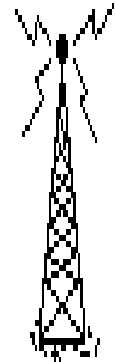


# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 21, Number 5 – May 2008

## **The Prez Sez**

Hello to one and all. Hope this column finds everyone doing well. We are off to a good start this year. We have participated in the Palmetto Peloton Rider's Cup Challenge (bike race). Thank you to Ronnie Parham (K2SST), Duke Knief (W4DK), and Michael Parente (AI4GR) for help with that. And the Hendersonville MS Walk. Thank you to Ronnie Galloway (KF4AYG) for leading us in this event and to Craig Miller (KE4DFV), Duke Knief (W4DK), George Walden (KG4LQX), and Ronnie Parham (K2SST). Also thank you to Michael Parente (AI4GR), who was standing by the radio if needed. The rain somewhat affected the turnout, but 97 people turned up. All in all, a good walk. Both events are for good causes and we have more worthwhile events in the future. Stay tuned and volunteer if you are able.

73 for now and God Bless,

Gene, KG4SXE

## **MEETING MINUTES OF April 1st, 2008**

The April meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club came to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held at our regular place of meeting, the Parks and Recreation Building of Henderson County, on Stony Mountain Road, Hendersonville, N.C. Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, was the presiding officer. There were 30 in attendance.

Our meeting began with the pledge of allegiance, followed by the welcome to everyone by our club president. We had one visitor, Steve Remsen, KJ4CRQ, who is a newly licensed ham. Welcome to the hobby, Steve. Congratulations to Kathleen Parente, who upgraded to extra class recently. She now is the proud owner of a new call, AJ4FV.

The minutes of March were approved as was recorded in the ECHO. Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported that there was \$1766.42 in the treasury at the time of the meeting.

We had several announcements, and sign up sheets were passed for public service events:

The annual MS Walk was to be held April 5. Several members had volunteered to help with the walk.

The Catawba Valley hamfest will be held on April 19, at Morganton, N.C.

The Biltmore Equestrian Ride will be held May 3, at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. Dick Smith, K4KQJ, passed a sign up sheet. If you are interested in helping, contact Dick.

On May 18, the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club will have the Fletcher Flyer Ride in Fletcher, N.C. Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK, passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help in this event. Bruce can be contacted at ki4rbk@arrl.net.

Ronnie Parham, K2SST, needs a couple of volunteers to help with a presentation to the Cub Scouts.

Bob Felt, KB5YZG, announced that he was going to Dayton hamfest, and had room for one rider, if anyone wanted to go.

Lastly, Duke Knief, W4DK, announced that he was taking orders for club, ARES, and QCWA shirts. The shirts are 30 dollars. If you would like a shirt, please see Duke.

For the short presentation, Hints and Kinks, Larry Ballard, WB4KIJ, brought forth an old subject; but, one that is not out of date. Larry showed us a J-pole antenna that he had built. This is one of the easiest antennas one can build to get on two meters and the 440 band. Larry had brought a detailed sheet showing how to build the antenna, and had extra copies to hand out.

The feature presentation was delivered by Dave Anderson, K4SV. Dave had an interesting subject, Earth-Moon-Earth communications on the 144 MHz. Band. Most of us know this as "moon bounce." One of the hurdles to overcome is the -252 db attenuation that the signal loses on reflection from the moon. This hurdle is overcome by a strong signal, and very good antenna(s)! Also encountered are the Doppler effect, and the question of polarity of the antennas. Both horizontal and vertical polarizations are encountered, so cross-polarity is needed. Also needed is computer software. Dave uses WSJT software, written by K1JT. Dave gave a slide show to explain everything, to show us his antenna array, and the shack setup he has.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Wayne Secrist, KF4HOG.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

*Our Next Meeting: May 6, 2008  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm*

**Dick, K4KQJ – Field Day 2008**

**Hints & Kinks: Walt, KO4JN, Buying or Selling Ham Gear on the Internet**

**Palmetto Peloton Riders Cup Challenge** – Four members of the BRARC helped provide communications for the bike run of March 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a multi-club effort, with our club providing support for the 45 bicyclists on Henderson County routes.

The voice repeater on White Oak Mountain had great communications coverage. One of the support vehicles was equipped with APRS, sending its position via radio and digipeater to the control location. The system worked well, except that the digipeater could not be accessed on certain portions of the route. Mobile radios that have the capability of acting as digipeaters could be useful in such situations.

Participating club members were Duke, W4DK, Michael, AI4GR, Ronnie, K2SST, and Gene, KG4SXE.

**BRARC Covers the MS Walk** — The rain of April 5<sup>th</sup> didn't cancel the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. The sponsors quickly prepared an indoor route inside the school gymnasium and corridors, and several hearty trekkers even took the moister 5-mile outdoor route.

BRARC provided communications inside the school and also in vehicles alongside the outdoor hikers. Ron, KF4AYG, coordinated the communications, which were provided by Duke, W4DK, Craig, KE4DFV, George, KG4LQX, Ronnie, K2SST, and Gene, KG4SXE.

### Mark Your Calendar —

- May 3 – Biltmore Endurance Ride\*
- May 3 – Upstate Hamfest, Spartanburg, SC
- 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 April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

On April 28th at 6:30 pm ARES will meet at the Etowah Lions' Club for an exciting and fun drill to erect a portable antenna system in time to connect with the Tarheel Emergency Net on 3923 MHz at 7:30 pm. This event will be a good "Field Day" warm up, and any interested ham is welcome to participate.



## — 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.



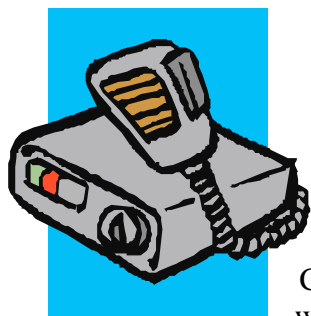
P.S. from W4YK—

LAST CALL ... the train is leaving the station!

If you want a BRARC shirt, get me a check for \$30. Include your NAME, CALL and SIZE on the memo line. Check to: H.C. Knief

Do it now .... don't want anyone left behind.

73, Duke



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The sunspots are gone, so no sense using the 10-meter band. WRONG! I happened to jump up to 10m at 2000Z, and there was Bob, VP8LP, calling CQ from the Falkland Islands. We had no trouble communicating; a true 59 with my horizontal loop at 100W. Be sure to give 10m an occasional try.

Check out [www.dx-info.de](http://www.dx-info.de) . It not only provides a summary of dx activity for the week, it easily links you to spotting and other information to help make a contact.

The WCARS repeater on Spivey Mountain is back on the air. It's at 146.910MHz with a tone of 91.5Hz. WCARS runs their info net on Monday evening at 9:00 pm, and their ARES net on Wednesdays at 9:00 pm.

The questions for the Amateur Extra exam will change as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are studying the existing questions, why not take the exam before they change? There are members who can help you over the rough spots; don't hesitate to ask. Our next test session is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

———— 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@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 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 April 2008 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 3/31/08	\$ 1766.42
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	31.00
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	<u>102.37</u>
<b>Balance as of 4/15/08</b>	<b>\$ 1695.05</b>

\$

**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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net)



## Nets and On-The-Air Activities

Net	Freq / PL	Day	Time
<b>BRARC Net</b>	<b>146.640 MHz/ 91.5</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
<b>BRARC Rag Chew</b>	<b>28.350 MHz</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>following 146.640 net</b>
<b>Henderson County ARES Net</b>	<b>146.640 MHz / 91.5</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>
<b>440 Rag Chew</b>	<b>442.225 MHz/136.5</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
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	9:00 PM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday	9:00 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily	9:00 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](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net).



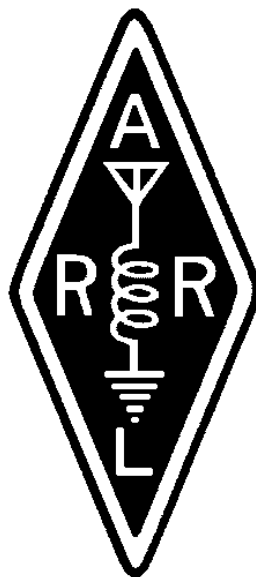
Club Meeting Tuesday  
May 6, 2008, 7:30 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Next club meeting  
June 3, 2008 7:30 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Henderson County ARES  
Training Session  
Fourth Monday of month  
Etowah Lions Club, 7pm



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