



*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

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President's Corner

Greetings all. Here we are in mid-April already, and the weather sure is turning for the better! Having been through the doldrums of winter, I, for one, am eager for a break from the cold, and I am ready to attack some of the home maintenance and ham radio projects that have been idle for quite some time. Having been in operation for about three months now, our Yaesu DR-1x repeaters continue to perform very nicely. I hope all of you have been getting some time in on the new machines. Within the last week, two email messages have been received through the n4iv.org website thanking us for investing in the new equipment, and I it has also been noted by hams from other clubs that our members are very enthusiastic, demonstrating a professional and welcoming demeanor on the air. All of you should be proud of that, and I thank you for your support and encouragement in making this a fantastic hobby, and for being the reason this is a fantastic ham club!

I would like to pass on kudos to George, WA4LTY, as he mentored a number of Boy Scouts this past weekend toward the completion of their radio merit badge. It is activities like this that will keep this hobby growing well into the future. Tim (KF4MRD), Peggy (KJ4ANA), and myself (N8KSG) took turns giving these young men their first. Though I could not participate, I was able to tune into 147.345 to listen to the communications for the Belews Creek International Triathlon. This was a very good example of a well-planned and executed event, very professionally run! Thanks to Grant, N8ICS for leading this venture. Finally, Mike3 (WA3RE) and Tamara Mansfield (KM4ENF) ran the MS-Walk activity in Reidsville on the same day, providing logistical support for this MS fund raiser. Three Public Service functions supported in one day - Wow! While it may keep all busy, it is worth the efforts to promote amateur radio. You never know what will spark the interest in someone, and this may lead them to a rewarding, life time hobby.

Finally, I'd like to hear more about projects you may be tackling in the near future. Tim Walker (WD4GXD), always has some one ready to present our monthly topic, but if you are going to be putting up a new antennas or any other project, please keep good notes and turn it into a presentation to be shared at an upcoming meeting. I am planning to extend and change the orientation of my dipole fairly soon, and I also want to construct a vertical for 10 meters, to take advantage of the short time we have left on the current solar cycle! It would be very cool to hear what everyone else has going on, as many times, I end up finding better ways to accomplish my goals than what I originally planned.

See you at the meeting on the 21st of April!

73's, 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 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

73 (KF4LIK) Michael, your editor.

Events

RCARC Meeting

The RCARC usually meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month at the Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. Quarterly meeting/socials will be announced. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21st, 2015.

Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club Swapfest

The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club will host a hamfest on May the 9th, 2015, at the Community Baptist Church, located at 509 Triangle Road, Reidsville, NC 27320. Website: <http://www.n4iv.org> . Talk-In: 147.345 (PL 103.5) Public Contact: Matt Weatherford, WK4O, PO Box 2264, Reidsville, NC 27323. Phone: 434-203-7143. Email: wk4o@arrl.net

FreeGate 2015

The Qorvo (Formerly RFMD) Amateur Radio Club presents a free tailgate swapfest. No admission fee. Saturday, May 16th 2015 from 8:00AM to 11:00AM (Rain or Shine) Qorvo (formerly RFMD) Headquarters – BACK parking lot ONLY please. 7628 Thorndike Road, Greensboro, NC 27409. Talk-in frequency - 145.250MHz PL 88.5Hz. Email: info@kd4rf.org . Website: www.kd4rf.org .

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 Saturday, May 30th, 2015.



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/>

AUXCOMM's main responsibility is to support the **Rockingham County Emergency Management** during times of Severe Weather, Disaster, or Emergency situations. ARES has a broader responsibility to support the community as a whole.



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 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

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 inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: weather.gov . Your weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or cell.weather.gov

Dial-A-Forecast is 919-515-8209 (option 2) for the Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point area. The New River Valley, Roanoke, and Lynchburg, Virginia's area number is 540-552-0497.

AREA NETS

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. Check-ins will be taken in analog (FM) mode. 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 is on Thursdays. The repeater is now a System Fusion Repeater. Check-ins are on Digital, Analog, or via Messaging (depending if Net Control has a System Fusion capable radio, listen for announcement)

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, 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 | 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, 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 |

Raleigh Hamfest

Three RCARC members, Tommy KE4WSF, Bill N8KSG and Paul N4CE made it to the hamfest on April 4th. I've included some pictures of the area. Major vendors that were there: Flex Radio and Tarheel Antennas. Other vendors included DBJ Electronics and KJI electronics just to name a few that I remembered. Isles were nice and wide so it was very easy to get to whatever table you wanted. There was also the swap tables which took up about half of the floor space. As in the past, there were breakout sections for various nets/groups.

73, Paul N4CE



Amateur Radio Weather Spotters Help Track Severe Weather in North-Central Illinois

04/10/2015

Amateur Radio weather spotters were on alert April 9 as severe weather and at least two tornadoes ripped through North-Central Illinois. At least one person died in DeKalb County, and at least seven others were injured. A tornado watch was in effect for parts of three states as severe thunderstorms move through the region ahead of an advancing cold front.

“The storms that affected North-Central Illinois yesterday were unheard of for our area,” said ARRL Illinois Section Manager Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN, noting that the stricken communities are just north of where he lives. At this time, one person is dead, many are injured, and even more are homeless. At least one small community was completely leveled, and damage exists from Ogle County northwest into Lake County.

Ciciora said all along the way, the storm was identified and tracked by numerous Amateur Radio spotters, who relayed reports to the National Weather Service through several nets. The National Weather Service credited several reports during the period of severe weather to Amateur Radio.

“I heard much of this as it happened,” Ciciora added, “and it was one of our finest collective efforts.” He said there are no ongoing ARES communication support operations under way.

“Based on reports from trained storm spotters and chasers as well as radar and environmental evidence,” the National Weather Service said, “there were at the very least two tornadoes, but likely more across North-Central Illinois on April 9.” The NWS said another brief tornado occurred earlier north of Peoria. The region also received up to golf ball-sized hail and as much as an inch and a half of rain.

A State of Illinois Emergency Management Agency incident response team has been dispatched to the affected areas, and damage assessment is under way.

Source: ARRL website, <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-weather-spotters-help-track-severe-weather-in-north-central-illinois>

Are you ready for Severe Weather Season?

Bill, N8KSG

As a nerdy, severe weather aficionado, I can't help but read all the news I can, watch all the videos relating to tornados. I am fascinated by Tornados and have been since I was near "ground zero" as a kid during the Super Outbreak of April 3rd, 1974. As I was reading, I thought I'd pass along the following...

Here is an excellent article on Personal Disaster Preparedness from John, W4CC

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/prepare.html>

And several other resources to keep in your mind during the season....

<http://www.skywarn.org/>

<http://triadskywarn.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/skywarn/index.html>

<http://www.ready.gov/>