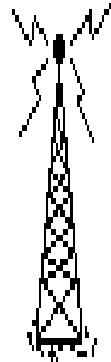


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# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 22, Number 2 – February 2009

## **DUES ARE DUE**

**The Prez Sez** — I just want to thank all who participated in the North America QSO party either by helping at the club shack or also by calling in. It is a very simple contest in that the exchange made with the other operator is simple. We have the North Carolina QSO party coming up March 1<sup>st</sup>. This again will be a good opportunity to join in and learn a little bit along with just having some good fellowship together. I also want to thank Sid for running the club net each week. He keeps it smooth and informative. I feel the pressure for it to be completed by 9:00 has really helped make it more informative.

Continue to help your leadership think of ways to get the message out to our local community about amateur radio. There are a lot of amateurs in our local community that we need to reach. Also, we need to reach our younger generation. I listen over and over to many of you about how you became a ham as a teenager. This is the message that we need to share that our hobby is cool.

Thank you and 73,  
Danny, AJ4HZ

**MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 6TH, 2009** — The first meeting of the year was held at Stony Mountain Parks and Recreation Building at 7:00 p.m. Please note the new time of meeting! Danny Rector, AJ4FV, club president, was presiding officer. We had 27 people present, including one visitor. Our visitor was Jonathan Williams, KF4NVX, who lives in Etowah. Welcome Jonathan!

The meeting began with Danny welcoming everyone to the meeting, and recognizing our visitor. Danny asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as recorded in the ECHO. There were no corrections to the minutes. Danny then called for the treasurer's report. Lil Clark, KG4GFP, reported \$1522.68 in the treasury. Danny then recognized Duke, W4DK.

Duke spoke to the raffle that the club is holding this year for the Begali key. Duke reminded everyone not to throw the tickets away! If you don't want to sell the tickets, return the ones sent to you, to Duke! There are only 2500, and we need to sell all we have. Duke also brought up an item of business. Duke reported to the club that Martin Harris, W4FOT, had to pay rent yearly for the tower space on Bearwallow Mountain. He suggested that the club help with the rent by giving Martin \$100.00 per year on the rent. Craig, KE4DFV, made the motion that the club help. Ted, KJ4DLG, seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion passed. Duke also wanted a note in the minutes that if projector was needed by anyone preparing a program for our meetings, please contact him.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, brought forth a couple of items concerning upcoming contests. The N.A.-QSO Party is coming up on January 19th. As these minutes are written, our club did participate in this contest. Thanks go to Danny for organizing the operators. Michael also reminded those present that the North Carolina QSO party will be held on March First.

For the feature presentation, Andy, K4YKZ, and Tim, K4TZZ, presented a program on QSLing. Tim spoke first. He is presently the QSL manager for Dave Anderson, K4SV. Tim told those present that it was very important to make sure of the contact information for those you wish to QSL with. If the contact has a QSL manager, it is important that you follow his instructions to get a confirmation. He also told us some of the things he had run into as a QSL manager.

Andy presented his part of the program, and his experience of QSLing through the years. He told us some tips on getting good returns for the QSL cards sent. These included using unique stamps on the sent envelopes, as many amateurs are stamp collectors. Most important, always send an IRC or a couple of dollars to help with the postage back. Andy also cautioned that some areas of the world would not welcome getting dollars. He had much more to say, all of which was very interesting.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Andy Kilpatrick.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks W4IOE

**Meet Your New Officers** — The officers of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club for 2009 are arrayed in the attached photo (Photo of Ronnie is in DTV article). Our President is now Danny, AJ4HZ, who served as Vice-President last year. Craig, KE4DFV, is Vice-President; Sid, W4IOE, is Secretary; Lil, KG4GFP, is Treasurer. They are members of the Steering Committee along with Gene, KG4SXE, Past-President, and Members-at-Large Rusty, KG4JGQ, and Ronnie, K2SST. A special **Thank You**, Gene, for guiding us through the past two years as President.



Gene, Danny, Craig, Sid, Rusty, Lil

## **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

*Our Next Meeting: February 3, 2009*

*7:00 pm – Mike Williams, Red Cross Disaster Response*



## **ARES Notes**

This month's ARES/RACES training meeting will be held February 23 at the Etowah Lions Den at 7:00 PM. A training session on Radiograms will be presented to all that attend.

Prospective new members are always welcome.

Will - WI1L  
EC Henderson County

See the ARES site <[www.NC4HC.US](http://www.NC4HC.US)>.



**Ronnie Demos DTV** — Folks at the RiverView center were treated to a description of Digital TV options by Ronnie, K2SST, on January 11<sup>th</sup>. He demonstrated an Analog-Digital converter box, showed its hook-up, and compared two antennas. The amplified omni antenna proved a clear winner over rabbit ears.



**Ronnie, K2SST, Demonstrates Digital TV**

**We Worked the North American QSO Party** — The BRARC again competed in the North American QSO Party. The contest was from 1pm Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> until 1am Sunday, and we operated for much of that period. The club's ICOM-718 was coupled to N3FJP software using a RIGtalk unit. Most activity was on 20m and 80m, almost none on 40m. This was unlike the August contest when 40m was a workhorse band and 80 meters was not. In both contests 10m and 15m were poor, probably because of sparse sunspot activity.

The club made 142 contacts for a score of 7865 points. A portion of these contacts were with six club members who called in contacts from home, a welcome participation. At the shack for the contest were Danny, AJ4HZ, Sid, W4IOE, Rusty, KG4JGQ, Bob, KD4OKT, Ronnie, K2SST, and Gene, KG4SXE.



Bob, KD4OKT, and Ronnie, K2SST, Work the NA-QSO Party

**Desecheo DXpedition Nears** — Desecheo Island, just west of Puerto Rico, has long been off-limits to radio amateurs. As a result, it is the 6<sup>th</sup> most wanted DXCC entity amongst DXers. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has given the ok for a brief visit by a team of amateurs who will mount the KP5 DXpedition from February 12<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. We should have no trouble reaching it from the shack, so give it a try.

< [www.kp5.us](http://www.kp5.us) >

**License Classes** — WCARS will be holding a 6-week Amateur Radio Licensing Class beginning Feb. 10th at A-B Tech. Classes will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. For additional information, contact Norman Harrill, N4NH at 828-253-1192 or [n4nh@arrl.net](mailto:n4nh@arrl.net)

**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](mailto:w4dk@arrl.net)

## ITEMS FOR SALE

ICOM IC-2100 2m Transceiver 50W \$75  
Autek WM1 SWR & Power meters \$50  
MFJ-564 Chrome Iambic paddle with cable \$40  
Astron 12Amp Power Supply \$30  
Ringo Ranger 2m vertical antenna \$30  
ICOM HP-2 Headphones \$30  
Alpha Delta 2-position coax switch with gas tube \$30  
MFJ-260C 300W dummy load, solid-state \$25  
Cushcraft gas tube 2000W lightning arrester (2 available) \$20 each

Walt, KO4JN, will consider an offer on any item from a club member.  
Call Walt at 891-9956.

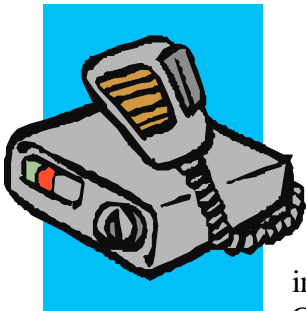
If you have items for sale, or need something, notify the editor.

**NOTE** - We now have another way to buy or sell radio gear, our club member Will, WI1L, maintains a classified website that can post your items – it's free. [www.willscb.com](http://www.willscb.com)

### Mark Your Calendar —

February 9 – 13 – School Club Roundup  
February 14 – License Testing  
March 1 – NC QSO Party  
March 14-15 – Roanoke Div Convention, Charlotte  
May 2 – Biltmore Endurance Ride  
June 7 – Fletcher Flyer Bicycle Ride  
June 27-28 – Field Day

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



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society

forum is operational, and welcomes us to join in the discussion as well as to announce any news and events. The forum link is < <http://viewoftheblue.com/wcars/forum/> >.

Now, this is interesting. You know those tiny fractal-based antennas that work so well in cell phones and GPS units? Well, the first to be built was in 1988 by a ham, Nathan Cohen, W1YW, for his antenna-restricted Boston apartment.

The DX cluster, DXWatch, now shows whether a spotted station uses LOTW. < [www.dxwatch.com](http://www.dxwatch.com) >

If you have difficulty sending your logs to LOTW via email attachment, logon to LOTW then use the UPLOAD FILE button.

———— 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:**

Ron Parham, K2SST - 828-890-4802  
ronk2sst@bellsouth.net  
Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ - 828-243-9898  
kg4jgq@arrl.net

**Antennas:** Walt Wernsing, KO4JN - 828-891-9956  
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:** 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 January 2009 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 12/31/08	\$ 1522.68
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	193.50
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	<u>196.00</u>
<b>Balance as of 1/20/09</b>	<b>\$ 1520.18</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: 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 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	3.571 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).



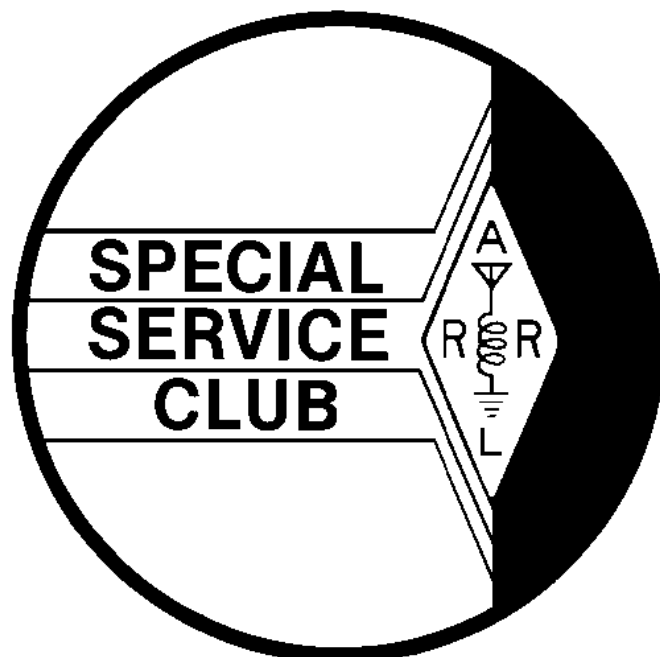
Club Meeting Tuesday  
February 3rd, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
March 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> —