



*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

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President's Corner

Greetings fellow HAM enthusiasts and RCARC members. I am writing to you from the great, white north. Well, Sandy Ridge NORTH Carolina, but right now it seems more like Nome, Alaska. I really don't know what the snowfall total is yet, but it is crazy outside. The snowing is coming down fast, and I have a table outside that is fairly well protected from the wind. Right now, I'd say there is at least 14", perhaps 16" of snow piled on it, and the fake rock over the well head is slowly disappearing. This is not looking good at all. I sure hope my dipole stays in the air!

On the flip side, I have been working some good DX into Europe and other places so far today. I am working on the newsletter. I guess I have a lot of time to do things since I really can't, or don't want to go anywhere.

I'd like to thank all those that came to our Christmas social yesterday evening at Ruby Tuesday in Eden. I have to say they did a good job hosting us, and the turnout was excellent. I believe I counted 27 in attendance.

At the November meeting, the club approved the slate of officers for 2019. Your team for the upcoming year is,

Treasurer – Paul Patterson, N4CE
Secretary – Trey Belton, W4SH
Vice President – Roger Joyner, W4AYO
President – yours truly

Additionally, Ralph Newcomb - N4RFX - has agreed to take over as the newsletter editor. Please take a moment to thank and recognize these dedicated individuals the next time you see them. It takes people who are willing to put in the effort to run any successful venture, and all should be recognized for their willingness to serve.

I have a favor to ask all of you – I would appreciate active participation in the club nets. Each Monday at 8:30 pm is our regular FM net, We now have a System Fusion Net in C4FM (VW) mode each Thursday at 8:00 pm. Encourage hams everywhere to participate. Please also

consider becoming a net control operator, particularly for the digital net. Contact Trey Belton, W4SH to pitch in. IT IS EASY TO DO!

I hope that you will make every effort to attend at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15th. Remember it is time to renew dues for 2019, and the amount remains \$25. RCARC needs your support!

73, Bill, N8KSG

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS:

- p. 1 President's Corner
- p. 2 Events
- p. 3 Skywarn, NOAA, NWS
- p. 4 Net Information
- p. 6-7 General Interest

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 2nd 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 January meeting to renew, or better yet - 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 January 15th, 2019 meeting will be 7 p.m. at the Salvation Army facility at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville, NC.

Upcoming Hamfests

01/05/2019 | Winston-Salem FirstFest

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4nc.com>

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

Location: Concord, NC

Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://charlottehamfest.org>

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

Location: Raleigh, NC

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

08/10/2019 | 21st Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Hamfest

Location: Fayetteville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://cfarsnc.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 .

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 . For current weather forecasts on the internet, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: weather.gov . Weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or 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.

****** Yaesu System Fusion Users – we really need your help and participation to make the TH night net a success. Please check- in each week, as often as you possibly can, and spread the word to other users who may not be part of our club. Mention to others to connect to the NC-WIRES-X-LINK room from anywhere in the world, and participate along with us.**

We also need a couple people willing to be a net control on TH night. Please contact Trey Belton, W4SH to participate. Running a net is very easy, and we all need to help share the load!

AREA NETS

Sunday 8:00pm	Sherrill's 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	145.250, 88.5 Hz
Tuesday 9:00pm	N.C. D-Star Net on W4GSO	442.86250, REF054C
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	Guilford Amateur Society Net	145.250, 88.5 Hz
Thursday 9:00pm	Guilford County ARES Net	145.150, 100 Hz

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	145.250, 88.5 Hz

HAM FINDS MORE U.S. LICENSEES THAN EVER BEFORE

If you're licensed in the U.S. and ever feel like you're in a diminishing company, think again: Kyle Pilquist KD0NDG reported on his blog recently that his study of the FCC database, along with some number-crunching, revealed that our hobby still enjoys good health indeed. He reports on his blog that the ratio of new members to cancelled licenses is 1.4-to-1. Kyle writes: "So you could say for every cancellation we have almost 1 and a half new licenses to replace that with." Although the FCC told Newsline it could not confirm the trend Kyle observed, the ARRL's Dave Isgur, N1RSN told Newsline that yes indeed there is a slight uptick in the number of licenses the league tracks. Dave said it might be due to the emphasis these days on STEM education and a focus on technology, along with the exposure amateur radio got during the hurricanes of 2017. Whatever the reason, we all welcome the news -- and the company on the air.

AR Newsline

WORLD OF DX

In this week's World of DX, listen for Alex, 5B4ALX, active as C4XMAS in Cyprus until December 31st to celebrate the Christmas season. He is on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via IZ4AMS, direct, by the Bureau or ClubLog.

In the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Peter, DD1GG, is active through December 19th as DD1GG/HI. He is operating holiday style on various HF bands. QSL via his home callsign.

Tom, N9EAW, is on the air as HQ9T from Roatan Island, Honduras, until December 18th. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via N9EAW direct.

December is YOTA month (Youngsters On The Air). Be listening all month for youngsters active with the "YOTA" suffix in the callsign. Participating stations include 4O18YOTA Montenegro, HA6YOTA Hungary, R18YOTA RUSSIA and dozens of others.

There's an update too on the much-anticipated 3Y0I (Three-Y-Zero-Eye) DXpedition to Bouvet Island. While the departure date is still not known, the team has room for two more operators competent in CW and SSB and experienced in handling challenging weather. If you're up for the challenge, drop a line to Dom at k38dom at k38dom@gmail.com.

AR Newsline

2018 QST Antenna Design Competition Winners Announced

ARRL has announced the winners of the 2018 QST Antenna Design Competition.

"Dozens of entries were received, but only three could win," said QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY. Requirements for the 2018 QST Antenna Design Competition included an antenna for one or more bands between 2200 meters and 10 meters that could fit within a 30 x 50 foot area and be no taller than 30 feet above ground at any point. "In other words, we were seeking designs for LF, MF, or HF antennas for limited-space applications," Ford explained. "We wanted to see innovative antennas that would allow amateurs to get on the air without the need for towering supports and acres of property. Our winners not only met this challenge, they exceeded it." The winners:

- **First Prize** (\$600): "A High Power 160/80-Meter Transmitting Magnetic Loop Antenna" by Steve Adler, VK5SFA.
- **Second Prize** (\$250): "LF/MF Reversible EWE Antennas for Small Lot, Weak Signal Applications" by Michael Sapp, WA3TTS.
- **Third Prize** (\$150): "The 3/8-Wavelength Vertical for 20 Meters, a Hidden Gem" by Joe Reisert, W1JR.

Details of all three winning designs will appear in a future issue of QST.

Honorable Mentions

Several entries earned Honorable Mention status. We will be publishing these designs in QST later in the year as well. Honorable Mention recipients were:

- “A Magnetic Loop for 80, 40, and 20 Meters” by John Chappell, W3HX
- “Superior Performance from a Unique HF Vertical Loop” by John Portune, W6NBC
- “A 630-Meter Mini Antenna that also Works on 160 Meters” by David Day, N1DAY; Ernie Hollingsworth, KC4SIT, and Sid Hendricks, W4IOE
- “A Multiband Flagpole with Dual Top Hat Wires” by Donald P. Crosby, W1EJM
- “A Compact, Removable 20-Meter Loaded Vertical Dipole” by Stephen Appleyard, G3PND

Ford expressed his appreciation to all participants and to Joel Hallas, W1ZR, who headed up the judging process. “It took weeks to evaluate the entries, with a lot of that time spent running antenna modeling applications and studying the results,” Ford said.

Next: The 2019 QST Key Design Competition

Hams have been building their own Morse keys since the dawn of Amateur Radio, and some creations have become legend. In 2019, *QST* is inviting participants to submit their best Morse key/paddle designs in the *QST* Key Competition. Design styles can include straight key, semiautomatic key (bug), paddle, or sideswiper. The winner in each category will receive \$250. Only one entry may be accepted per person or team, and the deadline to submit is June 1, 2019.

Entries must include the actual key (it will be returned following judging) as well as detailed drawings, photos, and a written narrative. Winners will be chosen based on ingenuity of design, ergonomics of operation, and overall craftsmanship. The judges’ decisions are final.

The key must be an independent mechanical device, not an integral part of another device such as an electronic keyer. Keys must be the sole creations of the entrants and not available for sale.

Complete details and entry requirements will appear in the January 2019 edition of **QST. The digital edition** is now live.

ARRLNews site