



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Thanksgiving!

That's right, the holidays are upon us! The good news is that maybe we will soon be done with getting up leaves. The next meeting is on 11-19, 7:15 at the Salvation Army is our last meeting of the year! Dec will be the social. I hope to see everyone there.

73!
Mike WA3RFE

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CLUB NEWS & MEETING MINUTES

Minutes

RCARC October 15, 2024
Salvation Army 704 Barnes St
Reidsville NC 27320

Members Present: 8

Roger Joyner W4AYO, Furman Lanier WD4MKU, Michael Mosser KF4LIK, Terry Mosser KF4KPM, Jim Smith N3UZ, John Swinney KB4SHP, Tim Walker WD4GXD.

Guest Present: 6

Edith Lanier, Jeff Shelton, W Williams, Joshua Cochenour, Buddy Sawyers KE4ZPO, Paul Picquet KQ4RGS,

Meeting Called to Order By President Mike Mansfield at 1915 hrs.

The member who signed up to do presentation didn't make it. So, we also had a Guest who contacted a member via radio and ask about coming to speak to us. So, the Floor what turned over to Chris Carlan N4OIF, who is also a Fire Fighter at Monroeton Fire Department on US158 West of Reidsville NC, He talked about getting deployed to Western North Carolina, to help with flooding and disaster there. He informed the group that he wanted to start a group in Rockingham County like they have in other counties where ham radio is involved with emergency and disaster. He was advised that the club use to do things like bike races and etc. with the county but that hasn't been done in some time. Also was advised that if this was going to take place that it would have to be done in accordance with the Rockingham County Emergency Management Coordinator another county officials.

Old Business

Jim N3UZ advised 2 upgrades at the last VE Session Aug 17, 2024: KO4JFQ and KQ4TGT. Bill N8KSG is unable to setup the WIRES X remote radio at his QTH due to his star link internet not being about to do port forwarding. At this time, it is still up in the air of the location or the QTH it will be housed at when it will be operational.

The Salvation Army Left information about needing Bell Ringers for the up coming Holiday Season at various Stores locations in Rockingham County. If anyone wants to Ring the bell for Club contact Mike WA3RFE. Also, in the information it had various amounts of money that could be a donation to help. Roger W4AYO Made the Motion to Give the Salvation Army a donation from the Club in the amount of \$125.00. It was 2nd by Paul N4CE all present were in favor.

New Business

Red Cross Sent a letter thanking the Club for the donation.

Roger Joyner W4AYO and John Swinney KB4SHP will be checking with 2 locations for The December Social. Simply MK's in Eden On Washington St. And the The Ridge Buffet in Wentworth on Cherokee Camp Road. Reidsville.

John Swinney KB4SHP ask the group instead of the Club to writing him a check for the deposit of \$55.64 that he made at O Sugar for the Room for the Social if it could just be applied to his 2025 and 2026 Membership dues. No one at the meeting was against it.

Mike Mansfield WA3RFE advised the members that was present that he will be stepping down as President of RCARC Club at the End of December 2024. Roger W4AYO and Paul N4CE will select the RCARC

Member or Members for the Club to Vote on for Mike's Replacement. Mike will also ask Trey Belton about using his location for the remote radio site for the fusion equipment.

VE Testing at Jim Smith Barn 660 Butter Road Reidsville 27320 November 16, 2025, at 9 AM

Meeting Adjourned 1st By Roger W4AYO 2nd by Jim N3UZ 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.**

Here's the link to [HamStudy.com](https://www.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.

VE Testing at Jim Smith Barn 660 Butter Road Reidsville 27320 November 16, 2025, at 9 AM

**** 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.

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.

11/17/2024 - 35 Annual JARSfest 2024

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://jars.net>



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

AWARD FOR USE OF WIRELESS IN WEATHER PREDICTION

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: A prominent educator in Israel has achieved international recognition for her work in using wireless signals to aid in prediction of extreme weather, such as flash floods. We hear about her from Graham Kemp VK4BB.

GRAHAM: Hagit Messer-Yaron has been honoured by the IEEE for her work in harnessing wireless signals to collect weather data -- to serve as a reliable predictor of floods. She was inspired to assist meteorologists who had told her, years ago, that predictions are not always possible or consistent when using radar, satellites and other tools. Working with a research team, she found a more reliable method using wireless communication. The process involves use of algorithms developed by her and her team and applied to data collected from communication networks. This technique, which was tested first in Israel, can predict flash floods by extracting the data from measurements in the difference between the amplitude of the signals transmitted and those received. She is hoping to apply it to communication networks globally. Her hope is that people would be alerted well in advance of the storm and could be evacuated from affected areas sooner.

For her work, she has received the Medal for Environmental and Safety Technologies from the IEEE, where she is also a Life Fellow.

This is Graham Kemp VK4BB.

OLDER S-BAND TECHNOLOGY KEEPS VOYAGER 1 TRANSMITTING

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Another crisis was resolved aboard the Voyager 1 deep space probe by turning back the clock on technology. Kent Peterson KCØDGY tells us what happened.

KENT: For Voyager 1, there was another disturbing incidence of radio silence all over again. A shutdown in October of the X-band radio transmitter left the space probe unable to communicate with the Deep Space Network. The mission team linked the problem to a command that had been sent to turn on one of Voyager's heaters. The team believes the command somehow activated the spacecraft's fault-protection system which conserves its power. That lowered the rate of data transmission and shut off the X-band transmitter, instead engaging the S-band transmitter.

Recounting the sequence of events in the Voyager Blog, NASA's Tony Greicius wrote that S-band transmission, which has a fainter signal than X-band and consumes less power, had not been used by the space team since 1981. S-band operates on frequencies between 2 and 4 GHz whereas X-band uses frequencies in the range between 8 and 12 GHz. The NASA blogger wrote: [quote] "The flight team was not certain the S-band could be detected at Earth due to the spacecraft's distance, but engineers with the Deep Space Network were able to find it." [endquote] The old S-band transmitter has turned in a reliable performance since October 24th, even from the distance of more than 15 billion miles, or 24 billion kilometres, from Earth, and will remain in use while the team continues its troubleshooting.

According to the blog, [quote] "it may take days to weeks before the team can identify the underlying issue that triggered the fault protection system." [endquote]

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

HAMVENTION ANNOUNCES THEME: "RADIO INDEPENDENCE"

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: With Hamvention 2025 set for the weekend of May 16th, the organizers are asking prospective attendees to ponder the question of what "radio independence" means to them. That is, in fact, the theme for the convention in Xenia, Ohio. In announcing the theme, the Hamvention team says [quote] "In the course of history radio has been heavily regulated and, in some instances, banned altogether. We are fortunate to enjoy these freedoms, and for us at Hamvention we are proud of our Radio Independence. What does Radio Independence mean to you?" [endquote]

Hopefully there will be many answers found in the workshops, seminars and eyeball QSOs at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

(HAMVENTION)