



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Greetings RCARC friends! After I expressed much concern about that groundhog last month, it looks like I might have gotten my wish – the armadillo appears to have been correct! While we still could experience a bit of inclement weather, it looks like that will likely take the form of showers and thunderstorms versus ice and snow. That said, I sure hope I haven't jinxed us!

I have to be honest, in my third year of writing these messages, it seems to be getting harder to think of topics each month. This time around, I will mention a few of the upcoming hamfests and what I am planning to do. This weekend on 3/11/17 we have the Charlotte Hamfest down in Concord. This is one I have never gone to and I thought I might like to try it out. We have our social that evening but it is possible to do both in the same day. I can't imagine being at the hamfest for more than four hours, so that would leave plenty of time to get back. Next up on April 15th we have the RARSfest in Raleigh at the state fair grounds. I have been a couple times, and I like this one personally. I think it has enough to make it worthwhile, and then I always make a whole day visit Raleigh afterward. My wife usually comes along and attends the big flea market on the grounds (which is free) while I explore for treasures that I just can't live without – and there usually are at least a few. Afterward, I like to meet up with her at the flea market too. Ham radio gizmos aren't the only gems to be found after all! Shortly after that is the famous RCARS Swapfest in Reidsville – that one needs no introduction! Lastly, I am making a point to try to go to the Firecracker Hamfest in Salisbury on July 8th. Lamarr, WB4VVY, has been telling me about this one for several years that this is a decent little hamfest that flies low under most people's radar, so I may have to give it a once over and see for myself. Now I need to prepare a list of things I need to look for – coax seal, ladder line, parachute cord.... The list goes on!

I do want to point out that this weekend is the quarterly social. Be sure to make note as we need your presence to celebrate! As usual, we will meet at El Parral on Hwy 14 in Eden, just a little south of the hospital. We will meet at 6:00 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. On March 11th, a social is planned 6pm at El Parral in Eden, N.C. (in place of the regular meeting)

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)

Howard Underwood

Howard, K4QXA, S K, 6-23-06, Owner of Underwood T V and Repairs on Highway 87. Brother-in-law to Henry Pollock, K4UUM, I first met Howard when I lost a capacitor in my Tempo 1. He was a very friendly person, active in the Central Traffic net and Possum trot net. He would close the net with the possum poem ending "The Old Possum Slowly Slips Away".

Looking for Equipment to Buy

Jeff, N4UTF, is looking for an HF rig to purchase. Please contact Jeffery Reeves <jpreeves76@icloud.com>

Welcome and Congratulations to Rockingham County's Newest Hams

Jeff Mericle, KN4AWV, (General Class) Stoneville, NC
Eric Wood, KN4BIC, Stoneville, NC

HONORING A HEROIC HAM AND HIS CREW

There is a movement to honor the heroic and quick-thinking actions of one amateur radio operator and three other crew members on board a military aircraft nearly 43 years ago. On September 15th, 1974 Staff Sergeant Homer Perry K4YZJ and three other crewmen on board a C-7A aircraft serving with the 94th Tactical Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Force Base in Georgia were on a local training mission with 13 Aeromedical personnel on board.

During the takeoff roll, the number-2 engine exploded and erupted into flames. Unable to abort the takeoff, they continued and attempted a go-around and began shut down procedures on the number-2 engine and to extinguish the fire.

Due to a magnesium fire in the engine nacelle, practically impossible to put out, the first attempt to extinguish the fire failed. Witnesses testified seeing flames trailing as much as 100 feet behind the number-2 engine.

With an unsuccessful first attempt, the crew discharged the remaining engine fire extinguisher, also unsuccessful. The aircraft commander was able to turn the aircraft around and lined up with the opposite runway as the fire eventually self-extinguished. The crew made a successful emergency landing and safely evacuated all personnel on the aircraft. Investigators say that had the fire not been extinguished, the aircraft would have likely exploded in mid-flight resulting in wing separation. The rapid and decisive actions of the crew resulted in the saving of 17 lives and a multi-million-dollar aircraft from total destruction.

There is a petition to award the crew the Distinguished Flying Cross for their heroism. If you would like to add your name to honor Homer Perry, K4YZJ and the rest of this brave crew, please follow this link <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/812/048/032/>. You can also visit the Facebook page. www.facebook.com/DFCfortheC7crew. Let's see these heroes get the recognition they deserve.

(AR Newsline)

ARRL SEEKS OPINIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE NEW ENTRY LEVEL LICENSE

An Entry Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF.

The committee has created an online member survey which can be accessed at <http://www.arrl.org/license-1>. Please complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published.

(ARRL website)

THE WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, it's time to look to those mountain tops, with two Summit to Summit events planned in March. The first organised by Mike 2E0YYY and Andrew VK1AD is a long path Europe to Australia event for Saturday 11 March 2017 starting at 06:30 UTC. Activity will be SSB or CW on 20 metres. The second event planned by Pete WA7JTM and Andrew VK1AD is for the Australia-North America path is later in the UTC day from 19:30 UTC, or 6:30am Sunday in Eastern Australia. Check reflector.sota.org.uk for details of both events. Contacts with home stations are welcome from the SOTA activators however those contacts between the mountain peaks are very special.

Several U.S. operators are operating from Guantanamo Bay until February 24th. Be listening for KG4WV, KG4AW, KG4DY and KG4ZK. Visit each of their pages on QRZ.COM for details about QSL cards.

Alain F5OZC and Sebastien F8DQZ are operating until February 26th from the Los Islands off the coast of Guinea. They are using the call sign 3XY3D. Their QSL manager is F5OZC.

Listen for Eric SM1TDE who will be active as 5X8EW from Entebbe in Uganda from February 23rd through the 26th. You can hear him on 40 meters through 10 meters using CW. Send QSL cards to his home call sign.

(AR Newsline, Irish Radio Transmitters Society, Ohio Penn DX)

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

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/>

April 29: Samuel F. B. Morse Exhibition, 1400Z-2000Z, N4M, Winston Salem, NC. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. 7.044 7.244 14.044 14.244. 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 Reynolds House Museum of American Art's Exhibition – Samuel F.B. Morse's "Gallery of the Louvre" and the Art of Invention.

www.reynoldahouse.org/exhibitions/detail/samuel-fb-morses-gallery-of-the-louvre-and-the-art-of-invention or www.w4nc.com

(ARRL NC Section Newsletter)

02-21-17 RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG, called the meeting to order at 7pm
January 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:

Next social is at El Parral on March 11th. 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Swapfest:

We are registered with the ARRL as a sanctioned swapfest. The Swapfest date will be May 13th at Community Baptist Church in Reidsville.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

No changes to the list

Technical:

Bill N8KSG, showed the members in attendance pictures of the 345 site taken by Atlas Tower Service. Options were discussed on maybe changing the antenna sometime soon. A rough estimate for labor to replace the antenna was \$1500-\$1800. The antenna recommended by Bob AF4TZ is approximately \$800. Options were also discussed on securing the coax to the tower better. Some of the pictures showed damage to the outer jacket and shield of the coax. Plans are to get the damaged sections sealed and secure the coax to the tower better to prevent it from moving and causing further damage.

Patrick K2CPR, has a preamp and power amplifier that he is willing to let the Club use on the 147.345 site to test and see if it improves our situation. Bill will get with Patrick on this.

Internet access donations are being accepted to help fund the monthly internet fee for Wires X at the 147.345 site. Please see Bill N8KSG to contribute.

Old Business

Bill N8KSG, reminded members to please pay their club dues.

A Financial Audit was completed on the Club's checkbook for the year 2016. Everything appeared to be in order. Motion made to approve and seconded

New Business

So far 20 members have renewed or joined the club so far this year.

Each member present was given a copy of the 2017 budget to discuss. Motion was made to approve the 2017 budget and seconded.

The GARA club is asking for volunteers to help with the Odyssey of the Mind science contest on April 1st. Patrick K2CPR is the contact if interested.

Program

Paul N4CE, gave a presentation on the operation of Wires X

Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made and seconded at 8:45pm

Respectively submitted by Trey Belton W4SH