



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



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

THE PREZ SAYS

Hello. I am William Gunn (Bill) KB2GUN. I am from Baltimore md I have been licensed for 12 years now. I live in Mills River, NC. I like FT8 FT4, I do 80 to 10 meters. I also have Hamshack Hotline 12410. I have DMR. I have a 900 MHz radio and antenna and I have a Diamond X50 antenna. I have an 18AVT/WB vertical and 6-meter Halo antenna. Radios: I have a Yaesu 857D, Kenwood TS440 and, Motorola MC 2000. I also have a motorcycle. I love riding. Hope to talk to you, and if you ride, let's do it.

Bill Gunn (KB2GUN)

MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY, 2022

The January 4th meeting of the *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)* was held in person and streamed online via Zoom, and began at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the December meeting, our annual Christmas Party dinner where we held our 2022 Officer Election, were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

26 Full Members attended (13 in person and 13 online via Zoom), plus 3 guests (1 in person and 2 online). One in-person member was guest Jack Kazebeer, W4VP, who joined at the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 1 – December 30, 2021

Balance as of 11/30/21		\$ 5,602.39
Plus: Dep: 16x 2022 dues	\$ 320.00	
Donation	<u>30.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ 350.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 5,952.39
Less: Exp: Sep-Dec 2021 Zoom Meeting Host	\$ <u>59.96</u>	
	Total Expense	\$ 59.96
	BALANCE AS OF 12/31/21	\$ 5,892.43



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day will take place from 2:00pm Saturday, January 29th through 2:00pm Sunday, January 30th. It is not affiliated with the ARRL or its Field Day, but the rules are mostly similar. Stations can be “Outdoor” (away from your usual station, exposed to the elements and not using any part of an existing antenna or ham station), “Indoor” (from a structure where an Amateur station is normally not available, all though a Club shack may be used provided all equipment used is set up by the contestants during a 12-hour period) or “Home” (a location which would be the usual location of an Amateur station, or which uses *any* pre-existing antenna system or station components). Stations operating from homes can be aggregated under a club call station, but check with us before submitting your scores. They’re quite specific about how it’s done.

Other differences from the ARRL June Field Day are that there is a 100w power limit for all stations, and FT8 and FT4 are not allowed modes. The only allowed modes are those “that can faithfully transmit the exchange intact without a conversion table. CW, SSB, AM, FM, DStar, C4FM, DMR, Packet, PSK, SSTV, RTTY, Olivia, Satellite, etc. (*note FT8 & FT4 cannot*)”

If you’d like to take part in the BRARC Winter Field Day effort, whether at the club location as W4YK or from your home using your own call but added into the combined BRARC score, contact Bill Gunn (KB2GUN).

2022 NC and SC QSO Parties

In February there are QSO Parties for Vermont, Minnesota, North Carolina and South Carolina. They’re lots of fun, and the club will be operating from then shack in the NC and SC QSO Parties, coming up February 27th and 26th. They’re always lots of fun!

Raspberry Pi Training

We still plan to have a hands-on class on Raspberry Pi and Amateur Radio. Zach Thompson (KM4BLG) is willing to put it on, and Charles Webb (KN4KWA) has the list of those interested.

Upcoming 2m Digital Repeater on Bearwallow

Martin Harris (W4FOT) shared news of an upcoming 2m Digital Repeater on Bearwallow Mountain. He has received a frequency assignment from SERA, the Southeastern Repeater Association, for a digital-only DMR repeater, and he and Carl Stover (KW4EO) are building the repeater. It will be tied into the Western NC talk groups. They plan to have an antenna on the top of the packet tower, and estimate about 6 months to make it operational.

BUSINESS

2022 NC QSO Party Plaque

The club has sponsored a plaque for the February NC QSO Party in the past and was asked whether we’d like to do so again this year, for the Single Operator In-State CW High Power award. The cost would be \$50. The club APPROVED sponsoring this plaque. We were encouraged to all get involved in QSO Parties throughout the year.

Thanks to Carl Stover for Projector

The club thanks Carl Stover (KW4EO) for the donation of the projector now being used at our meetings. Thanks, too, to Charles Webb (KN4KWA) for letting us use his projector recently.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

PRESENTATION

Martin Harris (W4FOT) gave a very interesting presentation on the 900 MHz analog repeater on Bearwallow Mountain, even though he couldn't find the PowerPoint he had prepared for it! He said that there is DMR digital activity, but little analog activity to date. Propagation at 900 MHz is line-of-sight, but signals will reflect. 1/2 -wavelength for this band is about 3 inches, so antennas are both easy to build and inconspicuous. Mobile antennas, which can be the size of a saltshaker, should be placed in the middle of a roof or trunk to be mostly omnidirectional. There are many radios available, but because the 902-927 MHz ham band is only available in the US, there isn't international demand for manufacturing of ham units by a Kenwood or Icom. However, there are many commercial units which can be converted to use in the ham band.

Martin showed many photos of the new analog repeater system that he and Carl put together with at least one hundred hours of work. The repeater was installed on Bearwallow Mountain, and is operational with a 927.600 MHz input and the output 25 MHz lower at 902.600 MHz. He and Carl gave a quick demonstration of the repeater using both a handheld unit with a built-in antenna and a mobile unit with the home-made Yagi antenna aimed away from the repeater!

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

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

DUES FOR 2022

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club annual dues are up for renewal. They remain \$20.00 per year for Full (licensed) and Associate (unlicensed) members. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member shall be one-half the applicable rate. Dues for full-time students in an accredited school will be one-half the regular rate. Send checks made payable to *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* (or *BRARC*) to the new BRARC Treasurer:

Susann Swan – K9FMZ, PO Box 1951, Hendersonville, NC 28793-1951.

2022 MEMBER SURVEY

The Steering Committee decided to prepare the included survey of members to help us plan programs as well as to be of better service to our members. Using Adobe Acrobat Reader, use the "Sign" / "Fill & Sign" options at the top, and after you click on the Name underline, you should be able to tab through and fill it out. Save it with a new name including your call, and email it to the Secretary, Steve Smith, at kc5f@bellsouth.net to be compiled. (If that doesn't work, print it out, fill it in and take a picture to email, or mail it or bring it to the next meeting.)

BRARC EMAIL ADDRESS AND ZOOM ACCOUNT

Following a decision by the Steering Committee, the club has obtained the email address brarc.w4yk@gmail.com for club business.

The club has also purchased an annual Zoom account. Meetings will most likely be streamed at Meeting ID: 852 4533 6803 with Passcode: brarc, but check the website and the invitations sent out before meetings to be sure there hasn't been a change.



WCARS AMATEUR RADIO TESTING

Amateur Radio License testing provided by the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society of Asheville will once again take place in Henderson County at the Mountain Home Fire Department on the 2nd Saturday of the second month of each quarter. Please mark your calendar if you want to help with the testing. You must be a Volunteer Examiner (VE). If not and you have your Extra Class License, let someone with WCARS know and they can help you become a VE.

The next test date is February 12th at 10:00am. Door will open for VE's between 9:00 and 9:30. Park in the lower parking lot close to but not blocking the fuel pumps.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, January 15	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, January 29 – Sun, January 30	Winter Field Day – Information in the newsletter and at https://www.winterfieldday.com/
Tue, February 1	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Sat, February 12	WCARS Testing Session – 10am, Mountain Home Fire Department, 3710 Asheville Hwy, H'ville. Call or text Debbie Hicks, AD2H at 828-243-0875 if you are going to be there for a test.
Sat, February 26	Black Mountain Marathon and Mount Mitchell Challenge – 7am - Details to come. http://www.blackmountainmarathon.com/
Sun, February 27	NC QSO Party – From the shack. Maybe on Saturday, too, for the SC QP.

FOR SALE

FREE - SGC PowerClear- Adaptive Digital Signal Processing. No manual or cables, but appears to be straightforward. Intended to improve audio frequency output on not-too-modern rigs. Michael Parente (AI4GR), ai4gr@arrl.net.

From Bill Gunn (KB2GUN), kb2gunb@yahoo.com:

2 meter Magnet Mount antenna \$25. 10/11m Lip-Mount antennas – Both for \$25 or best offer.





Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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 9:00pm
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



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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	Bill Gunn	KB2GUN	704-934-1950	kb2gunb@yahoo.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	James Reed	KK4JFO	828-698-3609	jshreed@bellsouth.net
TREASURER	Susann Swan	K9FMZ	828-747-2250	susann93@use.startmail.com
SECRETARY	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-489-6637	kc5f@arrl.net



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

2022 BRARC Membership Interest Survey

Name _____

Call Sign _____ License Class _____ Years Licensed _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

<i>Subject</i>	<i>I am competent in this subject</i>	<i>I am interested in a meeting presentation</i>	<i>I am interested in a class</i>		<i>I could coach others on this</i>	<i>I could present at a meeting</i>	<i>I could teach a class</i>
Getting my License							
Upgrading my License							
HF Phone Operation							
HF CW							
HF Digital							
HF SSTV							
VHF/UHF/Microwave FM							
VHF/UHF/Microwave SSB							
VHF/UHF/Microwave CW							
VHF/UHF/Microwave Digital							
VHF/UHF/Microwave Television							
2200m / 630m Bands							
BRARC Shack Rigs and Antennas							
Messaging							
Net Operation							
Emergency Services							
Public Service Events							
Portable Operation – POTA/SOTA							
Contesting							
Safety							
RF Propagation							
Antennas – Home							
Antennas – Mobile							
Antennas – Portable							
Purchasing New Equipment							
Purchasing Used Equipment							
Computer Interfacing to Radios							
Raspberry Pi, Arduino, etc.							
Batteries and Solar Energy							
Equipment Construction							
Equipment Troubleshooting							
Vintage Electronic Equipment							
Other:							
Other:							

Non-Ham Interests: _____