



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

President
Bill Schwiegeraht
N8KSG

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

Treasurer
Michael Mosser
KF4LIK

Secretary
Trey Belton
W4SH

The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323

February 2017

Vol. 15 No. 2

www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Hello all! Well, February is upon us and the groundhogs say 6 more weeks of winter - I knew I don't like groundhogs for good reason! Although we haven't had any significant frozen precipitation since the large snowfall right after the new year, I'd sure like to keep it that way, and I don't much care for any rodent trying to bring more. Now on the other hand, they do a similar thing in Texas with an armadillo, and his prediction is that spring is just around the corner. Let's hear it for the armadillo!

As I write this message, I am hanging out on 30 meters working JT65/JT9 to anyone who will come back to me. All morning I have been seeing both US and European stations, but I am only getting replies from state side stations. So, just because you hear them, you still may not be able to work - the blasted birefringent properties of ionospheric propagation are not working in my favor this morning! The ole' ionosphere is a funny thing sometimes! As you may have guessed, I've been reading "Propagation and Radio Science" by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ. So far I would say it's okay - not as good as I'd expected, but I'm only half way through it and hopeful I will still get a lot out of the time spent reading. I also picked up the ARRL book "Antenna Physics", and I know it will provide some good material for upcoming club presentations!

I mentioned at the last meeting that I am seeking any volunteers who are willing to pick up a month of cost for the internet access at the 147.345 repeater site. We do have many members with digital capability, and if you feel so inclined to help out the cost would be \$44 to take a month. Please catch me at a club meeting or mail a check to my home address listed on QRZ.com.

Our next club meeting is on Tuesday, February 21st at the usual time and place - 7 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building, 3692 NC Hwy 14, Reidsville, NC 27320. See you there!

73 de Bill, N8KSG

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS :

- p. 1 President's Corner
- p. 2 Events
- p. 3 Skywarn, NOAA
- p. 4 Area Nets
- p. 5-7 Ham Articles
- p. 8 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 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 February 2017 meeting will be on Tuesday the 21st at 7pm. On March 11th, a social is planned 6pm at El Parral in Eden, N.C.

Charlotte Hamfest

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest / Convention on Friday, March the 10th and Saturday the 11th **at the** Cabarrus Arena & Events 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:** Gary Chernega, KN1GMC, 13629 Pine Harbor Road Charlotte, NC 28278 Phone: 704-564-4684
Email: gmc1@carolina.rr.com

Roanoke Division Convention (Raleigh Hamfest)

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL hamfest/convention on Saturday, April 15th at the NC State Fairgrounds - Jim Graham Building located on 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27601. Website: <http://rars.org/rarsfest> **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



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
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

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

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

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 RCARC Silent Key (Things I Remember, K4RVJ)

Tommy Gunn, K4BYX

Tommy, SK, 5-23-04, was known by every ham in the surrounding area. He was the first person in Caswell County to own an airplane. He was the owner of Gunn brothers garage, a gathering place for hams before a club was formed. As an officer in the Civil Air patrol, he helped me and several others get started in ham radio. Latter, he became a seller/trader of used Ham and C B equipment.

KICKER: NOT-SO-POETIC LICENSE

When is a Novice call sign not a Novice call sign? The answer is simple: When it's not! There are no more Novice licenses being granted but don't think for a moment that this doesn't mean the old call signs have gone away -- because they haven't. In fact, they're starting to turn up again. Just ask Brandi Frame, KN4AFW, who was among those to get one of them last month. According to callsign historian Pete Varounis NL7XM, this freshly minted Technician doesn't exactly have a freshly minted callsign: it was first assigned 62 years ago to a 15-year-old boy named Chase P. Hearn in Raleigh, North Carolina.

So what's going on here? The FCC hasn't gone retro or nostalgic, it's just issuing callsigns sequentially, as it always has. District 4, where Brandi lives, simply exhausted its supply of "KMs" and by the time she and the others took their test, the FCC had moved on to the sequence of "KN" callsigns. Sure, this has caused some oldtimers to do a doubletake -- one of them was Brandi's husband Andrew Frame WD4RCC, who remembers the old Novice Class -- but as Pete points out, "KN" assignments are going to become increasingly commonplace as other districts exhaust their "KM" licenses too.

By the way said Pete, the original Novice license-holder, Chase, is still on the air - operating now from Virginia - and his callsign of K4AFW is simply an upgrade of the 1954 callsign now assigned to Brandi. Everything old is new again!

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, listen for Leo PP1CZ who is on the air from Fernando da Noronha Island until the 8th of February. He is operating on 80 through 10 meters using mainly CW but some SSB and RTTY as well. His callsign is PY0F/PP1CZ. Send QSL cards via Club Log OQRS.

Until February 14th, you can work a group of Italian operators using the callsign TL8TT from the Central African Republic. They are on all bands 160 – 10 meters. Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of The World.

Harald DF2WO is signing as 9X2AW from Kigali, Rwanda this month until March 11th. Send QSL cards to M0OXO.

(Amateur Radio Newsline)

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT SPEEDS TO US HOUSE PASSAGE, HEADS TO US SENATE

– Just 10 days after being introduced, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, HR 555, passed the US House of Representatives this week on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill’s language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, HR 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 co-sponsors, but failed to clear the US Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was introduced on January 13 with initial co-sponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

“The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before,” ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. “To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!” The bill arrives in the US Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign. “We’re very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It’s amazing that this happened,” said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. “With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done,” Lisenco continued. “We came within a hair’s breadth last time, with 110,000 e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical.”

HR 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners association seeking to enforce the restriction. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-speeds-to-u-s-house-passage-heads-to-u-s-senate>

(ARRL website)

CIA DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO AVAILABLE IN SEARCHABLE ONLINE DATABASE

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reports about Amateur Radio in the former Soviet Union (including the Baltic States) and Warsaw Pact member countries have been declassified to a new searchable online database, the CIA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room. Documents include translations and assessments of Amateur Radio clubs, including Soviet DOSAAF (Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Army, Aviation, and Fleet) groups; training; monitoring Sputniks; technology and equipment, and even QSL cards. All documents have been declassified and occasionally “sanitized” and made available to the public for the first time in this archive. Some of these documents were only available previously in a closed system at the US National Archives. – Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Andy Thomas, G0SFJ. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/cia-declassified-documents-about-amateur-radio-available-in-searchable-online-database>

(G0SFJ, ARRL website)

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

- February 16-17: Samuel F.B. Morse Exhibition, 1500Z-2000Z, N4M, Winston Salem, NC. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club of Winston-Salem, NC. 21.044 14.044 10.120 7.044. QSL. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 11361, Winston Salem, NC 27116. The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club of Winston-Salem, NC, will sponsor Special Event Station, N4M, in celebration of the opening of the Reynolda House Museum of American Art’s Exhibition – Samuel F.B. Morse’s “Gallery of the Louvre” and the Art of Invention. The station will operate from 1500 to 2000 UTC on both February 16 and 17, 2017. This CW station will operate on 7044, 10120, 14044 and 21044 kHz. <http://www.reynoldahouse.org/exhibitions/detail/samuel-fb-morses-gallery-of-the-louvre-and-the-art-of-invention> and www.w4nc.com
- April 7-9: 70th Annual North Carolina Azalea Festival, 0001Z-2359Z, AC4RC, Wilmington, NC. Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club. 14.225 7.175 3.800; CW/Digital all bands. Certificate and QSL. Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 4044, Wilmington, NC 28406. Confirmation of contact LoTW free; QSL card w/SASE; Certificate requires \$4 for postage and handling, QSL card may be included with certificate mailing if requested. <http://www.ac4rc.org/>

(ARRL NC Section Newsletter)

01-17-17

RCARC Minutes

Meeting called to order by Bill N8KSG, at 7:03pm.

November meeting notes read by Trey, W4SH. Minutes approved

Treasury Report was read by Michael, KF4LIK. Budget approved

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

Nothing to report

Publicity:

Upcoming Socials for the year 2017 are as follows: March 11th, Field Day weekend on June 24th, September 9th, and December 9th. The locations for each have yet to be determined.

Swapfest:

Paul N4CE, has contacted SERA to get the Swapfest ad in the February issue of the Repeater Journal. Per Jim N4ZZC, we are on the calendar at First Baptist Church in Reidsville for the Swapfest in May.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

Nothing to report

Technical:

The 147.850 repeater is back in service now. Bill N8KSG, hopes to sometime work with the Red Cross IT person to allow the repeater internet access. This is so WiresX will also function on the 146.850 repeater located at the Red Cross.

Bill, N8KSG, spoke with Fred Pace from the 94.5 radio tower site. Anytime a tower crew is working on the tower if we let them know, they can inspect our feedline and antenna. Bill also obtained the name of the tower service with hopes to getting them to check out the antenna or possibly replace it sometime in the future. Sometime soon Bill N8KSG, and Tim WD4GXD, hope to test out the feedline with Tim's test equipment.

Old Business

Nothing to report

New Business

Bill N8KSG, reminded members to not to forget to pay their club dues.

George WA4LTY, and Furman WD4MKU, will assist Bill N8KSG, with a Financial Audit of the clubs checking account.

Jimmy Wynick WB4JYC, was voted an honorary member of the club. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed

Bryan Pearce W4WBP is at home and would enjoy a call from the members. 434-685-3029

Program

Tim WD4GXD gave a presentation on RF Connectors and Battery Packs

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made at 8:15pm

Respectively submitted by Trey Belton W4SH