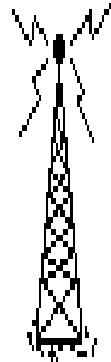


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# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 22, Number 9 – September 2009

**The Prez Sez** — As the summer ends I want to thank all for their participation in different events and meetings. As fall arrives we still have many activities ahead. I always look forward to the Shelby Hamfest and the Ten Tec Hamfest.

Our next big event of the year will be at the WNC Fair September 11 – 20. We are working with WCARS and other Western North Carolina amateurs to demonstrate what amateur radio is all about. Dean, K2JB, is in charge of the antennas; Jonathon, KF4NVX, is in charge of setting up the radios; Rusty, KG4JGQ, is in charge of the QSL cards; and I am responsible for the shelter. We will have a tower which will have both HF and 2 meter antennas located on it. We need operators to staff the shifts; 8 people on week nights and 16 people each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This will be 4 people per shift. Be thinking about what shift(s) you would be available and at the next meeting I will try to start filling my list with operators. The shifts are usually 3 to 4 hours long. They will involve some radio operation if you would like but mostly we need you interacting with people as they come by to observe. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

73 and see you at the meeting,

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ

**MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4TH, 2009** — The August meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. with the club president, Danny Rector, KJ4HZ, presiding. As is the custom of our club, we started with the pledge of allegiance to the national flag. There were 24 folks present; and, we were very pleased to have visiting N1ND, Dan Henderson of the ARRL. Dan was accompanied with his mother, whom he was visiting.

Danny sought a motion and a second to accept the minutes as printed in the ECHO. Motion was made, the second came, and the minutes were approved. Lil Clark, KG4GFP, gave the treasurer's report, and this was also approved. We have a balance of \$2120.91 in the treasury at the time of this meeting. Please remember that a portion of this is raffle monies, which makes our actual balance \$1120.91.

In the way of announcements, Duke, W4DK, reminded everyone that we still have a lot of tickets to sell. We are to have the drawing at the club Christmas dinner, which is fast drawing nigh.

Rusty, KG4JGQ, brought forth DX contesting opportunities upcoming, and reports of upcoming DXpeditions in the coming days. These are rather numerous, and the info can be found in QST and DX web pages.



Danny was happy to report to the club that arrangements have been made for the club, in conjunction with the Asheville club (WCARS), to have a place to set up a station at the Mountain State Fair. This event will take place September 11th through the 20th. We need many operators, and Danny is asking any interested ham in Western North Carolina to help man the station. Rusty, KG4JGQ, is to be commended for his efforts in seeing this come about.

Our guest, Dan Henderson, N1ND, brought forth the special presentation for this month's meeting. Dan's work with the ARRL deals primarily with the regulatory affairs covering amateur radio. Dan comes into frequent contact with his counterpart at the FCC. Dan reminded us that our spectrum is limited, valuable, and precious. This is the reason the ARRL fights so hard to keep the spectrum we now have. Rules and regulations sound boring; but, Dan presented his program using computer graphics, and such narration that the presentation was well received. He emphasized we should always operate within

the rules. Thanks Dan, for putting a face on the ARRL.

The 50-50 drawing was won by John Quinn, N9JZX.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

*Our Next Meeting: September 1, 2009*

*7:00 pm – To Be Announced*

**Shelby Hamfest** — We have been informed of the following by organizers of the Shelby Hamfest:

This year our club, in an effort to save money on postage, has decided not to mail brochures. Tickets can now be purchased via paypal through our website at <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>

We are giving away 14 radios this year and you do not have to be present to win.

**Rusty takes First Place** — Rusty, KG4JGQ, scored FIRST of the QRP operators in North Carolina and in the Roanoke Division. The contest was the March 2009 International DX Phone Contest, where his score of 16,683 also put him in 13<sup>th</sup> place worldwide.

As a QRP operator he was limited to 5 Watts, making it all the more remarkable that he contacted 67 DX entities. His rig was an ICOM-703, and he used a vertical slinky antenna. Good going, Rusty.



**Rusty and Slinky**

**New General Class Member** — At the club's license exam test session of August 8<sup>th</sup>, Dan Maxwell, now KJ4OCX, passed both the Technician and General Class exams. The session was led by Team Leader Sid, W4IOE, and the VEs were Eric, W4ENC; Kathleen, AJ4FV; and Michael, AI4GR.

**Assisting the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade** — What a beautiful day for a parade! And Danny, AJ4HZ, did a beautiful job of organizing for the club.

There were about 30 units marching along Main Street, and we had to position them in an area along 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Oakland Street. Staging was to start at 10am, so an hour beforehand 12 of us met in front of the VFW building to receive our assignments from Danny, who acted as parade director. Martin, W4FOT, set up his portable repeater on a hill near the route. At 11am the line of march began. It ended at the south end of Hendersonville, where Brandy, N1HO, and Ronnie, K2SST, assured an orderly dispersal of the units.



Participating for the BRARC:

Duke, W4DK                 Steve, KC5F  
   Martin, W4FOT

Michael, AI4GR             Debbie, AD2H  
 Danny, AJ4HZ             Dick, K4KQJ  
 Bob, KD4OKT             Ronnie, K2SST

Brandy, N1HO  
 Will, WIIL  
 Gene, KG4SXE

**Picnic Was Great** — The weather was great, the food was great, the company was great. What more could one ask for? Twenty-one members and guests enjoyed our annual picnic. Especially notable were the hot dogs. Some of us were heard to remark they were so good, no mustard was needed.



**BRARC Chows Down**



## ARES Notes

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

### **NATIONAL AND SECTION SET IS OCT 3-4**

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Field Organization. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), and other public-service oriented groups can be involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within your community while interacting with NTS nets. This year's North Carolina SET will be held on Saturday, October 3 and the Tarheel Emergency Net will be on the air to support local SET exercises.

Will, W1IL

Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County



**SkyWarn Class** — SKYWARN Class, Saturday, 10 October, 9-12 at the Blue Ridge Mall. The classroom is in the center court in the Sheriff's area. If you park in the rear of the mall, the walk is shorter.

Seating is limited so if you intend to attend the class, let Duke, W4DK know .... [w4dk@arrl.net](mailto:w4dk@arrl.net)



**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  
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**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.

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**Financial Report for August 2009 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 7/31/09 \$ 2120.91

**Plus:** Deposits 214.00

**Less:** Expenses 0.00

**Balance as of 7/19/09 \$ 2334.91\***

\*includes \$1200.00 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 to get your amateur license or to upgrade your present status.

**NEXT SESSION: November 11, 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 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>Henderson County ARES Net</b>	<b>146.640 MHz / 91.5</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8:30 PM</b>
<b>440 Rag Chew</b>	<b>442.225 MHz/107.2</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:00 PM</b>
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	3.625 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](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net).



Club Meeting Tuesday  
September 1st, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
October 6, 2009 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

