



Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



N4IV

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N8KSG

Vice-President  
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# The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323

April 2018

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

## President's Corner

Hello to all my friends in RCARC! What is the old saying – *April showers bring May flowers?* Well, I haven't seen a whole lot of showers lately but that may be getting ready to change tomorrow with a forecast for strong thunderstorms. I hope we get what we need to start off a good growing season for gardens and grass, and to protect our wild lands. There have been high wind/forest fire warnings nearly every day this past week, so giving them some needed precipitation would be a good thing right now, but a heavy thunderstorm may be too much, too fast to do a whole lot of good. How about a compromise and get some steady rain for a day or two? I'm not sure how much my opinion matters, but I will hope!

N8KSG and spouse have now settled into our new QTH, just a little over the Stokes County line out 770 from the Stoneville area, and I am proud to say that the ham shack was pretty much the first room nearly completely put together. Within a day of the departure of the moving van, I had working HF and UHF/VHF stations back on the air, although my antenna situation is temporary for the moment. I am awaiting a good day to get N4RFX and WA3RFE over to use the drone to drop me some lines over the higher trees on my property so I can take advantage of the good natural supports I have available! The rest of the house is now pretty much in order, and everyone is adjusting to the new location and beautiful scenery that this area has to offer. If you're heading out for a country drive, give me a call and stop by.

Please place a reminder on your calendar and be sure to attend the RCARC club meeting this Tuesday evening, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., Salvation Army Building, 708 Barnes St. in Reidsville. In addition to our regular presentation, I will be updating you on the latest progress on our repeater antenna fund-raiser. As always, I hope to see a great turnout for the 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 usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday night of the month. The April 17th, 2018 meeting will be 7pm at the Salvation Army facility on 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

### **Rockingham County ARC Swapfest**

On May the 12th, 2018 the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring an ARRL Hamfest at Community Baptist Church located on 509 Triangle Road, Reidsville, NC 27320. **Website:** <http://n4iv.org> **Talk-In:** 147.345 (PL -103.5) **Public Contact:** Roger Joyner, W4AYO 14947 NC Highway 87 North Eden, NC 27288 Phone: 336-549-1222 **Email:** [rdjoyner@joyner.ws](mailto:rdjoyner@joyner.ws)

### **DurHamFest**

On May the 26th, 2018 the Durham FM Association will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the Durham Public Schools Staff Development Center located on 2107 Hillandale Road, Durham, NC 27254. **Website:** <http://dfma.org/dfmaDHF.html> **Talk-In:** 145.450- (PL 82.5) **Public Contact:** Jack Hill , KM4MBG PO Box 2411 Durham, NC 27715 Phone: 919-724-2576 **Email:** [durhamfest@km4mbg.org](mailto:durhamfest@km4mbg.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](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 919-326-1052. The Blacksburg, 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

## MS Walk 2018

MS walk Saturday, April, 7th 2018 from left to right: Billy Blanchard KM4EFX, Randy Drake KB4QQJ, Tim Key W4ADC, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Wayne McElveen KI4AVJ (seated), Tim Walker WD4GXD.



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### **HAMS RESPOND AS TORNADOES TOUCH DOWN IN ALABAMA**

Tornadoes swept through Alabama here in the U.S. on Monday, March 19th, the night before the start of spring. Ham radio operators across north and east Alabama assisted in passing ground truth storm reports to both the National Weather Service offices in Huntsville and Birmingham. Amateur radio operators and members of the North Alabama and Southern Middle Tennessee SKYWARN groups linked up multiple repeaters to cover that entire region and assisted the Huntsville NWS office with reports on multiple tornadoes that struck north Alabama. Amateur radio operators in east Alabama on the WB4GNA repeater atop Mount Cheaha, the tallest peak in the state, assisted not only with passing storm reports but also volunteer efforts in the wake of a major tornado that struck the city of Jacksonville Alabama as well as other portions of east Alabama late Monday night. As of last report late Monday night, volunteers were headed to Jacksonville from as far away as Anniston, Oxford and Birmingham Alabama to assist in rescue efforts. All in all, though, considering the fact that the storm prediction center had much of Alabama under a marginal risk for severe weather, things could have been much worse.

*AR Newsline*

## **GERMAN AMATEUR'S CALL FOR HELP GOES GLOBAL**

Erding Radio Club member Lothar Fröhlich, whose call signs are DK8LRF and HK3JCL, was on the air from his QTH in Colombia, South America recently talking to friends in New York and Germany, when he heard a voice call out repeatedly. At first he thought it was someone was trying to break into the QSO but then he realized it was a ham in distress. He recognized the voice - this was an amateur in Dingden on the German-Dutch border, a ham with whom he enjoys ragchews often.

The ham, who is disabled and relies on a wheelchair, had fallen and was home alone. His radio was on, fortunately with the transmitter in "VOX" mode so his cries activated the microphone Lothar called for any German hams who could copy him, asking them to please notify local police. Then, using EchoLink, he reached a repeater in Isen, east of Munich. A

ham in Eichstätt in Bavaria responded and also called police who responded immediately.

Ham radio had made distance vanish. The ham in distress was 5 metres from the microphone but his call went through anyway -- and those who assisted astounded the police by the fact that the call was started by a ham in Colombia on the other side of the world

*AR Newsline*

## **Amateur Radio's Service and Support Commended on National Volunteer Week**

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, used the occasion of National Volunteer Week, April 15 – 21, to express gratitude to “the thousands of Amateur Radio operators who have given, and who continue to give, of their time and expertise” to serve as vital communication links during emergencies, disasters, and community events.

Throughout the past year, President Roderick recounted, ham radio operators have volunteered during hurricanes, wildfires, and severe weather to support communication for emergency evacuation shelters, pass health-and-welfare traffic to anxious families, and partner with the National Weather Service as SKYWARN volunteers to report local weather conditions. Hams also volunteered during the solar eclipse last August, working with scientists to record its impact on radio propagation, he pointed out.

“Amateur Radio volunteers have a long history of providing service and support to their communities and our served agencies,” Roderick said. “As this avocation continues to evolve, alongside the technological advances in telecommunications, we are proud that, as hams, public service to our communities will continue to be at the core of who we are.”

Echoing President Roderick's remarks, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, cited Amateur Radio's volunteer spirit as one of its most admirable aspects.

“Radio amateurs have taken their passion for radio, communication, science, and technology and given back service in so many ways,” Corey said. “Radio amateurs teach, inspire, offer insights to the world that others cannot, assist during times of emergency and disaster, and report to assist during such community events as marathons and festivals,” he said.

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“Volunteerism has always been at the heart of Amateur Radio, and it is through the work of volunteers that Amateur Radio will be there for future generations to enjoy.” National Volunteer Week is sponsored by Points of Light, an ARRL partner through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Points of Light called the week-long observance “an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to come together to tackle tough challenges and build stronger, more resilient communities.”

“Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent, and voice to make a difference in their communities,” the organization said.

*ARRL*

### **Second Public Test of FT8 DXpedition Mode Demonstrates High Contact Rates Possible**

The second public test of FT8 DXpedition Mode has shown that the mock DXpedition stations (“Foxes”) were able to work the pileups of callers (“Hounds”) at a fairly good clip. Logged data showed that 390 unique stations were copied by one or more of the three Foxes. FT8 is part of the WSJT-X digital software suite. Ned Stearns, AA7A, the operator at W7/KH7Z, learned to manage queues of calling stations much more effectively as his hour progressed, according to co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT.

“After a program restart at 1532 UTC, he worked 105 additional stations, a rate of 225 per hour during the remaining part of the hour,” Taylor reported. “Slowly but surely, we are optimizing the software and improving our ‘FoxOp’ skills. Further progress will definitely be possible!”

Taylor also released a list (available on ARRL site) of stations heard and worked during the second public test of the still-beta FT8 DXpedition Mode protocol. It showed that W1/KH7Z logged 61 stations in 36 minutes, for a rate of 102 per hour; K1JT logged 55 stations in 21 minutes for a 157 per hour rate, and W7/KH7Z worked 174 stations in 60 minutes, a rate of 174 per hour. Taylor’s March presentation on WSJT-X

(<http://www.microhams.com/2018/03/28/edited-k1jt-talk-on-wsjt-x/>)

at the MicroHAMS Digital Conference has been posted on YouTube. Taylor has credited the “very professional” editing by Budd Churchward, WB7FHC.

*ARRL*