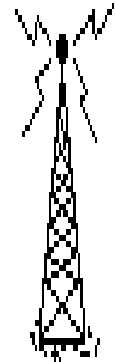


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 21, Number 3 – March 2008

The Prez Sez

Hello to one and all, Hope all are doing well. I want to thank Danny Rector for filling in for me at the last meeting. I was stricken with the flu and was trying to keep myself in shape for a surgery I had upcoming. I did undergo the procedure and it went well. Now to just recover and heal. Thanks again Danny.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March meeting and look forward to Walt's presentation on Heath Kits. Sounds like it will be an interesting one.

73 for now,
Gene, KG4SXE

MEETING MINUTES OF February 5th, 2008

The February meeting of the Blue Amateur Radio Club came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Danny Rector, KI4NXT presiding. Our club president, Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, was absent due to illness. Danny began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the national flag. We had 25 persons in attendance for the meeting.

This month's meeting began with a new feature, "Hints and Kinks." This is a short ten-minute talk on a related amateur facet. Our thanks to Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, for suggesting this feature, and getting speakers lined up for the meetings. Walt introduced Michael Parente, AI4GR, who presented this month's talk. Michael told us about a simple long wire antenna. The antenna was 85 feet long, and there was another short piece that could be used as a radial. The antenna is hung in a tree as high as you can get it. Better use a balun, for Michael found that without it, RF will come into the shack. The antenna will get out. If you need more info on it, please see Michael.

Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ, gave a short talk on DXing. Rusty gave some upcoming events for DX contests, and mentioned some of the contacts he had made.

Upcoming events announced were the Fletcher Flyer Bicycle Ride on May 18, 2008. This is sponsored by the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club. Contact person is Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK. His phone is 828-277-4473, e-mail is ki4rbk@arrl.net

Also, Dick Smith, K4KQJ, announced that the Biltmore Horse Endurance Run will be held on May 3rd, 2008. Dick will give more details at an upcoming meeting.

Duke Knief, W4DK, brought forth the feature presentation for this month's meeting. Duke had set up equipment to show us about Winlink. This is digital communications using Pactor III to send e-mails by HF radio. This form of communication is extremely effective during national emergencies, and natural disasters. One example Duke cited was the food delivery for the Katrina disaster. A ham at the Katrina site would send the list of supplies to the supplier, so the food could be delivered the next day. The beauty of this was the supplier had no HF equipment, but he got the list by internet.

To find what is involved in this mode of communication, please visit www.winlink.org.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Walt Wernsing, KO4JN.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE



Duke, W4DK, Demonstrates Winlink 2000

*Our Next Meeting: March 4, 2008
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm*

Walt, KO4JN on History of Heathkit

Hints & Kinks: Martin, W4FOT on the Double Bazooka, a 70' antenna for 40m.

Working the North Carolina QSO Party — On the afternoon and evening of February 24th, twelve members of BRARC met at our shack to participate in the 2008 NC QSO Party. The objective of the party is to work as many as possible NC counties and other states as possible. Each contact by phone gives us 2 points; by CW, 3 points.

We arranged the shack so that operators transmitted from the same table as the logging computer. Our radio was a modern ICOM loaned to us by George, K3GK. We quickly learned to use its DSP filters to help crack through some of the denser pile-ups. The party started at noon. Our first QSO was at 12:02pm.

On 20m – 10m the quad antenna reached several nearby stations via ground wave. But most of the work was done by the Zepp antenna on 40m and 80m. Until about 6:00pm the activity on 40m was good, but then broadcast stations became troublesome, so the operators switched to 80m, where most of the activity continued until they packed it in after their final QSO at 9:35pm.

We reached both of the bonus stations and one of the two bonus counties (Dare). George and Rusty provided us with 16 CW contacts. Ninety-five contacts were on 40m; 66 on 80m; 15 on 20m; and 6 each on 10m and 15m. In all, we made 188 QSOs, for a claimed score of 28,283. Previously, our best efforts gave us 85 QSOs, and a score of 6,702. We will have to wait a few months to see how we fared in the statewide results.

The operators were continuously nourished by Walt's chocolate-covered doughnuts and Rusty's pepperoni pizza. Participating were Martin, W4FOT; George, K3GK; Al, W2GJS; Michael, AI4GR; Rusty, KG4JGQ; Walt, KO4JN; Dick, K4KQJ; Danny, KI4NXT; Bob, KD4OKT; Gene, KG4SXE; Ed, KT4US; Bob, KB5YZG.



Ed, KT4US; Dick, K4KQJ; Walt, KO4JN; and Danny, KI4NXT



Rusty, KG4JGQ, Danny, KI4NXT, and George, K3GK



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 February 25th and March 24th at 7:00 pm.

Two new Field Organization positions have been created by the ARRL: Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and Assistant District Emergency Coordinator. Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, will be working with his ARES organization to have new appointments made where appropriate.

The ARRL is supporting AMSAT's initiative seeking access to an Intelsat platform in geostationary orbit. AMSAT is in consultation with Intelsat regarding potential benefits for emergency communications.

An opportunity for you to practice your traffic handling skills began Sunday, Feb. 3rd. Mark Rappaport, W2EAG is leading a traffic-handling training course, the "Carolinas Training Net." It is held 5pm local time on 3.861MHz, and will continue every Sunday thereafter until the course is completed. A training manual for the course has been posted at www.ncarrl.org and certificates will be issued to those who complete the course.

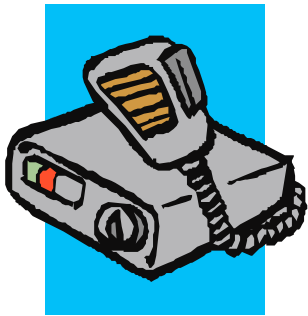


ITEMS For Sale

Notify the editor if you would like to buy or sell radio gear.

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 □ □ □ □ □ □ BRARC was well-represented at the Charleston

hamfest of February 2nd; attending were Bob, KB5YZG, Kathleen, KI4GQZ, and Michael, AI4GR. ICOM presented the latest on D-Star digital radio. There is now a D-Star repeater in Columbia, and another is planned soon for Charleston. Dan Henderson, N1ND, manager of Regulatory Information at ARRL urged us to make use of the 70cm band, to bring youngsters into our activity, and to above-all HAVE FUN with the hobby. — that sounds like a good idea.

Amateurs in SC are working with several organizations to provide back-up communications for healthcare facilities. Their plan is to cover the state using linked repeaters on 2m and 70cm. One of the repeaters is planned for Caesars Head. If we can reach that node, communications over all of SC will be possible. The system is open for routine use of all hams, except during emergencies. www.sph.sc.edu/acphp/

Sigh! Notice in the March QST that the rover team of AI4GR and KI4GQZ are in the southeast top 5 for the Sept. VHF contest.

Mark your calendars for two dates in May: May 3rd is the Biltmore Endurance Ride; May 18th is the Fletcher Flyer Bicycle ride. The BRARC provides communications assistance for both of these events.

March 8th and 9th is the Charlotte Hamfest. It's a great event with major manufacturers, prizes, and forums. WCARS will administer license exams. (www.w4bfb.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 session is 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
rectordl@bellsouth.net

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

Antennas:

Walt Wernsing, KO4JN - 828-891-9956
walter134@cytechcis.net

Echo Editor:

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

Website:

Dick Smith, K4KQJ - 828-687-9531
k4kqj@arrl.net

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

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 February 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 1/31/08	\$ 1561.46
Plus: Deposits	109.50
Less: Expenses	<u>16.00</u>
Balance as of 2/22/08	\$ 1654.46

\$

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: May 10, 2008.* Contact 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 phone 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.



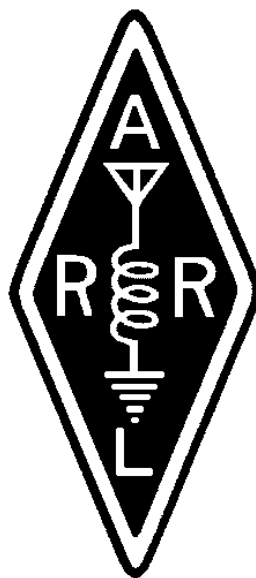
Club Meeting Tuesday
March 4, 2008, 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Next club meeting
April 1, 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> —