



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



**President**  
Michael Mansfield  
WA3RFE

**Vice-President**  
Roger Joyner  
W4AYO

**Treasurer**  
Jim Clark  
N1YBH

**Secretary**  
Bob Thibodeau  
KN4BBA

## *The RockingHAMmer News*

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy May! I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather and getting lots of yard work, and gardening done. The bands haven't been in good shape the last couple of weeks due to increased solar activity. Don't forget the club meeting tomorrow night, 5-16. I hope to see you there.

Mike WA3RFE

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## CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

### Minutes

RCARC April 18, 2023 Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes St Reidsville, NC

Members Present 9

Trey Belton, W4SH, Roger Joyner W4AYO, Furman Lanier WD4MKU, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Paul Patterson N4CE, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SH, Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA, Tim Walker WD4GXD

Guests 3

Edith Lanier, David Wade KQ4WE, Barry Parker N4WTG

Meeting called to order by President Mike Mansfield at 1920

Program by John Swinney KB4SH on the openSPOT 4 Pro Digital modem for DMR. It's a battery powered portable digital radio hotspot. It supports just about all digital radio protocols, P25, DStar, C4FM, DMR, etc. It can be used on a smartphone or computer with the SharkRF app if you don't have a radio handy. It has a search function and can access talkgroups without programming a code plug.

Secretary's report for February read and accepted. No report for March due to club social.

Treasurers Report:

Checking

Opening Balance \$3690.44

Membership Dues \$55.00

Ending Balance \$3745.44

Petty Cash

Opening Balance \$18.

Ending Balance \$18.50

Tech Committee: None

Old Business:

Field day and June Social will be at Jim Smith N3UZ's QTH 6-24 and 6-25

Paul asked about VE Testing, Jim still working out details for administering tests and submission of results in the new system.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 2005

Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA

## 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](mailto: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 for 2023**

K4RVJ	KN4NBH	W4JLN	K4BYX
KB4SHP	KN4YFA	W4SH	WA4RDX
KB4WNT	KO4UZO	WA3RFE	KF4KPM
KF4LIK	N1YBH	WB4VVY	N3UZ
KI4PRU	N4CE	WD4GXD	KJ4WRE
KJ4CIW	N8KSG	WD4MKU	
KN4BBA	W4AYO	WA4WGY	
<b>Honorary members:</b>			
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](mailto: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.**

### **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](http://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](http://nws.noaa.gov/nwr) . For current weather forecasts on the internet, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) . Weather forecast on a mobile device: [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](http://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

### **CARIBBEAN REGION HAMS GEAR UP FOR STORM SEASON**

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our top story takes us to the Caribbean, where hams await the storm season ahead with formal training and an emerging disaster response network. John Williams VK4JJW brings us those details.

JOHN: With the approach of this year's hurricane season in the Caribbean region, emergency training exercises have got underway again for amateurs in the Youlou Radio Movement/Rainbow Radio League in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As always, amateurs will be relying largely on HF communications because the mountainous terrain of the islands in the region provides challenges for successful VHF signal paths. Youlou has been in the process of growing its emergency network and now has 10 stations based on the main island, including one near the airport.

The league's director, Donald de Riggs, J88CD, told local media outlets that the hams are closer than ever to creating the island-wide HF emergency network they have long envisioned. They are also looking to support a more robust maritime rescue and air response network for disasters throughout the region.

New equipment has been donated and one of their biggest benefactors has been Australia-based Barrett

Communications. The most recent of three shipments from that company arrived in February, bringing SDR transceivers and sturdy antennas, hopefully capable of surviving the coming season of storms.

### **ARRL OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO HAMS FOR RF COMPLIANCE**

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: If you haven't already checked your station to evaluate its compliance on RF exposure, the ARRL is offering some help. Dave Parks WB8ODF has that story.

DAVE: The ARRL has reminded amateurs in the United States that it is making its resources available to help licensees comply with FCC rules on RF exposure limits. Those limits went into effect in 2021 and a two-year transition period was granted to permit hams to conduct evaluations and make necessary changes for stations that do not conform to the exposure rules.

The ARRL issued its reminder to hams just as the transition period ended on May 3rd. Hams are not exempt from conducting such evaluations even if they transmit at very low power.

The league's resources include a video about RF exposure and evaluation; an RF exposure calculator and an RF safety section excerpted from the ARRL Handbook.

Perhaps most importantly, the league is encouraging all hams to make use of these resources whether or not they belong to the ARRL or have established a website account.

Visit [arrl.org](http://arrl.org) for more details.

This is Dave Parks WB8ODF.

(ARRL)

### **NEW HAM RADIO MUSEUM OPENS IN OHIO**

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Congratulations to Ohio's new amateur radio museum. It's the Waller-McMunn Museum in Cambridge that has opened to visitors in a restored radio station building after years of work by volunteers assembling the collection of ham radio gear and related items. The museum is the pride of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, W8VP. The name of the museum honors Homer McMunn who built the first radio receiver in Cambridge in 1912; it also pays tribute to his brother-in-law, Roy Waller who is credited with being the first to copy signals from a US Navy station operating in Arlington, Virginia that year. The two men were known as experimenters who built receivers and transmitters and operated a wireless station in town. Their enthusiasm eventually led to the creation of the Wireless Association of Cambridge.

(THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN, GYPSY ROAD TRIP.COM)

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## **RESEARCHERS CREATE THINNER, DENSER COMPUTER CHIPS**

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Researchers in the United States have created thinner, denser computer chips with big possibilities. We learn more from Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

KENT: Denser and more powerful computer chips may soon be possible thanks to findings in a laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Researchers there have developed a means of working with 2D materials so slender that they are no more than three atoms thick. By layering them atop a fully fabricated silicon chip, they are able to create a denser integration.

According to the MIT news website, this low-temperature growth and fabrication technology does not result in damage to the chip. Damage was a major concern during previous attempts to achieve this integration atop a silicon CMOS wafer because the process customarily requires temperatures of 600 degrees Celsius. Temperatures above 400 degrees Celsius could cause the transistors and circuits to break down.

The news website also reported that this technology reduces the growth and integration process on an 8-inch wafer from more than a day to less than an hour. A shortened growth time is seen by researchers as particularly attractive for industrial fabrications because of its efficiency.

Researchers also said they want to explore use of this process for such flexible surfaces as textiles, polymers or papers, raising the prospect of integrating semiconductors into clothing, paper notebooks and other everyday items.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

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

<https://groups.io/g/ARNewslines/attachment/1268/0/news.mp3>