the hat to make up the difference if needed. Or donate the amount to the charity of choice if noted by the family.

### **New Business**

Discussed the 2015 RCARC Budget Proposal. Motion was made to approve the budget and was seconded.

Bill N8KSG discussed his goals for this year: 1 - Install and commission the repeaters and get them up and working correctly. 2 - Do we want to push for the 501C Federal Tax Exemption Status for the club? Will require tighter record keeping if the club chooses to go this route. 3 - Attempt to bring more members into the club this year.

Starting in February - will try having the program first for those who don't want to stay for the business meeting.

Jamey K4RVJ gave the members Russ NC4CN phone number in case they want to give him a call 336-613-4403

### **Program**

Tim WD4GXD presented a program on Practical Antenna Design for 140-150 Mhz Transceivers.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm