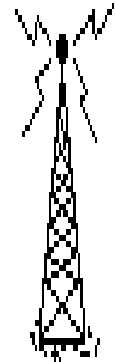
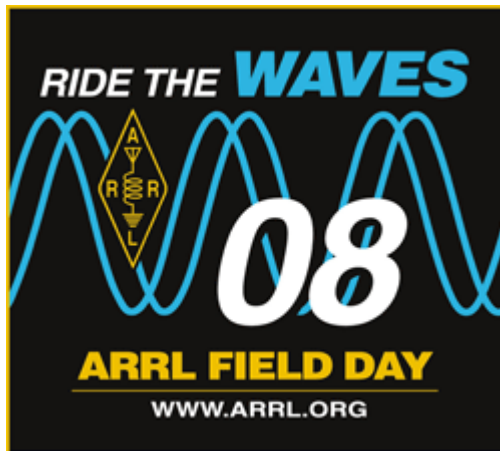


# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 21, Number 7 – July 2008



**Field Day is special** — Governor Easley has declared the last week in June 22-28 "Amateur Radio Recognition and Appreciation Week" as part of our celebration of the 76<sup>th</sup> annual ARRL Field Day. 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!**

Our preparations for Field Day are well under way. Operator hours are filling in, but there will be 3 stations on the air, so there is plenty of opportunity for operators and loggers. Most of the night is covered by Bill, KD4RAM, and Steve, KC5F.

Please pitch in and help with the set-up on Saturday morning and the take-down on Sunday afternoon. Bring a covered-dish desert and a chair for the dinner at 6:00pm. If you arrive early on Sunday maybe bring some breakfast for our all-night operators. Use 146.640MHz to contact the site.



Although most of our operation is on the HF bands, we earn points for Satellite and VHF contacts. There is a good satellite pass on Saturday evening about 8:00 and another Sunday at 9:45am, and we'll try to reach it. Most VHF contacts will be on sideband, bring an antenna, and give it a try. The photo shows Michael, AI4GR, making a 6m quad at Martin's, W4FOT, home to use Field Day.

Don't forget the tutorial on digital modes that Rusty, KG4JGQ, will present at 1:00pm on Saturday. For scoring, each band-mode combination is treated as a separate band. So if a station is contacted on 20m using phone, it may again be contacted on 20m using digital, and again using CW.

Insect repellent will be needed after sundown, and be sure to have an umbrella; we have a way of breaking the drought.

## MEETING MINUTES OF June 3rd, 2008

The June meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Club came to order at 7:30 pm, June 3rd, at the Stoney Mountain building of the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department. Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president, was the presiding officer. We had twenty three present, including two visitors.

The meeting began, as we always begin, with the pledge of allegiance to the national flag. Gene welcomed everyone to the meeting, and he had the visitors rise and identify themselves. If I got the names correct, we welcomed Brian and John to the meeting.

One of the first items of business was a recommendation from the steering committee that the club purchase a new Icom 718 transceiver, and a LDG Pro-100 automatic tuner. The motion was made, and the motion coming from a committee, need not be seconded. After discussion, the vote was taken, and passed, that the club purchase the IC-718 and the LDG Pro-100.

The second motion also came from the steering committee that the club buy a 130' 80-meter antenna from Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, for \$75.00. This is a new antenna that has not been assembled. This motion also passed, and the thinking is we get it assembled for Field Day.

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer, reported that there was \$1,770.72 in the treasury at the time of meeting.

Concerning announcements, Duke, W4DK, told the group that our club again has been asked to help with the Fourth of July parade in Hendersonville. Duke passed a sign-up sheet for operators. We are to meet at the Board of Education building at Five Points (the old Girl Scout building) at 9:00 am. If you didn't get to sign up, please contact Duke.

Michael Parente, reported that he could sign-up our club with the A.R.R.L. as a special service club. Michael stated that we had met six of the criteria that would allow this to be. Everyone was in favor by common consent. Michael said he would apply for this. Michael also announced that he would be participating in the summer VHF contest, and encouraged everyone to try to make some contacts.

The Hints and Kinks segment of the meeting was presented by Walt Wernsing. Walt brought to the group the plans for a 17-meter home-brew antenna, and the article written by Lew McCoy. Walt built the antenna for 15 meters some years back. He has given it to Sid who is going to put it up as a 17 meter antenna.

Ronnie Parham, K2SST, brought to the meeting a program on EchoLink. This is a protocol that uses computers, and at times, radio repeaters, to establish a line of communications. Ronnie went into some detail of how to get started in the protocol, and discussed how to set things up. Several of the club members use EchoLink. Ronnie also reminded us that this is not to take the place of amateur radio, but is useful if there is no activity on the bands.

The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Sid Hendricks, W4IOE.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

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

**Hints & Kinks: Walt, KO4JN, Alpha-Delta DXDD for 80m/40m**

**Roving the Piedmont** — The June VHF QSO Party is one of ARRL’s most popular contests. Its concept is simple: using frequencies above 50MHz, contact as many other amateurs as possible. When you reach someone, just give your grid square location and copy theirs. The special challenge is the “above 50MHz” part. Most often, especially at today’s sunspot minimum, line-of-sight contacts are necessary, so elevated stations and antennas have advantage. However, ground-wave propagation at VHF and UHF is not great, making proximity to population centers also an advantage.

A rover station operates in the contest from more than one grid square. You pack your radio and antennas into a car, and then set up operations at various locations across the countryside. The key here is careful selection of the locations: too low in elevation or too far from other hams and you have no one to talk with. Roving is a fun way to contest.

As in the past, Michael, AI4GR, and Kathleen, AJ4FV, entered as a rover team, but with two twists. They added Austin, KI4YPP, as a second station under the Family Rule. Then, since he lives in Mecklenburg County, they abandoned the mountains and stayed in the piedmont. By encircling Charlotte and the Triad cities they hoped to gain a proximity advantage. – Wrong! Hills are better!

Through all their 400 miles of roving the pickings were slim. Except on 6-meters, even with the big contest stations on the hills, contacts were hard to come by. In all, they averaged an inefficient one contact every ten miles. The photo shows AI4GR/R and KI4YPP/R operating from a rest stop near Greensboro. (Of course, there were many curious visitors.)



**Assist the Parade** — Sponsors of the Hendersonville July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade would like our help with communications and organization. Meet at the 5-point former girl scout building (next to VFW parking lot) at 9:00am; parade starts at 11:00am. Volunteers are appreciated, so let Duke, W4DK, know if you can help.

## Mark Your Calendar —

July 4 – Hendersonville Parade\*  
July 4 – Brevard Parade\*\*  
July 26 – WCARS Hamfest  
August 30-31 – Shelby Hamfest (at Dallas, NC)  
September 6 – Club Picnic  
September 26-27 – Ten-Tec Hamfest  
September 27 – SEDCO Conference  
October 12 – DuPont Marathon

\* BRARC provides communications assistance for these events.

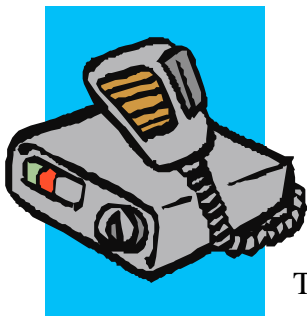
\*\* Craig Miller, Transylvania County is contact.

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

## — 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 of check. An order form must be included with check. Contact Duke, W4DK, for the form.



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK, at the June meeting presented the Club with a gift of \$100 on behalf of the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, sponsor of the Fletcher Flyer bicycle run. He thanked the BRARC members who helped to make the ride a success, saying it's great when two volunteer organizations can work together to produce a wonderful experience for 600 people. This unexpected gift is most welcome and was immediately applied toward purchase of a HF rig for the club.

If it's July, it must be time for the IARU HF World Championships. This contest is a great opportunity to contact many stations of the world, especially headquarters of IARU Member Societies, including W1AW. <[//www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/iaru.html](http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/iaru.html)>. - ARRL Letter Vol.27, No 23

Ten-Tec is hosting its annual hamfest at its factory in Sevierville. It starts Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and continues Saturday at 9am. Saturday afternoon the SouthEastern DX & Contesting Organization (SEDCO) has its annual conference at the Mainstay Hotel in nearby Pigeon Forge. Tickets for the SEDCO event and dinner go on sale in July at Ten-Tec. <[//sedco.homestead.com/](http://sedco.homestead.com/)>

———— 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, AJ4HZ - 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  
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**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 June 2008 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 4/30/08	\$ 1770.72
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	189.50
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	<u>949.46</u>
<b>Balance as of 6/18/08</b>	<b>\$ 1010.76</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: 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 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/107.2</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
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 [ai4gr@arrl.net](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net).



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



Subsequent club meeting  
August 5, 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> —