



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. INC.



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WD4GXD

Vice-President
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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

Please plan to join the club for 2021 Field Day activities on June 26 & 27 at Jim's "barn", 660 Butter Road near Wentworth. Most of us will congregate at Jim's "barn" about 8 AM to erect antennas and set-up/test equipment so come join the fun. Field Day officially commences at 2 PM on Saturday. There will be CW, phone and digital stations (with control operators) available for use during the exercise so everyone can participate. The club will provide a 6 PM evening meal for everyone on-site at 5 PM Saturday; bring your own beverage and chair.

Jim, N3UZ, has scheduled a, "last minute", VE test session for that same Saturday. Registration begins at 9 AM. This may be your final chance to test for a new license or upgrade without being tagged with a \$35 FCC application fee! Details on the VE testing are available on our website (www.n4iv.org).

The club will conduct a brief called business meeting on June 26th at the Field Day site. Eligible voting members present will vote on a motion by the technical committee to purchase some equipment necessary to facilitate moving the 146.85 repeater to the 440 MHz band with the goals of 1) avoiding the paging transmitter interference on the current repeater frequency and 2) fostering more active use of the 70 cm band. This called meeting is scheduled occur during the evening meal interval.

For those new to the club (and a reminder for the rest of us); the RCARC has been granted a location for the 147.345 repeater (building space, AC power, tower, transmission line, antenna, etc.) in exchange for the club's commitment to keep the lawn around the site mowed and manicured during the summer months. Thanks to Jim (N3UZ) and Bob (KN4BBA) for fulfilling our obligation during a HOT afternoon last month. I'm sure they can use your help as well as your appreciation for their efforts. BTW, Mike (WA3RFE), Roger (W4AYO), Bill (N8KSG), Paul (N4CE) and Jim (KH4NBH) have likewise "paid for use of the repeater site" recently. Their toil has made possible the continued

availability of this repeater site for all of us!

73s Tim (WD4GXD)



Condition of the 147.345 Repeater Site as found on May 26, 2021



Repeater site following Jim and Bob's "visit" on May 27, 2021
Where are you in this photo?

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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

Minutes for May 18th Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club.

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

The program for the night was presented by Tim, WD4GXD on 4 antennas (cardboard) (eggbeater) (corkscrew) and (moxon).

The business meeting followed the program with the reading of the April 2021 minutes by WD4GXD and the Treasurer report was considered the same as April.

Under old business:

Bill stated Patrick, K2CPR was moving out of the county and was willing to let the club have his 440 frequency, and a willingness to sell his 440 duplexer. Patrick also confirmed the antenna on 146.850 was for 2 and 440.

Continue to think about whether to plan for a Swapfest in 2022.

Under new business:

Mike, WA3RFE is heading up field day and will be working with Tim, WD4GXD, and Paul, N4CE and others that plan to bring equipment, antennas, etc. and operate during this event. Long lengths of coax are needed at this time.

The social, Tim will order pizza based on those present along with what Jim, N3UZ has on his cooker. Please bring your own drinks and chairs.

Jim N3UZ has a VE test session planned for June 26, at 9 am.

The meeting was adjourned by President Tim Walker at 2000.

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.**

Amateur Radio Test Session June 26th

The VE team will be conducting a test session on June 26th, 2021 at 9:00 am. The location will be 660 Butter Rd, Reidsville. The cost is \$14.00 @ applicant and each applicant needs to have two forms of identification with one being a picture ID.

This is being held in conjunction with the RCARC club Field Day, at the same location.

You can email veteam@n4iv.org anytime with any questions about testing.

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 March, 2021. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign					
N4JRA	KO4JRX	WD4MKU	K4RVJ	N8KSG	WD4GXD
KK4IFG	N2ECS	KN4YFA	W4JLN	KK1TLS	KN4NBH
W4SH	KE4WSF	KF4KPM	KK4KFG	N3UZ	WK4O
W4SIX	KO4KWD	KI4TFA*	KJ4CIW	N3WKW	
KJ4ANA	W4AYO	KF4LIK	N4CE	KJ4WRE	
WF4I	KO4OTI	WB4VVY	KO4HLZ	KB4SHP	
N1YBH	KO4HMB	N4RFX	KI4PRU	KN4BBA	
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.

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 . 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 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

FCC MAY CONSIDER NEW LOW-POWER FM LICENSES

PAUL/ANCHOR: Make room on the bands - maybe - for some new low-power FM stations. The US Federal Communications Commission is considering rule changes that would pave the way for approval of new low-power FM licenses. Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel said the matter is on the agenda at the commission's June 17th meeting. The move follows actions the commission took last year to modify engineering rules for low-power FM stations.

(FCC, RADIOWORLD)

FOX MIKE HOTEL CHALLENGE

Wherever you are in the world, get ready for the return of the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Ops Challenge coming September 4th and 5th. The contest is designed to create equal operating conditions between portable and fixed stations. For details visit foxmikehotel.com.

KICKER: RADIO'S BLASTS, NOT NECESSARILY FROM THE PAST

PAUL/ANCHOR: Finally, we ask: Do you love solving a good mystery? Scientists think they may be getting ready to do just that. They're hot on the trail of some mysterious—and intensely fast—radio signals. Here's Neil Rapp WB9VPG with the details.

NEIL: Fast radio bursts: No, that's not the enviable signal report you dream of getting from that rare DX somewhere in the Antarctic. These are the formerly mysterious deep space signals astronomers have been tracking using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Notice we said "formerly" mysterious. For years scientists have scratched their heads over the source of these 1,000 or so powerful blasts, which began

showing up in 2001. They are, however, so fast that they're here and then....they're not. According to a report in CBS News, scientists have traced only 15 of them and they apparently came from distant galaxies. New findings about to be published in The Astrophysical Journal, track five of the most recent radio blasts to the so-called "spiral arms" of the galaxies, the places where stars form - but not from ' young stars exploding and dying. Rather, the blasts' origins appear to be from neutron stars, young magnetars that have powerful magnetic fields. While this doesn't completely solve the mystery, it does narrow things down quite a bit and that's no small task. This is the kind of power we hams can only envy: in the one-thousandth of a second it takes these flares to erupt, they create as much energy as the sun does in a year.

For Amateur Radio Newslines I'm Neil Rapp WB9VPG.

2020's YHOTY CHRIS BRAULT KD8YVJ WINS ARDC SCHOLARSHIP

JIM/ANCHOR: Congrats to Amateur Radio Newslines's Young Ham of the Year for 2020 Chris Brault, KD8YVJ. The ARRL announced that he was among the more than 200 deserving winners of scholarships through the ARRL Foundation. Chris is the recipient of a \$10,000 Amateur Radio Digital Communications scholarship. Chris will be attending St. Louis University with a major in Aeronautics and a minor in computer science. He's also weeks away from earning his private pilot license. We here at Newslines wish this deserving young amateur all the best.

DEADLINE CLOSING FOR YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

JIM/ANCHOR: Speaking of the Young Ham of the Year Award, May 31st at midnight Eastern time is the deadline to submit your nominations for this year's recipient. If you know of an outstanding licensed radio amateur under the age of 18 in the US, Canada or any of the US possessions, please download the nomination form from our website, complete it and email it back to newsline@arnewsline.org

The award will be presented at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama in August.