



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



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

The PREZ Says

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold weather to come out to last night's meeting. And Thanks to Ernie Hollingsworth (KC4SIT) for the in-depth presentation on FT-8.

On Thursday, February 1, 2018 - starting at 6:00 PM at the BRARC shack, we will be conducting a hands-on class to help our members put into practice the operating procedures for this mode of operation that were covered at the January meeting.

Those in attendance at the January meeting found that FT-8 has taken over the #1 spot in amateur radio communications, and it is just a matter of time until this new mode is opened up to allow full-fledged QSO content. So learning FT-8 now will help keep you up with the evolution of our hobby.

In the January meeting, we also had the opportunity to test our live streaming capability over the Internet and we had 2 remote attendees at the meeting. Sid Hendricks (W4IOE), and Al Holt (WD4AH) from Florida. Both reported complete success with the remote participation. If you can't make a meeting but would still like to keep-up with what is going on in our club, it is possible to remote access BRARC meetings with *Teamviewer* ver. 13 which is a free download available at *Teamviewer.com*. Complete details on accessing live-streamed meetings are available at our website *www.radioclub.org*. Please let your HAM friends know about this opportunity too, as anyone with an interest in Radio can attend our meetings remotely.

On the subject of presentations, a really good one is planned for our February 6th meeting. The topic will be VHF/UHF Propagation presented by Doug Allen (K4LY). Doug lives in Inman, SC and is a pioneer in VHF/UHF long distance communications. Please plan to attend.

73s

David Day (N1DAY/WI2XUF)



Minutes from December 5, 2017

In Attendance

There were 15 people who signed the attendance sheet.

Visitors

There was one visitor, as follows: Rick Grauer (WA3YBG)

Club Business

A motion and second was made to accept the minutes of last month's meeting and they were approved.

The Treasurer's Report also approved because it was posted in the minutes of the December meeting.

BRARC Treasurer's Report

BRARC Treasurer's Report
December 1 - December 31, 2017

Balance as of 11/30/17	\$2,485.12
Plus: Dep: 2018 dues x1	\$20.00
Total Income	\$20.00
Sub-Total	\$2,505.12
Less: Exp: (none)	\$0.00
Total Expense	\$0.00
BALANCE AS OF 12/31/17	\$2,505.12

Club Annual Fees

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC-W4YK) fees (\$20.00) are due once again. Send your payments to Steve Smith KC5F or contact him at: kc5f@arrl.net

Standing Committees

Here are the current standing committees;

Committee	Contact	Email
Events and Contests	Danny Rector	record@bellsouth.net
Shack Activity	Carl Stover	carl.stover@gmail.com
Field Day Coordinator	James Reed	jsreed@bellsouth.net
ARRS	John Quinn	johnqiv@att.net
Digital Group	Ernie Hollingsworth	kc4sit@gmail.com
Social Media	Dick Smith	w4rss@radioclub.org



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Announcements

Remote Viewing of Club Meetings

The BRARC meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the big red brick two story building located in Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC. Although we would like everyone to attend our meetings in person, we recognize that it is difficult for many to make the trip to Hendersonville. BRARC is now live-streaming our meetings over the Internet using the free download service *Teamviewer* ver. 13 available at www.teamviewer.com. So if you would like to watch BRARC meetings and presentations from the comfort of your home, all you need is a computer with a Windows/MAC operating system, *TeamViewer* software, and Internet access. Complete details of setting-up the service on your computer with access codes and other related information is posted at [HTTP://radioclub.org](http://radioclub.org).

Thanks, 73s
David (N1DAY/WI2XUF)

HT Check-In Drawing

Ronnie (K2SST) won the drawing for checking-into the club meeting on the 146.640/91.5 repeater before the January meeting. There will be a drawing for each meeting for anyone using an HT to check-into the club meeting.

Winter Field Day

Winter Field Days at Linville Land Harbor, Newland, NC
Jan 27th – 28th, 2018

All amateur radio operators and non-amateur radio operators are welcome to participate in this event.

Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of amateur radio operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each June, but with some additional unique operational concerns.

We believe as do those entities of ARRL Organizations like ARES & RACES that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of a *Winter Field Day* will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why WFDA is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.

Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. WFDA's goal is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall, and winter.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services.

If you are serious about emergency communications as we are; we welcome you to join us for our yearly event. We are sure that you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal summer time field day.

DATES: January 27, 2018 to January 28, 2018

Location: Linville Land Harbor Recreation Center
20 Linville Harbor Pkwy
Newland, NC 28657

SETUP: Jan 26th 2018 TIME: NOON - 5 PM
Jan 27th 2018 TIME: 8 am - 11 am
Event Start: Jan 27th 2018 TIME: NOON
Event End: Jan 28th 2018 TIME: NOON
Clean UP: Jan 28th 2018 TIME: 12 pm - ??

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS

Coffee will be supplied.

Sponsored By:

Avery County Volunteer Communications Club
Carolina Amateur Radio Club
Linville Land Harbor, Newland, NC

Please RVSP and tell us what equipment or supplies you can provide. Contact Rick at winterfielddayLLH@gmail.com

Social Media Sites

Dick Smith (W4RSS) announced that there are two social media resources that have been available for the club, as follows:

- FaceBook – Search for “Blue Ridge Hams” to find the correct web page.
- Twitter - Search for “Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club” to find the correct web page.

Both are OPEN forums to the entire net world-wide.

FORMAL PRESENTATION

There was a formal presentation given by Ernie Hollingsworth (KC4SIT) on *FT8 Digital Mode* using WSJT-X software. The presentation was informative and detailed. Thanks Ernie!



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

50/50 Drawing

The drawing was won by Ken Gallagher (N2UK).

From The Shack

There was a big turnout last time for the *Antenna Analyzer* class, but I was not fully prepared! So, there will be one more *Antenna Analyzer* class and this one I promise, will be a real eye-opener! It will cover:

- Adjusting a gamma match
- Measuring (analyzing) the club antenna
- Understanding when to use each type
- A graphic demonstration of antenna-to-antenna and feedline-to-feedline coupling
- How to burn-up a rig if not careful!
- And 3 or 4 more hands-on projects

It's free & fun Thursday, January, 18, 2018 at 6:00 PM.

Upcoming Class Ideas:

1. Installing a PL259 properly....a hands-on class where everyone gets to do a couple of them CORRECTLY!
2. Installing Slow-Scan TV software on your computer and having local schedule so you can practice even when the bands are mostly dead.
3. Understanding the G5RV, putting one up at the shack, then seeing how it looks with analyzer and making any required adjustments.
4. Theory and construction of a really simple, easily tuned, single band HF antenna that is highly directional and just about foolproof. Oh, it doesn't require much space and is CHEAP to build!

Please, I need more ideas and suggestions. What should we do with our monthly shack meeting?

Call me anytime 7AM-10PM - and do leave a message, I will call back!

Carl Stover (KW4EO)

H) 828-771-6146

C) 404-872-3969

Meeting Ended

The meeting was formally adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Doug Davis (KJ4WWN).



Calendar of Events

Here are some notable dates:

Date	Description
January, 18, 2018	Antenna Analyzer Class #2; See details under “ <i>At The Shack.</i> ”
January 27 & 28, 2018	Winter Field Day: Details are in “ <i>Announcements</i> ” section.
February 1, 2018	FT8 Training: <i>FT8 Operating Procedures</i> at the shack.
February 6, 2018	BRARC Meeting; Held at <i>Jackson Park</i> in Hendersonville, NC. Time 7:00 PM. In the case of inclement weather: We do NOT meet when <i>Blue Ridge College</i> is closed. Guest Speaker: Doug Allen (K4LY) will give a presentation on VHF/UHF Propagation.
February 18, 2018	FT8 Digital Training; Starting at 6:00 PM at the BRARC shack, we will be conducting a hands-on class to help our members put into practice the operating procedures for this mode of operation that were covered at the January meeting.

For Sale

There were no items for sale this month.

Popular Ham Radio Nets

FM Nets

BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHz/T91.5	Sunday 8:00 PM
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / T91.5	Wednesday 9:00 PM
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday 9:00 PM
KI4ZEK Net	145.190 MHz	Thursday 8:30 PM
AmRRON CPN Preparedness	145.190 MHz	Wednesday 8:30 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily 9:00 PM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday 9:00 PM
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F 9:00 AM



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

WCARS Information Net	146.910 MHz/ T91.5	Monday 9:00 PM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz / T91.5	Wednesday 9:00 PM
Transylvania ARC Net	147.135 MHz	Thursday 8:00 PM
Anderson Radio Club Net	146.790 MHz	Daily 8:30 PM
6 Meter Net		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz/T 100	Friday 9:00 PM
220 NETS		
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday 9:00 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Thur Net	224.260 MHz	Thursday 8:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday 8:00 PM
Mount Spivey 220 Net	224.600/T 98.4	Wednesday 8:00 PM

CW Nets

Hit and Bounce Net	7.042 MHz (CW)	Daily 8:30 AM
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571 MHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily 8:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3.573 MHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily 7:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3.573 MHz (CW 15 18 wpm)	Daily 10:00 PM

HF Nets

K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225.5 MHz (SSB)	Mon-Sat 7:00 AM
QCWA Chapter 76	3.636 MHz (SSB)	Saturday 8:45 AM
The American Preparedness Radio Network (TAPRN)	3.818 MHz or 7.24 MHz	Sundays 9:00 PM
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily 6:30 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily 7:30 PM
NC Morning Net	3.927 MHz (SSB)	Daily 7:45 AM
Get Up and Go Net	28.350/28.360 MHz	Sunday 9:00 PM
SATURN Net	14.265 MHz (SSB)	Daily 10:00 AM

Simplex Nets

80 Meter Simplex Net	3.843 MHz	Thursday 9:30 PM
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday 8:30 PM

Digital Mobil Radio Nets

DMR Net	WNC TalkGroup	Thursday 8:30 PM
DMR Net	TAC310 TalkGroup	Sunday 8:00 PM



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Club Information

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)

Radio operators come from all walks of life. Some are students, teachers, pilots, technicians, police officers, doctors, executives, retired military, engineers, you name it.

The *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)* is all of these things. Another key benefit it that they give-back in many ways back to their community. Amateur radio operators at BRARC donate time and equipment to participate with the *Department of Emergency Management*, the *Red Cross*, and *FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)*. Radio operators practice using their equipment without power from the grid. So during REAL emergencies they can supply the necessary communication to first responders so they can provide help to those who need it. *Hurricane Sandy* was a perfect example. Ham radio operators helped FEMA direct needed supplies and medical attention.

BRARC also provides volunteer community support in a variety of community activities including, parades including the 4th of July, and Christmas parades, walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, and the Fletcher Flier.

The *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* also provides daily and weekly forums via what they call "Nets." You don't need a ham license to listen to a net - just a radio. These forums include informal sessions or "rag chews" that discuss local events or just about any topic.

Blue Ridge Echo Submissions

If you have timely information that you would like to publish in the *Echo*, all submissions must be received by the first 8 days of each month in order to meet publication deadlines. Please send your ASCII copy to Doug (KJ4WWN) at themtns@yahoo.com.

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club Officers

Title	Name	Call Sign	Phone	Email
President	David Day	N1DAY	203-450-0053	davidday@yahoo.com
Vice President	James Reed	KK4JFO	828-698-3609	jsreed@bellsouth.net
Treas./Member.	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-489-6637	kc5f@arrl.net
Secretary	Doug Davis	KJ4WWN	828-685-1291	themtns@yahoo.com
Member @ Large	Danny Rector	NA4X	828-698-3231	record@bellsouth.net
Testing	Dick Smith	W4RSS	828-687-9531	w4rss@radioclub.org
Shack Mgr. & Member @ Large	Carl Stover	KW4EO	828-771-6146	carl.stover@gmail.com