



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Well, we are in the middle of another hot summer here in North Carolina. Our Rockingham County ARC sure has been busy over the last month with repeater projects, socials, and breakfasts, and other ham activity. But on top of that, we've just completed another Fourth of July holiday with all the activity that goes along with it.

My wife and I took a vacation up to Cincinnati, Ohio to visit with family, eat way too much good food, and attend my annual Reds baseball game. Needless to say, we had a whole bunch of fun, but my body was sure happy to get back and sleep in my own bed and eat a normal amount of food again. It's always good to see family, but as many of you can attest to, the travel isn't as much fun as it used to be!

It sure seems like the 147.345 repair has made a big improvement in our coverage area. I know for the last couple years, I could hardly go up the Martinsville bypass but a mile before I had to sign off. Similar to a number of years back, now I can make it pretty much the whole way to work, and I can easily get into the repeater from my parking lot at work – all this in the non-favorable direction of the coverage! The antenna is set to omni-directional coverage, but since it is mounted on the S-SE tower leg we naturally have some shadowing to the N-NW, exactly the direction to my house and for my commute! But all is well: The improvement has me pretty much full-scale the entire time. How has coverage been in your direction? Have the weak spots in your normal travels improved? Let me know please!

Last evening, WA3RFE, W4SH, and myself moved out at the repeater site while AF4TZ and N4RFX worked on installing a filter and power amp on the repeater. The squelch was adjusted to avoid choking of analog signals that should be getting in well enough to communicate as well. Please pass along reports of how well these activities have helped. With no power meter readily available, the power output from the amp couldn't be verified, but the amp is 30W in/100W out, so even driving it with the medium (25W) setting from the repeater, we should be pumping a bit more up the tower. We aren't quite sure what improvement the filter will make, but we will see how the reports go the next few days.

With 147.345 in decent shape, it's time to turn attention to getting 146.85 relocated onto the roof of Annie Penn Hospital. While almost certainly to be a better location than the Red Cross tower, we will have to wait to see just how much better it will prove to be. At least I have an "inside connection" who promises to help get an internet connection, so we may be able to get that machine on Wires-X, then begin to start linking our two repeaters. Stay tuned for more progress!

I look forward to seeing you at the next club meeting at the Salvation Army building at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17th. Please mark your calendars!

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 usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday night of the month. The July 17th, 2018 meeting will be 7pm at the Salvation Army facility on 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

Mid-Summer Swapfest

On July the 21, 2018 the Cary Amateur Radio Club will host an ARRL Hamfest at Ritter Park located on 301 West Lochmere Drive in Cary, NC 27511. **Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>
Talk-In: 146.88 -0.6 (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Herb Lacey , W3HL 1022 Medlin Drive Cary, NC 27511. Phone: 919-467-9608 **Email:** infoman@bellsouth.net



Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org .

New SKYWARN Net:

Blacksburg SKYWARN has started a weekly net, running Wednesday nights at 9pm on 146.745 and numerous other linked repeaters in SWVA and SEWV. The net is available on Echolink via KF4YLM-R. All stations, regardless of prior SKYWARN training or experience, are welcome. The net provides SKYWARN spotters with information on training events, spotting tools, and severe weather potentials in the Blacksburg County Warning Area.

The full list of FM repeaters on which this net runs follows:

- 146.745 T107.2 K1GG/R Roanoke/Poor Mtn
- 147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV
- 145.130 T103.5 N4VL/R Galax/MtAiry
- 145.410 T103.5 N4VL/R Roanoke/Poor Mtn
- 444.600 T103.5 N4VL/R Pulaski
- 147.420 T103.5 N4VL/L (simplex) Big Walker Mtn / Wythe Co.



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

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 . Weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or cell.weather.gov

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.

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

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT WITH PENNSYLVANIA AMATEUR

A North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania ham radio operator has agreed to pay a \$7,000 fine for creating interference on the amateur radio bands, according to the U.S. attorney's office. The government announced a settlement on July 3 with Brian Crow K3VR dating back to the government's charges that on March 14, 2014 he interfered with other radio amateurs and failed to identify himself by call sign. A press release from the U.S. attorney's office also noted that the settlement reduces his operating class to Technician for the next six months. According to the FCC, if no new violations occur, his Amateur Extra operating privileges will be restored.

An FCC press release called the fine "a substantial payment for an amateur operator."

Brian Crow has held an amateur radio license since 1976.

U.S. Attorney's Office, FCC

A LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVATION AND A TRIBUTE

Canadian radio amateur Billy Budge VE1AAO created his first tribute to his father a number of years ago with the publication of a book that tells his family's story when they lived on St. Paul Island. Fred Budge was the lighthouse-keeper there starting in 1955 and the book "Memoirs of a Lightkeeper's Son" recalls those years. There's now a second tribute planned for Billy's father. On July 13th through 15th, the Pictou County Amateur Radio Club and the Maritime Lighthouse Amateur Radio Group are activating the Port Bickerton Lighthouse on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. Fred Budge had been a lighthouse keeper there as well from 1960 to 1977.

Using the callsign VE1UW, the hams will be on the air for 48 hours, dedicating their activation to Fred Budge. They will honor him from a lighthouse that has remained a beacon of safety for more than a century for those sailing the North Atlantic.

George Dewar, VY2GF

RADIO SCOUTS ACTIVATES SUMMER STATIONS FOR K2BSA

This week in Radio Scouting we're in the midst of summer camp on the air with two activations of the K2BSA callsign, 2 activations from our SCOTA site, and Jamboree on the Air Patches available.

William Coverdell, WD0BC, is continuing to activate K2BSA/0 at Camp Geiger in St. Joseph, MO, through July 21st. The camp will be offering radio merit badge classes throughout the six week period. Scouts will be getting on the air with a generous station that is completely scout-owned through 100 percent donations.

Garland Eubanks, KB4RTM, is activating K2BSA/4 at Skymount Scout Reservation in Alata mont, TN, through July 14th. During this time period on the Fridays there might be activities when scouts might also attempt to contact other summer camps operating under K2BSA.

Brian McDaniel, N4AE, will be activating his callsign at Camp Freeland Leslie in Naperville, Illinois, from July 8th through the 13th. Brian will be attending Summer Camp with his Troop and running Holiday Style with a FT-817ND into a Double Bazooka Coaxial Dipole. Running on 80, 60, 40, and 20. Phone and some CW.

ThomasBarker, WA1HRH, will be activating a special event callsign K1A at Moses Scout Reservation in Russell, MA, from July 9th through the 27th. A short three week summer camp season for a new activation. Radios will include Yaesu FT 897, FT 817, homemade dipole for 40. Will operate as time allows only on 40 meters using recommended SCOTA frequencies of 7.030 and 7.090. They'll be running commercial power and paper logging will be used.

Jamboree on the Air and Internet are just 3 months away now. Hopefully most groups had a chance to test their gear and recruit some volunteers at Field Day. Now is the time to start ordering up your patches and printing out literature in preparation for your event. The patches are now available at the ScoutStuff.org site.

For more information on JOTA and Radio Scouting, please visit our website at www.K2BSA.net.

AR Newsline

WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, there is still time to work Peter/VE3IKV and Bill/W4TAA/VE3MMQ operating as VQ5Z on the Turks and Caicos Islands. They are on the air through the 10th of July. Listen on the HF bands and 6 meters (with a focus on 6m) using CW, SSB, FT8, MSK144 and JT65A. They also have a 6m beacon running on 50.107 MHz. Monitor the ON4KST6 meter chat page. QSL via VE3IKV direct.

Members of the Amateur Radio Club SP3PET will be active from July 18th to 31st as JW100PUT from Spitsbergen in the Svalbard island group. The Norwegian archipelago is between the North Pole and Norway. The operators are marking the 100th anniversary of the Academic Ham Radio Club of the Poznan University of Technology. Activity will be on 80/40/20 meters as well as 2m and 70cm using SSB and FM. QSL via SP3PET.

Be listening for Karel, OK2ZI, operating as 3B8/OK2ZI from Pointe aux Sables, Mauritius starting on July 26th until August 4th. Karel will be on 80-10 meters and possibly 160m, depending on local conditions. He will be using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via his home callsign, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog's OQRS or LoTW six months after his expedition has ended.

AR Newsline, OPDX

Tower Service on the 147.345 Repeater

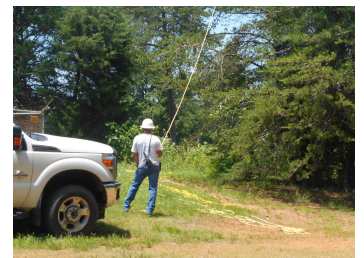
Photos from Tim, WD4GXD



Gene at Wench



Coax Removal



Manning the Tag line