



# ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



**President**  
Michael Mansfield  
WA3RFE

**Vice-President**  
Roger Joyner  
W4AYO

**Treasurer**  
Michael Mosser  
K4LIK

**Secretary**  
John Swinney  
KB4SHP

## *The RockingHAMmer News*

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

February 2024

Vol. 22 No. 2

[www.n4iv.org](http://www.n4iv.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Lots going on this month and 2024 has been off to a wild start. The next meeting is Feb 20th at 7:15 at the Salvation Army on Barns Street in Reidsville. At this time I am not sure I will be able to make that meeting due to an issue we are dealing with at work. I call and reserve the space and provide the code to set the alarm to whomever can run the meeting.

I did get a quote from the Farm Bureau for our liability insurance. Cost will be \$651 a year.

Hopefully ill have my work issues resolved in time for the meeting, but we should plan otherwise. Remember when online, be careful

- Do not click on links from an unknown source.
- Check the spelling of the email address from the sender.
- Do not open suspicious file attachments.
- Examine file names closely for anomalies.
- For suspicious emails from known senders, delete the email and follow-up with the sender by phone to validate.
- For suspicious emails from unknown senders, delete the email. **Do not reply to it, do not click on any links or attachments.**

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 January 16, 2024, Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes St  
Reidsville NC 27320

#### Members Present 12

Jim Clark N1YBH, Roger Joyner W4AYO, Firman Lanier WD4MKU, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Mike Mooser KF4LIK, Terry Mooser KF4KPM, Butch Overby WA4RDX, Paul Patterson N4CE, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SHP, Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA, Tim Walker WD4GXD

4 Guests

Jared Thompson KQ4MSA

Teri Overby

Edith Lanier

Jim Hammer KQ4NIY

Meeting Called to Order by President Mike Mansfield at 1915

Program by Tim Walker WD4GXD on Various Types of Antennas

Tim Did a slide show on the various Antennas that he has Made over the years. From a 2-meter J pole and various loops and Square and Rectangular shaped antennas to his latest project of using an old direct tv satellite antenna and converting it over to microwave beam antenna. Tim also had various small antennas that he passed around for the group to look at.

Jim Clark advised that all 3 checks were mailed to each Rescue Squad in Rockingham County Each check in the amount of \$100.00 Each to Eden, Madison, Reidsville Rescue. Madison Rescue had sent a thank you note.

#### Treasure Report

Checking December 2023

Opening Balance 3949.72

(Bill Schwiegeraht N8KSG) Reimbursement for Web hosting and Domain 2024 \$102.61

Post Office Box Renewal \$120.00  
Membership Dues Received \$ 25.00 For 2023  
Ending Balance \$3752.11

#### PETTY CASH

Opening Balance \$18.50 Ending Balance \$18.50  
Old Business

Band Pass Filter for Field Day, which will be held at the QTH of N3UZ, Jim Smith Barn June 29 and 30 2024.

#### New Business

Paul Patterson N4CE has presented the group with his on finding on the Band Past filters finding, The brand he bought before that was presented to the club. He now can't much Information on them now. He also found VA6AM Filters which was very expensive.

So, Paul has Located Morgan System Filters which are around \$80.00 each and they get great reviews. Bob KN4BBA made the motion and Jim Smith N3UZ seconded the motion. Paul advised he would purchase the filters needed for field day, and the club could reimburse him.

Motion was Made Meeting was adjourned at 2000 hrs.

## 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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#### \*\*\*\* 2024 Membership Drive \*\*\*\*

It is time for all members to renew their membership for 2024. 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 2024. Your continued support is appreciated!

**The following members have paid their membership dues for 2024. Paid up for two years (2024-2025)\*\***

KF4LIK	KN4YFA	N1YBH
KI4PRU	KO4OTI	N4CE
KJ4CIW	KX4IQ	N4RFX

**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.**

**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>

**04/06/2024 - Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention**

Location: Raleigh, NC  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
Website: <https://www.rarsfest.org>  
Robinhood Road Baptist Church

**04/13/2024 - Winston-Salem Springfest**

Location: Winston-Salem, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club  
Website: [www.w4nc.com](http://www.w4nc.com)  
1st PH Church

**05/04/2024 - UnFest**

Location: Goldsboro, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Wayne County Amateur Radio Assoc.  
Website: <http://www.k4cyp.com>  
Salisbury Civic Center

**07/13/2024 - Firecracker Hamfest /Salisbury, NC**

Location: Salisbury, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Rowan County Amateur Radio Society  
Ritter Park

**07/20/2024 - 51st Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest**

Location: Cary, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Cary Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://caryarc.org>  
Smokey Mountain Event Center (Former Haywood County Fairgrounds)

**07/20/2024 - WCARS Hamfest**

Location: Waynesville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://wcars-club.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://www.mobile.weather.gov) or [cell.weather.gov](https://www.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

### PROPOSED LAW WOULD PROTECT HAM ANTENNAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

PAUL/ANCHOR: We begin this week in South Carolina, where hams are planning to rally on the 21st of February for a bill that would remove private land restrictions for some amateur radio antennas. This is one state of many throughout the US where such restrictions are a paramount concern. Kevin Trotman N5PRE has that report.

KEVIN: A rally is planned at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, as a show of support for the Amateur Radio Antenna Protection act, which eight Republican lawmakers are introducing into session that day. The bill is designed to ensure amateur radio operators' rights to install antennas that let them get on the air effectively. According to an email sent to amateurs in the state from E. Gordon Mooneyhan, W4EGM, of the ARRL's South Carolina Section, a strong presence by radio operators will go a long way toward making several points in favor of the measure's passage. Calling ham radio a [quote] "incubator for education, exploration and experimentation within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields," Gordon also noted that active hams have provided some 6,000 hours of volunteer community service during the past two years. He said that although most log periodic antennas and satellites used for TV reception over the air are more obtrusive, Homeowners Associations, or HOAs, have imposed restrictions that bar even the simplest amateur radio antennas, providing an obstacle to short- and long-range emergency communications.

The widespread concern about HOAs and amateur radio in many states throughout the US has led to introduction of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, which would provide antenna protection on the federal level. The US Congress has not yet acted on the bill, which is opposed by many HOAs.

### LAWMAKERS SEEK FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR HAM RADIO ANTENNAS

PAUL/ANCHOR: Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., a new effort to grant sweeping protection across the country was introduced in the US Senate. The bipartisan measure would mandate that private homeowners associations accept the installation of outdoor ham radio antennas. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2024 was presented by Senator Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican, and Senator Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat. The measure underscores the value of ham radio's lifesaving potential during natural disasters and other emergencies such as the hurricanes that are common in both of the sponsoring lawmakers' home states.

(WICKER.SENATE.GOV)