



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.



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The RockingHAMmer News

Post Office Box 2264, Reidsville, North Carolina, 27323

December 2024

Vol. 22 No. 12

www.n4iv.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas!!

We made it to the end of yet another year. I want to say it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your President the last 2 years. In case you have not heard, John Sweeny KB4SHP will be your next President, and I am sure he will do a wonderful job.

I hope everyone will be able to attend the Christmas social this month. It will be Sat, 12-14 6pm at Simply MK in Eden.

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

November 2024 VE Session News

The club's VE team conducted their last VE test session for the year on Saturday, November 16th at Jim's – N3UZ's barn. There were 6 unlicensed gentlemen to take the Technician test and all 6 passed. In addition, Ray Williams also passed his General class license.

Please welcome these new hams on the air.

The VE team:

Jim Smith N3UZ
Lynn Smith N3WKW
Bob Thibodeau KN4BBA
Paul Patterson N4CE

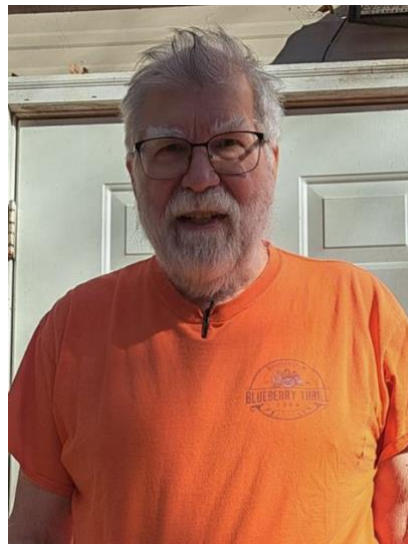
The Six New Hams



Kevin Clark KQ4TYC



Josh Cochenour KQ4YWT



Rick Longhome KQ4YTZ



Robert Oakley KQ4YTR



Adam Steelman KQ4YWU



Ray Williams KQ4YWQ

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 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.

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.

11/17/2024 - 35 Annual JARSfest 2024

Location: Benson, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Website: <https://jars.net>

03/07/2025 - 03/08/2025 - Charlotte Hamfest

Location: Concord, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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

04/05/2025 - RARSfest, - ARRL North Carolina State Convention

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.rarsfest.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

FCC APPROVES SATELLITE-TO-CELL COVERAGE FOR STARLINK

PAUL/ANCHOR: Our top story this week comes from Washington, D.C., where Starlink satellites recently received the FCC's go-ahead to provide emergency service for mobile phones, particularly in emergencies. Kent Peterson KCØDGY brings us up to date.

KENT: SpaceX has received permission to provide Starlink satellite service to cellular phones in areas of the US where terrestrial cellular networks do not operate. The Federal Communications Commission gave its approval in late November for direct-to-cell capability, known as Supplemental Coverage from Space, using second-generation Starlink satellites that will be launched soon. There will be as many as 7,500 of these new satellites that will be capable of providing this kind of mobile phone service. SpaceX has a lease agreement with cellular provider T-Mobile for this service in the continental US, Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Earth-to-space communication will occur on the frequency range between 1910 and 1915 MHz; space-to-Earth communication will use the range between 1990 and 1995 MHz.

The FCC order, dated November 26th, said that direct-to-cell capability is designed to provide a more robust link to emergency services when severe weather or other conditions do not make conventional connections possible.

The FCC said that before Starlink can provide this service to mobile phones outside the United States, it would need permission and licenses from those countries' governments. The FCC said that various sub-bands between 1429 MHz and 2690 MHz would be used for this purpose.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

(ARS TECHNICA, FCC)

HAMSCI LAUNCHES FREE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PAUL/ANCHOR: There's always something fascinating going on with the citizen science team at HamSCI and now there's a new way to keep track of what they're up to. Kevin Trotman N5PRE tells us how.

KEVIN: The amateur radio citizen science investigation team known as HamSCI has begun publishing a new quarterly newsletter focusing on hams and the scientific community.

The newsletter, which is delivered as a free download, contains updates on ongoing projects and any related activities.

HamSCI's founder, Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, expects that the new publication will enhance communication among supporters and observers.

In addition to bringing readers up to date on various projects, the inaugural issue features a number of profiles of volunteers deeply involved in HamSCI's work, including data analyst Gwyn Griffiths, G3ZIL. The WSPR enthusiast has been deeply involved in various propagation studies.

The newsletter download is available at hamsci.org/newsletter. You can also visit the HamSCI website at hamsci.org to add your name to the mailing list.

This is Kevin Trotman N5PRE. / (HamSCI)

RCARC

The Rockinghammer News – December 2024