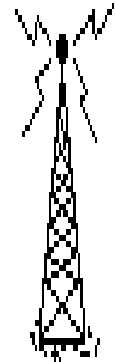


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



***Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
- W4YK -***

Volume 21, Number 1 – January 2008

The Prez Sez

Hello to all, hope all are doing well. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all who have participated in the volunteer events and all aspects of club meetings and club events this past year. Without each and everyone, we would not have a club. Thanks again to everyone and may we have another great year.

Thanks to all who participated in the club Christmas Dinner. I believe all had a good time of fellowship and the food was pretty good too. I know my wife and I enjoyed.

Just a reminder, our January meeting will be on the 8th at 7:30 pm at The Stoney Mountain Activity Center. 6:30 for the steering committee.

A HUGE THANK YOU

to Dick Smith, K4KQJ, for the many ECHOs he has edited for us. His interesting articles and polished formatting kept us up-to-date on club events. Dick is handing off the editing work to Michael, AI4GR, but willingly gives a guiding hand. He continues to provide public information and is our Webmaster.

MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4TH, 2007

This month's meeting was held at the Twin Dragons in Brevard, N.C. Yes, this is the month that we have our annual Christmas and Hanukkah dinner. As it was our dinner, we had no formal business to discuss.

If I counted correctly, there were 36 present. This included members with the xyl's, junior operators, and a guest or two. (It was kind of hard to get count, what with everyone going and coming with loaded food plates.) You'd think after being there twice I wouldn't have run past the driveway into the Twin Dragons this year. George, K3GK, said it was no problem to find, "just look for the pagoda roof." I was so busy looking for the roof in the dark, that I missed the drive. We still made it on time. Now to get seated,

and get ready for the vittles. I guess one shouldn't use "vittles" at the Twin Dragons. That's more a word to use at the "Greasy Spoon Truck Stop". Most of the long tables had already been occupied, so Beverly and I sat kinda over in a corner to ourselves. That was okay though, it made Bev and I feel like we were on a date. You sort of lose track of how that feels after 42 years of blissful married life. From my vantage point I could still interact with Dick, K4KQJ, his bride, Liz; and George and his wife. I could also see who was making the most trips to the buffet tables. Funny, how a little fellow like Michael, AI4GR, can hide so much food.

Hey, I did find some sweet potatoes this year! The fried white fish was very tasty, and I had onion rings to go with that. From my vantage point, it looked like everyone was having a good time of fellowship, and most were finding more than enough to eat. It is always good when we have an outing such as this.

Gene, KG4SXE, said a few words of welcome to everyone toward the end of the meal. Most of the trips to the food had abated, and this was the time to say a few words. Gene did announce that the January meeting would be held the **SECOND TUESDAY IN JANUARY (January 8th)**. **THIS IS DUE TO THE NORMAL MEETING DATE BEING NEW YEAR'S DAY**. The rest of the 2008 meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month.

I would like to thank each one who came to the dinner, and to those who helped with the Hendersonville and Fletcher Christmas parades. A special "thank you" to Dick for his service as the ECHO editor. He has passed the mantel over to Michael Parente.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks W4IOE



Enjoying the BRARC Dinner at Twin Dragons

***Our Next Meeting: January 8, 2008
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30 pm***

George Korper on Computers in Amateur Radio

Hendersonville Christmas Parade — Again, the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club helped the annual Christmas parade march off in good order. Sixteen of our members participated by sequencing the parading organizations, and then by easing them off after their march. Duke, W4DK, coordinated our efforts and also drove his truck, festooned with banners, in the parade itself. Sid, W4IOE, was net control for the temporary repeater set up by Martin, W4FOT. Dick, K4KQJ, was parade director.



The RadioMobile with Dick, Duke, Jeff, and David

Participating in the Hendersonville parade were:

Duke, W4DK
Ron, KF4HAT
David, KG4NUW
Ronnie, K2SST

Martin, W4FOT
Sid, W4IOE
Danny, KI4NXT
Gene, KG4SXE

George, K3GK
Jeff, K4JAB
Bob, KD4OKT
George, KB4YBB

Michael, AI4GR
Dick, K4KQJ
Brian, KE4SMZ
Harry, N4ZVX

— Technician License Classes —

Technician Classes start TUESDAY, 22 January 2008. 7PM (1900L) at A-B Tech College in Asheville. Classes will be every Tuesday and Thursday until the exam night on 13 March. There is NO requirement to attend all classes.

Text books are available from ARRL, or at the same price from us on the first evening (with a prior reservation). Amazon.com may have some at reduced prices, but beware the vintage.

Interested parties contact Duke, W4DK 891-4359.

— Order Your BRARC Shirt —

SHIRTS - \$30.00 each; checks to Duke Knief.
Order placed when 6 are ordered. Put callsign
and size on memo line.



Henderson County ARES Net is every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on 146.640-

The Henderson County ARES group meets for a training session at the Etowah Lions' Club on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meeting is January 28th at 7:00 pm.

The following is from ARRL's ARES newsletter:

NIMS Five Year Plan Means ARES Needs ICS/NIMS Certifications

For those amateurs who are still on the fence about the importance of advanced training and ICS/NIMS requirements, the draft release of the Five Year NIMS Training Plan makes for interesting reading. One point that is made very clearly is that "access to future national incidents will be restricted to those who have met the mandatory requirements." Within the next few years, you simply won't be able to obtain credentials for access without proof of completion of required instruction.

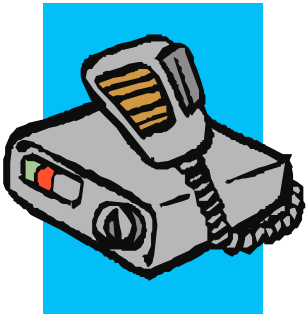


ITEMS For Sale

Send descriptions of Sale or Wanted items to the editor.

Dues Are Due!

Remember that the first of the year is renewal time for Club dues. The annual dues are \$20.00. Bring your check book on Tuesday. OR....Send your renewal to: Lil Clark, 301 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712



PTT □ □ □ □ □ □ Here's the chance to dust off our 70cm

transmitters. Sid, W4IOE, is hosting a new rag-chew net using the N4YR repeater on Mt. Mitchell. Join in Mondays at 8:00 pm on FM 442.225 MHz (tone of 136.5 Hz). The repeater has a large footprint, so it doesn't take a beam antenna or high power. Give it a try!

January can be a slow month while we await spring. OR...why not speed spring along with a radio event? On the 19th thru 21st there is the VHF Sweepstakes. The January Sweepstakes doesn't have the wide participation of the spring or fall events, but it is a good opportunity to try your new antenna or SSB rig. Recall last year several of us operated from Jump-Off Rock in Laurel Park (cold and windy, but we were featured in Times-News.) If the weather warms up, I'll be there again, else I'll try a new homebrew quad from my house. Give me a call if you wish to operate as a club.

January 5th and 6th is the RTTY Roundup. It's a great way to get started on a digital WAS or DXCC award.

January 6th is also Kids Day. Help a youngster make a radio contact and he or she will earn a personalized certificate.

Here's hoping we all are healthy and prosper in 2008, and let's make lots of interesting radio contacts.

—— AI4GR is clear.

**Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
Points Of Contact**

President:

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Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP - 828-877-5223
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ARRL Emergency Coordinator: George Korper, K3GK -
828-694-3820 k3gk@arrl.net

VE Testing: Sid Hendricks, See above

Membership: - Lil Clark, See above

Public Relations: Dick Smith, See above

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

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Club Information

Address: Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 831, Horse Shoe NC 28742

Dues: Our dues cover the period from January through December. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member are one-half the applicable rate. Dues for full-time students of an accredited school are one-half the regular rate as long as the student status is maintained. New members joining between July and December pay one-half the applicable rate for membership through the end of the year. This year's dues are \$20.00 per person; \$10.00 per additional family member. **Please send your renewals to: Lil Clark, 301 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712**

Meetings: We meet at the Stoney Mountain Activity Center at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

\$

**Financial Statement for November thru
December 2007 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 10/31/07	\$ 1258.84
Plus: Deposits	146.90
Less: Expenses	<u>37.28</u>
Balance as of 12/31/07	\$ 1368.48

\$

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 the club is to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to promote and conduct 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 provide an opportunity for YOU to get your amateur license or to upgrade your present status. *NEXT SESSION: February 9, 2008.* Call Sid, W4IOE for details

Classes: We occasionally have classes so YOU can learn how to get your very own amateur radio Technician class license! Next class starts 22 January 2008.



A message from the Echo editor..... Articles and submissions for the Echo should be sent in, phoned in, or 'otherwise' by the 15th of each month.

If you have something to add to **YOUR** newsletter, send it to: Michael, AI4GR.
Call me at: 828-891-8970 or E-mail me at:
ai4gr@arrl.net



Nets and On-The-Air Activities

Net	Freq / PL	Day	Time
BRARC Net	146.640 MHz/ 91.5	Sunday	8:00 PM
BRARC Rag Chew	28.350 MHz	Sunday	following 146.640 net
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
440 Rag Chew	442.225 MHz/136.5	Monday	8:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 6m Net	53.630 MHz/100	Friday	8:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3942 kHz (SSB)	Saturday	8:45 AM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3923 kHz (SSB)	Daily	7:30 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
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday	9:00 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily	9:00 PM
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday	8:30 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday	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
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
SATERN Net	14265 kHz	Daily	10:00 AM
NC Evening Net	3923 kHz (SSB)	Daily	6:30 PM
Carolinas Slow Net	3695 kHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily	8:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3573 kHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily	10:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3573 kHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily	7:00 PM

If this information has changed, please contact Michael Parente at 891-8970 or ai4gr@arrl.net.



Club Meeting Tuesday
January 8, 2008, 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Next club meeting
February 5, 2008 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Henderson County ARES
Training Session
Fourth Monday of month
Etowah Lions Club



— Find us on the web at <http://www.radioclub.org> —