



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 Holidays!

Here we are, at the end of the year already. I hope everyone had a good time at the Christmas social at Turks in Reidsville. Sadly, I wasn't able to make it as Caroline turned 19 that day and we had other plans.

At the last meeting we selected new Officers for next year. John KB4SHP will be the new Secretary, Michael K4LIK will be the new Treasurer, and Rodger and I remain VP, and Pres.

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and Happy new year!

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 November 21, 2023 Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes St Reidsville, NC

Members Present 11

Jim Clark N1YBH, Charlie Kahn KO4OTI, Firman Lanier WD4MKU, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Mike Mosser KF4LIK, Terry Mosser KF4KPM, Paul Patterson N4CE, Robert Pike KK4KTA, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SHP, Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA

Guests 3

Edith Lanier

Meeting called to order by President Mike Mansfield at 1915

Program by Jim Smith N3UZ on the history of a small digital oscilloscope (Fluke 97 Multitrace scope) he found in a junk pile. The history was it was found with the case and probes with the shock case broken, and no power supply. Several years later, it was discovered that it took ordinary D Dell batteries. Installed a set and it works! An interesting story for sure.

Secretary's report for July read and accepted.

Treasurers Report:

Checking

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

Old Business:

Band pass filters are still in the works. Field Day will be held at the QTH of N3UZ, Jim Smith's barn. The dates are June 29 and 30, 2024.

New Business:

With the awareness made to the club about Rockingham County Rescue Squads and how they are self funded, A motion was made by Jim Clark N1YBH and seconded to donate the sum of \$100 to the Eden, Reidsville and Rockingham/Madison Rescue Squads. Motion passed.

Club Officers for 2024. The following slate of officers was presented to the club for 2024

President – Mike Mansfield, Vice President – Roger Joyner, Secretary – John Swinney, Treasurer – Michael Mosser

A motion was made and seconded to have the secretary to cast one ballot in the affirmative for the proposed slate. Motion passed. The secretary cast the ballot as instructed in the affirmative for the slate. Social for December will be on December 9th at 1800> Location will be Turks Restaurant 1836 S. Scales St Reidsville.

Meeting adjourned at 1950

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 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

Members who are paid for 2024: KF4LIK, KI4PRU, KJ4CIW, KO4OTI, KX4IQ, N1YBH, N4CE, N4RFX

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.

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

HAMVENTION THEME CHOSEN AS 'EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY'

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Are you looking ahead to May of 2024? Organizers of the 2024 Hamvention and ARRL National Convention have announced the theme for the event next May. It will be "Expanding our Community." The announcement was made by general chairman Jim Storms AB8YK, who said the theme supports the growth of ham radio worldwide. Hamvention will take place May 17th, 18th and 19th in Xenia, Ohio.

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, radio operators in Northern Finland are happy to report that Santa Radio OF9X - took to the air on the 11th of December and will continue the journey until 2159 UTC on the 31st of December. Be listening for the radio elves as they guide their sleighs on all bands, using CW, SSB and FT8. This annual event has the support of Radio Arcala, not far from the Arctic Circle. See QRZ.com for details.

In India, a group of YLs will be on the air from two ocean beaches on the 16th and 17th of December as AT2BOTA. They are all former shortwave listeners celebrating their new amateur radio licenses. Be listening on 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres where they will operate on SSB and FT8. They will activate Junpat Sea Beach, number 62417, on the 16th and Haripur Sea Beach, number 62418, on the 17th. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

POSTAGE STAMPS ARE HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT DELIVER

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: For our final item this week, here's a way for you to spread comfort and joy to those in need this holiday season. It's simple! Save your used stamps from your greeting cards and QSL card envelopes. Amateur Radio Newline's Mark Abram-o-vich, NT3V, has the story from Philadelphia.

MARK: While the colorful postage stamps gracing the corners of the envelopes from our holiday cards and those QSL cards we receive generally end up in the trash, a ham club based in the City of Brotherly Love is committed to rescuing them: They're encouraging you to join them in a project aimed at getting them into the hands of US military veterans through the Stamps for the Wounded program.

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, is with the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. He is trustee of WM3PEN – the flagship call sign for historic Philadelphia.

JOSUWEIT: With the Holmesburg club handling over 1,000 QSL cards every year just for the 13 Colonies event over the summer, we were looking for something to do with those stamps -- and when we heard about the program we thought, gee, it would be a great idea to rip the stamps off the envelopes and forward them on to the program. And it has turned into a major success over the past number of years.

MARK: Josuweit says Stamps for the Wounded uses the contributions to provide comfort and support stamp-collecting activities for veterans. He says they're especially helping to engage disabled vets in creatively decorating objects.

Josuweit says the Philadelphia hams have expanded their campaign to a host of civic groups and organizations and are promoting ham radio's involvement in the campaign.

JOSUWEIT: We're in regular contact with a couple of hunting and fishing clubs that have large memberships and their treasurers happen to be hams and they're sending a large envelope of stamps to us to forward to the program.

MARK: He's encouraging hams from small radio clubs to DX groups to collect and save the used stamps and mail them to the group.

JOSUWEIT: You can either check out the WM3PEN page on QRZ.com or directly to the program which is stampsforthewounded.org.

MARK: Eye-catching foreign stamps from your direct DX QSLs are especially welcome.

I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V.