



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

Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK



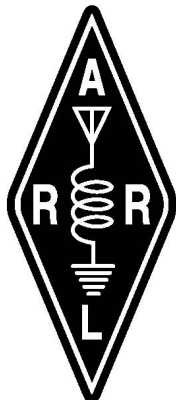
Volume 20, Number 5 May, 2007

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At the next meeting

- There will be the usual 50/50 drawing.
- **Field Day 2007: Dick Smith, K4KQJ**



Herm Fabert, W9FHW, SK

Ed. Note: Herm was a valued member of BRARC. We shall all miss him. This issue is dedicated to Herm. God Speed.

Herman A. "Herm" Fabert Jr., 85, of Poulsbo, Wash., died peacefully with his family at his bedside Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Martha and Mary Health and Rehabilitation Center in Poulsbo, Wash., after a 22-year struggle with cancer.

He was born Sept. 23, 1921, in Pittsburgh, Pa. He grew up in Cleveland, where he was a 1939 graduate of Colliwood High School. In his youth, he was respected on the baseball diamond, feared by Lake Erie perch and enthralled by the Cleveland Air Races. He enrolled in night school at Case Institute of Technology, now Case Western Reserve, while working 50-hour weeks helping to manufac-

ture aircraft engines for the war effort.

In 1943, he reported for active duty in the Army. After attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., he was deployed with the Army Corps of

Engineers, a photcartography unit in charge of producing maps for the possible invasion of Japan.

In 1948, he received his bachelor of science degree in metallurgical engineering from Case and took a position with the American Manganese Steel Co. in Chicago Heights, Ill. He remained with the company for 37 years, ultimately becoming the technical director for AMSCO. He was a life member of the Tau Beta Pi honorary engineering society, Sigma Xi honorary research society, the American Society for Metals, the American Foundryman's Society and the American Welding Society and was the holder or co-holder of five patents for specialty steel processing and welding.

Amateur radio was his other technical passion. His inter-



Engineers to the Philippines, where he served in Manila as a first lieutenant with the 29th

PREZ SEZ, GENE MATHIS, KG4SXE PRESIDENT

Hello all, Hope all are doing well. Sorry for my absence the last meeting. To those who have experienced a kidney stone or stones, you know how it feels and to those who have not. I hope you don't ever have to experience one. I wouldn't

wish that on anyone. But, I'm doing better now and look forward to the next meeting.

Saturday May the 5th was the Biltmore Endurance Ride. The weather didn't want to cooperate, with all the rain. But there were no

serious injuries, so we'll take it. First I would like to thank Dick Smith (K4KQJ) for coordinating this event. Then thank you to Willi (KA4WPM), Martin Harris (W4FOT), Karl Krauss (K4PCY), George Korper (K3GK), Bob Delwiche

(Continued on page 2)

Financial Statement for May, 2007 - Lil Clark	
Balance as of 4/3007	\$ 997.72
Plus Deposits	47.86
Sub-Total	\$ 1045.58
Less Expenses	0.00
Balance as of 4/20/07	\$ 1045.58

(Continued from page 1)
 (KD4OKT), Michael Parente (AI4GR), and last, but not least Ronnie Galloway (KF4AYG). If I have forgotten anyone, first please forgive me and then let me know and I will make amends. Without the help of all of these, we would not be able to help by giving radio communications support to events such as this. I would encourage all who can to participate in these events. Not only to give the club publicity, but it's fun to do. 73 to all, Gene (KG4SXE).

W9FHW. CONT'D.

(Continued from page 1)
 est was first sparked in the 1930s while in high school. It grew in the Corps of Engineers, not the Signal Corps, and he received his first amateur radio license in the Philippines immediately after the war. Upon returning home, he was assigned the call letters W9FHW in 1949. As recently as late February of this year, he was still transmitting with the same call letters and communicating with fellow hams worldwide, a more than 70-year presence on the air.

In 1950, he married Madeleine J. Doyle of St. Louis and last June they cele-

brated their 56th wedding anniversary. Their's was a devoted relationship that helped him overcome a challenging bout of polio in 1954 and face the rigors of raising a rambunctious family in the 1960s with humor and grace.

After spending 17 years in retirement in Hendersonville, they relocated to western Washington. He spent his last two years at the Madison Avenue Retirement Center on Bainbridge Island, Wash., where he enjoyed the company of many new friends and the proximity of his family.

Preceding him in death was

his sister, Kay Burns of Mentor, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife, Madeleine; sons, Bruce Fabert of Everett, Wash., and Dr. Kenneth Fabert of Bainbridge Island, Wash.; a daughter, Gwen Fabert Maitzen of Oregon, Wis.; and two granddaughters, Katie Maitzen and Emma Martin Fabert.

His humor, integrity, warmth and love touched everyone who knew him. He will be missed by us all.

WANTED! Emergency Coordinator for Henderson County.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) Must have an interest in furthering emergency communication.</p> <p>2) Must be Tech class amateur or higher.</p> <p>3) Must be and remain an ARRL member during the appointment.</p> <p>4) Indefinite hours, no</p> | <p>perks or corner office and no pay except the personal reward of serving others in time of need.</p> <p>5) If you can fill this challenging position, contact the AREA 15 District Emergency Co-</p> | <p>ordinator at w4dk@arrl.net / 891-4359</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|

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.

HERM FABERT ON HERM FABERT

The Following was written by
Herm, W9FHW, for the rea-
sons stated in the letter.

Hope you can all read it.

Herm Fabert
1763 Glenheath Drive
Hendersonville NC 28791
W9FHW
w9fhw@arrl.net

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Mort Bardfield WIUQ
District Director
The OLD-OLD-TIMERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
16 Addington Rd.
Brookline MA 02445

May 20, 2003

Dear Mort,

Thank you for your kind invitation to join The OLD-OLD-TIMERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. I accept and have completed the attached membership form. Below I have summarized my radio activities over the span of years.

My interest in radio began during my high school years in Cleveland Ohio. This would be about 1935. The father of a high school friend lost his wholesale produce business during those depression years. He then repaired radios for a living. Don and I would watch him work and occasionally he would junk a set which we would strip for parts. In his shop he had many of the Hugo Gernsbach publications describing short wave radio circuits. Inevitably, I had to try some of those circuits. The bug had bitten and I was on my way in radio.

Most of the receivers I built were TRF regenerative types, using plug-in coils for band changing. Listened a lot on the 160 Meter amateur band where W8RHZ in Cleveland Heights, Ohio was dominant. He later moved to Twinsburg, Ohio where I continued to hear him night after night talking to friends in Philadelphia and St.Louis. These schedules lead me to resolve to become a ham. During the high school years I listened to W1AW for code practice many times sending in unison with their transmissions. Slowly, ever so slowly, proficiency came about but it took a long time. In September 1941 I took the Class B exam and flunked the code. A solid one minute copy was required out of the three minutes sent. They got me when "steamship so-and-so was at latitude so-and-so in degrees, minutes and seconds and similarly so for longitude. The letters "s", "i", "h" and "p" finished me at that time.

Back in 1939 I graduated from high school and was lucky enough to get a job in a forge shop making aircraft engine forgings. Also that year I started going to college nights aiming toward a metallurgical engineering degree which did come about 9 years later. As the European War progressed, overtime increased until I was working 50 hours a week while still going to college 3-4 nights a week. Needless-to-say I didn't have much time for radio. Having saved enough money I quit my job and enrolled full time at school after the Enlisted Reserve Program was established. In May of 1943 I reported for active duty in the Army.

From Private to First Lieutenant I had a number of radio experiences, none of which were with the Signal Corps. While with the 86th Infantry Division on maneuvers in Louisiana we

*Come to the June
meeting prepared to sign
up to help with Field
Day*

were about 100 miles from our base post at Camp Livingston, The Morning Report, indicating the number of personnel available for duty that day was a most important piece of information for the Army. On that particular day the theme was "camouflage discipline". Accordingly the radio truck was driven into a saddle between two hills. The 100 watts from the BC-191?? to the 8-ft. whip antenna wasn't doing the job. In free time I used to hang around the radio truck to keep familiar with the code so I recommended they move the truck to the top of the hill. After much static about "the theme" they went to the top of the hill and got their message through. Radio operators apparently weren't taught much about propagation.

Later, while at Engineer OCS, we were required participate in a 40-hour extended field problem. A number of road and bridge building operations were to take place over a wide area and radio communications were to be established at three sites. I volunteered for one of the locations and by prearrangement the three of us agreed to change frequencies at precise times for we knew we were going to receive bogus messages even though incryption was in use. About ¾ of the way through the exercise a Tactical Officer (supervisor) came along and indicated we were getting a poor grade because of our inactivity. After showing him our log of messages, all of which were by the book, he told us to stay on one frequency so they could have some fun harrassing us. Our changing frequency was unusual for many Army operators were loath to have to retune a rig. Minimum plate current dip and concurrent max output were difficult to accept.

Still later in the Spring of 1946, The Commonwealth of the Philippines began issuing of amateur radio licenses. I was with the 29th Engineers at the time in Greater Manila and a sergeant who was licensed in the US and I took and passed the exam and were given the call letters KA1AJ. For some strange reason only 10 Meter phone operation was permitted between 28,000-28,500 Khz. All of us wanted to work home so we put up a Vee-Beam Curtain Antenna surveyed to direct a signal via a Great Circle Route into the central USA. We had 10 wavelengths of wire on 10 Meters with the upper Vee at 50 ft. and a second Vee 16 ft. below it fed in-phase with home made open wire line and a homebrew tuner. The next problem was getting some equipment.

Using the tried and true "moonlight requisition technique" we worked a swap with the Signal Corps for a Hallicrafters BC-610 transmitter also a Hallicrafters SX-25 and a Hammarlund Super Pro. Our swap tender was multicolor greeting cards which our outfit designed and printed on our presses. You see we were making the invasion maps of Japan with color just like those in National Geographic Magazine only ours included elevation contours.

Our BC-610 was redlined at 20 MHz so somehow we had to further double frequency. The driver tubes for the 250TH final amplifier were a pair of parallel 807s which were notorious for developing spurious frequencies. Anyhow, initially we did double frequency with the 807s and got on the air. The first signal report we got was XU1YN from the U.S. Marines in Tinsien in North China. They said we couldn't miss you guys as you are 20db over S-9 in four spots in the 10 M band. We said thanks and went back to the drawing board. We later quadrupled or doubled ?? in an earlier multiplier stage and ended up with a reasonably "clean" rig.

The transmitter was ruggedly built weighing hundreds of pounds but it did have a weak spot and that was the modulation transformer which would arc-over to ground. Accordingly we had three transformers. One in use, one waiting to be installed with the third back at the Signal Depot being rewound. In fairness we used them hard, running at 500 watts rather than the specified 400. All the transformers and power chokes were beautifully built having cast iron end bells and husky cores. Ours were all built by Kenyon, a quality name of the past.

Being a DX station immediately following World War II was an amateurs' dream. Military affiliated stations were on the air all over the Pacific in addition to all the others from the rest of the world. As our curtain antenna was bi-directional we had a pipeline into the RAF Signals on the island of Malta. We worked ZB1A many times and got to know the British officer in charge quite well. In our favored antenna directions we could take our Signal Corps boys with their 4-element Yagi, also using a BC-610, more times than not. This did not sit well with them, as you can imagine. Almost 50 years later I worked ZB1A on Malta from my present home in North Carolina. The officer I knew had returned there and I was able to talk to him again.

Getting back to Cleveland in September of 1946, I reattended school and got licensed in the US acquiring the original issue call W8ZJV. Had a Millen Exciter feeding a 10M vertical dipole. Then I added a homebrew push-pull 807 amplifier as well as a speech amplifier-modulator for phone operation.

Got my engineering degree in June 1948 and took a job in Chicago Heights, IL. I rented a bedroom in a private home and reestablished my station there. In those days when you moved from one radio district to another you had to get your call changed. After getting my Class A license I was issued the call W9FHW which I hold today. That 807 amplifier did not tolerate the move from Ohio to Illinois as it was wilder than a March-hare. Even a total rebuild did not cure the problem which had been non-existent in Ohio. Oh, the mysteries of amateur radio!

After 37 plus years with my employer I retired to Hendersonville NC. Being a "flatlander" all my life the mountains looked pretty good, as did the local people. Went through the transition from AM to Sideband using commercial rather than homebrew gear. The amazing things that wire antennas can do have stayed with me all my life. Currently, we use a multiband Cubical Quad, a Folded Umbrella, and an 80M Dipole fed with ladderline for multiband operation. We still homebrew our antenna-tuners and recommend and assist with the building of other wire antennas, including the 40M Extended Double Zepp, Delta Loop and the Double Bazooka.

We are active in Chapter 76 of QCWA, the local Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club, belong to DXCC and act as net control for the Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club Alumni Group which meets week nights on 40 Meters. To say that we have enjoyed amateur radio down through the years is a gross understatement. The people you meet and the surprises you encounter cannot be imagined. It's a wonderful service and a very satisfying life-long hobby.

MEETING MINUTES-MAY 1, 2007

The May meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club came to order at 7:30 p.m. on the first day of May. This was a regularly scheduled meeting, held at the Stony Mountain building of the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department. For those who are unfamiliar with our club, the club meets the first Tuesday of each month. All visitors are welcome. There were 29 present at this meeting. Michael Parente, AI4GR, club vice president, served as presiding officer.

Duke Knief, W4DK, had a couple of announcements for the club: The Merchant's Association of Hendersonville has approached the club about helping them with a Fourth of July parade. Duke is to find out more details to bring back to the club for the June meeting. If you attended the Sky Warn class of September 23rd, 2006, and did not receive a certificate, then please see Duke. He reported that the certificates are now available. Duke also said an EC is need for the county. Duke has moved to district EC,

and has been doing the county EC; but, someone needs to take the position. If interested, see Duke for the particulars.

Walter Wernsing, KO4JN, had two announcements of sadness to bring to the club. Arnie Proner, W2OMU, has passed away. On the same note, Herm Fabert, W9FHW, passed away in Washington State. Herm was a real booster to our club when he was in the area. Both of these gentlemen will be missed by those of us who knew them.

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported a total \$977.72 was in the treasury at the time of the club meeting.

Our keynote speaker for this month's meeting was George Korper, K3GK. George delivered an informative session on the use of portable antennas and rigs. One antenna was the Buddipole, which is unique in the fact that the antenna is not an antenna that needs a lot of height to radiate. The effective range on the Buddipole is around 600 miles, even though the antenna is

only eight feet or so off the ground. The Buddipole is in essence a dipole that is adjustable, and sits atop a pole, which in turn is fitted to a tripod. The dipole elements are two whips. Each whip has a coil in place to adjust the antenna to the band you wish to work. George has had good results for this antenna.

Another antenna was the Carolina screw driver, which George had mounted on a pizza pan. George had rigged a tripod to hold the pan and antenna by magnets. Two portable radios George uses are the FT 817 and the FT 857. With the antennas and radios George showed us, it is possible to be on the air in a relatively short time, anywhere.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

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Tim Bennison, K4TZZ

Past President:

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Equipment:

Membership:

Lil Clark—see above

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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: August 11, 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
June 5, 2007

At the May Meeting:
Field Day Preparations



Next club meeting
July 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>
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 9:00 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 Note new freq	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!