



*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

April 2016

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

## **President's Corner**

Happy April to all my friends in RCARC! With the passing of the winter weather, we have finally made it into Spring. I for one am very happy about that as I don't deal with the cold very well. For most of the time between October through May my toes feel like little ice cube, so I am ready for the spring thaw!

Well, we are certainly into a busier time of year as far as ham radio is concerned. As few of our members made it over to Raleigh a couple weeks ago for the RARSfest, and the calendar is quickly filling up. I made a day out of the RARSfest trip, enjoying the NC flea market and sightseeing and good a good dinner in our state capital after the ham fest. The folks at Raleigh Amateur Radio Society always go a good job, and this year was no exception. Unfortunately, I didn't find anything that I could not live without, so I came out empty handed. My wife did find a lot of plants and gardening supplies at a local garden center though!

Please mark your calendar for Saturday May 14 for our annual RCARC SwapFest. 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 7 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, 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 Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The location as usual, is at the Red Cross Building on NC14, between Eden and Reidsville. This will be our final meeting before the RCARC Swapfest, so please try to make it so our coordinators can finalize plans and help needed for the event. Your support is critical to the success of the event!

Bill, N8SG

## **NEWSLETTER CONTENTS :**

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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.*

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### **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 on Tuesday April the 19th at 7pm. The June meeting will be during Field Day.

#### **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.

#### **South Carolina Section Convention (57th Annual Hamfest)**

The Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Convention on May the 7th, 2016 at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds located on 575 Fairgrounds Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301.  
**Website:** <http://brars.org> **Talk-In:** 146.610 (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Robert Webster , WR8RW  
3 Beaver Brook Court, Taylors, SC 29687. Phone: 864-663-9792. **Email:** [wr8rw@mail.com](mailto:wr8rw@mail.com)

#### **Catawba Valley Hamfest**

On April the 16th, the McDowell Amateur Radio Association will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the Burke County Fairgrounds on 145 Bost Road, Morganton, NC 28655. **Website:** <http://cvhamfest.com>  
**Talk-In:** 147.150 **Public Contact:** Michael Fox, KF4MWX, 4895 Karen Court Morganton, NC 28655  
Phone: 828-437-2787. **Email:** [kf4mwx@gmail.com](mailto:kf4mwx@gmail.com)

## 26th Annual Down East Hamfest

On April the 23rd, the Down East Hamfest Association will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at Lenoir Community College on 231 Highway 58 South, Kinston, NC 28501. **Website:** <http://www.downeasthamfest.org> **Talk-In:** 146.085/146.685 (PL 82.5) **Public Contact:** Byron Highland, K4BMH, PO Box 1778 Kinston, NC 28503. Phone: 252-347-1498 **Email:** [bhighland@nc.rr.com](mailto:bhighland@nc.rr.com)

## 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](mailto:jppattersonjr@gmail.com)

## Freigate 2016

On Saturday the 21st of May 2016, 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM, a free tailgate swapfest hosted by Qorvo Amateur Radio Club will be at the back parking lot of Qorvo (formerly known as RFMD) located on 7628 Thorndike Road, Greensboro, NC. Check [KD4RF.org](http://KD4RF.org) for updates. E-mail: [info@kd4rf.org](mailto:info@kd4rf.org) Talk-in: 145.250MHz, PL 88.5Hz

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## Charlotte Hamfest and Raleigh RARSFEST

If you haven't made it out to one of the area hamfests, you're missing out! I drove to Concord for the Charlotte hamfest on March 12th. It was a nice day and there were plenty of ham radio deals going down. This complex makes it very easy to get around as you can see in the picture. Lots of open area. MFJ, DBJ, Wireman were all there. There was a retail store there selling ham radios but wasn't sure if it was HRO. I don't recall seeing a sign but the crowd around the merchandise prevented me from seeing any literature about them on the table. Absent were the major vendors such as Icom, Kenwood, etc.

Ralph, N4RFX and I made it to RARSFEST on April 2nd. Good thing their hamfest was indoors as it rained the entire time we were there. We did meet up with Bill, N8KSG and Tommy, KE4WSF. Lots of hams with lots of flea market space. It was well attended by most of the same vendors from the Charlotte hamfest. I had a shopping list for myself and several club members. I managed to find everything on my list.

Of course don't forget our club's swapfest on May 14th. You'll be hearing more about it on the Monday night net and April Club meeting.

73 Paul N4CE

*Photos by Paul, N4CE*



*Charlotte Hamfest: March 12th, 2016*



*RARSFEST: April 2nd, 2016*



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 YSF C4FM**

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

## Ham Articles

### AMATEURS MARK MARCONI DAY

Happy Birthday Guglielmo Marconi. The birth of the pioneering wireless scientist is recorded as April 25, 1874 -- but amateur radio operators around the world, wanting to make the festivities a little more inclusive and global, are again taking part in International Marconi Day on Saturday, the 23rd of April.

The 24-hour-long event has its roots not just in the birth of Marconi but the heart of one of the celebration's founders, Norman Pascoe, G4USB, former president of the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, who became a Silent Key earlier this year. The annual celebration has drawn participation, in some years, by as many as 60 stations, including those in South America, Australia, South Africa, Spain, Germany, Portugal and the United States. This year, the Cornish amateurs are making an extra effort for a successful event to honor, not just Guglielmo Marconi, but Norman as well.

Steve, G7VOH, Vice Chairman of the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, wrote recently about Norman on the DXCoffee website: "He will be missed by us all from all over the world. This is truly a major event in Amateur Radio and we, the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, will be doing our very best to keep it running as smoothly as Norman did, for many years to come."

The Cornish club, GB4IMD, will be operating from the Stithians Showground in Cornwall, and will be joined by stations around the world on the bands. International Marconi Day awards will be given to qualifying operators.

For a list of confirmed stations visit [gx4crc.com/imd-stations](http://gx4crc.com/imd-stations)

### *CORNISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, DXCOFFEE*

### LONGTIME HAM A MAJOR LEAGUE HONOREE

Right before the Seattle Mariners took on the Oakland Athletics at Safeco Field on Saturday, April 9, Lester Kahan, K2ENC, found himself playing in the big leagues too.

It was the Salute to Armed Forces Night for the Seattle baseball team and Lester, a licensed ham since 1952, is also an Army veteran, having served in World War II in the Pacific theater. The 88-year-old former New Yorker, who moved to Washington State with his family in 2003, was honored with other veterans during the Mariners' program that celebrates vets for their service. He had been nominated for the honor by the American Legion Post 161. And his wife Phyllis, WA2FAQ, was there to share the moment.

Meanwhile, back on Long Island, New York, another home team was cheering for him too. In Lindenhurst, New York, members of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, which Lester had helped charter and found, couldn't be happier for him. Back in the day, Lester had been mayor of Lindenhurst, New York, as well as the village's Traffic Court Judge. But the lifelong ham is just as proud of having been an Elmer to many local amateurs as well.

And clearly, the stadium ceremony left him feeling like Most Valuable Player.

The Athletics, unfortunately, beat the Mariners, 6 to 1.

Reflecting on the day's big score though, Lester noted, somewhat gratefully, "I did a lot better than they did."

*GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, LESTER KAHAN, K2ENC, AND PHYLLIS KAHAN, WA2FAQ*

## ELECTRONICS RETAILER SAVED, GOES ONLINE

An 11th-hour rescue has saved Australian mega-retailer, Dick Smith Electronics, from the dusty pages of history... Sort of.

Entrepreneur Rusland Kogan has purchased the online portion of the embattled retailer's business for an disclosed amount and, according to press reports, will launch Internet-based sales starting the 1st of June. No purchase price has been made public. The online-only sales operation will be part of a dual brand strategy alongside kogan.com

Placement into receivership of the venerable Dick Smith Holdings, which has more than 360 locations in New Zealand and Australia, cost thousands of workers their jobs and, in the amateur radio community, foretold the loss of an important resource of electronic components. The online Kogan.com site, which is Australia's single largest online-only seller, offers a variety of consumer goods, such as bed linens, camping equipment and home electronics.

Dick Smith will be run separately from that site, and is considered an off-platform venture by the 33-year-old self-made Kogan. A native of Belarus, Kogan's founder is believed to have a personal net worth in excess of \$350 million.

*WIA, BBC, NEWS.COM/AU*

## THE EYES OF THE HURRICANE

May isn't that far away and neither are hurricanes in some parts of the country. According to the Hurricane Watch Net, the eastern Pacific storms' season begins May 15 and ends Nov. 30. Hurricanes also become more of a likelihood in the Atlantic between June 1 and Nov. 30. But sometimes hurricanes can - and do - occur out of season.

So the Hurricane Watch Net is hoping to get a jump on the season by attracting additional Net Control Operators, and hopes that radio amateurs will step forward to serve as Net Control Stations and provide other support. According to Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, manager of the Hurricane Watch Net, experienced operators are needed, especially those who are bilingual in Spanish and English. Operators need to be prepared for long hours under stressful conditions. Although net control stations must become members of the Hurricane Watch Net, stations servicing as reporting stations or as observers do not need membership.

To assist the Hurricane Watch Net, visit the membership information page at [www.hwn.org](http://www.hwn.org)

*HWN.ORG*