



*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**

**November 2016**

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

## **President's Corner**

Greetings to all my friends in RCARC! With the time change behind us and Thanksgiving fast approaching, I'm growing concerned that we are going to have no "real" fall season to enjoy. I must say, I am enjoying the days with high temperatures in the upper 60 degree range, but I also realize what is coming shortly – and I'm not looking forward to it!

I am asking all members to make every effort to attend the November meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We have some significant revisions to the Articles of our club to be voted on, and we must have a quorum to hold a valid vote. While none of the changes are earth-shattering, and in fact they represent how the club has been functioning for a number of years, we do require a sufficient number to be present so that the club is represented. Your input is crucial to the success of the club into the future, and your presence would be appreciated!

We also have to present nominations for club officers and we will conduct the Election of Officers for 2017. At present, we have no nomination for Vice President, so we are facing a potential hole in our organization of great importance. I urge all to please consider volunteering for this position. The essential duties of the VP are to arrange the presentations for club meeting and to fill in for the President when he is absent. First, I have not been absent from a club meeting in two years, so don't let that scare you – it doesn't mean that it can't happen, but it is not likely, nor will it be a regular thing. Second, while the VP arranges presentations, it does not mean you have to do all or any of the presentations yourself. If I can be rather direct, we are approaching a crossroad on this: If we cannot get four officers willing to serve, we need to fundamentally question what kind of club we want to be in the future. Will we need to further amend the Articles and function more as a social club with a common interest, removing the educational aspect for ourselves? Only time will answer this question. This question has been asked of me in recent weeks, so it is important for each of us to consider where we want to go and make that known at the meeting on 11/15.

Please mark your calendar for the club social at 6 pm at El Parral Mexican Restaurant on Hwy 14 in Eden, NC, on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. I have heard rumors that Mike3 will be coming dressed as Santa Claus, so be sure to stay on the "nice" list!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the club meeting! Mark your calendar for next Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us at 7 pm at the Red Cross building. As always, I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting.

73 de Bill, N8KSG

## **NEWSLETTER CONTENTS :**

- p. 1 President's Corner
- p. 2 Events
- p. 3 Skywarn, NOAA
- p. 4 Area Nets
- p. 5-6 Ham Articles
- p. 7 Unofficial Meeting Minutes

**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**

### **JARSFest 2016**

An ARRL Hamfest / Convention, sponsored by Johnston Amateur Radio Society, will be on Sunday, November the 20th, 2016 at the Benson American Legion Post 109 located at 605 North Wall Street, Benson, NC 27504. **Website:** <http://www.jars.net> **Talk-In:** 147.270+ and 146.970- **Public Contact:** Michael Callam, KD4MC, 1916B Strickland's Crossroads Road Four Oaks, NC 27524. Phone: 919-934-9623. **Email:** [jarsmember@yahoo.com](mailto:jarsmember@yahoo.com)

## **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 American Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. The December meeting will be a social at El Parral on Saturday the 17th at 6pm. The November meeting will be on Tuesday the 15th at 7pm.

## **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](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

## **ATTACK PLAN SUSPECTED ON HAARP FACILITY**

Two men in Georgia have been charged with plotting an attack on the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project (HAARP) in Alaska, a facility of great interest to the amateur community. Authorities released news of the arrests as Newsline went to production. An arsenal of weapons was also recovered that police believe were to be used in the planned attack. The plot was discovered during an investigation of reports that one of the suspects was engaged in selling drugs. Marmian Grimes, a representative of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, told the Alaska Dispatch that the research facility has faced threats before and was grateful Georgia authorities were alert. The authorities said the pair had told them they were acting on directions from God.

*(Amateur Radio Newsline)*

## **RECENT SUCCESS STORIES ON ANTENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURE PERMITS**

While we wait for projected passage and enactment of HR 1301 Amateur Radio Parity Act by the US Senate, there have been two recent success stories where NC Hams living in areas not covered by homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CCRs) overcame antenna support structure restrictions through the use of existing federal rules and State statutes.

Larry J. Ford, K4AEC, ARRL Volunteer Counsel, Roanoke Division, reports a recent case which resulted in amateur radio operators in Caldwell County now being able to erect antenna support structures, such as towers, in single-family residential zoning districts. Previously, the County Attorney for Caldwell County had issued a ruling that stated zoning permits could not be issued for amateur radio towers on property zoned single-family residential, thereby relegating amateur towers to commercial or other zoning districts. Of course, the vast majority of hams want and need their towers as accessory structures to their homes, and the County Attorney's ruling prevented that in most cases.

After learning of the ruling, Larry K4AEC contacted the County Attorney and over the course of several weeks, provided the County Attorney with the legal authority, including Federal case law, Regulations, FCC PRB-1, and the North Carolina Statute on amateur radio towers, all of which require a local government to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio antennas support structures including towers. After these communications, the County Attorney reversed his ruling, and the ham whose application was denied received his zoning permit to construct his tower.

Larry K4AEC also reports this was the second similar case recently in North Carolina, as he was involved with a similar matter in the City of High Point a couple of years ago, which resulted in the City of High Point amending its Zoning Ordinance to allow towers.

Larry K4AEC stated: "From my experience, a lot of City and County Attorneys, as well as Zoning administration officials, are totally unaware of the Federal law and state statutes which prevent local governments from summarily denying or prohibiting amateur radio towers. In many cases, I can talk to the City or County attorney, provide the legal authority they are unfamiliar with, and achieve a positive outcome. I encourage ARRL Members to contact me or one of the other Volunteer Counsels (all of whom are licensed hams) if a tower application has been denied so we can attempt to rectify the situation on an informal basis (there is no charge to an ARRL Member for an initial consultation). However, there are cases where the local government is so entrenched in its position that the only solution is litigation, as we experienced a few years ago in the Charlotte tower case." *(continued on next page)*

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For further information on ARRL Volunteer Counsel Program, see <http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-counsel-program>. Thanks to Larry J. Ford, K4AEC, ARRL Volunteer Counsel, for his efforts on behalf of amateur radio operators in the NC Section!  
*(ARRL website, N2COP, K4AEC)*

### **ARRL Gauging Impact of Revised California Distracted Driving Law**

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California has upped its game in cracking down on distracted driving, and radio amateurs there are concerned that a recent revision to the state's Motor Vehicle Code could affect Amateur Radio mobile operation. The old law, which included an Amateur Radio exemption, already prohibited motorists from using electronic wireless communication devices to write, send, or read a text-based communication while in motion, unless the device was configured for voice-operated and hands-free operation. The revised law does not exempt Amateur Radio.

Assembly Bill 1785, signed into law on September 26 by Gov Jerry Brown, prohibits a motorist from driving "while holding and operating" a hand-held wireless telephone or a wireless electronic communication device, as defined by the code. But it authorizes a driver to operate such devices mounted on a vehicle's windshield like a GPS or on the dashboard or center console "in a manner that does not hinder the driver's view of the road," if the driver can activate or deactivate a feature or function "with the motion of a single swipe or tap of the finger."

The language defining devices covered by the law does not accurately specify what activity is prohibited, leaving its application subject to misinterpretation by individual law enforcement officers, but it does not specifically proscribe use of mobile Amateur Radio equipment for voice communication. The list of covered devices includes, but is not limited to, "a broadband personal communication device, a specialized mobile radio device, a handheld device or laptop computer with mobile data access, a pager, or a two-way messaging device." A first offense would incur a \$20 base fine and \$50 for subsequent offenses.

Initial wording of the legislation was not considered to be a threat to Amateur Radio operation, but the measure's language changed substantially as it worked its way through the California General Assembly.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said there are two principal ways to protect Amateur Radio in this type of legislation. "One is by sufficiently narrowly defining prohibited activity so as to exclude Amateur Radio," he said. "The other is to create specific exemptions where the definitions are confusing. This new statute is an example of bad legislative draftsmanship. It creates a motor vehicle law with citations issued for certain activity that includes the words 'but is not limited to' in the language defining the violation."

In addition to scrutinizing the language of the revision, ARRL will be consulting with Field Organization officials in California to determine its next steps.

*(ARRL Website)*

## **10-18-16 RCARC Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG at 7:02pm

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:

Christmas Social December 17th at El Parral Mexican Restaurant in Eden, NC on Highway NC 14. 6 to 8pm

Swapfest:

Paul N4CE, reminded members that to get our Swapfest information in the SERA Repeater Journal in the first 2017 issue, we need to get a date and location decided soon.

Historian:

Nothing to Report

Equipment:

No changes to the list

Technical:

Bill, N8KSG said Yaesu has a firmware update that was recently released for the System Fusion repeaters which hopefully will fix the timeout problem occurring with the ID.

### **Old Business**

Trey W4SH, agreed to take the Club Net Manager position that has been available for some time. Trey reminded members to keep in mind that if the assigned Net Control for a particular night did not call the net, he may be at the Fire Dept and would not be available to take that persons place. It is encouraged for the Net Controls to please let the Net Manager know as soon as possible if they can't call their assigned night. If anyone is interested in being a Net Control, please let Trey W4SH know.

### **New Business**

Michael KF4LIK, will head up the nominating committee for new club officers

Bill N8KSG, brought up that the club has never voted to accept new members and it was discussed to remove that from the by-laws. Motion made and seconded.

Removed the 18 and under from the Family Membership requirements. Motion made and seconded.

Changed to read up to four consecutive terms for holding a Club Officer Position and the two year requirement was removed. Motion made and seconded.

Changed some of the eligible voter requirements.

Removed the requirement that the Secretary shall give each member a copy of the By-Laws. The Club bylaws are on the Club's website and a printed copy will be provided upon request. Motion made and seconded.

The Treasurer will email a list to each member stating the current membership roster each month.

These changes will be voted on at the next Club meeting that a quorum is present.

Jamey K4RFJ, made a suggestion to make Bryant Pierce W4WBP, an honorary member. Motion made and seconded.

### **Program**

Tim WD4GXD gave a presentation the GPS system and its many uses.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Jamey K4RVJ, at 8:48pm

Respectively submitted by

Trey Belton W4SH