



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends at RCARC! Are you well on your way to completing preparations for the Christmas and New Year season? I hope so, but I have to admit that I am not! The pace needs to be picked up at my house, and that is the plan for today. I still have fall yard work to complete!

I would like to remind everyone that our Christmas party and social is at El Parral Restaurant this Saturday, December 17th on HWY 14 in Eden. We will be gathering at 6 pm to enjoy dinner and fellowship for this final time in 2016. Please mark down it and I look forward to seeing everyone. Since I had the entire week of Thanksgiving off from work, I was able to join the Tuesday morning breakfast crew for a nice time. I like to take advantage of the opportunity when it arises. After breakfast, I met up with Ralph, N4RFX at the Madison site to apply the latest firmware patch to the repeater and to perform some computer maintenance. We took the opportunity to do some cross-training, and now Ralph can also provide support by remote access if anything needs immediate attention. It is kind of cool these days that we can provide remote support – I can even get in a work on things with my phone! And if you have not noticed, after finishing the work at Madison, I did go over to the Red Cross and remove the 146.85 repeater and have shipped it back to Yaesu to get the hardware upgrade we've previously done to the 147.345 machine. Once it comes back, I will get it reinstalled; then we can look at possibly tying it into wires-x later in the year.

I have renewed the internet access at 147.345, so anyone who is willing to share in the cost of a month for the next year, please contact me at n8ksg@arrl.net. Last year, we kept this off direct club expense with most of the number of digital-enabled members picking up one month. I will add, I am proud that our club has really embraced the new digital mode! I would not be surprised to find that RCARC has the highest percent of members with YSF capability in the area.

At the November meeting, the new officer slate for 2017 was put into place - here is the lineup.

Bill, N8KSG	President
Roger, W4AYO	Vice-President
Trey, W4SH	Secretary
Michael, KF4LIK	Treasurer

I'd like to thank the team for agreeing to serve the club in 2017.

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As Vice President, Roger, W4AYO will be arranging for the club presentations for the year. While Tim, WD4GXD has presented the vast majority of our topics for a long time, we all need to help share the load, and I encourage you to contact Roger and take on at least one monthly topic. It really is not hard to do, and just about any radio related subject will do – it doesn't have to be some grand presentation of knowledge! A simple discussion of your latest project, station setup, QSL practices – just about anything! Please consider how you could contribute and contact Roger. Please remember that since we are having our Christmas Party/Social this Saturday, there will be no regular meeting at the Red Cross facility in December. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday January 17th, 2017 at 7 pm.

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 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 January 2017 meeting will be on Tuesday the 17th at 7pm.

Winston-Salem Firstfest

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL hamfest/convention on January the 14th, 2017 at the Summit School Dining Hall located on 2100 Reynolda Road Winston-Salem, NC.

Website: http://www.w4nc.com/ws_classic_hamfest_2016.htm **Talk-In:** 146.640 (PL 100) **Public**

Contact: Jim Atkins , W4UX 5906 La Sierra Drive Pfafftown, NC 27040 Phone: 336-757-6912

Email: w4ux@triad.rr.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> .



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

HOLIDAY SPIRIT IS IN -- AND ON -- THE AIR

The annual OF9X Special Event Station - an amateur radio world tour that has featured Santa for more than three decades - has begun making its rounds from the Arctic Circle. Station operations will continue through the 31st of December - this time featuring Santa and his dozen elves, who not only assist Santa, but also double as multipliers for contacts. All 12 will operate as Old-Father-9-Christmas, OF9X, and will identify themselves further as elves with an additional three-letter designation, such as ART for "Arto" or NIK for "Niko." So if you've contacted an elf, you'll hear OF9X/ART or something similar.

There are a number of prizes available for different point scores but no doubt the biggest prize of all for children of the participating amateurs will be the opportunity they have to win a QSO during Christmas week with the person the website is calling "the true and live Santa."

Be listening on the bands - and BELIEVE!
(AR Newsline)

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM BETHLEHEM

How about a Christmas QSO with Bethlehem.....Georgia? The Barrow Amateur Radio Club in Winder, Georgia, is heading back to nearby Bethlehem, where from 2010 to 2014, the club activated the Bethlehem City Park pavilion each Christmas. After a brief hiatus, the special event station is back! Be listening for WR4BC on the afternoon of December 10th and 11th, starting on 20 meters and then moving later in the day to 40 meters. The club will also operate a second station on 10 meters. All operation will be SSB and there'll be a special QSL card for all successful contacts. This time, however, instead of operating in the pavilion, the club will be in Bethlehem itself, going mobile and portable from a hilltop parking lot in town. Sorry, there won't be any overnight operation. QSOs stop at about 5 p.m.. It may not be too cold for Santa but these hams need to be roasting by an open fire.

(AR Newsline)

WORLD OF DX

In the U.S. Virgin Islands listen for another team, known as the "Buddies of the Caribbean." The operators on Saint Croix Island include Tom/K4ZGB, Bryan/N8WD and Rick/AA4W, who are active through the 14th of December as WP2/K4ZGB, KP2/N8WD and KP2/AA4W, respectively. Be listening on 160 through 6 meters where they are operating using CW, SSB and the digital modes. They will also attempt to make satellite contacts through SO-50 and AO-85. Send QSL cards via LOTW, eQSL or direct to their home callsigns.

Find Alex RD1AV at the Russian Vostok Station in Antarctica where he is working from the 10th of December until February 2018. He will be using the call sign RI1ANC. Listen for him on CW, SSB and Digital. Alex's QSL manager is RN1ON.

Two operators are active from Fiji. Be listening for Jim, WB2TJO, who is using the call sign 3D2JS from Taveuni Island through March 2017. You can hear him on various HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL cards can be sent via his home callsign. You can also find Chris, VK3FY, active as 3D3FY from Fiji between the 6th and 14th of December. He is working holiday style on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB. Send QSL cards via M0OXO OQRS. (Continued on next page).

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Listen for Dave W5CW using the call sign VP5/W5CW from the Turks and Caicos Islands, where he will be until the 13th of December. Find him on all bands, 6m to 160m, on CW and SSB. Send QSL cards to the home call.

(AR Newsline)

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith Says Amateur Enforcement Will Be Aggressive

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith told a standing-room-only audience at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) in October that, despite FCC cutbacks, Amateur Radio enforcement will not be compromised. Smith spoke for nearly an hour and a half on a variety of FCC issues related to Amateur Radio, and the [entire presentation](#) is available on YouTube, thanks to Bob Miller, WB6KWT, and his son Robert, KA7JKP, who recorded the forum. Smith said that with the FCC set to shut down 11 field offices across the country in January, the Enforcement Bureau has reorganized into three US regions, and she does not anticipate any significant issues for the Amateur Service as a result.

“The amateur community will go forward,” she said, noting that amateurs have “an incredible ability to self-police.” In light of the field office closings, she has been working with ARRL to revamp the Official Observer (OO) program.

“We are going to redo the entire program,” she told the Pacificon forum. Given that the field office cutbacks have left the FCC short staffed, the OO program will step into the gap, with OOs serving as the first line of defense in Amateur Radio enforcement, she explained. Working more closely with the OOs, Smith said, will get information on problems to the field staff more quickly, so they can follow up.

Smith praised the OOs for contributing their time and effort to monitor the bands and to alert licensees both to problematic and positive behavior on the air.

She also said the FCC is more aggressively policing the Amateur Radio bands, and she cited the [case](#) of an unlicensed individual in New York, who was arrested and assessed a fine for interfering with Amateur Radio repeaters as well as with public service communication systems.

“We’re aggressively going after people who are cutting into your frequencies,” Smith assured her audience. So far this year, she said, the FCC has proposed some \$60,000 in fines to Amateur Radio licensees, for various alleged infractions. She said her office continues to receive complaints about intentional interference, and, she allowed, “Sometimes...okay, maybe all the time...we don’t get to [these] as quickly as you might like.”

Smith said there are “band neighborhoods” on the bands, and, typically, offenders tend to stick together, and “you can avoid that neighborhood,” she said. “If you know a frequency is a ‘problem frequency,’ don’t go there.” Those who do engage troublemakers on the air, however, become part of the problem. “Spin the dial,” she advised. “Walk away. Don’t allow that ugliness to seep in. Avoid it at all costs.”

“It bothers me that we have amateurs out there who are misbehaving,” she said, “when the bulk of you are incredible people.”

Smith returned as FCC special counsel to Amateur Radio enforcement in June after being detailed to another enforcement assignment for 2 years. Her position is now in the Spectrum Enforcement Division, which, she pointed out, gives her access to field engineers as well as to attorneys, engineers, and analysts in the Division. She noted that it is now possible to [file](#) Amateur Radio-related complaints online and said doing so expedites handling.

(ARRL)

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.

In Memory of Russ Harrison NC4CN



Photo submitted by Jamey, K4RVJ.

New Vanity Call

Hello everyone, I just wanted to let you know that I have been granted a vanity call sign which is N4JRA. Please update the roster. Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas.

Old Call- KK4IFH

New Call- N4JRA

Thanks

73s

Jamie Allen

11-15-16

RCARC Minutes

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG, at 6:59pm.
Oct meeting notes read by Trey, W4SH. Minutes approved
Treasury Report was read by Bill, N8KSG. Budget approved

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

Nothing to report

Publicity:

Peggy KJ4ANA, sent out postcards inviting members who have not attended meetings recently to come to the upcoming Christmas social and 2017 meetings.

Swapfest:

Roger W4AYO, and Paul N4CE, will head up the 2017 Swapfest. The date has been set for Saturday May 13th at Community Baptist Church in Reidsville, NC from 8am to 12pm.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

No updates to the list

Technical:

Bil N8KSG, and Ralph N4RFX, plan to update the firmware in the 147.345 repeater in the upcoming week or so.

Old Business

Bill N8KSG, covered By-Law changes to the SOG's discussed at the October meeting. Motion made to amend the By-Laws. Seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

The current slate of Officers other than the Vice-President position have agreed to serve a 3rd term. Roger W4AYO, volunteered for the VP position for the year 2017. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed

The 2017 officers will be as follows:

Bill N8KSG - President

Roger W4AYO - Vice President

Michael - KF4LIK - Treasurer

Trey W4SH - Secretary

Jamey K4RVJ, and Peggy KJ4ANA, brought up the suggestion to make Kay Miley K4ADA, an honorary member of the club. Motion made and seconded,

Program

Bill N8KSG, with assistance from Ralph N4RFX, gave an informative program on how to use our System Fusion repeaters and the process for activating WiresX.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 8:29pm by Jamey K4RVJ.

Respectively submitted by Trey W4SH