



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Greetings everyone! I hope your January was pleasant and you enjoyed plenty of amateur radio activity as you stay inside and warm, avoiding the run of colder temperatures we have endured. Though we did have a couple snow days so far this winter, the main thing I have noticed is that we haven't been getting many decent mild days at all this winter. I know, I know... you're thinking it's still not like our friends up in Erie PA or Buffalo NY, so I just need to get over it. But we are not in those places – I don't want cold weather. Yes, I'll get over it now...

Many of you know of my impending move and the fact that I am temporarily off the air on HF until I sell my current QTH and get settled into the new location. I haven't done this yet, but I just checked and I will be going from gird FM06bf to EM96wm. I am surprised to be changing the upfront letters that dramatically, with the distance between only 30 miles or so! It has been difficult to unplug from FT8 and running other various modes when I'm up in the early morning, just like this very moment, so I figured I ought to make use of the time and get my newsletter responsibilities completed without the editor having to prod me!

I mentioned last month that Roger, W4AYO, our club VP and organizer of the programs we enjoy at our meetings is in need of folks to provide topics for upcoming months. As I said before, topics do not have involve the latest and greatest technology or be overly technical. Topics covering operating, a talk on the latest ham fest you went to, or just about anything would be appreciated and enjoyed by all. The NC QSO Party is coming up on February 25th – one could easily give a talk on their preparations and experience participating in this enjoyable event! Please talk with Roger at the next meeting or email him at rdjoyner@joyner.ws to help out. The club works for you, but the club also needs you to work!

Be sure to attend the club meeting on Tuesday, February 20th 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 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 February 20th, 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, **5:30pm**, in place of the March meeting.

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

North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest)

On March 31st, 2018, the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will sponsor a hamfest/convention at the Jim Graham Building located at 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27601
Website: <http://rars.org/hamfest> **Talk-In:** 146.640 (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, 8311 Hampshire Place, Apt. 103 Raleigh, NC 27613 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
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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

NC QSO PARTY 2018 (2/25)

The NC QSO Party 2018 will held on Sunday, February 25, 2018, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST. For further information, see <http://ncqsoparty.org/>

NC Section Newsletter, NC QSO Party website

Work Progressing to Incorporate CQ Magazine's WAZ Award into LoTW

Beta testing for bringing CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award program into ARRL's Logbook of the World (**LoTW**) system continues to move forward, officials from CQ and ARRL have assured.

Some problems in the implementation were discovered by testers and have since been corrected; the documentation has also been improved by feedback from the testers. In parallel, the LoTW server has been executing a background task that creates and populates a WAZ account for each LoTW user.

Beta testing will continue until this background task completes. When all WAZ accounts have populated, LoTW-WAZ will be made available to everyone.

"The goal is for Amateur Radio operators to be able to directly submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit," ARRL and CQ said in a joint statement. "Standard LoTW credit fees and separate CQ award fees will apply."

Logbook of The World is ARRL's electronic confirmation system for amateur radio contacts. It provides a confirmation when both stations in a contact submit their logs to the system and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has supported the CQ WPX Award program since 2012.

ARRL Website

ARRL Suggests FCC May Need to Intervene to Ensure Effective Antenna Rights

Commenting in response to an FCC *Public Notice* (DA 17-1180) released last month, ARRL addressed the extent of Amateur Radio's response to recent hurricane disasters and efforts needed to expand the use of Amateur Radio services when it comes to planning, testing, and providing emergency communication. The comments point out that Amateur Radio not only has been "far more than a hobby;" it is a ubiquitous, infrastructure-independent communication resource that's always ready to deploy effectively whenever and wherever needed. The League cited the remarks of former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, that Amateur Radio "oftentimes is our last line of defense." ARRL raised three areas where action by the FCC could ensure and enhance the ability of radio amateurs to provide emergency communication, including the current Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 (S. 1534), now in the US Senate.

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“HOAs can preclude amateur antennas in common areas. HOAs can enact reasonable written rules governing height, location, size and aesthetic impact of, and installation requirements for, outdoor antennas and support structures for amateur communications, but the effective outdoor antenna requirement is paramount,” ARRL noted in its comments. “The bill is currently before the Senate Commerce Committee. If, however, Congress is unable, as has been rumored, to pass *any* telecommunications legislation this term, it will be incumbent on the Commission to take the action on its own initiative that would be called for by this legislation. The future of Amateur Radio emergency communications is dependent on it.”

ARRL asserted that it “is critical to have stations located at one’s residence in order to regularly participate in disaster preparedness training exercises and drills.”

Another “noteworthy and urgent need” that might call for some regulatory involvement by the FCC, ARRL said, “relates to an outdated regulation that limits data rates in HF Amateur communications, precluding certain digital emissions that have recently proven extremely important in Amateur Radio hurricane relief efforts.” ARRL noted that the FCC has yet to act on the League’s *Petition for Rule Making*(RM-11708), filed in November of 2013, proposing to amend the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the symbol rate limit relative to data emissions in allocations below 29.7 MHz.

That *Petition* also called for establishing a 2.8-kHz maximum occupied bandwidth for data emissions in those bands. ARRL has argued that this de-regulatory action is necessary to allow the use of PACTOR 4, an effective and efficient digital communication mode that has proven valuable in disaster-relief efforts. In July of 2016, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket 16-239, proposing only to remove limitations on the symbol rate applicable to data emissions.

“Equipment dispatched with the ‘Force of 50’ [volunteers] to Puerto Rico included data transmission equipment capable of PACTOR 4 operation, but it could not be legally used in the Hurricane Maria disaster relief effort,” ARRL noted. The League prevailed upon the FCC to grant a temporary waiver to permit use of PACTOR 4 by radio amateurs involved in the emergency response. “However, it should not have been necessary to wait more than 4 years for the underlying rule-making proceeding to have been resolved, and it should not have been necessary to ask for a temporary waiver of a hopelessly outdated rule that limits data speeds for no useful reason,” ARRL added in its comments.

The League also called on the FCC to “take the action requested in ARRL’s January 2017 *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11785), proposing to allocate the band 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, in accordance with the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015.

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“A contiguous band in the vicinity of 5 MHz will assist in conducting emergency and disaster relief communications in the United States; with the Caribbean basin; with Alaska and with other parts of North, Central and South America,” ARRL told the FCC. ARRL has asked the FCC to permit 100 W, as it does on the five existing 60-meter channels, and to retain the four channels that are not part of the requested contiguous frequency band.

NC Section Newsletter, ARRL Website

THE WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, members of the Veron Club station PI4FL in the Netherlands are active until the 28th of February. They are on the air marking the 40th anniversary of their club. According to QRZ, QSL cards are being accepted by PA3HEB via the bureau.

On Bonaire, John, K4BAI, is active as PJ4/K4BAI until February 23rd. Be listening for him with the PJ4A team during the ARRL International DX CW Contest which runs February 17th and 18th. Send QSLs to PJ4A and PJ4/K4BAI via K4BAI.

In Barbados, Richard G3RWL will once again be active as 8P6DR between March 20th and April 29th. He will be working holiday style on 80-10 meters using CW and some RTTY. Send QSLs via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau using ClubLog's OQRS.

OHIO-PENN DX

FCC SEEKS INPUT ON WEATHER RESPONSE

In the U.S., the Atlantic hurricane season is over - but in a way it's not really finished. The Federal Communications Commission has been trying to assess emergency response to the deadly 2017 season, which included the four major hurricanes Maria, Nate, Harvey and Irma in the U.S. and its territories.

The agency's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau was receiving public comments until the 22nd of January and is now awaiting reply comments which are due no later than the 21st of February. The notice, which is on the FCC website, is PS Docket Number 17-344.

Comments are being sought on broadcasters' response, government agency response and of course amateur radio response. The FCC is looking for answers in particular as to whether ham radio services should be increased to assist in the planning, testing and delivery of emergency response and recovery communications.

For assistance in filing your comments online, call the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System at 202-418-0193. You can also file directly from the website at fcc.gov/ecfs .

AR Newsline, FCC

01-16-18

RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7pm
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:
Next Social is March 10th at El Parral in Eden - ~~6pm to 8pm~~ (Correction : 5:30pm-7:30pm)

Swapfest:
The Club's ad for the Swapfest should be in the February 2018 SERA Journal

Historian:
Nothing to report

Equipment:
Nothing to report

Technical:
The condition of 147.345 seems to be about the same as previous months. No change to the performance at this time.

No talks yet with anyone in the local Rockingham County Government about possibly putting 146.850 on one of the County's towers.

The internet at the 147.345 site increased to \$73 because the promotional period ended. Bill N8KSG was able to get it at \$45 per month at a permanent rate until it is determined the internet is not needed anymore there. Bill is also taking donations from the members to help support the cost to keep the internet on at the site since this is not an monthly expense from the Club's budget.

Field Day
Paul N4CE will make a reservation for the Club to hold a spot at Lake Reidsville until the Club decides for sure that is where Field Day will be held this year.

Old Business

The Audit Committee will present their results next month.

Bill N8KSG covered the Antenna/Feedline Fundraising project. The amount pledged through the end of the year is \$5810. If everything goes to plan, June should be the month work can potentially begin.

New Business

Bill N8KSG covered the 2018 budget and each line of listed expenses. Motion made and approved to accept the budget.

Bill N8KSG suggested looking soon into ordering materials to have them staged for when the tower work can begin. Discussions were made on how to store the coax safely. The Station Engineer has given us permission to store the materials on site inside of the building there.

Motion was made by George WA4LTY to purchase the materials needed for the project, not to exceed \$3200 at this time. Motion made and approved to order the coax and feedline.

Program

Kenny Grabarczyk KK4HAO, gave a presentation on the Piedmont Triad Traffic Net and how Club Members can participate.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn by Jamey K4RVJ at 8:34pm_

Submitted by Trey Belton W4SH

Correction by Michael Mosser KF4LIK