



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

**President
Bill Schwiegeraht
N8KSG**

**Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO**

**Treasurer
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N4CE**

**Secretary
Trey Belt on
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The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

February 2019

Vol. 17 No. 2

www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Greetings RCARC members & friends! I hope February finds you well rested and now getting proficient with all those cool radio toys that Santa brought less than two months ago. By now, all should have the basics figured out and be well versed with those treats!

First, I'd like to start by talking about how well we have doing with check-ins on the Monday evening net. Last night was my turn to call the net and we tallied 17 amateurs from across the Piedmont Triad Region – quite an impressive total indeed! We actually had at least three non-members who have become familiar with 147.345 now that our foot print is greatly improved, and they returned after being invited to join our nets. Our Thursday 8 p.m. digital C4FM net has been steady, but we really need those who have invested in C4FM equipment to turn out on a steady basis. We have had a few check-ins there as well by non-members who we've made contact with and invited them to participate. And this brings me to my next point...

Whether on FM or C4FM, the best thing we call all do to help attract and engage amateurs, hopefully drawing others in to eventual RCARC membership, is to listen and answer calls on the repeaters. When we get the valuable chance to meet a ham on the air, be sure to mention our three gathering times on the repeater for nets. Those are the Monday 8 pm digital (informal) roundtable, the Monday 8:30 FM net which is our main stay, and the newer Thursday 8 pm Digital C4FM net. This is the most impactful way to help others learn about the club and gain knowledge of the hams and their call signs. I sincerely hope that you'll keep this in mind, monitor the repeater, and engage those who call. Nothing turns hams off more than no reply, and there are far too many opportunities missed.

We continue with our membership drive for 2019, and at last count we have received only 17 renewals. It is often such that these things happen slowly throughout the first 6 or 7 months of the year, but we are truly trying to beat that historical slowness since we spent a lot of our available funds on the repeater repair work. We do have most of our significant expenses earlier in the year, so please renew quickly. If you do not plan to be at the meeting, you can mail your \$25 check to the PO box at the top of the

newsletter. We need and desire your support, and early renewal helps us execute our plans in a timely fashion, so please don't delay – renew today!

Please make a note on your calendar to attend the club meeting on Tuesday, February 19th at 7 pm. The location will be the same – Salvation Army Community Center at 708 Barnes Street in Reidsville. I hope to see each of you there!

73, Bill, N8KSG

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You can click on the title above and you can jump to that section without scrolling..

CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

**** 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!

RCARC Meeting Minutes for 01-15-19

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7pm
Bill N8KSG read the November meeting notes. Approved and seconded.
Paul N4CE read the Treasury Report. Approved and seconded

Committee Reports:

ARES/Skywarn:

No report

Publicity:

The next Club social will be 6pm March 9th at Ruby Tuesday in Eden, NC

Swapfest:

LaMarr WB4VVY has volunteered to handle the Swapfest mailings again this year. Paul N4CE will try to get the flyers out at upcoming swapfests in the area. Also the Swapfest ad will be in an upcoming issue of the SERA Journal.

Historian:

No report

Equipment:

No changes to the list

Technical:

147.345 did not perform as expected during the ice storm but seems to be working normally now. It's possible this was due to extreme ice buildup on the antenna. Bill N8KSG stated that it is the only repeater in the area that is full time linked to System Fusion. Recently the repeater usage has been increasing, especially on digital

147.850 is currently still a work in progress. The Club is going through the proper channels within the Hospital Administration to get permission for the antenna to be installed on the roof of Annie Penn.

Field Day

Bill N8KSG reminded the members present to think about if the Club wanted to pursue having Field day this year and if so, any volunteers to lead it

Old Business

Furman WD4MKU, Roger W4AYO, and Pau N4CE did an audit of the Club's finances and reported everything was in order.

Currently a couple of hams new to the area are interested in starting back up the VE Test sessions for Rockingham County. More to follow on this.

New Business

Bill N8KSG presented the 2019 budget and it was reviewed by the members present. Motion made and seconded

Roger W4AYO asked for volunteers to help give a program for each month. Contact him if you are interested.

Program

Paul N4CE gave a very interesting presentation on the SDRPlay RSP2 radio and software to operate it.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn by Jamey at 8:05pm

Submitted by Trey W4SH

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 1st Tuesday of each month.

73, The Editor (n4rfx.1@gmail.com)

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.

Club Socials

RCARC holds a social once per quarter. For 2019 we will gather at Ruby Tuesday in Eden at 6:00 p.m., enjoying dinner together after a few brief announcements. Planned dates for 2019 are March 9, June 8, Sept. 14, December 14, all being Saturdays. Please remember that there is no regular 3rd Tuesday club meeting during the month.

Upcoming Hamfests

☐ **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>

☐ **08/10/2019 | 21st Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Swapfest**

- Location: Fayetteville, NC
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://cfarsnc.org>

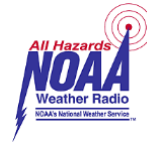


Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org.

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 is:

- 146.745 T107.2 K1GG/R Roanoke/Poor Mtn
- 147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV
- 145.130 T103.5 N4VL/R Galax/Mt. Airy
- 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 8:00 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 "VW" Mode.

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 "VW" Mode.

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 or 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 145.250, 88.5 Hz

Other Amateur Radio News That May be of Interest

THE GOOD OLD HAM DAYS

A desire to get on the air, and very little money to do so, I looked at my options.

I would always take a friend up on the opportunity to talk using his station, and field-day stations. My first station was like many Novice/Technicians, It consisted of a very used Halicrafters S-19-R WWII general coverage receiver. The Transmitter was a Ameco kit, 15 watt C W with 2 coils and 2 crystals one for 40 meters, and one 80 meters. I would send C Q, or listen for another station sending C Q over our allotted portion of the band. My antenna was made from any wire available. With no tune up meters or test equipment, I used a 15 watt light bulb and at the brightest setting, plugged the antenna in and started sending a C Q.

There was plenty of hams sending at my speed, with lousy signals, and making errors, I felt comfortable with C W back in those days.

K4RVJ, Jamey

Crickets - It's Time to Chirp

There is a real need to ask you to step-up and volunteer for positions in our club. Bill, Roger, Michael, and Trey have held office positions for many years. Thank you Paul for picking up Treasure, and co-chairing our Swap-fest, doing programs, and picking up a net control spot. (we have many openings for NCS). Thank you Ralph, N4RFX for picking up the newsletter. Our VE team has not conducted a session for several years. We did not have a club field-day last year.

As you see, The club needs your help! So step-up, VOLUNTEER!!

K4RVJ, Jamey

US Navy finds ham radio training makes “workers better at their jobs”



(Source: [Southgate ARC](#) via Mike K8RAT)

Can learning amateur radio make for better engineers and software developers?

Writing in C4ISRNET – Electronic Warfare, Eric Tegler says:

When a group of [US] Navy engineers and software developers took time away from their day jobs in December, they spent the time pursuing a task long considered passe: they became licensed amateur radio operators.

Some 23 employees from Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) took a week-long class in amateur radio at Point Mugu, California culminating with an FCC amateur radio license test. All passed and are certified at the “technician” level for amateur radio operation [permitted 200 watts on some HF bands, 1500 watts above 30 MHz].

Now, Navy officials say the move may make the workers better at their jobs. The staff gained an understanding of radio frequency (RF) propagation that’s essential to what they do, said Brian Hill, electromagnetic maneuver warfare experimentation lead and collaborative electronic warfare supervisor at NAWCWD.

Hill, who earned his amateur radio license in high school, noticed that while most of his department’s recent hires had degrees in computer science, many had little background in RF theory or operation.

“You can explain antenna patterns and concepts like omni-directional vs directional using Smith charts, but it’s helpful to add a demonstration to really convey the concept,” Hill said. “You can explain modulation as a concept, but for a demo... let them listen to how modulated digital signals with audio frequencies sound... For those who never knew the joy of hearing a 2400 bps modem connect over a telephone line, it was a new concept!”

These concepts are central to electromagnetic maneuver warfare.

“We need to be able to have awareness of all threats and opportunities from [zero frequency] to light within an integrated system,” Hill said. “Our adversaries are looking at the entire spectrum to use against us, and we need to do the same. Having awareness of how the atmosphere changes from daylight to night and how that affects propagation of [high frequency] is important.”

This can be critical for young developers/engineers whose experience is typically limited to the UHF/EHF-based systems now in vogue across communications, guidance and ISR technologies.

Read the full story at

<https://www.c4isrnet.com/electronic-warfare/2019/02/06/can-learning-ham-radio-make-for-better-engineers-and-software-developers/>

WORLD OF DX (via ARNewsline)

In the World of DX, Vlad, UA4WHX, has been active as 3B8VB from Rodriguez Island although the length of his stay was as-yet undetermined. Be listening for him on 40/30/20/17 meters using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL via UA4WHX.

In the Bahamas, Michael/KN4EEI, Michael/N6MZ and George/AA7JV are on the air as C6AGU from Water Cay through to the 18th of February. Be listening on 160/80/40 meters where they are using mostly CW and FT8. QSL via HA7RY.

Arnaud, JG1XMV, will be using the call sign FK/JG1XMV from New Caledonia between February 23rd and March 10th. He will be joined in the operation by his friend Yves, FK4RD. Operations will be from Grand Terre Island and possibly Lifou and Mare islands. Listen for him on 40/20/17/15 meters SSB. QSL via his home call direct, LoTW or eQSL.

Be listening for Nils SM3UQK operating as OX/SE3A on the main island of Greenland from the 9th through to the 21st of February. You can find him on 40 and 20 meters. QSL via SM3UQK, direct or bureau.