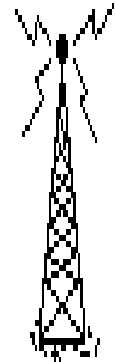


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 21, Number 2 – February 2008

The Prez Sez

Mark your calendars for the club picnic. It will be at Holmes State Forest in the picnic shelter Saturday September 6th at 11:00 am.

Remember the club meeting Tuesday February 5th at 7:30pm. Duke, W4DK, will give a presentation on Winlink. I hope to see all of you there. However, remember the winter weather policy. If Blue Ridge Technical College cancels night classes, there will be no meeting that night. Pray for no snow or ice on the meeting nights.

73 for now,
Gene, KG4SXE

Meet our 2008 Steering Committee



**Rear – Rusty, KG4JGQ; Ronnie, K2SST; Lil, KG4GFP; Sid, W4IOE
Front – Danny, KI4NXT; Gene, KG4SXE**

MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 8TH, 2008

The January meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club was held on the second Tuesday of this month, for this month only. The meetings are always scheduled for the first Tuesday; but, as New Year's Day fell on the first Tuesday, we opted to meet on the second.

The meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m., with the club president, Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, presiding. There were 22 present, including one visitor. Our visitor was Ken Parham, son of Ronnie Parham, K2SST. Gene gave everyone a warm welcome.

Gene, Duke, W4DK, and Michael, AI4GR, had announcements that were of interest to the club:

Gene announced a new facet of our meetings. Walt, KO4JN, has volunteered to oversee a ten minute mini-presentation at the beginning of the meeting. This new feature will be called, "Hints and Kinks."

Duke advised us that the folks at Hendersonville wanted to again have a Fourth of July parade, and have requested our expertise on handling the formation and kick off of the parade. The parade will be in the morning this year.

Michael reported the N.C. QSO party will be on February 24th this year. He asked how many would be interested in participating. Several raised their hand that they would participate. Michael will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.

The members had a discussion as to when the annual picnic would take place. We had the club picnic last August, and only 12 people showed up. The consensus of the members this year is to move the picnic back to September. Thus, the 2008 club picnic will be held on the 6th of September at Holmes State Forest.

Gene called for the treasurer's report. Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported that at the time of this club meeting there was \$1368.46 in the treasury. She also reminded everyone that dues for 2008 are due now. Annual dues are \$20.00.

For this month's presentation, George Korper, K3GK; and, Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ, presented computer programs and equipment to work Digital Modes.

George uses a Macintosh computer, so he showed the programs available to work PSK 31. The program George introduced us to is capable of logging the contact, showing where the operator lives by use of Google maps, and several other useful features. Rusty then presented a program on Windows. The program is called Ham Radio Deluxe, and is freeware. One very useful piece of equipment Rusty had was called Signal Link. This neat little box contains an isolated sound card for use on the digital modes. The box connects to an USB port on your pc, and to the proper jack on your transceiver. It is one of the simplest hook-ups I have seen. Both men brought a very good program.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Bob Felt, KB5YZG.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE



George, K3GK, (standing) and Rusty, KG4JGQ
demo computer programs

***Our Next Meeting: February 5, 2008
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm***

Duke, W4DK on Winlink-2000

Party Time — The 2008 North Carolina QSO Party will be February 24th, 12 noon through 10:00pm. This is a light-hearted HF event, with the object being to contact stations in as many as possible of the 100 counties of NC. We will operate as W4YK using the club's shack and rigs. Details of the QSO Party are at www.w4nc.com

BRARC has participated in the past three QSO parties. In 2005 we reached 28 counties for a score of 5280; in 2006, 15 counties and a 3038 score; in 2007, 22 counties and 6415 score. We seem to have a lock on 5th place in the club category; let's go for 4th.

It's a good chance to use the club's equipment and spend some time with fellow hams. A sign-up sheet will be available at the February meeting, or contact Michael, AI4GR

Fletcher Christmas Parade — Twelve members of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club and Henderson County ARES gathered bright and early on the 8th of December to help put on the 2007 Fletcher Christmas Parade. The Fletcher Parks and Rec department treated all to a hearty breakfast at Town Hall at 7:30am. The pre-parade meeting was held at 8:45 and we headed out to take up our positions.

Harry, N4ZVX; Doug, W9SPC; Bob, KD4OKT; George, K3GK; Craig, KE4DFV; Sid, W4IOE, Duke, W4DK; Gene, KG4SXE; Ron, KF4HAT; Brian, KE4SMZ; Danny KI4NXT and Dick, K4KQJ made sure that everyone was lined up correctly and that all went well. As usual, Sid kept us in order as net control. Thanks to KF4HAT and KE4SMZ for showing up extra early to help put the repeater on the air.

The city of Fletcher again was appreciative of our efforts.

— Technician License Classes —

Technician Classes start TUESDAY, 22 January 2008 at A-B Tech College in Asheville. Classes will be every Tuesday and Thursday until exam night on 13 March. There is NO requirement to attend all classes. The first class is January 22nd. 6:00pm in Room 318 of the Elm building.

Text books are available from ARRL, or at the same price from us on the first evening (\$24.95 with a prior reservation).

Interested parties contact Duke, W4DK 891-4359.



Henderson County ARES Net is every Wednesday at 9:00pm on 146.640/91.5

The Henderson County ARES group meets for a training session at the Etowah Lions' Club building on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meetings are January 28th and February 25th at 7:00 pm.

The following is from the ARES newsletter of the ARRL:

Perhaps overlooked in last year's press to get ARES members trained in ICS/NIMS is basic training that we all should have, including SKYWARN training. Empirically, the majority of ARES members are not trained in SKYWARN. The basics of meteorological observation and reporting are taught in an evening of classroom instruction by trainers from the National Weather Service and/or the local emergency management agency. <<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/>>

Editor's note: SkyWarn training is often available at hamfests, and there will be training on January 26th hosted by the Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service, see www.ccarsnc.org.



ITEMS For Sale

Wanted - Bird 43 Wattmeter with VHF or UHF slug. M. Parente, AI4GR (ai4gr@arrl.net).

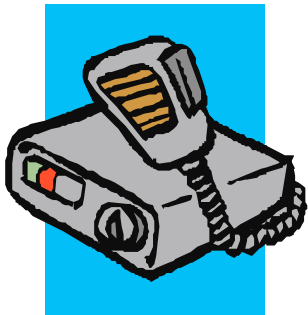
— Order Your BRARC Shirt —

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



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, 15 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712



PTT □ □ □ □ □ □ Saturday mornings can be slow going, so why not give them a jump start by joining the HF net of QCWA Chapter 76? It starts at 8:45am on 3.740± MHz.

If you are seeking band openings for dx, inspecting a propagation map can help. A good site for this is <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation>, but such maps entail interpolations at each frequency, so are tricky to use. An alternative is on <http://lu9da.dyndns.org/www/prop.html>. Here, LU9DA has a separate map for each band, where he plots a line connecting ends of contacts reported on his DXCluster. It gives you a quick and easy picture of dx activity.

Several of us have backyard gauges that use tilt buckets to record rainfall; we then send the readings on to NOAA and APRS via the internet. Well, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow network says these tilt buckets may underestimate rainfall by 25% or more. They insist on 4" diameter cups. The network seeks participants from NC (www.cocorahs.org).

The questions for the Amateur Extra exam will change as of July 1st. If you are studying the existing questions, why not take the exam before they change? Our next test sessions are February 9th and May 10th.

———— AI4GR is clear.

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

President:

Gene Mathis, KG4SXE - 828-698-2734
mathis3@brinet.com

Vice President:

Danny Rector, KI4NXT - 828-698-3231
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Secretary:

Sid Hendricks, W4IOE - 828-684-8130
w4ioe@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP - 828-877-5223
peregrine13@citcom.net

Members-At-Large:

Ron Parham, K2SST - 828-890-4802
ronk2sst@bellsouth.net
Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ - 828-891-1526
kg4jgq@arrl.net

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walter134@cytechcis.net

Echo Editor: Michael Parente, AI4GR - 828-891-8970
ai4gr@arrl.net

Website: Dick Smith, K4KQJ - 828-687-9531
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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, 15 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 Report for January 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 12/31/07	\$ 1368.46
Plus: Deposits	388.00
Less: Expenses	<u>36.00</u>
Balance as of 1/15/08	\$ 1720.46

\$

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.

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.

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.



A message from the Echo editor..... Articles and submissions for the Echo should be sent by email, or phoned in 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	3.740 MHz (SSB)	Saturday	8:45 AM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz (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	7.2255 MHz (SSB)	Mon-Sat 7:00 AM	Sunday 8:00 AM
NC Morning Net	3.927 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:45 AM
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily	10:00 AM
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily	6:30 PM
Carolinas Slow Net	3.695 MHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily	8:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3.573 MHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily	10:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3.573 MHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily	7:00 PM

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



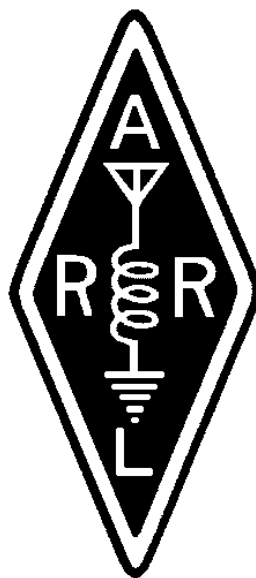
Club Meeting Tuesday
February 5, 2008, 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Next club meeting
March 4, 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> —