



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

Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK



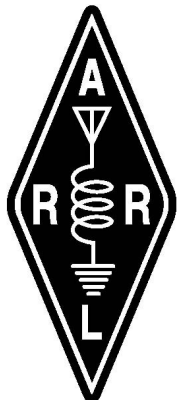
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At the next meeting

- Jeff Kelly, K4JAB, will present a program on Antenna Test Ranges
- There will be the usual 50/50 drawing.
- Refreshments courtesy of Doug, W9SPC



ARISS—Contact

Second time's the charm

From the ARRL:

Youngsters at Maple Avenue Elementary School in Goffstown, New Hampshire, had to wait an extra week, but on April 13, they were able to talk directly via Amateur Radio with Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, at the controls of NA1SS on the International Space Station. Technical problems cropped up on the originally scheduled date of April 5. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program was able to re-schedule the contact for April 13. Chiao told one youngster that while there's no weather per se in space, the ISS can view Earth's weather. The external environment of space does come into play, however, in developing suits for space-

walks, he said.

"We really don't run into any kind of environmental weather or anything like that," Chiao explained. "Of course, outside in space it's a vacuum and it's very cold or very hot depending on whether you're in the sun or in the shade. And so those are factors that we consider when we design the spacesuits."

During the approximately 10-minute direct VHF contact, the 20 Maple Avenue kids ran smoothly through a list of 20 questions, and Chiao was almost through answering the last when the ISS got out of range of ground station W1SSC, the call sign of Spaceflight Systems Corporation Amateur Radio Club in Nashua. Jim Heedles,

WW1Y, served as the Earth station control operator for the contact. Students taking part in the ARISS contact were in Georgia Paris' fourth grade class, who spoke with NA1SS using Amateur Radio equipment set up at the school specifically for the contact with NA1SS.

Responding to another question, Chiao elaborated on experiments that have been under way during his Expedition 10 duty tour. Chiao said the space station's goal is to be a worldwide laboratory.

"We've done some interesting experiments on board," Chiao said.

"We've done one experiment in particular-- something called

ZEPPE RE-STRUNG

Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, reports that the double-extended ZEPPE has been reworked at the Club Station at the Stony Mountain Activity Center.

Members contributing their time were Bob Delwiche KD4OKT, Mi-

chael Parente, AI4GR Joe Kloiber, W8NBX, Ed Booth, KT4US and Walt Wernsing, KO4JN.

Thanks, guys, for your help and hard work.



KD4OKT, KT4US, W8NBX, KO4JN

PREZ SEZ, GEORGE KORPER, K3GK, PRESIDENT

If you have something to add to **YOUR** newsletter, send it to: Dick Smith, K4KQJ, c/o P.O. Box 831, Horse Shoe, NC 28742 Call me at: (828) 687-9531 E-mail me at: <k4kqj@arrl.net>

Financial Statement for May 2005 - Lil Clark

Balance as of	
3/31/05 -	\$915.25
Plus: Deposit	
(4/6/05) -	46.00
Sub-Total	\$961.25
Less: Ex-	
penses	96.59
Balance as	
of 4/20/05 -	\$864.66

Don't Forget:

TESTING SESSION

MAY 14, 2005

MOUNTAIN HOME
FIRE DEPART-
MENT

US25 NORTH IN
MOUNTAIN HOME.

9:00 AM

Call Carol Mellard for

While this is still the May issue, I want to remind everyone that the June meeting will be devoted to Field Day. Thanks to Dick we have a marvelous site this year in Fletcher. We expect a big turnout and there is plenty of space for experimentation – the heart and soul of amateur radio. The body of our fraternity has many organizations. Sometimes we tend to favor one group because there is so much going on. This year I am

asking anyone in the area, whether QCWA, ARES, BRARC or independent to come over and visit. All are welcome and we sure would be glad to see you. If you have your favorite portable gear please bring that as well. This would be a good day to test your slinky antenna, portable tripod or kite antenna. I for one am eyeing the baseball field to set up a Rhombic on the diamond with a rig on the pitcher's mound. I am

looking for a few good hams to hold the poles! Don't forget to invite the children as well because a couple of innings of the national pastime or just shagging out flies would be fun in between contacts. The bottom line, field day will be fun, so ya'll come over – W4YK will be ready. Be there.



GEAR AND GOODIES

KF4AYG has the following gear for sale:

Radio Shack HTX400, 440 radio w/manual and case \$40.00

Radio Shack GPS unit for laptop w/2003 Delorme Street Atlas

and software \$45.00
Sears Craftsman table top drill press-heavy duty-used very little \$70.00

Contact Ronnie, KF4AYG at 699-5645 and leave a message or 891-4135



CLUB INFORMATION

Dues: Annual dues shall be set by the membership, and can be changed by a majority vote of a quorum. The dues will cover the period from January through December. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member shall be one-half the ap-

plicable rate. Dues for full-time students of an accredited school will be one-half the regular rate as long as the student status is maintained. New members joining between July and December will pay one-half the applicable rate for membership through the end of the year. This years'

dues are \$20.00 per person; \$7.50 per additional family member. **Please send your renewals to: Lil Clark, 301 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712**

Meetings: We meet at the Stony Mountain Activity Center at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

MEETING MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting for the month of April came to order at the appointed hour of 7:30 p. m. There were 21 members present. The presiding officer was George Korper, K3GK, club president. This month's meeting differed in format as we didn't have a feature presentation. As such, the meeting served as a springboard for upcoming events.

The first discussion centered on the field day site for this year. The event will be June 25th and

26th at Fletcher Park, Fletcher, N.C. Antenna set-up will be the 24th of June, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Dick Smith, K4KQJ, led the discussion in explaining where we would be set-up. We will be in an area where we will get the kind of exposure to the public we have lacked in the past. The regular June meeting will center on final field day preparations, and logging. We will be using write-log this year, which is different than what we have used in the past. Please plan now as to when you can

help log or operate.

Dick also issued a plea for operators for the Biltmore Horse Endurance Run which will May 7th. If you can help, please contact Dick.

Ronnie Parham, K2SST, volunteered to begin buying the soft drinks for field day, and is hopeful to get a public service announcement on the area radio stations concerning field day. Ronnie also told us about his work with satellite television,

(Continued on page 4)

ARES-RACES teams activate in wake of flooding

ARES-RACES teams in Pennsylvania and New York were among those activating after torrential rainfall over the April 2-3 weekend caused rivers to overflow their banks. In the Matamoras, Pennsylvania, area the Delaware River crested at nearly 4.5 feet above flood stage, reports Pike

County Emergency Coordinator Tom Olver, W2TAO, who lives just across the river in New York. He said nearly 200 houses were damaged, deemed uninhabitable or destroyed altogether. The flooding also closed roads and even washed out some of them. ARES members provided com-

munication support at Red Cross shelters in Pike County, Pennsylvania, and Orange County, New York. Not far away in Port Jervis and Goshen, New York, Pike County ARES members assisted at emergency operation centers. One radio amateur not

(Continued on page 4)

CLUB PURPOSES

Elmers: We have many "elmers"! An elmer is a knowledgeable amateur radio operator who is willing to help new hams and "students" with questions or procedures and help them to understand more about the hobby.

Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to further exchange of information and cooperation be-

tween members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to promote and conduct Club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community.

Volunteer Examinations: Once per quarter, our volunteer examiners will provide an opportunity for YOU to

get your amateur license or upgrade your present status.

NEXT SESSION: May 14.
Call Carol, K4YYR for Details

Classes: We occasionally have classes so YOU can learn how to get your very own amateur radio Technician class license

President:

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Lil Clark—see above

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Minutes, cont'd.

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and the stations he was able to see from around the world.

Rod Baird, KE4YII, asked for volunteers to help with the annual Shriners Poker Run, May 21st, 2005. All proceeds will go to the benefit of the Shriners Childrens Hospital. Rod needs 8 operators.

The French Broad River Paddle Challenge will be on June 4th. This event begins at 8:00 a.m. in Fletcher. Operators are needed for posts along the river to report the event's progress, and report any problems to control.

Ronnie, KF4AYG, announced he still had room for additional operators at the annual M. S. walk, April 9th. Al, W2GJS, invited those present to the QCWA meetings.

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported the bottom line was \$915.25, as of meeting time.

The 50-50 drawing was won by George Korper, K3GK.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

ARISS, cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

'Telemed'--and we use an ultrasound machine to image each other's internal organs and bones and teeth and things like that, taking directions from a doctor on the ground."

Chiao has explained in past ARISS school contacts that the Telemed experiment is aimed in part at coming up with ways to monitor the health of space travelers and diagnose problems that might arise during long-term space ventures.

To listen to the April 13 ARISS QSO between NA1SS and youngsters at Maple Avenue School in Goffstown, New Hampshire point your web browser to: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/04/20/3/audio.m3u>

The two-man crew, which includes Russian cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov, also has been growing some pea pods, Chiao said.

The Maple Avenue Elementary QSO marked the first Amateur Radio school group contact with a New Hampshire school. An audience of 200 students, teachers, parents and local dignitaries was on hand for the event, which was covered by three newspapers and a TV documentary team. Audio from the event was

Webcast to sites in the US, the UK, Australia and Europe. Heedles expressed his thanks to all who were involved in helping to make "lifelong memories" for the fourth graders.

ARISS is an educational outreach with US participation by ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.



Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, at the controls of the Phase 2 NA1SS station--a specially modified Kenwood TM-D700E. The Phase 2 station is in the crew's quarters. [NASA Photo]



Chiao, left, and crewmate Salizhan Sharipov. The Expedition 10 crew returned to Earth on April 24.

Article and pictures courtesy the American Radio Relay League.

ARES, cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

affiliated with ARES who set up to provide communication from a Red Cross shelter in Port Jervis earned praise from a shelter worker for helping to keep the evacuees informed. Upward of two dozen radio amateurs volunteered, reports Orange County EC Steve Fleckenstein, N2UBP. In Columbia County in Central Pennsylvania, EC and RACES Radio Officer Randy Kishbaugh, N3JPV, reports an ARES-RACES net was activated when the Susquehanna and other rivers flooded. ARES provided Red Cross shelter communications and reported river levels and road closures to state and local emergency management agencies. "This was a truly great effort by everyone," Kishbaugh said. He reported 20 net check-ins during nine hours of operation. Members of the Endless Mountains Amateur Radio Club in Wyoming County got some complimentary ink in the Wyoming County Press Examiner after county Emergency Management Director Gene Dziak commended the radio amateurs for helping to facilitate communication among various agencies responding to the flooding.

LEAGUE READIES BANDWIDTH PROPOSALS

Acting on the premise that the amateur bands must flexibly and comfortably accommodate present and future operating modes and technologies over the long haul, the ARRL Executive Committee has reached consensus on recommendations to the ARRL Board of Directors for a regulation-by-bandwidth proposal. The recommendations the panel adopted April 9 in Denver will form the basis of a draft ARRL petition to the FCC seeking to govern the usage of amateur spectrum by emission bandwidth rather than by mode. The proposals remain only EC recommendations at this point, and the League will file nothing with the FCC until the ARRL Board gives its go-ahead. Five of the 15 voting Directors sit on the EC. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says a key principle underlying the League initiative is that the amateur community must shoulder the responsibility for resolving conflicts among potentially conflicting modes and not expect--or wait for--the FCC to impose its own solutions.

"We are in the early stages of a dramatic shift in amateur HF operating patterns, and it's impossible to predict where this shift may lead," Sumner said. "The FCC rules should not stand in the way of where technology takes us in our fulfillment of the bases and purposes of Amateur Radio."

The bandwidth initiative is aimed in part at encouraging new digital modes, but the primary emphasis is to avoid having to write a new rule every time a new mode bursts onto the scene. The League's proposals will establish a framework that creates an environment for change over the next decade—and perhaps longer, Sumner concluded. The Board will consider the draft petition, now on the drawing board, at its July meeting.

The EC recommendations abandon efforts to have the FCC segregate digital and analog emissions by rule. As the EC sees it, the FCC rules should simply set out band segments in which amateurs may employ bandwidths of up to 3 kHz, with any further subdivision left up to amateur band planning. The EC acknowledged a need to improve band planning mechanisms for this approach to work well, however.

"Certainly there have to be mechanisms to minimize interference between analog and digital stations, since they cannot compatibly share the same frequency," Sumner explained. But, he says, using FCC rules to subdivide the HF bands is the wrong approach, in part because they're too static and too difficult to change.

Resolving two issues that have been hanging fire,

the EC's proposals would permit semi-automatic control (i.e., with a control operator at the querying station) throughout the amateur HF bands. Sumner says that while this carries some risk of interference, the EC believes the amateur community can manage it more effectively through a combination of technology and respectful operating practices. Additionally, automatic control would continue to be permitted at bandwidths of up to 3 kHz in narrow segments of some HF bands.

The EC made no change to its earlier recommendation that the rules continue to permit double-sideband, full-carrier AM and independent sideband (ISB) as specific exceptions to the 3 kHz bandwidth limit--with restrictions of 9 kHz and 6 kHz respectively--on all bands now allowing 'phone transmissions. (In ISB, or independent sideband, each sideband of a double-sideband signal carries information or data independent of the other.)

FCC rules now permit RTTY and data emissions throughout the HF CW subbands. "It is only through compliance with 'gentlemen's agreements' that RTTY and data signals are not heard in the parts of the band that are generally used for CW," Sumner notes. The ARRL would propose limiting bandwidth in the "CW subbands" to 200 Hz,

which also will accommodate data modes such as PSK31. In addition, the League's proposal would set bandwidth limits of either 500 Hz or 3 kHz in the rest of the bands below 29 MHz. The proposals would not affect 60 or 160 meters.

"The objective is not to expand the phone bands to let robot stations run roughshod over the phone bands or to effect any other immediate change in amateur operating practices," Sumner emphasized. For example, while the 3-kHz bandwidth segment of the 30-meter band theoretically could accommodate voice, this is prohibited by international band plan agreements because the band is so narrow. Additionally, the Amateur Service is secondary on 30 meters and must protect the primary fixed service from interference.

Sumner pointed out that there now is no effective bandwidth limit on HF digital operation. The existing 500 Hz bandwidth limit applies only to automatically controlled stations in semi-automatic operation. Band segments limited to 200 Hz and 500 Hz respectively provide greater protection for narrowband operations than exists today, Sumner stressed.

From the ARRL Letter, and the American Radio Relay League.



Email: k4kqj@arrl.net



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club



Club Meeting Tuesday
May 3, 2005



Henderson County ARES
Training Session
Thursday, May 20, 2005,
7:00 pm
Henderson County EOC



Next club meeting
June 1, 2005 7:30 pm
Stony Mountain Activity
Center



QCWA Chapter 76—
1st and 3rd Wednes-
days at Ryan's in Hen-
dersonville. Noonish.

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 831
Horse Shoe, NC 28742

Nets and On-The-Air Activities

<u>Net</u>	<u>Freq / PL</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
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
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday 9:00 PM
Hit and Bounce Net(CW)	7.042 MHz	Daily 8:30 AM
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

Report changes to Dick Smith at 687-9531 or k4kqj@arrl.net!