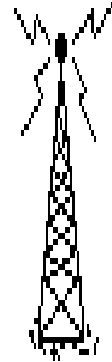


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 22, Number 1 – January 2009

The Prez Sez — I want to start by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I do consider it an honor to be chosen as your next club president. I want to thank everyone who has participated and helped out this past year in our different events and programs. Over this past year we have lost some close friends who have become SK but we have also gained new friends. This coming year I would like to see our club grow. There are ham radio operators all around Henderson County. We just need to speak to them and welcome them into our club. I would like to encourage everyone to try to bring one new person to the club this year. I want you to look forward to some really fun meetings this year and be sure to get involved where you can both teach and learn.

Thank you and 73,
Danny, AJ4HZ

MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2nd, 2008 — The meeting of December 2nd, 2008 was held in Brevard, N.C. at the Twin Dragons Chinese eatery. As best as Lil and I could count, there were thirty seven present. This included club members, XYLs, and a junior op or two. The reason for the uncertainty of the attendance count was that people were moving between the buffet lines and the tables. The meeting began between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., with 6:00 p.m. being the start time.

Everyone seemed to be having a good time, at least by looking at the full plates. I'm sorry to report the Chinese folks still don't know about pintos, corn bread, fried okra, and collard greens. I did find some good fried fish, and other goodies. If anyone left hungry, I'd be surprised.

One good thing about the Christmas dinner is that we get to see each other's family. There are only two or three events a year that this happens. I'd like to say thank you to all the wives who came, and I understand some sickness hindered some from coming. Some of our members were absent, and we missed you.

After everyone had eaten, or had just about finished, Gene, KG4SXE, called the meeting to order. Gene then passed the gavel to Danny, AJ4HZ, who will be the new club president the first of January. We thank Gene for his service as the club president for the last two years.

There two items of business that had to be taken care of at this meeting. We had tabled the discussion from last meeting concerning moving the club meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This item was brought to the floor, and in proper order was passed. Therefore, the January Steering Committee will begin at 6:00 p.m., with the monthly club meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The second item of business was the request of the club officers that the club give \$75.00 to the Meals on Wheels program in memory of Joan Wernsing. Joan passed away between the November and December meetings. She was the dear wife of Walt, KO4JN. The motion passed.

Soon after, the meeting came to a close as folks began to wish one another Season's Greetings, and mill around and talk some.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

Our Next Meeting: January 6, 2009

7:00 pm – QSL Bureaus & Managers – Andy, K4YKZ, Tim, K4TZZ

Field Day Numbers, numbers, numbers — Reports about Field Day are all about numbers: numbers of participants; numbers of contacts; numbers of transmitters, etc. For instance, did you know that more than 35,000 participated in Field Day 2008, the most in years? Or that there were 2400 entries? And that there were about 1¼ million QSOs? Wow!

These numbers could even be higher because they don't include entries not submitting their score to ARRL, a time-consuming process. But you get the idea; this is the big one, the most popular event we join.

BRARC entered as Class 3A, which means 3 transmitters all on emergency power. There were 6 such entries in NC, and our score of 4,006 put us in 2nd place. Top 3A scorer in NC was the NC Contesters Club with 8,804 points. (The spread gives us lots of room to improve.) The Ashe County club was close behind us with 3,452 points so we had better keep an eye on the rear view mirror. A bit humbling is that the nationwide winner in 3A, the Rochester DX Assn, scored a huge 17,978.

Looking at the breakdown of our score, we made 298 phone contacts, 98 digital, and 402 CW. When calculating score, the digital and CW contacts are multiplied by 2; phone contacts are not. This was our first attempt at digital, and with great results. If we can up the digital count next year our score would benefit.

Our neighbors, WCARS, were in category 8A, and scored 2,480. Tops nationwide, regardless of category, was the Potomac Valley club. They used 23 radios to score 33,664.

Unfortunately, all these numbers mask the essence of the event. They leave out the human side: They don't quantify the value of our off-site readiness. They ignore the friendships we cement. And most of all, they leave out the FUN. So let's be sure we keep these in mind as we start preparations for Field Day 2009.



Meet Our New Emergency Coordinator — Will Hicks, WI1L, Henderson County's new Emergency Coordinator for ARES recently granted an exclusive interview to your ECHO reporter.

ECHO: Will, would you give us some idea of your background?

Will: After 22 years in military service, I engaged in many aspects of the electronics profession. I'm an active member of BRARC and a Volunteer Examiner for FCC licenses. I've also completed all three levels of ARRL's courses on Emergency Communications.

ECHO: How about your radio shack?

Will: It has capability for HF, VHF, and UHF. My workhorse rig is an IC-7000, and I use a Yeasu-990 for backup. The HF goes out over a G5RV at about



Will Hicks, WI1L

30'; VHF/UHF is on a dual-band vertical.



Will, WI1L at the Mic

Members regularly attend monthly training meetings at the Etowah Lions Club and log into the Wednesday night ARES net. Members also must complete four on-line courses that describe the FEMA Incident Command System.

See the ARES site <www.NC4HC.US>.

ECHO: You just took office as EC this November. How will you organize ARES?

Will: It's an ongoing process, and I'll be supported by three Assistant Emergency Coordinators: Martin, W4FOT; Lee, KN4GC; and Debbie, AD2H. They will help me plan, train, and conduct exercises.

ECHO: What is the role of ARES in Henderson County?

Will: Our job is to provide communications when the official infrastructure is overwhelmed. In the event of floods, ice storms, or tornados we provide backup for the Red Cross, hospitals, and others. Our emphasis is the *service* part of the Amateur Radio Service.

ECHO: How can a Licensed Amateur join ARES?

Will: Contact me. We welcome new members.



Fletcher Christmas Parade — Twelve members of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club and Henderson County ARES gathered bright and early on the 8th of December to help put on the 2008 Fletcher Christmas Parade. The Fletcher Parks and Recreation department treated all to a hearty breakfast of biscuits and coffee at Town Hall at 7:30am. It was a good parade, and it went off without any glitches. The town of Fletcher was most appreciative of our help.



2008 Fletcher Christmas Parade Communications Team
Back Row (left to right): Will W11L, Debbie-AD2H, Dick-K4KQJ, Danny-AJ4HZ,
Sid-W4IOE(seated), Martin-W4FOT, George-KB4YBB, George-K3GK, John-N9JZX
Front Row (Left to right): Harry-N4ZVX, Gene-KG4SXE, AJ4HZ Harmonic,
Duke-W4DK, Bob-KD4OKT

N. American QSO Party Results are Posted — Last August the club participated for the first time in the North American QSO Party. It was a 10-hour event with the object of contacting as many as possible North American stations. We entered in the multi-operator SSB category. There were 20 entries in that category, and we placed 17th with a score of 12,506. The winner had the phenomenal score of 468,780; last place was held down with a score of 2,541.

The next SSB running of the NA QSO Party will be January 17th.

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

ITEMS FOR SALE

Coleman Powermate PM0495503 Premium Plus 6875 Generator

Premium Plus Series, 6875 Maximum Watts, 5500 Running Watts,
Control Panel, Low Oil Shutdown, Honda GX 11hp OHV Engine,
Control panel with four 120 volt 20 Amp outlets and one 120 / 240 volt 30 Amp locking outlets
Extended Run Fuel Tank, on wheels, 30.69" x 21.25" x 23", 176 lbs,
Like new, less than 20 hours run time --- \$450
Bob, KB5YZG 828-696-4103

If you have items for sale, or need something, notify the editor.

NOTE - We now have another way to buy or sell radio gear, our club member Will, WIIL, maintains a classified website that can post your items – it's free. www.willscb.com

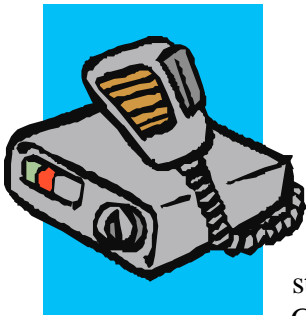
Mark Your Calendar —

- February 14 – License Testing
- March 1 – NC QSO Party
- March 14-15 – Roanoke Div Convention, Charlotte
- June 27-28 – Field Day

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

Dues Are Due!

Remember that the first of the year is renewal time for Club dues. The annual dues are \$20.00. Bring your check book on Tuesday. OR....Send your renewal to: Lil Clark, 15 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The Tarheel Emergency Net has moved to 1.945MHz at the usual time, 7:30pm EST, on every night except Monday. Although the band has been noisy, it continues to use 75m Monday nights.

Dave, K4SV, gives us an interesting steer to the CW Skimmer that has been causing a stir. Try [//skimmer.dxwatch.com/](http://skimmer.dxwatch.com/). It is sort of a reverse beacon that shows where your CW is being heard.

Martin, W4FOT, has restored the HVLDX cluster to full operation. It took him quite a bit of computer work, but it is now ready for use on 147.570 MHz or 144.990 MHz. We missed this helpful tool for tracking DX stations. Thank you, Martin.

Here's hoping we all are healthy and prosper in 2009, and let's make lots of interesting radio contacts.

———— AI4GR is clear.

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

President:

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ - 828-698-3231
rectordl@bellsouth.net

Vice President:

Craig Miller, KE4DFV - 828-884-5773
ke4dfv@arrl.net

Secretary:

Sid Hendricks, W4IOE - 828-684-8130
w4ioe@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP - 828-877-5223
peregrine13@citcom.net

Members-At-Large:

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Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ - 828-243-9898
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Echo Editor: Michael Parente, AI4GR - 828-891-8970
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Website: Dick Smith, K4KQJ - 828-687-9531
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ARRL Emergency Coordinator: Will Hicks, W1L
828-553-8116 will@willstech.com

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 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

\$

Financial Report for Dec 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 11/30/08	\$ 1442.68
Plus: Deposits	80.00
Less: Expenses	<u>75.00</u>
Balance as of 12/11/08	\$ 1442.68

\$

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.



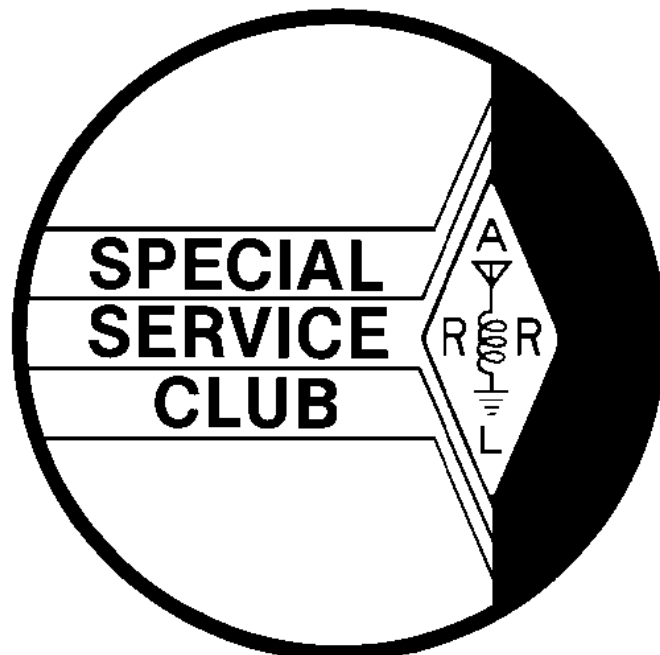
Club Meeting Tuesday
January 6th, 7:00 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting
February 3, 2009 7:00 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> —