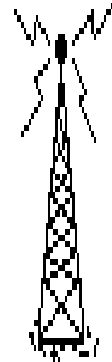


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# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 22, Number 11 – November 2009

**The Prez Sez** — This year has really flown by with all of our activities that the club has been involved in. As we look toward the end of the year there will still be ways to be of service. We have both the Hendersonville Christmas Parade and the Fletcher Christmas Parade that we usually help coordinate. We also have a lot of on-the-air contests that I would love to encourage the members of our club to be involved in.

Rusty Jones will teach the basics of contesting at our next meeting, but to be honest, the only way you will learn to contest is to just jump in and try it. We have a good station set-up at the club and we would love to have more members involved. Contesting is not only fun but it also helps you become more proficient in understanding and operating radios and propagation. This knowledge will spill over into our service activities with parades and races and other events. Please get involved. It's addicting.

73, Danny AJ4HZ

**Holiday Meeting** – Our annual Holiday Meeting will be a dinner at Twin Dragons in Brevard. It will start about 6 pm on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Bring the family.

**MEETING MINUTES OF October 6, 2009** — The October meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club came to order at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the sixth. Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, club president, was the presiding officer. We had a total of 17 members present. Danny welcomed all present with a warm greeting.

A slate of officers was presented at the beginning of the meeting. Remember that officers are to be elected at the time of the November meeting. These officer nominees are being put forth by the steering committee:

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, president

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, treasurer

Craig Miller, KE4DFV, vice president

Sid Hendricks, W4IOE, secretary

Two members at large were nominated by the steering committee:

Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ; and Ronnie Parham, K2SST

No other nominations were heard from the floor.

The minutes were approved as read in the ECHO, and the treasurer's report was approved as given by Lil Clark, KG4GFP. The treasurer reported \$ 2357.91 in the treasury. Please remember that \$1200.00 of this is raffle money.



Duke, W4DK, spoke to the sale of the raffle tickets. He reminded those present that we still have many tickets to sell, and time is growing short to sell them. The drawing for the Bengali key will be at the Christmas dinner, the first Tuesday of December. Place of meeting will be announced in this issue of THE ECHO. The Lion's club of Hendersonville has contacted the club requesting a speaker for an upcoming meeting. Duke will contact the Lion's.

Danny reported the Tour De Leaves would be held again this year. Gene passed slips to be signed by volunteers. Michael reported that the club would again this year take part in the November sweepstakes. We will be seeking operators for this event. Be sure to attend the November meeting for all the details.

The featured program for the evening was given by Duke, W4DK. He showed a video that had been produced by a group of hams in the Northern Ohio area that is an excellent tool for recruiting new hams. The QCWA chapter in Hendersonville has purchased the video, and accompanying tool kit for \$50.00. After viewing the video, our club heard a motion that we also buy the tool kit, which includes the video

disc. The motion passed.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Steve, KJ4CRQ.

Respectfully submitted  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

*Our Next Meeting: November 3, 2009*

*7:00 pm – Rusty, KG4JGQ, An Intro to Contesting*

**It's HF Contest Time** – Each autumn, as the intensity of thunderstorms wanes, the focus of radio contesting turns to the HF bands. Our club has been working three HF contests: the November Sweepstakes, the North American QSO Party, and the NC QSO Party, and also one contest-like event, Field Day. In addition to participation at the shack, many of our members regularly enter contests as individuals. To help newcomers enter this Radiosport, and to help veterans hone their skills, this month's meeting concentrates on contesting.

If you operated with the club on Field Day, you know contest fundamentals. A completed contact contains an exchange of information that is specific to the contest. For instance, the exchange for the November Sweepstakes is: consecutive serial number of the contact; precedence (“M” for Multi-Op at W4YK); your callsign (W4YK); the last 2 digits of the year the license was issued (96); and NC. So, after you contact your first station from the shack you would say, “001 M W4YK 96 NC”.

Wow! That’s a lot of info, and it all must be exchanged correctly or a penalty ensues. Of course that’s the point, accuracy counts despite the urge to speed along with more contacts. Fortunately, the exchange for most contests is much simpler, but accuracy is still key in contests.

The club has logging programs for the contests. We use the N3FJP suite, and the interface is similar to the Field Day program. The RigTalk connection between the computer and radio saves time as it automatically enters the operating band and mode into the program. It helps to have two club members at the station; one to operate the rig, the other to log contacts on the computer. And it helps to familiarize yourself with the rig and logging program before the contest begins.

If you’re not into contesting, there’s still room on the HF bands even during a big contest weekend. That’s because 60m, 30m, 17m, and 12m bands are left open for other HF activities.

Some contests permit operation only for certain portions of the total contesting period. When does your operating time clock start ticking? The operating clock should be running when you begin listening - not when you make your first call and not when you make your first QSO.

An important goal in contesting is to improve on our previous scores. Eventually, that leads to climbing through the ranking of clubs in the state, division, and country. As a benchmark, our score in the 2008 Sweepstakes was 33,984, with 236 QSOs. This placed us 4<sup>th</sup> in NC and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Roanoke Division.

Come to the next meeting, and Rusty will help sharpen your contesting skill. The Sweepstakes are 21-22 November (5pm Saturday thru 11pm Sunday); the NA QSO Party is 16-17 January; and the NC QSO Party is late February.



## ARES Notes

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

Will, WI1L  
Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County





**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

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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

**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.

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**Financial Report: October 2009 - Lil Clark**

|                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance as of 9/30/09         | \$ 2357.91         |
| <b>Plus:</b> Deposits         | 205.00             |
| <b>Less:</b> Expenses         | <u>101.90</u>      |
| <b>Balance as of 10/20/09</b> | <b>\$ 2461.01*</b> |

\*includes \$1400.00 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 our 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        |
| 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        |
| Rutherford County QSO            | 147.240 MHz/ 94.8         | Wednesday        | 9:00 PM        |
| Tarheel ARES Net                 | 3.923 MHz (SSB)           | Daily            | 7:30 PM        |
| NC Morning Net                   | 3.926 MHz (SSB)           | Daily            | 7:45 AM        |
| 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  
November 3rd, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
December 1st, 6:00 pm  
Twin Dragons



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

