



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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

With all the enjoyment of Christmas and New Years in the rear-view mirror we're all looking forward to the return of a more predictable year to enjoy our ham radio hobby. The 2020 pandemic has only infringed upon some of our club's social and swapfest in-person activities and not on our on-air adventures. Plan to attend the club monthly meeting on January 19, 2021 at the "barn" of N3UZ at 660 Butter Road, Wentworth. The program planned is on the dual topics of UHF vertical collinear antennas and broadband Vivaldi UHF antennas. BTW, please pay your annual dues this month. See you at the meeting!

73s Tim (WD4GXD)

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

CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes

No minutes, December social.

Breakfasts (changes for 2021)

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST, and RCARC BREAKFAST will be held on WEDNESDAY at 7:00 am at the Sanitary restaurant, in Reidsville.

RCARC Meetings for 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions RCARC meetings normally held the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm, at the Salvation Army 708 Barnes street in Reidsville. An ALTERNATE location will be announced prior to each meeting, while restrictions exist.

Club Socials for 2021

Once each quarter a social event will replace our monthly meeting, normally held on that 3rd Tuesday. The months of MARCH, SEPTEMBER, and DECEMBER, the SECOND Saturday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm (Location to be announced) prior to the social. For the month of JUNE, that social will be held in conjunction with Field-Day.

Please Note: From Peggy, KJ4ANA 12/21/2020

Peggy requests, "No socials to be held till virus is over. Now we have a new virus from UK, it's too dangerous for any kind of meeting to be held."

"Breakfasts is held ONLY on Wednesday at Sanitary Café in Reidsville at 7 AM."

W5YI V E Team News

W5YI, V E Team, Serving our club and Area, (Session Manager Jim, N3UZ & wife Lynn, N3WKW) Along with their special friend, Bob, KN4BBA, set up the computerized sessions. They CAN and WILL do the session by themselves. (LET'S DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN).

If you are an EXTRA CLASS please consider becoming a V E. Realizing some have to work on Saturday, sometime plans or not in town day of the session will hinder you. Jim is NOT the type to pressure V E's to come out and help. But if you can offer to help. 2 V E's plus the above 3 will make a FAST and EASY session.

Let's support this program by having 2 V E's at each session, Jamey, K4RVJ

**** Please note:**

*****ATTENTION FCC, VE CHANGES*****

If you or someone you know is looking to take their ham radio test, the FCC will no longer accept SSN on the 605s. It has to be an FRN from now on. You can obtain an FRN without having a call.**

****** 2021 Membership Drive ******

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2021. 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 2020. Your continued support is appreciated!

Members as of January, 2021. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign						
N4JRA	WF4I	WA3RFE*	WA4RDX	N3WKW	KN4NBH	
KK4IFG	N1YBH	K2CPR	N4CE	KJ4WRE		
W4SH	N2ECS	KF4LIK	KJ4CIW	KB4SHP		
N4ZZC*	KE4WSF	KF4KPM*	KO4HLZ	KN4BBA		
W4SIX	KN4ODM	WB4VVY	KI4PRU	KK4KFG		
WA4LTY	W4AYO	N4RFX	N8KSG	W3EBM		
KJ4ANA	WD4MKU	K4RVJ	N3UZ	WD4GXD		
Honorary members:						
W4WBP						
WB4JYC						

Please consider **renewing** your membership OR sharing the membership application with non-member local hams. Membership is open to all licensed amateurs. Dues are \$25 annually. To join, fill out the application below or speak with any of our members or officers for more information. Here's the link to the membership application: [**Membership Application**](#)

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

Breakfast

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST, and RCARC BREAKFAST will be held on WEDNESDAY'S at 7:00 am at the Sanitary restaurant, in Reidsville.

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UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Editor's Note: Regretfully, most all Hamfests and Conventions for the rest of 2020 and into the first quarter of 2021 have been cancelled within 250 miles of Rockingham County.

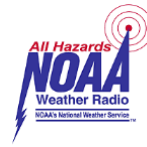


Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org.

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, 107.5 Hz
- 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

Operating Another Amateur's Station

There are three things to remember when you are acting as *control operator* of someone else's ham station:

1. The *privileges* are based on the *operator license*. No matter whose station you are using, you always have *your own* privileges.
2. The *call sign* is based on the *station license*. It may seem weird, but when you operate someone else's station, you must use *their* call sign.
3. You don't want anyone to think the station licensee is operating outside of their privileges, so if you are a higher-class operator, operating the station owned by a lower-class operator, you must modify their call sign by appending your own. For example, if Extra-class W1AI is operating the station of General-class WH6EAL, the call sign would be WH6EAL/W1AI. (In voice, you say "stroke", "slash", or "slant" for the "/" character.)

When you let another ham operate your station, you are *both* held responsible for its proper operation.

[FCC § 97.119 Station identification](#) (e)

FCC EYES ADDING VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATORS

STEPHEN: Our top story this week finds the Federal Communications Commission asking: Is 14 enough? That's the current number of Volunteer Examiner Coordinator organizations who oversee VEs, or volunteer examiners, hams who administer the US license exams. In a notice posted on January 5th on the FCC website, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau announced it would like public input on whether it should authorize additional coordinators - as many as five - to support the volunteer examiners' ongoing work. Since 1983, VE coordinators have overseen the accreditation of the volunteer examiners, managing administrative tasks connected to the exams they give, and coordinating when the tests are given.

The scene changed last year when new rules took effect in July permitting VE Coordinators to conduct remote exam sessions. They did so most recently this past December in Antarctica.

The FCC notice said: [quote]: "The Commission has long maintained 14 VECs and now seeks to consider whether they continue to serve the evolving needs of the amateur community or whether there are unmet needs that warrant considering expanding the number of VECs." [endquote]

Comments are due by the 4th of February. Details about filing electronically or on paper are available on the FCC website.

(FCC.GOV)

PROJECT EYES DIRECT WAY TO GATHER SOLAR POWER

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Imagine collecting the solar power you need from a spot much, much closer to the sun. Jim Damron N8TMW tells us about a project that's doing more than just imagining.

JIM: The US Air Force Research Laboratory is hanging its hopes on something called Helios. It's a key component named after the Greek sun god and is part of an experiment known as Arachne (Uh-RACK-Knee) expected to be launched into space in 2024. The formal name of the project is the Space Solar Power Incremental Demonstrations and Research solar beaming project.

What's that? The Air Force lab describes it as a project that will explore a way to harvest solar energy directly from space, where sunlight is more potent outside the Earth's atmosphere and where solar panels have more hours of exposure. Through use of something called "sandwich tiles" and other systems, the experiment will convert the collected energy to radio waves for beaming back to Earth as usable power.

Helios, which is being supplied by Northrup Grumman, will house the platform on which these solar beaming experiments occur. Northrup Grumman's role has left the Air Force lab free to concentrate on acquiring a spacecraft where it might all begin to happen.

For Amateur Radio Newslines I'm Jim Damron N8TMW.

(CLEAN TECHNICA, POPULAR MECHANICS, US AIR FORCE)