



*Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*



N4IV

**President
Bill Schwiegeraht
N8KSG**

**Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO**

**Treasurer
Paul Patterson
N4CE**

**Secretary
Trey Belton
W4SH**

The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Hello RCARC Members,

Welcome to fall, or is it? Some have said the calendar says it is October, but the thermometer is still calling it "Hot-tober! It seems the upcoming week will cool off some, but still very pleasant conditions for the time of year. I'm sure in about a month we'll be complaining about the cold!

Put next Saturday 10/12 on your calendar for the Winston-Salem hamfest sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. The event will be held at Robinhood Road Baptist Church at 5422 Robinhood Rd in Winston Salem. This is the last local hamfest of the year, so stock up on supplies while you have the opportunity

Your nominations team has been hard at work soliciting people to help with leadership position in the club. I know I've said it before, but none of our officer positions require an inordinate amount of time, effort, or knowledge. Please contact myself (n8ksg@arrl.net), Tim Walker (WD4GXD), or Charlie Werner (KX4IQ) know of your interest. Also, extend your thanks to Tim and Charlie at the next meeting or by email to let them know you appreciate their hard work.

I hope to see all of you at the October club meeting which is coming up pretty soon. The next meeting will be on October 15th at 7 pm, at the Salvation Army building at 708 Barnes St. Please make an effort to attend and stayed informed about the latest happenings.

73, Bill, N8KSG

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CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

It's Almost Time to Vote – Please Join Us

The nominations committee has presented the following list of RCARC Officers candidates for 2020, and it is being made available for review by the general membership. Thanks to Tim Walker for spearheading this effort! Nominations may still be made prior to the next club meeting on November 19th, and a final call will be made at the meeting prior to the vote, so if you are interested in nominating yourself or another member, the time is drawing near! Wouldn't it be nice to actually hold a real election?

| Office | Candidate |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| President: | Tim Walker, WD4GXD |
| Vice-President: | Roger Joyner, W4AYO |
| Secretary: | Jamey Nixon, K4RVJ |
| Treasurer: | Paul Patterson, N4CE |

We need your attendance at the November meeting as we must have a quorum to finalize the results – please make it a priority to attend!

Meeting Minutes

No minutes, social meeting in September

Testing Session

Per Jamey Nixon: The W5YI VE team will be at the **Eden Library Saturday November 16, 2019** to administer the test for amateur radio license. **Registration 9:30 am**, Test starts at 10:00 am, **Test fee \$14.00**. 2 forms of ID is required (with copies) 1 form must have your picture on the ID.

****** 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!

Thanks to the following Amateurs who have renewed their RCARC membership for 2019. Your continued support is appreciated!

Received as of May 9, 2019. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| N4JRA | KK4IFG | W4SH | N4ZZC* |
| W4SIX | WA4LTY | KJ4ANA | WF4I |
| KF4AX | N1YBH | N2ECS | KE4WSF |
| KN4ODM* | W4AYO | WD4MKU | KN4PUN |
| WA3RFE* | K2CPR | KF4LIK* | KF4KPM* |
| WB4VVY | K4RVJ | WA4RDX | N4CE |
| KG4CRJ | KI4PRU | N8KSG | KJ4WRE |
| W3EBM* | WD4GXD | KN4NBH | KX4IQ |
| AF4TZ | N4SOI | KJ4FWT | N4RFX |
| KN4BBA | KK4KFG | | |

Honorary Members: W4WBP WB4JYC

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

11/17/2019 | JARSFEST

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://jars.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.

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 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

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

Is CAL FIRE Trying to Dismantle the Ham Radio System Amid Blackouts and Wildfires?



A man uses a bucket to fight a fire in a field outside the village of Sao Jose das Matas, near Macao, central Portugal, Wednesday, July 26 2017. (AP Photo/Armando Franca)

EDITOR'S NOTE: After two readers reached out to PJ Media asking us to investigate this story further, we've determined that the details may be more complicated than at first glance. According to a press release from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio, fears about the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) seeking to dismantle the Ham radio system may have been overblown. "By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has not turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizeable fees," the organization said.

If that's the case, why did a CAL FIRE official send a letter to a repeater owner/group informing them that amateur radio equipment would have to be removed from state-owned sites if they didn't pay up? The official has not responded to a request for comment from the ARRL, so it's not clear what happened.

“The State of California has not made any determination we can find ‘that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit,’” Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra wrote at the Sacramento Valley Section website. [Emphasis added] “What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates.”

“Our contact in the California Office of Emergency Services suggests that, if any affected repeater is in any way involved with local emergency or government support activity, they should ask that agency to engage with CAL FIRE concerning the repeater. If the agency makes the case, there is a good chance that the repeater will be unaffected,” Tiemstra added.

Cal Fire needs to get this straightened out immediately so that amateur radio operators can get back to the important job of providing vital communication links to their communities without having to fear they could be hammered by fines levied by zealous bureaucrats.

Original article:

As if things aren't bad enough in California with wildfires and power outages, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has decided that Ham radio equipment in remote areas must be removed unless radio operators cough up a big fee to lease the land from the government. In an email to Ham operators, Lorina Pisi wrote:

I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past. However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided. Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place. In addition to the technical analysis fee (\$2500/application), there is DGS Lease admin cost associated (typically between \$3000-\$5000) with preparation of lease. Also, there will be an annual rent charge based upon equipment type/space. Ham operators have been assisting fire and emergency services for free for years. Their contributions are well-documented. The equipment costs the state nothing, as it is operated by the owners. There is no benefit to removing it and, in fact, removing the only source of communication available when the power is out and the cell towers are down is downright criminal. Ham radio is a time-tested, low-cost, reliable means of communication when emergencies strike. OffGrid Survival reports, "What is infuriating here is people are going to die because of this decision. It costs the State of California nothing to allow these repeaters on public land; in fact, Ham Radio Operators pay for the equipment and maintain the equipment at their own cost. Ham Radio operators also make nothing from running these radio repeaters; they do so as a service to the public to help ensure the public's safety during natural disasters and emergencies."

Instead of continuing to use a system that has worked for decades, the California government has instituted a cell communication plan that has already failed.

In 2012 the federal government launched FirstNet, a public safety nationwide broadband network that many in the government think will make Ham radio operators obsolete. In reality, its nothing more than a \$47 Billion Federal Cell Phone Network that itself is already obsolete. In fact, it needs LOTS of infrastructure to function, and it creates multiple, single points of failure.

According to The Atlantic, "FirstNet is in such disarray that 15 years after the problem it is supposed to solve was identified, it is years from completion—and it may never get completed at all. According to the GAO, estimates of its cost range from \$12 billion to \$47 billion, even as advances in digital technology seem to have eliminated the need to spend any of it."

OffGrid Survival may have identified the actual issue:

The real story here is Ham Radio is a threat to the government. We make them look stupid! They spend billions on infrastructure that breaks down, while we can literally take a hundred bucks in equipment, some random wires, and in minutes set up a radio system that can communicate with anyone in the world. Hell, I've used my kid's slinky, some Television Coax Cable, and a solar battery system to build a mobile rig that I've used to talk to people around the world — You can check out the Radio Rig Here. They don't want the public to realize that we can take care of ourselves, and do a much better and cheaper job doing so!

They should also consider that the government hates watching anyone succeed at anything without the state getting its cut. Most likely, the fire district knows that Ham operators aren't going to watch their whole system dismantled and expects them to pay to keep it.

The list of emergencies where Ham operators have saved the day is extensive and can be read in this letter from operators to Pisi at the fire district.

Megan Fox is the author of "Believe Evidence; The Death of Due Process from Salome to #MeToo."

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Measure

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