



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



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

## The PREZ Says

Thank you to - Zach (KM4BLG) and David (N1DAY) for this month's presentations. We're still looking for a presenter for November. Any takers?

We received tentative approval to do a **Winter Field Day** event January 30/31, 2021 at Jackson Park. <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

Details to follow.

Charles Webb (KN4KWA)

## Minutes from September, 2020

The monthly meeting of the **Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)** was a virtual meeting because of the pandemic. The meeting started at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

### In Attendance

21 people attended as listed in the ZOOM "Participants List."

### Club Business

### Current BRARC Treasurer's Report

September 1 – September 30, 2020

Balance as of 08/31/20	\$ 4,077.83
Plus: Dep: Dues – 1 full year, 2 ½-year	\$ 40.00
Total Income	\$ 40.00
Sub-Total	\$ 4,117.83
Less: Exp: Liability insurance 10/01/20-09/30/21	\$ 200.00
Total Expense	\$ 200.00
BALANCE AS OF 09/30/20	\$ 3,917.83



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

This report was approved by the attending members.

## Meeting Minutes

September's minutes were approved by the membership.

## Announcements

### *New Officers Needed*

We need to nominate new officers for next year at the next *BRARC Zoom Meeting*. Bring the names of your nominees to the next virtual meeting so we can proceed.

### *Christmas Dinner*

We're planning ahead and would like to hear from our membership regarding your thoughts about having a sit-down Christmas Dinner at a local restaurant. We will try to find a place that will offer *Social Distancing* to accommodate our group, if enough people express enough interest. So either contact any club officer and let them know, or voice your opinion at the next Zoom Meeting.

### *BRARC Streaming Meetings*

All future *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* (BRARC) meetings will be virtual until the state opens up officially. Anyone is welcome to join our monthly meetings. Here's what you need:

- Free download of ZOOM software: <https://zoom.us/download> (Scroll for all operating systems)
- Internet connection
- A computer device such as a phone, tablet or laptop

### **Directions on Logging into the meeting:**

- 1) Install ZOOM software onto your device.
- 2) At meeting time (7:00 PM the 1st Tuesday each month) open ZOOM.
- 3) Click the "Join" icon & the "Join Meeting" dialog displays.
- 4) Enter the Meeting ID: **915-464-442** & click "Join."
- 5) Enter the password (*if required*) noting case sensitivity for characters. The "Waiting for the host to start this meeting" dialog displays.
- 6) Then the system displays "Waiting" until you are accepted into the meeting.

## **Straight Key Century Club**

W4YK, the BRARC club call, is now member number 23019 of the *Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)*. SKCC members around the world make HF radio contacts using any of the three types of manual telegraph keys:

1. Straight Key
2. Bug
3. Cootie



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Among many other things, it holds a monthly themed “Weekend Sprintathon”. In September, the theme was “Club Calls”, and as trustee of the W4YK callsign, I (Steve, KC5F) registered the W4YK as a “club member” so we could enter the **Sprintathon**. Other members got extra points for working club calls, so we were in demand. W4YK ended up in first place in the “**Single Operator 100w or less**” category (about 250 entries) with 246 QSOs in 53 states, provinces and countries.

**QRO - 100W or less**

Rank	Callsign	Name	SKCC #	SPC	QSO's	SPC's	S/T/C	Bonus	Score
1	W4YK	BRARC	23019	NC	246	53	77/76/10	2,625	17,628
2	W5TMT	Ray	16210S	TX	224	53	67/70/10	2,175	15,802
3	W1TAG	John	15461S	ME	214	51	76/67/11	1,650	14,429

SKCC also has multiple activity and achievement awards. There are four award levels based on contacts with other members, and by the end of the weekend, we qualified more than twice over for the second level, “Centurion.” Within ten days of additional casual contacts we got the third level, “Tribune”. The highest level, “Senator”, takes much more time, but maybe someday we’ll get it, too! For more information: <https://www.skccgroup.com/>

## Work Party Re-Scheduled

Carl (KW4EO) and Martin (W4FOT) have rescheduled the work party on **Bear Wallow Mountain** to repair the 6 meter antenna and coax connectors. They will meet at 10:00 AM on Sunday. We still need volunteers. Please contact Carl at the following: [Carl.Stover@gmail.com](mailto:Carl.Stover@gmail.com).

## New Digital Net

If you have a digital hot spot set up locally, you can participate in a new digital net (Zack’s Net KM4BLG) each Wednesday at 9:00 PM. It uses the DMR>System Fusion or Yaesu>Fusion Reflector & you should connect to the Yaesu YSF 2417 reflector.

## PRESENTATION

The presentation was divided into two separate presentations. They were as follows:

- **Coax Cable Selection** – Presented by David Day (N1DAY)
- **The Science of Digital Modes** – Presented by Zack Thompson (KM4BLG)

These presentations were informative and were appreciated by all.

## Meeting Ended

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Doug Davis (KJ4WWN).

## Calendar of Events for 2020

Here are some notable dates:



Date	Description
November 3, 2020	<b>BRARC Meeting;</b> All meetings at Jackson Park are closed until further notice. They will be held as virtual meetings because of the pandemic. See details in this issue on how to login.
January 30, 2021 - January 31 2021	<b>Winter Field Day</b> - Details are TBD at this point in time.

## For Sale

### *Silent Auction*

After meeting with Carl (KW4EO) at the shack, we came up with the idea of having a **Silent Auction** (with starting bids) for used radio equipment, in good condition, going unused in the shack. The auction starts Thursday, October 15, 2020 and ends on Thursday, October 22, 2020. The equipment is as follows:

- **Kenwood TS-440S** with power supply, external speaker, & microphone. Does not support rig control. - Starting bid \$200.00



- **Ten Tec Corsair II** with power supply, external speaker, microphone. - Starting bid \$100.00.



- **Kenwood TS-530** with speaker, built in power supply, aftermarket microphone. - Starting bid \$50.00. Picture below:





# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

- **Butternut HF6-V Vertical Antenna** – Starting bid \$50.00.



***When bidding please contact the following with your bid:***

James W. Reed (KK4JFO)

[jshreed@bellsouth.net](mailto:jshreed@bellsouth.net)

828-698-3609

BRARC Vice-President

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***FOR SALE: PALSTAR AT4K antenna tuner.*** 160-10 meters 2500 watts PEP. Full specs online  
List new \$995 .....yours for \$450. Duke (W4DK) 606-7773 <mailto:w4dk@arrl.net>

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***FOR SALE: BIRD Model 43 thruline wattmeter.*** Includes leather case, manual. Immaculate.  
With 4 slugs: 2500H 2-30 Mhz 2500W; 250H 2-30 Mhz 250 W; 25C 100-250 Mhz 25W;  
25D 200-500 Mhz 25W ..... yours for \$400. Duke (W4DK) 606-7773 [w4dk@arrl.net](mailto:w4dk@arrl.net)

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***For Sale from KN4KWA (Charles)*** [cwebb@hville.net](mailto:cwebb@hville.net)

**6m Alinco DR-M06 TH mobile FM-** Works great-already set to Bearwallow 6M repeater. Can provide mobile antenna as well - \$120



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

2M Alinco HT DJ191 Holds a charge - great shape for its age. Less embarrassing to carry than a \Boafeng- could use a new antenna (BNC), includes drop in charger and car charger \$25.00.

Both are in original boxes - with manuals (both programmed from buttons on radios). See photos below:



## Popular Ham Radio Nets

### FM Nets

BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHZ/T91.5	Sunday 8:00 PM
Slow Scan TV Net	146.640 MHZ/T91.5	Sunday 9:00 PM
Slow Scan TV Net	146.790 MHZ (no tone)	Saturday 9:15 PM
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHZ / T91.5	Wednesday 8:00 PM
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHZ	Sunday 9:00 PM
KI4ZEK Net	145.190 MHZ	Thursday 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
<b>6 Meter Net</b>		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHZ/T 100	Friday 9:00 PM
<b>220 NETS</b>		
Mount Pisgah 220 Thur Net	224.260 MHZ	Thursday 8:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHZ	Monday 8:00 PM



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

## 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
Simplex 2 Meter Net	146.640 Y 91.5	TBA

## Digital Mobil Radio Nets

DMR Net	WNC Net Talk Group	Thursday 8:30 PM
DMR Net	WNC Local Talk Group	Monday 7:30 PM
Zack's Net	YSF2417	Wednesday 9:00 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 Amateur Radio Club

### 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](mailto:themtns@yahoo.com).

### Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club Officers

Title	Name	Call Sign	Phone	Email
President	Charles Webb	KN4KWA	828-698-1035	<a href="mailto:cwebb@hville.net">cwebb@hville.net</a>
Vice President	James Reed	KK4JFO	828-698-3609	<a href="mailto:jshreed@bellsouth.net">jshreed@bellsouth.net</a>
Treas./Member.	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-489-6637	<a href="mailto:kc5f@arrl.net">kc5f@arrl.net</a>
Secretary	Doug Davis	KJ4WWN	828-685-1291	<a href="mailto:themtns@yahoo.com">themtns@yahoo.com</a>