



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



President
Michael Mansfield
WA3RFE

Vice-President
Roger Joyner
W4AYO

Treasurer
Michael Mosser
KF4LIK

Secretary
John Swinney
KB4SHP

The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

August 2024

Vol. 22 No. 8

www.n4iv.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy August!

Hard to believe Summer is almost over, but I am looking forward to some cooler weather.

I learned that the 345 repeater site has not changed hands, and we are still welcome there. They have been fixing it up because they were also tired of parking in the mud when they went out there.

I hope everyone has a great month and I'll see you at the meeting on 8-20 at the Salvation Army on Barnes Street at 7:15.

73!
Mike WA3RFE

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

PAGE	CONTENT
1 - 2	President's Corner
2 - 3	Club News & Meeting Minutes
3 - 4	VE News
4	Events
5	Skywarn, NOAA / NWS
6	Net Information
7 - 9	General Amateur Radio News

***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 July 16, 2024, Meeting

Salvation Army 704 Barnes Street Reidsville Nc 27320

Members Present :14

Jim Bonesteel NCZZC, Jim Clark N1YBH, Roger Joyner W4AYO, Furman Lanier WD4MKU, Mike Mansfield WA3RFE, Michael Mosser K4LIK, Terry Mosser KF4KPM, Jamey Nixon, K4RVJ, Butch Overby WA4RDX, Paul Patterson N4CE, Robert Pike KK4KTA, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SHP, Tim Walker WD4GXD

Guest: Bob Carter, Edie Lanier, Teri Overby

Meeting Called to Order By President Mike Mansfield at 1915.

John KB4SHP, did a program on RF Shark Open Spot 4 (which is kind of like a hotspot for Ham Radio. Except you don't need but one Radio and open spot. He demo his Yaesu FT 70A where he was able to connect with TGIF Network plus Brandmeister Network. Open Spot will also allow you to do several other networks with any digital radio.

Old Business

General Liability Insurance was obtained through Farm Bureau of Reidsville \$651.50 for the year. Had a good Field Day : 232 CW Contacts 63 Phone and 170 Digital. Mike submitted information to ARRL. Roger W4AYO got the paperwork that was needed to submit to get the echo link out of his call an into the Club's call.

New Business

The 345 Repeater was beeping and holding open key July 4, 2024, from around 1700 hrs till Trey went and powered cycled the repeater the next morning. It still has some Cracking from time to time.

John KB4SHP asked the group what they thought about trying to get some insurance to cover the equipment since the General Liability does cover that. It will be investigated and bought back before the group. Jim N3UZ advised that the next VE Session will 8-17-2024 at 0900 at the Barn 660 Butter Radio Reidsville NC this Information needs to be added to the Club's website. Also put a link on there for Hamstudy.com so students can sign up and register when they arrive for testing. Jim also advised the site needs mowing. Last time he was there he noticed a lot of changes to the site. Micheal KF4LIK mention when he was looking over the packet and was also told that the insurance doesn't cover events at a private place (example ve testing field day at Jim's Barn) Mike WA3RFE going to check with his agent who he got the insurance from and see what he can find out.

Motion was made to Adjourn and was 2nd by Jamey K4RVJ

MEETING ADJORNED AT 2015

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

*****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.**

NEXT TESTING SESSION: 8-17-2024 at 0900 at the Barn, 660 Butter Road, Reidsville, NC

Here's the link to HamStudy.com so students can sign up and register when they arrive for testing.

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 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!

Please direct any membership questions to KF4LIK, Michael Mosser: 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.

08/30/2024 - 09/01/2024

68th Annual Shelby Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina State Convention

Location: Shelby, NC

Farmers Market Flea Market

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club (SARC)

Website: <http://shelbyhamfest.org>

Cleveland County Fairgrounds

09/28/2024 - Lexington Hamfest

Location: Lexington, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: W4PAR The Healing Springs Mountain VHF Society

Website: <http://www.w4par.org>

Jim Graham Building, NC State Fairgrounds



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

OTHER AMATEUR RADIO NEWS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

FCC APPROVES SATELLITES FOR CELLULAR BROADBAND

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: The FCC has approved the launch of a low-earth orbit communications array of five satellites on V-band that is expected to open the door for US smartphones to make use of space-based cellular broadband services across the nation. The satellites have been given the OK to operate in the 37.5 to 42 GHz range for space-to-Earth communications; and the ranges of 47.2 to 50.2 GHz and 50.4 to 51.4 GHz for Earth to space communications.

Approval was also given for the use of 430-440 MHz for space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space transmissions, 2025-2110 MHz for Earth-to-space transmissions and 2200-2290 MHz for space-to-Earth transmissions.

The approvals are granted to Texas-based AST Space Mobile for what the company is characterizing as the largest communications array in history in low-earth orbit.

FOR THIS HAM, IT HAS BEEN THE SWEETEST CENTURY

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Our final story for this week is about the enduring power of amateur radio and the enduring love of those who have a license for it. Meet a YL who has achieved recognition, just as she turns 100 years old. Jim Damron N8TMW introduces her to us.

JIM: If you tried to add up the number of ham radio operators in North Carolina who either got or upgraded their license after an exam supervised by volunteer examiner Dorothy McCracken, you might find the mathematics a bit challenging. You might also find it difficult to total how many hopeful radio operators received her guidance as a volunteer instructor.

Along with her husband, Lewis WA4MTY, who is now a Silent Key, Dot spent many years assisting those in the western Piedmont region who were ready to take their FCC tests and hopefully get on the air. According to her daughter, Janet, she also traveled all over the country with Lewis, giving license exams where their presence was needed. Dot, who now has the callsign AD4D, knows well how amateur radio can make a good life even better -- at the age of 100.

Just days after reaching that one-century milestone in July, Dot received one more: she was presented with a plaque from the ARRL's North Carolina section manager, Marv Hoffman, WA4NC. The plaque was inscribed with the section's SUGAR award - an acronym for "Supporting, Upgrading, Growing Amateur Radio."

First licensed in 1985 as Extra Class operator KI4JM, she passed the 20 wpm code part of the test at a time when women were not always viewed as proficient CW ops. She not only mastered CW but went on to embrace portable operating, going camping with her husband and getting on the air.

Now, after all those decades, Dot has received the equivalent of a very large QSL card from amateur radio itself: The plaque that hangs on the wall of her room in a North Carolina rehabilitation facility: It's the SUGAR Award -- and how sweet it is.

This is Jim Damron N8TMW

(THE MOUNTAINEER, MARV HOFFMAN, WA4NC)

WORLD OF DX

In the World of DX, Gregor, S53RA is active from the Maldives as 8Q7GG until the 13th of August. He is operating QRP, holiday style, mainly in the evenings local time. He is using CW, SSB and FT8. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Philipp, OE6MCX, is on the air until the 12th of August as 8P9MC from Barbados, IOTA Number NA-021. He is operating holiday style, using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4 on 40-6 metres. QSL direct to home call.

Listen throughout August for stations with the suffix D-O-G as they publicize the poor state of stray animal care across many countries. For the International Dog Day, which will be marked on 26th of August, listen for K2D operating from various US states. See dogdayradio (dot) ORG for full details.

Listen for Seth, N4XTT, operating holiday style as J6/N4XTT from St. Lucia, IOTA Number NA-108, from the 10th through to the 17th of August. He will be using CW, SSB, FT8 and FT4 on 40-10 metres. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Luca, IU3MDI is active as ZA/IU3MDI [ZED AY STROKE EYE YOU 3 EMM DEE EYE] from Shkoder, Albania until the 17th of August. He is using CW, SSB and FT8 on 40-10 meters. See QSL details on QRZ.com

(425 DXBULLETIN, DXWORLD)