



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

Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK



Volume 19, Number 2 February, 2006

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At the next meeting

- Martin Harris, W4FOT, on DX Clusters
- There will be the usual 50/50 drawing.

North Carolina QSO Party

Mark Your Calendar

The 2006 North Carolina QSO Party is almost upon us. The Party will be held 1700Z Feb 26 thru 0300Z Feb 27 (10 hours total.) This is a light-hearted contest with the objective being to contact stations in as many as possible of the 100 counties of NC.

Last year the BRARC participated and reached 28 counties. We operated as W4YK from the club's shack and rigs. Six of us participated, taking turns operating for about 3 hours.

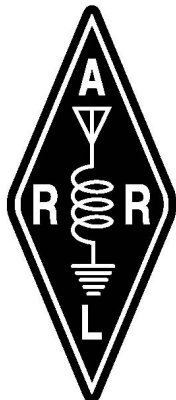
Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon on the 26th of February. It's a good chance to use the club's equipment and spend some time with fellow hams. Details of the NC QSO Party are at www.w4nc.com.

2005 NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY RESULTS

(* calls are plaque winners, certificates will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each State/Province and DXCC country.)

CAT	CALL	QTH	80	80	40	40	20	20	15	15	10	10	TOTAL	TOTAL	CTYS	US/VE	FINAL
			P	C	P	C	P	C	P	C	P	C	QSO'S	MULTS	WKD	WKD	SCORE
S/N	*N4C	WAK	13	58	68	176	1	17	1				333	85	42	43	79250
S/N	*W4ADOU	NAS	8	59	38	119	8	44	1	1			278	69	32	37	54196
S/N	*K4GHS	YAD	22	36	51	109							217	65	29	36	44545
S/N	*K4TZZ	HEN	40		141		1						182	76	48	28	28980
S/N	KD4MCA	ASH	47	19	69	9	15						159	68	40	28	25310
S/N	K94QMI	PER	25		94								119	52	37	15	13308
S/N	N4NTO	EDG		48		44							92	44	15	29	12194
S/N	KI4CJH	WAT	14		18		3						36	25	19	6	1875
S/N	KF4ZS	ASH	23	3		3							29	21	10	11	1515
S/N	KF4VXJ	WAK	11		14								25	19	16	3	1026
CLUB/N	*W4DXA	MEC	71	43	112	81	60	24	3				394	101	53	48	97464
CLUB/N	NC4ZD	RAN	79		18		142		1				240	78	32	44	37214
CLUB/N	NC4PC	PIT	21	36	34	74	40						205	67	31	36	35141
CLUB/N	NC4AR	GUI	3		41		139						183	88	50	38	34332
CLUB/N	W4YK	HEN			60	1	1						62	40	28	12	5280

Contributed by Michael AI4GR



ISS commander shooting for WAC, WAC DXCC from space

ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, has proven to be one of the more active Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARIS) operators among ham radio operators who have occupied the space station. In fact, McArthur's

having so much fun operating from space that he's hoping to complete Worked All Continents (WAC), Worked All States (WAS) and maybe even DXCC from space.

ARIS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom,

15VHO, says "He's off to a good start with 28 DXCC entities in his log as of December 12," he said. "These contacts have been with amateur stations on every continent with the exception of Antarctica."

PREZ SEZ, GEORGE KORPER, K3GK, PRESIDENT

The Prez Sez

"One of the things we need to do over the next few years is realize that Main Street USA is not the Main Street USA it was years ago," We all remember those days when we became interested in radio and



the magic that it provided to us. The magic is

still there, but Main Street has changed."

Harrison says this means focusing on doing a better job of attracting the average person on the new Main Street of today "into the magic of Amateur Radio." Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL President

I concur. Where are these people? Well, they are downtown right on Main Street. At a recent

ARES meeting Duke, W4DK, suggested BRARC and ARES should combine forces at the well-attended Apple Parade event and participate in a booth that brings our amateur service closer to the public attention. The club and ARES do a great job in providing communications at this event so the booth should be a straight-forward extension of our current activities. We would also be

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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 January 2006 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 12/31/05 - \$596.25

Deposits: - 261.00
Sub-Tot - \$857.25
Expenses - 190.56

Balance as of 1/20/05 - \$666.69

Don't Forget:

VE Testing, Sat. Feb. 11 at Mountain Home FD. Contact Carol Frost, K4YYR for more info.

2006 Biltmore Ride will be Saturday, May 20, 2006 on the Estate Grounds. Dick Smith, K4KQJ will have further details.

GEAR AND GOODIES

FOR SALE: SELF SUPPORTED 40 FOOT TOWER

EASY TO RAISE/LOWER TOWER - USING THE FULTON 2 SPEED TRAILER WINCH

ROTOR MOUNTED ON TOWER'S TOP SHELF included --100 foot of six wire cable from top of tower to the remote control at station

PALOMAAR'S 1K: 1:1 TRANSFORMER INCLUDED

OTHER MISC COAX CABLES and 1/4 INCH STAINLESS STEEL CABLES INCLUDED

ESTIMATED COST AT THIS TIME IS \$650.00

LEE R. OVERMAN

828 697 1991
131 SOLAR LANE
HENDERSONVILLE, NC
28739

Contact Lee for directions and other information.

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; \$15.00 per additional family member. **Please send your renewals to: Lil Clark, 15 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

BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes of January 3rd, 2005

George Korper, K3GK, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The first order of business was getting the Pledge of Allegiance done. There were only a couple announcements to make, and George did this handily. The first was one that we find ourselves making every January. Dues are due!!! Just a reminder, dues

are now \$20.00 per year. Lil Clark, KG4GFP, will be more than happy to take your dues at the next meeting; or, you may mail them to her. Her address is:

Lillian Clark
15 Autumn Glen Court
Brevard, N.C. 28712

The second announcement was the club picnic was tentatively schedule for September 16th, at Holmes State Forest. Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, agreed to try to reserve the picnic shed on that

date. Unfortunately, this date was taken, so we had to settle on September 9th as the tentative date. We realize many of you contest on that weekend, and cannot make the picnic. The steering committee will endeavor to make the picnic on a different day next year.

The feature presentation for the January meeting was George Korper giving a live demonstration of packet on 2 meters, and PSK 31 on 40 meters. For about 30 min-

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Mine Disaster Victim, Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ standing up - with some help

With a little help, the sole survivor of the Sago Mine disaster stood for the first time since the accident, and puckered his lips when his wife asked for a kiss, doctors said Friday. Randal McCloy Jr., 26, came out of a coma earlier this week.

“In this business of tak-

ing care of severe head injuries, little things make us happy,” Dr. Julian Bailes said.

McCloy can make noises when doctors cover his breathing tube. Whether he will be able to speak when the tube is removed depends on the extent of the brain damage he suf-

fered from carbon monoxide during his 41 hours trapped underground, Bailes said.

To send "get well" QSL's to Randall, please send to the following address:

Randal L McCloy, Jr
PO BOX 223
Philippi WV 26435

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: Feb 11, 2006, 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)

utes before the meeting, George had been scurrying around getting everything set up for the demonstration. When I quizzed George about all the equipment, he explained that he had brought his entire station from home with him. The pieces of equipment consisted of a Ten-Tec Argonaut, a TNC, a lap top computer, and a couple of antennas that could be set up inside. One, of course, was a 2 meter antenna, and the other was a hf. I wasn't able to get the name of the hf antenna, but it was a vertical that was attached to one of those nifty platforms that can be anchored into the sod by stepping on the attached feet. The antenna worked well setting on the wooden floor. The 2 meter antenna was a homebrew by K2SST. It consisted of a J antenna enclosed in PVC piping.

For those who had never worked packet, George and others from the floor explained how messages could be passed, how the TNC could store messages, and how you could access a DX cluster to find those hot contacts for the DX countries you need to make DXCC.

On PSK 31, we were able to see an actual qso going on, and we were

able to "read the mail", literally, on the computer screen. The amazing thing was all the human ear could hear was noise. With the PSK 31, we were able to "hear" the signal on the computer screen and copy the mail. Also amazing is the signal only occupies 34 hertz of spectrum!

The 50-50 drawing was won by George Carter, KB4YBB. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

Prez Sez, cont'd

well advised to invite QCWA and the DX community to participate as well. Notifying the local police, fire department, Red Cross and rescue squad of the booth would draw in groups of people who may be interested in Ham Radio but had not "galvanized" that interest into moving forward. Many people probably still think Morse code is required to obtain a license. This all makes sense to me so let's do it!

At the recent Steering Committee meeting Ron, K2SST, brought up a good point about our club. He noted we need to provide an ambitious program of operating as a group and in particular adding activities, like the BMW tour, and the NC QSO party to our agenda. I see his point and we will be bringing more of this type of group activity to the club in the next months. The February meeting will have Martin, W4FOT and Lee, KN4GC, giving us pointers on Packet DX Cluster and some tips on contesting. The week of the club meeting we are scheduling a group activity in the club shack to contact the Peter One, the DXpedition, and I will be asking for volunteers to come and join the fun. Pencil this in your calendar. The Peter One, DXpedition is providing a unique opportunity for all of us to come together as a group and as individual operators.

Dave, K4SV, will be on the air from Antarctica, and has challenged us to contact him in as many modes and on as many bands as possible. Our club will take on that challenge and respond as a team.

CU @ BRARC, Tuesday February 7th, all hands on deck!

From John Covington, N4CC

In my columns I have discussed many facets of Amateur Radio, but there are two which are most responsible for the general public's awareness of us: antennas and disaster communications. While antennas are a sore subject for some, our role as backup communicators has time and again proven important to our communities.

Hurricanes and ice storms are the largest (but not the only) hazards we face in North Carolina. The ice storms in December 2002 and February 2003 caused power outages for well over a million people, myself included, for many days. Hurricane Isabel caused power outages for many weeks for those in the northeast part of the state. Hurricane Ivan caused flooding and landslides in the west. No part of our state is immune from severe weather.

Are you ready?

To answer yes, you must make sure that:

1. *You are personally prepared for disaster.*
2. *You have regular contact with your county ARES EC.*
3. *You and your EC have identified specifically how you can help.*
4. *You have prepared to do so.*

All of the items on the list are dependent on the first. Even those who are well-prepared for disaster can't anticipate every-

thing; and if you have not prepared at all, then chances are you will not be able to help with Amateur Radio communications, you will be dealing with personal issues instead.

Regular contact with your county EC is important also. How often is regular? Well, certainly often enough that he would remember who you are. Registering for ARES once and never following up means you are out of the picture pretty soon. At the very least, as an ARES volunteer you are expected to contact your EC at least once a year, let him know the status of your station, and exchange contact information (which changes more rapidly than ever these days).

The better your EC knows you, the better you both will be able to determine where you fit in. Your interests, capabilities and availability will change over time - this will affect where you fit in, so keep your EC posted.

Excerpted from the Month North Carolina News Summary.

ED. NOTE:

Why haven't you begun to prepare yet? Are you an active ARES member? Remember nothing gets done in a vacuum, see W4DK, K4KQH, W4FOT or KN4GC for further details.

Ham Radio News

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin has appointed a pair of broadcast radio engineers, at least one of whom is a ham, to his committee investigating the effects of Hurricane Katrina on telecommunications and information flow. The two are Steve Davis of Clear Channel Radio and Marty Hadfield, WB7AFV, of Entercom.

Members of this body will recommend ways to improve disaster preparedness, network reliability and communications among first responders by June 15th of this year. The panel's first meeting is set for January 30th. At that time participants will hear statements from panel members about the impact of the hurricane on their company or their industry communications infrastructure as well as issues on which the panel should focus. (RW, others)

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT LAUNCHES FEB 3 AT 22:20 UTC

Its official. Barring any last minute unforeseen glitch, SuitSat will be deployed from the International Space Station during a Russian space walk scheduled to take place on Friday, February 3 at approximately 22:20 UTC.

Once activated, those who hear SuitSat transmissions will be asked to enter their real-time data

on the SuitSat website. Its in cyberspace at www.suitsat.org This will let folks around the world track the SuitSat satellite. More information on SuitSat can be found at www.amsat.org, www.issfanclub.com and several other cyberspace spots on the World Wide Web. (AMSAT-NA)

IOWA RADIO CLUB GETS \$150000 GRANT FROM HOMELAND SECURITY

Some big money going to a United States radio club dedicated to public service. Ernie Martin, WA0AUU, tells Amateur Radio Newsline that the Tri-State Amateur Radio Club of Cresco, Iowa, has received word from the office of Homeland Security that it has been awarded a grant of \$150,000. This, to expand its role assisting the local community.



Email: k4kqj@arrl.net



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club



Club Meeting Tuesday
February 7, 2006



February's meeting will feature Martin Harris, W4FOT, talking about digital communications including DX clusters.



Next club meeting
March 7, 2006 **7:30 pm**
At the SMAC!



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

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!