



*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

Hello to all my friends in the RCARC – land! Have you noticed the cooler mornings recently? I sure have enjoyed the beginning of the seasons where mornings are clear and crisp with temperatures in the low 60's. I even had a couple mornings that have started off in the upper 50's. Yes, it's still getting plenty warm on most afternoons, but the upper '80s sure beats being in the mid-'90's every day. Now, if we can just get Jamey to do his rain dance and get a little moisture coming down from the sky – some, not a lot – then, all will be well!

So, those of you with digital transceivers, have you taken the opportunity to get familiar with all the features of using wires-x now that the repeater has been in the digital mode for a while? I know of about 5 members who have been giving the system a workout, learning how to search for internet rooms, connect to them, then hold a QSO right from their radio without any need of looking up nodes on their computer. I have had fun with this so far, and I hope you take the time to play around yourselves.

If you have not heard, the US House of Representatives has passed HR1301 – The Amateur Radio Parity Act. If this bill passes the Senate next and is signed into law, it will effectively extend rules that ensure local communities provide for “reasonable accommodation” in allowing amateur radio antennas and communications to homeowners with HOAs and covenants that effectively exclude amateur radio by forbidding any antennas whatsoever. If you support this measure, now is the time to contact your US Senators to urge they support the bill. The ARRL has set up a web page that will find your senators and prepare a letter that will be emailed to them. You don't even have to stuff an envelope or part with a stamp to help in this effort. Simply follow this link to participate...

<https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act> The time to act is now!

Please note that there is no regular club meeting in the month of September, In its place is our third social of the year on this coming Saturday, September 17th at El Parral in Eden, starting at 6 pm. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I will miss this social as I will be attending a festival up in Asheville, NC, but I will be happy to see you at the October meeting on 10/18 at the Red Cross. Until then, stay safe, enjoy the social, and Gud DX to each!

73 de 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

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 September meeting will be a social at El Parral on Saturday the 17th at 6pm.

September 24th: Free Gate 2016 - Qorvo Headquarters, (formerly RFMD) Back parking lot only, 7628 Thorndike Rd. Greensboro, NC 27409. Talk-in is 145.250MHz, PL 88.5Hz. This is not a rain or shine event. Check back in the event of inclement weather. <http://kd4rf.org/>

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> .



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 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

Echolink Link to 147.345 Monday Night Net

Available to those that would like to use as a way to check-in to the club net. Download program on P C or phone, click on Explorer View, click on United States, click on area 4, click on K4RVJ-R. This is a good way to check-in to the net when out of repeater range. More information is available at <http://www.echolink.org/>

Back-up Net Controls for our Monday Night Club Nets

If you would be interested in calling the net on an occasional bases, when NCS have a conflict, vacations, etc. please let me know.
K4RVJ, Jamey

Reading the Newsletter on Your Mobile Devices

Many of us receive the newsletter by email or from the club's website in a "pdf" file format. Reading this on a mobile device such as a smart phone requires an app much like a program is needed on a personal computer. If you have a device that connects to the internet and you would like to read the newsletter, try looking for a "pdf" file reader and install the app to view it.
KF4LIK, Michael

Amateur Radio Parity Act Passes in the US House of Representatives!

"The bill is passed without objection." With those words, Amateur Radio history was made on September 12, when the US House of Representatives [approved](#) the Amateur Radio Parity Act, [H.R. 1301](#) on a voice vote under a suspension of the rules. The focus of the campaign to enact the legislation into law now shifts to the US Senate. The House victory culminated many years of effort on ARRL's part to gain legislation that would enable radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities to erect antennas that support Amateur Radio communication. The measure calls on the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules "to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land-use restrictions, and for other purposes." While similar bills in past years gained some traction on Capitol Hill, it was not until the overwhelming grassroots support from the Amateur Radio community for H.R. 1301 shepherded by ARRL that a bill made it this far. The legislation faces significant obstacles to passage in the US Senate, however.

"This is huge step in our effort to enact legislation that will allow radio amateurs who live in deed-restricted communities the ability to construct an effective outdoor antenna," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "Thanks to everyone for their help in this effort thus far. Now we must turn our full attention to getting the bill passed in the Senate."

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board's Legislative Advocacy Committee, has been heavily involved in efforts to move H.R. 1301 forward. "This has been a multiyear effort that is finally seeing some light," he said. "The passage of the bill in the House is a major accomplishment, due to the hard work of so many — from the rank-and-file member to the officers and directors."

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Lisenco said it's not a time to rest on our laurels. "We are only halfway there. The focus now shifts to our effort in the Senate," he said. "We are beginning a massive e-mail campaign in which we need every member to write their two Senators using our simplified process. You will be hearing from President Roderick and from your Directors, asking you to go to our '[Rally Congress](#)' page. Using your ZIP code, e-mails will be generated much like our recent letter campaign. You'll fill in your name and address and press Enter. The e-mails will be sent directly to your Senators without you having to search through their websites."

Lisenco said getting these e-mails to members' Senators is a critical part of the process. "Those numbers matter! Please help us help you by participating in this effort," he said.

As the [amended bill](#) provides, "Community associations should fairly administer private land-use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the Amateur Radio services."

During this week's limited debate, the House bill's sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), thanked ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) for reaching an agreement to move the bill forward "in a bipartisan and very positive manner." He pointed out to his colleagues that Amateur Radio antennas are prohibited outright in some areas.

"For some this is merely a nuisance," Kinzinger said, "but for others — those that use their Amateur Radio license for life-saving emergency communications — a dangerous situation can be created by limiting their ability to establish effective communication for those in need." Kinzinger said that in emergencies, hams can provide "a vital and life-saving function" when conventional communication systems are down. He also praised the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), a US Department of Defense-sponsored program, comprised largely of Amateur Radio volunteers, that also supports communication during emergencies and disasters.

Cosponsor US Rep Joe Courtney (D-CT) also urged the bill's passage. "This is not just a feel-good bill," Courtney said, recounting how Hurricane Sandy brought down the power grid, and "we saw all the advanced communications we take for granted...completely fall by the wayside." Ham radio volunteers provided real-time communication in the storm's wake, he said, saying the legislation was a way "to rebalance things" for radio amateurs who choose to live in deed-restricted neighborhoods by enabling them to install "non-intrusive antennas."

Courtney noted that he spoke recently with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and said that Wheeler "strongly supports this legislation."

Leading up to the vote, Rep Paul Tonko (D-NY) also spoke in support of the legislation, calling it a commonsense approach that would build "fairness into the equation for Amateur Radio operators" in dealing with homeowners associations.

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The earlier U.S. Senate version of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, S. 1685, no longer is in play, and the Senate is expected to vote by unanimous consent on the version of H.R. 1301 that was adopted by the House on September 12.

(ARRL Website)

AVES ISLAND DXPEDITION PUT ON HOLD

If you've been waiting for the big DXpedition to Aves Island, one of the world's top DXCC entities, you may have to wait a little while longer -- or even longer than that. Steve, W4DTA, reports that the plans for YX0V have been put on hold due to weather conditions. The activation was to have started in late August.

Reporting on behalf of the team, Steve indicated that safety concerns were paramount, especially in light of the potential for storms. He hoped to provide updates in time. The expedition was to have operated for as many as 10 days, concluding on Sept. 10. Now its future is unclear.

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

KIDS TAKE A SHINE TO LIGHTHOUSES

Donkin Reserve is a noted historical spot in the South African city of Port Elizabeth, but on Sunday the 21st of August, it also made some history for a group of youngsters and their ham radios.

The Eastern Cape Hammies Club ZS2ZU worked the bands during the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend with the help of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society ZS2PE. The youngsters landed some DX contacts and worked nine other lighthouses from the one at the reserve, which was built in 1861.

The young amateurs also got another experience worthy of the history books. They worked the bands from a microbus outfitted with radios and antennas and owned by Al Akers, ZS2U. The camper became their radio shack for several hours, and though it never moved from its parking spot, it nonetheless transported the youngsters for miles and miles over the radio waves.

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

08/16/2016

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG at 7:01pm

Meeting minutes read by Paul N4CE. Motion made to accept minutes as read. Seconded and passed.
Treasury Report read by Michael, KF4LIK. Motion made to approve as read, seconded and passed.

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn :

Nothing to report.

Technical:

Bill, N8KSG, stated he has put the 345 repeater in digital mode for wires-x. Grant, Mike and Bill have investigated how to make it work. Bill will give a program in October to go over procedure for digital wires-x. UPS has arrived. Bill will install in near future.

Publicity:

Peggy KJ4ANA, reminded members that next social is confirmed for Sept 17th 6 - 7:30pm at El Parral in Eden.

Swapfest:

Nothing yet to report

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Bill N8KSG commented that on the equipment list, it has been to corrected to add internet power switch, antenna noise eliminators and the 85 repeater antenna location.

Old Business:

Bill reminded members that Jamey, K4RVJ hasn't had anyone volunteer to take over Monday night net manager. Please contact Jamey or Bill if interested.

New business:

Because of the September social without a meeting, we'll need to organize a nominating committee and begin looking for slate of officers. Bill said there are other changes in club by-laws in the works which will be presented next club meeting. Possibility to change articles to allow more than 2 terms. Let Bill know your thoughts. By Laws are on the web site to view.

PROGRAM:

Tim WD4GXD, gave an enlightening program on Stealth Antennas

Motion to Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Minutes recorded by Paul Patterson N4CE