



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



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

The PREZ Says

I have been so proud to see the great participation in Ham Radio over the past month. Carl (KW4EO) and Nick (K9GVM) had a great turn-out to their kit building classes. We learned a lot about proper soldering. Its amazing how mixing two little resistors can prevent a radio from working. Thank you Carl and Nick!

Then James (KK4JFO) had the Shack open for the NC QSO Party. He had around 10 people pass through and help out. Thanks James! Carl (KW4EFO) chauffeured me on a expedition to Clay county. We did not have a stellar performance but we sure ate well!

Then Dave (N1DAY) and Ernie (KC4SIT) have been introducing us to the world of *Slow Scan TV*. It has really been taking off particularly with you digital folks. Thanks Dave and Ernie! Thank you all for getting involved in Ham Radio!

Over the next several months there will be Ham Fests coming up. There will be bike rides. All this leads up to *Field Day* June 22nd and 23rd. Be thinking about how you can get involved what you can do on *Field Day* to promote our hobby.

Next meeting Dean Blair, K2JB, the king of SOTA will be talking to us about this aspect of the hobby. Be sure to be there.

73's Danny (NA4X)

Minutes from March 5, 2019

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by BRARC Vice-President James Reed (KK4JFO). (President Danny Rector (NA4X) was running late, stuck in the airport parking lot because their computers were down.)



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In Attendance

There were approximately 19 people present.

There were three visitors who attended this meeting: Kim Masengill (KN4SSG) is from Brevard and recently got his General-class license. He is only on 2m, now, but plans to branch-out. Alex Hagerty (W4JHU) is from Columbus. Tony Knight (KK4FFE) is from Clyde.**Club Business**
A motion was passed and seconded to accept the minutes of last month's meeting.

February's Treasurer's Report was approved by a vote from the membership.

Skyrunner Internet still being looked into, but at a standstill while they work on best line-of-sight. It will cost \$135 for installation, but after that no monthly charges.

BRARC Treasurer's Report

February 1 - February 28, 2019

Balance as of 01/31/19	\$3,665.56
Plus: Dep: 14x 2019 dues	\$280.00
Total Income	\$280.00
Sub-Total	\$3,945.56
Less: Exp: QSL Bureau postage	\$5.00
Candy handed out at Christmas Parade	\$71.98
Total Expense	\$76.98
BALANCE AS OF 02/28/19	\$3,868.58

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

Please, please remember to send-in your dues. Send your payments to:

Steve Smith, KC5F, BRARC Treasurer
607 E Blue Ridge Rd
East Flat Rock NC 28726-2205

Announcements

ARES - Bob Felt, (W4RYF), spoke on the ARRL Vision for ARES, with a 3-part training track., as follows:

- 1) You must have an amateur radio license.
- 2) Taking an ARRL Emergency Management course and 5 free online FEMA ICS courses will let you be a member of ARES.



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- 3) For a leadership position, there is an additional ARRL Emergency Management course and 6 more FEMA ICS courses.

Bob clarified that NC uses AuxComm, which has its own requirements, not those of the ARRL. NC says that it doesn't use the ARRL's training track.

QSO Contesting

James Reed (KK4JFO) spoke about the club's participation in the February 23rd to 24th at the North Carolina and South Carolina QSO Parties. He said they had a blast, although conditions were horrible on Saturday and not much better on Sunday. Almost all of his contacts were on 80 meters, as all other bands were dead most of the day. The last two hours of Sunday went much better, but James still stayed on 80 to rack up a lot more contacts.

Expedition Contesting

Danny (NA4X) added comments on his type of participation in the NC QSO Party. He and Carl (KW4EO) did an "Expedition" with off-car antennas set up and not operating mobile, but still counting as a Rover. Danny wanted to activate Clay County, which counts as an extra bonus and is often hard to find on the air. He picked a spot on the county line with Macon County to count as two multipliers, but found that the band noise was too high due to power lines across the street. After about an hour there, they moved down the road, but then were only in Clay County. They made contacts using an end-fed 80m antenna, but found they had noise coming from both their generator and computer. They ended up running off of a battery and doing paper logging, stopping occasionally to charge the battery from the generator. Danny said that even so, it was fun and they will try it again. He suggested that anyone considering something like this call CQ and not fret about checking duplications real-time. Other suggestions:

- 1) **Test.** They did some advance testing of their setup, but not a full test.
- 2) **Be flexible.** Be ready to move, change your setup, etc.
- 3) **Have a Backup Plan.** Have alternates for the computer, radio, antennas.
- 4) **Understand propagation.** (This will be a future meeting topic.)

Community Activities

Danny (NA4X) announced upcoming communication activities. The *Hellbender 100 Run* will be April 12-13, with runners going from Old Fort to Mount Mitchell. It starts Friday and runners are to be at the finish line by 8:00 AM Saturday. Contact Bill Van Nuys (N4OOC) for info and to sign up to help. Danny also reminded us to mark our calendars for the *WNC Flyer* on June 2, a 100-mile bike ride starting and ending in Pisgah Forest. It's one of the most fun activities we do, and our participation helps and is greatly appreciated by the *Blue Ridge Bike Club*. Also, don't forget *Field Day* on June 22-23. More info will be coming on both of these.

From The Shack

Carl Stover (KW4EO) invited all to visit the club's Shack at any time. We had a recent donation of equipment, but not much is of any use. One potentially-nice item was an antenna analyzer, but the batteries had been left in it for several years and had corroded, rendering the unit non-repairable. Carl told us about the recent "Evening in the Shack" activity held on two consecutive Thursdays. The first night was learning to solder. At the second, each participant built a Pixie



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40-meter transceiver, receiving the kit for free. There were 18 participants and 4 instructors, and 17 kits are working with 1 still incomplete. All who make contacts (even across the room at the club meeting) will be entered into a drawing for a \$20 cash prize this weekend. 7 of the participants were “*youngsters*”, all of whom completed their kits. An 11-year-old girl who had never soldered before had hers work the first time she turned it on.

Carl also talked about the work of David Day (N1DAY) and Ernie Hollingsworth (KC4SIT) with SSTV (Slow Scan TV), including following the Sunday night nets. He said that you can use an ancient computer and a very basic receiver to listen and view the results.

Nick Andrews (K9GVM) co-taught the Pixie class. He mentioned that although he is not color-blind, he and others had problems with the color codes on some of the components. He recommends using a meter to check components as you install them in any project. Carl mentioned there is a \$20 Chinese transistor tester available that also measures resistance and capacitance. For \$4 more you can get a case for it. It could save you lots of grief!

On behalf of the club, James thanked Carl, Nick and the other instructors for a great project. He said all participants were comfortable, and the project was well-done by good teachers.

FORMAL PRESENTATION

Vlado Karamitrov (N3CZ) came down from Asheville to present “HF Contesting”. The lights were off during his excellent program, so I don’t have notes. However, I did get a photo of his slide of some useful internet sites he uses:

- WA7BNM Contest Calendar: <https://contestcalendar.com/alphabetical.php>
- N1MM (free logging software): <http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>
- K5ZD Contest Audio Archive: <http://k5zd.com/audio-archive/>
- ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/contest-basics>
- NG3K Contesting Resources: <https://www.ng3k.com/Contest/>
- SEDCO/W4DXCC: <http://w4dxcc.com/>

50/50 Drawing

There was no drawing.

Meeting Ended

The adjournment time was not recorded.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F)

Calendar of Events

Here are some notable dates:



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Date	Description
April 2, 2019	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: Dean Blair, (K2JB), the king of SOTA

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
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 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
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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 (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

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	jshreed@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