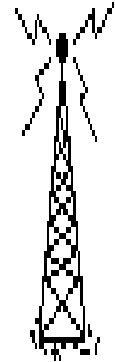


# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 21, Number 10 – October 2008

**The Prez Sez** — Hello to one and all. Hope all are well.

Thank you to all who participated in the club picnic. We had a good time and some good food.

October 18<sup>th</sup> will be the Tour de Leaves bike ride. We have once again been asked by the YMCA to help provide radio communications for the event. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at the next club meeting. If you are available, please sign-up and help with communications for the event.

Thanks to those who participated in the Hunger Coalition walk. Our efforts are appreciated. Pat, organizer of the walk, extended a gracious thank you.

73 for now,  
Gene, KG4SXE

**MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2008** — The Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club meeting of September 2nd came to order at 7:30 p.m. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Henderson County Parks and Recreation building on Stony Mountain Road. This building is located next door to the Henderson County Land Fill. Two of our noted members were absent, and before the picnic I found out that these members had health problems. Walt, KO4JN, had fallen and had cracked a vertebra in his back; and Ed, KT4US, had surgery. We are praying for their speedy recovery. There were 27 present at the meeting, which was presided over by Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president.

The announcements were the following:

Gene reminded everyone that the club picnic would be held September 6th, at the Holmes State Forest. I'd like to report that 26 were present. This is one of the times that we enjoy together with our xyl's and the junior ops. All seemed to have a great time, and the food was very good.

George Korper, K3GK, announced that there would be a work day at the club shack. We have some trimming of trees to do, as they are growing into the antennas. George said to bring your vhf rig from home and have it programmed to the A.R.E.S. frequencies. This is very helpful when the club works public events. George also said we would have a mini-field day, so bring that experimental home brew antenna, and let's see who we can contact. This will take place October 4th, from 9:00 a.m. 'til 3:00 p.m.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, announced that the November Sweepstakes would be held the 15th and 16th of November. We would like to activate the club station to have club participation in the contest. If you are interested in operating and/or logging, please let Michael know.

Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ, gave us a brief report on upcoming DX events. Sun spots are seemingly non-existent; but, Rusty reports that there is DX to be had when the bands do open.

Duke Knief, W4DK, brought before the club a proposal to hold a raffle for a telegraph key. This is a very nice key. There will be a limit on the number of tickets sold; tickets can be sold to interested amateurs and at ham-fests. Members can opt to sell the tickets, and have their dues suspended for 2010, or not sell tickets, and pay the regular dues for 2010.

At this point of the program, Duke brought to our meeting a video on D-Star communication. This is digital radio on vhf and uhf. The Japanese Radio League really had a large hand in getting this mode off the ground, with the help of ICOM. The video gave the specifics on what is involved in setting up a D-Star repeater, programming your radio to work with the system, and actual demonstration of radio being used digitally. The audio is much clearer, and there is no background audio noise. This system is being set up in the areas of the Gulf coast, where natural disasters have happened with Katrina, and later hurricanes. These repeaters can be set up anywhere, but there is expense involved. The only repeater near us is in the Charlotte area.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

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

**BRARC is a Special Service Club** — The ARRL has accepted the BRARC's application, and we are now designated as a Special Service Club in the register of affiliated clubs. The recognition indicates the club's commitment "to improve the visibility of Amateur Radio as a positive force in the community, assist in emergencies, provide and encourage training and to further club activities for the betterment of the membership and the Amateur Radio Service. These extraordinary groups actively pursue all aspects of Amateur Radio: New Ham Development and Training; Public Relations; Emergency Communications; Technical Advancement; Operating Activities; Annual Reports, and more."

Our application process began in early March when we sent information showing that we satisfied the tough ARRL criteria. As a Special Service Club we will have special recognition in QST and on the ARRL website, and can appoint local Awards Managers. We can also use the Special Service logo on club stationary and newsletter. Note the logo on the last page of this edition of the ECHO.



**Mini Field Day and Simulated Emergency Test** — All members of ARES and BRARC are invited to participate in a fun antenna party and mini field day. This would be a good time to test that emergency antenna you always wanted to use or the QRP rig that rarely gets a workout. In keeping with the training nature of the event, we will try to keep it “off-grid,” so bring your batteries and solar panels. We will be maintaining the existing BRARC antenna farm as well, so bring gloves and suitable work clothes as some branches need trimming and weeds removed.

For more information on the SET go to <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>. This should be fun so don't get all worked up about it. Just come and we'll figure everything out when you get here! Bring your handheld and we will make sure all your memories are up to date.

Bring your lunch! At the shack, 9-3 Saturday October 4th. – George K3GK

**Hotdogs, Anyone?** — There were hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, and deserts for all of us, and more, at the club's annual picnic September 6<sup>th</sup>. The fine weather at Holmes State Forest was counterpoint to the heavy rains in the eastern part of the state. We had two radios, one tuned to the Tarheel Emergency Net and the other to the Hurricane Watch net.

Pleasant conversation and camaraderie provided spice to the fine food for the 28 members and guests who took part.



**Talk the Walk** — Once again, the BRARC provided radio communications support for the Hendersonville Hunger Coalition Walk. There were two routes, 5 miles and 10 miles, with over 230 walkers. We rode with two safety vans and supported three rest stops. Gene, KG4SXE, organized us and served as net control. The 146.640 MHz repeater covered the entire route, enabling us to communicate using only handheld radios. Working with Gene were Steve, KJ4CRQ; Duke, W4DK; Steve, KC5F; Michael, AI4GR; Brandy, N1HO; John, N9JZX; Bob, KD4OKT; and Harry, N4ZVX.

**Equipment** — BRARC has the following equipment which can be borrowed for 90 days. We have two power supplies for the FM radios. The HF radios require 20A + supplies.

|         |          |                       |
|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| Yaesu   | FT-2800M | 2 Meter FM            |
| Alinco  | DR-100   | 2 Meter FM            |
| ICOM    | IC-735   | all mode HF 200 watts |
| Kenwood | TS-50S   | all mode HF 100 watts |

See Duke, W4DK [w4dk@arri.net](mailto:w4dk@arri.net)

## Mark Your Calendar —

- September 26-27 – Ten-Tec Hamfest
- September 27 – SEDCO Conference
- October 4 – Simulated Emergency Test
- October 12 – DuPont Marathon
- October 18 – Tour de Leaves YMCA bike ride
- November 15-16 – November Sweepstakes
- December 13 – Fletcher Parade

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



**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  
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**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.

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

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance as of 8/19/08        | \$ 1119.21        |
| <b>Plus:</b> Deposits        | 242.08            |
| <b>Less:</b> Expenses        | <u>49.22</u>      |
| <b>Balance as of 9/19/08</b> | <b>\$ 1312.07</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: November 8, 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  
October 7th, 7:30 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
November 4, 2008 7:30 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

