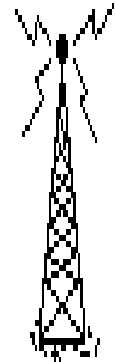


The Blue Ridge Echo . . Echo . Echo . .



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

Volume 21, Number 4 – April 2008

The Prez Sez

Hello to one and all, Hope all are doing well. Thank you to all who participated in the NC Sweepstakes Contest. We'll have to wait to see where we placed, but Michael will keep us updated.

March 29th is the Palmetto Peloton Riders Cup Challenge bike race. They start at 8:00 am in Greenville County at Pleasant Ridge Park and will travel through Henderson and Polk Counties and will end back at Pleasant Ridge Park. Anyone interested in helping with the radio communications for the event can **contact Gene Mathis** at mathis3@brinet.com or by telephone at 698-2734.

See everyone at the April 1st meeting.

73 for now,
Gene, KG4SXE

MEETING MINUTES OF March 4th, 2008

The March meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club came to order at 7:30p.m.at the Henderson County Parks and Recreation building on Stony Mtn. Rd. (If you are new to the area, and have come across these minutes on our web page, we would like to invite you to our meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.). Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president, was the presiding officer. The meeting came to order with 21 present, and began with the pledge of allegiance to our national flag.

The weather had been stormy and rainy the day of the meeting, with continuing rain as meeting time grew near, Lil Clark, KG4GFP, notified the club president she wouldn't be able to attend the meeting. She advised that amount in the treasury was \$1561.46.

There were several announcements made at this time concerning coming events that provide opportunities for operator participation in public service:

Saturday, March 29, the Palmetto Bicycle Race will be held. In conjunction with the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society, we will need a few operators to help at water stations in Henderson County.

April 5, The annual MS Walk will be held in Hendersonville, N.C. Operators are needed along the walk route. If you have not signed up, please call Ronnie Galloway, KF4AYG, at 699-5645. Operators will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Hendersonville Elementary School.

May 3, the Biltmore Horse Endurance Run will take place at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. Dick Smith will have more info at the April meeting.

May 18, The Fletcher Flyer Bicycle Ride will held in Fletcher, N.C. Bruce, KI4RBK, is the contact person.

Michael, AI4GR, editor for the club newsletter asked those present to consider suggestions to submit to him. The suggestions should be things that the club members would like to see the club do.

Martin Harris, W4FOT, presented the short Hints and Kinks segment of the meeting. Martin told us about the bazooka antenna. This antenna is made with a combination of coax and ladder line. The antenna is normally configured as a single band antenna. Martin had a hand-out for those interested in possibly building the antenna.

Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, brought forth the feature program for us this month. Walt provided a look at the history of the Heath Company. This was interesting, especially for those who had experience building a Heath kit radio. The original founder of the Heath Company started the company building airplane kits.

In 1946, the company delved into the amateur market of selling transmitters and receivers in kit form, and later, transceivers. Walt brought to the meeting some manuals that came from the Heath Company. Walt gave us a couple of prices on two pieces of Heath gear. A DX-100 sold for \$280.00 in 1954. That sounds like a real deal by today's standards. In 1954 that was a lot of money. Later Heath came out with the DX-100, with VFO, for \$189.00. Sadly, the Heath Company went out of business in the late 1970's.

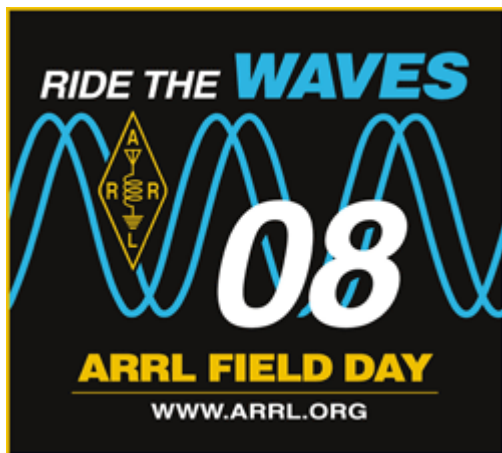
The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Kathleen Parente. Meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

Our Next Meeting: April 1, 2008
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm

Dave, K4SV – Earth-Moon-Earth (*DX on 2-meters*)

Hints & Kinks: Larry, WB4KIJ, 2m J-Pole Revisited



It's that time of year — time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held Saturday through Sunday, June 28–29, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-air operating event in amateur radio. Tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – **and ALL about FUN!**

Field Day is officially an operating event not a contest. The purpose remains today as it did in the beginning: to demonstrate the communications ability of the amateur radio community in simulated emergencies. But it is the thrill of the “non-contest contest” that brings out the best in thousands of amateurs.

BRARC participates each year at an off-site location using stand-by power generators, which puts us into club category “A”. We have operated 2 transmitters in recent years, making us “2A”. We can have an additional transmitter for VHF and still be considered 2A. In 2005, 2006, and 2007 we made 619, 719, and 977 QSOs, respectively. Last year we reached 46 states and scored 6th of 20 in the 2A class for NC

There are several rules changes this year, and one that affects us is elimination of the Demonstration Mode bonus. It is replaced by an Educational Activity bonus: A 100-point bonus may be claimed if our Field Day operation includes a specific educational-related activity. The activity must be related to amateur radio, and it must be some type of formal activity. It doesn't have to be a “classroom” session per se, but should be a structured activity to broaden the knowledge base of participants, more than a simple demonstration. Standing around watching someone send CW won't qualify. But teaching people how to make digital QSOs and then letting them try their hand at it would. There should be active involvement of participants. Some ideas that come to mind are: teaching how-to of coax connectors; digital modes; satellite contacts; sending NTS messages.

Bonus points not only add to our score, but also focus us on the purposes of Field Day. We earn bonuses by operating in a public location; having youths make contacts; sending a press release to a newspaper; providing a public-information table; being visited by an invited public official or member of a served agency; and several others – but you get the drift.

The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. The site includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos, and references.

A successful Field Day requires radio operators and loggers, but a willing support team is what makes it all possible. A site must be selected, and antennas planned, constructed, and raised. Tents, generators, chairs, tables, computers, lights, food. The list seems endless, but with all of us pitching in, it gets done. So, decide how you can best team-up, then raise your hand as we organize for the event.

Ronnie's New Antenna was raised on Thursday March 6th at his K2SST antenna party attended by Al, N4ZA, Martin, W4FOT, Jeff, K4JAB, and Michael. AI4GR. Al designed the antenna to be a ~150' C-shaped doublet mounted just above the edge of the roof on Ronnie's home. With the help of a dual coax feed, and a tuner, it brought him the long-sought 80m band as well as the higher HF bands. (The photo shows Ronnie handing up parts to Al.)



Mark Your Calendar —

- April 5 – MS Walk*
- April 19 – Morganton Hamfest
- May 3 – Biltmore Endurance Ride*
- May 18 – Fletcher Flyer*
- May 24 – White Squirrel Run,
Brevard Music Ctr**
- June 28 – 29 – Field Day
- July 4 – Hendersonville Parade*
- July 4 – Brevard Parade**
- July 26 – WCARS Hamfest
- September 6 – Club Picnic

* BRARC provides communications assistance for these events.

** Craig Miller, Transylvania County is contact.

Please notify the Editor if these dates change, or as new events arise.



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 March 24th and April 28th at 7:00 pm.

The Henderson County Red Cross offers a course in First Aid Basics and Adult CPR. It covers life-threatening emergencies as well as first aid for bleeding, burns, shock, and seizures. This course could prove essential in your daily activities as well as in radio work. It is also a prerequisite for the Mass Care and Shelter Operations courses, which could be especially useful to us. All courses are conveniently available in downtown Hendersonville; the next class is Thursday and Friday, June 5th and 6th. Call the Red Cross to reserve a place (693-5605.) For more details, see their website at www.hcredcross.org.



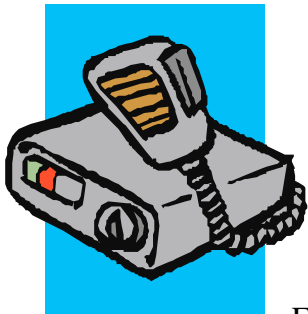
DXpedition to Germany – George, K3GK, operated several days in March from locations near Hamburg in Germany. Accompanied by his friend Rolf, DF2OU, George was QRP as DL/K3GK from Fehmarn Island off the coast of northern Germany and also from a nearby 90' fire tower. He has a photographic record of the efforts, and promises to share it with us at an upcoming meeting.



DL/K3GK on Fehmarn Island



DL/K3GK and DF2OU atop Fire Tower



PTT ■■■■■ BRARC was well-represented at the Charlotte hamfest on March 8th. I saw at least 10 of our members there. ICOM presented the latest on D-Star digital radio, and there was a great presentation on digital techniques at the heart of the Software Defined Radio, Flex-5000. Judging by the pile-up at the Flex-5000 and Elecraft K3 exhibits, they were hits of the show.

From ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet of 2008-03-05 --- When the bands are in bad shape during a contest, just remember that they're bad for your competition, too. Many a certificate has been claimed by the plugger that stays in the chair, overtaking the hare that abandons the race.

Kathleen, formerly known by the call KI4GQZ is now AJ4FV. She passed her Amateur Extra exam at the Charlotte hamfest. Wow!

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? There are Extras in the club who can help you over the rough spots; don't hesitate to ask. 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
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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

Antennas: Walt Wernsing, KO4JN - 828-891-9956
walter134@bellsouth.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

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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 March 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 2/29/08	\$ 1654.96
Plus: Deposits	120.00
Less: Expenses	<u>8.54</u>
Balance as of 3/19/08	\$ 1766.42

\$

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	8:00 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.



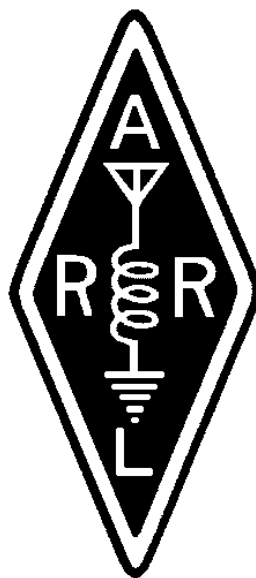
Club Meeting Tuesday
April 1, 2008, 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Next club meeting
May 6, 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> —