



*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

Members of RCARC, I'd like to welcome you to 2016! I wish each of you a Happy New Year from the bottom of my heart, and I hope that 2016 is full of a lot of hamming!

There are many things to be involved in as far as amateur radio is concerned in 2016. First of, if you have not heard about the ARRL National Parks on the Air program, I hope you will take the time to quickly read up on the program. There is an explanation of the program at <http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA> and licensed amateurs can participate as an activator (one who operates remotely from an approved NPS location), or you may participate as a chaser (one who works activator in various NPS entities). This is not a contest *per se*, but more of an interest generator similar to a DXpedition. Another link <https://npota.arrl.org/index.php> provides a way to see how many points one has earned as well as a leader board showing the most active participation. I encourage you to become involved in the program, and it sure would be nice to have a couple small groups go and activate some of the locations not too far from us. Expect pileups along the way!

Thanks to Paul, N4CE and Roger, W4AYO for agreeing to co-lead the SwapFest committee for this year. We will again have the annual event at the Reidsville Community Baptist Church – Thanks to Jim, N4ZZC for arranging the location! The team has already gotten a jump start on the planning, and with any luck we will be blessed with good weather and a great turnout. Please promote the event if you happen to check in to other nets in the area.

Year 2016 is shaping up to be a good year to work DXpeditions. Right now through January 25th, you can hunt for The Pacific Islands DX Group's [K5P](http://www.arrl.org/news/palmyra-south-sandwich-south-georgia-will-help-kick-off-2016-dxpedition-calendar) DXpedition to Palmyra in the South Pacific. See the web link <http://www.arrl.org/news/palmyra-south-sandwich-south-georgia-will-help-kick-off-2016-dxpedition-calendar> for more details. There are several others throughout this year to challenge your HF capabilities, so stay tuned to QST, the ARRL website, and other amateur DX websites for more information. You may want to get your rig's manual to refresh on working "split" mode – you don't want to be throwing out your call sign on the DX's transmitting frequency otherwise you may face the wrath of the "band police"! As with any HF operation, listen for a bit before transmitting to make sure you know how the other station is working.

I hope that each of you is blessed with a wonderful 2016 full of prosperity and happiness to you and your loved ones!

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 next meeting will be on Tuesday, January the 19th, 2016.

South Carolina State Convention (2016 Charleston Hamfest)

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society will host an ARRL Convention on February the 6th 2016 at the Armory Park Community Center located on 5000 Lackawana Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29405.

Website: <http://wa4usn.org> **Talk-In:** 146.79, 146.94 (PL 123), 147.045 (PL 123) **Public Contact:** Greg Amirault, KI4TVA, 109 Four Iron Drive Summerville, SC 29483. Phone: 843-469-5305. **Email:** geamirault@sc.rr.com

Virginia State Convention (Frostfest)

On February the 6th, 2016 the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society will host an ARRL Convention at the Richmond International Raceway located on 600 East Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, VA 23218. **Website:** <http://www.frostfest.com> **Talk-In:** 146.880 (PL 74.4) **Public Contact:** Timothy Farrell, KJ4NPB, 8287 Ellerson Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23111. Phone: 804-306-1134. **Email:** timfarrell57@gmail.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 with the Yaesu System Fusion in the C4FM digital mode.

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

POW! TO THE MOON, ALICE!

Seventy years ago, a team from the U.S. Army, operating at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey's "Project Diana" site, successfully copied radio signals that had been bounced from the moon using an Army tracking dish.

That site is now part of the InfoAge Science History Museum where, on January 10, the EME, or "earth-moon-earth" bounce, will be recreated, marking the date when the historic transmission both left its mark and its signal, in 1946.

In fact, the radio amateurs intend to use that same dish, which has long since been demilitarized and refurbished. The TLM-18 received those first historic signals during its time of active service on that site as a ground station for the TIROS 1 and 2 weather satellites and for Project Vanguard.

The commemorative transmission will occur on 23 centimeters from the station of the Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club, N2MO, sent by members of that club as well as hams from Princeton University and the science museum. The dish's primary role, as used by Daniel Marlow, K2QM, is to help observe radio pulsars as well as radiation from the Milky Way. Marlow teaches physics at Princeton University and serves on the board of InfoAge.

The TLM-18 is being made available for the amateurs' moonbounce on a secondary basis. Nevertheless, promising this group the moon - and then delivering - is going to be just as historic an event as it had been back in 1946.

(ARRL, INFOAGE MUSEUM)

DISHTRONIX BUYS TEN-TEC'S ASSETS

We begin ... with word of the latest sale of beleaguered amateur radio equipment maker TEN-TEC. The assets of the company, founded in 1968, have been sold to Ohio-based Dishtronix, according to recent news reports. Although final details have yet to be disclosed, and neither company has formally announced the purchase, Dishtronix owner Steven M. Dishop, N8WFF, acknowledged the deal on the ARRL website. Dishop tells the ARRL that his vision for the business is "strictly long term." And he reaffirmed his 17-year-old company's commitment to its continued financial stability despite what he called "some tough decisions."

Toward that end, Dishtronix has contracted with former TEN-TECH engineering manager, John Henry, KI4JPL, and initiated new service policies and related pricing. Dishop said TEN-TEC's service department had been operating at a loss.

TEN-TEC's asset sale is the latest for the beleaguered company, which began as the manufacturer of transceivers for QRP users. Last April, RKR Designs of Colorado announced it had purchased TEN-TEC's assets, along with those of Alpha Amplifiers, from RF Concepts. The two lines had been emerged less than a year earlier in yet another asset sale.

Dishtronix, which committed to offering high-power, solid-state amplifiers and accessories to the amateur market in 2001, now has a variety of products in development and plans to introduce a new legal-limit, solid-state amplifier in May at the Dayton Hamvention.

(ARRL)

A DELAY FOR NOTED DXer

The well-publicized DXpedition of Polish amateur Dom, 3Z9DX, is still on - but the amateur world is going to have to wait a little bit longer for it to happen. Gryzb rocked the airwaves in late December with an unannounced on-air demonstration from North Korea which was a big success, despite problematic solar conditions. Even with little fanfare announcing his presence, he managed to make almost 800 contacts, most of them in Asia.

When he departed North Korea to celebrate the holidays back home in Poland, he announced a hoped-for return in February to get back on the air. His plans have since changed. He recently told DX World that he will now wait until late summer before launching his long-awaited DXpedition as P5. His goal, he says, is to find a location that will provide quieter operating conditions.

(DXWORLD.NET, CQ AMATEUR RADIO)

WEATHERING A NEW SOUND

What does the weather sound like? Starting Jan. 11, whether the outlook is sunny or stormy, the forecast is going to sound a whole lot different. NOAA Weather Radio is about to deploy its first upgrade in 15 years of the system that produces its broadcast programs. And that upgrade will change the voice listeners hear delivering observations, warnings, watches and forecasts.

A number of weather service offices, including the ones in Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina, will be involved in an operational test and evaluation period following the launch this month. NOAA hopes the new voice, generated by a new computer system, weathers the flood of feedback it expects during this period, which is likely to last several months. If all goes well, the new system will have a nationwide rollout later in the year on all transmitters.

Comments can be sent to gsp.webmaster@noaa.gov.

(NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE)

“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 fun begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2016.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-national-parks-on-the-air-event-to-mark-national-park-service-centennial>