



*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**

**December 2017**

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

## **President's Corner**

Hello friends! Well, the holidays are upon us and 2017 continues to tick away. The enjoyable fall weather has given way to colder temperatures, and we've even had our first significant snowfall of the season! Actually, I hope that will be the one-and-only snowfall!

Unfortunately, the bad weather last weekend forced the cancellation of our Christmas social gathering at El Parral. I had a few people report to me by 10 a.m. on Saturday that they would not make it out, so we figured we'd go ahead and make the decision early so our members weren't wondering all day long what would happen, but I am sure it was the right thing to do for the majority of the members. Our next social gathering will be in March, so stay tuned for more information on that.

After Paul, N4CE gave the great introduction into the FT8 digital mode, I am very curious if anyone who hadn't already given it a try became a first-timer. Drop me an email and let me know about your experience ([bswag@yahoo.com](mailto:bswag@yahoo.com)). And if you need help getting started in digital mode communications on HF, please let me or others in the club know. We have a number of very experienced individuals, and myself or someone else would be more than willing to work one-on-one with you to get you involved in the fun of world-wide HF digital communication!

For the last time in 2017, I will mention one final time that you still can make contributions to the antenna repair fund for the 147.345 machine and take a tax deduction on your IRS return. Send any end of year contributions to the club address listed in the newsletter and on our website at [www.n4iv.org](http://www.n4iv.org).

Be sure to attend the club meeting on Tuesday, January 16th at 7 pm at the Salvation Army building at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville. I hope that you have a safe, enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and as always, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in 2018 at the January meeting!

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 January 16th, 2018 meeting will be 7pm at The Salvation Army facility on 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

#### **Winston-Salem FirstFest**

On Saturday the 6th of January, 2018 the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will host an ARRL hamfest at the Robinhood Road Baptist Church located on 5422 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, NC. Website: <http://www.w4nc.com/> Talk-In: 145.470 (PL 100). Public Contact: Jim Atkins, W4UX, 3137 Kinnamon Road Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Phone: 336-757-6912. Email: [w4ux@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4ux@triad.rr.com)

#### **Virginia State Convention (Frostfest)**

On Saturday the 3rd of February, 2018 the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society will sponsor an ARRL convention at the Richmond Raceway Complex located at 600 East Laburnum, Richmond, VA 23218. Website: <http://frostfest.com> Talk-In: 146.880 (PL 74.4) Public Contact: Timothy Farrell, KJ4NPB, 8287 Ellerson Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23111 Phone: 804-306-1134 Email: [timfarrell57@gmail.com](mailto:timfarrell57@gmail.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

## **AN ON-AIR PARTY ROCKS WITH NEW MODE FT8**

Get ready to party. The weekend of December 16th and 17th is set aside for the European Radio Amateurs' Organization event on the air which - this year - features operations on FT8, one of ham radio's newest modes.

Make your contacts, exchange your callsign, locator and give your signal report but remember, it's not a contest - it's more like a radio meet-up. There will be a certificate of participation for amateurs who send their log with at least 10 percent of the QSOs confirmed. Logs are being kept to gather statistical data only and should be submitted in ADIF format to: party at eurao dot org, using your call sign as the name of the file. (party@eurao.org)

FT8 mode, which was still in beta-testing mode this summer, is considered a good mode for HF DXing. It is often used in situations such as multi-hop Es where openings may be short and signals may be weak and fading. QSOs can often be made quickly.

This is the first party of its kind being held by the group and members are hoping that FT8 will give hams something to celebrate.

*AR Newsline*

## **CANADA REVIEWS HAND-HELD RULE FOR DRIVERS**

On January 1st, the five-year exemption permitting drivers' handheld use of two-way radios in Ontario, Canada is set to expire. Radio Amateurs of Canada has been waiting to hear from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation about the fate of the exemption from the province's Distracted Driving Law.

RAC Directors Allan Boyd, VE3AJB, and Phil McBride, VA3QR, had met with Ontario Transportation officials earlier this year and declared the session productive but are still awaiting word of what will happen.

The RAC has formed a committee to work with both Ontario and British Columbia, both of which have distracted-driving regulations. In British Columbia, amateurs have been permitted since February of this year to drive while operating radios that have push-to-talk buttons.

According to the RAC's website, there will be a decision on the Ontario regulations prior to the 1st of January and the RAC has pledged to issue a bulletin as soon as there is an update.

*Radio Amateurs of Canada*

## **WORLD OF DX**

In the world of DX, listen for Jacques, F6HMJ, operating as 6W7/F6HMJ from Senegal between December 21st and January 15th. He will be active using CW with some SSB on 20-10 meters. Send QSLs via his home callsign.

Off the Senegal coast, a group of four operators is using the call sign 6V1A from Goree Island between December 15th and 17th. Listen for them on CW and SSB on all HF bands. According to the most recent 6V1A page on QRZ all QSLs should be sent to: Post Office Box 971, Dakar, Senegal.

Lester, W8YCM, is using the call sign 6Y6Y in Negril Jamaica (NA-0097) through January 2018. Lester is working holiday style on a number of HF bands. Send QSLs via W8YCM direct only.

Rich, PA0RRS, is on Penang Island operating as 9M2MRS until January 31st. Listen for Rich on 40-10 meters using CW, RTTY and PSK. Send QSLs to his home callsign via ClubLog's OQRS, LoTW or eQSL.

*Ohio Penn DX*

## **SANTA NET ARRIVES ON 80 METERS**

As any kid will tell you, the best kind of Santa is one who doesn't make you wait until December 25th, right? Well we've got one Santa who is already here: The nightly Santa Net went on the air on Friday the 24th of November and will be available every night at 7:30 p.m. Central Time through Christmas Eve. The tradition is into its 12th year and is operated by the 3916 Nets, the Rag Chew Crew, the Tailgaters and the Freewheelers. Pre-net check-ins begin nightly at 7:15 p.m. Central Time and are also accepted on the Santa Net's Facebook page. Find Santa each night on 3.916 MHz. No milk and cookies needed - but don't be on the naughty list: please observe all FCC rules regarding third party traffic.

*AR Newsline*