



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

Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK



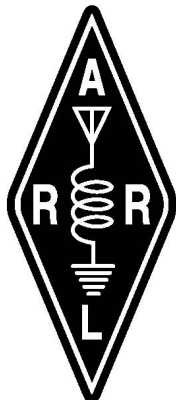
Volume 20, Number 4 April, 2007

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### At the next meeting

- There will be the usual 50/50 drawing.
- **Digital Audio:**  
Jeff Kelly, K4JAB



## BRARC News

### NC QSO Party

Eleven BRARC members, and one grandson, were at the shack on Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> to work the 2007 North Carolina QSO Party. In the course of the afternoon, we worked 24 of the 100 counties in NC. We had a total of 87 QSOs, easily beating our previous record of 62 set in 2005. Total score was a new high of 6702.

Present were Martin, W4FOT; George, K3GK; Michael, AI4GR; Bob, WT4H; Walt, W4FOT; Rusty, KG4JGO; Dick, K4KQJ; Danny, KI4NXT; Bill, KD4RRY, Ronnie, K2SST; Gene, KG4SXE, and Jack.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming communications events. The MS Walk in Hendersonville and the 2007 Biltmore Endurance Ride on the grounds of the Biltmore Estate.

The MS Walk is scheduled for April 14, 2007 from 0800 until 1200 local time, approximately. Ronnie Galloway, KF4AYG, is the communications director for this annual Fund Raiser for the local Multiple Sclerosis chapter. If you know anyone who has this disease or are afflicted yourself then you are well aware of all the good work that the MS Society does.

So, come on out and support MS and help Ronnie show the community that Amateur Radio in general and the BRARC in particular is anxious to support worthwhile community activities. Call Ronnie at (828) 891-

4135 and volunteer your time.

The annual Endurance Ride at the Biltmore Equestrian Center will be held on Saturday, May 5. Action gets underway shortly after 0600 local time and lasts all day and on into the late evening hours. Dick Smith, K4KQJ is the communications organizer for this event. Working in multiple shifts we provide communications with the event staff to insure that no horses or riders get lost on the estate grounds, in addition to passing along information on lead horses etc. We have three checkpoints to man with two being active at any one time. Call Dick at (828) 687-9531 to volunteer or to reconfirm your willingness to work this year. It's always lots of fun.

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## PREZ SEZ, GENE MATHIS, KG4SXE PRESIDENT

Hello to all. Hope everyone is doing well. Well we haven't had a lot of club activities to write about since the last meeting, so this will be short. There is however the MS Walk on Saturday April the 14th at Hendersonville Elementary School.

Ronnie (KF4AYG) will need radio operators along the route. So everyone mark your calendars and if you can, come out to support this worthy cause. Hope to see everyone at the meeting Tuesday April 3rd.

Gene (KG4SXE).

73,



Financial Statement for	
March, 2007 - Lil Clark	
Balance as of 2/28/07	
	\$ 992.17
Plus Deposits	
	181.80
Sub-Total	\$ 1040.97
Less Expenses	16..25
Balance as of 2/20/07	
	\$ 1024.72

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 tion on his transmit frequency. He can not hear you, for he is listening on a different frequency. Vlad had tips on when to call, listening for a pattern in the DX operator's way of answering calls, and how to use the RIT control in working DX. These are just a few of the things Vlad shared with us. This was a very good program. There was much interest, which was shown in the questions asked by those present. Phil, Dave, and Vlad fielded the questions, and gave us good answers.

The 50-50 was won by George Korper, K3GK; and George Walden, KG4LQX, won a power supply in the second drawing.

Lil will bring refreshments for the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

#### **For Sale:**

Icom IC 2000 2M transceiver \$100.00

**W4GCK 828-698-2718**

## AMATEUR RADIO IN IRAQ SHUTDOWN

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 30, 2007 -- Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, says a ham radio blackout in his country remains in effect, with no end in sight. As part of the new security plan in Baghdad, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense earlier this month requested that radio amateurs remain off the air until security improves.

Because of a miscommunication, however, word failed to reach the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission, which still is issuing licenses.

Sayah chalks up the open-

ended ham radio blackout to a misunderstanding of Amateur Radio on the part of the defense minister. Working through the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, the IARS has attempted -- so far without success -- to explain Amateur Radio to the Ministry of Defense.

"Because it's between ministries, this will take time also," Sayah said this week, adding that he was not optimistic about meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki anytime soon.

"Now anyone on the air is a pirate, as everyone is obliged not to use their ra-

dios at the present time," he added. He said IARS members continue making contacts using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes such as IRLP, EchoLink and others.

The Ministry of Defense also had asked the IARS to store all licensees' ham radio equipment during the shutdown, but Sayah says that's not happening because of the dangerous situation that persists within the capital.

Courtesy: ARRL:

## GEAR AND GOODIES

#### **For Sale:**

ICOM 707 HAM STATION with Icom 707 transceiver, Icom AT-160 auto antenna tuner,

MFJ-4225MV 25A switching power supply, Icom SM-6 desktop mike, Icom SP-7 external speaker. \$695.

OUTBACKER PERTH PLUS 75-2M ANTENNA w/ PORTA-POD GROUND PLANE ANTENNA BASE. \$295.  
 Dave Parlier W2CGG. 693-4665.

**From the estate of Ollie Johnson** (sk), K4HBH, for-

mer Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club member.

For sale:  
 1 Hf xcvr .....Ten-TEC Omni, model 546C  
 1 Pyramid 35 amp power supply

**Contact Mrs. Barbara Jeter (Ollie's daughter) at 828-697-9573 for prices.**

## 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; \$10.00 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-FEBRUARY 6, 2007

Meeting Minutes of March 6th, 2007

The meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m., March the 6th., 2007. Our place of meeting was the Stoney Mountain Recreation Center, Hendersonville, N.C. The meeting was presided over by Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president. This by far was our best attended meeting for the year of 2007, as there were 34 present. We also would like to recognize two new members who joined our club during the March meeting: Frank Forrester, KI4NC, Etowah, N. C.; and, Robert Whitney, WT4H, Pisgah Forest, N.C. Welcome gentlemen!

The business portion of the meeting was brief, with two reports and one announcement. The reports are as follows:

(1). Michael Parente, AI4GR, reported that 12 operators participated in the N.C. QSO Party at the club shack. This contest was in the latter part of February, 2007. The operators were able to work 34 of the 100 North Carolina counties. There 179 contacts made, with a score of 6,400 points.

Michael reported that everyone had a good time with this contest, and it was a time of fellowship also.

(2). Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported a balance of \$905.02 in the treasury at the time of this meeting.

(3). Michael also announced that there was tentatively to be an electronic recycling opportunity on May 19th in Hendersonville. He said more details were to be printed in the Times News.

Our featured program this month centered on Dxing. The program was presented by: Dave Anderson, K4SV; Phil Florig, W9IXX; and, Vlad Karamitrov, N4CZ. Phil began the program by telling about his experience on a C6 dxpedition to the Bahamas. Complete with a slide show, Phil described the equipment, the antennas, and the other participants on his trip. Phil went into detail about the antennas, showing us how the antennas were located, mounted, and the success of each of them.

Dave explained, during a break in Phil's report, on

how to find out when a DX station is on the air. Of course, the obvious way is to tune around until you find a DX station. But wait, isn't there an easier way? After all, you could tuning around on the wrong band. Dave explained how to use the internet to find the DX stations. Three web sites Dave told us about were: DXWATCH.com; DXSUMMIT; and DXCENTRAL. On these web sites, DX stations are spotted by amateurs who hear these stations on. By watching these spots, you can determine what station is on, what band the station is on, and the time the spot was made. Some of the sites even give the m.u.f. in given areas of the world. This would let you know if you would be able to work the station. This is just one of the ways Dave mentioned.

Vlad gave us tips on how to work the DX station by use of the radio. Many DX stations use a frequency split, and you have to listen to find out what the split is. There is nothing more aggravating than to hear stations calling for a DX sta-

*(Continued on page 2)*

### President:

Gene Mathis, KG4SXE  
828-698-2734

Mathis3@brinet.com

### Vice President:

Michael Parente  
AI4GR

828-891-8970

Ai4gr@arrl.net

### Secretary:

Sid Hendricks,  
KG4NBN

828-684-8130

### Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP

828-877-5223

peregrine13@citcom.net

### Members-At-Large:

Ronnie Parham  
K2SST

Ronk2sst@bellsouth.net

**Tim Bennison, K4TZZ**

### Past President:

George Korper,  
K3GK

### Antennas:

Walt Wernsing, KO4JN  
828-891-9956

walter134@cytechcis.net

### Echo/Webpage

#### Editor:

Dick Smith, K4KQJ,  
828-687-9531

k4kqj@radioclub.org

### ARRL Emergency

#### Coordinator:

Duke Knief, W4DK  
828-891-4359

w4dk@arrl.net

### Equipment:

### 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

### 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 13, 2007. 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



Email: k4kqj@arrl.net



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club



Club Meeting Tuesday  
March 6, 2007



Next club meeting  
April 3, 2007 7:00 pm  
SMAC



QCWA Chapter 76—  
1st and 3rd Wednes-  
days 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>
<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 9:00 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 <b>Note new freq</b>	3571 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!