



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

Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK



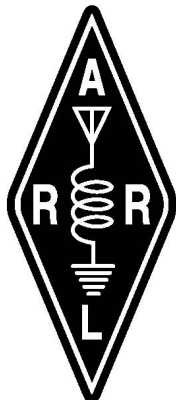
Volume 18, Number 6 June, 2005

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### At the next meeting

- Final Field Day planning and logging training.
- There will be the usual 50/50 drawing.
- Refreshments courtesy of Doug, W9SPC



## Field Day's A-Comin! Are you ready for it?

June 25-26 will be upon us quicker than we all realize. There's a lot to do before hand and there are many who still don't really know what Field Day is all about.

This year we will be setting up at Fletcher Community Park off Howard Gap Road in the heart of Flecher.

We will have an antenna raising party on Friday Afternoon, June 24 from 3pm till we finish. If you've never been to the set-up of Field Day this is a great time to do so.

On June 25 we'll set-up the rest of the equipment and the shelters for the weekend. We'll begin about 10:00 am and be ready for the start of the event at 2:00 pm Saturday afternoon.

One of the highlights of each BRARC Field Day is the Saturday covered dish supper. While some will continue to operate others will help to cook hamburgers and hot dogs and still others will set out the covered dishes brought by spouses, friends, significant others, etc. Plan to be there at 6:00 pm on Saturday, don't you dare miss it!

Field day is an annual operating event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) for clubs and individuals in the US and Canada. While not strictly a "contest" stations all across the country try to make as many contacts as possible in a 24 hour period from 2:00 pm on June 25 to 2:00 pm on June 26.

John Covington, W4CC, North Carolina Section Manager wrote in his monthly column:

"Field Day is a good opportunity to do several things:

1. Practice skills needed to deploy a station under emergency power.
2. Practice your operating skills.
3. Learn about new modes, techniques and equipment.
4. Introduce newcomers to all of the above.
5. Promote Amateur Radio to the general public.
6. Get together with your ham friends and have **FUN.**" What more could you want?

So plan to be there on that weekend for all of the parts of the fun!

## LOGGING DEMO AND PRACTICE

Join us at the June meeting for a demonstration of WriteLog, the computer program we will use to keep track of contacts at Field Day this year.

We hope to have at least two computers to practice

on, so that more people get the hang of the general will get a chance to try flow of information into the out the program before program. actually sitting down to log or operate at Field day.

WriteLog is a very easy program to use once you

# 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.

Financial Statement for May 2005 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 4/30/05 - \$852.89

Plus: Deposit (5/4/05) - 57.45

Sub-Total \$910.34

Less: Expenses 32.22

Balance as of 5/20/05 - \$878.12

Don't Forget:

TESTING SESSION

August 13, 2005

MOUNTAIN HOME FIRE DEPARTMENT

US25 NORTH IN MOUNTAIN HOME.

9:00 AM

Call Carol Mellard for more information.

*You Can't Go Home Again* is the title of Thomas Wolfe's famous novel. Thomas Wolfe, one of America's most famous novelists, and Asheville native son, wrote that almost 100 years ago. Well you can go home again but usually home isn't the way



we remember it. As a child when I went home

after school, I would be surrounded by farmland. In the cellar was my dad's shack and I would use his tube rig. Now the tracts of farmland are developments and the world has been digitized. I often dream of my old home, and upon awakening it takes me a few hours to adjust to all the progress we have made in electronics. I still tune around the bands before I go to sleep and last week I was tuning SWL. There I heard, of all places, a

solid hour devoted to ham radio on radio Havana. Apparently our embargo on Cuba has frozen in time both old cars and old rigs. CO land has thousands of avid hams and many still holding on to good, old-fashioned tube rigs. That's cool and so do we. It reminded me of a trip I took to East Germany before the wall came down with a fellow ham, DF2OU. We hams had made peace and were conversing as

*(Continued on page 4)*

## GEAR AND GOODIES

If you have any thing to list in this space, call Dick Smith or email k4kqj@radioclub.org to have it included in the Echo.

Listings are free to club members.

## 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 meeting for the month of May began with the Pledge of Allegiance to our national flag. George Korper, K3GK, club president, was presiding officer. Present for the May meeting were 28 members and two visitors. George was curious as to how many years combined experience those present had participating in amateur radio. Each one who had signed in put their years down. The tally showed a combined years of 685. Amazing, isn't it!

After the opening welcome and recognizing of the visitors, the floor was opened for announcements. It was announced that Rick Sizer was in intensive care. His condition at that time was critical.

Rod Biard, KE4YII, spoke of the Shriner's Poker Run that is to be held May 21st. He needs operators to help with the run. Proceeds are for the Childrens Hospitals.

Duke Knief, W4DK, reported to the group that

the portable repeater used for club events had a new frequency. The frequency is 146.170 with a tone of 91.5 ( this is the repeater used for parades and other public service events ). He also announced that Duane Jackson had a piece of equipment for sale.

Ken Houck, KE4SQU, told those present he knew of a place where we could have signs made that could be used for directional purposes. These eight signs would

*(Continued on page 4)*

### President:

*George Korper, K3GK  
828-694-3820  
k3gk@arrl.net*

### Vice President:

*Gene Mathis, KG4SXE  
828-698-2734*

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### Treasurer:

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### Members-At-Large:

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Bennison3@brinet.com*

*Michael Parente  
AI4GR*

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Ai4gr@arrl.net*

### Antennas:

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### Echo/Webpage

#### Editor:

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### ARRL Emergency

#### Coordinator:

*Duke Knief, W4DK  
828-891-4359  
w4dk@arrl.net*

### Equipment:

*Harry Mills, K4HU  
828-693-7519*

### Membership:

*Lil Clark—see above*

### Public Relations:

*Dick Smith, K4KQJ  
828-687-9531  
K4kqj@arrl.net*

### Trustee:

*Steve Smith, KC5F  
828-697-6388  
kc5f@arrl.net*

## Ham Radio Classes Scheduled to begin June 16

Continuing a long standing tradition, Norman Harrill, N4NH, has announced the start of a new Technician Class amateur radio class.

Norman and a group of local hams have been putting on these classes for many years. It's a nice way to get intro-

duced to Ham Radio in particular, and new folks in general.

The classes are held twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm.

The classes meet in room 318 of the Elm Building on the Campus of Asheville-

Buncombe Technical Community College on Victoria Road in Asheville.

Know someone who is interested, steer them in the right direction!

## 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

## Minutes, cont'd.

*(Continued from page 3)*

cost 40.00, if the club was interested.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, made a plea for operators for field day. He passed a tentative sign up sheet to get an idea of how many would be active, and the time they could serve.

Doug Lee, W9SPC, informed the group that he and Bob were going to the Dayton Hamfest, and could take two others as riders, if anyone wanted to go.

Dick Smith, K4KQJ, handed out assignments for the Biltmore Horse Endurance Run. This event is scheduled for May 7th. He explained what the participants were to do, and were to go for their assignments.

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported the bottom line in the treasury was \$852.89 at the time of the club meeting.

Jeff Kelly, K4JAB was the keynote speaker for the presentation period. Jeff made a presentation of how antennas are tested for efficiency by antenna manufacturers. He put forth the methodology and the expense that is involved in antenna field testing. Jeff worked in this area for several years.

Many of the methods that

commercial manufacturers use would be hard to do as an individual amateur because of the expense of the testing equipment, and for lack of a desirable testing site. One facility he told us about had an open field that encompassed one mile. This had to be a clean site so the radio waves would not reflect, causing the testing to be untrue.

Jeff showed us the work and research that is involved in the testing of military antennas. Many of these type antennas work at VHF and UHF.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

Pictures from  
Field Day 2004

## Prez Sez, cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

friends right over the watchtowers and stupid concrete barriers the government had erected. A quarter century later, we can hardly remember those days – but I remember one thing, the fact that we were hams and could freely converse was one of the factors that brought down the 'wall'. Technology may change but the freedom we hams bring to the world is a constant. Field day would be a good day to remember and exalt in our ham camaraderie, when we celebrate our hobby. If you have an old rig, bring it to field day. We will have a table set aside for old equipment and if you have a working tube rig we can fire it up. Let freedom ring!



## ARLB012 Resolution Calls on FCC To Evaluate BPL Interference,

ARLB012 Resolution Calls on FCC To Evaluate BPL Interference, Review Rules

Rep Michael Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives calling on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from broadband over power line (BPL). The resolution, H. Res 230, says the Commission should comprehensively evaluate BPL's interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," and--in light of that analysis--to "reconsider and review" its new BPL rules, adopted last October. If approved by the full House, the non-binding resolution, introduced April 21, would express the requests as "the sense of the House of Representatives."

"We are grateful to Congressman Ross and his staff for taking a leadership position in recognizing that the BPL interference issue deserves more careful consideration than the FCC was willing to give it under former Chairman Powell," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

The resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, on which Ross serves.

The resolution's prime focus is on BPL's potential to disrupt critical public safety radiocommunication. It cites National Telecommunications and Information Ad-

ministration (NTIA) studies that "have determined that broadband over power line creates a 'high risk' of radio wave interference, and that harmful interference to public safety mobile radio receivers can be expected at distances of 75 meters from the power line where broadband over power line is in operation, and at distances of up to 460 meters from fixed stations, such as VHF police or fire dispatch communications facilities."

The resolution notes that the same NTIA study determined that BPL interference to aeronautical and airline travel communications "could be expected at distances up to 40 kilometers from the center of the broadband over power line system, and that interference to outer marker beacons for airline instrument landing systems could be expected at great distances as well."

Many public safety agencies and support services, including emergency medical services, fire, and law enforcement, utilize Low-Band VHF (30-50 MHz), the resolution points out. According to the resolution, at least 13 states--California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming--use the band for state police operations. It's the primary public safety radio band in nine states.

The resolution further notes that the Association of Pub-

lic Safety Communications Officials Inc (APCO), and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), have urged the FCC to withhold final action in the BPL proceeding for at least a year, pending a "conclusive determination" of BPL's potential to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems operating below 80 MHz. It also cites comments filed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, which uses a state-wide radio system with more than 1400 Low-Band VHF users. The Missouri State Highway Patrol commented that the overall effect of BPL implementation would be "a potentially significant increase in interference to the mission of critical public safety communications," the resolution says.

The resolution recounts that the FCC has struggled for years to resolve widespread harmful radio interference to first responders on 800 MHz and "should not have proceeded with introduction of a technology which appears to have substantial potential to cause destructive interference to police, fire, emergency medical services, and other public safety radio systems" without first conducting a comprehensive evaluation.

A copy of HRes 230 is available on the ARRL Web site in .PDF format at, <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230.pdf>.

See the ARRL Web site, <http://www.arrl.org>, for more information.



Email: k4kqj@arrl.net

**BRARC on the Web**  
[www.radioclub.org](http://www.radioclub.org)

*Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club*



Club Meeting Tuesday  
 June 7, 2005



Henderson County ARES  
 Training Session  
 Thursday, June 16, 2005,  
 7:00 pm  
 Henderson County EOC



Next club meeting  
 July 6, 2005 7:30 pm  
 Stony Mountain Activity  
 Center



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

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>
<b>BRARC Net</b>	<b>146.640 MHz/ 91.5</b>	<b>Sunday 8:00 PM</b>
<b>BRARC Rag Chew</b>	<b>28350 kHz</b>	<b>Sunday following 146.640 net</b>
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
<b>Henderson County ARES Net</b>	<b>146.640 MHz / 91.5</b>	<b>Wednesday 9:00 PM</b>
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
<b>QCWA Chapter 76</b>	<b>3942 kHz (SSB)</b>	<b>Saturday 9:00 AM</b>
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!