



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



President
Tim Walker
WD4GXD

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

Treasurer
Paul Patterson
N4CE

Secretary
Jamey Nixon
K4RVJ

The RockingHAMmer News

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www.n4iv.org

President's Corner

Greetings;

The BIG news this month is our first Maker Faire, March 14th at 4 PM. Jim Smith (N3UZ) is making his facility available to members (pay your annual dues!) to improve soldering skills with AmeriKit's "Learn to Solder Electronic Educational Kit". This complete kit contains all the materials and tools to teach proper and safe soldering of electronic components (the second session, on June 13th, will complete the training by constructing a flashing European siren with flashing lights). No previous experience is required and "Elmers" will be on-hand to help participants. Jim's location is 660 Butter Road, Reidsville (the session will conclude in sufficient time to attend the March club social at Ruby Tuesday's Restaurant, 706 S. Van Buren Road, Eden at 6 PM). Talk-in on 147.345 repeater. Here are some crude driving directions to Jim's QTH: From Reidsville: Hwy 87 N towards Wentworth/Eden (past Wentworth Elementary School), TL at Hancock Rd. then TR on Butter Rd.; From Eden: Hwy 87 S towards Wentworth, TR on Hancock Rd. then TR on Butter Rd.; From Madison/Stoneville: Hwy 704 & 65 towards Wentworth (crossover Rock House Creek) TL on Hancock Rd., then TL onto Butter Rd.

Amateur Radio Licensing/upgrade at the next VE Testing Session, March 28th, 9 AM at the Eden Library. Bring a copy of your current FCC Amateur Radio License (if you are currently licensed), two forms of identification (one must contain your photograph), photo copies of both IDs plus the \$14 testing fee. No appointment is necessary.

No business meeting scheduled for March so please attend the Maker Faire and Dinner Social. See you then,

73s
Tim (WD4GXD)

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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

Meeting Minutes

RCARC minutes from Feb.18, 2020

Called to order at 7 pm, with introductions, 19 present.

Tim WD4GXD had program on VHF / UHF Discone antenna. With antenna he made for receiving.

Paul presented the treasure report.

Jamey read minutes from Jan. 21st meeting.

Old Business

Swapfest set for May 9th Paul N4CE and Roger W4AYO are working together to get this event set-up, with Ads in QST and SERA, and ARRL Affiliated & Sanctioned. (need to check on Vendors)

V E test session date set for March 28th at 9 am Eden Library.

N4IV.org, website Hosting now by Bill N8KSG and Bob KN4BBA

Fieldday June 27&28, co-chaired Bill N8KSG and Mike WA3RFE. (Bill said if he was in town that weekend)

First Maker/Faire date March 14 at 4pm, at Jim's N3UZ QTH, (garage) Elmer program Kit building etc.

Jim will be out of town but Wife will be home, Lynn N3WKW 660 Butter rd. near Wentworth.

Roger W4AYO said 7 dates open for programs, Bill N8KSG volunteered for April.

Internet Expense for 147.345 to be reviewed in June by Bill N8KSG

New Business

Paul N4CE, and Tim WD4GXD reminded everyone to renew their dues for 2020.

Jamey commented on N4IV website, looks good and appears to be up-to-date.

Bill stopped by repeater site to see what is needed to up-grade cables & connectors for 147.345.

Tim & Paul up-dated info. At Carter Hall bank, and received debit card for club purchases, Bank planning for on line banking.

Paul will report non-profit 990-N information latter this year.

Jim, N3UZ and Jim W3EBM had radios (QYT & HF Signals) as show and tell items

Note: The Tuesday Breakfast at the farmers table, may or may not be announced with RCARC functions, it was formed earlier by members of a 10 meter net, and not by RCARC.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm

****** 2020 Membership Drive ******

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2020. 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 August 19, 2019. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign

N4JRA	N1YBH	K2CPR	N8KSG
KK4IFG	N2ECS	KF4LIK*	N3UZ
W4SH	KE4WSF	KF4KPM*	KJ4WRE
N4ZZC*	KN4ODM*	WB4VVY	KN4BBA
W4SIX	W4AYO	N4RFX	KK4KFG
WA4LTY	WD4MKU	K4RVJ	W3EBM*
KJ4ANA	KN4PUN	WA4RDX	WD4GXD
WF4I	KJ4FWT	N4CE	KN4NBH
N4SOI	WA43RFE*	KG4CRJ	KX4IQ
KF4HX	KN4AWV	KI4PRU	AF4TZ

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 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

03/29/2020 | **Winterfest, ARRL Virginia Section Convention 2020**

Location: Annandale, VA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Vienna Wireless Society

Website: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>

04/11/2020 | **Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention**

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

Learn More

Burke County Fairgrounds

04/25/2020 | **Catawba Valley Hamfest**

Location: Morganton, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: McDowell Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://cvhamfest.com>

05/15/2020 | **Dayton Hamvention 2020**

May 15 - 17
 Green County Fair Grounds and Expo Center
 Xenia, OH
 Get Hamvention Alerts – text: Hamvention to 888777



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

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|----------|----------------------|------------------|
| • 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 |

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| • 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

HAM RADIO 101

The Meaning and History of SOS

Posted by Kim Klimas on February 27, 2020 at 9:34 pm

What does SOS stand for? It's not "Save Our Ship" or "Save Our Souls" like you might think. Instead, the distress signal that originated in the maritime community is communication used specifically for ships, based on Morse Code, that is represented by three dots, three dashes, and three more dots.

Developed by **Samuel Morse** in 1835, Morse code's dots and dashes signify letters of the alphabet and are used to communicate messages, such as SOS, by sending electric pulses. But SOS wasn't the first recognized distress signal. Before SOS there was CQD, with the "CQ" translating to "general notice" and the "D" an abbreviation for "distress."

However, CQD wasn't a universal distress call. England used CQD, the U.S. Navy used NC (the International Code of Signals maritime distress flag signal), and Italy used SSSDD. The need for a common indicator of distress was real, and the mode of communication needed to fit for long- distance communications—instead of being limited to those within sight range.

The universal use of SOS was ratified at the 1906 Radiotelegraph Conference and went into effect in 1908. Its first documented use in the U.S. occurred in August 1909 when the SS Arapahoe lost power in the Graveyard of the Atlantic near Diamond Shoals. T.D. Haubner (also the recipient of the second documented SOS signal) sent the distress call, and the ship and crew were successfully rescued.

Today, SOS is not limited to telegraphs. It is a multi-faceted mode of messaging used to signal for help in various crisis situations—learn about ways to use it here. Long and short bursts of light from a flashlight, or the glint of sun off a mirror, have been used by climbers trapped on mountains to call for aid.

Large print letters written in the sand have saved the lives of shipwreck victims or those that drift too far while snorkeling. Even the Titanic captain signaled repeatedly to ask for aid with CQD as he sank to the ocean's bottom with the ship.

Here are a few common signals:

- SOS AAA – signals an attack by aircraft
- SOS QQQ – signals an attack of an unknown raider
- SOS RRR – signals an attack by a surface raider
- SOS SSS – signals a submarine attack

--shared from DX Engineering's OnAllBands.com

KICKER: NEVER TOO LATE

NEIL/ANCHOR: If you've been putting off upgrading to Extra, our final story of the week just might inspire you to action. Here's Paul Braun WD9GCO.

PAUL: There is a saying that it's never too late to try something new. Ninety-four-year-old Buck Miner, K6RFE, is proof of that. Buck has been a ham since the 1950's and he's been a General for most of that time. He's also been blind since he was 27.

But lately, he's been fighting interference on HF from one ham in particular. When he found out that the source of his irritation was also only a General, Buck found a solution:

MINER: And I said, "Well, he don't have an Extra license, so I'm gonna study and get my Extra and get away from him!" And a friend of mine in Utah, another ham, I sent him a tape recorder and some tapes and he taped the questions and the answers for the Extra. And for months and months I've been studying hard. Sometimes I'd get a question that I'd get hung up on, and I'd get on the air every morning and say, "What's the answer to this one?" and they'd all answer it and we'd have a lot of fun doing that. Then one day, I asked Alexa!

PAUL: His voice-assistant unit proved to be a valuable addition to his study materials. He studied day and night for months, until:

MINER: Finally, I got down to the point where I'd think I could give it a try and the guys came over, and I squeaked past it! I didn't think I was doing anything to get any notification from the world ☐ I just wanted to get down the band and get away from that guy!

PAUL: Miner is also a prolific author and singer/songwriter. You can hear many of his songs by searching for him on YouTube. So, for those of you who are thinking you're too old to learn a new trick, Buck Miner would beg to differ with you.

For Amateur Radio Newslines, I'm Paul Braun, WD9GCO.