



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year!

Here we are at that start of 2024, and you know what that means, time to pay your dues. A good time to do that will be at this month's meeting on 1-16 at the Salvation Army on Barnes street at 7:15 pm. I hope to see you there.

Thanks and 73

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

No Minutes for December since it was a social meeting.

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.

****** 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**

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 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

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 |

TECH-SAVVY TEENS SCORE A DIRECT CONTACT WITH ISS

JIM/ANCHOR: We begin this week with a story that captivated the national media here in the United States and social media everywhere: It was a contact made barely a month ago between Pennsylvania high school students and astronauts aboard the International Space Station. This was a contact, however, with something that set it apart from many. Kent Peterson KCØDGY tells us how it happened.

KENT: Like so many other of the hundreds of contacts that have been made over the years between students and ISS astronauts, the well-publicized QSO with Harbor Creek High School near Erie, Pennsylvania relied on the support of the volunteers and staff who are part of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. They assisted with scheduling and helped coordinate the contact with NASA mission control in Houston. This was a very different QSO, however: About three-quarters of the participating high school students were licensed amateur radio operators - young hams who developed, built, installed and operated the radio systems in preparation for this high-profile contact. They even assembled the antennas that were installed on the school building's roof.

In other words, this was a direct contact between the school and the ISS, with no telebridge or phone patch to serve as the customary go-between.

This kind of hands-on student involvement is uncommon in the long history of ARISS and its 1600 or so educational contacts, according to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, executive director of ARISS-USA. He told Newsline in an email that ARISS strongly encourages this kind of hands-on student involvement but doesn't see it often. He told Newsline: [quote] "It is a rarity to be celebrated." [endquote]

Frank said that, working with education lead and assistant principal Drew Mortensen AC3DS, the teens in the Harbor Creek Advanced Technologies Group handled the ISS satellite operations on their own. Watching the contact happen, ARISS technical mentor Gordon Scannell, KD8COJ, told the local newspaper: [quote] "They've done this, they know how to do this." [endquote]

The result was a QSO with Commander Andreas Mogensen, KG5GCZ. It was arranged by ARISS and NASA, but made by students -- and this was a contact the nation, if not the world, got to watch.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

NEWEST SATELLITES TO ENABLE EXPERIMENTAL TEXTING VIA SPACE

JIM/ANCHOR: New Starlink satellites have been launched in preparation for the start of experimental texting via space. Kent Peterson KCØDGY brings us up to date.

KENT: SpaceX has announced that the recent launch and deployment of six Starlink satellites is expected to enable texting from space this year on an experimental basis for mobile phones in its partnership with cellular operators. SpaceX has partnered with T-Mobile USA to conduct the initial tests and also has agreements with providers in Switzerland, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and Chile.

The company is hoping the satellites will help eliminate cellular dead zones, enabling users to send text

messages even when they are in regions outside the T-Mobile network. The Starlink model differs from the service provided to Apple's iPhones, which use an Emergency SOS via satellite utilizing Globalstar satellites to establish a connection between the iPhones and ground stations.

These six new satellites have greater optical reflectivity than other Starlink broadband satellites. During the webcast of the January 2nd launch, SpaceX said they plan to consult with astronomers to determine what impact, if any, these new direct-to-cell satellites' will have on observatories so SpaceX can make any necessary orbital adjustments.

Starlink has told the US Federal Communications Commission that its ultimate plan is to deploy 840 such satellites for direct-to-cell communication during the next six months. Voice and data services are not in its plans until sometime in 2025 and Starlink must first get regulatory permission for commercial use.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

HAMCATION 2024 ANNOUNCES AWARD-WINNERS

JIM/ANCHOR: As amateurs prepare to pack up and travel to Hamcation in Orlando, Florida, organizers of the annual event have announced winners of two major awards to be presented there next month: The Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award and the Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award. Jack Parker W8ISH has that story.

JACK: Lewis Malchick, N2RQ, a cofounder of the ARRL School Club Roundup and an active participant in this event for more than 25 years, will receive the 2024 Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award at Hamcation. The honor recognizes educators for their contributions to advancing amateur radio among students. Lew is a former chemistry teacher at Brooklyn Tech High School in New York, where he is an advisor to the school's ham radio club, W2CXN. Lew also serves as a trustee for the ham club at Stuyvesant High School, W2CLS, in Manhattan. He is also chairman of the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club's Education Committee which has sponsored five student contacts with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

The Gordon West Ambassador of the Year award recipient is being shared by Fred and Anita Kemmerer. Fred, AB1OC, and Anita, AB1QB, promote STEM education, amateur radio instruction and youth outreach through the Nashua Area Radio Society in New Hampshire. They are also the creators of Ham Bootcamp, which helps new licensees and prospective hams upgrade their skills. Fred is director of the ARRL's New England Division and Anita is an assistant division director for mentoring and the development of new hams.

Hamcation is being held from the 9th to the 11th of February, when the recipients will be honored.

This is Jack Parker W8ISH.