



Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



N4IV

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# The RockingHAMmer News

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

## President's Corner

Hello RCARC family! Here it is another month and time for me to write another article. I think I will focus this time on our 2018 SwapFest which was held this morning. Honestly, I don't know how many years this makes for the SwapFest, but once again it went off very well, and I'd like to send special thanks to Paul, N4CE and Roger, W4AYO for leading the preparations again. We had a good complement of dealers and tailgaters with loads of things that Hams need routinely. I found an excellent book I have been looking for in the DBJ booth, and I picked up a bunch of adapters and supplies from both AC/DC and Triad. I hope you found something you couldn't live without! Here is a list of our door prize winners:

\$10 Gift Certificate courtesy RF Adapter Guy	N4KYW, Howard Goodman, Cary, NC
\$25 Gift Certificate courtesy ARRL	N4CTT, Byron Shore, Greensboro, NC
\$25 Gift Certificate courtesy ARRL	WA4NIZ, Dan Humphrey, Mooresville, NC
\$50 Gift Certificate courtesy ARRL	K4LRH, Jack Cureton, Charlotte, NC
Dual Band J-Pole courtesy N4HER antennas	N4RQZ, Eddie Martinez, Bassett, VA
Baofeng UV-5R courtesy Triad Electronics	N2UUP, Gregg Danzer, Greensboro, NC
Alinco DR-135T VHF Mobile courtesy DBJ	KK4GCU, Bill Croft, Martinsville, VA

As you can see, we had hams from all over North Carolina, and I hope that these prizes will be put to good use, and we thank all those who attended for their support of the RCARC SwapFest!

I also wanted to let all of our members know that the materials for the antenna and feedline replacement at the 147.345 Madison, NC site has finally been ordered. The delivery should arrive within two weeks, and I am hopeful that the installation can be made before mid-June when I leave for vacation. The tower work will be performed by Dimensional Tower (Gene West) out of Oxford, NC, and during our last discussion Gene said he should be able to fit the two-day project in pretty quickly around his other work.

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Please place a reminder on your calendar and be sure to attend the RCARC club meeting this Tuesday evening, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 P.M., Salvation Army Building, 708 Barnes St. in Reidsville. 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 May 15th, 2018 meeting will be 7pm at the Salvation Army facility on 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC. The June social / meeting will be 7pm Saturday, the 9th at El Parral in Eden, NC.

#### 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)

#### Winston-Salem Hamfest

On June the 2nd, 2018 the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL hamfest at the Robinhood Road Baptist Church located on 5422 Robinhood Road in Winston-Salem, NC. **Website:** <http://www.w4nc.com> **Talk-In:** 147.315 **Public Contact:** Jim Atkins, W4UX, 3137 Kinnamon Road Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Phone: 336-757-6912. **Email:** [w4ux@att.net](mailto:w4ux@att.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](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
7:30pm	Piedmont Triad Traffic Net	145.150, 100Hz

## **RAISING A TOAST TO PUBS & CLUBS ON THE AIR**

For members of the South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society G6TW Saturday May 12th will not be easily forgotten. You might even say that some of the hams will raise a little toast to the day.

What comes after National Parks on the Air, Mills on the Air, Railway on the Air, Summit on the Air and even Walmart Parking Lots on the Air? Pubs & Clubs on the Air - PACOTA- which launched for the first time this year with enthusiasm through the efforts of the South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society here in the UK. Confirmed stations with special-event call signs included GB0TGI at Tuckers Gravel Inn in Faulkland, Somerset; GB2ROY at the Royalty, York Gate, Guiseley, Leeds; and GB4TRO The Royal Oak, Harriseahead, Stoke-on-Trent.

A good deal of planning and preparation went into the launch according to the event's official web pages, which are part of the South Cheshire society's website at (g6tw.org.uk). The event organizer, Chris Wiseman G0RDK, writes on the website that the goal of the first-time event is to show members of the public the kind of fun to be had by going on the air - and perhaps convince them to get licensed and join us.

Of course, there's also the hope of making an intoxicating number of radio contacts - but that's only kind of intoxication organizers had in mind.

*AR Newsline, South Cheshire Amateur Radio Society*

## **WORLD OF DX**

In the World of DX, be listening for Adam, SP4CUF, in Poland. He is celebrating 40 years of ham radio activity by operating on various HF bands with the special call sign HF40CUF. QSL via his home call sign.

A group of operators including Doug/W6HB, Bruce/AD7MM and Marilyn/KI7DLK will be active as E51DLD, E51BAS and E51MAS respectively - with other team members - from Rarotonga Island until the 25th of May. You may also hear Jim/E51JD and Bob/E51BQ. These operations will be holiday style on various HF bands and in various modes. Two of the stations will operate with 100 watts and wire antennas. QSL via their home call signs.

In the Canary Islands, members of the Unión de Radioaficionados España F1oles EA8URL is operating as EG8CID through the 30th of May to celebrate Canary Islands Day. Operations will be on all bands and modes. QSL via LoTW or via EA8URL.

Be listening for Walter HB9XBG operating as FO/HB9XBG from Bora Bora Island in French Polynesia between June 7-17th. Activity will be on 20 meters SSB. QSL via his home call sign.

*AR Newsline, Ohio Penn DX*

## **CREWMEMBERDIESIN MISSOURIBROADCASTTOWERCOLLAPSE**

The 2,000-foot tall tower of a local public TV station in Webster County, Missouri collapsed on the 19th of April, killing one worker and injuring three others. The crew was conducting maintenance outside Ozarks Public Television station KOZK when the structure toppled. Several members of the crew were on the tower, about 105 feet off the ground, when the collapse occurred. The worker who was killed had been trapped beneath the tower's debris.

The station is a Public Broadcasting System affiliate operated by Missouri State University. Stations in the region have assisted by helping restore service to the station. Local authorities are investigating to determine the cause.

This story is a reminder as well to all of our listeners to please follow safety precautions when doing any tower work. Whether commercial broadcaster or amateur, you can't be careful enough!

*KYTV-Springfield, AR Newsline*

## **BICYCLING HAMS ARE 'PEDALING' A NEW IDEA**

For bicycle enthusiasts in Australia, operating mobile was perhaps never this much fun. Amateur Radio is on a roll in Australia - and when we say "roll" we do mean roll. Hams are rolling out their bicycles, their trikes and even their velomobiles and going places. Of course they're not going anywhere without their trusty rigs.

Members of a month-old online group called Pedal Radio have been promoting the combination of push power and foot power with the idea that fitness leads to fellowship - and probably more than a few good QSOs. There is even a homebrew aspect to the group, as some members share their tips for building your own trike. Most of the members right now are in VK3.

If you want to try talking coast-to-coast while you're....coasting.....this group wouldn't mind if you rolled on in. Send a post to group's address at [pedalradio@groups.io](mailto:pedalradio@groups.io).

*Pedal Radio, AR Newsline*

## SHOPPINGFOR SOMEQSOS?

If you're shopping for a bargain in QSOs, try Walmart - not the stores, but the parking lots! Some satellite operators, who often go to lines between grid squares so that contacts will count for both grids, noticed that many of these grid lines across the country run through Walmart parking lots. Suddenly, the idea sparked to host an operating event among some members of the satellite community on Twitter, so they ran with it. They've decided that the weekend of April 28 and 29th will be a special Walmart Parking Lots on the Air weekend.

The thing about Walmart parking lots is they make actually a pretty decent portable operating location. The other thing that's kind of nice about the location... you park in the parking lot even long term... the stores are known to be friendly with that. Walmart shoppers are kind of a diverse group, and there's been some jokes on people aren't going to look twice if you're in a Walmart parking lot if you're in any sort of strange, unconventional dress or if you have accessories like you're strapping radios on yourself or waving a purple antenna at the sky... for some reason at Walmart you're just not going to be seen as inconspicuous.

There's a scoring system, with certificates as well as special WMPLOTA QSL cards. But don't forget to mark your QSL card with a highlighter before it checks out. Chasers will be referred to as shoppers, and bonus point categories may include the "People of Walmart" award, for tweeting a picture of your operation; the "Ol Roy" award for tweeting pictures of your dog at your operation; and the Sam Walton Award for the most activity. Shoppers can work up to the level of "greeter" or "district manager" and for making a late night QSO, you can shelve away the "overnight stocker" bonus.

The final set of rules and scoring information is on their website, [www.wmplota.org](http://www.wmplota.org). So put on your PJs, and bag some contacts. If you're hearing this report after the fact, have no fear! The next WMPLOTA weekend is scheduled for July 2... the birthday of Walmart and World UFO Day. Remember that when you're working satellites, running too much power can actually be bad for the satellite itself. So when you're operating WMPLOTA, be sure to ROLLBACK the power. ALWAYS.

*AR Newsline, WMPLOTA*

**04-17-18**

**Unofficial RCARC Minutes**

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7pm

February 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:

Nothing to report

Swapfest:

The Swapfest is still on schedule for May 12th. The Committee is looking for someone to do a talk in for the event. The club will have a table for members to place items they wish to sell.

Historian:

Nothing to report

Equipment:

An updated list was passed around for the members present to review.

Technical:

The performance of 147.345 continues to degrade. Financially the club should be prepared to totally cover the expenses of the antenna replacement project by June.

Field Day:

There is not enough Club participation to have Field Day at Lake Reidsville this year so Paul N4CE suggested having it at the Red Cross and using his RV with one station inside the RV and one outside. Paul will talk with the Red Cross about this and he will cancel the site reservation at Lake Reidsville.

**Old Business**

Bill N8KSG discussed the Non Profit 990-N form and passed the form around for the members to view.

**New Business**

Jamie K4RVJ mentioned doing away with term limits for the club officers. This proposal will be written up and put in the June newsletter with the by-law changes for review. This should be voted on during the July meeting.

Paul N4CE suggested a potential fundraiser to try at each club meeting.

**Program**

Jeff KN4AWV gave a great presentation on 3D printing for Ham Radio.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Made by Jamey K4RVJ at 8:29pm

Submitted by Trey Belton W4SH