



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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WA3RFE

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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Holidays are already upon us. Time to make sure we have everything in order for winter weather. Forecasts are looking like we might have a rough winter this year. Speaking of weather, Skywarn recognition day is coming up on 12-2. The National Weather Service offices will be on the air, and the goal is to contact as many as possible. Details can be found here <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting on Tuesday, 11/21 at 7:15 pm

Mike WA3RFE

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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

RCARC October 17, 2023 Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes St Reidsville, NC

Members Present 10

Jim Bonesteel N4ZZC, Jim Clark N1YBH, Roger Joyner W4AYO, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Jamey Nixon K4RVJ, Butch Overby WA4RDX, Bob Pike KK4KTA, John Swinney KB4SHP, Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA, Tim Walker WD4GXD

Guests 4

Meeting called to order by President Mike Mansfield at 1915

Program by Steve Boles of the Madison Rescue Squad. Rescue Squads have been around since 1909 where Roanoke formed the first one. First NC Rescue Squad was formed in 1937. In North Carolina Rescue is a separate function from the Fire service however, Rescue squads are mostly self funded and have little to no taxpayer funds. Rockingham County has 3 Rescue Squads for the county, Madison, Eden and Reidsville which work together and each have unique equipment. Rescue Squads also fill in when RCEMS is short on units. Rescue Squads do what others can not or will not do and train frequently for water rescues, vehicle extrications, building collapses, high angle rescue and searches. They utilize the NC Viper system as primary coms but have the older low band radio frequency for viper outages where many other emergency services have removed the older radios from service, leaving them vulnerable to viper outages. The Rescue Squads would accept the service of ham radio operators in time of emergency. Additional training on NIMS may be needed.

Motion was made and seconded to forgo the reading of the August minutes, passed.

Treasurers Report:

August

Checking

Opening Balance \$3967.89

Dues and donations \$ 50

Ending Balance \$4017.89

September

Opening Balance \$4017.89

Dues and donations \$ 0

Ending Balance \$4017.89

Tech Committee: None

Petty Cash

Opening Balance \$18.50

Ending Balance \$18.50

Opening Balance \$18.50

Ending Balance \$18.50

Old Business:

Thanks to Jim for mowing the repeater site. Weed wacking needs to be done.

Regular meeting in November, Social in December, members present requested Turks in Reidsville for the social.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 2030

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 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
				KX4IQ

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

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

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.

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

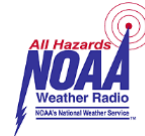
147.225 T100.0 KF4YLM/R Lewisburg, WV

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

STRAIGHT KEY CENTURY CLUB CONTEST

DON/ANCHOR: The Straight Key Century Club is holding a contest among its members -- but for this competition, you don't need your key - just a sense of style, as we hear from Randy Sly W4XJ.

RANDY: If you're a member of the Straight Key Century Club, there are a few ways you can get ready for the SKCC Anniversary and Straight Key Month being held in January 2024. You can, of course, practice and train at home to work on your sending and your copying - and perhaps even plan on being one of the operators for the K3Y event. If your talents extend to holding a pencil, a pen or even a paintbrush, you might want to submit a design to be considered for the official 2024 QSL card. The club is once again holding a contest to select a design and SKCC members get the final say. They'll be voting on their top picks in mid-December and will be able to view all the qualifying submissions displayed on the SKCC website.

Although only the most popular design will end up on the QSL card, many of the others will appear in the SKCC's print calendar.

The club is also inviting members to resubmit updated versions of designs submitted earlier that weren't in the final pick.

There are certain design guidelines and specifications that need to be followed, however. Please visit the SKCC website for detailed instructions on how to display your design and incorporate the required text elements.

Designs are due no later than the 14th of December.

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, listen for Vaclav, OK6RA, operating holiday style as FG/OK6RA from Guadeloupe until the 27th of November. This is IOTA Number NA-102. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 40-10 metres and possibly 6m. His main activity will be during the CQ WW DX CW Contest. QSL via his home call.

Listen for Kazu, M0CFW, who will use the callsign 3B9/M0CFW from Rodrigues Island, IOTA Number AF-017, from the 19th of November to the 1st of December. He will be using the callsign 3B9KW in the CQ WW DX CW Contest. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Ken, LA7GIA and Shani, HA5DDX are active as 7O8AD [Seven Oh Eight A D] and 7O8AE [Seven Oh Eight A E], respectively until the 16th of November from Socotra Island, IOTA Number AF-028, in Yemen. Listen for them on 160 through 10m. Shani is operating SSB while Ken is concentrating on CW. There is a possibility of SO2R Light FT8 using WSJT-X fox and hound or MHSV. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Shabu, M0KRI, will be on the air as 9L5M from Freetown, Sierra Leone between the 24th of November and the 5th of December. Watch QRZ.com for developing information about how to QSL.

(425DX BULLETIN)

'ALL THE LIGHT' THAT THEY COULD HEAR

DON/ANCHOR: We end this week's report with a special movie. No, we're not actually going to show you the movie, of course - but we are going to tell you why it might have plenty of appeal to those of us who understand the power of radio. Neil Rapp WB9VPG has that story.

NEIL: If you watch for the credits at the end of each episode of one mini-series now running on Netflix, you'll be able to quickly learn who wrote the script, who directed the cast, who produced the drama and of course, who played the roles on screen. Every name is featured prominently at the end of each of the four installments of "All the Light We Cannot See." The film is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning World War II-era novel by Anthony Doerr.

What may not be apparent to most movie viewers is the fact that two of the film's biggest stars are uncredited, unnamed and largely unacknowledged - that is true at least outside the framework of this intense wartime storyline. The anonymous players are the pair of shortwave radios that ultimately unite the two major protagonists - a blind French girl and a young German soldier. In Nazi-occupied France, the girl uses the forbidden medium of radio to transmit coded messages to help the French Resistance and the Allied Forces. The boy is an orphan and an electronics genius who is conscripted reluctantly into the German military. Both had grown up in their respective corners of Europe listening to the same shortwave radio program - one hosted by a professor who spoke of science, truth, beauty and hope.

In this setting, as the girl transmits her messages from her ravaged French city and the boy attempts to track her down amid the wreckage, the power of those two radios cannot be defined by wattage alone. The radios define the love both share for something intangible and precious they are both seeking. Those same radios drive the drama to its inevitable conclusion, using the light none of us can see: the electromagnetic spectrum itself.

This is Neil Rapp WB9VPG.