



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



President
Tim Walker
WD4GXD

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

Treasurer
Jim Clark
N1YBH

Secretary
Furman Lanier
WD4MKU

The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings;

There is no club business meeting this month in lieu of a social dinner scheduled for 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at the Freeway Dinner, 1447 Freeway Drive, Reidsville. This is a “pay for your own meal” event. On a sour note.....annual \$25 club dues are collected in January; bring your contribution to the January club meeting or mail it to RCARC, PO Box 2264, Reidsville, NC 27323.

I wish to acknowledge all the members that have volunteered or otherwise contributed to our club in a material way so that all of us can enjoy the benefits of club membership in 2022. As you can appreciate, it took many members volunteering their time to produce this successful year.

Club Officers for 2023 are: President---Mike Mansfield (WA3RFE)
Vice-President---Roger Joyner (W4AYO)
Treasurer---Jim Clark (N1YBH)
Secretary---Bob Thibodeau (KN4BBA)

Tim Walker
WD4GXD
2022 president

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

PAGE	CONTENT
1 - 2	<u>President's Corner</u>
2 - 3	<u>Club News & Meeting Minutes</u>
3 - 4	<u>VE News</u>
4	<u>Events</u>
5	<u>Skywarn, NOAA / NWS</u>
6	<u>Net Information</u>
7 - 9	<u>General Amateur Radio News</u>

***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

November 15, 2022, Club Meeting

The meeting opened at 1915 and a program describing homemade RF filters, Diplexers, and cavities with some examples. The program was presented by Tim, WD4GXD.

The minutes for the October meeting were read by Furman, WD4MKU and the Treasures Report was given by Jim, N1YBH.

The election for 2023 officers was held with a quorum of club members present. They are as follows:

President - Mike Mansfield , WA3RE

Vice President - Roger Joyner, W4AYO

Secretary – Bob Thibodeau, KN4BBA

Treasurer – Jim Clark, N1YBH

An audit and budget committee were approved and announced. Bill Schwiegeraht, N8KSG has accepted that position.

Vice president Roger, program director passed a paper around for members to put future program suggestions they would like to see and possible present.

Terry Mosser, volunteered to scheduled December social and advised the club on date and time.

The meeting adjourned at 2000.
Furman, WD4MKU

Equipment for Sale

WA4TOM Estate Amateur Radio Items For Sale

All items will be thoroughly cleaned and tested for functionality. Coincidentally, the very last radio show Tommy attended was the RCARC event at the church a few years back. He enjoyed the day and hoped he could one day attend another with me. Sadly, it never happened. Proceeds from all sales will be distributed among five non-profits in Tom's name.

Kenwood TS-480 HF / 50 Mhz Transceiver	\$600 O.B.O.
Icom 718 HF Transceiver	\$450 O.B.O.
Kenwood TMG-707 2m\440 Transceiver	\$150 O.B.O.
Astron RS-35 Amp Power Supply	\$140 O.B.O.
Hustler 5BTV HF Antenna-Still New in Box	\$250 O.B.O.
Pyramid Phase III 20 Amp Power Supply	Best Offer
Radio Shack 10 Amp Power Supply	Best Offer

For inquiries and purchase, please contact:

KB4WNT
Eddie Durham
1601 Dugspur Rd
Callaway, VA 24067
540.489.3486
41mag1959@gmail.com

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.**

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

****** 2023 Membership Drive ******

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2023. 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 2022. Your continued support is appreciated!

Membership as of 2 Jul 2022. Family memberships * are listed by the primary call sign. Paid up for two years (2022-2023)**					
KJ4ANA	K4BYX	KF4KPM	K4RVJ	KI4PRU	K4SWS
KK4IFG	KB4WNT	KK4J5X	KF4LIK	KJ4CIW	KB4SHP
KO4SWH	KM4UHU	KN4NBH	KI4TFA*	KK4KFG	KJ4WRE
N4JRA	KN4BBA	KN4ODM	KO4OTI	KO4HLZ	KK1TLS
N4ZZC	KO4JRX	KN4YFA	N4RFX	KO4UHO	KK4KTA
W4SH	KO4KWD	KO4HMB	W4JLN	N4CE	N3UZ
W4SIX	KO4UZO	W4AYO	WB4VYV**	WA4RDX	N3WKW
WD4GXD	KX4CHB	WA3RFE	WK4O	WA4WGY	N8KSG
WF4I	N1YBH	WD4MKU			
Honorary members:					
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

The monthly meeting is at the Salvation Army Community Center, 708 Barnes Street, Reidsville. The meeting begins around 7:15 PM.

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

Time to go out and look for a bargain and just have a good time.

American Legion Banner Post 109

11/20/2022 - JARSFEST

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.jars.net/jarsfest-2022/>

Ritter Park

07/15/2023 - 50th Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest

Location: Cary, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cary ARC

Website: <http://caryarc.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

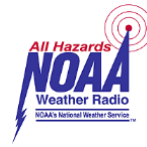
147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV

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 8:30PM 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 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

A SOUTH POLE 'FIRST' FOR AMATEUR RADIO BALLOON

NEIL/ANCHOR: Our top story this week asks: When is a transmitting error not really an error but a triumph? When those transmissions are coming from an amateur radio high altitude balloon that became the first of its kind to come so close to the South Pole. Kevin Trotman N5PRE has that story.

KEVIN: When the high altitude balloon transmitting KM4ZIA, the amateur radio call sign of 15-year-old Jack McElroy, was launched recently in Antarctica, it became part of atmospheric work being done by University of Alabama researcher, Todd McKinney KN4TPG. Instead of just helping build mathematical models of the atmosphere, however, Jack's balloon soon embarked on a incredible journey. A little more than a week later, its navigational equipment began to spit out a series of error messages on 20 meters. One observer in the US, however, realized that nothing was really wrong. He knew, in fact, that something remarkable was happening. Family friend and high-altitude balloon expert, Bill Brown, WB8ELK, knew Jack's solar-powered balloon was a short distance from the South Pole. Mapping systems could no longer determine its position from data being sent on 20 meters because of the densely spaced lines of longitude there at the end of the Earth.

Jack's father, Tom McElroy, W4SDR, told Newsline in a phone interview: [quote] "This is the closest any amateur radio balloon has come to the South Pole." [endquote] Tom said Bill phoned the family home in Georgia that morning from Huntsville, Alabama, on December 1st, and said Jack's balloon had literally gone off the map. Tom broke the news to an astonished Jack on the way to school. He said Jack had quite a story for his science teacher that day.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Kevin Trotman N5PRE.

NEIL/ANCHOR: You can track Jack's balloon at aprs.fi, using his call sign KM4ZIA. This isn't Jack's first balloon, either. He has launched several over the years, including two years at Youth on the Air Camp, in a team effort with his sister, Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, who is this year's 2022 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year.

FCC COMMISSIONER COMMITS TO AM RADIO'S SURVIVAL

NEIL/ANCHOR: According to at least one member of the US Federal Communications Commission, rumors of the death of AM radio are greatly exaggerated. Kent Peterson KCØDGY brings us that report.

KENT: The good news is that AM radio has a future, which means the band isn't going to be reallocated anytime soon. Those were the words of FCC Commissioner Nathan Simington, speaking recently at the 79th annual convention of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting. Simington said that, for one thing, AM radio is an integral part of the life of the more than 3 million farmers in the United States who rely on it daily for vital information.

He called it the [quote] "essential spine" [endquote] of the Emergency Alert System. He said that despite beliefs by many that it has been killed off by more advanced technology, AM radio is here to stay for the foreseeable future, especially for those who live on the kind of farm where he himself grew up. He said he is against any move the FCC might be pressured to consider to reallocate the band.

He told convention attendees: [quote] "Look, people listen to radio in their cars or trucks—particularly rural radio. That's just how it is. And if people lose the ability to tune into AM on their cars, well, there goes AM radio." [endquote] He said that while satellite is a good option, it is too expensive. He said AM radio is not just free but carries an important emergency signaling infrastructure.

In his opinion, the best option for AM radio's future is to simply preserve it for the generations to come.

TIME FOR THE '12 DAYS OF QRZ'

NEIL/ANCHOR: In case you need a way to keep the holiday fun going even after the holiday season, QRZ.com has an event marking the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere. Ralph Squillace KK6ITB brings us up to date on that.

RALPH: In some parts of the world where it's winter, things can get a little cold. Sometimes...a lot cold. So this year QRZ.com has offered to heat things up and the action already got under way on the 1st of December. The QRZ Winter Ops Award celebrates "the twelve days of QRZ." To be eligible, hams need to log 12 confirmed contacts on any 12 days from now through February 28th 2023. The certificate is being offered for the first time as a holiday gift from QRZ's founder, Fred LLoyd, AA7BQ. Fred writes on the website: [quote] "This one's going to be very popular this season. We can't wait for people to show them to us hanging in their shacks." [endquote] Hopefully it will keep the holiday spirit - and confirmation of those dozen QSOs - going strong into the new year.

If you would like to LISTEN to the latest edition of Amateur Radio Newslines Report here's the link:

<https://groups.io/g/ARNewsline/attachment/1246/0/news.mp3>