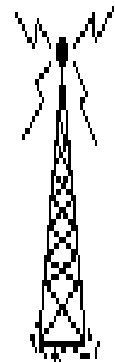


# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 21, Number 11 – November 2008

**The Prez Sez** — Hello to one and all, Hope this Echo finds all doing well. I would like to thank Matt Rutherford (KG4UAD), Ronnie Parham (K2SST), and Danny Rector (AJ4HZ) for their help with radio communications for the Tour de Leaves bike race that was Saturday October 18th. There were many that said thank you for our assistance to help make it a safe and enjoyable event. I encourage one and all to volunteer when the opportunity arises. It is fun and interesting to participate in such events and we are appreciated.

Keep in mind the club Christmas Dinner on December 2nd 6:00 pm at The Twin Dragons on highway 280. With that I will close for now.

73 to all,  
Gene, KG4SXE

**MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7th, 2008** — The October meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club came to order at 7:30 p.m. on the 7th of October, 2008. Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president, was the presiding officer. We had a total of 21 present at this meeting.

The meeting began, as always, with the pledge of allegiance to our national flag. After all were seated, Gene read a card of thanks from Pat Fisher. Pat is the lady who organizes The Hunger Walk in Hendersonville each year. She was conveying her thanks for the communications that the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club provided this year. Thank you operators for your participation! After reading the card, Gene passed a sign-up sheet for operators who wished to help with the Tour de Leaves this month. This is a bicycle ride that takes place each fall in our area. Our club has helped with communications in the past.

Gene reported that the club would have the Christmas dinner on our regular December meeting night. The dinner will start at 6:00 p.m. on the second day of December. On query from Gene, the club again wishes to have the meal at the Twin Dragons in Brevard, N.C. Bring your xyl and the junior ops!

Duke, W4DK, took the floor for a few moments to clear up questions concerning the raffle of the Bengali key that the club will be working toward raffling off. Simply put, each member is asked to sell raffle tickets. There are 2500 to sell. When all the tickets are sold, the winning ticket will be drawn. The tickets will be sold through 2009. Providing all tickets are sold, the club will suspend the dues for 2010. In the case that a new member joins in 2010, they will pay the regular dues of \$20.00. If you do not wish to sell tickets, your dues will be \$20.00 in 2010.

George Knudson, W4GCK, brought forth a very interesting program telling us about his days of working with rocket maintenance, and later working for NASA at the Cape Kennedy site. George has the ability to sprinkle humor though his presentations, which makes the program more interesting.

George shared his experiences of working to upkeep rocket silos in the Midwest, and the testing of rocket engines. George shared photos of rocket engines, and showed how Werner von Braun built bigger engines on the prototype V2 rocket engines of World War II. George emphasized that von Braun stuck with technology that was proven, and worked. George began working with NASA, and took part in launching rockets to the moon. Many of you will remember the Apollo missions. George stayed with NASA through the launch of Apollo 12. Thanks, George, for sharing a part of your life with the club.

For our 50-50 drawing, Duke presented a certificate for \$49.95 from the ARRL for a new handbook; this was in addition to our regular drawing. Sid Hendricks, W4IOE, won the regular drawing, and James Gaddy, WB4FON, won the certificate.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

*Our Next Meeting: November 4, 2008  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm*

*Michael, AI4GR – LOTW, Slinky, and maybe more*

**Our SET is Successful** - The North Carolina section of ARRL had a Simulated Emergency Test on October 4<sup>th</sup> to exercise amateur radio readiness for a major hurricane just off the coast. BRARC and the Henderson County ARES joined the exercise together, and their joint effort went off smoothly. George, K3GK, in his role as Emergency Coordinator for ARES arranged to staff the shack at BRARC using the

club's rig and extended Zepp antenna. Electrical power for the exercise was provided by means of a portable generator set up by Will, WI1L.

Debbie, AD2H, and Martin, W4FOT, operated the club's station on 80-meters passing traffic to the Tarheel Emergency Net with help from a relay by N4IB in Mooresville. They used the ARES call, NC4HC. Meanwhile, outside the shack, Harry, N4ZVX, raised his Outback antenna on the lawn, and without relay checked into the emergency net using the club's call, W4YK.

While all this was happening others were outside experimenting with portable antennas and clearing brush from the club's antenna and feedline.

Participating were:

Martin, W4FOT	George, K3GK	Michael, AI4GR
Debbie, AD2H	Brandy, N1HO	Danny, AJ4HZ
John, N9JZX	Will, WI1L	Gene, KG4SXE
Harry, N4ZVX (with Frankie)		



Emergency Generator is Functional



Harry's Outback Reaches Raleigh

**Sweepstakes are Near** – The November Sweepstakes is one of the most popular of Radiosport events. And it is the oldest, having started in 1930. In the earliest contests winners were presented with a broom. Today, those contacting all 80 USA and Canadian sections are also awarded a broom, and since this is the 75<sup>th</sup> running of the ‘stakes, those contacting 75 sections will have a prize as well. This contest brings out all levels of operator and is fun for all.

The phone contest runs from 4pm Saturday, November 15, until 10pm Sunday, November 16. The objective, as in Field Day, is straightforward, contact as many stations as possible. But the exchange is much more complex. For a contact to be completed, several items of information must be exchanged: Serial Number (starting with 001); Category (e.g., single or multi operator); Call Sign; Year license issued; Section. For example, if we operate from the shack as a club, our fifth exchange would be:

005, M, W4YK, 96, NC.

Notice that this exchange is much like the header of an ARRL traffic message. The emphasis is on accuracy of copy, so testers will be precise.

The BRARC shack is available for contesting the Sweepstakes. We will set up our computer with contesting software similar to that used on Field Day and we will have rig control. There will be room for first-timers as well as veterans, so come aboard. Sign-up sheets will be passed at the November meeting.

**Raffle Update** — An update on our Begali keyer raffle. There are three plateaus we have to reach:

- 1) Cover expenses. About \$400 and we're approaching that now.
- 2) Cover member dues for 2010. That takes another \$1000 (50 members @ \$20). Each member received \$10 worth of tickets, but don't stop there! We have to sell an additional \$10 worth of tickets per member to cover the dues.
- 3) Everything after that is profit for the club .... your club. Do your part and sell.... or buy.

If you email friends to see if they would like to participate, attach a copy of the flier on last page. Have them send the money first ... to you or to Duke, W4DK .... (checks to BRARC) and we'll make out the stubs for them and return the tickets. There are only 2500 numbered tickets and if some get lost along the way, that's just dollars less we'll have for our treasury. If we all make the effort, this will be a successful money raiser for BRARC. Duke has additional tickets, and self-addressed envelopes. Just ask .....

**Equipment** — BRARC has the following equipment that 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)

## ITEMS FOR SALE

From the estate of Harry Mills (Contact Richard 828-693-7519) –

Ten-Tec Omni V (Manual & Box)	\$1,000
Kenwood TS-940S (Manual & Box)	\$800
Drake L7 (Manual)	\$1,000
Heathkit SB-200 amp (Manual)	\$400
Ten-Tec Scout (Manual)	\$400
Dentron Super Tuner-1kW (Manual) 2 ea.	\$75
Heath HB-610 station monitor (Manual)	\$50
Numerous SWR Meters	Best offer
Tempo 1 SSB xcvr	\$75
National NC-44 rcvr	\$50

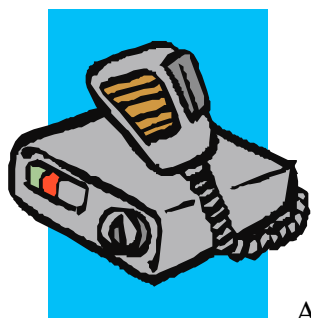
## Mark Your Calendar —

November 15-16 – November Sweepstakes

December 2 – Christmas Party

December 13 – Fletcher Parade

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



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The Hamband has produced a new tune describing the rebuilding of their shack and antenna. It is also a unique refresher for your CW; it purports to croon the entire alphabet, dits and dahs, as the tune progresses. < [www.hamband.com](http://www.hamband.com) >

A FEMA on-line course covers the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2 "Communications" of the National Response Framework (NRF).  
<<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS802.asp>>.

If you have an interest in contesting with your radio, see the insert of the October QST magazine. It describes the basic techniques of operating and submitting your log as well as interpreting results. Focus is on the November Sweepstakes, the popular contest that is coming soon.

———— 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 - 828-243-9898  
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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 Oct 2008 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 9/19/08	\$ 1312.07
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	60.11
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	00.00
<b>Balance as of 10/21/08</b>	<b>\$ 1372.18</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).



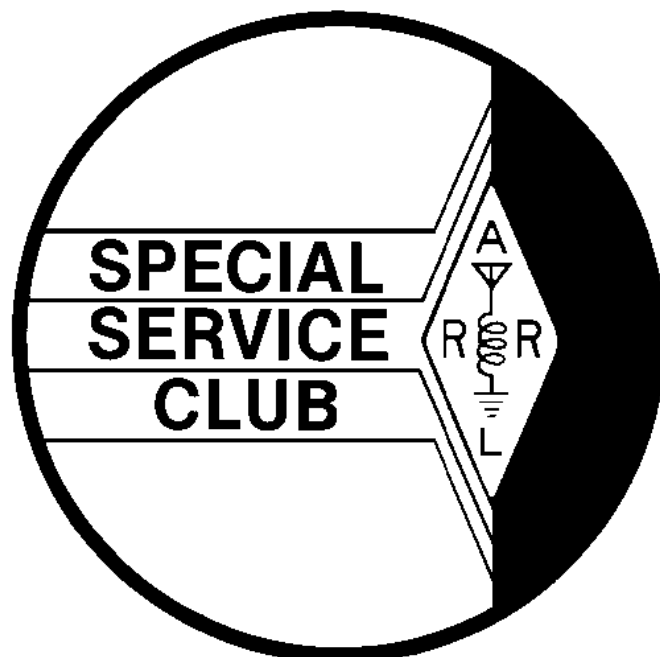
Club Meeting Tuesday  
November 4th, 7:30 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
January 6, 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> —

# **BRARC RAFFLE**

**BEGALI "SIMPLEX" Paddle Keyer (value \$250)**

**Totally gold plated, including contacts.**

**Comes with plastic cover, two extra paddle sets**

**Ticket \$1 each or 6 for \$5 ... Only 2500 tickets will be sold**

**Don't do CW? .... how about \$200 cash??**

