



*Rockingham County  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



**N4IV**

**President**  
Bill Schwiegeraht  
N8KSG

**Vice-President**  
Roger Joyner  
W4AYO

**Treasurer**  
Michael Mosser  
KF4LIK

**Secretary**  
Trey Belton  
W4SH

# *The RockingHAMmer News*

**Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323**

**November 2018**

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

## **President's Corner**

Hello RCARC. I sure hope my message this month finds you all doing well. Thanksgiving is nearly upon us, and the hustle and bustle of the approaching holiday season is about to swing into full steam mode. Are you ready for all that? I for one am not!!

Last month at our meeting we discussed some key items that you should be aware of, and there are some new things to consider so we are prepared for further discussion at the November meeting.

First, changes to the bylaws that were proposed a couple months ago were reviewed and voted on. With a quorum present, a vote was conducted and the bylaws changes were adopted. The primary change was to remove term limits for officers and references to committees that don't exist in reality. We also removed reference to the meeting location so that if we were to change again, it doesn't trigger a change in bylaws. These changes are necessary because, simply put, there are not enough "do-ers" to keep them going. While that isn't a big deal in terms of the various committees, it should make everyone uncomfortable that we don't have enough people willing to serve as an officer of the club that we have to change bylaws to make it possible to keep incumbents in office. All current officers have served for multiple years, and should you choose to have me continue in office, it will be my fifth year as your President. We are in dire need of someone to fulfill the Treasurer position RIGHT NOW. I am happy that most everyone is willing to go for another year, but at some point this will become an issue, so please consider serving as an officer – I'm not sure what we would do if we were to actually have an election now days!

Secondly, RCARC is considering restarting regularly scheduled VE Testing – an activity that is important to the growth of amateur radio. We really need an Extra class VE to coordinate and lead this activity if it is to be successful. If your passion is to help new persons become licensed and active in ham radio, this may be for you. But, just as with anything else, it requires willingness to serve.

Third, the Club is considering the purchase of a new power amplifier for the 147.345 repeater. A power amp will assist with coverage by filling in weak spots on the fringe of our repeater

footprint, extending the range of effective communication. Beyond that, adding an amplifier will allow us to run the repeater at a lower output, helping it to run cooler for better longevity. The cost will be approximately \$800, and we will likely discuss and vote on this item.

Finally, we are in need of a Newsletter Editor. While I have been temporarily handling this, I do not intend to continue doing so in 2019, so this is another activity that needs a leader.

As you can see, willingness to help lead club activities is slowly becoming a barrier to running a vibrant, active organization. **Frankly folks, these jobs are just not that difficult to do!** The club has “cheat sheets” that help make all the duties easy to fulfill. In addition to serving as President, I am handling the Treasurer duties as well as putting the newsletter together – and it takes me no more than a few hours each month, so most of these jobs need nothing more than an hour or two each month. I know there has been reference to not wanting to deal with complaints and bickering; but in 4 year I haven’t heard any of that at all! Honestly, I have felt nothing but complete support and encouragement, and ANY effort has been well received. RCARC is at a critical point – do you want to be an active ham radio club, or will we continue down the path to becoming more of a social organization only?? It is time to decide.

After considering these points, should you be willing to serve please come to the meeting and nominate yourself to any activity or office. Should you know someone you think would be good, go to them and discuss it in an encouraging manner. Hopefully they will agree and be so motivated. Please **do not** surprise people by putting them on the spot and nominating them for something without having ever discussed that with them. That isn’t constructive – just volunteer yourself in that case.

So, to close, please make every effort to attend our next club meeting at the Salvation Army building at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20th. Again, we will be voting on officers for the next year, and there are other discussions about equipment needs and activities on the agenda that are very important, and your participation is paramount to the functioning of our club.

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/internet 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, The Editor.*

**\*\*\*\* 2019 Membership Drive \*\*\*\***

**It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2019.** At only \$25, RCARC membership is a bargain, and your renewal is CRITICAL to maintaining the activities and club repeater. We have been averaging about 35 paid memberships the last couple years, and many active hams just simply forget to renew, and this creates a strain on predicting how our needs will be met. Please bring a check to the November meeting to renew, or put your renewal in the mail to the PO box listed at the top of the newsletter today. Thanks!

**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 November 20th, 2018 meeting will be 7pm at the Salvation Army facility at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

**Upcoming Hamfests**

**1/18/2018 | JARSFest**

**Location:** Benson, NC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Johnston Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.jars.net>

**01/05/2019 | Winston-Salem FirstFest**

**Location:** Winston-Salem, NC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w4nc.com>

**03/08/2019 | North Carolina Section Convention (Charlotte Hamfest)**

**Location:** Concord, NC

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://charlottehamfest.org>

**04/20/2019 | North Carolina State Convention (Raleigh Hamfest)**

**Location:** Raleigh, NC

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://rarsfest.org>



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

Blacksburg SKYWARN conducts a weekly net one Wednesday evenings at 9pm on 146.745 as well as numerous other linked repeaters in SW VA, Northern NC and SE WV. 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](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) . Weather forecast on a mobile device: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](http://cell.weather.gov)

**RCARC Club Nets**

**Monday 8:30PM RCARC 2-meter FM 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 8:00 PM RCARC System Fusion Ragchew, 147.345 MHz, C4FM mode**

This is a weekly informal net conducted in Yaesu C4FM digital mode to promote its use.

Please put your radio in fixed C4FM.

### **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

## WORLD OF DX:

Henning, OZ1BII, will be active as ZA/OU2I from Golem in Albania between November 21st and 27th. Listen for him using CW only on the 30/17/12 meter bands. He will also be in the CQWW DX CW Contest, which is November 24th and 25th. Contacts will be uploaded to ClubLog, eQSL and LoTW. QSL direct to his home address or LoTW (which is preferred).

In Barbados, a team of operators including Sigi DL7DF, Manfred DK1BT and Wolf DL4WK will operate as 8P9AE from Barbados until the 20th of November. Be listening for them using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. They can be heard on 160-80m, including 30m, and they will also have an antenna for 20-10m. Send QSLs direct to DL7DF or by the Bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW within 6 months after their DXpedition.

From Algeria, be listening for the Algerian Radio Amateur Union's special event station 7V1N from Djelfa until November 20. QSL via operators' instructions.

These days many use the FT8 digital mode for DX contacts. On the evening of the 13th of November, the WSJT-x group published version 2, release candidate 4 of their program. As well as several fixes and extensions, this latest version (which will work until the final release of version 2 in December) now only works with the 77 bit packet mode and hence all FT8 operators will now need to upgrade if they are to continue to work each other. Version 1.91 and earlier of WSJT-x will no longer work with this or future versions. There is expected to be some confusion until all have upgraded, at the latest when the non-test version 2.00 is available from December.

## *AR Newsline*

## TWO NEW SATELLITES PREP FOR LAUNCH

Hams, look skyward! Two new satellites are coming your way – well, a bit ABOVE your way. On November 19th, Spaceflight's SSO-A SmallSat Express mission is to launch with the Fox-1Cliff satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9. In addition to carrying experiments on board from Vanderbilt and Penn State universities, the Fox-1Cliff has the Fox-1 U/V FM repeater and AMSAT's L-Band downshifter. There is also a VGA camera provided by Virginia Tech that will provide images at a resolution of 640 x 480, much higher than that aboard the AO-92.

Meanwhile, anticipation is high for the Qatar Satellite Company's Es'hail-2 geo-stationery satellite that is carrying two AMSAT transponders that was launched by SpaceX on November 15th. According to AMSAT-DL, the satellite will first complete several orbital maneuvers, then enter a commissioning phase before ending up in geostationary orbit. While hams will understandably be enthusiastic about giving reception reports, AMSAT-DL is requesting reports be made only after the official release so as not to get in the way of the commissioning phase. Think of it as a "repeater in the sky" for some regions where it will almost constantly be visible, such as Africa and Europe. It is said to have the potential to link amateurs from Thailand to Brazil. The satellite will be carrying two transponders for amateur radio, operating in the 2400 MHz and 10450 MHz bands.

**MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE NETWORK AIDS IN RESCUE**

A recent dramatic rescue of a stricken man on board a sailboat off Bermuda took radio teamwork – and the Maritime Mobile Service Network provided it..

On November 9th, the crew member of a sailing vessel 300 miles east of Bermuda went into distress with severe chest pains. Capt. Nicholas Cancro KC2WRH sent out a distress call on 14.300 MHz and an amateur radio operator heard it and alerted Donald Plunkett VA6FH of Alberta, Canada. Donald is a member of the Maritime Mobile Service Network – and so is Fred Moore W3ZU of Inverness, Florida, the second radio operator on the network to respond. He jumped in and directly contacted the captain aboard the boat, the Marie Elena, arranging for contact on 20 meters with a backup frequency on 40. Fred then provided a phone patch with the U.S. Coast Guard so medical personnel could talk those on board through some life-saving measures until help arrived. Fred stayed in touch with the boat throughout the night to keep tabs on the stricken crew member. At one point, even the U.S. Air Force responded – at the request of the Coast Guard – to see if they could help. The Coast Guard told the Maria Elena to head toward Cape Hatteras and sent the Coast Guard Cutter Spencer in the same direction. The next day the cutter and the sailboat rendezvoused and the patient was taken on board the cutter and then hoisted onto a helicopter and flown to a Norfolk, Virginia hospital. Jeff Savasta KB4JKL, net manager of the Maritime Mobile Service Network, said it was a true team effort – bringing in relays such as Mark Strothmann Sr KC9YRX in Wisconsin and many others. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Travis Unser praised the teamwork as nothing short of crucial.

*AR Newsline*