



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy April!

Spring has sprung! the flowers are blooming, grass is growing, and bees are buzzing! Now, if we can only get the weather to act like it and it stay warm!

Is it too early to start thinking about Field Day? Probably not; it's just over two months away.

If you have any quotes for the club's liability insurance, please bring them to the club meeting or send them to me if you cannot make it.

Next meeting is April 16th, 7:15 pm, at the Salvation Army in Reidsville, I hope to see everyone there!

73

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

No minutes from March since it was a social.

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 of years, and many active hams simply forget to renew, which 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 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

**** If you have questions regarding the status of your dues please contact Michael Mosser, K4LIK at kf4likmichael@yahoo.com

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.

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.

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 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

HAMS ON ALERT AFTER BALTIMORE BRIDGE DISASTER

NEIL/ANCHOR: Our top story is the ongoing recovery following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in the US city of Baltimore. Hams were put on alert and several days into the recovery, severe weather rolled in. Kevin Trotman N5PRE has this developing story.

KEVIN: A call went out for heightened awareness among radio amateurs in the Baltimore, Maryland area as the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed on Tuesday, March 26th, after being struck by a cargo ship near the Port of Baltimore. Shortly after the early morning incident, Chris Van Winkle, AB3WG, manager of the ARRL Maryland DC section, reached out to ARES members section wide, asking that they stand by. Meanwhile, Maryland and Baltimore officials declared a state of emergency.

As Newline went to production on the 4th of April, hams remained on alert as severe weather pounded the region, posing potential complications to recovery operations near the harbor. Sid Caesar, NH7C, the assistant section manager and public information coordinator, said section leadership continued to be vigilant, engaging in incident planning in case the need arose to activate any amateur radio support in the days ahead.

This is Kevin Trotman N5PRE.

NETWORK OUTAGE DURING STORM HIGHLIGHTS HAMS' IMPORTANCE

NEIL/ANCHOR: As weather-tracking and communications technology grow more sophisticated, it's easy to think that system failures won't be a problem in an emergency. In the American Midwest, however, weather-watchers - and hams - got a dose of reality, as we hear from Randy Sly W4XJ.

RANDY: Several areas across the United States received a wakeup call on the night of April 1st when a national data network outage knocked out radar and warning capabilities in many cities just as severe weather began hitting the central part of the country.

In the St. Louis region, just as a storm system brought heavy rainfall, hail, and even a tornado to the area, the Weather Forecast Office's radar and warning systems went dark. Meteorologists had to rely on

other resources while calling on the Kansas City office to provide backup.

Michael Musher, a meteorologist and spokesman for the National Weather Service, told the media, <quote> "During this outage, some warning services were impacted," <endquote> he indicated that they are working with network vendors to determine the root cause for the 5 hour blackout.

Radio amateurs were active across the heartland. For example, Fox 19 TV in Cincinnati reported ham activity for a tornado in Mason County, Kentucky. A former SKYWARN Amateur Radio Coordinator for the Washington DC/Baltimore Weather Forecast Office told AR Newslines that the best thing we can do for the National Weather Service is always be ready to serve.

This is Randy Sly W4XJ.

EXPANDED HAMVENTION HOURS FOR VOICE OF AMERICA MUSEUM

NEIL/ANCHOR: If your plans to visit Xenia, Ohio next month for Hamvention include a side-trip to the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in nearby West Chester, you'll be pleased to know that the museum will once again have expanded hours. On Thursday, May 16th and Friday, May 17th, you can visit from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., on Saturday, May 18th, from noon to 9 p.m., and on Sunday, May 19th, from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10. WC8VOA, the ham radio station of the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, will be on the air. Visit wc8voa.org or voamuseum.org for more details.

(JOCELYN BRAULT, KD8VRX/VA2VRX)

NOMINATE OUR NEXT YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

NEIL/ANCHOR: Do you know a promising young radio amateur who'd be a good candidate for the Bill Pasternak Memorial Young Ham of the Year award? Let Newslines know! Candidates must live in the continental United States and be 18 years of age or younger. Tell our judges about your nominee's talent, promise and commitment to the spirit of ham radio. This is your chance to help honor and acknowledge that person who will, no doubt, go on to teach and inspire others. Find the nomination form on our website arnewslines.org under the "AWARDS" tab. Nominations close on May 31st.