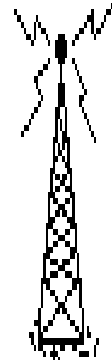


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# The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

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Volume 23, Number 2 – February 2010

**The Prez Sez** — Well, our new year started out with a shiver. I felt like we had a good turn out at January's meeting considering how cold it was. I really appreciated Dave Anderson's very easy to understand presentation of putting a DXpedition together and going on one. Thank you also for the good participation at the North American QSO Party. It really encourages me so much when I see you get involved in the different activities. Very soon we will have the North Carolina QSO Party and I would love to see enough people to man the entire contest. Thanks again for all the support you show to our radio club.

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ

**MEETING MINUTES OF January 2, 2010** — Meeting called to order by Danny Rector  
13 members were present and two visitors.

Treasurer's Report: \$2164.57

Radio license class is being offered by WCARS in February  
Duke took a hand showing of what interest there would be if he did a hands-on digital clinic some Saturday. There seemed to be good interest, but no date was set.

Michael asked for help on the NAQP Contest. He passed a sign-up sheet.  
Michael also demonstrated a 10-Meter Antenna that he just built.  
The group approved the purchase of a SCAF Filter for the club radio for approximately \$89 for the kit.

Dave, K4SV, gave a very good presentation of a DXpedition that he went on to St. Barths in the French West Indies



Dave, K4SV

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Rector

## *Our Next Meeting: February 2, 2010*

*7:00 pm – Rusty, KG4JGQ –RTTY, PSK31, and N1MM*

**BRARC Sets Record** – On January 16<sup>th</sup> ten members operating in the North American QSO Party set a new club record score.

We scored 25,070 points. This easily outdistanced our two previous operations. Last January we scored 7,865, and in August 2008 we scored 13,806. In neither of those previous attempts did we make 160m contacts. This time, 18% of our 230 contacts were on 160m. Our new 270-foot Off-Center-Fed dipole was a success.

We used the OCF antenna for 40m (19% of contacts), 80m (32%), and 160m (18%). In sum, about 70% of our activity was on the OCF. The 2-element quad gave us contacts on 15m (10%) and 20m (20%). We had no contacts on 10m.

The operators used only one rig, the club's IC-718. We logged with N1MM software, which afforded us a complete interface of our score and multiplier progress.



**Larry, Bob, Sid, and Craig  
Log Contacts in the NA QSO Party**

Several members contacted us from their home HF stations, adding welcome QSOs to our effort. Those operating from the shack were:

Craig, KE4DFV	Steve, KJ4CRQ	Michael, AI4GR
Danny, AJ4HZ	Sid, W4IOE	Rusty, Kg4JGQ
Larry, W4LEB	Jonathan, KE4NVX	Bob, KD4OKT
	Billy, KD4RAM	

**A High-Scoring Field Day** – The ARRL, which sponsors Field Day, has announced the 2009 results. It was a record-breaking event with 2642 logs entered. There were 2400 logs in 2008. A record 37,592 Amateurs and their guests participated; we provided 55 of them.

Propagation may have been down a bit in '09. This can be seen from the top score of 30,888 points (by W3AO, a 20-radio entry). That score was 8% below last year's highest. –a possible result of poor propagation.

Despite lack of sunspots, we scored 4,906 points, a whopping 18% above last year's tally. However, the scores are not entirely comparable because in 2009 we entered as Class 4A, not 3A as in 2008. 4A indicates 4 transmitters, each on emergency power.

Taking a closer look, we made 1016 contacts. Of these, 304 were phone; 681 CW; 31 digital. Our phone and CW totals grew, but last year's digital was 3 times higher. Our digital technique could use some attention since each digital contact scores 2 points. About 1/3 of contacts were equally on each of 80m, 40m, and 20m bands. Only 6% of contacts were on 15m, 10m, and 6m combined.

Our score placed us 26<sup>th</sup> of the 149 entries of nation-wide Class 4A entries. That's top 20%. In our own Roanoke Division (NC, SC, VA, WV), we were 3<sup>rd</sup> of 10. And in North Carolina we took **1<sup>st</sup> place**. How about that?

**KE4CLE Outscores W4YK** – That's right! KE4CLE is the call sign used by our club in the 1994 SSB November Sweepstakes. Bill, KD4RAM, worked the contest in 1994 and again in 2009. He has a certificate from the ARRL showing that the club took First Place in the NC Section that year.

They operated from the club's previous location near the five corners where the fire house now stands. Their rig was our IC-940 transmitting from a horizontal loop that worked down to 80 meters. Bill recalls that most of the contacts were made in a short period when 80m really opened up.

The KE4CLE team made 424 QSOs and reached 72 Sections for a score of 61,056. In contrast, the W4YK team in 2009 made 356 QSOs, scoring 54,112. We'll have to work a little harder next November to break that 16-year record.

Team KE4CLE: N1ARH; KD4OKT; KD4RAM; KD4SMK; KD4USA; KE4PAF; KE4QZL; KE4RRO;  
KE4RRR; KO4JN; N4XFT; WA4BVF; W4FOT; KC5F; W8NBX; W9FHW

Team W4YK: KJ4CRQ; KD4DFV; KI4FSP; AI4GR; AJ4HZ; W4IOE; KG4JGQ; W4LEB; KF4NVX



## ARES Notes

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

Will, WI1L  
Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County



**- DUES FOR 2010 ARE DUE -**

## Mark Your Calendar —

- 23 – 24 January – ARRL VHF Contest
- 27 February – RTTY NA QSO Party
- 28 February – NC QSO Party
- 13 – 14 March – Charlotte Hamfest
- 3 April – Raleigh Fest, NC Convention

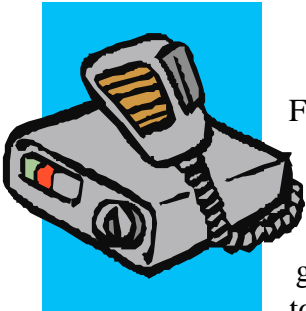
Please notify the editor if dates change, or as new events arise.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

**ICOM IC-02AT** 2m handheld, mint condition. \$75.00  
Walt, KO4JN < [walter134@morrisbb.net](mailto:walter134@morrisbb.net) >

- 1) **Yaesu FT 900 Transceiver and FP 800 Power supply** \$450.00
  - 2) **Ameriton AL 80B Amplifier** \$800.00
  - 3) **Kenwood MC 60 Microphone** \$75.00
  - 4) **MFJ 1621 Antenna System 40/10 Mtrs** \$40.00
  - 5) **Daiwa CN 720B SWR meter** \$75.00
- Contact Danny, [rectord@bellsouth.net](mailto:rectord@bellsouth.net)

If you have items for sale, or need something, notify the editor.



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ A Technician Level Licensing Class starts Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>. At A-B Tech, Asheville, Room 314 Elm Building, 6 – 9pm. Register: [N4NH@arrl.net](mailto:N4NH@arrl.net)

Tropospheric propagation ("tropo" for short) is an important part of VHF+ contesting, but given its weather-related nature, can it be predicted? Try the [Hepburn tropo prediction maps](#) to determine when and where to look for tropo openings. The maps are derived from world-wide weather data and are updated daily. –ARRL Contest Update 11/11/09

160 meters is much more usable in the colder months. Why does the 160 meter band have what some might consider "special properties" during the winter? There is generally much less noise in winter, and our current position in the sunspot cycle makes the maximum usable frequency quite low on most days. –ARRL Letter 12/3/09

———— AI4GR is clear.

**– DUES FOR 2010 ARE DUE –**

**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  
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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.

\$

**Financial Report: January 2010 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 12/31/09	\$ 2164.57
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	0.00
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	44.00
<b>Balance as of 1/19/10</b>	<b>\$ 2120.57</b>

\$

**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: February 13, 2010**

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>8:00 PM</b>
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	3.625 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 Emergency Net	1.943 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  
February 2nd, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
March 2nd, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

