



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

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N8KSG

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# *The RockingHAMmer News*

**Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323**

**October 2017**

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

## **President's Corner**

Hello RCARC friends! Well, it maybe fall but the temperatures are still not convincing yet. While it is definitely better than the heat of middle of summer, it is still getting up into the middle-eighties; but soon enough, we will be wishing we still had them!

I missed seeing you all at the September social at El Parral, but I have to say I was having a very good time. June and September are usually vacation times for me, and of course two of our socials fall in the same month. September was a very busy month outside of ham radio all the way around. In addition to be gone for ten days on vacation, I have been taking some classes that have me out of the house on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Needless to say, household chores, mowing and the such have been difficult to fit in.

Is anyone else having as much fun as I am on the new FT-8 mode? In the 30 minutes or so I have before going to work each day, I have managed to rack up all states but Hawaii and Alaska; and I hope to complete WAS-FT8 shortly, if some stations will cooperate. I tell you what: with all the new opportunities the digital modes have opened up, it has bought a new dimension in ham radio to me. If you haven't tried it yet, I encourage you to. See me or bring it up at a meeting and there will be plenty of people to help you get started, but if you've already been doing JT65 or JT9, it is an easy switch.

Not much has happened in the US Senate yet Amateur Radio Parity Act. We don't want to let this expire in another session of congress, so please join in and express your desire for them to support the legislation by entering your zip code at the following link. The tool will do all the work for you! <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>.

Be sure to attend the club meeting on Tuesday, October 17 at 7 pm at the Salvation Army building at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

73, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month. The October 17th meeting will be 7pm at The Salvation Army facility on 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

#### **JARSFest 2017**

On November the 11th, The Johnston Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the Benson American Legion Post 109, 605 North Wall Street, Benson, NC 27504. Website: <http://www.jars.net> Talk-In: 147.270+ (primary) & 146.970- (secondary) 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)



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 Triad area including Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point. The Virginia 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.

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### **In Memory of RCARC Silent Key (Things I Remember, K4RVJ)**

Wayne Blackwell

Wayne, K4YEC, (S K 10-17-15) and 3 other hams set-up and started operating the 146.850 repeater sometime in the late 70's. This group allowed the club to use the repeater for nets related to club and ARES activities. The repeater was located on one of the owners home property, tower height was 110 feet, with good coverage. In the 90s, it was acquired by the RATTs members with Wayne's assistance. He was very helpful to the ham community, and enjoyed 75 meter rag-chewing.

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### **2018 Club Officers**

We are approaching the time of year to nominate a slate of officers for the coming year. If you would like to be a candidate for one of the following positions, (President) (Vice President) (Treasurer) or (Secretary) please contact Peggy KJ4ANA, Paul N4CE, Jamey K4RVJ or any present club officer.

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**BOYSCOUTS' JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (10/20-22)** – The Boy Scouts' 2017 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) occurs on October 20-22. Additional information on this event will be provided in the upcoming NC Section Newsletter.

## **ASTRONAUTS ARE STARS ON NASA TV**

Some of the stars in the sky are also on television. Three of them are Space Station astronauts -- and two of them happen to be hams. You think there's nothing on TV? Think again! Tune into NASA Television as well as the NASA website for the latest episode of "hams in space." Astronauts Mark Vande Hei KG5GNP and Joe Acaba KE5DAR are going outside the International Space Station along with their expedition commander Randy Bresnik on the 5th, 10th and 18th of October. This is strictly a business trip for the three American astronauts of Expedition 53: they have important station maintenance to do. Check the NASA website for local times in your part of the world.

While Joe and Randy are veterans of a few spacewalks, this will be the first for Mark, the flight engineer. Joe will join his two crew colleagues on the third and final spacewalk on the 18th.

You can watch it all at [www.nasa.gov/nasalive](http://www.nasa.gov/nasalive). Best of all, there'll be no commercial interruptions.

(AR Newslines)

## **QSOs OF FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP**

Ever activate a church or a chapel? A number of amateur radio groups around the world believe it's a great way to call attention to their churches and the religious community that adds wattage to their power of the spirit. From Belgium to New York State in the U.S., and in a great many counties in the UK, amateur radio operators were sharing their hobby -

and their faith. Churches on the Air, which is run by the World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners, is an annual global event that makes the world a little bit smaller for a few hours, connecting people of faith via RF signals and antennas. At the St. Ives Methodist Church in Cornwall, Mark M0WMB was among those making contacts with Brazil, Kuwait, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia and Morocco on the 9th of September as GB5IVE. In New York, the Peekskill Cortlandt Manor Amateur Radio Association W2NYW operated from Old St. Peter's Church in Cortlandt Manor, organized by David K2WPM. The New York church was also marking its 250th anniversary.

As Mark in the UK told a reporter for the Cornish Times, although the main purpose of any church is for worship, a ham radio activation also emphasizes the congregation and its importance. "I believe that the church is the people, not the building. We are losing so many of our buildings and it would be good to encourage others to use their church for events like ours."

(THE CORNISH TIMES)

## **KICKER: ROUNDUP BY RADIO**

It's no secret that hams are good at finding things. There are the hidden transmitters deployed in fox hunts. There are missing persons at massive public gatherings. And then there is the story of Melody the horse. The mare went missing last month from an Arizona campground near Sedona where a group of horse owners from Phoenix had been staying.

This called for a very special kind of roundup - one horse and a team of amateur radio operators including those from the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association. The hams learned of the missing equine during their regular 7 am meet-up on the Knobby Knee Net. Net control op Bill Burkett KE7IXS took the radio call from one of the campers, Greg LaCrosse K1GRL, and that set the search in motion - not just on the ground, but in the air and yes, even in the saddle.

Jeff Upshaw KC7UYY, a local horseman, rode out to the trail-head with other mounted searchers. Mike Mladejovsky WA7ARK flew in with his Cessna Skylane aircraft and took Melody's owner Marcy aboard. The team's search had gone into its 10th fruitless hour when finally Marcy spotted her horse down below the plane and pilot Mike radioed the searchers on the ground.

Kenny Westmoreland KG7YVM and Jeff hiked to a flat-topped mountain where they caught up with Melody and led her to safety. As in all westerns with happy endings, they headed off together into the sunset.  
(VERDE VALLEY NEWSPAPERS)

## **WORLD OF DX**

In other DX, be listening for Rich, N0HJZ, who will be active from October 23rd to November 1st as C6ARW from Grand Bahama Island. You can expect to hear Rich on 30/17/12 meters using CW and SSB. He will be operating low power with wires and verticals. His plans are to be in the CQWW DX SSB Contest October 28th and 29th as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via his home callsign, direct with sufficient postage or by the Bureau.

Harald DF2WO is on the air from Burkina Faso through the 30th of October operating as XT2AW. Be listening on CW, SSB and digital. His QSL Manager is M0OXO.

Listen for Stan LZ1GC who is on a DXpedition in the Pacific, operating as H40GC from Nendo Island from the 30th of September to the 20th of October. He is in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands which counts as a separate entity for the DXCC Award. The IOTA reference number is OC-100. QSL via Club Log OQRS.

(OHIO PENN DX BULLETIN)