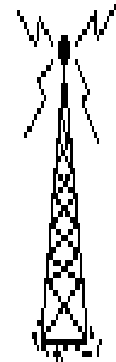


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 21, Number 12 – December 2008

The Prez Sez — Hello to one and all, I hope this edition of the Echo finds all doing well. I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club for the privilege of serving as the president for the past two years and congratulate Danny Rector as the up-coming president. I know he will do a good job for the club with the support of our club as I had.

I would like to thank all who participated in the HF sweepstakes on the weekend of November 15th/16th. I believe we did well; maybe Michael will have the results for us in this Echo, if they are available at this time. Remember our club Christmas dinner December 2nd at 6:00 pm at the Twin Dragons restaurant on highway 280 in Brevard. Hope to see all there for a time of good food and fellowship.

73 for now,
Gene, KG4SXE

MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4th, 2008 — The November meeting was held on national election day this year, and I'm sure this contributed to the small attendance. We had 14 members in attendance. The presiding officer was Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, and the meeting began at the appointed time of 7:30 p.m. All are invited to our meetings. If you are new to the area, or have an interest in radio, we welcome you to our meetings. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Building on Stony Mtn. Road. We meet at 7:30 p.m.

We held our club officers election for the year of 2009. Elected were:

Danny Rector, KJ4HZ	Club President
Craig Miller, KE4DFV	Club Vice President
Lil Clark, KG4GFP	Club Treasurer
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE	Club Secretary

There arose a query in the Steering meeting that was brought before the membership for consideration. The query was: What would be the club's thinking concerning moving the meeting time to 7:00 p.m. This was asked in reference to the members who are working, and have early rising times. The change would give these

folks time to get home quicker from the meetings. There was some discussion on this, and the motion was made to table this consideration to the December meeting.

Gene reminded us that our Christmas dinner would again be held this year at the Twin Dragons in Brevard, N.C. The time of meeting will be at 6:00 p.m., December 2nd. Come with the xyl and the junior ops!

Duke Knief, W4DK, again explained the raffle ticket promotion to the group. Members have the option of selling tickets, and if we sell them all, having dues suspended in 2010. Only members who sell tickets will have the dues suspended. Anyone who doesn't want to sell tickets will pay the regular dues, and, anyone who joins as a new member in 2010 will pay dues.

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, the president elect, who will begin the office on January 1st, 2009, asked that members submit ideas to him at the December meeting. These ideas should concern the things you as a club would like presented at the meetings for the coming year. Bring your ideas on a sheet of paper to the December meeting.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, brought to us this month's presentation. Michael explained how Log Book of the World worked. While most of the hams using LoTW live in the U.S. and Canada, many of those are using LoTW. Of course, there are overseas hams using it, too. Michael fielded questions during the session.

Michael also showed us a mobile dipole he had built for portable applications. He constructed the dipole using mini-slinkys and rope. He had the rope knotted at different lengths to find the correct operating band. It was a neat little antenna that works for portable operating.

The 50-50 drawing was held, and was won by Michael Parente.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

Our Next Meeting: December 2, 2008

6:00 pm – Twin Dragons Restaurant

Ronnie Builds Shelves for Our Storeroom – Our storeroom was packed in a haphazard fashion to the extent that it had become nearly impenetrable. Ronnie, K2SST, took ruler, hammer and saw to hand and built us new shelving. He even painted the shelves.

The shelves are designed to fit our gazebos and tent in specific locations, so let's be sure to keep them where Ronnie intended. The antennas and their accessories are still on the top shelf, ready for use on Field Day, and our generator is in the far corner. The chairs are in the near corner. Resist the urge to deposit your odds and ends helter-skelter in the storeroom; we must be able to reach whatever we need without hassle.

Ronnie, thanks for your great gift to the club.



Ronnie Puts Finishing Touches on Storeroom

Sweepstakes –Then and Now —

Prologue - It's November 1995, and eleven of the BRARC huddle around the IC-740 operating the Phone November Sweepstakes. Among them are familiar names; Walt, KO4JN; Herm, W9FHW; Joe, W8NBX; Martin, W4FOT; Steve, KC5F; Bob, KD4OKT; Bill, KD4RAM; and Al, KE4RRO. Above them are some sunspots.

They have been making contacts for 24 hours, the contest is over, and the bands are suddenly quiet. Most contacts have been on 80m (132 QSOs), followed by 40m (83), 20m (47), and 15m (35). Their 297 QSOs and 71 sections give them a score of 42,174. They are wondering if the future will bring improvement.

Chapter One - It's November 2008, and ten of the BRARC huddle around the IC-718 operating the Phone November Sweepstakes. At the shack, over the 2-day period, are Duke, W4DK; Danny AJ4FV; Martin, W4FOT; George, K3GK; Michael, AI4GR; Sid, W4IOE; Rusty, KG4JGQ; Ronnie, K2SST; Gene, KG4SXE; and Bob, KB5YZG. There is one sunspot.



Martin, Ronnie, and Bob Add Sections

In the beginning, things were glum as they learned the rotator would not turn the Zepp, no matter how often they tried to point it. Then George, the partymeister, brought pizza, and all was well. During 20 hours of operation several club members called in a contact from their home shack, making welcome additions to the score. When the contest was over at 10 pm Sunday, 265 QSOs were in the log.

Of the 80 possible sections, 72 were exchanged. Eighty meters was the workhorse band with 40% of contacts; next were 20m (29%); 15m (16%); and 40m (13%). No one was heard on 10m, and 160m was so noisy we didn't even try. Our score was 38,160.

Epilogue - Magically, the bands go quiet at 10, so Kathleen, AJ4FV, removes her headset. The temporary antenna she and Michael put up did a fine job; it reached parts of the country the downed horizontal loop could not hear. It is a 75' wire vertical in a tree, with 4 counterpoises off the ground and 30 - 40' long. She is satisfied after her 4-5 hours of operating that her goal of 100 contacts was attained. And with 40 sections, her score would be 8,000; great for a temp antenna. She thinks, maybe it should stay up. Others could easily erect something similar.

The garage door raises; Michael returns. She wonders if the group at the shack reached the score of Walt's 1996 team.



Test Day again! — By Debbie Hicks

The second Saturday of the second month of each quarter, Sid Hendricks W4IOE, our fearless team leader and session manager, rallies the Volunteer Examiners (VE's), and puts on a party at the Mountain Home Fire Department. Well not really, but we do have productive VE sessions. On November 8th we had two candidates for Technician, and they both passed. Our newest hams are from Fairview and Waynesville. People will travel if the word gets out.

Sid uses each of these opportunities to train all the VE's in the paperwork. This will ensure good solid continuity and integrity. In the event you are interested in becoming a VE, let Sid know. He has the applications to fill out. We prefer that you are an Extra Class so we always have a pool of testers to choose from. If the VE's are all Extra we don't have to worry if we have enough of the right class to give the exams.

Kathleen and Michael Parente, AJ4FV & AI4GR, attended, and Will and Debbie Hicks, WI1L & AD2H, used this opportunity to get the word out about the raffle tickets. Six tickets were sold.



VEs from left: Will (WI1L), Sid (W4IOE), Debbie (AD2H), Kathleen (AJ4FV)

Like raffle tickets, we get them one at a time. We only tested 2 this session. But that is two more Amateur Radio Operators in our ranks. We encourage them to study and become General Class as soon as possible. We advertise the Club for new membership. We sell raffle tickets for a beautiful keyer. We do this one at a time. If we get more, then that is just more gratifying.

We don't get paid to do this, so what do we get? Fellowship – building friendships and bonds with fellow hobby enthusiasts. Knowledge – continued training. Opportunities - the different places we can go see if and when we choose to travel to help during these sessions. Giving back – the opportunity to contribute to an all-volunteer organization that may be what keeps you in touch with others in an emergency. It is the volunteers that are the glue to our hobby. So step up and step out into a new frontier. Do something for your organization. If you attend meetings regularly that's a plus. But if you contribute to the other areas that would not be without the volunteers, that is gravy.

I had a young man respond to me about a question I asked. I asked him, "Have you checked out a particular organization I am affiliated with?" He responded with, "What can that organization do for me?" I told him, it is not what the organization can do for you; it is what the organization does for others. After all, is this not the essence of all volunteer organizations?

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@arrl.net

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

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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 Nov 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 10/21/08	\$ 1372.18
Plus: Deposits	206.00
Less: Expenses	<u>140.50</u>
Balance as of 11/17/08	\$ 1437.68

\$

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: February 14, 2009.* 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 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
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.



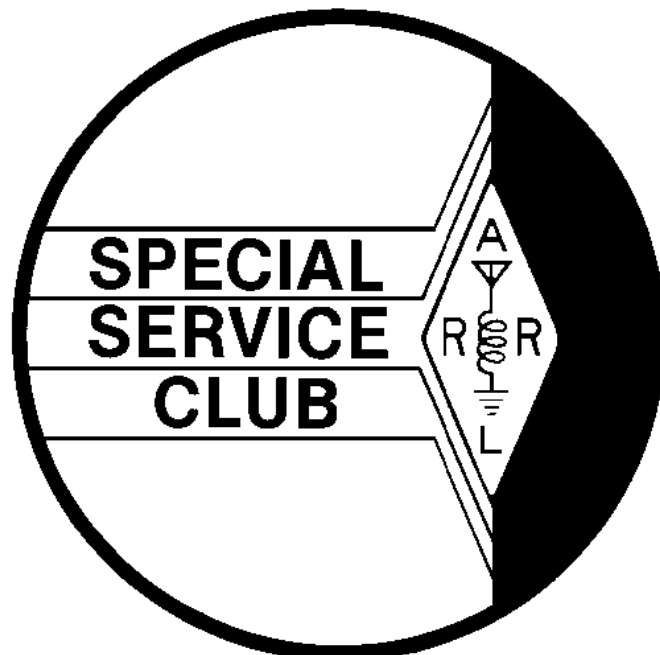
Club Meeting Tuesday
December 2nd, 6:00 pm
Twin Dragons



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> —