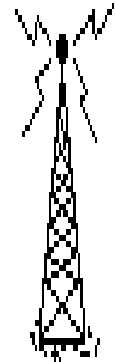


# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 21, Number 8 – August 2008

**MEETING MINUTES OF July 1st, 2008** — The meeting of July 1st came to order at 7:30 p.m. with Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, club vice president, presiding. Gene, KG4SXE, club president, was ill the evening of the meeting. We had 21 in attendance, including one visitor. Our visitor was Ted Blackwell, KJ4DLG. Danny began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance, then a welcome to everyone.

Duke Knief, W4DK, announced to the club had been presented with a gift of equipment from George Ruby, KN4TZ. George is ill and wanted his equipment to go to good use.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, gave the club the raw score on this year's field day endeavor. Michael reported a score of 4006. Michael also mentioned the WCARS hamfest to be held the 26th of July. The club has some equipment that needs to be sold. Help is needed at the table for the sale.

Danny thanked all who participated in the field day effort. We operated 3 alpha; 1 digital station, 1 phone station, and 1 cw station. Thanks to all the operators, and the folks who helped put up the stations and tents, antennas, and then helped with the break-down. Thanks go to Ron, KF4HAT, for the good food. In case anyone was missed, thanks to all who had a hand in field day. Danny also reminded everyone that the club picnic would be held on September 6th.

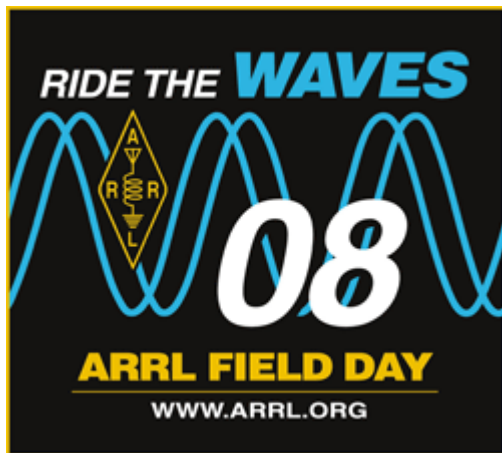
The steering committee reported that the new rig, an IC 718, and the LDG pro 100 had been purchased by the club, and saw service on field day. The committee also put forth a motion that the club purchase a rig talk cable, a rig-runner, and Tigertronics SignalLink so the club could have a digital station. This motion was passed by the club.

Walt Wernsing, KO4JN, brought an extended Hints and Kinks presentation to the club. Walt talked about the Alpha Delta DX-DD. This is an 82 feet antenna that can be coax fed, has no traps, making it more broad-banded. This antenna can be used as a multi-band antenna when fed with 450 ohm window/ladder line. Of course, this is a compromise antenna; but, as Walt pointed out, most antennas are. It is amazing what one can do with wire antennas.

Feed-back concerning field day, after Walt's presentation, centered on getting antennas farther from each other, and perhaps, getting the stations a little farther apart. Participation in some of the contests from the club shack would also help those who haven't worked in field day to understand what is going on.

The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Duke Knief, W4DK.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks W4IOE



**Field Day was Great** —41 members and guests at the Field Day site helped with set-up, take-down and operating. They also made fast work of the Blue Ridge Club Barbeque and the Fabulous Field Day Franks prepared by Ron, KF4HAT.

This year we operated 3 modes: Phone; CW, and Digital. The digital station was a first for us. It was set up by Rusty, KG4JGQ, and operated PSK-31 and RTTY. A VHF station was also active, and we made our third annual unsuccessful attempt at a satellite contact.

CW contacts led the way with 402 QSOs, followed by 298 phone contacts, and 98 digitals. We had 13 VHF contacts, all on 6 meters using a miniscule 5 watts. Steve, KC5F, is sending QSL cards to

those contacts requesting them.

Three youth operators helped us to 60 bonus points. Rusty's tutorial on PSK-31 and his download of the ARRL bulletin gave us another 200 points, and Duke, W4DK, sent 10 NTS radiograms and a message to the ARRL Section Manager for 200 points. Our contacts powered by a solar panel earned a further 100 points. We also had great media coverage in the Sunday Times-News.

Combining the QSO points, multipliers, and bonuses, we scored 4,006. That marks a healthy increase over 2,944 in 2005, and 3,338 in 2006. However, 2007 definitely is the year to beat; we scored 4,260.



**Rectors Try Catching a Satellite**



**Youth Contacts are a Family Affair**



**Rusty Teaches Attentive Operators to Contest PSK-31**



**Section Manager, Tim Slay, Shows Governor's Proclamation**

**BRARC Assists the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade** — The Hendersonville Merchants and Business Association asked us to help organize the parade, and 14 members responded. Organized by Duke, W4DK, we sequenced the marching groups and set them off onto main street. Duke gave us assignments at his 9:00am briefing, and we set off for our positions at 10. Martin, W4FOT, set up his portable repeater on 146.710 MHz at Drysdale school, a great location that most of us could reach using low power on our portable radios. Sid, W4IOE, was net control. Entering the parade for the club was George, KG4LQX, looking good in his decked out van. Marshals were Michael, AI4GR; Debbie, AD2H; Brandy, N1HO; Danny, AJ4HZ; Dick, K4KQJ; Will, WI1L; Bob, KD4OKT; Bill, KD4RRY; Ronnie, K2SSST; and Gene, KG4SXE.



**Duke Assigns Marshals their Positions**

**Upgrading the Shack** — Thanks to the generosity of Duke, W4YK, we have added a laptop computer to the shack, an IBM that runs Windows XP and has USB ports. We have loaded it with Ham Radio Deluxe for digital operations, and N1MM for contest logging. It also is equipped with a RigTalk unit for rig control with our new IC-718. A Tigertronics unit is planned for the digital interface to the radio. Come to the shack and try the new gear. We will be using it for Field Day and contests.

**Here's Carol Frost**— So many have asked about Carol, K4YYR, and her new home, that it is best to use her own words. “ I love it here! Absolutely love it. I still can't believe I'm here and it's been 9 months! Wow! I'm on the air mobile, and I'm secretary of the CCARS club, so I'm radio-active.” Carol is a great friend of ours at the BRARC, so keep in touch.



*Our Next Meeting: August 5, 2008  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm*

**Hints & Kinks: Ronnie, K2SST, Field Day Multiband Antenna**

**Mark Your Calendar** —

**July 26 – WCARS Hamfest**

August 30-31 – Shelby Hamfest (at Dallas, NC)

September 6 – Club Picnic, Holmes Forest

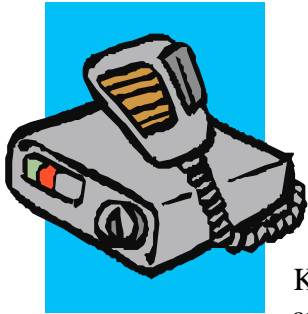
September 26-27 – Ten-Tec Hamfest

September 27 – SEDCO Conference

October 12 – DuPont Marathon

October 18 - Tour de Leaves YMCA bike ride

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



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Martin, W4FOT, has restored the HVLDX cluster. Reach it on 144.990MHz atop Bearwallow. Thank you, Martin for bringing back this useful service.

The CQ-VHF contest was fun. I operated from the Parkway accompanied by Kathleen, AJ4FV, and George, K3GK, using the 6m 2-element quad from Field Day and a homebrew 3-element quad on 2m. We managed to reach the expedition at FM13 on both frequencies, and a station in Maine on 6m. Of course, Brandy, N1HO, came in 20-over from his home QTH.

Ten-Tec is hosting its annual hamfest at its offices 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 are on sale at Ten-Tec. < [//sedco.homestead.com/](http://sedco.homestead.com/) >

———— AI4GR is clear.

— Order Your BRARC Shirt —

SHIRTS - \$30.00 each; checks made to H. C. Knief.  
Order placed when 6 are ordered.

Put callsign and size on memo line of check. An order form must be included with check.



-----ORDER FORM-----

**PRINT CLEARLY      PRINT CLEARLY      PRINT CLEARLY**

**NAME ON SHIRT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CALL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization (Circle one):    ARES          BRARC          QCWA**

**Size (Circle one): 5XL    4XL    3XL    2XL    XL    L    M    S**

**Pay (Circle one):    CASH      CHEQUE (To: H.C. Knief) ... \$30**

**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  
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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  
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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.

\$

**Financial Report for July 2008 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 6/30/08	\$ 1010.76
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	36.00
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	<u>409.51</u>
<b>Balance as of 7/15/08</b>	<b>\$ 637.25</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).



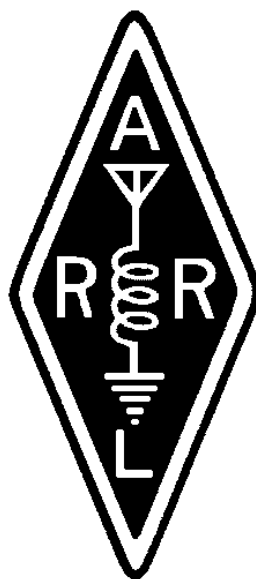
Club Meeting Tuesday  
August 5th, 7:30 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
September 2, 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> —