



# 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*

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

October 2023

Vol. 21 No. 10

www.n4iv.org

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy October!

Fall is officially here and the holidays will be upon us before we know it. Hopefully the shorter days and cooling weather will mean 80 and 160 meters will be opening soon. Next meeting is 10-17-2023 and sounds like we will have a good presentation from the Madison Rescue Squad. I hope everyone can make it and I'll see you there.

Mike WA3RFE

### NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

PAGE	CwONTENT
1 - 2	<a href="#">President's Corner</a>
2 - 3	<a href="#">Club News &amp; Meeting Minutes</a>
3 - 4	<a href="#">VE News</a>
4	<a href="#">Events</a>
5	<a href="#">Skywarn, NOAA / NWS</a>
6	<a href="#">Net Information</a>
7 - 9	<a href="#">General Amateur Radio News</a>

\*\*\*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 since September was Social month.

**October Club Meeting Presentation:** Steve Boles with the Madison Rescue Squad will give a presentation about amateur radio and emergency services.

## 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.

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#### **\*\*\*\* 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. Paid up for two years (2023-2024)\*\***

K4RVJ	KN4NBH	W4JLN	K4BYX	KK4KTA
KB4SHP	KN4YFA	W4SH	WA4RDX	KO4OTI

KB4WNT	KO4UZO	WA3RFE	KF4KPM	KQ4AYK
KF4LIK	N1YBH	WB4VVY	N3UZ	C. Kriaris
KI4PRU	N4CE	WD4GXD	KJ4WRE	T. Kriaris
KJ4CIW	N8KSG	WD4MKU	N4RFX**	N4RRA
KN4BBA	W4AYO	WA4WGY	KN4ODM	KK4IFG

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](#)**

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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

**It's time to go out and look for a bargain and have a good time.**

### **10/14/2023 - Aiken County Ham Radio Tail Gate**

Location: Aiken, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: PFC William H Kilburn Post 26 American Legion Radio Club, Aiken SC - North Augusta  
Belvedere Radio Club

Website: <https://www.legionpost26aikensc.com/about-6>

Wood County 4-H Campground

### **10/14/2023 - Parkersburg/Wood County Hamfest**

Location: Mineral Wells, WV

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Wood County Emergency Communications  
Robinhood Road Baptist Church

### **10/14/2023 - Winston-Salem FallFest**

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4nc.com>

Darwin Wright Park

### **10/21/2023 - Anderson Radio Club Hamfest**

Location: Anderson, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Anderson Radio Club

Website: <http://www.andersonradioclub.com>

The Salvation Army

### **10/21/2023 - C.A.R.E.S. Annual Hamfest**

Location: Gaffney, SC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Carolina Amateur Radio Emergency Services  
American Legion Complex

### **11/19/2023 - JARSFEST**

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://www.jars.net/>

### **03/08/2024 - 03/09/2024 Charlotte Hamfest**

Location: Concord, NC

Cabarrus Arena & Event Center

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mecklenburg ARS  
Website: <http://charlottehamfest.org>

**03/09/2024 - Charleston Area Hamfest**

Location: Charleston, WV  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Charleston Area Hamfest & Computer Show Inc



Website: <http://w8gk.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](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://mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](https://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

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday 8:00pm</li> <li>• Sunday 8:30pm</li> <li>• Sunday 9:00pm</li> <li>• Sunday 9:00pm</li> <li>• Sunday 9:30pm</li> <li>• Monday 8:00pm</li> <li>• Monday 9:00pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 8:00pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 8:00pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 8:30pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 9:00pm</li> <li>• Wednesday 8:00pm</li> <li>• Wednesday 8:30pm</li> <li>• Wednesday 8:45pm</li> <li>• Thursday 8:00pm</li> <li>• Thursday 9:00pm</li> <li>• Saturday 8:00am</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sherrills Ford, NC</li> <li>Southern Alamance Net</li> <li>Greensboro News &amp; Info Net</li> <li>Southeastern D-Star Weather Net</li> <li>Central NC Traffic Net</li> <li>Randolph County Net</li> <li>Lynchburg, VA</li> <li>Sandlappers, Lexington, SC</li> <li>Burlington ARES Net</li> <li>Triad Skywarn Net</li> <li>N.C. D-Star Net (W4GSO)</li> <li>Roanoke Amateur Club Net</li> <li>Forsyth County ARES Net</li> <li>Greensboro Amateur Society Net</li> <li>Pink Hill, NC</li> <li>Guilford County ARES Net</li> <li>Wake Forest, NC</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50.150, no tone</li> <li>146.670, no tone</li> <li>145.150, 100 Hz</li> <li>REF002A</li> <li>146.820, no tone</li> <li>147.255, 82.5 Hz</li> <li>50.400, no tone</li> <li>50.250, no tone</li> <li>146.670, no tone</li> <li>147.255, 82.5 Hz</li> <li>REF054C or 442.86250</li> <li>146.985,107.5Hz</li> <li>145.470, 100 Hz</li> <li>145.250, 88.5 Hz</li> <li>50.200, no tone</li> <li>145.150, 100 Hz</li> <li>50.200, no tone</li> </ul> |
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### Daily Nets

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:30am</li> <li>• 8:00am</li> <li>• 2:30pm</li> <li>• 7:30pm</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possum Trot Net</li> <li>Richmond 6 Meter Net</li> <li>Vag-A-Bon Net</li> <li>Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>147.225, 82.5 Hz</li> <li>50.215, no tone</li> <li>145.470, 100 Hz</li> <li>3.923 LSB</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

## OTHER AMATEUR RADIO NEWS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

### **MILITARY AUXILIARY OPS PREPARE TO MARK 75th ANNIVERSARY**

JIM/ANCHOR: Ham radio operators will be at the Pentagon and other military sites around the United States next month to mark the 75th anniversary of a program in which hams support our national defense. Andy Morrison K9AWM has that story.

ANDY: The Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System is marking its 75th anniversary of service to the US military with a special event on all HF bands using all modes during the first week of November. Stations in each of the system's 10 wings will be calling CQ, as will the MARS station located at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, using the callsign K 4 A F. Another station at Travis Air Force Base will be using the callsign K E 6 U E U. Certificates are being awarded for contacts. Stations contacting five wings will receive a Bronze endorsement; stations logging all 10, plus the stations at the Pentagon and Travis Air Force Base, will receive Gold endorsements on their certificates.

The event begins on November 5th and ends on November 11th - which is observed as Veterans Day in the United States. Certificates will be downloadable after the 30th of November.

MARS radio operators are volunteer members of a civilian auxiliary providing communication assistance for the US military when needed. The organization was created in 1948. There are MARS volunteers serving the US Air Force and the US Army.

This is Andy Morrison K9AWM.

(AFMARS)

### **AT AGE 10, NEW AMATEUR TAKES UP REINS ON WEEKLY NET**

JIM/ANCHOR: In the Philippines, hams are discovering that there is no "right" age for becoming a leader. One 10-year-old girl, a newly licensed radio operator, is showing everyone how it's done. Graham Kemp VK4BB tells us her story.

GRAHAM: The newest operator handling a weekly evening net for the Philippines Ham Radio Cebu DX7CBU is also a very new ham who has wasted no time showing her leadership skills. At the age of 10, Summer Mina, DY7SUM, is the youngest member of the club, where her parents, Bjorn, DW7KGB, and Bopbop, DW7OIC, run nets on other nights. With the help of her parents and her mentor, Jet, 4F7MHZ, the club's founder and trustee, Summer sat for her Foundation exam from the National Telecommunications Commission this past June and received her licence. Now she is actively taking check-ins on 2 metres.

Jet told Newslines in an email that Summer was inspired by her parents' activities as amateur radio operators, calling her a natural achiever. Her leadership abilities extend to her academic life off the air.

When she's not running the show on the local repeater, Summer is in her third term as president of her class at the Maria Montessori International School in Cebu.

This is Graham Kemp VK4BB.

(JET MANUEL, 4F7MHZ)

## **SOFTWARE UPGRADE IN THE WORKS FOR MULTIMODE DIGITAL VOICE PROJECT**

JIM/ANCHOR: If you use DMR, D-STAR or any other digital mode, better days are ahead: A software upgrade is in the works for the system that supports many of these modes, as we hear from Jack Parker W8ISH.

JACK: The Multimode Digital Voice Modem project, which supports most of the digital voice modes used by amateur radio, is about to get a software upgrade through the efforts of Jonathan Naylor, G4KLX, and with funding from Amateur Radio Digital Communications. The open-source project supports D-STAR, Yaesu System Fusion, NXDN and more than 80 percent of the hotspots and repeaters on the Brandmeister-DMR network. Jonathan, who is a developer of digital voice software, has been hired full time to tackle a variety of issues including bug mitigation, the creation of a portable user interface on additional hardware platforms, and adding support for such industry standards as Message Queuing Telemetry Transport. According to a press release from ARDC, work has already begun in the development of packet modes for 9600, 19200, and 38400, supporting narrow bandwidth using a modulation similar to DMR. The open-source project itself began in 2015.

This is Jack Parker W8ISH.

(ARDC)

## **FCC FINES US SATELLITE TV COMPANY FOR "SPACE JUNK"**

JIM/ANCHOR: A United States satellite TV company has been fined \$150,000 by the FCC for improperly disposing of a satellite that is no longer in service. The unprecedented fine against The Dish Network showcases the new priority the federal agency has been giving lately to so-called "space junk." The FCC told the Washington Post newspaper that the penalty was a "breakthrough settlement" underscoring the FCC's focus on disposal of satellites, rocket parts and other debris with the potential to collide with spacecraft such as the International Space Station. The Washington Post report said the FCC fined the company after it failed to comply with the plan of de-orbit maneuvers contained in its license. The FCC said the company used a lower orbit than stated for the satellite's disposal.

A statement from The Dish Network reaffirmed that the company has [quote] "a long track record of safely flying a large satellite fleet and takes seriously its responsibilities as an FCC licensee." [endquote] Dish said that the satellite was launched in 2002 and was exempt from the FCC requirement for a minimum-disposal orbit.

(THE WASHINGTON POST)