



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

Reminder: There is no scheduled club business meeting in March. We usually plan on a social dinner in March but have cancelled dinners until we can be confident that a safe restaurant facility is available that can accommodate us. Our next club meeting will be on April 20, 2021 at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville. I'm pleased to announce that the 146.85 repeater is operational now. Technical team members Bill (N8KSG) and Mike (WA3RFE) were instrumental in performing make-shift repairs to the antenna coax that had been severed sometime last winter. We'll have more on this at the April club meeting. As always, stay in touch for any last-minute notices of a change in meeting location. Thanks!

73s Tim (WD4GXD)

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Meeting Minutes

Minutes for February 16,2021 RCARC meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Tim, WD4GXD with 15 people present. Introductions were made. There were new members welcomed into the club.

The program was presented by Roger, W4AYO, on the TinySA, Tiny Spectrum Analyzer.

The minutes for the January 2021 meeting were read by Furman, WD4MKU.

The Treasury Report was presented and approved by Paul, N4CE.

Old Business:

Plans for a trip to the 146.85 repeated are scheduled for March 6th to try and resolve the problems with the repeater.

New Business:

Discussion of possible plans for Field Day, with volunteers to head up a committee to lead the planning.

Explore the possibility of changing the 146.85 repeater to a 440 MHz frequency, as a way to resolve the problem with the paging system on Annie Penn Hospital, de-sensing the repeater.

N3UZ, Jim brought to attention of the club that the FCC after March 20, 2021, there will be a \$35 dollar charge new license and changes to existing license.

The meeting was closed.

-- Furman, WD4MKU



Cut Antenna Coax On 146.85 Repeater

**** 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!

N4JRA	KO4JRX	KF4LIK	N8KSG	WD4GXD		
KK4IFG	N2ECS	WB4VWY	KK1TLS	KN4NBH		
W4SH	KE4WSF	K4RVJ	N3UZ	WK4O		
W4SIX	KO4KWD	KJ4CIW	N3WKW			
KJ4ANA	W4AYO	N4CE	KJ4WRE			
WF4I	KO4HMB	KO4HLZ	KB4SHP			
N1YBH	WD4MKU	KI4PRU	KN4BBA			
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.

RCARC Meeting

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

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.

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

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|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • 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 442.86250 N.C. D-Star Net (W4GSO) REF054C or
- 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

AMATEUR MAKES PLANS FOR 'FLYING HAMS' PODCAST

DON/ANCHOR: If you're one of those amateur radio operators who likes to get on air FROM the air, as a pilot, this next story from Andy Morrison K9AWM might have you in mind.

ANDY: Dan Hileman WO5WO is a ham with a high-flying idea. A former airline pilot-turned-middle school teacher has another project on the runway. He's planning to start a podcast this summer devoted to hams who enjoying being IN the air....as much as they like to be ON the air. He'd like to bring hams on board for ragchews about fly-ins, DX-peditions, FAA flight safety tips, and projects that combine being a pilot and an amateur radio operator. He's especially interested in stories of famous – and not-so-famous – hams in the sky. He told Newsline in an email that the podcast is [quote] "just a fun way to connect already connected hobbies" [endquote] and he can't guarantee there won't be more than a few corny jokes along the way. He said he hopes the half-hour, bi-weekly podcast will inspire youngsters to think about flying and radio as two related hobbies.

He's working with a ham radio friend who's a former Air Force pilot and together they're hoping to, well, get things off the ground. Dan welcomes any and all ideas. You can reach him via email at flyinghams78@gmail.com Who knows what ideas might just take wing?

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Andy Morrison K9AWM.

EARTHQUAKE STUDIES EMPLOY AMATEURS' WINLINK

DON/ANCHOR: In our top story for this week, a United States government agency is relying increasingly on amateur radio operators to further their understanding of devastating earthquakes. Ralph Squillace KK6ITB gives us the details.

RALPH: Ham radio operators are partnering with the U.S. Geological Survey in helping to report

realtime details about seismic activity and earthquake damage, especially when other means of communication have gone offline: They're using the radio email platform Winlink to carry data from the survey's questionnaire-based system known as DYFI, for "Did You Feel It?"

ARES members transmit the DYFI reports even if an earthquake has knocked down the region's internet. Receiving stations outside the earthquake region receive the data contained in the Winlink transmission and forward it to the USGS via their own internet access. The DYFI system gathers macroseismic intensity data, allowing scientists to more accurately pinpoint where people felt the earthquake and at what intensity. Researchers also rely on the reports' data to further their general study of earthquakes.

According to an article on the website EOS, an estimated 90 percent of DYFI reports are sent by observers within the first hour of an earthquake. Hams can transmit the reports over VHF, HF and even local high-speed mesh networks, many of which have the ability to interface with satellite-connected cells-on-wheels. Cells-on-wheels have proven useful in emergency response already during the California wildfires of 2017 and 2018. ARES is now promoting the DYFI protocol and training hams in California, Washington, Arizona, Hawaii, and Mexico.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Ralph Squillace KK6ITB.

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, Gareth, M0MOL, is on the air as MM0MOL/P from the main Island of Shetland for the remainder of February and into March. He will be operating QRP with a portable setup. Listen for him mainly in the evenings local time after work. Send QSLs to his home callsign.

The Pride Radio Group is using the special event callsign VI2021PRIDE throughout the Sydney Mardi Gras until March 7th. Be listening for operations on SSB and FT8. QSL directly to Michaela Wheeler VK3FUR or via the ClubLog OQRS system.

The Welland Valley Amateur Radio Society will be putting several special event stations on the air in the months ahead to celebrate the patron saints of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The first event will be for the feast of Saint David, patron saint of Wales. Be listening for GB0SD between February 28th and March 2nd. The actual feast day is on March 1st. QSL by eQSL, LoTW and by the Bureau via manager G4XEX.

(OHIO PENN DX, SOUTHGATE)