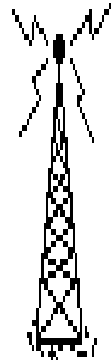


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 22, Number 4 – April 2009

The Prez Sez — I really look forward to each meeting that we have. It was with great disappointment that we had to cancel the last meeting due to snow around the building, but we felt it was the best thing for the safety of our members. Will has agreed to talk to us about the local ARES group and their mission at the April meeting. Also at this meeting we really need to begin laying out our plans for Field Day, which is only a little over two months away. We need participation from everyone for this event.

We also had very good success selling raffle tickets at the Charlotte Hamfest. The next table will be located at the Morganton Hamfest April 18th. We could use some more members to help man this table. Contact Duke if you can help. For our members, be sure to turn your raffle ticket money in soon or return your tickets.

Thank you and 73,

Danny, AJ4HZ

MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 3rd, 2009 — The meeting of March 3rd, 2009 was cancelled because of icy paths and inclement weather.

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: April 7, 2009

7:00 pm – Will, W11L, Henderson County ARES

We Stormed the NC QSO Party — Snow, ice, and fallen tree limbs awaited eight of us at the shack for the 2009 NC QSO Party of March 1st. Contacts began at noon and continued until 10pm. For the



most part we divided the effort into 2-hour shifts, except for Danny, who elected to operate until the bitter end despite the snow.

We wired the club's IC-718 to computers so that we had automated rig control, CW from the keyboard, and CW decoding. Using this complex set-up, we managed to contact 27 of the 100 NC counties, and both of the bonus stations. Short distances to other stations made 40m and 80m the most fruitful bands. Several club members reached us from their home stations, greatly benefiting our score.

However, the snow and poor road conditions cut down on

Bob, Danny, and Gene Scoring Points at the Shack

mobile contacts, which are worth 3 points each.

Our score was 17,555 points. Over the five years we participated, this was the 2nd highest total. But year-to-year comparisons are difficult because of propagation differences, and this year because the storm path through high population centers of NC probably restricted operations. We shall have to wait until other clubs report to see how we measure up.

At the shack were Steve, KJ4CRQ; Steve, KC5F; George, K3GK; Michael, AI4GR; Danny, AJ4HZ; Larry, WB4KIJ; Gene, KG4SXE; and Bob, KB5YZG.

Charlotte Hamfest was Great — This year's hamfest, at the Cabarrus Arena, on March 14th earned rave reviews from our readers. At least 6 members attended; here are a few of their comments. – free, convenient parking, and the lot was loaded! - roomy and good, the largest in years! – new vendors, great attendance! – many, many more tailgate tables.

Debbie's photo gives some idea of the crowd.





ARES Notes

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

The Henderson County ARES/RACES welcomes our newest member, Jonathan KF4NVX. While attending the Charlotte Hamfest, at Concord, NC, Jonathan upgraded to General. Way to go Jonathan!

An ARES/RACES membership application is now available on our website, NC4HC.US.

We have listed the first four VHF frequencies of our channelization chart on the website. They are found under the heading of Members> Forms.

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

Will - WI1L

Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County



ITEMS FOR SALE

Radio Shack PRO-96 hand-held trunk track/P25 scanner for sale. (see specs at <http://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/Pro-96>)

Bob, KB5YZG, is asking \$225. or best offer, 696-4103.

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 —

- April 11 — Raleigh Hamfest
- April 18 — Morganton Hamfest
- April 24-25 — SouthEast 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 — We were very pleased with our success at the Charlotte Hamfest. Together with Danny, AJ4HZ, Debbie, AD2H and Will, WI1L, we sold over \$200 worth of raffle tickets on the Begali keyer. At this rate, we'll have most, if not all, of them sold by the Christmas dinner. Next stop, Morganton in April (so far, looks like Will is the major contender for the \$50 "top seller" bonus)!



Danny and Will Sell Tickets

(Photo by Debbie)

There are still some 20 club members who received a dozen tickets (\$10 worth) **last NOVEMBER**, and who have yet to respond in any way. If you choose not to participate, simply return the tickets in the envelope provided. On the other hand, to participate, just return the completed **stubs** (call and phone number are all that's required) with \$10 in the envelope provided..... but, either way, **DO SOMETHING!** We can't sell what we don't have and you folks are sitting on 240 tickets... almost 10% of the 2500 available. **ACT NOW**, please.....

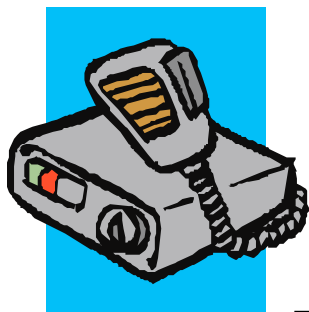
Order your BRARC Shirt — This just in from Duke, W4DK: I'm putting another shirt order together — minimum of six shirt orders to go forward. Order blanks available at any meeting. \$30 any size. Your check is not cashed until I have the order in hand ready to be delivered to member.



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



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The Times-News has published a report that this year's DuPont Marathon is cancelled.

If you are looking for a good USB-to-serial adapter, one of our club members recommends the DYNEX unit.

The Southeastern VHF Society, SVHFS, will hold their conference for 2009 in Charlotte, NC on April 24th and 25th, sponsored by the Carolina DX Association.

< http://www.w4dex.com/svhfs_2009.htm and http://www.svhfs.org/conf_2009.htm >.

The NC Section News (1/20/09) noted that the Amateur Radio Education Center station at Charlotte's Discovery Place is off the air because of remodeling in progress at the museum. Since its opening in 1991, NC4DP has introduced Amateur Radio to thousands of visitors from all over the world. The station's new location depends on space available in the museum after its remodeling. Let's hope NC4DP finds a suitable new home and will continue to share the magic of amateur radio for many years.

For those of you trying for Worked All States via LOTW, this Saturday will provide an opportunity to collect North Dakota, for many of us the final state. The ND QSO Party runs from 1pm to 9pm. So go get it!

I've just learned that long-time member and friend Joe Kloiber, W8NBX, is seriously ill. He is in the ICU of Pardee Hospital, but is not receiving visitors.

———— 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.

\$

Financial Report for March 2009 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 2/28/09	\$ 1719.40
Plus: Deposits	50.00
Less: Expenses	<u>28.50</u>
Balance as of 3/18/09	\$ 1740.90

\$

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
 April 7th, 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting
 May 5, 2009 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

