



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Welcome to March RCARC! On the heels of another social this past Saturday evening, I'd like to take a moment to thank all those who came out to Ruby Tuesday this past Saturday evening, a night that - while it wasn't the worst - sure stood a lot to be desired. The day was gray, dreary and misty and this continues through the evening making for a not so fun trip over to Eden. But I'm glad I did. We had 17 people in attendance, and I thank each of you for making the time to gather with your friends in the club for some good food and nice conversation. We even had two newcomers!

We had a strange anomaly during the net last evening that I would like to address to avoid problems in the future. While WA4LTY was taking check-ins, it appeared that someone was trying to check-in by C4FM digital. When I first hear this, I decided to remote into the repeater site to see if I could tell what was going on and to turn of the digital mode temporarily, but what I noticed was that the repeater had been switched to a different Yaesu System Fusion (YSF) room. Now, normally the repeater is connected to the NC-WIRES-X-LINK room, which is the room associated with our repeater, but the AMERICAS-LINK room that it was connected to can often be busy, and this was our problem. Digital C4FM transmissions from other nodes were coming through to our repeater, and they didn't know we were there at all because the net is in FM mode, and FM does not go out over wires-x.

We have many people who are new to C4Fm and the DN and VW modes, and I strongly encourage you to use the repeater and wires-x internet linking to explore the world with your VHF radios. But it is probably in good order to review general good practices.

- Always check to make sure you are not doubling. Whether you are checking into a net or during general roundtable discussion, you should be careful to avoid doubling, and this applies just as much to any digital mode as it does FM. We all "tailgate" at times, and we constantly need to check that we are using long pauses between transmissions in which we LISTEN to make sure we avoid doubling. During a net, you key the transmitter for a second or two and say "Net Control", release the PTT, then wait a couple seconds to make sure there is not double. Only then do you

proceed with your check in. This allows the net control operator to run the net in an orderly fashion.

- When using C4FM (DN or VW), our practice is to still announce ourselves. Some might say since you can set your call sign to transmit with the carrier, but that is about FCC compliance. RCARC asks for a verbal ID.
- Wires-X is there for everyone to use: Please feel free to change rooms and explore. However, if you are just checking things out, please return to the NC-WIRES-X-LINK room when finished. Eventually, things will time out and the we will default back to our home room, but there is no need to tie the repeater up for an hour or so waiting for that to happen. Our FM only operators cannot change rooms, so if they desire to use the repeater, they are essentially blocked as they will be doubled by any internet traffic coming through.
- When we run the digital rag chew and TH night digital net, please put your radio in the fixed VW mode. This will avoid the unintentional “pulling from digital when the repeater IDs. It has been said that it was thought that we are to use mixed mode on our individual radios to include everyone, and when we initially got the digital repeaters that was (and is still) true, but we did not have any digital nets at the time. The purpose of the digital net and rag chew is to promote the use of the C4FM digital modes, and the unintentional switching defeats that purpose and causes confusion.
- During normal operation outside of net times, we do encourage keeping YSF radios in mixed mode, so you can monitor and respond to calls in any mode.

Please, if there is any confusion on this, bring it up at our next meeting in April. And that brings me to the next point....

There is no regular meeting this month, so do not show up at the Salvation Army! Our next meeintg is April 16th at 7 pm.

73, Bill, N8KSG

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***The content headings are now hyperlinks to the specific content.
 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!

April Meeting Program

For years we've heard frequent mentions of K4RVJ's "magical 11.5 foot coax" that permits the antenna tuner to match antenna and transceiver on 12 and 15 meters. During the April regular club meeting program presentation, we'll explore why. No math, I promise, so leave your calculators at home.
- Tim Walker, WD4GXD

RCARC Meeting Minutes for 02-15-19

RCARC Minutes

Bill N8KSG called the meeting to order at 7pm

Trey W4SH read the January 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:

The Swapfest is now registered as a sanctioned ARRL event and there should be a half page ad in the next SERA Journal.

Historian:

No Report

Equipment:

No new additions

Field Day

The Club is still looking for a FD Coordinator. At the time of the meeting there are no volunteers for the position.

Technical:

147.345 - Performing as expected with no problems since the ice storm.

146.850 - We have permission to put on the repeater on the hospital roof and hope to get a day selected soon to get this work done.

George WA4LTY has old the hardline, antenna, and a cabinet left over from the removal of 146.850 from the Duke Energy tower. These items will be placed on the Club table at the swapfest for sale.

Old Business

No Report

New Business

Bill N8KSG stated that is time renew our Non Profit status and update our officers with the State of North Carolina.

Program

Roger W4AYO asked for program volunteers and mentioned putting the upcoming month's program in the current newsletter.

Bill N8KSG gave a presentation on Logging and QSLing for Todays Amateur

Motion to Adjourn

Made by Jamey K4RVJ at 8:14 pm

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 2010 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

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

04/06/2019 | Down East Hamfest

Location: Kinston, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Down East Hamfest Association

04/27/2019 | Catawba Valley Hamfest

Location: Morganton, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: McDowell Amateur Radio Assn.

Website: <http://cvhamfest.com>

04/27/2019 | RV Radio Network Rally

Location: Linwood, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: RV Radio Network

Website: <https://rvradionetwork.com>

05/11/2019 | Rockingham County ARC Swapfest

Location: Reidsville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, inc

Website: <http://n4iv.org>

07/06/2019 | 34th Annual Firecracker Hamfest

Location: Salisbury, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Rowan Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.rowanars.com/events>

07/20/2019 | Mid-Summer SWAPFEST

Location: Cary, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cary Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>

07/27/2019 | WCARS Hamfest 2019

Location: Waynesville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.wcars.org/wcarshamfest.htm>

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>

08/30/2019 | Shelby Hamfest

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://shelbyhamfest.org>

10/12/2019 | W4NC Fall-Fest

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W4NC.com>



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”

My interest got started while a teenager as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol.

At the Reidsville airport, we had a HF base station, (Red Dog 37) close to the 75 meter band. On the VHF band, close to the 2 meter band, Mobile and Base units.

Our Reidsville unit was supplied with surplus radios, we had to build our power supplies, with the help of several officers, that were hams, our Captain, Forest Bedell, a radio announcer for WFRC. Tommy Gunn supplied home built ground plane antennas. This experience was just enough to spark my interest and another cadet, a friend and class-mate to get our ham license.

K4RVJ. Jamey

MIT HAM CLUB PUTS RADIO STUDIES ONLINE

NEIL/ANCHOR: Can you go back to school without actually *going* to school? Hams can, as Jim Damron N8TMW explains.

JIM DAMRON: If you've ever wished you could attend MIT, you now have your chance. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Radio Society is making a series of programs about radio available online through the school's Independent Activities Period. The Radio Society is W1MX, MIT's amateur radio club, and it has arranged for nine lectures to be made available on YouTube. These are intense courses - just what you'd expect from MIT - and cover such subjects as software-defined radio, propagation, radio astronomy and radio history, for starters.

If you want to attend - virtually, of course -- visit the website at [w1mx dot mit dot edu forward slash iap hyphen 2019](http://w1mx.mit.edu/iap-2019) (w1mx.mit.edu/iap-2019)

Best of all, you can do all of this at your leisure, so you don't have to worry about oversleeping the start of class. Or even cramming for finals. You're already part of a fraternity of radio so why not go to class too? - For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jim Damron N8TMW.

LONG CLIMB LEADS TO HISTORIC SOTA ACTIVATION

NEIL/ANCHOR: History was made in February on an Argentinian summit and our own SOTA activator Ed Durrant DD5LP has been following that story.

ED: The highest peak in the SOTA - Summits on the Air - awards scheme, at the current time, is Aconcagua at 6,962m ASL, which has the reference LUM/PH-001, in the relatively new Argentina (Mendoza) SOTA association.

This summit was activated for the first time ever on the 16th of February 2019 by Tom Rudzinski SQ9FVE, operating as LU/SQ9FVE. Tom is an experienced and skilled mountaineer, as required for such an undertaking. He planned the expedition carefully including all necessary support.

The climb to the summit began 13 days before the actual activation and included several stage camps and acclimatisation strategies. The actual activation took place at 1747 UTC and comprised of five QSOs on 2 metres FM, all with Argentinian chasers located around 90km away.

In his post on the SOTA reflector Tom thanks all of his helpers especially the local Argentinian Hams. For Amateur Radio Newsline this is Ed Durrant DD5LP.