



*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

November 2015

Vol. 13 No. 11

www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Hello everyone! Well, we have the holiday season fast approaching, and life over the next 7 weeks promises to become very busy. I hope over this time you will find plenty of joy with family, rest and relaxation, and yes – time for ham radio as well!

Progress has been made getting Yaesu's Wires-X system ready for the 147.345 site. I have been able to configure and learn enough about the system to setup a node at my home QTH. Through it I have linked to other Wires-X enabled repeaters across the world, and have made a number of QSO's with stations thousands of miles away with my simple analog HT! Mike, WA3RFE, is donating a computer to host the node controller at the site, and once configured it will be deployed at the site. Since this will be after the November meeting, I will send out a special note to all members so that you will have basic instructions for using Wires-X with your radio. Initially, Wires-X will pass only analog data, not C4FM digital voice, but they are still working on a release of firmware to add functionality. The latest grumblings I've heard for timing is end of January but I'm not sure how reliable that is. The good news though is that everyone with an analog radio having DTMF tones will be able to use Wires-X right away: You do not need a special digital radio or Wires-X enabled radio, although those add additional capabilities.

Many of you replied to my email offering your support for the internet access for 147.345, and I thank you for that. I currently have 10 months of service covered, so that still leaves two months that present an opportunity for someone to help share in the cost of adding internet service. If you would like to help, please email me directly at bswag@yahoo.com, and I thank you for your help. For those that have agreed to help, please send your month of contribution (\$34.95) to me directly at William Schwiegeraht, 7546 Strawberry Rd, Summerfield, NC 27358. You can always catch me at a meeting as well.

I hope to see you at the club meeting on Tuesday as it is very important for the long term health of RCARC as we begin to make plans for next year and hold elections for club officers. RCARC has had difficulty garnering enough interest from membership to serve as officers, and as you know, last year was not truly an "election" since there were no second candidates for any position. Bring your last minute nominations to the meeting!

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is coming up on Tuesday, November 17th at 7 pm. It is always good to see each of you, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. I hope that each of you can make it to the meeting!

73's, Bill, N8KSG

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS :

- p. 1 President's Corner / Article
- p. 2 Events
- p. 3 Skywarn, AUXCOMM/ARES, NOAA
- p. 4 Area Nets
- p. 5 Unofficial Meeting Minutes
- p. 6-8 Ham Articles

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, November the 17th, 2015.

JARSFest 2015

The Johnston Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest on Sunday, November the 15th, 2015. The location will be the Benson American Legion on 605 North Wall Street, Benson, NC 27504. **Website:** <http://www.jars.net> . **Talk-In:** 147.270 +.600 . **Public Contact:** Michael Callam , KD4MC, PO Box 302, Benson, NC 27504. Phone: 919-934-9623. **Email:** jarsmember@yahoo.com

Winston-Salem FirstFest

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest on Saturday, January the 9th, 2016 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

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. Effective September 1, 2015 the Rockingham County VE Testing will be conducted on a "Preregistration Only" basis. The preregistration must be received by the Monday prior to the scheduled test date. Applicants should call Dal Williams, W4YQY at 336-627-7076 for preregistration info and details. The next session is Saturday 11/28/2015.



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 8:15PM RCARC-DIGITAL 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone

Until the AUXCOMM/ARES net is reactivated, digital stations are invited each Thursday to participate in a round table group rag-chew session. This is not a formal net, with a net control station. Any and all stations are invited to this digital group.

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

RCARC Minutes

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG at 6:58pm
August Meeting minutes were read by Trey W4SH, motion passed.
Treasurer Report was read by Michael, KF4LIK, motioned passed.

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

Running With The Cows saw good participation by the club members.

Publicity:

No June social in 2016. It will be combined into the Field Day operations as has been done in the past.
The cookout for that event will be the summer social.

December 12th is the next social at El Parrel mexican restaurant in Eden. 6pm to 8pm

Swapfest:

Matt, WK4O will not be the Swapfest Coordinator for 2016. The Club is looking for a volunteer to head this up for next year. The church is holding May 7th or May 14th for us to use their facilities again for next year per Jim N4ZZC.

Motion made and passed to have the Swapfest on May 14th 2016 at Community Baptist Church in Reidsville, NC

Historian:

Jamey, K4RVJ discussed the history of Wayne Blackwell, K4YEC and his ties to the 146.850 repeater and also of his recent passing.

Equipment:

The equipment list was passed around for the members to view. The Club Banner has been located.

Technical:

Internet has been installed at the 345 site and working correctly. Bill, N8KSG is working on WiresX and hopes to have it installed and operating in analog mode soon. There will have to be a firmware update from Yaesu for WiresX to work in digital mode.

Potential tower site in the Williamsburg area that may can host the 850 repeater. Still researching into this. Still waiting to hear back from the tower owner. Currently the tower is owned by a private business.

Old Business

Nomination Committee presented the Officers for next year. The same officers have agreed to serve in the same positions next year.

New Business

Digital Ragchew net/roundtable on Thursday nights at 8:30pm on 147.345

New Fusion System activated on the Martinsville repeater 147.150, and went on the air on 10-20-15

Program

Tim WD4GXD, gave the monthly program on RF Radiation Interference.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn at 8:20pm

HAMS PREPPED FOR PATRICIA

Amateur communications also played a paramount role in the Americas, when the most powerful storm ever to hit the western hemisphere struck the Pacific coast of Mexico a week ago. Amateur Radio Newline's Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the details:

Amateur radio emergency frequencies are back to normal, although it will take a while to recover from the flooding, downed trees and other damage Hurricane Patricia inflicted last week in western Mexico.

Hams, however, did their part. Mexico's amateur radio association, FMRE, reported on Monday, Oct. 26, that the nation's emergency net frequencies, including 7.060 MHz, were finally clear of traffic that responded to the weekend's Category 5 hurricane. The National Hurricane Center considered the storm the strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded in the western hemisphere.

Mexico's National Emergency Net was activated as Patricia approached land and winds ripped through the country at just below 200 miles an hour. Emergency coordinators were at the ready, as were those in the southwestern United States.

The hurricane coincided with an already intense time on the HF bands, as the CQ WorldWide SSB DX Contest was getting under way. That prompted a plea from the International Amateur Radio Union on Friday, Oct. 23 for hams to keep the emergency frequency open, and prepare as well to clear additional frequencies on both 40 and 80 meters if needed. The State of Guanajuato Amateur Radio Association used social media, announcing on its Facebook page where frequencies needed to be cleared on 80, 40 and 20 meters.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami had called the storm "potentially catastrophic." It was finally downgraded on Saturday, Oct. 24. By Monday, Oct. 26, storm-induced downpours had begun drenching much of the Gulf Coast region and the South, as the now-weakened weather system made its way east. In the end, tens of thousands had been evacuated in Mexico, where the government reported an apparent death toll of zero.

Sources: ARRL, SOUTHGATE AMATEUR RADIO NEWS, CNN, THE WEATHER CHANNEL

PARADISE LOST?

Desecheo Island, 14 miles off the coast of Puerto Rico, has held a longstanding spot on the radio amateur's list of Most Wanted DXs. Part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System, the island, known to amateurs as KP5, has been a notable part of the KP1-5 Project's successful DXpeditions for years.

Now, it seems, the island is also most wanted by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. According to a published report, Puerto Rico's House of Representatives has approved two measures requesting the island's release from United States jurisdiction.

The news of the vote was reported in the Oct. 26 edition of the Puerto Rican newspaper, El Nuevo Dia. Hernandez Lopez's remarks to fellow lawmakers, translated in the newspaper's online story, say in part: QUOTE"Our desire is to provide the additional space western area for sightseeing, this time, environmental tourism that allows people to enjoy the natural attractions."

The measures were approved in the House, 27-21. Puerto Rico's Senate will now consider the matter. As for the world's DXers, they'll be listening too.

Sources: EL NUEVO DIA, ANGEL SANTANA-DIAZ, WP3GW

CME: THIS IS ONLY A TEST BUT . . .

Imagine a massive coronal mass ejection and an equally massive impact on the HF bands. A blackout, even. It's only an exercise, but it could just as easily happen, and between Nov. 7 and Nov. 10, hams will be dealing with just that disaster scenario. The Military Auxiliary Radio System will work with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service during a simulated CME event, helping radio operators train for a major CME and how to handle its impact on HF propagation.

Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, told the ARRL that the exercise scenario will simulate a CME event and focus on actions that radio operators should take prior to and following such an event. English said some active duty military groups will join about 50 ARES/RACES affiliates for the drill, which will not only include a blackout of the radio bands but infrastructure damage. Radio amateurs, as well as ARES and RACES teams, can contact MARS if they wish to participate. Emails can be directed to MARS at mars.exercises@gmail.com

Sources: ARRL, MARS

AN OREGON CITY'S TOWERING ISSUE

The Brookings, Oregon City Council was poised to give its expected approval of taller ham radio towers in the city's residential neighborhoods, but the definitive vote has instead been postponed. The proposed ordinance permitting towers as tall as 70 feet was high on the published agenda for lawmakers' Monday, Oct. 26 meeting. But Joyce Heffington, city recorder, told Amateur Radio Newsline in a recent phone call, QUOTE"it was delayed until the council has an opportunity to review a letter we received from a legal firm."ENDQUOTE

Area residents have raised objections to the ordinance allowing taller towers, citing what they call safety and aesthetic reasons. City Attorney Martha Rice has said previously, in published reports in the Curry Coastal Pilot newspaper, that Oregon law doesn't prohibit communications towers simply because of their appearance. The Council had recently given the measure its tentative approval. Heffington said the formal vote will be placed back on the Council agenda as soon as the city's attorney has had a chance to review the letter and report on it.

Sources: AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, JOYCE HEFFINGTON, CURRY COSTAL PILOT

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 PAGE ON ARRL WEBSITE

A combined web page has been setup by the ARRL to accommodate activities related to HR 1301 and S 1685, and to provide a central location for information on these identical Bills. ARRL members are urged to contact their Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and the Senate and ask them to sign on to the Bills as a co-sponsor. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-website-has-new-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-page> and <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>

Source: ARRL NC Section Newsletter

ARRL NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR” EVENT TO MARK NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL

In 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event. The event begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016 and continues throughout the rest of the year. Amateur radio operations will be promoted and encouraged from any of the more than 430 official NPS administrative units and affiliated areas across the US.

Participants in NPOTA can be a Chaser, an Activator, or both. Chasers attempt to make contact with amateur radio operators in as many NPS units as possible, whereas Activators attempt to “put on the air” as many NPS units as possible. Chaser and Activator totals will be posted online using LoTW data. For further information on NPOTA, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-national-parks-on-the-air-event-to-mark-national-park-service-centennial> and <http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA>

Source: ARRL NC Section Newsletter