



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

It was the first time, in my memory at least, that our club held an over-the-air club meeting on April 21st. Lasting only 23 minutes, it may have also been one of the shortest club meetings in recent history as well. But, in spite of the differences, it served the purpose of disseminating information about club events. Thanks to all who took time to attend via radio. Our next “club meeting” is scheduled for May 19th when, again, the final word one where and how this one is to transpire will be announced on the Monday Evening Club Net. Mike (WA3RFE), Paul (N4CE) and Jim (N3UZ) have made preliminary preparations for a club field day event in June contingent, of course, on everyone being comfortable with gatherings of this nature by that date. Dittos for the Maker Fare scheduled for June 13th where Jim (N3UZ) and again offered to make his “garage” available to us again. Thanks Jim! More updates will be announced on the Monday Night Club Net so stay tuned!

73s Tim (WD4GXD)

PS. Let me also sadly note the passing of Sylvia Jean Tweedle, K3SJT, on April 26, 2020. Our condolences go out to Jim, W3EBM, at the passing of his wife. Please remember Jim and his family at this time of their personal loss.

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CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from RCARC meeting April 21, 2020

Due to COVID-19 virus most regular club events have been affected.

The April meeting was held on 147.345, as a “virtual meeting”

On the air 12 introductions, Tim WD4GXD had the program, (radio direction finding) Manual, and 4 Automatic.

Old Business:

Our May 9th Swapfest has been canceled, Paul & Roger were commended for their efforts to set this event up and then go through canceling it.

Field-day is still up in the air, based on the virus status, and if Bill N8KSG will be available, and location for the event.

Non-Profit listing of this year's club officers will be re-done for N C state info. Bill and Paul will submit the 990 form in early May.

New Business:

Patrick N2CPR plans to check the 146.850 repeater not working located on the Annie Penn Hospital this weekend if he came get permission to do so.

Jim N3UZ is checking with W5YI to see if he can get permission to do Remote testing for our area. (our March scheduled test session was canceled)

Bill N8KSG has made initial contact with tower personnel at the 147.345 site about using their internet service for wires X, it looks favorable for now.

Field Day June 27th and 28th

We are planning on holding this year's Field Day at Jim N3UZ's Barn. Thanks Jim! Set up will start at 9:am on the 27th.

Paul N4CE is bring the CW station, and ill bring a digital Station. Terry KI4KPM is also bringing a HF rig we can use for voice.

I only have a 20M vertical and Terry has a 10m antenna. if anyone has and multi-band antennas, radios, coax we can use please let me know.

Thanks & 73

Mike WA3RFE

**** 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 May 6, 2020. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign

N4JRA	N1YBH	KF4KPM	N8KSG
KK4IFG	N2ECS	N4RFX	N3UZ*
W4SH	KE4WSF	K4RVJ	N3WKW
W4SIX	WD4MKU	WA4RDX	KN4BBA
WA4LTY	WA43RFE	N4CE	W3EBM
KJ4ANA	KF4LIK	KI4PRU	WD4GXD

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

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

Location: Morganton, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

CANCELLED

Sponsor: McDowell Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://cvhamfest.com>

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

May 15 - 17

CANCELLED

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

• 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

From FB:

NC Amateur Radio Operators Group

We are declaring the Statewide Echolink Net test a success and now are scheduled to have our the net on the 1st Monday of every month over Echolink. We are open to doing more but want to have consistency 1st. Richard Futrell is donating a computer and chair in his out for our connection on Echolink and N4AED-L as our home for now with the rest of the support team for this page.

For more details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/274935153526897/>

FCC ADOPTS NEW SEAL TO PREP FOR RELOCATION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The FCC is getting a new look in anticipation of its relocation. Kevin Trotman N5PRE brings us those details.

KEVIN: The U.S. Federal Communications Commission is getting a new QTH and to help furnish its new home the agency is adopting a new official seal. The new design was created by Umasankar Arumugam, a director at the IT company NCI. It will be showing up on the agency's website as well as its stationery, business cards and other materials very soon.

The date of the move has been delayed by the COVID-19 lockdown but the contest to create the new seal design went forward, with submissions sent in staffers throughout the agency as well as its independent contractors. According to a press release from the FCC, the design pays tribute to the communications technologies that are changing the globe. It contains 18 stars on a shield, in recognition of the number of bureaus and Offices the agency has. The FCC announced its move last year from its offices in the southwest section of Washington, D.C., where it has been since 1997. It is moving to the northeast section of the nation's capital where according to InsideRadio.com, the new space will cost less in rent as it is 30 percent smaller than the current offices.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Kevin Trotman N5PRE.

(FCC.GOV)

KICKER: FROM A QUICK CONTACT TO AN ENDURING ONE

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: For our final story, we look at how a seemingly simple contact on HF can lead to something more enduring. Kent Peterson KC0DGY picks up the story from here.

KENT: How does a fleeting contact on FT-4 end up becoming a connection to last a lifetime? Ask Mike Solito (suh-LEE-Toh) KC3DA. Mike was using the fast-moving digital mode recently to work a number of amateurs from Italy when he logged Michele (Mee-Kell) Vitale IT9AJP. Looking up Michele's profile on QR Zed, Mike discovered that Michele shared the same hometown in Sicily as his cousins. Mike told Newsline that he hadn't been in regular touch with his family there: communication is complicated because his cousins have no computers and besides, they only speak Sicilian. With coronavirus hitting Italy hard, the Pittsburgh amateur needed reassurance that his family there was OK. He emailed Michele to arrange a QSO on SSB to talk further -- but after a failed attempt to connect there, he asked him for a call on FaceTime instead. He then asked if Michele would mind checking in on his cousins for him. Of course, he said yes.

The two hams now regularly communicate on the radio and have become friends on Facebook as well. More than that, they have simply become...good friends.

"Everyone criticizes the digital modes," Mike told Newsline in a phone call. [quote] "But you can have relationships with people even with this kind of thing. That's what ham radio is all about. You meet strangers on the radio and they become friends." [endquote]

It is the kind of contact you'll never see in a logbook but to Mike it's the kind that matters most.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Kent Peterson KC0DGY.