



*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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends at RCARC! Last month I mentioned the holiday season was fast approaching, and before I even knew what happened, well – here it is! I hope that you are all able to come out for our Christmas party at El Parral Restaurant this Saturday, December 12th on HWY 14 in Eden. We will be gathering at 6 pm to enjoy dinner and social time together for this final time on 2015, and I will enjoy seeing everyone.

I would like to start by thanking all the Club Officers for agreeing to serve for another year. Your dedication to our club is inspiring to me, and I enjoy working with the team we have in place. Please take time to thank the officers at the social this Saturday or at the next meeting you attend.

My thanks go out to Mike (WA3RFE) for contributing a computer to host the Wires-X node at the Madison site. I was hoping to have this all on-line by now, but I'm sorry to say I have been hampered for a couple weeks with a bad back, and honestly haven't felt much up to sitting in front of a computer installing and configuring software. I still intend to have this up and running before Christmas, so keep your eyes open for an email once it is working.

To all who have sent in donations to share in the cost of internet access at the 147.345 site, I thank you. If you have committed but not yet sent in your donation, please keep that in mind, though I do have enough for a couple months right now. Others who would like to help can email me directly at bswag@yahoo.com. 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.

Please remember that since we are having our Christmas Party/Social this Saturday, there will be no regular meeting at the Red Cross facility in December. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday January 19th, 2016 at 7 pm. Mark it on your calendar, and as always, I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

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. The quarterly social will be on Saturday, December the 12th, 6pm, at the El Parral Mexican Restaurant in Eden, N.C. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January the 19th, 2015.

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.



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 8:15PM 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

AN AMSAT 'FIRST'

AMSAT-North America is now the proud owner of its first CubeSat.

The Fox-1A satellite, AO-85, has joined AMSAT Operations, after being formally commissioned and determined to be ready to go. AMSAT will now be responsible for its scheduling and modes.

AMSAT Vice President for Engineering Jerry Buxton, N-ZERO-JY, said in a statement: "Many new techniques are incorporated, and lessons will be learned, as with any new 'product.' We will incorporate changes from what we learn in each launch, to the extent possible, in subsequent Fox-1 CubeSats. To our members, we want to say that the Fox Team is very proud and pleased that our first CubeSat is very successful and hopefully will be for some time."

Amateur Radio Newsline

A FLARE FOR SUCCESS

An emergency drill, in the form of a huge coronal mass ejection, sent radio amateurs scrambling early last month. And though their response was real enough, the chaos was simulated – with good results.

Imagine an outage of all conventional communications throughout the U.S. Imagine too, massive solar flares known as coronal mass ejections, as the source of the stirred-up ionosphere behind the blackout. This was the reality for members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service for two days beginning Nov. 8. It was only an exercise but, for two days, it was still a challenge. And ultimately, said the organizers, it was a success.

MARS operators were given the directive to make direct contact with as many radio amateurs in the nation's 3,142 counties as possible, using mainly HF NVIS bands, along with VHF and UHF repeaters. Other methods, such as store-and-forward messaging systems and Internet-linked systems, were necessarily off limits.

Paul English, WD8DBY, the U.S. Army's MARS program manager, praised the work of the radio operators at the conclusion of the exercise. He told the ARRL that MARS members got messages through to 816 counties around the country - or 26 percent of the nation's total. He said advance publicity helped boost performance during the two-day drill, and inquiries about participation had poured in from 41 states and more than 50 ARES groups who wanted to be part of the test.

Best of all, he said, the mission was accomplished. He said: QUOTE"The purpose of these exercises is to reach beyond interoperability and focus on our ability to exchange usable and relevant information from the local level to the national level following a crisis event. Only through the cooperation among MARS and the larger Amateur Radio community can we hope to achieve that synergy."ENDQUOTE

ARRL

MORE CHANGES ONLINE AT THE FCC

As the FCC, and hams around the country, recuperate from the on-again, off-again outage that left the FCC with a backlog of license applications and exam sessions, the agency has announced yet more change coming online: A newly revamped website that is making its debut on Dec. 10, through a four-hour transition that will begin at 0100 UTC.

The agency said, in a public notice released Tuesday, Nov. 24, that the changes were based on information gathered from user feedback over time and the new website should provide “better functionality, an improved design and better searchability and navigability.” The Commission’s IT Department had run the site in a beta-test version earlier this year to collect input from visitors before the official launch. The new site is also optimized for use on tablets, smartphones and other mobile devices and offers different browsing options.

The FCC says: Worry, not, because while the current agency website will no longer be available after Dec. 10, files and webpages on transition.fcc.gov will still be accessible until they too are migrated to the new site. The Commission has already upgraded its consumer help center and other interactive areas – and says it has been working toward fine-tuning those areas as well.

So, stay tuned.

Amateur Radio Newsline

RCARC Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:58pm by Bill, N8KSG

Meeting Minutes read by Trey, W4SH. Motion approved and seconded

Treasury Report was read by Michael, KF4LIK. Motioned approved and seconded

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

Nothing to report

Publicity:

Christmas dinner at El Parral on December 12th. 6pm to 8pm

Swapfest:

Paul, N4CE and Roger, W4AYO will co-chair the Swapfest for 2016.

Historian:

Nothing to report.

Equipment:

Sent around the equipment list. Only items currently unaccounted for are the 2 coffee makers.

Technical:

Bill N8KSG, has Wires X configured and working on his home radio and has been able to access some of the "Rooms" available under Wires X. Mike WA3RFE, will donate a PC to use at the repeater site to run the Wires X software. Bill drew a diagram to explain the setup and use of the PC in the system.

Discussed ways to remotely shut down the repeater in case of interference or other issues. Will possibly get a remotely accessed AC power switch to shut down the repeater through the internet.

Motion made to purchase the AC switch by Jamey, K4RVJ and seconded by Paul, N4CE. Motion carried.

Old Business

None to report.

New Business

Opened nominations from the floor for any officer positions. None heard. Motion made and seconded to approve the current Officers to remain in their positions for the year 2016.

Bill, N8KSG will head up the Audit and Budget Committee with assistance from George, WA4LTY and Roger, W4AYO.

Possibly will look at the Club's term limits and changing them. This will be looked at after the first of the year.

Club Dues are coming up soon for 2016.

Program

Paul N4CE gave an interesting presentation on Narrow Band Digital Voice on HF.

Motion to Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:17pm