



*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

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www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Hello RCARC members, and welcome to March 2016! We are not quite out of the woods yet, but let's hope the bulk of the colder winter weather is behind us. I believe I heard that Puxatawney Phil did not see his shadow, so that should mean spring is about upon us, and I for one am happy about that! I have been struggling with a poor antenna situation, and I am eager to put up a new dipole that will have me climbing up on my roof to mount an offset and pulley to provide a better center support. But before that, I have a number of trees that need to be cut down before I can anchor the ends. I tell you, it's always something! I received the upgraded DR-1x repeater back from Yaesu this past week, and now I am in the process of updating the laptop and HRI-200 internet adapter with the correct firmware versions to make it all work together properly. This should be testing for a week or so, and then it will be ready to put the entire system on the air at our Madison site. I am very anxious to get this done, and I'm sure you all are looking forward to putting those digital radios to use, as well as taking advantage of the internet linking to other repeaters around the world, so get ready. I hope you are studying up on your Japanese, German, and other languages!

Please mark your calendar for Saturday May 14 for our annual RCARC Swap Fest. We will be holding it at the Reidsville Community Baptist Church – same place as last year. Your help is needed in any capacity to ensure we pull off a great event for the ham community! Contact Paul, N4CE or Roger, W4AYO to see how you can help out.

Just as a friendly reminder, 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 mailing your renewal today. We are down about 10 memberships from 2015 at this point, but I know there are many who haven't been able to get to a meeting yet this year. But even if you cannot make it to the meeting or social, 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!

Remember that our normal meeting this month is replaced by our quarterly social on Saturday March 12th at El Parral Mexican Restaurant on Hwy 14 in Eden. We will meet at 6 pm. for a quick club update followed by dinner. If you show up at the Red Cross on the regular meeting date, you may find yourself lonely! I hope to see you all at El Parral!

Bill, N8KSG

FOR SALE

Sold!

~~RCARC has a Vertical Ringo Ranger 6 meter antenna donated back in 2006 from the estate of Howard Underwood, K4QXA. Since the club has no particular use for it we are offering it for sale, and asking \$20. It may need a little TLC before putting back up but would make a great addition for the right shack! Sold!~~

Good News!

Gears and Cheers will happen again this year on May the 7th. There is a new event coordinator, but all the routes and rest stops will remain the same as last year. Please let me know if you can help and if you prefer a rest stop or sag, and what location. Need 15 operators for this event.

Then on April the 9th, there are two events. We have not had an official request to help with these yet, but I am sure its coming.

1. Reidsville MS walk Morning of April 9th. Could use 4 operators for this event.
2. Belews Lake International Triathlon Also April 9th. Need at least 6 operators for this event.

Jim and Billy, if any of your guys would like to help out that would be great. We will probably need help covering these events.

Thanks & 73
Mike WA3RFE

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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

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 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

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

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@arrl.net

12th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest

On Saturday the 14th of May, 2016 the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL hamfest at the Community Baptist Church located on 509 Triangle Road, Reidsville, NC 27320. **Website:** <http://N4IV.org> **Talk-In:** 147.345 (PL 103.5) **Public Contact:** James Patterson , N4CE 125 Woodstone Drive Stoneville, NC 27048 Phone: 336-548-2027 **Email:** jppattersonjr@gmail.com



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

News Articles

THE HAM LICENSE EXPLOSION

Hams, you're in good company: FCC records show that growth in amateur licenses continued through 2015, with a 735,405 licensees -- a record - in the agency's Universal Licensing System database by year's end. Those figures reflect an increase of 9,130 over December 2014. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8,149 licensees.

Not surprisingly, the largest growth area was in the Technician license class, which added 6,570 new hams in in 2015. There were 3,079 new General class licensees, and Amateur Extra class added another 3,496.

The figures reflect a steady growth in amateur radio's ranks annually since 2007. Looks like there'll be a lot more people calling CQ this year, if they haven't started already.

(ARRL)

SATELLITE CONNECTS SOUTH AMERICA AND ANTARCTICA

It's being called a historic contact and indeed, the satellite communication made on Feb. 28 between Federico Mainz, LU5UFM, in Buenos Aires and Marcelo Duca, LU1AET, in Argentinean Antarctica was just that.

The Radio Club of Argentina and AMSAT-LU described their call as the first contact via satellite between Argentinean Antarctica and the Argentinean mainland.

Marcelo was running 15 watts and, using a hand held transceiver; Federico was using 4 watts. Using the SO-50 satellite, their 2-minute QSO clearly went the distance - their signals covered nearly 2,700 kilometers.

(ARRL)

DAVID RITTER, ND4MR RECEIVES 2015 ROANOKE DIVISION ARRL SERVICE AWARD

The following communication was received from Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ: "The Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award was instituted in 1968 by then Roanoke Division Director Vic Clark, W4KFC. Vic intended the award to be recognition for a long history of significant and consistent contributions to Amateur Radio. The amateur selected would have, over the years, dedicated much of his or her time to Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Nominations for the award were solicited in late 2015. The selection committee is comprised of past award recipients, and the administration of the award is done by the Roanoke Division Director. Out of a field of five very worthy candidates, one clearly received the majority of the votes. Congratulations to our 2015 Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award winner: David Ritter ND4MR of North Wilkesboro, NC. The award presentation is currently planned at the 2016 Charlotte Hamfest on Saturday, March 12, 2016 during the ARRL forum:

<http://www.charlottehamfest.org/>

Please join us in congratulating our 2015 Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award winner!"

Congratulations to David Ritter, ND4MR; and thanks to Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, ARRL Roanoke Division Director, for providing this information!

(NC ARRL Section Newsletter)

ARRL SIGNS NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

The ARRL and the American Red Cross signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January, which will cover the next 5 years. The MoU details how ARES volunteers will interact with the American Red Cross when they are requested to assist the American Red Cross in disaster or emergency response. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-signs-new-memorandum-of-understanding-with-the-american-red-cross>

(NC ARRL Section Newsletter)

US Amateur Radio Numbers Continue to Soar

Amateur Radio is alive and well! Growth in the US continued in 2015, with a record 735,405 licensees in the FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) database by the end of the year. That's up 9130 over December 2014, a 1.2 percent rise, continuing a steady increase in the Amateur Radio population in every year since 2007. In 2014, the Amateur Radio ranks grew by a net 8149 licensees. The [figures](#), compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages, exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Compared with the same month 10 years ago, the Amateur Radio population in the US has expanded by 72,805 licensees — or nearly 11 percent.

As expected, the biggest growth by license class was in Technician licensees, which rose by 6570 in 2015. General ranks increased by 3079, and Amateur Extra numbers went up by 3496. The 2015 overall numbers faltered a little in April before rebounding in July. The introduction of a new General class question pool on July 1 appeared to have only a slight effect on month-to-month numbers in that license class. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said 2015 was another banner year for ARRL VEC-sponsored test sessions.

“For the second year in a row, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone for the ARRL VEC,” she said. “A total of 7358 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2015, compared to 7216 in 2014. The number of exam applicants was down slightly in 2015, compared to the previous year, and the number of examination elements administered also dipped slightly, she noted.

“Since 2014 was a record-setting year, the numbers of 2015 examinees didn't drop so much as return to more typical levels,” she explained.

Somma pointed out that the ARRL-VEC also processed and filed nearly 10,100 license renewals and address changes for members in 2015. This is a free service to ARRL members.

Technician licensees still comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 47,850 Advanced and 10,800 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 103,938 at the end of 2015, up from 102,735 at the end of 2014. North Dakota remained the state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees, with 1510, up very slightly over the previous 12 months. Club station licenses in the US number 11,599, according to Speroni's web pages.

(ARRL, FCC ULS licensing statistics)

02-16-16 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:

Social March 12th at El Parral in Eden located on NC 14. 6-8pm

Swapfest:

The ad for the Clubs Swapfest was published in the current SERA Repeater Journal. Everything is still on schedule to have it on May 14th 2106 at Community Baptist Church at 509 Triangle Road in Reidsville, 8am to 12pm.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

The current equipment list was passed around and reviewed by everyone present.

Technical:

Bill spoke with Yaesu and both of our System Fusion repeaters need a hardware modification to allow a local connection with a PC. The 345 repeater has been shipped to Yaesu for this modification and should be back by the end of the month. Bill recommended that the 850 repeater be sent to Yaesu for the same modification after the 345 repeater is returned.

Old Business

The Red Cross is currently reserved for the club to have Field Day there on June 25th and 26th of this year. Tests will be performed for noise level tests with the recently acquired MFJ Noise Canceling device to determine for sure if it is an appropriate location.

New Business

Bill will send the State of North Carolina the current Non-Profit charter with current officers and other information that is required by the State for our non-profit status.

Paul N4CE, mentioned the possibility of eliminating some of the club officer positions, such as some of the Board positions, since the size of the club is small. These positions could be added back if the club increased in size if needed.

Program

Tim WD4GXD, presented an interesting presentation on Simple Crystal Radios and their uses in the early days of radio.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn at 7:52pm