



*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

August 2015

Vol. 13 No. 8

www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Welcome to the doldrums of summer in North Carolina! It sure has been hot and dry lately, only broken by the occasional severe thunderstorm. The week before last I lost a large branch of a Bradford pear tree, and it is amazing how much there is to cut up and dispose of from one seemingly insignificant branch. It was two days before I got over the stiffness after cutting that stuff up!

Well, last month it was found that there was a connector not seated fully on the 147.345 machine, and after tightening it securely, it seems the complete cutting out of the signal has stopped. However, there is something still going on, and the more I hear the repeater, I begin to question if we are having some intermittent interference that may be a culprit. Bob, AF4TZ has experience tracking down repeater issues, along with some important test equipment, and I am hoping to draw on his help to further investigate.

Two weeks ago, I made the drive down US 29 from Danville toward Greensboro, planning to look for decent towers along the road in hopes of contacting a company that might be open to the possibility of hosting the 146.85 machine. It would be nice to provide better coverage on the east side of the county into Caswell and up north into Virginia. I has forgotten how closely lined the road is with trees, and this made it difficult to spot towers from the highway. None the less, I was able to spot several nice towers, and I have found the owners from the FCC tower database. The database lists contact names, but all of them seem like administrator or legal types, and I am not sure how receptive they may be, but we are trying to find the names of site engineers who may be more approachable. Either way, it won't hurt to ask for support!

I hope to see all of you at the club meeting this Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 pm at the Red Cross Building. It is always good to see each of you, and I hope that you are able to make it. Also, recall that in September we will have our third social of the year on Saturday 9/12. Be sure to mark it on your calendar!

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, August the 18th, 2015.

Roanoke Division Convention (Shelby Hamfest)

The Shelby Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Convention on the weekend of at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds located on 1751 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150. **Website:** <http://shelbyhamfest.org> **Talk-In:** 146.880 (no PL tone). **Public Contact:** Ben Melvin, KM4C, 902 Henry Street Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Phone: 980-295-5151. **Email:** km4c@me.com

Virginia Section Convention (Virginia Beach Hamfest)

Tidewater Radio Conventions will sponsor an ARRL Convention on Saturday, September the 12th at the Virginia Beach Convention Center located at 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23450. **Website:** <http://vbhamfest.com/> . **Talk-In:** 146.97 (PL 141.3). **Public Contact:** Carl Clements, W4CAC, 4500 Wake Forest Road Portsmouth, VA 23703. Phone: 757-235-4813. **Email:** w4cac@cox.net

W4DXCC/SEDCO Convention

The SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) will be sponsoring an ARRL Convention on Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th of September, 2015. **Website:** <http://www.W4DXCC.com> . **Talk-In:** None. **Public Contact:** Layfield Lamb , W4NL, 3134 Allen Drive Maryville, TN 37803. Phone: 865-898-2279. **Email:** w4nl@roslynn.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, September the 26th, 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

Ham News Articles

GOING BACK IN TIME

Time may seem to stand still at least for a few moments - at WWV, the National Institute of Standards and Technology's HF radio station in Fort Collins, Colorado. The time and frequency standard station is celebrating the completion of its successful first year with a restored vertical dipole, one it had stopped making use of in 1977. Last year, the 25 MHz signal went back to transmitting at the antennas original location for the first time, on an experimental basis. The experiment, it seems, worked just fine. Matt Deutch (NORGT), WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL that when the 25 MHz broadcast returned last year, a broadband monopole was the antenna the station first used. But the monopole was eventually paired with the stations 2.5 MHz standby transmitter. That's when the decision was made to resurrect the older vertical dipole which, he said, after restoration now looks just like it looked in 1977. He said the vertical dipole has a lower angle of radiation than the broadband monopole did, and now has a transmitter of its own, radiating 2.5 kilowatts. The signal provides a way for radio operators to check their frequency calibration or determine the exact time of day, and can also help with propagation conditions on both 10 and 12 meters. WWV welcomes signal reports and comments sent to its email address at wwv@nist.gov. (ARRL, KH6JRM's Amateur Radio Blog)

(SOUTHGATE AMATEUR RADIO NEWS)

EVENT: WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT

Theres more action happening on the water for another group of hams. These amateurs also happen to be avid boaters, and theyre preparing to catch a really big wave. Forty meters big, in this case. They're gathering for an event, known as British Inland Waterways On The Air, taking place August 29 to 31st - a bank holiday weekend in Britain. Boating radio amateurs plan to use those days as an opportunity to connect with other boaters around the country. The primary band will be 40 meters, but communications will not be restricted to just one band if conditions permit. Interested? Send an email to biwota2015@gmail.com <<mailto:biwota2015@gmail.com>> providing basic information such as your name, call sign, home and club location, and other relevant details. The boating hams are hoping for what else? smooth sailing.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

A number of hams around the globe have made headlines this week:

HOLLY THOMAS: LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER

Ten-year-old Holly Thomas is accustomed to studying for tests that score her good grades, but one of the latest exams she took granted the young scholar something else - national acclaim and a radio license: The Welsh girl passed her amateur radio test scoring 20 out of 26 questions correctly - becoming what is believed to be Wales youngest radio amateur. Her father, Christopher Thomas, M-W-ZERO-H-A-C, (MW0HAC), of Copper Quarter, Morfa in Wales, thinks it is simply in his words incredible. "I have been involved with amateur radio for 30 years, since I was 17, and she has been watching me over the years", he says. "I used to catch her in the room listening to the radio at a young age". In addition to her dad, Holly has not been without her own group of Elmers locally: Thomas says his daughter's devotion to her radio studies has found her meeting with fellow hams, for the past four months, at the local amateur radio society every Monday after school. As for Holly, she says it is all about making new friends. "Ham radio is awesome, everybody should get involved," she says. "I enjoy making friends with people and I have friends in Australia, New Zealand and America".

SATELLITES: FLIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

Is there life after death? When it comes to the U.S. Navy's PCSAT NO-44, a satellite launched 14 years ago by the U.S. military, the answer is most definitely yes. The satellite, licensed in the Amateur Satellite service, was originally designed to be a status reporting and message communications transmitter exclusively over the United States, using the Automatic Position Reporting System, or APRS. But it appears to have taken off on an orbit of its own and is now intermittently blasting European amateurs, mainly on the part of the spectrum around 150 MHz. That's left Navy officials at a loss as to how they might rein it in. The satellite, which had been plagued by battery issues early on that was causing it to reset, had its mission declared dead in 2003. According to the AMSAT website, "Since this time, there have been numerous attempts to recover the satellite but further attempts have been stopped. NO-44 remains active when conditions are favorable for sunlight, usually in mid-day passes, although by the time it covers about 30 to 45 minutes into eclipse, power drops". PCSAT was built with a backup fail-safe beacon on 144.39 MHz that would activate after a reset providing a backup link if 145.825 MHz, the primary channel, died. The satellite resets on every orbit as a result of its negative power budget. Time, of course, is on everyone's side, since solar cells will eventually lose their ability to hold a charge and the orbit will simply decay. But the satellites prospects of burning up and leaving the realm of the undead are believed to be decades away. And so the interference, like the satellite, lives on. And on. (AMSAT, QRZNOW, The UK Register)

RCARC Unofficial Meeting Minutes 07/21/15

Introductions

Secretary Report:

Bill N8KSG read the minutes from the May Meeting. Motion made and seconded

Treasurer's Report:

Michael KF4LIK read the treasurer report. Motion made and seconded

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

Participated in a drill with Guilford County Representatives on July 21 simulating a natural disaster at a local school. It was a successful learning experience for all involved.

September 22nd is the Running With The Cows. ARES will provide communications for this event at the Chinqua Penn Plantation.

Publicity:

Sept 12th is the next social at El Parrel. We have the room reserved from 6pm to 8pm.

Swapfest:

By January 1st we should have decided the location of the clubs annual Swapfest for 2016.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Cam KU4VY passed around an updated equipment list and asked everyone to check it for accuracy.

Technical:

Crackling noise issues on 345 again. After some testing it appears the problem may be with the duplexers. Options are to get the spare repaired and tested. After this is done, replace the suspected bad duplexer with the repaired one.

Field Day:

Paul N4CE asked everyone to be thinking about Field Day for next year and if we decide to return to the Red Cross, some type of noise suppressor will be needed. The noise is very noticeable and makes for added fatigue for the operators, especially for the weak signal modes.

Old Business

Discussed the Club's mowing responsibility at the 345 site. We now only are required to mow around the building. We are not required to mow the road any longer.

New Business

Century Link rep said that DSL should not be a problem at the 345 site. Bill N8KSG will attempt to speak with the same person at Century Link that he previously spoke with about getting it set up. It will have to be put in an individual's name and not the club for a cheaper monthly rate. Volunteers will hopefully take turns paying the cost of the internet connection. Several members have already offered to do this.

Motion was made to proceed with plan as presented using suitable surge lightning protection and with no financial liability to the club as far as paying the internet cost. Motion made and seconded.

Nominating Committee for next years Officers will be decided next month

Program

Repeater Basic (Why Tone?) - A good program on VHF/UHF simplex and repeater operation was presented by Cam KU4VY

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 8:21pm