



*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**

What a busy weekend this past one has been! After a birthday party for a church member on Friday evening, RCARC Swapfest on Saturday, a graduation party Saturday night, church band Sunday morning, and mowing at the repeater site on Sunday afternoon, I am sure ready to get back to work for a much needed break!

First of all, I would like to thank Matt, WK4O for coordinating the 2015 SwapFest as well as all who volunteered your time to support the event. I won't even attempt to name off everyone here, and you all know each other anyway, so suffice it to say it is appreciated! Initial indications are that even with the new location, turnout was unaffected negatively as attendance was about normal for what we expect. Given then threatening skies Saturday morning, I would say we were fortunate to have as many as we did. When I awoke Saturday morning and saw the fog and mist, I figured we were in for a rainy morning, but Jamey's rain dance worked once again! I thought Community Baptist Church was a very nice location with some indoor space, and plenty of room outdoors for tailgating. Special thanks go to Jim, N4ZZC for arranging permission to use the facility. Since we had so much trouble identifying a location for this year, I am hoping we can nail down the date for the 2016 SwapFest in the next month or so, so we will be free to planning an even better event next year instead struggling, only to secure a location with just a couple months to spare.

On Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mike WA3RFE, Tamara KM4ENF, Paul N4CE and myself met at the 147.345 repeater site to do the first mowing of the season, and while there has been a good amount of rain recently, the grass wasn't too bad. I arrived at the site to find the gate already opened but no one present which is unusual. It turns out the gate had been deliberately removed at some point, and there was some debris from illegal dumping on the property. When I reported this to the station engineer from iHeart Communications, he said they'd noted this before, and he was surprised that the gate hadn't been repaired as he sent a crew the previous week to do the job. The engineer was very thankful that we noted and reported this though. My hope is that maintaining our good relationships with the tower owner will help us to keep this location for our club use for many years to come! Anyway, Mike and Tamar brought their commercial zero-turn mower. This thing is a beast, and it made short work of the bulk of the job! The four of us were able to complete the mowing in just about one hour, and we had plenty of time after that for a relaxing Mother's Day with loved ones.

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I am getting excited for the upcoming weekend. After a short, three day work week, a group of us from RCARC are heading up to the Dayton Hamvention. If you have never heard of the Hamvention before, all I can say is “where have you been”? If you’ve never experienced the Dayton Hamvention, you seriously need to think about going at least once. Dayton is the largest ham radio gathering in the world, and each year, people from all over the Earth congregate there to peruse the most massive tailgate/flea market dedicated to ham radio and electronics that one can imagine (click on <http://hamvention.org/> for more information). Additionally, several buildings are full of new equipment from vendors eager to show off their latest and greatest technologies. Many free educational sessions are also available covering a wide range of subjects from antennas to VHF/UHF Experimentation. Unfortunately, the Yaesu System Fusion forum session is Sunday morning, and I will already be back on the bus toward home, so I won’t be able to attend that session. Most of the sessions are recorded and put on the web for later viewing though, so I hope to be able to catch that later.

Last month I asked all to let me know about projects that you are working on, or are thinking of working on. Other than a repair to a power supply, and other to an antenna, I haven’t hear much at this point. Please take a moment to email me with anything that you have going on. Don’t worry – I will not be asking you to do a monthly meeting presentation (unless it’s really good!), but I hope to see more discussion of the things we all have going on. Even if you just have an idea for a project, let it be known – there may be others interested in the same thing.

Fran Lewis, XYL of Mike (KD4CSJ) would like to pass her thanks to members of RCARC. In particular, she is very appreciative of those who helped remove antennas, and gather and inventory all of his equipment. She would also like to thank those who purchased equipment. Mike would certainly be happy to know that it is all being put to good use. Lastly, she is thankful for those who helped sell what was remaining at the SwapFest, and Fran has decided to donate 50% of the proceeds to the club in Mike's honor. We are most appreciative of her generosity and are thankful of all the years she shared Mike with his love of amateur radio and our club!

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.*

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**OLD RADIO PARTS FOR SALE**

Jimmy Waynick, WB4JYC, 1309 Richardson Drive, Reidsville, NC 27320.

Kathleen Zeppernick of Belmont, NC. Phone: 704-825-2032

## 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 meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19th, 2015.

### 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](mailto:info@kd4rf.org) . Website: [www.kd4rf.org](http://www.kd4rf.org) .

### Dayton Hamvention

The Dayton Hamvention starts Friday, May 15 and ends Sunday the 17th. **Location:** Hara Arena and Exposition Complex, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road, Dayton, OH 45401. **Sponsor:** Dayton Amateur Radio Association. **Talk-In:** 146.940 (PL 123). **Public Contact:** Michael Kalter, W8CI, PO Box 964 Dayton, OH 45401. Phone: 937-776-7898. **Email:** [info@hamvention.org](mailto:info@hamvention.org) . **Website:** <http://www.hamvention.org>

### Winston-Salem Hamfest

On Saturday, June the 13th 2015, the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a hamfest at the Summit School Dining Hall located on 2100 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, NC. Website: <http://www.w4nc.com> Talk-In: 146.640 (PL 100). Public Contact: Jim Atkins , W4UX 5906 La Sierra Drive Pfafftown, NC 27040. Phone: 336-757-6912. Email: [w4ux@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4ux@triad.rr.com)

### 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.

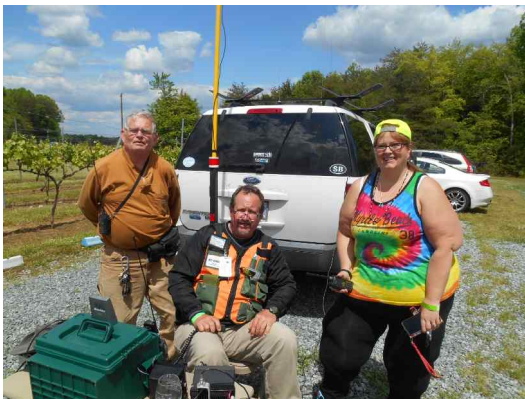
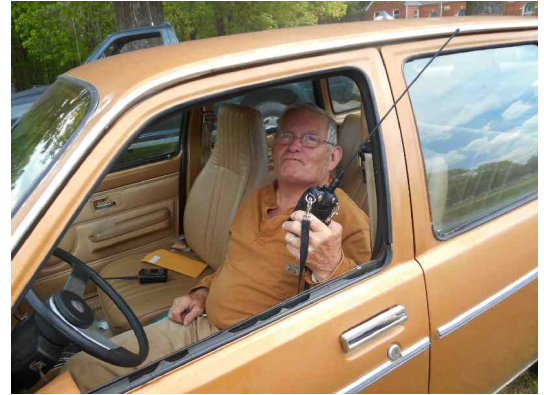
### Past VE Testing

John Whitsett of Reidsville, NC passed his Technician Class test at our last VE testing on Mar. 28, 2015. His new callsign is KM4JJI.



## Gears and Cheers 2015

Hams participating in the event were: KJ4ANA, Peggy; KM4EFX, Billy; N4CE, Paul (alternate net control); N4ZZC, Jim; W4BIK, Dan; WA3RFE, Mike; WD4GXD, Tim; KM4ENF, Tamara (& sidekick Caroline); AJ4VK, Austin; K4RVJ, Jamey (net control); KF4MRD, Tim (alternate net control).



# Swapfest 2015 Photos





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
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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) . 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. 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, 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

## US Naval Academy CubeSat Launch to Include Next APRS Satellite, 05/07/2015

Sometime on or about May 20, the next US Naval Academy satellites and Brno University PSK31 transponders head into space from Cape Canaveral on an Atlas 5 launcher and into an approximately 50° orbit. The launch will include the Psat APRS satellite — a pair of identical 1.5 U cubesats (A and B) — as well as the BRICsat and USS Langley (Unix Space Server Langley) nanosatellites.

“Psat is a Naval Academy student satellite project named in honor of one of our graduates, Bradford Parkinson, of GPS fame, which contains an APRS transponder for relaying remote telemetry, sensor, and user data from remote users and Amateur Radio environmental experiments or other data sources back to Amateur Radio experimenters via a global network of Internet-linked ground stations,” explained APRS developer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. In addition to the data transponder, a secondary Brno University transponder will support multi-user PSK31 text messaging. The APRS downlink will be 145.825 MHz (1200 baud AX.25 APRS).

“We welcome radio amateurs worldwide to tune into the downlinks and either IGate packets into the global APRS-IS system or to e-mail me,” Bruninga said. “After launch, the next several orbits will be over USA and Europe.” Bruninga said PSAT, including the PSK31 transponder, would not be available for use until all on-orbit checks are complete, a process he said could take “many, many days.” He also requested reports on any PSK31 (FM) heard on 435.350 MHz (the PSK31 uplink is 28.120 MHz).

The PSK31 multi-user FDMA transponder experiment on Psat and BRICsat is similar to the one on RAFT and PCSAT2. It will allow messaging among up to 30 modest ground stations simultaneously, Bruninga said.

Psat is one of five APRS-networked Amateur Radio satellites that will be in orbit during 2015, and all will appear on the live APRS downlink page. The others include PCsat-1, in orbit since 2001, QIKcom-1, set to launch in September, QIKcom-2, set to launch in December, and the ARISS packet radio system on board the International Space Station since 2007.

According to AMSAT-UK, BRICsat will carry a PSK31 transponder with a 28.120 MHz uplink (2.5 kHz bandwidth) and a UHF FM downlink on 435.350 MHz. Gunter’s Space Page describes USS Langley as “a proof-of-concept mission for providing global internet access via a nanosatellite constellation.” The satellite will act as a web server and router in space, using Internet Protocol and Linux. Downlinks 437.475 MHz (9600 baud AX.25 packet telemetry) with uplink at 145.825 MHz.

Bruninga said satellite experiments such as Psat “serve our educational and outreach goals for student projects encouraging young people to be interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.” He said he hopes other schools will build either additional 145.825 MHz relay satellites or experimental sensors. “We hope that Psat will be the ‘egg’ in this chicken-egg conundrum,” he added.

This article was reprinted from ARRL website, <http://www.arrl.org/news/us-naval-academy-cubesat-launch-to-include-next-aprs-satellite>

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### AMSAT - Amateur Radio in Space

Here is a link to an article on AMSAT-NA Opportunity for Rideshare to Geosynchronous Orbit:

<http://www.amsat.org/?p=4058#more-4058>



## **Unofficial RCARC April 2015 Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG at 7:02pm

Bill N8KSG covered notes from the January meeting, the March Social and read the Treasurer Report. Motion passed and approved for each.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **ARES/Skywarn:**

Tim KF4MRD discussed the current state of Triad Skywarn and encouraged participation from the hams in Rockingham County.

#### **Publicity:**

Social on June 13th at El Parrel in Eden, NC. 6-8pm

#### **Swapfest:**

Will be held at Community Baptist Church on May 9th. Please meet for set up around 6:30am if possible. DBJ Electronics, Triad Electronic Supply, and Silverton Antennas are 3 vendors that are confirmed.

#### **Historian:**

Nothing to report

#### **Equipment:**

List is updated. Nothing new to report.

#### **Technical:**

Equipment insurance has not been renewed yet for this year. If Bill doesn't get the Club's debit card he will personally pay the bill and get reimbursed. The club has permission to use one of the radio stations telephone lines to provide internet service for the Fusion system repeater. More research will have to be done to determine if the club wants to pursue this. Cost will be a determining factor.

### **Old Business**

IHeart Media is the new owner of the 345 site. We now have an agreement in place to mow the site and driveway in exchange for site access and tower space. This should be done during normal business hours and on Saturdays.

### **New Business**

Tim KF4MRD brought up a possibility of having Field Day at the Shiloh airport again. The airport was used back in the late 90's for this event. Pros and cons were discussed comparing this site to the Lake Reidsville site. Will revisit this subject later after this year's event.

Jamie discussed Russ NC4CN and how he is doing. Peggy, Paul, and Jamie recently paid him a visit. Peggy encouraged all club members to visit Russ when they can.

Tim KF4MRD spoke about the upcoming event in Summerfield on May 16th. Looking for a few club members to set up a station for approximately 8am-12 pm for a radio demonstration. No one was available this year to participate but will try again for next year.

### **Program**

Roger Joyner, W4AYO, presented a great program on his recent antenna project. He built a 2.4ghz yagi to increase his wifi signal strength in his ham shack.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting called at 8:21pm