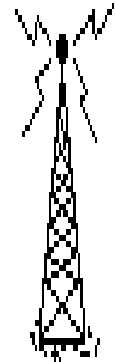


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 21, Number 6 – June 2008

The Prez Sez

Hello one and all, Hope all are doing well.

I have a note from Bruce Rogers (KI4RBK) about the Fletcher Flyer Bike Ride:

It was a wonderful event, folks! Please accept my thanks for a heck of an achievement. Five minutes after the last rider finished, the lead person from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society was already talking about returning next year. If memory serves, the finish was about 5:15pm, which was pretty much perfect.

To my knowledge, we had no injuries requiring medical attention; that may be the greatest achievement of all. It rained near the end, but the wet riders still seemed quite happy with their experience. Many of them commented - as they had in the past - about how caring and helpful all the volunteers were.

I appreciated you even more today, because I noted how much easier it was to manage the ham conversations than to keep up with the cell calls. There's still no better way than Ham Radio to keep up with something that is spread out over such a wide area and involves so many people.

I'll look forward to "seeing" you on the radio!

73, Bruce

I would also like to thank Bruce for involving us in this event. And by the way, Bruce did a great job. I was not the coordinator for this event, so I don't know all who participated. You all know who you are, but THANK YOU for your help. Stay tuned for future opportunities to use our skill as radio operators to assist in worthwhile volunteer events.

73 for now and God Bless,

Gene, KG4SXE

MEETING MINUTES OF May 6th, 2008

The May meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Club began at 7:30 p.m., after a beautiful spring day in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president, gaveled the meeting to order. The first order of business was the pledge of allegiance, then Gene issued a welcome to all present. There was a total of 23 in attendance for the May meeting.

Craig Miller, KE4DFV, announced that he was heading up communications for the White Squirrel Run in Brevard, N.C. This is to be held in Brevard on the 24th of May. Craig needs volunteers, and they need to meet at the Brevard Music Center at 7:30 a.m. Please contact Craig if you can help.

Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK, is heading the communications effort for the Fletcher Flyer Bike Ride sponsored by the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 18th. A sign-up sheet was passed by Bruce.

The treasurer's report was given by Lil Clark, KG4GFP. Lil reported that the treasury contained \$1695.05 at the time of the meeting.

Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, gave the presentation for the Hints and Kinks segment this month. He gave us tips about buying and selling amateur equipment on the internet. Walt named four sites that were good for seeking equipment, or listing equipment for sale. Three of these were Eham.com, Ebay.com, and QTH.com.

Walt gave us some insight on the way to list our equipment, and on the bidding procedures. Walt named some of the items he has bought and sold on the afore mentioned websites.

Dick Smith, K4KQJ, brought forth an excellent discussion on the upcoming field day event to be held at Fletcher Park, June 28th and 29th. Danny Rector, KI4NXT/AE will be the Field Day Coordinator, Dick Smith will be the Assistant Coordinator, and the A.R.R.L. Liaison will be Michael Parente, AI4GR. Needed to complete the team are an Equipment Coordinator, Food Coordinator, and an Antenna Coordinator.



As you can see this has to be a combined effort by all the club members to be successful. Operators, loggers, people to set up, erect tents, and to take it all back down again are needed. If you are willing to serve in any capacity, Danny will be glad to hear from you!

Our club has had many successful field days, and we are looking forward to an excellent effort again this year.



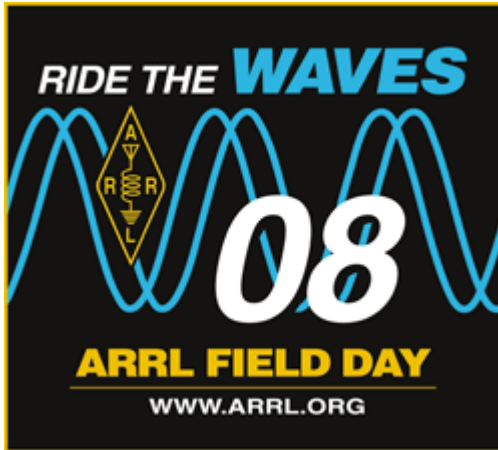
The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Danny Rector

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

*Our Next Meeting: June 3, 2008
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm*

Ronnie, K2SST – EchoLink & Skype

Hints & Kinks: Walt, KO4JN, The Rotatable Dipole



Our Field Day site is included on the ARRL locator map. Go to www.arrl.org and type “field day locator” into the search box. Follow the links to our site at Fletcher Community Park.

The formal instruction session at the Field Day site will be provided by Rusty, KG4JGQ, who will give us hands-on guidance in using PSK-31 and RTTY at 1:00pm. Students earning a passing grade (all of them) will make contacts when on-the-air operations begin.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the next BRARC meeting for you to indicate which hours you would like to operate or log contacts. We especially need to fill the 10pm to 8am nighttime hours, but participate whenever you can. And don't forget to help set up on

Saturday morning and tear down on Sunday afternoon.

Amateurs Pass License Exam — Nine amateurs took license exams at our test session of May 6th. All of them passed at least one element, some of them earning their first license; others, an upgrade. The session was sponsored by the WCARS VEC, and was administered by Volunteer Examiners from BRARC. Sid, W4IOE, was session manager; the other VEs were Duke, W4DK; Eric, W4ENC; Michael, AI4GR; Debbie, AD2H; Will, WI1L; and Tim, K4TZZ.

Cub Scouts Learn Radio — Ronnie, K2SST, arranged a tutorial for Hendersonville's Cub Scout Pack 601 on the evening of May 15th. Five scouts and their leaders learned about electricity, cell phones, and radios. During the evening they took the exciting opportunity on IRLP to discuss happenings in Brisbane with VK4DAG/M, a former scout leader. Ronnie was assisted by Martin, W4FOT, and Michael, AI4GR.



BRARC helps Biltmore Riders — Fifteen radio operators helped provide communications for the Biltmore Endurance horse ride on May 3rd. By using a J-pole at the control center, all operators were able to communicate simplex on 2-meters, freeing up the local repeater.

Everything went well, and except for a couple of very brief and light showers the weather was perfect. The photos show Sid and Bob at base camp, and Ronnie, Ronnie, and George at their woodland station.



Dick, K4KQJ, organized our efforts; the other operators were:

Ronnie, KF4AYG	Craig, KE4DFV	Duke, W4DK	Martin, W4FOT	George, K3GK
Sid, W4IOE	George, KG4LQX	Danny, KI4NXT	Bob, KD4OKT	Ronnie, K2SST
Willi, KA4WPM	George, KB4YBB	Maurice, WB4YNM	Harry, N4ZVX	

Fletcher Flyer Rides Again — Radio operators from the BRARC gave communications assistance to the annual Fletcher Flyer bike ride. Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club on May 18th, 595 riders pedaled from Fletcher Community Park for as much as 100 miles through Henderson, Buncombe, and Transylvania counties. Riders completing the full 100 miles accumulated a total ascent of over 4,000 feet.



Our radio operators rode with drivers of the safety monitoring (SAG) vehicles, and communicated from the five rest stops. The WB4KNI repeater (147.105 MHz) atop Bearwallow Mountain was reachable over the entire route using roof-mounted mag mounts, J-poles, or handheld radios. Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK, standing in the photo, was Net Control and coordinated radio support, which was provided by:

Ken, WD4CNS	Duke, W4DK	Steve, KC5F
Michael, AI4GR	George, KG4LQX	Bill, KD4RRY
Gene, KG4SXE	George, KB4YBB	Nita, KI4YMH

BRARC Gained Ground in NC QSO Party — The results of the 2008 NC QSO Party have been announced, and BRARC has finally climbed far from last place. Recall that we operated from the shack last February 24th, and scored our highest ever 28,283 points. We were the western-most club to enter, far from population centers, yet we came in ahead of four other clubs in the field of twelve.

Our 69 multipliers were fairly evenly dispersed, so our antennas were doing their job, and we had no busted QSOs. We were a comfortable 11,000 points ahead of the 9th place Randolph Amateur Radio Club of Asheboro, but were about 5,000 points behind the next highest club, the KiloWatts of Chapel Hill. The winning club, Orange County Radio Amateurs of Chapel Hill, scored 92,630. The highest scoring clubs made good use of the CW point premium; it would be great if next time we can increase our CW operations

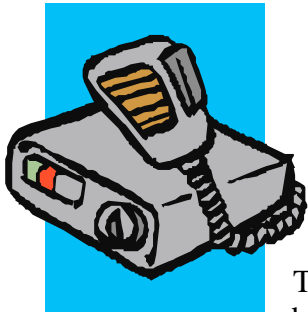
Mark Your Calendar —

June 28 – 29 – Field Day
July 4 – Hendersonville Parade*
July 4 – Brevard Parade**
July 26 – WCARS Hamfest
August 30-31 – Shelby Hamfest
September 6 – Club Picnic
October 12 – DuPont Marathon

* 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.



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Congratulations to our Vice-President Danny Rector. He is now holder of an Amateur Extra license, and has the call sign AJ4HZ. Congratulations also to David Rojas on his upgrade to General Class with callsign N4NDX.

Those of you who subscribe to the Repeater Journal note that our club activities have been cited in the North Carolina section.

If you have ever wondered about those strange buzzing sounds you sometimes hear as you tune the bands, the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group can help you identify the sound. Their website www.bartg.org.uk/Sound%20Files/soundlibrary.htm has recordings of common data modes such as RTTY, packet, DRM, and some not-so-common modes, too. Download the files, and then play them on your Windows Media player.

For information on D-STAR, look at <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-STAR>>. This is a good way to learn about one of the faster-growing digital modes with links to in-depth material.

———— AI4GR is clear.

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

President:

Gene Mathis, KG4SXE - 828-698-2734
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Treasurer:

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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 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.

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Financial Report for May 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 4/30/08	\$ 1695.03
Plus: Deposits	87.20
Less: Expenses	<u>11.51</u>
Balance as of 5/20/08	\$ 1770.72

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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: August 9, 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 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/107.2	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	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	3.926 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.



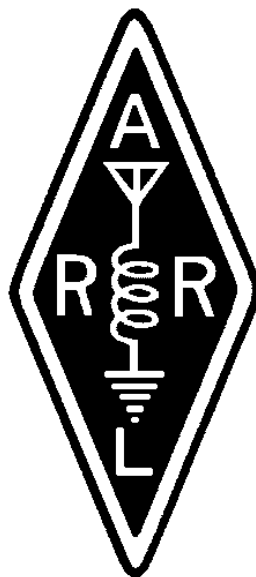
Club Meeting Tuesday
June 3, 2008, 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Next club meeting
July 1, 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> —