



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. INC.



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WD4GXD

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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings. Our club meeting this month will occur on May 18, 2021, 7 PM at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville. Please adhere to the social safety precautions while inside of the building. We will be updating you on plans for Field Day, June 26-27. The program presentation this month will be demonstrations of “cardboard”, “eggbeater”, “corkscrew” and Moxon antennas. Please plan to attend.

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

Minutes for April 20th Rockingham Amateur Radio Club

The meeting was opened at 1900 hours by President Tim Walker, WD4GXD and introductions of all in attendance were done.

The program for the night was presented by Bill, K8KSG, on inexpensive HF antennas and feed lines for new hams. Followed by a show of coax connectors by WD4PAQ.

The business meeting followed the program with the reading of the February 2021 minutes by WD4MKU and the treasury report by N4CE, Paul.

Under Old Business:

A report of the cause of the 145.85 repeater being off the air because the antenna lead in was cut and the temp repairs made. There was some discussion on possible changes that could be made to utilize the System Fusion repeater hardware somewhere else and/or change it to 440 Mhz frequency.

N3UZ advised that a VE session would be held May 8th.

Under New Business:

President Tim Walker is looking for volunteers to head up planning for Field Day June 26th and 27th. The site has already been secured.

The club needs to start thinking about whether to plan to sponsor a swap feast next year.

WD4PAQ discussed the new FCC rules concerning RF exposure and amateur radio stations required compliance.

The meeting was adjourned by President Tim Walker at 2030 hours.

Furman, WD4MKU

HAM BOOTCAMP – GETTING STARTED WITH HAM RADIO

With so many new hams getting licensed and or upgraded, the link below can serve as a great resource to supplement what was learned in preparation for the exam. [An electronic Elmer if you will.](https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/) There are many areas not covered on the exam that contribute to learning and practicing good on-air techniques and courtesy.

<https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>

VE TESTING SESSION NEWS

**** 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 must be an FRN from now on. You can obtain an FRN without having a call.**

Note From Jim, N3UZ

This is the latest information that we have:

Schedule of Application Fees of the Commission's Rules

The final rule change was published in the Federal

Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/19/2021-03042/schedule-of-application-fees-of-the-commissions-rules>

Even though the rule has been published in the Federal Register and has an effective date of April 19, the Amateur Radio fees "will not take effect until the requisite notice has been provided to Congress, and the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated" **which will most likely be in the summer.**

Thank you

Tracy Dye

W5YI VEC Manager

800-669-9594

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

****** 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 April, 2021. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign					
N4JRA	KO4JRX	KN4YFA	KO4HLZ	KB4SHP	
KK4IFG	N2ECS	KF4LIK	KI4PRU	KN4BBA	
W4SH	KE4WSF	WB4VVY	N8KSG	WD4GXD	
W4SIX	KO4KWD	K4RVJ	KK1TLS	KN4NBH	
KJ4ANA	W4AYO	W4JLN	N3UZ	WK4O	
WF4I	KO4HMB	KJ4CIW	N3WKW	N4RFX	
N1YBH	WD4MKU	N4CE	KJ4WRE		
Honorary members:					
W4WBP					
WB4JYC					

Please consider **renewing** your membership AND 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 2021 have been cancelled within 250 miles of Rockingham County. These are the few that are still happening.

05/21/2021 - 05/23/2021

Online - Dayton Hamvention, An ARRL Sanctioned Specialty Convention

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

Howard County Fair Grounds

05/30/2021 - **MFMA Hamfest**

Location: West Friendship, MD

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Maryland F. M. Association, Inc

Website: <http://www.marylandfm.org>

Field Across for Signal Hill Park

06/12/2021 - **Ole Virginia Hams Tailgate**

Location: Manassas Park, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Ole Virginia Hams ARC

Website: <http://w4ovh.net>

Kerbela Temple

06/19/2021 - **Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, ARRL Tennessee State Convention**

Location: Knoxville, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville

Website: <http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG>

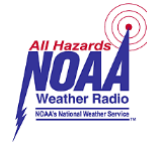


Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: skywarn.org.

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](https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr) . For current weather forecasts on the internet, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: [weather.gov](https://www.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

'SHORTWAVE RADIOGRAM' MARKS 200th BROADCAST

PAUL/ANCHOR: If you enjoy sending — or simply receiving — in the digital modes, there's a radio show you might want to tune into. Benn Kobb AK4AV brings us this report.

BENN: You've probably heard the sound of MFSK32 in the ham bands. But if you hear it in the shortwave broadcast bands, chances are you're hearing Shortwave Radiogram.

It's a radio show that transmits text and images using digital modes familiar to radio amateurs, but the digital sounds are broadcast in AM. The weekly half-hour show airs on shortwave stations WRMI in Florida and WINB in Pennsylvania.

Shortwave Radiogram just celebrated its 200th episode with broadcasts April 15 through 18. The project

began in 2012 on the Voice of America, as VOA Radiogram. Producer Kim Andrew Elliott, KD9XB, explained why he created this unique program:

KIM: With more and more countries finding more and more ways to block the internet, we can use radio to get uncensored news into denied areas. Digital text modes via old analog shortwave radio transmitters can do this job. The content gets through even in reception conditions where voice content is difficult to understand.

BENN: When Kim retired from VOA in 2017, he moved the show to WRMI and WINB, and changed the name to Shortwave Radiogram.

Every week, listeners from all over the US and the world decode the text and images and post them on social media for discussion.

Kim posts information and the show schedule online at swradiogram dot net. That's swradiogram dot net.

I'm Benn Kobb, AK4AV for Newslines.

KICKER: SHARING THE RAGCHEWS OF A LIFETIME

PAUL/ANCHOR: In a Newslines report that aired in October of 2019, we told the story of two older hams and an enduring friendship between them: an American heart surgeon in his 80s and a retired TV engineer in his 90s. The engineer became a Silent Key last month. Kent Peterson KC0DGY has that story, which concludes this week's report for Newslines.

KENT: In the logbook of a radio amateur's life, there are endless contacts, but perhaps few more valid than the ones logged by Ted Trowell G2HKU during his 98 years. The retired TV engineer, who became a Silent Key on April 13th, was a respected member of the UK's ham radio community for his long lifetime on the air. He'd been a ham since before the Second World War, using the callsign 2HKU. Two years ago he received the highest honor from the First Class Radio Operators Club, presented to him personally by American heart surgeon, Bill Maxson N4AR, who flew from the US to hand it personally to Ted, a cherished friend he'd first met on the air in the late 1950s. The occasion marked their second eyeball QSO during the pair's seven decades of countless ragchews.

Edward Harry "Ted" Trowell was described in one UK newspaper as one of Britain's oldest and longest-serving radio amateurs. He had been a member of the FOC and the CDXC. He died just weeks after marking his 98th birthday.

For Amateur Radio Newslines I'm Kent Peterson KC0DGY.