Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

N4IV

President Bill Schwiegeraht - N8KSG | Vice-President Tim Walker - WD4GXD | Treasurer Michael Mosser - KF4LIK | Secretary Trey Belton - W4SH

The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina 27323

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President's Corner

Hello everyone. It is good to be back in North Carolina following my vacation/trip to Cincinnati for a family reunion as well as a week of fun times and overeating! I have to admit, after the first three days of heavy specialty foods that I cannot get anywhere else, I really needed to take a break and have nothing but salads on day four!

I hope that although our field day plans did not come to fruition, you were able to get on the air and make some contacts. I did try to make some on Saturday from up north, however my mobile HF antennas was not cooperating, and since I could not tune up I figured it was better to not take a chance of ruining my finals on the rig.

I mentioned last month that there had been some investigation into some recent crackling on the 147.345 repeater, and a strong possibility that the cable harness on the duplexer might be a strong contributor. I followed up with Sinclair – the maker of our duplexers – and unfortunately they no longer support spare parts or service for these models, but don't fear. A duplexer is not very complex, so we will take a stab at refurbishing our secondary duplexer which was removed from service a few years back. Bob Wiggins, AF4TZ, has agreed to help with the re-tuning once ready. Once this is completed, we will swap out with the duplexer currently on 147.345, and rebuild that unit offline. Although the issue has been sporadic and not impeded communications too much, we are hopeful these efforts will improve reliability. And don't forget, these efforts are supposed to be a fun, learning experience along the way!

Be sure to attend the club meeting next Tuesday, July 21st at 7:00 pm at the Red Cross Building. I plan to give an update on the investigation of internet connectivity at the Madison site, and as always, there will be a captivating presentation to follow.

73's, Bill, N8KSG

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS *:*

About the Newsletter *: This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. Computer/inter-net 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 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

73 (KF4LIK) Michael, your editor.

Events

RCARC Meeting

The RCARC usually meets the 3rd Tuesday night of the month at the Red Cross Building located between Reidsville and Eden on Highway 14 at 7:00PM. Quarterly meeting/socials will be announced. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 21st, 2015.

Mid-Summer SWAPFEST

On July the 18th, 2015, the Cary Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at Harold Ritter Park located on 301 West Lochmere Drive, Cary, NC 27511. **Website:** http://www.qsl.net/n4nc **Talk-In:** 146.88 -0.6 (no PL tone) **Public Contact:** Herb Lacey, W3HL, 1022 Medlin Drive Cary, NC 27511. Phone: 919-467-9608. **Email:** infoman@bellsouth.net

Roanoke Hamfest 2015

On August the 1st, 2015 the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an ARRL Hamfest at the William Byrd High School, located at 2902 East Washington Avenue Vinton, VA 24179 **Website:** http://w4ca.com . **Talk-In:** 146.985 -600 (PL 107.2) **Public Contact:** Thomas Wilcox, W4TKW, 3727 Willetta Drive Roanoke, VA 24018. Phone: 540-797-6893. **Email:** W4TKW@cox.net

BREAKFASTS

HENRY POLLOCK MEMORIAL BREAKFAST
TUESDAY – 7:00 am, The Farmer's Table, Reidsville
THURSDAY – 7:00 am, Sanitary Cafe, Reidsville

VEC TESTING

The regularly scheduled VEC testing is held on the last Saturday of each odd-numbered month at the Eden branch of the Rockingham County Library located at: 598 S. Pierce St., Eden, NC. Registration begins at 9am, testing starts at 9:30am. The next VEC testing will be on Saturday, August the 29th, 2015.

Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor and make reports. The Skywarn website is: http://www.skywarn.org . For a guide to reporting weather, see the website: http://www.wx4rnk.org/guide.html .

Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES website: http://www.rc-aa.org/

AUXCOMM's main responsibility is to support the **Rockingham County Emergency Management** during times of Severe Weather, Disaster, or Emergency situations. ARES has a broader responsibility to support the community as a whole.

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

162.550 MHz WXL58 RALEIGH NWS PIEDMONT & CENTRAL N.C.

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 inter-net, go to NOAA's National Weather Service website: weather.gov . Your weather forecast on a mobile device: mobile.weather.gov or cell.weather.gov

Dial-A-Forecast is 919-515-8209 (option 2) for the Greensboro, Winston, Salem, and High Point area.
The New River Valley, Roanoke, and Lynchburg, Virginia's area number is 540-552-0497.

AREA NETS

Monday 8:30PM RCARC 2-meter net 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone

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.

Thursday 8:30PM Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES Net 147.345 MHz 103.5

The Rockingham County AUXCOMM/ARES Training net is on Thursdays. The repeater is now a System Fusion Repeater. Check-ins are on Digital, Analog, or via Messaging (depending if Net Control has a System Fusion capable radio, listen for announcement)

OTHER 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	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

Ham News Articles

(Article 1)

QST de W1AW
Space Bulletin 011 ARLS011
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT July 15, 2015

To all radio amateurs

SB SPACE ARL ARLS011
ARLS011 SSTV Images from Space Will Commemorate 40th Apollo-Soyuz Mission Anniversary

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo-Soyuz mission, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) team will transmit a series of 12 Slow Scan Television (SSTV) images. The SSTV transmissions 145.80 MHz will begin on the morning of Saturday, July 18, and continue through Sunday July 19, subject to change. Apollo-Soyuz represented the first joint US-USSR mission, and it set the stage for later US-Russia collaboration on the space shuttle, Mir Space Station, and the International Space Station.

"The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project would send NASA astronauts Tom Stafford, Deke Slayton and Vance Brand in an Apollo Command and Service Module to meet Russian cosmonauts Aleksey Leonov and Valeriy Kubasov in a Soyuz capsule," NASA has recounted. "A jointly designed, US-built docking module fulfilled the main technical goal of the mission, demonstrating that two dissimilar craft could dock in orbit. But the human side of the mission went far beyond that."

The Soyuz and Apollo vehicles were docked from July 17-19, 1975. During that time, the three US astronauts and two USSR cosmonauts carried out experiments and other activities. Apollo-Soyuz was the final mission of the Apollo program and the last US human spaceflight mission prior to the inaugural space shuttle mission in 1981.

Submit received SSTV images to the ARISS SSTV image gallery, which will post the best SSTV images received from this event at,
http://spaceflightsoftware.com/ARISS_SSTV/submit.php .

(Article 2)

Ohio ARES “NVIS Antenna Day” Concludes That the Truth is Up There
Reprinted from ARRL News, 6/25/2015

Ohio ARES NVIS Antenna Day on April 25 attracted participation from some 100 Buckeye State stations in an effort to determine which configurations of near-vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) antenna offer the best results. ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Stan Broadway, N8BHL, said that while the results of the unscientific test were inconclusive, some configurations *did* seem superior.

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“The goal was simple: Try different antennas, see which work,” Broadway explained. “Each station was responsible with providing accurate signal reports, so performance could be evaluated. Results would be tallied and digested in hopes of creating a short list of winners that ARES teams could keep in their toolboxes.”

Most operation was Field Day-style on 40 meters. “This was not a contest,” Broadway pointed out, “so, groups gathered not only to test antennas, but to cook out and enjoy each other’s company.” He said one group had so much fun making contacts on their first dipole that they abandoned any further antenna work and just had fun.

Groups most frequently deployed simple dipoles. End-fed and longwires were popular too, as well as a handful of loops. A half-dozen antennas were based on the military AS-2259 design — crossed inverted Vs with about 10 feet of elevation in the middle. Other designs included antennas erected above ponds, inverted Ls, and even a Moxon aimed straight up.

“For our operation, there just wasn’t that much difference between the more specialized NVIS designs and any good antenna,” Broadway concluded. The longwire was among those at the bottom of the list, with signal reports uniformly 2 or 3 S-units below other choices, according to Broadway. “But contacts *were* made, and communication took place,” he added. It’s a very portable antenna too.

Determining the “best” antenna turned out to be harder. Dipoles — flattops or inverted Vs — installed at lower heights in keeping with NVIS concepts, provided reasonable reports, but erecting them at a low height didn’t seem to make much difference. If any antenna topped the list, it was those fashioned after the AS-2259 configuration.

“These all performed very satisfactorily for their owners, and were uniformly given good signal reports,” Broadway said. “They weren’t 40 dB above the competition, but they were solid.”

While the NVIS antenna experiment had inconclusive results, “we did prove that our hobby can be a lot of fun, even for the old heads, when we get back to some basics — experimenting, equipment and team building, and trying our stuff out,” Broadway said. Concluded Jefferson County participant Gregory Day, N8GD, “After 34 years, ham radio is still fun!”

Ohio ARES is planning an even bigger NVIS event next April, and will extend an invitation to neighboring ARRL sections to join in.

Article 3)

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015: Politicians Do Listen, ARRL President Says

Reprinted from ARRL News, 07/13/2015

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said in the July ***ARRL Legislative Update Newsletter*** that Washington politicians *are* paying attention to League members who have contacted lawmakers to urge their cosponsorship of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. Essentially identical bills have been introduced in both the US House (**H.R. 1301**) and Senate (**S. 1685**). Both measures would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions.

“Many visits have been made to the offices of Senators and Congressmen on behalf of H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 by members of the ARRL Board and ARRL Headquarters staff,” President Craigie said. “ARRL Section Managers have encouraged members to speak out. ARRL members around the country have talked with your elected officials in their home-district offices and town hall meetings. This is a full-team advocacy effort.” To date, H.R. 1301 has attracted 86 cosponsors; the Senate bill, just introduced, has one original cosponsor.

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President Craigie said The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is aimed at helping to ensure the future of Amateur Radio, as more and more neighborhoods impose deed restrictions that prohibit Amateur Radio antennas and keep today's youngsters from becoming active radio amateurs.

"What if their parents have bought houses in neighborhoods with deed restrictions prohibiting antennas?" she speculated. "Those kids' interest in ham radio gained from school, Scouts, or family friends will have no way to blossom into the life-changing experience of being radio amateurs."

ARRL members, she continued, "are working together so that both today's amateurs and the kids who will be amateurs in the future have the chance to operate from their homes." Letters from members urging support of the bills are what make the difference between being ignored and being heard on Capitol Hill.

"Earlier this year, I visited a North Carolina Congressman's office and got a friendly reception — but no co-sponsorship," President Craigie recounted. "More recently, another ARRL person followed up at the same office, with the same staff member, but with about 40 letters in hand. The Congressman became a co-sponsor."

The newsletter suggested several ways ARRL members can get involved in the Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots effort. One idea is to have a "letter party" at your next club meeting.

Take pre-addressed copies of letters to all three of your lawmakers — one in the House, two in the Senate — and have club members add their names, addresses, and signatures to letters for each Member of Congress. Have enough copies, so that each individual can sign his or her own letter. In some cases, club members in a given area may reside in more than one Congressional district.

Names and addresses of US House and Senate members are available on the ARRL website. Mail the collected letters to the ARRL (c/o The Amateur Radio Parity Act, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111), which will collate them for hand delivery on Capitol Hill.

Members also may e-mail their lawmakers, post comments on the US House or Senate member's website, or call their lawmakers on the telephone. Be courteous, make your points, and be brief. In all cases, thank lawmakers for considering your point of view.

"Grassroots politics is about you — the individual — making your voice heard," the July *Legislative Update* pointed out. "It requires a good deal of preparation and effort to achieve the end results."

The League now has a **combined web page** to accommodate activities on behalf of both the House and Senate bills. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is **H.R. 1301** in the US House of Representatives and **S. 1685** in the US Senate. The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 page provides a clearing house for all information on these identical pieces of legislation.