



*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

June 2015

Vol. 13 No. 6

www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

By the temperatures on some recent days, I'd say summer has already arrived, yet the calendar still shows two weeks are left in spring! All I can say is that antenna season is here, and it's time to get working on those projects I have been putting off for some time. I hope you'll all hold me accountable on that by asking what I've gotten done – so far you'd be disappointed in me.

Thanks go out to Tim, WD4GXD for meeting me at the 147.345 repeater site this past Saturday morning. Nothing too bad, but there have been a few reports of “crackling” noise recently, so of course we think of the worst things that could happen – problems with the feed line or the antenna up on the tower. One thing I can tell you first hand is that RCARC owes a lot of appreciation to Tim for his work over the years and his meticulous note keeping! If you will recall the ARRL article last year as well as Tim's presentation on Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR), Tim and I set out to answer the question “has anything changed?”. The first thing we looked at was the power and SWR out of the repeater and out of the duplexer. The good news is that the readings were exactly the same as when the new DR-1x was put into service back in early February, so we know nothing has gone wrong there. As a second check, I used my MFR259 antenna analyzer to measure the SWR of the feed line to the antenna and got a reading that was very close to Tim's meter, so we are confident in these findings.

As a professional Broadcast Engineer, Tim has a collection of nice test equipment that makes the job of troubleshooting antenna systems much easier. Tim put his TDR into service looking up the tower through the feed line to the antenna. We do have an impedance bump several hundred feet up, and some smaller ripples a little further. The really cool thing though was that Tim had with him the results of past measurements, and quickly he could determine that this was basically the same as last time he measured it two years ago. It was quite relieving to know that nothing has gone dramatically wrong with the system!

So what is this recent crackling then? While George WA4LTY and Jamey K4RVJ transmitted a signal from their QTH's, and I listened to their signal on my mobile, Tim tapped on all of the connections on the feed lines and the duplexer. All but one connection exhibited some level of crackling, and we ended up removing, cleaning, and reinstalling the hardline “N” connector, and cleaning a number of other connections. This did seem to be helpful, but we chose not to dig into the many connectors on the

duplexer itself just yet. We have a spare duplexer that had a noise issue a couple years back, and we thought it best to see about having it rebuilt to swap for the duplexer in service. The last thing we want is to break a connection on the active cans without any equipment to repair them at our disposal! Please let us know how things seem to you over the next few weeks.

The 2015 Dayton HamVention has come and gone. Lamar WB4VVY, George WA4LTY, Fred W4SIX, and myself all made the journey once again on the Bill Lundy Express bus trip for our annual treasure hunt, and we were not disappointed. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, this is something you all really need to experience at least once. With the planned improvements that are to be made at Hara Arena, next year could be one of the nicest in some time.

The 2015 Field Day is just around the corner. RCARC will be operating from Shelter 6 at Reidsville Lake Park, and Paul N4CE has checked the site out and determined that the noise level is a great improvement over the Red Cross location. I regret that Field Day almost always falls on the weekend of my family reunion in Cincinnati, and this year is no exception, so I will not be present. I still have never worked a field day, but I do have an HF mobile in car, so I may operate some independently. Perhaps I can work you all from the road – I had better set up a sched!

Finally, please remember that the second social of the year is THIS SATURDAY, June 13th. We will be gathering at the El Parral Mexican Restaurant in Eden at 6pm. The topic I plan to talk about is Field Day, so if you can consider how you can participate before then, we'd like to come away with a good idea of who will be helping out.

73s, 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.

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 next social/meeting will be on Saturday the 13th of June, 2015 at El Parral Mexican Restaurant, Eden, NC at 6pm.

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

Field Day

Saturday, June 27th (2:00 p.m. EDT, 18:00 UTC) – Sunday, June 28th (4:59 p.m. EDT, 20:59 UTC)

30th Annual Firecracker Hamfest

On Saturday, July the 11th, 2015, the Rowan Amateur Radio Society will be sponsoring an ARRL hamfest at the Salisbury Civic Center, 315 South Martin Luther King Avenue, Salisbury, NC 28144. Website: <http://www.rowanars.org> Talk-In: 144.810/145.410 (PL 136.5) Public Contact: Ralph Brown , WB4AQK 1621 Emerald Avenue Salisbury, NC 28144. Phone: 704-636-5902. Email: rkbrown5902@bellsouth.net

Mid-Summer SWAPFEST

On Saturday, July the 18th, 2015, the Cary Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring an ARRL hamfest at the Harold Ritter Park, 301 West Lochmere Drive, Cary, NC 27511. Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc> Talk-In: 146.88 -0.6 (no PL tone). Public Contact: Herb Lacey , W3HL, 1022 Medlin Drive Cary, NC 27511. Phone: 919-467-9608. Email: infoman@bellsouth.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 Saturday, July 25th, 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
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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 . 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, 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

Countdown to W4DXCC

September 25-26 2015th - MainStay Suites and Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, TN



W4DXCC is a DX and Contest Convention held in Pigeon Forge, TN and it's our 11th year. If you're a DXer, Contester or just an active ham you should attend this year.

The attendees enjoy the fellowship of other hams and share their experiences. They meet old friends and make new ones. Once you attend you will be back every year. Representatives from Top equipment manufacturers will be on hand to demo new equipment and answer your questions One on One.

This will be the most informative and relaxed DX and Contest convention you have ever attended, not to mention the many great prize drawings.

Ham Radio Bootcamp

This year convention attendees can attend a day long **Ham Radio Bootcamp** training session on Friday. Experienced hams teach new and old hams about building shacks and antennas, learn how to operate better while DXing and Contesting. There is something for every ham.

It's Time to make your reservations

- 1) Call the Mainstay convention hotel at 865-428-8350 to book your room and be sure to ASK for SEDCO special rates
- 2) Call Rosie KA4S at 865-898-2279 for Convention and Banquet tickets.

For More Details Visit us at - www.W4DXCC.com