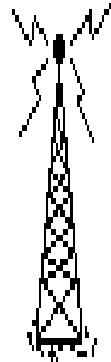


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 22, Number 3 – March 2009

The Prez Sez — I just want to thank everyone who came to the last meeting and listened to Mike Williams from the Red Cross talk to us about being prepared for the problems that face us. We are made up of a wonderful group of men and women who are willing to help anyone. The problem is we have to take care of ourselves before we are able to help others and that is the reason we must be prepared.

The upcoming contests that we participate in such as the NC QSO Party and Field Day are ways that we can exercise the ability to use our radios in less than optimum circumstances. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting where Will Hicks will talk to us about ARES. We also need to put together a Field Day committee at this meeting.

Thank you and 73,
Danny, AJ4HZ

MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3rd, 2009 — The meeting of February 3rd, 2009 came to order on a cold, snowy night. Our attendance, 19 total, was lower than normal. The weather guesser had predicted snow and icy roads, which in turn, probably caused some of our folks to stay at home. Danny Rector, KJ4HZ, presiding officer, began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. We then had several announcements to be made. Danny announced, while he had the floor, that at the March meeting, we need to select a field day coordinator, and two members to help get the field day effort in motion. If you would like be considered, or will take the job, please contact Danny.

Duke, W4DK, announced that we will be selling raffle tickets at the upcoming ham-fests. He will need help manning the table. If you are planning on going to the ham-fests, please see Duke as to how you can be of help to him. Duke is also taking orders for the nice, pull over shirts with our club logo, your name, and your call. These shirts are thirty dollars. Duke orders six at a time to save on shipping. If interested, see Duke.

Michael, AI4GR, announced the N.C.QSO Party will be held March 1st. We are planning to open the shack in order to participate in the contest. A sign up sheet was passed for those who wish to work the contest. If you are willing to participate, please contact Michael.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Mike Williams of the American Red Cross, Henderson County chapter. Mike is the director of our county chapter, and he brought forth our program for the evening.

Mike shared with us the areas the Red Cross serves the community with. Many of us automatically think of



Mike Williams, Director-Henderson County Red Cross

disasters; but the Red Cross has many facets of community service. The program Mike presented included listing these, along with commentary concerning how the services are used. The services include: Disaster Services, Blood Services, Health and Safety, Education for Disaster Preparation, Disaster and First Aid Supplies, and Armed Forces Emergency Services. Mike touched on each of these. One that was particularly interesting is how the Red Cross is called to residential fires to offer aid. Many families have nowhere to go after a fire, and have very little to work with. The Red Cross sees that the family is put up in a motel for the night, or longer if necessary, until the family can get things worked out.

Mike related that volunteers are needed in all services. If you would like to help as a volunteer, please contact Mike, or Michael, AI4GR.

The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Danny, AJ4HZ.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

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: March 3, 2009

7:00 pm – Will, WI1L, Henderson County ARES

Two new Technicians, Two Generals, and an Amateur Extra — That's quite a good outcome for the February 14th test session by Sid's team of Volunteer Examiners. There were eight candidates taking exams, which were administered by the VEs: Duke, W4DK; Eric, W4ENC; Debbie, AD2H; Sid, W4IOE; Will, WI1L; and Tim, K4TZZ.

Congratulations to the new and upgraded amateurs.

NC QSO Party is March 1st — This statewide QSO party gives all NC amateurs a chance to reach each other on the air. It starts Sunday, March 1st at noon and ends at 10pm. Its popularity has grown as a number of clubs have joined the individual participants. Scoring is based on the amount of counties and states we contact as well as on the total of contacts that are made, either phone or CW. The purpose is to have fun.

We will operate from the shack using the same equipment we use Field Day. We have seven members signed up, and could use more. It is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with the rig as well as to spend some pleasant time with members of the club.



ARES Notes

Effective Feb 4, the Wednesday ARES training net starts at 8:30PM.

Prospective new members are always welcome. See the ARES site <www.NC4HC.US>.

Will - WI1L
EC Henderson County



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

MFJ-564 Chrome Iambic paddle with cable \$40
ICOM HP-2 Headphones \$30
MFJ-260C 300W dummy load, solid-state \$25
Cushcraft gas tube 2000W lightning arrester \$20

Walt, KO4JN, will consider an offer on any item from a club member. He also has some hardware, cable, and parts. 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

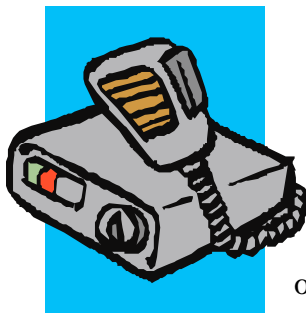
Mark Your Calendar —

- March 1 — NC QSO Party
- March 14-15 — Roanoke Div Convention, Charlotte
- April 24-25 — SE VHF Conference, 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.

On the Begali Raffle, from Duke, W4DK — Folks, the raffle tickets are \$1 EACH OR 6 for \$5. Each member received a dozen (12) tickets and should remit TEN DOLLARS.

Some members have forwarded checks for \$12. Up to now, the extra \$2 has been refunded. NO MORE! If you insist on sending \$12 rather than \$10, the extra dollars will be accepted with our thanks for the donation.



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The new FEMA IS-802 course was mentioned in the November 2008 ECHO. It gives an overview of how FEMA would respond to an impending or actual loss of communications from a natural disaster or terrorist attack. Of particular interest is the plan that public dissemination of critical pre-event and post-event information would occur over NOAA Weather Radio. So, if a disaster occurs have your weather radio handy.

QCWA Chapter 76 now has a website of its own, < www.qcwa76.org >

The Roanoke Division Convention will be at the Charlotte Hamfest, March 14 & 15. The hamfest is at a new location - the Cabarrus Arena, 4751 Highway 49 North in Concord. Details are at www.w4bfb.org.

Ronnie, K2SST, is featured in the February "Repeater Journal"; check out page 8.

I just had my ICOM rig repaired at the ICOM service center in Anderson SC. Paul Hansen, W6XA, does the repairs. He did a fine job on my rig, at a fair price. If your ICOM is ill, call him at 864-222-3539 or at pwhansen@bellsouth.net .

———— AI4GR is clear.

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

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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.

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Financial Report for February 2009 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 1/31/08	\$ 1580.18
Plus: Deposits	206.00
Less: Expenses	00.00
Balance as of 2/19/09	\$ 1786.18

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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: May 9, 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 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
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	8:30 PM
440 Rag Chew	442.225 MHz/107.2	Monday	8:00 PM
Red Cross Communicators	146.640 MHz/91.5	Sunday	9:00 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	3.571 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.



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



Subsequent club meeting
 April 7, 2009 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

