



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

Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK



Volume 18, Number 11 November, 2005

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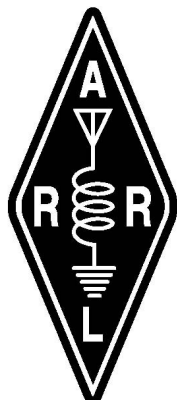
At the next meeting

- Setting up HT's for Public Service Communications
- There will be the usual 50/50 drawing.
- Refreshments courtesy of Doug, W9SPC

2005 Field Day Results Class 2a—North Carolina

Call	Score	QSOs	Participants	Club
N4PY	8364	2380	8	Franklinton High School
K4MN	6754	1746	32	Cape Fear ARS
W4M	5424	1706	18	CARS
W4NC	4914	1639	48	Forsyth ARC
NA4GC	4156	1072	35	Guilford Cty ARES
W4CQ	3828	958	25	
W4FD	3270	712	16	Ashe Cty. ARC
WE4A	3178	894	10	Franklin Cty ARC
W4YK	2944	619	51	Blue Ridge ARC
AC4RC	1972	353	26	Azalea Coast ARC
W4LBT	1330	305	12	Robeson Cty ARS
N4IV	1300	315	20	Rockingham Cty ARC
NC4LC	1174	137	33	Lincoln Cty Volunteer Communications
WA4UQC	1134	192	10	Triangle East Amateur Radio Assn
KU4GW	1066	178	10	Wilkes Cty Group
W4PCN	874	162	6	Outer Banks Repeater Assn
WA8FZZ	670	116	3	

BRARC placed 9th out of 17 in Class 2A in North Carolina.



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY SET

The Club's annual Christmas Party will be held at the Twin Dragons Chinese Buffet in Brevard on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 pm.

This should be a unique experience especially if you've never been to the

Twin Dragons.

There will be no need to make reservations just show up and have a great time with the rest of the club members, spouses, friends, significant others, etc.

See you there.



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
October 2005 - Lil
Clark

Balance as of 7/31/05 -
\$689.74

Less: Expenses 23.31

Balance: - \$666.43

We had no deposits
this month.

Don't Forget:

TESTING SESSION

November 13, 2005

MOUNTAIN HOME
FIRE DEPART-
MENT

US25 NORTH IN
MOUNTAIN HOME.

9:00 AM

Call Carol Frost,
K4YYR, for more
information.

This has been a very good year for the club. We had marvelous presentations, a terrific field day, a beautiful day for the picnic and the parades and other events were rewarding, well attended, and smoothly performed. Capping it all off is the banquet on December 6, at the China Dragon in Brevard.



Every member and family is invited to join in

and the club is paying half for each member and spouse. I hope you all join in the celebration.

I would like to thank each member who made my job as President of the club, so easy and enjoyable. The list is too long for this column but it seems like the whole roster chipped in and volunteered. Our hobby is special to all of us and brings out the best.

Next year it is our intention to bring some of the new

technologies we talked about to practical fruition. Field day our goal is to go 100% solar and renewable energy, have a packet and PSK-31 station and to run full out during the night and rack up some points. I would encourage as well some innovative antenna design and portable equipment. We do a bunch of service work for bicyclists, marathoners and horse people—maybe we can get them out to field day and recruit some new hams, and

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GEAR AND GOODIES

Clipperton - L Amplifier including manual. Wired for 220 volts but can be rewired for 110. \$225

Yaesu FT209R HT with case, manual, extra antenna, charger, external speaker. \$100.

Two Cushcraft R-5 vertical antennas 20 - 10 meters, manual. \$125 each.

Two 30' telescoping poles. \$15 each.

Regulated 12 volt power supply. \$25.

Two meter antenna tuner. \$25.

SWR meter. \$15

Two meter vertical antenna. \$15

Gene Robbins: garnc@bellsouth.net, or by telephone at 828-698-3707.

Club Radio For Sale

The club is selling its TEN-TEC HF transceiver. It is a TRITON IV Digital, Model 544. It comes complete with 262G Power Supply, Remote VFO, and Ammeter. The rig is in the radio shack; hook it up and give it a test drive.

Price is \$275.

Contact George Korper.

FOR SALE:

ICOM 144 MHZ ALL MODE
**100 WATT TRANSCEIVER.
MODEL 271H.** EXCELLENT
CONDITION. ORIGINAL
OWNER. \$500.
W5KX, 828 877 3887

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

Minutes of October 4th,
2005 Meeting

The meeting of October began at 7:30 p.m. Please allow a quick note to remind those who aren't familiar with our club that our club meets the first Tuesday in the month. George Korper, K3GK, club president was the presiding officer. We wish a hearty welcome to Bayard Coolidge, N1HO, who became a club member at this meeting. There were 24 persons in attendance.

Everyone is reminded that next month is election month! The following have agreed to serve in the coming year, if elected. George Korper, K3GK, club president; Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, vice president; Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer; and, Sid Hendricks, W4IOE, club secretary. The two members at large, if elected, will be Michael Parente, AI4GR; and Ronnie Parham, K2SST. Remember nominations are allowed from the floor, so if you

wish to place your name in contention, please let us know at the next meeting! Our club is only as good as each of you make it. Thanks for your continuing support.

Lil reported the bottom line of \$550.27 in the club treasury. As it looks as there will be a surplus this year, the club president addressed those present, if there would be anyone who would object to using club funds to offset members cost at the annual Christmas din-

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Hurricane Katrina Aftermath

If you've never thought about "preparedness" before, Katrina should cause you to rethink your ability to survive following a major disaster.

Now would be a good time to get involved with ARES/RACES and to find out more about CERT training and programs in

the area. Duke, W4DK, is the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Henderson County and would welcome volunteers.

Lee Mager, KN4GC, is the CERT Coordinator for Henderson County and he, too, would welcome your expression of interest and willingness to become in-

involved.

Ham Radio is a great hobby, but perhaps no where else to we shine as bright as when we use our skills to help alleviate the suffering of others.

Get involved, it's the thing to do.

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:

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

Vice President:

Gene Mathis, KG4SXE
828-698-2734

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KG4NBN
828-684-8130

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Bennison3@brinet.com

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AI4GR

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Ai4gr@arrl.net

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Lil Clark—see above

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Minutes, cont'd.

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ner. No one objected. The Christmas dinner will be held at the Twin Dragons Chinese restaurant in Brevard, N.C. All members, and their family members or guests, are invited.

In the coming months, a few moments will be set aside to allow for pointers on proper procedure for operators when on public service or emergency events. Duke Knief, W4DK, reiterated the points that were made following the Labor Day parade in September. Duke also reminded all those in the DuPont marathon that it would be held October 16th.

The feature presentation was given by Rod Biard, KE4YII. Rod gave a very interesting talk on the merits of solar energy in the ham station. Included in the presentation was the use of solar panels, batteries, and connecting wires with regulators.

Of prime importance is the type of battery that should be used with solar panels. We found that the deep cycle were the appropriate type to use in amateur radio work. The auto battery isn't made for slow discharges. A battery that is approximately the size of an auto battery (deep cycle) costs about 80 dollars.

With proper care the battery will last several years.

We found that a regulator is needed because a solar panel can produce more voltage than the radio equipment can handle. The amount of voltage a panel produces depends on its size, and whether the panels are ganged or not. The quantity is also dependent on the brightness of the sun, and whether the panel "tracks" the sun.

After Rod's presentation there were many questions that members had for Rod. He fielded as many as possible until time ran out. George Korper expressed hope he could come at another time to tell us more about solar energy.

The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Carol Frost, K4YYR. Meeting then was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

November Program Notes

Since December is traditionally one of the busiest months for public service communications for Blue Ridge members, the November program will be a tutorial on setting up your HT for efficient use.

Please bring your HT(s) with you along with the proper manual! Horrors, oh no, the manual, now just what did it look like and where could it possibly be? You do still have it, don't you?

Help will be provided and hopefully will get everyone on the same

Prez Sez, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

at the same time I will put more effort into seeking sponsors and opening up the day to the public. It would be a good time to acquaint the public with ARES as well. Without the generator going we can fill the airwaves with the music of CW and some melodious broadcast voices. That's my dream for the upcoming year. Personally, I plan to use the tent I just bought at Diamond Trading in Fletcher, and go out into our precious mountains and... you guessed it, play ham radio!

Correction

An email from Lil Clark alerted me that Herm's (W9FHW) correct email address is: W9fhw@msn.com, not as elsewhere published

Welcome

The "Welcome Mat" is out to our newest member:

Baryard (Brandy) R. Coolige, N1HO. Brandy splits his time between Hendersonville and Lighthouse Point, FL.

Ham Radio News

*In Katrina's Wake,
Ham Radio Triumphs*By David Maliniak,
AD2A

Excerpted from the above titled article in Electronic Design, September 19, 2005. By permission of the author.

A few months ago, NBC's Tonight Show staged a race between a pair of ham-radio operators with Morse-code keys and a couple of kids with text-messaging cell-phones to see who could communicate faster. The hams won hands down, proving, in the minds of some, that old technology could hold its own against new. ***In recent days, ham radio was put to the test again by Hurricane Katrina. This time, however, lives were at stake...***

As Katrina bore down on the Gulf region, amateur radio operators, under the aegis of the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), prepared to swing into action with emer-

gency networks that would run health-and-welfare traffic into and out of the disaster zone. ***As early as the Monday following the storm, hams throughout the hurricane zone were putting emergency stations on the air.*** In one instance, hams were instrumental in the rescue of 15 people clinging for life to a New Orleans rooftop. Meanwhile, in Alabama, amateur SKY-WARN weather nets kept the National Weather Service apprised of conditions throughout the state. In hard-hit sections of Mississippi, hams running off generators and with makeshift antennas were the only means of communication, getting word to out-of-state friends and relatives concerning their loved ones.

Your cell phones and wireless routers are indeed great stuff, but ***so is a good old HF transceiver.*** We shouldn't always be in such a hurry to let the flood of new technology wash away

the old. ***The geek down the block with all the antennas on his property could turn out to be your best friend someday.*** Because sometimes, old trumps new.

Empahsis added

+ Towards A National Data Base of Amateurs with Skills

I believe I have now seen reference to three different databases of volunteers for future deployments. The ARES community should take a lesson from the Red Cross: the Red Cross volunteers that I worked with on the Gulf coast were notified in a timely manner and requested to deploy because the Red Cross had a database of their skills. ARRL should have one, too. While this is certainly not a trivial project, it's not rocket science either.

If the ARRL is really serious about improving Amateur Radio

assistance in times of disaster, addressing this issue should be at the top of the organization's list. Katrina demonstrated that trying to gather the information after the fact just isn't effective. Here's a project that is tangible and demonstrates ARRL's commitment to making Amateur Radio more relevant in the public safety communication arena. -- Steve Bonine, KB9X [The author provided disaster relief work at Hattiesburg and Stennis, Mississippi].

From the October 19 ARRL Eletter.



Email: k4kqj@arrl.net

BRARC on the Web
www.radioclub.org

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club



Club Meeting Tuesday
 November 1, 2005



Henderson County ARES
 Training Session
 Thursday, November 17,
 2005, 7:00 pm
 Henderson County EOC



Next club meeting
 December 2, 2005 **6:00 pm**
Twin Dragons Restaurant,
Brevard



QCWA Chapter 76—
 1st and 3rd Wednes-
 days at the Golden
 Corral, US64 East,
 Hendersonville. 11ish.

Note new location

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!