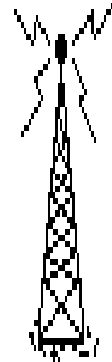


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 22, Number 10 – October 2009

The Prez Sez — The Western North Carolina Mountain State Fair has now drawn to a close and I just want to reflect on some of the good things that have happened. For a first-year event I feel like N4C has been a great success. Was everything perfect? By all means no! Some of the best parts have to be the participation by so many different hams. It has been fun just sitting around talking with different amateurs whose voices I have heard but never met. It was great watching Ronnie and Michael entertain kids with IRLP. IRLP proved to be very useful.



Amateur Radio at the Western NC Mountain State Fair

We now have a list of over 20 prospective hams looking to earn their license. Chet made a record 100+ contacts on the 6600 Net live from the fair. Even with the rain and out of the way location I feel that N4C has met its goal of bringing Western North Carolina hams together. Thank you to all who participated.

I also want to thank Gene, KG4SXE, for handling the Hunger Walk in the middle of this special event.

73, Danny AJ4HZ

MEETING MINUTES OF September 1, 2009 — The September meeting began at 7:00 p.m., at our normal place of meeting. We meet at the Henderson County Parks and Recreation building on Stoney Mtn. Road in Hendersonville, N.C. All are invited to our meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, club president, was the presiding officer.

The meeting began with the treasurer's report being given by Lil Clark, KG4GFP. Lil reported a total of \$2334.91 in the treasury. Please remember that \$1200.00 of this is money raised by the raffle for the Bengali key. We accepted the report as read. Next, the minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed in THE ECHO.

There were three announcements:

Duke Knief, W4DK, reminded everyone that we still have raffle tickets for sale. These are for the Bengali key, which is to be given away at the Christmas dinner. If you need tickets, please contact Duke.

Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ, presented information on upcoming opportunities to work DXpeditions. Rusty advised that there was still DX being worked, even with the lack of sunspots.

Michael Parente, AI4GR, explained that the VHF contest would be held on September 12th and 13th. He and Kathleen, AJ4FV, planned to Rove in the contest. Michael also brought a home-brew 440 antenna to show the group. Michael has used this antenna to check into the Monday net on the 442.225 repeater, from Davidson, N.C. (near Charlotte, N.C.). He uses his hand held with the antenna. By the way, it is called a quagi. Michael can give you the specs on it.



The highlight of the evening came when Ronnie Parham, K2SST, opened a box of goodies to show us. He then proceeded to show us three boards that had come from an early computer. They were nothing like the little one gig memory strips of today that fit on the motherboard. They certainly weren't the many gigabyte flash drives we have now.

We found out one of the boards read the memory, one board wrote to the memory, and if I understood correctly, one was the memory board. These boards were approximately one foot square per board, and had a whopping 12 bit memory! Especially interesting was that the boards were made in the U.S.A., and were built by hand.

Martin, W4FOT, added that the machines these came out of weighed 200 pounds. The memory had to have power applied at all times, or they lost what was stored on them. It is amazing how far computer technology has come. This can be seen in our small radios of today, the minute parts that make them operate.

The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Tom Long, K4TEL.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

N4C at NC Mountain State Fair — The BRARC and Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society teamed up to put Special Event station N4C on the air at the fair. See the Prez Sez for more details and photo of the installation.

The site's multi-band beam and dipole were QRV from September 11th through the 20th. HF contacts were via the club's IC-718 radio. The large world map on the wall of our tent had pushpins that reached 5 continents with more than 250 contacts. The BRARC Sunday net and the 6600 net also operated from the site, the latter with over 100 check-ins. Among the numerous visitors, 24 signed up for Technician prep classes.

Because of rain, the take-down had to be postponed until Monday. The weather was even worse on Monday; rumor has it that Danny has been trying to stuff the tent into his clothes dryer.



Danny and Jonathan with Nathan

The steering committee for the operation comprised Danny, AJ4HZ, Dean, K2JB, Rusty, KG4JGQ, and Jonathan, KF4NVX. Thirty-eight participants who were signed-in as setup or operator on the schedule were:

Bill, KD4RAM	Bill, KD4RRY	Bob, WD4CNZ	Bob, KD4OKT
Bob, KG5YZG	Brandy, N1HO	Chet, KE4VXC	Chris, W2CPT
Craig, KE4DFV	Danny, AJ4HZ	Dean, K2JB	Debbie, AD2H
Dick, K4KQJ	Duke, W4DK	Elwood, KN4ST	Eric, W4ENC
Gene, KG4SXE	George, KG4LQX	Harry, N4ZVX	John, N9JZX
John, W4KNI	John, W4QCF	Jonathan, KF4NVX	Martin, W4FOT
Michael, AI4GR	Myron, K4YA	Randy, KI4VLW	Ronnie, K2SST
Russell, N4KOX	Rusty, KG4JGQ	Sid, W4IOE	Steve, KJ4CRQ
Tom, K4TEL	Wayne, KF4HOG	Wendell, AI4XQ	Will, WI1L
William, KJ4HXY	Yale, KJ4KFA		

Hunger Coalition Walk — On Saturday September 19th amateur radio operators from the BRARC provided communications assistance for the Henderson County Hunger Coalition. There were two walking routes –5 miles and 10 miles, both in Hendersonville, NC. We provided operators for two SAG vehicles, one bicycle, and three rest stops. The 2m WG4YAO repeater on Bearwallow Mtn. provided coverage throughout the walks. Gene, KG4SXE, was net control at Jackson Park, and organized our participation.

There were 195 registered walkers even though there were intermittent rain sprinkles throughout the walk. The organizers of the event were very appreciative of our support.

Participating Amateur Radio Operators were:

Steve, KJ4CRQ	Michael, AI4GR	Brandy, N1HO	John, N9JZX
George, KG4LQX	Frank, WN4NC	Bob, KD4OKT	Bruce, KI4RBK
Gene, KG4SXE	Matt, KG4UAD		

Our Next Meeting: October 6, 2009

7:00 pm – Duke, W4DK, Amateur Radio Video

Shelby Hamfest — Again, it was a terrific hamfest. Go to our website for a collection of photos. You may be featured there. And don't forget Friday and Saturday (9/25-26) are the Ten-Tec hamfest in Sevierville. Included are factory tours Friday afternoon.

Saturday afternoon SEDCO meets at the Mainstay Inn, Pigeon Forge; the program concentrates on DXing.



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, WI1L

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

Our Raffle Needs → → → **YOU** — Things progress slowly with our Begali keyer raffle. Looks like the last of the gathering/selling opportunities will be SEDCO, and the Gray Hamfest. There should be a profit but not near what could have been raised to help the club coffers. There are still about 1000 tickets to be sold.

Mark Your Calendar —

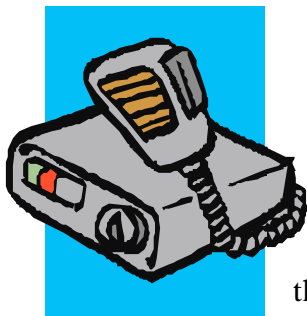
September 25-26	– Ten-Tec Hamfest
September 26	– SEDCO
October 10	– SkyWarn Class
October 17	– Gray Hamfest

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

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) 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.



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The rover team of Kathleen, AJ4FV, and Michael, AI4GR, were up on the parkway again for the 2009 September VHF contest. They were energized by a recent certificate for 10th place in USA and Canada, 2nd in Roanoke, during the 2008 contest. Recall the unavailability of gasoline last September; rover competition was light.

MFJ Enterprises announced they purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies. Along those lines, RF Concepts, LLC, has acquired all the assets of Alpha Radio Products. They will manufacture the Alpha amplifiers and other products.

Sign of the times? Effective August 17, W1AW, replaced its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively. RTTY will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule.

———— 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

Website: <http://www.radioclub.org/>

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: September 2009 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 8/31/09	\$ 2334.91
Plus: Deposits	23.00
Less: Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Balance as of 9/19/09	\$ 2357.91*

*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 15th of each month.

If you have something to add to our 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	3.625 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.



Club Meeting Tuesday
 October 6th, 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting
 November 3, 2009 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

