



Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



N4IV

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|--|--|---|---|
| President Trey Belton - W4SH | Vice-President Tim Walker - WD4GXD | Treasurer Pat Patterson - N4SLP | Secretary Peggy Brewer - KJ4ANA |
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The RockingHAMmer News

Vol. 7 No. 9

www.rcarc.com

September 2009

President's Corner

Wow, this has been a quick summer. Fall will be here soon with cooler weather to follow before we know it.

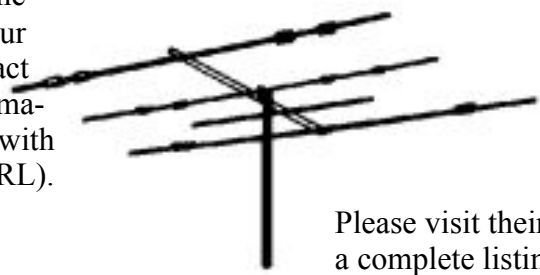
One thing to keep in mind is the Club elections that will be coming up in November. Probably at our next meeting a nomination committee will be formed to find candidates for the Officer Positions for next year. I hope some of you will consider serving on that committee. And, if you are interested in becoming a Club Officer next year, be sure to let one of the committee members know.

And, please make plans to attend our Club picnic on October 3rd at Lake Lemar, starting at 12pm. This will a great location for us to meet and will also be very convenient for everyone. Thanks to Mike, WA3RFE for making arraignments for us to use this great location. We will start our Socials back at the Sirloin House on the first Saturday of November.

Hope to talk with each of you soon,

Trey
W4SH

ARRL AFFILIATED Help the club and be a part of the largest Amateur Radio organization in the world! Contact Dal Williams, W4YQY for more information. The RCARC is an affiliated club with the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL).



Please visit their website www.arrl.org to get a complete listing of the benefits available to the club and it's members. Consider joining or renewing your ARRL membership through the club since a portion of your payment will be received by the club.



Rockingham County is a member of the National Weather Service in Blacksburg, Va. Skywarn Weather Spotters (and all amateur radio operators) encountering severe weather, are encouraged to monitor, and make reports to the net control on 147.03 repeater. When; "Watches or Warnings" require net activation. The 146.85 and 147.345 repeaters will be programmed to state; "SEVER WEATHER ALERTS". The 147.03 repeater is one of several the Blacksburg office will activate when severe weather requires gathering weather reports from our county.



NOAA WEATHER RADIO BANDS CHANNELS FREQUENCIES

| | | |
|----------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 162.400 | WXL42 | Winston Salem NWS, Piedmont area |
| 162.475 | WXL60 | Blacksburg NWS, Rockingham County |
| 162.550 | WXL58 | Raleigh NWS, Piedmont & Central NC |

A Nation-wide network of radio stations broadcasts continuous weather information from nearby NWS offices. You can get weather 24 hours per day. NOAA weather radios the best way to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. It's best to have a battery back up, and SAME (Specific Area Message Encoder) that will alert you when a watch or warning is issued for Rockingham County. Complete information at NOAA's website <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>



Upcoming Events

RCARC meeting:

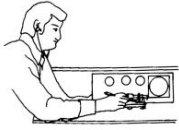
The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the American Red Cross building located at 3692 NC Hwy 14, south of Eden. The meeting starts at 7:00pm and everyone is welcome. Any changes in date and/or time will be announced at the club meeting prior to the change and on the scheduled Monday night RCARC 2 meter net. **Next meeting is September 15th.**

Social:

RCARC Social - Join us on the first Saturday of each month at 6:00pm at the Sirloin House in Eden. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE TAKING A SUMMER BREAK . THERE WILL NOT BE A SOCIAL DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER!.** However, look in this news letter for info on the upcoming Oct 3rd fall, club picnic!!

Thursday breakfast

Mark your calendar and enjoy some good food and conversation. Join us each Thursday at Chaney's Resturant on Freeway drive, Reidsville. Folks start showing up between 7am and 7:30am .



Local/Area Nets



Monday 7:30pm Southside net 2 meter net 146.700MHz 107.2 tone

The Virginia Southside net meeting is held each week. Quite a few of our members check into this net who are up in Virginia and the repeater should be accessible to most of us. It is used to provide net business and for announcements. Let's support our neighbors up north.

Monday 8:30pm - RCARC 2 meter net 146.850MHz 103.5 tone

The RCARC net is held weekly. We will use the 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone machine should the 146.850 machine be unavailable.

Please make it a priority to check into the net. The club net is conducted each week to provide **net business** and **announcements** for members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club. **JAMEY K4RVJ AND MKE KD4CSJ ARE LOOKING TO FILL EMPTY NCS SLOTS.**

Tuesday 8:00pm 440 rag-chew net 443.975MHZ no tone

This net meets each Tuesday night except the third Tuesday of the month which is the regularly scheduled RCARC club meeting. (Not RCARC affiliated)

Wednesday 8pm 10 Meter rag-chew net 28.550 usb

This net meets each Wenesday night and gives folks an opportunity to chat with friends in Virginia and North Carolina. (Not RCARC affiliated).

Other Area Nets

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday - 8:30pm.... | Southern Alamance Net..... | 146.670 no tone |
| Sunday - 9:00pm.... | Greensboro News & Information Net.... | 145.150 100tone |
| Sunday - 9:30pm.... | Central N.C. Traffic Net..... | 146.820 no tone |
| Monday - 8:00pm.... | Randolph County Net..... | 147.255 no tone |
| Tuesday - 8:00pm.... | Burlington ARES Net..... | 146.670 no tone |

Tuesday - 8:30pm....Triad Skywarn Net.....147.255 no tone

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Wednesday - 8:00pm.. | Roanoke Amateur Club Net..... | 146.985 no tone |
| Wednesday - 8:30pm.. | Forsyth County ARES Net..... | 145.470 100 tone |
| Wednesday - 8:45pm.. | Greensboro Amateur Society Net..... | 145.250 88.5 tone |

Other Area Nets, continued

Thursday - 9:00pm....Guilford County ARES Net.....145.150 no tone

****Daily nets****

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 5:30am..... | Possum Trot Net..... | 147.225 no tone |
| 2:30pm..... | Vag-A-Bon Net..... | 145.470 100 tone |
| 7:30pm..... | Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES)..... | 3.923 1sb |

HAMFESTS ! HAMFESTS ! HAMFESTS ! HAMFESTS !

Pat and I saw a few of the RCARC club members at the Shelby hamfest, Sept 5th. The weather was fantastic and lots of things to see, buy and sell. Pat and I had a tailgate setup and sold some dolls and some of my misc. ham stuff.

| Hamfest | Date | Info |
|---|-------------|---|
| York County Amateur Radio Society (K4YTZ) | 3 Oct 2009 | http://www.rockhillhamfest.com Rock Hill, SC Faith Assembly of God 2800 Faith Blvd. |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

CQ

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

CQ

Rockingham County VE Testing



The regularly scheduled VEC testing is held on each odd numbered month. The exams are given at the Eden branch of the Rockingham County Library located 598 South Pierce Street in Eden, NC. Registration begins at 9:00am with testing starting at 9:30am. Be sure

and read what you need to bring and fee on our website link:

<http://www.rcarc.com/vesched.html> --The next VE test session is scheduled to be held Saturday, Sept. 26th.

Fall Antenna happenings!

Mike and Russ are planning to install towers at their qth's in the future, I'm sure help would be appreciated. also several club members are working on 160 meter antennas, I have one up and working but will need some adjusting for the desired frequency, and cement for the post at each end, when the ground is soft enough to dig a post hole.

Jamey K4RVJ

Southside ARC August program.

A number of our members attended the SARC, August meeting. Robert Krasowski, KB2PNM who is from Poland and now residing in Asheboro, NC, gave an informative talk about what is called NSP (Near space Experiment) His website where you can find detail information about the balloon launch is <http://www.anchorsat.com/balloon.html>



NSP - Near Space Experiment by Robert Krasowski KB2PNM and Family

E-mail: rkrasowski@yahoo.com

Thanks to Mike WA3RFE for the website link and to Bryant Pierce, W4WBP for the following article about it.

His program was about his high altitude balloon experience, he called it near space and it was indeed near space due to the altitude attained was greater than 97,000 feet. His gondola was home built using aluminum spars and covered with tow inch thick Styro-foam. There were two windows in the gondola, one on the side and the other on the bottom. Inside was mounted a camera mounted on a motorized frame that could move in a 90 degree arc. A computer was on board, that controlled everything. Readings were taken every second along with a picture, one out the side window and one out the bottom window. Temperatures and humidity were taken also every thirty seconds and saved in the data logger. His temperature sensors were only good to 40 degrees below zero, so the coldest temperatures were negative 40 degrees. The payload was tracked using APRS and the best of my recollection was that this was transmitted on 145.13 MHz.

The lifting balloon used was a weather balloon, blown up with helium and then below that was a toy parachute "borrowed" from one his children's toys, and the gondola was hung below that.

He did his home work studying the weather patterns over NC and waited for a day he felt would be conducive to tracking and not loosing the balloon in an area where he could not access, like some places on Fort Bragg military installation.

His next venture, he wants to send up a balloon, but have a bleeder valve in the balloon so that it not continues to ascend and expand due the thin atmosphere, have a repeater in the gondola. That way when the balloon reaches a set altitude, it will just hang there near 100,000 feet, not moving due to lack of wind and see where he can talk to. If he uses digital mode and about 5 watts, it ought to have very good coverage over a tremendous area. It would be better than the repeater on Mt. Mitchell at 6500 feet.

Can you say eastern seaboard coverage?

FALL RCARC CLUB COOK OUT

Well things didn't work out well for us last year, but we'll make it work this year. As Trey mentioned this year's picnic will be held on Saturday October 3rd at 12:00 noon at Lake Lemar. A big thanks to Mike, WA3RFE for securing the location and for Peggy, KJ4ANA to help with planning the necessary food. More information at the September meeting but last I talked to Peggy she was well on the way to seeing to it that we had lots of outstanding food to eat. As in the past this will be a hotdog and hamburger cookout with members encouraged to bring a desert or covered dish .

If you're not familiar with getting to lake Lemar, Mike was kind enough to include directions and a map.

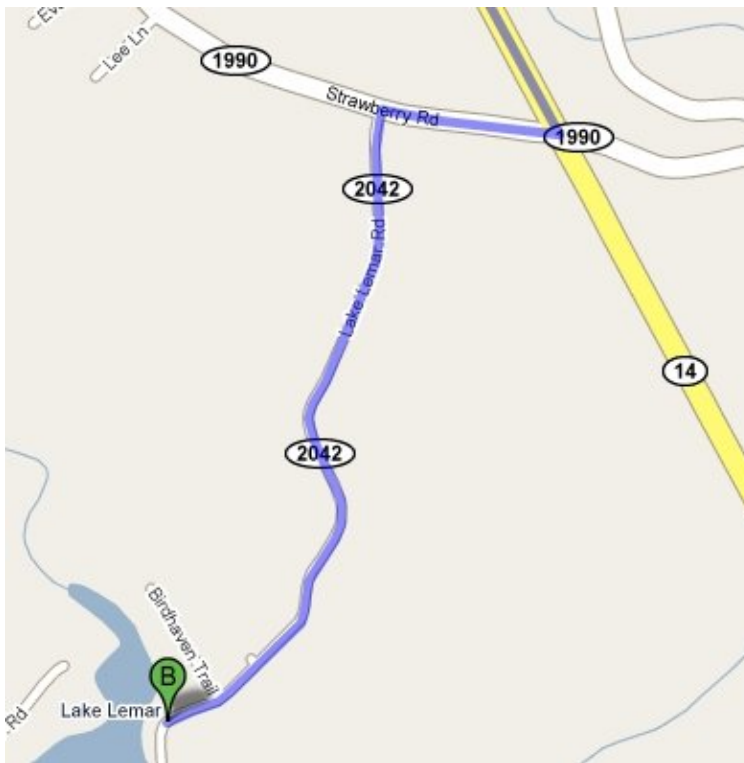
Start address: 3692 NC Highway 14 Reidsville, NC 27320

End address: Lake Lemar

Start at: 3692 NC Highway 14 Reidsville, NC 27320

1. Head southeast on NC-14/NC Hwy 14 toward Harrison Crossroad Loop/NC-2037 - 2.2 mi
2. Turn right at NC-1990/Strawberry Rd - 0.2 mi
3. Turn left at Lake Lemar Rd/NC-2042 Destination will be on the right - 0.9 mi

Arrive at: Lake Lemar



OCTOBER SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

The website for this exercise is <http://www.w4ghs.org/Hazel.html>. The website is in the early stages of development and there are a couple of dead links that will become active after the drill is ended. Go to the website to register as a ham or as an agency interested in participating.

This pending Simulated Emergency Test will be held on October 3, 2009. The time frame for this exercise is during the national SET weekend. Participation is open to any agency or Amateur Radio emergency communications organization such as RACES, ARES, a SKYWARN group or Amateur Radio club. It is also open to individual Amateur Radio operators. If you are not a part of an organized emergency communications group or if your group is uninterested in participation, you may still be part of this event. There have been times in major disasters that a single person was the only contact passing information from within the impact area to the outside world for the first hours or days. So, there is a place for any interested communicator in this training.

The scenario will be very similar to Hurricane Hazel that impacted Virginia in the middle of October of 1954. Our scenario will have the size and intensity of Hurricane Hazel but a little different path through Virginia. The exact path of this simulated hurricane will be published in bulletins prepared by the NWS Blacksburg office and will be read on Skywarn nets during the exercise. Bulletins will be read on SKYWARN nets prior to the storm impacting Virginia (readings beginning at 8:00 a.m.). The storm will begin impacting Virginia at 9:00 a.m. In the first hour of the exercise, the Skywarn net will be collecting simulated weather information from across the Commonwealth. There may be some reports coming from NC. Following the first hour (8-9), the NWS will continue to collect damage information and provide updates to different areas as required. SKYWARN will continue to operate throughout the exercise.

If you or your agency is interested in participation, click on the "Registration" button above and complete the form and hit "submit" and traffic will be prepared for your location.

If you have questions, phone me at 276-398-3548 or email me at w4ghs@arri.net. Glen Sage, W4GHS

About the Newsletter:

This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham County Amateur Radio club, and friends. An email of the newsletter is available by letting the editor know in advance. Please let the editor know of your change of address! Your suggestions, articles and questions are always welcomed.

Paul Patterson (N4CE) 336-548-2027, n4ce@rcarc.com

RCARC Meeting Tuesday August , 2009

-Meeting called to order by president, Trey, W4SH.

Meeting started at 7:03pm

-Minutes of July meeting were read by vice president, Tim, WD4GXD.

-17 members and guests at meeting. Guest present, Berry Mily.

-New member to join club, Gary Evans. Welcome to our club.

Corrections - none.

-Treasurers report , Pat, N4SLP

Income: Dues=\$25.00, refund insurance =\$27.16, total \$52.16.

Expense: ARRL Subscription Eden Library \$39.00, One time correction \$20.00,

Capital account \$1,701.03, General Account \$2,625.09, total accounts \$4326.12

-Committee Reports:

-Technical: Dal, W4YQY, Nothing to report.

-ARES: Dal, W4YQY, Nothing to report. Pat, N4SLP has taken NEM courses and passed. Great job.

-Publicity,: By Pat, N4SLP, put ad in paper each month at no cost to club. Thank you.

Picture of Mike Mansfield, WA3RFE, was in the paper.

Paul, N4CE doing a video of club to show at school and hope to show on TV also.

-Historian: Paul, N4CE, working on video for school and others to learn about RCARC.

-OLD BUSINESS:

-Pat, N4slp to put old equipment account into one account.

-George, WN4LTY to check with 911 center to see if we could put up tower for club.

-Mike, KD4CSJ, Bike ride on Oct 17th, 2009. Need club members to help.

-NEW BUSINESS:

-Russ, NC4CN, call sign cost will be \$1.10

-Club to tour CH 2 TV station. Russ will let club know when we can take tour.

-Club picnic will be October 3, 2009 at Lake Lemar, 19N Reidsville. Mike, WA3RFE will check to get a shelter for club. Picnic will be held from 12 -2. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert. We will be having hotdogs and hamburgers. This will be social for October. We will have a social at sirloin house November 7, 2009.

-PROGRAM:

- Tim, WD4GXD was on emergency power sources for storms.

-Meeting adjourn at 8:22P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Peggy, KJ4ANA, RCARC Secretary