



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



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

NOTE: The December meeting is our Christmas Dinner, but because of restaurant schedules, will be *Monday, December 6th* instead of Tuesday. Join us at Twin Dragons Grand Buffet at 6pm, at 1479 Asheville Hwy in Brevard. We will also stream it online via Zoom, and will hold the officer election at 7:00pm. Be there!

MEETING MINUTES

The November 2nd meeting was held in person and streamed online via Zoom, and began at 7:00pm. The minutes from the October meeting were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

23 members plus 2 guests (Bob Delwiche KD4OKT and Mark Murphy) attended, 13 in person and 12 via Zoom.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1 – October 31, 2021

Balance as of 09/30/21		\$ 5,552.39
<u>Plus:</u> Dep: (none)	\$ <u>0.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ 0.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 5,552.39
<u>Less:</u> Exp: (none)	\$ <u>0.00</u>	
	Total Expense	\$ 0.00
	BALANCE AS OF 10/31/21	\$ 5,552.39

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Sweepstakes – Phone – Nov 20-22

The BRARC as W4YK will once again burn up the airwaves during the ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone Weekend from our shack. Danny Rector, NA4X will head it up. Contact Danny to get in on the fun! It starts at 2100 UTC (4:00pm EST) on Saturday and goes through 0259 UTC Monday (9:59pm Sunday EST). We'll also check/fix our antennas that weekend.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Christmas Parade – Dec 4

The club will provide communications for the Hendersonville Christmas parade on Saturday, December 4th. Danny Rector, NA4X is coordinating. We will meet at 7:30am at 5 Points at the picnic table next to the Girl Scout house, and the parade will kick off at 10:30am.

December Meeting / Dinner – *Monday, Dec 6*

Our December meeting will once again be a dinner. We will plan to meet at the Twin Dragons buffet in Brevard at 6:00pm to eat together. (**UPDATE:** Twin Dragons isn't open on Tuesdays, so the meeting will be ***Monday, December 6th*** instead of Tuesday, still at Twin Dragons. Other restaurants with separate rooms weren't available on Tuesday.)

Antenna Help

We are looking for volunteers to help current and prospective club members in designing and/or putting up antennas. We'd like to have a committee of those able to help. You don't have to be an expert – with enough folks we can cover the basics. Contact Charles Webb, KN4KWA.

Amplifier Donation to the Club

New member Ed Winstead, WD8RON, has offered a Yaesu FL-2100B amplifier (1200w PEP, 1000w CW) to the club for the shack. It is new, in the original box, and hasn't been used since it was bought in Japan in 1975. Carl Stover, KW4EO has offered to check it out next week with the test equipment at his shack. (**UPDATE:** Carl replaced the power cord on the amplifier with one with a ground wire and 15A 240V plug and rewired the transformer for 240 Vac. It works fine – he made a couple contacts with it running about 400 watts.)

Halloween Special Event Station

Zach Thompson, KM4BLG, shared results of a Special Event Station on Halloween. They had three stations, with 1 on the air full-time, and made about 50 contacts.

Packet Winlink Gateway

Zack, KM4BLG reported that everything is ready to put together to get the Packet Winlink Gateway back up on Spivey Mountain. They're taking extra precautions for security beyond just being in a locked building. Martin Harris, W4FOT said he has locking cabinets available for it.

Weekly Exams in Asheville

Amateur Radio exams are available almost every Friday morning at 10am at the Asheville Ingles across from the Outlet Mall on Haywood Road, Hwy 191. Contact Randy Harris, KI4VLW at rtsp71@aol.com for details. And don't forget that *“all amateur examination applicants will be required to provide an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to the Volunteer Examiners (VEs) before taking an amateur exam. This is necessary due to changes the FCC has made to its licensing system.”* See <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn> for details and an instructional video.

BUSINESS

Club Officers for 2022 – *Nomination for President Still Needed – Election Postponed*

The club was to elect officers for 2022 at tonight's meeting. However, there was no nominee for President, and the election was postponed. Current President Charles, KN4KWA, has served two years and cannot continue due to work demands. He's willing to help, but cannot do it all. Can you help your BRARC out? In the past the Steering Committee has done program planning and other duties that would take some of the pressure off, should that help you step up to take over this position. Contact any of the officers to volunteer or suggest someone else!



PRESENTATION

"Raspberry Pi and Amateur Radio" video by KM4ACK

The presentation was a video by Jason Oleham, KM4ACK on “Using a Raspberry Pi in Amateur Radio”. The video described “Build-a-Pi”, a simple way to configure the setup to use in numerous ways for amateur radio, detailed at <https://github.com/km4ack/pi-build>. A Raspberry Pi 3 computer can be bought for about \$40, plus case and cables. The Pi 4 is more capable, and available in complete kits for \$100-\$150. Currently it’s easier to find the kits, as well. Jason also has numerous videos at <https://www.youtube.com/km4ack>. Lots of information on the Pi can be found at <https://www.raspberrypi.org>.

Presentation Follow-up

The Club decided to have a hands-on class in January or February to set up Raspberry Pi computers for amateur radio, including the Build-a-Pi software. Several members present agreed to help. Right now there is a shortage of computer chips, and not many Pi’s are available at good prices. Full kits with the units and cables are more available. Be sure to get a Pi 3 or Pi 4. The Pi-Zero and Pico are not very capable. Zach Thompson, KM4BLG and Tim Reimers, KA4LFP offered to help with purchase advice, including sizes, kits and accessories needed.

From Charles Webb: “For those interested in attending the Raspberry Pi class: Please email cwebb@hville.net so we get an idea on numbers and can get a venue lined up for some time in January. If you order a Pi now you should get it by January. (Watch for supply issues – kits seem to be in stock – just the Pi seems to have shortages.) There are other vendors that likely have these cheaper – I used Amazon as a reference. At a minimum you will need a Pi3 or Pi4, power supply, micro SD memory card, monitor/screen, keyboard and mouse. (You’ll need an HDMI adaptor, too, if you’re your monitor is VGA.) Have a PC with ability or adaptor to create the image on the SD card. To interface with a radio, you will need the widgets based on what radio you have. I may have extra equipment to borrow for the class if needed.”

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F), acting Secretary.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, November 20	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
November 20-21	November Sweepstakes - Phone – 4pm Sat -10pm Sun. See above.
Sat, December 4	Hendersonville Christmas Parade – Meet at 7:30am at 5 Points, at the picnic table by the Girl Scout house
Mon, December 6	BRARC Dinner Meeting – 6pm, Twin Dragons in Brevard. Including 2022 officer election at 7pm. <i>Please attend online if you can't come, to vote!</i>
Sat, December 18	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

FOR SALE

Contact Bill Gunn, KB2GUN at 704-934-1950 for either of the following: Radio Shack model HTX-242 45w 2-meter VHF FM mobile Transceiver, \$40.00. BaoFeng model UV-82HP 7w dual-band handheld, new in the box, never been used, \$40.00.

AREA HAM RADIO NETS

2 METER FM NETS		
BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHz / T91.5	Sunday 8:00pm
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / T91.5	Wednesday 8:00pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.640 MHz / T91.5	Sunday 9:00pm
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday 9:00pm
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday 9:00pm
KI4ZEK Net	145.190 MHz	Thursday 8:30pm
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily 9:00pm
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F 9:00am
Anderson Radio Club Net	146.790 MHz	Daily 8:30pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.790 MHz (no tone)	Saturday 9:15pm
WCARS Information Net	146.910 MHz/ T91.5	Monday 9:00pm
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz / T91.5	Wednesday 9:00pm
Transylvania ARC Net	147.135 MHz	Thursday 8:00pm
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday 8:30pm
6 METER FM NETS		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz / T100	Friday 9:00pm
220 MHz FM NETS		
Mount Pisgah 220 Thur Net	224.260 MHz	Thursday 8:00pm
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday 8:00pm
HF NETS		
The American Preparedness Radio Network (TAPRN)	3.818 MHz or 7.24 MHz	Sunday 9:00pm
80 Meter Simplex Net	3.843 MHz	Thursday 9:30pm
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz	Daily 6:30pm
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz	Daily 7:30pm
NC Morning Net	3.927 MHz	Daily 7:45am
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.228 MHz	M-Sa 7:00am/Sun 8:00
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily 10:00am
Get Up and Go Net	28.350/28.360 MHz	Sunday 9:00pm



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DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO NETS		
DMR Net	WNC Net Talk Group	Thursday 8:30pm
DMR Net	WNC Local Talk Group	Monday 7:30pm
WNC Net	WNC System Fusion Refl YS24157	Wednesday 9:00pm
DMR PRN Net	PRN Local Talk Group	Tuesday 8:00pm

BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

Title	Name	Call Sign	Phone	Email
PRESIDENT	Charles Webb	KN4KWA	828-698-1035	cwebb@hville.net
VICE-PRESIDENT	James Reed	KK4JFO	828-698-3609	jshreed@bellsouth.net
TREASURER	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-489-6637	kc5f@arrl.net
SECRETARY	(vacant – KC5F acting)			