



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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Bill Schwiegeraht
N8KSG

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W4SH

The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Welcome to 2018 to all my friends in RCARC! As I sit at my desk on Saturday, January 6th, the temperature on my weather station has made it all the way up to 17 degrees! While that may sound pretty cold to you, it is almost 10 degrees warmer than when I woke up a while ago and took the dog out for her morning walk. With a forecast high of 23 degrees today, it surely isn't going to get much warmer, so I guess I will just have to deal with it!

It has been over 18 years now that I've lived in the great state of North Carolina, and I have to admit I think I've been turned into a cold weather weenie! Twenty-three for a high when I lived in Ohio was pretty normal this time of year, and back then it really didn't bother me much. But now days, from October through April I NEVER feel quite comfortable – particularly my feet and my head. Of course, the reason for the head being cold is pretty obvious! My wife did get me a really nice pair of house shoes that are well insulated, and are more of a boot. These are doing a much better job of keeping my feet warm than the tennis shoes had been.

Sorry we had to cancel the social in December. The snow we received the night before was just enough to make the roads slippery in parts, and given the number of folks who said they would not make it, I figured we'd only have a few hearty souls show up, so it was for the best.

Please consider if you can take on the task of doing one club presentation this year. Topics do not have to be technical in nature! You can talk about operating you have been doing, public service – it's completely open and up to you. Roger, W4AYO, does a great job of lining up our volunteers for our presentations, but it is up to all of us to step up and share the load. Please talk with Roger at the next meeting to take on one month.

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. We will be giving an update of pledges and collections so far for the antenna repair fund. 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 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 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. A social at El Parral in Eden is scheduled on March 10th, 6pm, in place of the March meeting.

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

South Carolina State Convention (Charleston Hamfest)

On Saturday the 3rd of February, the Charleston Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL Convention at Armory Park Community Center located on 5000 Lackawanna Blvd. North Charleston, SC 29405. Website: <http://wa4usn.org> Talk-In: 146.790- (PL 123.0) Public Contact: Thomas Glaab, AJ4UQ 2 Paddington Circle Charleston, SC 29407 Phone: 843-769-0659 Email: aj4uq@arrl.net

North Carolina Section Convention (Charlotte Hamfest)

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will sponsor an ARRL hamfest/convention on March 9th and 10th at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center located on 4551 Old Airport Road in Concord, NC 28025. Website: <http://charlottehamfest.org> Talk-In: 146.655 -600Hz (no PL tone) Public Contact: Tim Slay, N4IB 141 Queens Cove Road Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone: 704-382-4646 Email: n4ib@arrl.org



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 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

ARRL'S INTERNATIONAL GRID CHASE HAS BEGUN

The dawn of a new year has brought the ARRL International Grid Chase, which is challenging hams to operate on any band except 60 meters in pursuit of as many different Maidenhead grid squares as they can possibly work. Newsline managed to catch up with a veteran of this kind of grid square victory - Pat Rose, W5OZI, of Junction, Texas. In 2010, Pat became the second recipient of the ARRL's Fred Fish Memorial Award. The award is given to hams who successfully work all 488 grid squares in the contiguous United States. Pat became the first ham to replicate on 6 meters what Fred Fish himself had accomplished before becoming a Silent Key.

Pat told Newsline that he once believed working all 488 grids was impossible. He said because it was a new award at the time he thought it would be fun to try. He wrote in his email to us: [quote] "I had no strategy, but I thought that with a good antenna and with a kilowatt from a home-built linear amp I would have a chance at competing against some big-time six-meter ops."

He even ended up working some rare grids. He told us in his email: "I finally worked KB8U, Russ in CM79 on June 17, 2010 for the last one when he went back-packing there. I worked him I think the second day he was there. It was a big surprise and I have thanked him over and over again for his trip."

So as you consider this year's event, remember Pat's success and know that persistence surely pays off: Pat has been licensed since 1948. He was 17 years old when he hitchhiked from Austin, Texas to Dallas that year to take the test. That was the first of his many successes since.

AR Newsline

WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, be listening for the special call sign HH70A. The Radio Club of Haiti is operating with that call sign to celebrate its 70th anniversary, which it is marking on March 29. Be listening on all bands. Send QSLs via W3HNK.

Adrian EA1CYK is using the call sign OD5/EA1CYK while in Lebanon as a member of the Spanish UNIFIL contingent. He will be there until May. His QSL Manager is EA7LS.

Be listening for Pat N2IEN operating as A52PD from Bhutan from the second to the fourteenth of January. QSLs go via NR6M.

Jim, WB2TJO, is active as 3D2JS from Fiji through mid-March. Listen for Jim on 40-15 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes. Send QSLs via his home callsign.

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Alex UA1OJL is on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands where he is active as RI1ANO until the 31st of March. Listen for him using the special callsign RI50ANO to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bellingshausen Base where he is stationed. QSL Manager is RN1ON via Club Log OQRS.

OHIO-PENN DX

MARKING SHIP'S TRAGIC SINKING ONE

If you hear the callsign EI100MCV anytime between now and the end of the year, you are hearing a tribute to a World War I tragedy that is marking 100 years. More than 500 people died after the Royal Mail Ship Leinster was struck by a U-boat's torpedoes just off the Irish coast on the 10th of October in 1918. The ship's sinking 15 miles from Kingstown resulted in the most lives lost in the Irish sea. Many of those who were not killed immediately by the torpedoes died in the waters awaiting rescue. The Leinster was armed and its list of passengers included soldiers who were heading back to the war.

The special station call sign contains the original call sign "MCV" from the ship. Amateur radio operators will be on all bands but are operating on or close to all amateur frequencies ending in the number 18. On 80 meters that would include 3.518, 3.618 and 3.718 and on 160 meters that would include 1.918.

IRTS, THE JOURNAL.IE

HAM GRANTED PATENT FOR "INVISIBILITY CLOAK"

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has granted a Massachusetts radio amateur a patent for an invisibility cloak that provides deflective electromagnetic shielding for ships, spacecraft, antennas, satellites, rockets, towers and other structures.

Inventor Nathan Cohen W1YW, the founder of Fractal Antenna Systems Inc. issued a statement saying that while the company's previous patent covers an invisibility cloak itself, this technology can deflect electromagnetic waves, leaving an object invisible to those waves. The camouflage occurs at the level of heat and radio wavelengths. A press release from the company noted that the cloaking is possible even over a wide bandwidth. It can be used for defense and intelligence but also has commercial applications for towers and antennas.

According to his QRZ profile, Nathan isn't just a fractal antenna specialist but an enthusiastic DXer. This is the latest patent to be granted to the firm.

BUSINESS WIRE, QRZ

11-21-17 RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7:02pm
October 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:

Social Dec 9th at El Parral in Eden 6pm to 8pm

Swapfest:

Paul N4CE and Roger W4AYO will see that the info for the 2018 swapfest will get in the SERA Journal for January. They also agreed to be co-chairs on the Swapfest Committee. The 2018 Swapfest will be May 12th and the same location again as this year.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

No Changes

Technical:

147.345 seems to have remained steady and not degraded in performance. Donations to repair the antenna and feedline continue to come in. Bill N8KSG suggested to maybe look at purchasing the equipment and storing it at the site for any tower work that may be done in the spring.

Roger W4AYO spoke with Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page about the possibility of putting the 146.850 machine on one of the county's towers. More to follow.

Old Business

The Club website was updated to list the social dates for the upcoming year and removed the ARES nets from the calendar.. Added a System Fusion digital ragchew net on Monday and Thursday nights each week at 8pm on 147.345.

New Business

The current group of officers have agreed to remain in their current positions for the year of 2018 and an election will not be needed. Motion made by Paul N4CE to accept these nominations. Motion seconded and approved.

Furman WD4MKU, Jim N4ZZC, and Tim WD4GXD, will serve on the Audit Committee.

Paul N4CE, suggested for the members to think of a location to have Field Day for 2018 since the Red Cross will not be available. Paul passed around a sheet asking for the members to list if they will be participating or not in Field Day next June.

Program

Paul N4CE gave a presentation on JT8 Operation.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made at 7:50pm

Submitted by Trey Belton W4SH