



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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Michael Mansfield
WA3RFE

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Roger Joyner
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Secretary
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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Spring! Well, I thought it was spring then we had a dusting of snow Sunday morning here at the homestead. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the warm weather while it lasted.

Don't forget, no meeting this month. The social will be held at Freeway Dining room 6PM PM Sat the 18th.

The Raleigh Hamfest is also coming up on 4-8 if you are interested. *Editor's Note: See details under the Upcoming Hamfest section below.*

Happy Hamming!

Thanks. Mike WA3RFE

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You can click on the title above and you can jump to that section without scrolling.

CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Minutes

RCARC February 21, 2023 Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes St Reidsville, NC

Members Present 17

Jim Clark N1YBH, Brad Jeffries KN4ODM, Roger Joyner W4AYO, Firman Lanier WD4MKU, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Michael Mosser KF4LIK, Terry Mosser KF4KPM, Jamey Nixon K4RVJ, Anthony Overby WA4RDX, Paul Patterson N4CE, Bill Schwiegeraht N8KSG, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SHP, Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA, Tim Walker WD4GXD, Mike Wilkins N4VWK

Meeting called to order by President Mike Mansfield at 1915

Program by Brad Jeffries KN4ODM on GPS Disciplined Oscillator. This is a way to get accurate time using an oven controlled oscillator with GPS sync and some software. Very useful for Satellite communications. A good article about GPS sync is in this months QST.

Secretary's report read and accepted

Treasurers Report:

Checking

Opening Balance \$3350.72

Bill Schwiegeraht - Domain Fee Reimbursement (\$144.03) Ending Balance \$18.50

Membership Dues \$375.00

Jim Clark – Receipt Book (\$10.67)

Ending Balance \$3571.02

Jim noted that the Clubs 990N form was filed on 2-20-2023

Tech Committee: None

Petty Cash

Opening Balance \$18.50

Ending Balance \$18.50

Old Business:

ARRL and website info updated

Roger reports that he has the programs for the year filled.

New Business: None

Field day and June Social will be at Jim Smith N3UZ's QTH

Meeting adjourned at 1943

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.

****** 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 2023. Your continued support is appreciated!

The following members have paid their membership dues as of
28 Feb 2023

K4RVJ	KN4NBH	W4JLN	K4BYX
KB4SHP	KN4YFA	W4SH	WA4RDX
KB4WNT	KO4UZO	WA3RFE	KF4KPM
KF4LIK	N1YBH	WB4VVY	
KI4PRU	N4CE	WD4GXD	
KJ4CIW	N8KSG	WD4MKU	
KN4BBA	W4AYO	WA4WGY	

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.

04/08/2023 - Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina State Convention

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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

Robinhood Road Baptist Church

04/15/2023 - Winston-Salem Springfest

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://W4NC.com>

Ritter Park

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

Location: Cary, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cary ARC

Website: <http://caryarc.org/> 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

SENSORS ON BOARD ISS TO STUDY IONOSPHERE

NEIL/ANCHOR: The US military is getting ready to do some intense testing on the ionosphere, via the ISS. We have those details from Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

KENT: Two ionospheric sensors will be tested on board the International Space Station this spring in an experiment designed to ultimately improve HF radio communications for the US Department of Defense. The website, Breaking Defense, reported that the sensors are to be sent to the ISS in March. The US military has been revisiting the importance of HF radio as an alternative to satellites, having realized that US satellites could become compromised or destroyed by enemy attack. HF bands are

already being used by the three branches of the US military for some long-range communications.

Andrew Nicholas, one of the lead researchers on the sensor project, told the Breaking Defense website that the sensors will be measuring ionospheric particle density and its impact on the radio waves passing through it.

He said the data from the tests will help in the development of better ionospheric monitoring models. Eventually the military might even consider creating satellites that would constantly monitor such important ionospheric changes to assist in the performance of HF communication.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HAMSCI STUDY OF SOLAR ECLIPSES

NEIL/ANCHOR: As any ham knows, signal reports matter. Well, they're about to matter even more for those radio enthusiasts who are participating in a citizen science project taking place during two solar eclipses, this year and next year. For that story, we turn to our newest correspondent Patrick Clark, K8TAC, who was also Newsline's Young Ham of the Year in 2001.

PATRICK: There will be a little bit of competition and a whole lot of research going on later this year for participants in a QSO party organized by Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, or HamSci. Volunteer radio operators and shortwave listeners will join researchers at a number of US universities sending, receiving and recording signals during the October 14th solar eclipse. The data will be collected and used for testing computer models of the ionosphere to assess its variability. This is the first of two eclipses over North America that HamSci will be studying. The second one is on April 8, 2024.

Both Solar Eclipse QSO Parties encourage the use of CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-6 meters. At the same time, hams who operate CW and digital beacons, WSPR and FST4W, will be able to take part in the Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge.

Registration starts in July. Organizers stress the importance of this opportunity. As they say on the project's website [quote]: "If we miss the chance to collect meaningful data in 2023 and 2024, it will be decades before North American hams and researchers get another opportunity." [endquote] For details, visit hamsci dot org [hamsci.org]

This is Patrick Clark K8TAC.

FIRST-TIME PARTNERSHIP FOR WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY

NEIL/ANCHOR: The theme of World Amateur Radio Day this year is a recognition of the vital role ham radio has played in a number of world crises. John Williams VK4JJW tells us what's planned.

JOHN: In an unprecedented partnership, the International Amateur Radio Union is being joined by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and the World Academy of Art and Science to mark World Amateur Radio Day on the 18th of April. The organisations have declared the theme of the day to be Human Security for All, or HS4A.

The theme arises out of the partners' shared belief that hams have a unique means to fulfill the United Nations' mission of providing human security for individuals around the world. The campaign the partnering groups have launched together honours ham radio's proven track record in responding to natural disasters, the pandemic, climate change and even armed conflicts - the many things that undermine individual security without regard to national boundaries. This important concept was declared a priority by the United Nations in 1994.

Ham radio gains its advantage as a responder by providing technical knowledge, practical skills and backup systems that provide a security net in times of crisis.

The IARU, which has membership societies in more than 150 nations around the world, made the announcement on its webpage for Region 1. A two-week event will be held on the air from April 11th through to the 25th highlighting the HS4A campaign for World Amateur Radio Day.

This is John Williams VK4JJW.

PARKS ON THE AIR INTRODUCES 48-HOUR CONTEST

NEIL/ANCHOR: Operating portable in the park just gained a little more of a competitive edge. Dave Parks WB8ODF explains.

DAVE: A new activity being introduced this June by the Parks on the Air organizers is going to be different from the casual portable outdoor operating experience activators and hunters enjoy. This is a contest. For 48 hours, hams will collect contacts and points as part of the new Parks on the Air Plaque Event, which is intended to become an annual competition. In a YouTube interview with Kevin Thomas W1DED, POTA president Jason Johnston, W3AAX, explained the different categories available to both hunters and activators and explained that anyone who made their first POTA contact after June 2, 2022, is eligible for the additional category of rookie. Participants must be registered with POTA and can use CW, SSB and the digital modes. Hams will not be permitted to use the WARC bands.

As for multipliers, there are none. This keeps the playing field level so that everything - even multiple reference areas - will be worth a single point.

This is Dave Parks WB8ODF.

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/1259/0/news.mp3>