



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Amateurs Radio Operators;

Our club meeting this month is scheduled for April 19th at 708 Branes Street, Reidsville in the Salvation Army Community Building at 7:15 PM (note the time!). Ralph, N4RFX will be presenting a program on digital mobile radio (DMR). Many of you have been seeking some insight into this form of communication recently. Join us on the 19th as Ralph enlightens us with ins and outs of DMR. The club is seeking a coordinator for the annual ARRL Field Day event on June 25-26. Thank you for continuing to support our club with your dues, presence at meetings and participation at club activities. And a special thank-you to all the net control operators who faithfully conduct the Monday night net!

Tim Walker
WD4GXD
2022 president

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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

Minutes

No minutes, social last month.

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.

****** 2022 Membership Drive ******

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2022. 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 2021. Your continued support is appreciated!

Membership as of 28 Mar 2022.					
N4JRA	N1YBH	KN4ODM	KO4OTI	WA4RDX	N8KSG
KK4IFG	KM4UHU	KO4HMB	KI4TFA*	KK4KFG	KK1TLS
W4SH	KO4JRX	WD4MKU	KF4LIK	KJ4CIW	N3UZ
W4SIX	KB4WNT	WA3RFE	WB4VVY	N4CE	N3WKW
WF4I	K4BYX	KN4YFA	N4RFX	KO4HLZ	KJ4WRE
KO4SWH	KO4KWD	KF4KPM	K4RVJ	KI4PRU	K4SWS
N4ZZC	KO4UZO	W4AYO	W4JLN	KO4UHO	KB4SHP
WD4GXD	KN4BBA	KN4NBH	WK4O	WA4WGY	KK4KTA
KJ4ANA					
Honorary members:		Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign			
W4WBP					

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

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.

04/16/2022 - Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Website: <https://www.rarsfest.org>

09/02/2022 - 09/04/2022

Shelby Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina Section Convention

Location: Shelby, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://Shelbyhamfest.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. 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 8:30PM 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.

You can now check-in via **EchoLink**, just search for **W4AYO-R** in your EchoLink app.

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
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

FCC HAM RADIO LICENSE FEE TAKES EFFECT APRIL 19TH

PAUL/ANCHOR: Get ready for April 19th. If you're looking to upgrade, renew or change your callsign, you have until that date to do so without having to pay a fee. The FCC has announced its new \$35

application fee for US amateur radio licenses takes effect on that date. The agency said the fees can be paid by using the Commission's Universal Licensing System on the FCC website. The FCC posted a public notice on its website on March 23, announcing it would begin collecting the fees, which it has said will cover the costs of processing the applications. For hams, the fees apply to new licenses, renewals, upgrades, sequential call sign changes and applications for vanity calls. It does not apply to such administrative updates as change of email or other mailing address.

(FCC)

AMATEURS FOCUS ON SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

PAUL/ANCHOR: Weather preparedness is a priority everywhere and Randy Sly W4XJ tells us how those of us in the United States can get involved.

RANDY: As we, here in the United States, approach the season for thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes, the National Weather Service is holding Severe Weather Preparedness Weeks across the country. Tornado drills, announcements through the media and personal preparation information are just a few ways the Weather Service is getting the word out at this time of year to be prepared.

It's a good time for amateur radio operators, involved in ARES, RACES, CERT, Skywarn and other groups, to ensure that we are also prepared. This includes making sure that all radios, accessories along with backup power sources are fully functional and that all contact information is up to date with the agencies and organizations served.

Christopher Strong, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the Baltimore/Washington DC Weather Forecast Office told Amateur Radio Newline that hams can play a big part in being “weather aware,” by knowing what threats are possible. Hams should have a plan if extreme weather occurs. Strong said that, during an event, operators are important as they actively gather impact data from their community and get that information back to the National Weather Service, which improves the accuracy of the notifications being issued.

Over the years, the motto: “When all else fails, amateur radio” has proven true in many situations. This is not only due to amateur operators’ readiness to serve, but our willingness to be prepared.

For more information, go to weather.gov and click on Spring Preparedness.

For Amateur Radio Newline, I’m Randy Sly, W4XJ.