



*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

February 2016

Vol. 14 No. 2

[www.n4iv.org](http://www.n4iv.org)

## **President's Corner**

The first month of 2016 seemed to pass with the blink of an eye! Since my last letter, we really have been through some changes weather wise. At the start of the year I was wearing short pants out on a hike in 70+ degree weather, then two weeks ago we were fighting our first (and hopefully only) significant snow fall of the year. Last weekend, while not in the seventies, we were back to 60 degree ranges and I was out hiking comfortably only a lightweight pull over. Halfway through our walk, my wife and I had to ditch the jackets as it warmed up enough that with the walking, it was getting warmer than we prefer. I hope all of you have been able to take advantage of the decent weather while staying warm when it has not been as nice!

Last month I mentioned that Yaesu had introduced a whole lot of confusion into the status of the System Fusion firmware by releasing “upgrades” without much in the way of documentation to explain what features were available, what firmware applies to which versions, and no instructions to install them. Since then, I have been in contact with their US Service group in California, and I found out that in order to do fully automatic digital /analog I mixed mode, the firmware was available, but there was an internal modification necessary to allow us to make a direct connection with the internet service at the repeater site. While this modification is at no charge, it required returning the repeated to Yaesu for a 2 ~ 3 week visit so they could perform the upgrade. They also take care of the firmware as well when they do it, and then fully test to make sure it is all working. As I see on many internet sites, it seems to be just a cabling harness that needs to be changed to make the rear panel connector allow the direct connection. After discussing with a few RCARC club members, I decided to go ahead and send the DR-1x back for this modification, and on Tuesday our 147.345 machine was dropped off at UPS for shipment. I would expect we’ll have her back in about a month, and when it arrives I will test the entire setup with the internet linking at my house, then we will finally be ready to go live with complete analog/digital internet linking capability. While this process has taken us a while, I have a good feeling it will be worth the wait to have this done well!

Thanks to Paul N4CE and Roger W4AYO, plans for our annual Swapfest on May 14<sup>th</sup> are well underway. Save the date of May 14, and we will be holding it at the Reidsville Community Baptist Church – same place as last year. They are working with vendors to line up prizes and booth spaces, and in the SERA Journal that I just received in the mail I saw that the advertisement has made it in the magazine.

If you haven't paid your dues, the time is now. RCARC needs your support to keep our repeaters on the air and in good condition, so please consider renewing today. Even if you cannot make it to the meeting, you can pay dues by mail. Just send a check to **RCARC, Inc. PO Box 2264, Reidsville, NC 27323.** Your support is needed and appreciated!  
Our February meeting is coming up soon on Tuesday 2/16 at 7 pm. I hope to see you all there for a good presentation and discussion!

Bill, N8KSG

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### For Sale

RCARC was give two antennas from Howard Underwood K4QXA estate 2006. Since the club has no particular use for them we are offering the following for sale.

Vertical Ringo Ranger 6 meters, asking \$20

11 element Cushcraft beam 2 meters, asking \$25

Both may need a little TLC before putting them back up but would make a great addition for the right shack!

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.*  
*73 (KF4LIK) Michael, your editor.*

## Events

### BREAKFASTS

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

TUESDAY – 7:00 am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville

THURSDAY – 7:00 am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

### 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 7pm on Tuesday, February the 16th, 2016 at the American Red Cross Building. The March social/meeting will be at 6pm on Saturday, March the 12th at the El Parral in Eden.

### 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.

### Charlotte Hamfest

On Friday, March the 11th and Saturday, March the 12th, 2016 the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the Cabarrus Arena & Event Center located on 5751 NC Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025. **Website:** <http://www.charlottehamfest.org> **Talk-In:** 146.655- (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Andrew Hawkins, K4GKK, 1421 Carolyn Drive Charlotte, NC 28205 Phone: 704-537-7891 **Email:** [andyk4gkk@gmail.com](mailto:andyk4gkk@gmail.com)

### Winterfest 2016

On Sunday, March the 20th, 2016, the Vienna Wireless Society will sponsor a hamfest at the NOVA Annandale located at 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003. **Website:** <http://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/> **Talk-In:** 146.910 / PL 77 **Public Contact:** Thor Berglie, KK4UYT, 2813 Hunter Road Fairfax, VA 22031. Phone: 202-495-1315 **Email:** [thor.berglie@gmail.com](mailto:thor.berglie@gmail.com)

### North Carolina Section Convention (Raleigh Hamfest)

On Saturday April the 2nd, 2016 the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Convention at the NC State Fairgrounds, Jim Graham Building, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27601. **Website:** <http://rars.org/rarsfest> **Sponsor:** Raleigh Amateur Radio Society **Type:** ARRL Convention **Talk-In:** 146.64 (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, 2005 Quail Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27609 Phone: 919-872-6555 **Email:** [k4hf@arll.net](mailto:k4hf@arll.net)



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](http://nws.noaa.gov/nwr) . For current weather forecasts on the inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) . Your weather forecast on a mobile device: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](http://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

## News Articles

### HAM RADIO AT THE READY IN EAST COAST STORM

Power outages and snowdrifts of 3 and a half feet or more left the New York area and points west immobilized and, in many spots, without power. Nevertheless, the area's hams were ready. The ARRL's Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N-2-Y-B-B, reported on the ARRL website that even as he stood by, awaiting reports from Emergency Coordinators and Section Managers, he himself had to shovel out several times on Saturday, January 23. Record snow fell in New York City's Central Park and much of the surrounding area. ARRL's NYC/Long Island Section Manager Jim Mezey, W-2-K-F-V, reported approximately 2 feet of snow with some local flooding throughout the region. ARES members were active in net operations as well as SKYWARN.

VHF and UHF repeaters were used for communication while 40 meters was used to transmit weather information using digital modes. John Melfi, W-2-H-C-B, the Babylon Emergency Coordinator on Long Island, told the ARRL that the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, which comprises the town's ARES team, was involved as well in various storm-related operations on Long Island, where the governor declared a travel ban on many of the roads, including one major route, the Long Island Expressway.

The National Weather Service's Upton location said ham radio spotters checked in with accumulation reports from Passaic and Bergen counties in New Jersey, as well as from Westchester, Suffolk, and Orange counties in New York, and in Connecticut's Fairfield County.

*(Amateur Radio Newsline)*

### ARRL CHOOSES NEW CEO

There's big news inside ARRL's Connecticut headquarters as Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, prepares to succeed David Sumner, K1ZZ, as the ARRL's chief executive officer on April 18. The West Palm Beach, Florida, amateur will come on board as CEO-Elect on Feb. 29 to begin the transition.

Gallagher, who takes over at the Newington, Connecticut headquarters as the ARRL begins its second century, is a former broadcast cameraman and technician who later worked as an international investment banker and financial services executive. He has been a licensed amateur since 1966 when he got his ticket in Pennsylvania as WA3GRF. Gallagher describes himself as an "incurable HF DXer and inveterate tinkerer."

Amateurs from all over will get to meet him - and perhaps congratulate him themselves - at the ARRL National Convention, hosted by the Orlando HamCation, running February 12 through 14. And we here at Amateur Radio Newsline also welcome him and wish him the best.

*(ARRL)*

## TAKING A 630 METERS FOR A TEST DRIVE

It's the debut of an experimental event and hams in the U.S. and Canada are on board: The first Midwinter 630 Meter Activity Weekend will kick off at 0000 UTC on February 6 and continue through 2359 UTC February 7. The activities on the MF spectrum will allow amateurs to engage in crossband operation, with Canadian amateurs on 630 meters, their newest band. The event follows a similar one last November that engaged Canadian and U.S. hams as well as the Maritime Radio Historical Society.

The ARRL's 600 Meter Experimental Group Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, said "Much of the interest is in response to the strong likelihood of U.S. amateurs receiving access to the band in the near future, while Canadian hams are eager to learn more about the present level of amateur radio activity on their newest ham band."

A number of Canadian stations will work two-way crossband on CW. Operation will be from 472kHz to 479 Khz in various modes.

*(ARRL, eHAM.NET)*

## KICKER: A 'FIRST' FOR 'LAST MAN STANDING'

And finally, if you're a fan of TV's "Last Man Standing," you can forget about Nielsen ratings. When you're talking about the Friday night sitcom on ABC, what you really hope to measure is the RST. After all, who wouldn't want good ratings on a QSO with Tim Allen, KK6OTD, who stars as TV ham Mike Baxter, KA0XTT?

So devoted is this show to the authenticity of its amateur radio connection that Tim Allen got his ticket last year - and now, he's getting his own amateur radio club. Well, OK.....the cast and crew together are the ones getting the club. The QTH is right there on the set in Studio City, California.

So be advised: The Last Man Standing Amateur Radio Club, KA6LMS, is now QRV, complete with a new club station QSL card, ready to mail to any contacts when the crew, or selected guest operators, are on the air. KA6LMS can be heard calling on 20 meters or 40 meters between 0000 and 0100 UTC, Mondays and Tuesdays during dinner breaks on days episodes are being shot.

The show's producer, John Amodeo, NN6JA, told Amateur Radio Newsline that the club is the outgrowth of repeated inquiries from hams wanting to know how they can contact the stage. Well, now they know. And now they can. Let the pileups begin!

*(JOHN AMODEO, NN6JA)*

## THE WORLD OF DX

The Amateur Radio Team of Aegina Island is active as SX8KAP until Feb. 5. The operation is being undertaken to honor the late Ioannis Kapodistrias, the island's first governor under the modern Greek state. QSL via bureau, SV8UM (d), LoTW, eQSL.

Jean- Pierre, F6ITD, is active as FG/F6ITD, from Deshaies (Basse-Terre) until Feb. 2, and then from Desirade Island between Feb. 3 and March 8. He will work SSB and digital modes on HF bands. During the weekend and during contests he will sign TO6D. Jean-Pierre also plans to work 6m. QSL via F6ITD (d), LoTW.

Peter, DC0KK, is working as 4S7KKG from Moragalla, Sri Lanka, until April 3, mainly on CW and the Digital modes. He is focusing on 20 meters through 10 meters. QSL via DC0KK, by the Bureau, which he prefers, or direct. LoTW will be used on request. All QSLs will be sent via the Bureau.

Alan, G4DJX, plans to be active as C5DX in Gambia between February 12 and 19th. His activity will be limited, since this is a school trip, but look for him on 40 meters through 10 meters, operating in CW and SSB.

QSLs should be sent via LoTW.

*(OHIO PENN DX, DEUTSCHER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB)*



**01-19-16**

**RCARC Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG at 7pm

Treasury Report read by Michael KF4LIK. Motion made to approve and seconded

Meeting minutes read by Trey W4SH. Motion made to approve and seconded

**Committee Reports:**

**ARES/Skywarn:**

Nothing to report

**Publicity:**

Quarterly Club Social on March 12th at El Parral In Eden

September 10th and December 10th will be the other social dates for the year 2016

**Swapfest:**

The advertisement for this year's Swapfest was turned in for the SERA Repeater Journal. It will be held at Community Baptist Church in Reidsville. May 14th

**Historian:**

Nothing to report

**Equipment:**

Current list was passed around for review by the members present.

Jamey K4RVJ has a 2 meter beam and a 6M Ringo Ranger that belongs to the club and hasn't been used in 10 years. . He proposed to either sell it to a club member or sell it at the Swapfest. It will be listed in the next newsletter for sale and if no one purchases them they will be sold on the Club's table at the Swapfest.

**Technical:**

Bill N8KSG will attempt to get to the repeater site in the next couple of weeks to get the WiresX working with a laptop he has provided. Yaesu released a firmware update for the radio but other updates are needed to make the system fully functional to use the digital mode portion with the Internet. The analog portion will hopefully be working soon.

**Field Day**

The Airport was mentioned a few meetings ago and the question was asked do we seriously want to consider having Field Day there this year. The RF noise level at the Red Cross site was discussed and that the Club should purchase one of the MFJ noise filter devices to test there first. Bill N8KSG mentioned if there were any other public services areas we might could use and for everyone to try and come up with alternative locations. The 911 Center or local Fire Depts were mentioned. Motion and seconded was made to purchase an MFJ Noise suppressor to test out before Field Day this year.

**Old Business**

None to report

**New Business**

Bill N8KSG covered the 2016 Budget Proposal. Motion was made to approve and seconded.

Bill mentioned a Fusion class will be presented sometime in the near future.

**Program**

Tim WD4GXD presented the monthly program on Simple RLC Filters

**Motion to Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm