



The Blue Ridge Echo . . Echo . . Echo . .



*Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK
Also, find us on the web at <http://www.radioclub.org>!
Volume 18, Number 2 – February, 2005*

The Prez Sez

The Holiday season is behind us and after spring weather we now dip back into the freezer! The January meeting hosted Walt's (KO4JN) presentation on wire antennas, complete with examples provided by several members. Walt has replaced the antenna switches in the club shack and the equipment is ready for some solid contacts. January 2005 QST had a neat article by Bob Shrader (W6BNB) on crystal sets that included some variometer designs. In the same issue W1FR wrote an article on protecting antenna tuners from lightning transients. Take a look at it because our own Michael Parente (AI4GR) will be talking to us on protecting equipment from electrical spikes and other dangerous "wild" electricity at the February meeting. With today's microprocessors this subject is more important than ever. How many of us have lost a modem in a thunderstorm? Me for instance! See you all on February 1st.

73,
George, K3GK

***Our Next Meeting: February 1, 2005
Stoney Mountain Activities Center, 7:30 pm
Michael Parente, AI4GR, on electrical protection measures***

"The years teach much that the days never know." -- Emerson

**New Member: Dickerson (Dick) H. Sanders - AG4PW - 303 North Scarlet Oak Lane,
Hendersonville, NC 28791-2909.**

A BIG THANK YOU

to Larry Brady, NC4LB, and the Asheville QuickPrint Team for printing the Echo every month!

Dues Are Due!

Remember that the first of the year marks the renewal time for Club dues. As of the November Meeting, the annual dues have been raised to \$20.00. Bring your check book on Tuesday.!

Upcoming Hamfests

Charleston SC, Hamfest and Computer Fair
Saturday February 5, 2005

Richmond, VA Frostfest 2005
Sunday, February 20, 2005

Charlotte, NC 2005 Hamfest and Computerfair
March 12 & 13, 2005

BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes of January 4th, 2005

The January meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club began promptly at 7:30 p.m. George Korper, K3GK, club president, was the presiding officer. The meeting began with a moment of silence for the amateurs that perished in the tsunami in the Indian Ocean. We then were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by George.

There were 29 souls in attendance, including three visitors. The visitors were: Dick Saunders, AG4PW; Rod Baird, KE4YII; and Alex Redden, who is soon being tested for his technician license. We welcome Eric Mauney, W4ENC, as our newest member.

George welcomed all present, and our guests were introduced. Announcements included the fact that dues are now due. Please remember that dues are \$20.00 this year.

Needed: The club needs a volunteer to serve on the steering committee as a member at large. This isn't a hard job. The steering meeting meets at 6:30 p.m. on the night of the regular club meeting.

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer gave the bottom line balance as of 1/04/2005 as \$645.80.

Testing is scheduled for the Saturday of February 12th, at the Mountain Home Fire Department. The testing starts at 9:00 a.m. If you know of anyone who wishes to upgrade or test for the first time, please let them know.

At this point in the meeting, Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, presented this month's program. The theme of Walt's presentation was wire antennas. Antennas that Walt brought to mind included: Random Wires, Long Wires, Dipoles, the G5RV, the Double Bazooka for 40 meters, and loops. Walt reminded everyone that wire antennas are an economical way to get on the air, and they are very effective.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, showed a simply built; but, effective two meter quad that he had built from pvc pipe and copper wire. Ronnie Parham, K2SST, showed a couple of antennas he had home brewed from pvc pipe, a tape measure, and wire.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks KG4NBN

Top Ten Things A Good Club Should Have: (this month #'s 10-7, courtesy W4CC)

10. Interesting meetings. If you only have boring business meetings, then people will stop coming to your meetings. Make sure that you have an interesting program as a part of most meetings. If you must discuss a lot of business during certain meetings, consider playing a short 10-15 minute videotape program, such as those from the ARRL Video collection (<http://www.arrl.org/ead/videos.html>)

9. Welcoming committee. Make sure that any guests are made to feel welcome. This could be as simple as having someone look for newcomers and making an effort to shake hands and talk to them. Introduce guests during your meetings so everyone will know who to greet after the meeting.

8. Social Activities. A club should have some activities where the whole point is for the members to get to know each other better. If your members become friends, then it is more likely they will continue to come to your meetings and volunteer for the club. If there is no opportunity for members of your club to socialize, then your club will be filled with strangers who won't feel a bond to the club, and probably won't participate in your activities or run for club office.

7. Operating Events (both Public Service and Amateur-only events). Clubs should provide a variety of opportunities for members to get on the air. This will enrich the Amateur experience of your members, and make your club an asset to your community.

6. Personal Contact with its Members. Make sure that you make some personal contact with all of your members, especially if they do not attend meetings regularly. Newsletters are important, but there is nothing that will motivate your membership more than personal contact. If you haven't seen a member lately, call them on the phone and see how they're doing!

More to follow next month.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK
 c/o Dick Smith, K4KQJ,
 P. O. Box 831
 Horse Shoe, NC 28742



Club Meeting Tuesday

February 1, 2005

SMAC 7:30 pm



Henderson County ARES

Training Session

Thursday, February 17, 2005, 7:00 pm

Henderson County EOC



Next club meeting

March 1, 2005 7:30 pm

Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Nets and On-The-Air Activities

Net	Freq / PL	Day	Time
BRARC Net	146.640 MHz/ 91.5	Sunday	8:00 PM
BRARC Rag Chew	28350 kHz	Sunday	following 146.640 net
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F	9:00 AM
WCARS Info. Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Monday	8:30 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday	9:00 PM
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday	8:30 PM
<i>Henderson County ARES Net</i>	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Transylvania ARC Net	147.135 MHz	Thursday	8:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3942 kHz (SSB)	Saturday	9:00 AM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday	9:00 PM
K4UUQ Morning Net	7225.5 kHz (SSB)	Mon-Sat 7:00 AM	Sunday 8:00 AM
NC Morning Net	3927 kHz (SSB)	Daily	7:45 AM
SATERN Net	14265 kHz	Daily	10:00 AM
Carolinas Slow Net	3695 kHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily	8:00 PM
NC Evening Net	3923 kHz (SSB)	Daily	6:30 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3573 kHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily	7:00 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3923 kHz (SSB)	Daily	7:30 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily	9:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3573 kHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily	10:00 PM

if this information has changed, please contact Dick Smith at 687-9531 or k4kqj@arrl.net!