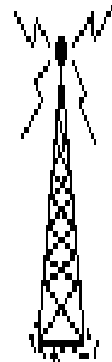


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 22, Number 6 – June 2009



Field Day 2009 — Of course, we are actively participating in Field Day, June 27 – 28. As, in the past several years, we will set up in the Fletcher Community Park. All of us will be pitching in to make it an interesting and fun experience for the club.

To get us started our June meeting focuses on orientation and planning. We'll discuss such topics as radio operation, the contact exchange, scoring, and, of course, food. It's a great chance to ask questions about how to participate and what to do in helping the effort.

Sign-up sheets will be circulated so you can reserve a time to operate or to log contacts. Antennas and tents will go up on Saturday morning. We'll be operating from 2:00pm on Saturday until 2:00 pm Sunday. – And be sure to figure on a few hours afterward to take down and stow equipment.

MEETING MINUTES OF May 5th, 2009 – The May meeting came to order with club president, Danny Rector, KJ4KZ, presiding. There were 26 present for this meeting. On a sad note, some of us learned that Joe Kloiber, W8NBX (SK), passed away during the month of April. Joe was a long time member of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club. A memorial service was held on the 9th of May at Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville. Joe was a native of Austria, a retiree of General Motors, and a member of the G.M Firebirds Radio Club. 73 Joe.

In the way of announcements, Duke, W4DK, reported to the club that the raffle was about half way through. Tickets have been sold at hamfests, thanks to Duke, and those helping.

Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ, informed those present of upcoming DX events. Now if we could just get some sunspots!! One interesting one will be Midway Island, scheduled for October of this year.

Duke spoke to a letter that had posted in the TIMES NEWS of Hendersonville. A lady claimed that a ham in an upstairs condo was causing her problems. Duke and Dick Smith, K4KQJ, were going to ascertain what could be done to help the lady.

Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK, passed a sign-up sheet for operators to help in the Fletcher Flyer Bicycle Ride. This event will be held on Sunday, June 7th. The start is 8:00 a.m. at the Fletcher Park in Fletcher, N.C. If you would like to help, please contact Bruce.

Rusty gave a brief report on the efforts to have a space for set up of equipment at the Mountain State Fair, held at the Ag Center in Fletcher, N.C. Things are looking favorable; but, there are still some details that have to be ironed out.



There were two areas of business that had to be taken care of. The new IC 718 does not have a cw filter. In order for better results at field day the filter is needed chirped the cw operators. A W4RI filter can be had for \$114.00. Sid made the motion we buy it, motion was seconded by Michael, AI4GR. After discussion, motion passed. The second item of business had to do with intermod between the cw and phone stations at field day. Michael made a motion that the club buys filters (3) for the radios. Motion was seconded by Rusty. After discussion, motion passed.

For the program, Bob Felt, KB5YZG, presented a powerpoint program on amateur radio satellites, and working contacts on them. Bob showed us the computer programs available to plot the course of the satellites, and the equipment needed to work through them. He included pictures of his equipment, and answered questions concerning "how do you do that,"

from the floor.

Fifty/fifty drawing was won by Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

Our Next Meeting: June 2, 2009

7:00 pm – Field Day Preparation

November Sweepstakes Results are IN — Last November our club participated in the Sweepstakes for the first time. (ECHO, December 2008) The ARRL reported that overall participation reached a 5-year high. So, how did we fare against the competition?

We scored 33,984 points, with 236 QSOs. This placed us 4th of the 8 multi-operator entries in North Carolina. The next club above us scored 42,640; the high scoring club reached 238,880 points.

We submitted 265 QSOs, but were credited with only 236. Why the difference? It turns out that a computer check looks for errors on all submitted logs. The computerized Log Check Report tells the story. We had 20 errors in the exchanges we logged, which are subtracted from our score. Of these, we had 7 busted calls (incorrect callsign) and 2 not-in-log (our call was not in the receiving station's submitted log). These 9 calls carried a penalty of one QSO each. The result is 94% accuracy, which is good for a contest with such a complex exchange.

In addition to the W4YK entry, two of our members submitted individual, low power, logs from their home stations: Debbie, AD2H and Kathleen, AJ4FV.

Hams Help the Horses — On Saturday, May 2nd, 13 local amateur radio operators provided communications support for the Biltmore Endurance Ride. Fine horses from all over the world converge on Biltmore Estate for this annual event, where they are ridden up to 100 miles in a test of endurance. The radio operators are needed to relay information about supplies and the status of the competitors.

The headquarters and two key points along the route are equipped with portable antennas and mobile radios for the event. Several operators also provided communications for the Multiple Sclerosis walk in Hendersonville that same morning before setting out for Biltmore. Organized by Dick, K4KQJ, the participating operators were:

W2CWP, Chris	KE4DFV, Craig	W4FOT, Martin
K3GK, George	AJ4HZ, Danny	N9JZX, John
K4KQJ, Dick	KG4LQX, George	KD4OKT, Bob
KA4WPM, Willi	KB4YBB, George	KB4YWN, Maurice
N4ZVX, Harry		

W4YK is on LOTW — We have opened an account on Logbook Of The World (LOTW) for the club's call, W4YK. This account will help us keep track of the states and DXCC entities we have contacted from the shack. When we have contacts confirmed with all 50 states or 100 DX entities we are eligible for awards from the ARRL.

If we send to LOTW each of our contest logs it automatically will sort out and list each new confirmed contact (called a QSL). We can also enter any non-contest contacts we make from the shack. so be sure to enter into the shack's log any contacts that you make there. The only catch here is that the contacted station must also enter the contact into LOTW for a QSL to be matched. As a result, several contacts with a state or entity may be needed before a match is made with a LOTW user.

So far, we have entered the November Sweepstakes and the NA QSO Party, and have QSLs with 5 DX entities. We also have 42 states. Among the missing 8 states is ND (of course), but we also need SC and GA, which should be easy contacts.

Try Our CW Keyer — We have replaced our timeworn CW keyer with a new Logikey. The Logikey serves with an iambic paddle to send CW at a speed you select. It has six memories that can be preloaded with, e.g., the club callsign for contacting DXpeditions or with contest exchanges. It will be used during Field Day and contests from the shack. Be sure to practice with it beforehand.

The keyer sends CW but do not decode it for you. Our laptop has several programs that help with decoding, but none are perfect, especially when signals are weak or noisy. In that case it helps if you can read enough code to respond to your call sign and requests for repeats (? or agn). Two good software programs that help you gain these skills are the free G4FON Koch Trainer and Morse Runner. The latter is especially useful since it simulates contest exchanges.



ARES Notes

The Wednesday ARES training net starts at 8:30PM.

An ARES/RACES membership application is now available on the ARES 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](http://www.nc4hc.us)>.

Will - WI1L
Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County



ITEMS FOR SALE

- 1) Radio Shack PRO-96 hand-held trunk track/P25 scanner for sale. (see specs at <http://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/Pro-96>) - \$225, obo
- 2) MFJ-1278B Multi Mode modem - \$50, obo
- 2) RIGblaster sound card interface (w/RJ45 mic plug) - \$75, obo

Bob, KB5YZG, 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, WI1L, maintains a classified website that can post your items – it's free. www.willscb.com

Later Schedule for Nets — Two popular nets will start later in the evening, at least until November, or so. The 440 Rag Chew will begin at 9:00pm starting Monday, May 25th, and the Mount Mitchell 6m net will begin at 9:00pm starting Friday, May 29th. The 440 net is hosted by Sid, W4IOE; the 6m, by Bill, WA4ZCE. These are both fun nets, so be sure to join in.

Mark Your Calendar —

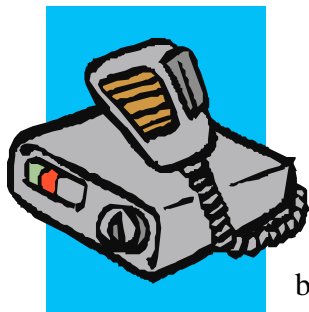
- June 7 — Fletcher Flyer Bicycle Ride
- June 27-28 — Field Day
- July 4 — Hendersonville Parade
- July 25 — WCARS Hamfest

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

— Order Your BRARC Shirt —

SHIRTS - \$30.00 each; checks to Duke Knief.
Order placed when 6 are ordered.

Put callsign and size on memo line of check. An order form must be included with check. Contact Duke, W4DK, for the form.



PTT ■■■■■ ■■■ House Bill HR 2160 -- *The Amateur Radio*

Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study to spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The ARRL is asking us to write to our representatives enlisting their support. The ARRL website describes the bill, and provides a sample letter. On the ARRL home page, click *legislation*.

More than 250 Amateur Radio operators provided communication support for the 113th running of the Boston Marathon on April 20, Patriots' Day

Amateur Radio testing will be held May 27th at 11:30AM at Trident Micro systems. Call Dave, K4SV, 828 777-5088.

———— AI4GR is clear.

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

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP - 828-877-5223
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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 May 2009 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 4/30/09 \$ 1704.77

Plus: Deposits 717.00

Less: Expenses 000.0

Balance as of 5/19/09 \$ 2421.77*

*includes \$1000.00 raffle money

\$

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: August 8, 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	9:00 PM
Red Cross Communicators	146.640 MHz/91.5	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 6m Net	53.630 MHz/100	Friday	9:00 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 at ai4gr@arrl.net.



Club Meeting Tuesday
 June 2nd, 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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



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

