



Rockingham County
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



N4IV

President Mike Mansfield, WA3RFE	Vice-President Cam McIntire, KU4VY	Treasurer Ambra Janney, KJ4YOC	Secretary Berry Miley, WB4III
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The RockingHAMmer News

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President's Corner

Busy, Busy, Busy! We have lots of Ham events coming up so save your pennies and warm up your radios.

Charlotte Hamfest was this past weekend. Raleigh's RARSFEST is April 23rd and our Swapfest is May 14th.

We have been asked to help out with the MS walk on April 9th and to help with Gears ad Cheers on May 21st. Let me know if you can help with either of these.

The Greensboro club has just started an Extra Class course that is held on Sunday evenings from 4:00 to 6:00pm on the 150 machine. It will be a good opportunity to upgrade or to just brush up on your knowledge.

I enjoyed the antenna party Angie threw. She has her HF and UHF/VHF antennas up, so she will be burning up the airwaves now. I was really hoping we would not get the di-pole up so we would have to come back for more chili, but it was not to be. Angie and Tim completed that task and got the di-pole in the air.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next Club meeting.

73's

Mike, WA3RFE

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About the Newsletter : This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Rockingham Co. Amateur Radio Club. Please advise me of any change of address. Please have all articles to me by the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 73, W4SIX, Bill, your editor



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; “Watchers or Warnings” require net activation. The 146.85 and 147.345 repeaters will be programmed to state; “SEVERE 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 CO.
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 a day. NOAA weather radios are the best way to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. It’s best to have a battery backup 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 www.weather.gov/nwr/

EVENTS

RCARC MONTHLY 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 the date or time will be announced on the scheduled Monday night RCARC 2 meter net. **Next meeting is April 19, 2011.**

THURSDAY’S BREAKFAST

Gathering between 7:10am and 7:30am every Thursday at Chaney’s on Freeway Drive in Reidsville. Come join the conversations, food, subtle jokes, and bragging. Last to arrive PAYS! Hi! Hi!

COMMUTE BUNCH

On the 147.345 repeater, every weekday, mobiles get together and ragchew on the way to work. Also, the Thursday morning breakfast group joins in making more fun for the group. Some base stations join the commute bunch to wish them a good day at work and just to say good morning. Try us between 6:30am and 7:30am. We welcome all newcomers.

VEC TESTING

The regularly scheduled VEC testing is held on the last Saturday of each odd numbered month. Go to the Eden branch of the Rockingham County Library at 598 S. Pierce St., Eden, NC. Registration begins at 9am, testing starts at 9:30am. Be sure to read what is needed from our website link : www.rcarc.com/vesched.html. including the fee. NEXT TEST SESSION - MARCH 26, 2011.

APRIL SOCIAL

April's social is being held on Saturday, April 2, at the Sirloin House in Eden at 6:00pm. Yum, Yum!!

AREA HAMFESTS

RARSFEST www.rars.org	RALEIGH, NC	APRIL 23
RCARC SWAPFEST www.rcarc.com	REIDSVILLE, NC	MAY 14
DAYTON HAMVENTION www.hamvention.org	DAYTON, OHIO	MAY 20 - 22
W-S CLASSIC HAMFEST www.Classic2011.w4nc.org	WINSTON SALEM, NC	JUNE 11

NASA Seeks Amateur Radio Operators' Aid to Listen for Nanosatellite's Beacon Signal

On Wednesday, January 19 at 1630 UTC, engineers at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama confirmed that the NanoSail-D nanosatellite ejected from Fast Affordable Scientific and Technology Satellite (FASTSAT). According to NASA, the ejection event occurred spontaneously and when engineers at Marshall identified and analyzed onboard FASTSAT telemetry; the ejection of NanoSail-D also has been confirmed by ground-based satellite tracking assets.

NASA is asking radio amateurs to listen on 437.270 MHz for the signal and verify NanoSail-D is operating. Hams should send information to the NanoSail-D dashboard via the web at, www.nanosaild.engr.scu.edu/dashboard.htm NASA said that the NanoSail-D science team is hopeful the nanosatellite is healthy and can complete its solar sail mission. "This is great news for our team," said Dean Alhorn, NanoSail-D principal investigator and aerospace engineer at the Marshall Center. "We're anxious to hear the beacon which tells us that NanoSail-D is healthy and operating as planned. The science team is hopeful to see that NanoSail-D is operational and will be able to unfurl its solar sail." As of Thursday, January 20, the NanoSail-D dashboard is reporting that beacon data has been received, but NASA still wants amateurs to track and report the signals.

On December 6, 2010, NASA triggered the planned ejection of NanoSail-D from FASTSAT. At that time, the team confirmed that the door successfully opened and data indicated a successful ejection. Upon further analysis, however, the team found no evidence of NanoSail-D in low-Earth orbit (LEO), leading them to believe NanoSail-D remained inside FASTSAT. The FASTSAT mission has continued to operate as planned with the five other scientific experiments operating nominally.

"We knew that the door opened and it was possible that NanoSail-D could eject on its own," said FASTSAT Project Manager Mark Boudreaux. What a pleasant surprise we had Wednesday morning when our flight operations team confirmed that NanoSail-D is now a free flyer."

If the deployment is successful, NASA said that NanoSail-D will stay in LEO between 70 and 120 days, depending on atmospheric conditions. NanoSail-D is designed to demonstrate deployment of a compact solar sail boom system that could lead to further development of this alternative solar sail propulsion technology and FASTSAT's ability to eject a nanosatellite from a micro-satellite -- while avoiding re-contact with the FASTSAT satellite bus.

Submitted by Paul Patterson, N4CE

If interested in listening for the Nanosatellite's beacon contact Paul by e-mail at N4CE@RCARC.COM.

AREA NETS

Monday 8:00PM Southside 2 meter net 146.700MHz 107.2 tone

The Virginia Southside net meeting is held each week. Quite a few of our Virginia members check into this net. 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

This club net is a weekly meeting for announcements, business, and comments. We will use 147.345 MHz 103.5 tone if the 146.850 is unavailable. Please make it a priority to check into our net. Jamey, K4RVJ, and Mike, KD4CSJ, are looking to fill empty NCS slots. Thanks for your help.

Tuesday 7:00PM 2 meter HEN net NEW!! 147.345MHz 103.5 tone

This net meets each Tuesday night except the third Tuesday of each month due to the regular scheduled RCARC club meeting. (NOT RCARC affiliated.) This new net is mainly used by YL's.

Tuesday 8:00PM 440 rag-chew net 443.975MHz no tone

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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 tone
Sunday 9:30pm	Central NC Traffic Net	146.820 no tone
Monday 8:00pm	Randolph County Net	147.255 no tone
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 no tone
Wednesday 8:00pm	Roanoke Amateur Club Net	146.255 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
Thursday 8:00pm	Pink Hill, NC	50.200 no tone
Thursday 9:00pm	Guilford County ARES Net	145.150 no tone
Saturday 8:00am	Wake Forest, NC	50.200 no tone
Daily Nets		
5:30am	Possum Trot Net	147.225 no tone
8:00am	Richmond 6 Meter Net	50.215 no tone
2:30pm	Vag-A-Bon Net	145.470 100 tone
7:30pm	Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES)	3.923 lsb



Who's ham shack is this?

(See answer on last page.)



2011 Frostfest Attendees



Angie's antenna party!

Minutes for February 15, 2011

The Rockingham Amateur Radio Club held its February 2011 meeting on February 15, 2011, at the Red Cross Building on Highway 14 between Eden and Reidsville. There were 21 persons present. Meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Mike Mansfield (WA3RFE) followed by introductions.

Minutes were read by Secretary Berry Miley (WB4III) and were accepted.

Committee Reports

Technical- Power Supply and power cable were swapped out on 146.850 repeater. Operation has been good since. The radios at the Red Cross building, whose location were brought up at the last meeting, have been subsequently located. Dal Williams (W4YQY) advised that we need to inventory this equipment. Radio Station crew will be going up the tower for 94.5 where the 147.345 repeater is located. It was suggested that they could replace connector and do a visual inspection and perhaps also take photographs to get an idea of the condition of equipment. We will need to commit funds to have work done on the top of the tower. We should be thinking about what kind of offer to make in order to minimize repeater downtime.

ARES/Skywarn- Skywarn weather spotter class will be held on April 18 at 7pm. Guilford County is holding exercises on February 26. Bring HT for traffic passing practice. Mike and Tim (WD4GXD) plan to attend. Also mentioned were the Gears and Cheers Bike-a-thon on May 21 and the MS walk on April 9 both of which will need the participation of amateur radio operators who are comfortable operating in a net type communications situation. An ARES Area 9 net is being studied. Dal also relayed an incident of an amateur operator transmitting on Sheriff's Department Frequencies. The club was reminded that transmissions should be on amateur frequencies and those allowed to the operator's license class unless it is a genuine emergency as defined by FCC regulations.

Publicity- Peggy Brewer (KJ4ANA) and Angie Stallings (KJ4WRE) are formulating ideas on publicity. Ad is still in paper.

Swapfest- Lamarr Neese (WB4VVY) and George Brewer (WN4LTY) reported that a vendor from past swapfests has expressed interest and intents to participate. Swapfest will be promoted in SERA and in the April or May QST. Swapfest will be on May 14th.

Historian- Nothing to report

Old Business

The next Social will be held on April 2. The club thanks Peggy for taking the lead on organizing our socials.

Members were advised to make a list of any club equipment in their possession and bring to next meeting.

Peggy and Angie report that Hennessey is going well. New participants encouraged and welcome.

New Business

Field Day is coming up on June 25 and 26. Mike Lewis (KD4CSJ) is verifying that we can hold at same location as last year which is Shelter One at Lake Reidsville. Angie is taking the lead on organization of the Field Day assisted by Paul Patterson (N4CE) and Trey Belton (W4SH) Vice President Cam McIntire (KU4VY) called for volunteers for program presentations.

Program

"Refilling Printer Ink Cartridges" presented by Paul Patterson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted

Berry Miley, WB4III

Secretary, Rockingham Country Amateur Radio Club

