



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

We enjoyed a fantastic 2021 Field Day at Jim's "barn". There were drone flights, VE testing (six new or upgrades), antennas, burgers, sausage, pizza and, of course, lots of on-air contacts using phone, CW and digital modes. View some photo highlights here in this issue.

Our next regular club meeting at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville is on July 20th at 7 PM. The program presentation scheduled is on tracking down RF interference and remedies implemented on an actual, real-life RFI situation. Please plan to attend. See you then!

73s Tim (WD4GXD)

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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

The was no formal meeting but we did not have a meeting per se but did hold a vote on changing the 146.85 repeater to a 440 frequency and purchase a 440 duplexer during the social. The club members that were present did vote to change frequency and buy the duplexer from K2CPR.

Field Day 2021



Ralph (N4RFX) and Mike (WA3RFE) prep for the antenna line drone drop



It was standing room only for the drone flight



WA3RFE (Mike, foreground), W4AYO (Roger, hidden on left), KJ4WRE (Angie), KN4BBA (Bob), KX4CBH (Charlie)



Burger lunch with Angie (KJ4WRE), newly licensed Amelia, and Mike (WA3RFE)
{Mike appears to have been everywhere during Field Day!}

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. 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.**

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	KO4HMB	WB4VYV	KO4HLZ	KB4SHP
KX4IFG	KB4WNT	WD4MKU	N4RFX	K4PRU	KN4BBA
W4SH	KE4WSF	WA3RFE	K4RVJ	N8KSG	WD4GXD
W4SIX	KO4KWD	KN4YFA	W4JLN	KK1TLS	KN4NBH
KJ4ANA	KN4ODM	KF4KPM	KK4KFG	N3UZ	WK4O
WF4I	W4AYO	KI4TFA*	KJ4CIW	N3WKW	
N1YBH	KO4OTI	KF4LIK	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

It looks like we are getting back to in person Hamfests again. Time to go out and look for a bargain and just have a good time.

08/07/2021 - RVARC HamFest

Location: Roanoke, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4ca.com>

Cumberland County Shrine Club

08/14/2021 - 22nd Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest

Location: Fayetteville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: CapeFear Amateur Radio Society

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

Cleveland County Fairgrounds

09/03/2021 - 09/05/2021

Shelby Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina Section Convention

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

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

Robinhood Road Baptist Church

10/16/2021 - W4NC FallFest

Location: Winston-Salem,, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W4NC.com>



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](https://www.mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](https://www.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

TAKING RADIO SCIENCE IN A NEW DIRECTION

PAUL/ANCHOR: In yet another camping activity, kids in North Carolina were introduced to fox hunting, taking radio science in a whole new direction. Kevin Trotman N5PRE brings us that story.

KEVIN: Just beyond the soccer fields in a western North Carolina park, there were lessons to be learned by a group of youngsters ages 7 to 12. Equipped with direction-finding antennas and radio receivers, they were on the hunt for a radio transmitter emitting intermittent chirps somewhere in Jackson Park. Members of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club had hidden the transmitter on the edge of a wooded area, a location far enough away to make a point about the directional nature and navigational power of radio signals.

The kids, who were part of the county's Exploration program, were getting a taste of amateur radio direction-finding, or fox hunting, led by club president Charles Webb KN4KWA. Some of the kids monitored the radios while the others aimed the antenna.

It was a day of combining nature....with the nature of radio. It took nearly an hour but thanks to good radio reception, the successful kids were not outfoxed.

For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Kevin Trotman N5PRE. (BLUE RIDGE NOW)

FCC UPHOLDS \$2.8M PENALTY OVER DRONES

PAUL/ANCHOR: The FCC has denied a request to reconsider the \$2.8-million fine levied against the seller of a drone TV transmitter model found to operate near amateur radio frequencies as well as within bands used for the nation's air-traffic control system.

The enforcement against HobbyKing was initiated by a report to the agency from the ARRL in 2017, based on findings by the league's Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee. The ARRL told the agency HobbyKing was selling a product that was [quote] "blatantly illegal at multiple levels." [endquote] According to the complaint, the transmitters were shown to operate near the 1.3 GHz amateur band and were capable of transmitting on frequencies used to ensure flight navigation and safety. According to the ARRL website, the FCC also found that a number of the devices' power levels were excessive.

The fine upholds the amount set in a June 2018 Notice of Apparent Liability. The agency noted that it found 65 models of the devices being sold without the mandatory certification from the FCC. According to the ARRL website, HobbyKing has said it no longer markets those 65 models. An FCC statement said: [quote] "HobbyKing has a continuing obligation to market only radio frequency equipment that is properly authorized. We therefore remind HobbyKing that continuing to market noncompliant radio frequency devices could result in further significant forfeitures." [endquote]

DXPEDITION TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our top story this week combines science, art, adventure and amateur radio as a Russian artist, writer and Russian Orthodox archpriest sets sail to activate a polar station adrift in the Arctic Ocean. Graham Kemp VK4BB has that story.

GRAHAM: Imagine an ice floe more than 3 meters thick set up as a shack for the multi-purpose amateur radio DXpedition. The Poseidon Expeditions team sets sail on July 11th with Russian writer and artist Fedor Konyukhov R0FK on board. Fedor is making his fourth trip to the North Pole, where he will study ice-melt patterns and drift routes and perform other scientific observations with the help of equipment from the Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and other organisations.

Using 100 watts, Fedor will also activate R0FK/POLE on 20 meters and hopes to transmit on or around 14.333 MHz. Details about his activation schedule can be obtained from the RA5G Club Station.

In translation from Russian, the 69-year-old traveler writes on his website [quote] "The station will allow me not only to do science, but also I will paint pictures, keep a diary. I love our planet." [endquote]

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp VK4BB.