



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER, 2022

The September 6th 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 August meeting were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

21 Members attended (15 in person and at least 6 online via Zoom), with 2 guests.

TREASURER’S REPORT

August 1 – August 31, 2022

Balance as of 07/31/22		\$ 6,491.01
Plus: Dep: 1x 2022 dues @ \$10	\$ 10.00	
1x 2022 Family dues @ \$5	5.00	
	Total Income	\$ 15.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 6,506.01
Less: No expenses during August 2022	\$ 0.00	
	Total Expense	\$ 0.00
	BALANCE AS OF 08/31/22	\$ 6,506.01

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

James Reed [KK4JFO] is heading up communications for the 40th Annual **Henderson County Hunger Walk** on **Saturday, Sept 17th**, starting and ending at Jackson Park. The 5-mile route is HT-friendly and will go through downtown. We need about 6 operators, starting about 8:00am. If we have more, you can “buddy-up”. Email James at jshreed@bellsouth.net.

Danny Rector [NA4X] is heading up the **Sunday, Sept 18th Asheville Off Road Series** cycling and running event support. The “Gravel Grinder” 25- and 42-mile bike riders leave Camp Kanuga at 8:00am, followed by Duathlon runners, who run 2.5 miles, ride 13 miles and then run another 2.5 miles. The course closes at 1:00pm. If you would like to help, please email Danny at rectordl@bellsouth.net.



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Ronnie Parham [K2SST] has scheduled a club visit for **Wednesday, November 9th** to **PARI**, the **Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute** in Rosman. The club has visited in the past and it's well worth the time. (See <https://www.pari.edu/> for more info on PARI.) It was suggested at this meeting that the club help pay for the tour. We can discuss this at the October meeting. Contact Ronnie at ronk2sst@bellsouth.net to get on the list.

Reports / Notices

Ronnie Parham asked whether someone could help him adjust his HF vertical antenna to resonance. Contact Ronnie at ronk2sst@bellsouth.net.

PRESENTATION

Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] filled in at the last minute when our scheduled presenter had a conflict and had to postpone his presentation until our October meeting. *Thanks, Zach!*

Zach's presentation was on "Online Tools for HF Radio Propagation". He reminded us that the HF bands are never fully dead – they're always open to somewhere. There are many options available online to help us find out in real time where we might want to look for contacts. Zach shared how many of these options work, including real-time demonstrations of several:

Spotting Networks There are general networks such as DX Summit (<http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>) and organization-specific ones such as those for SOTA (<https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/en/>) and POTA (<https://pota.app/#/>) that show real-time spots reported manually or automatically. Even if you're not interested in DX, SOTA, POTA, etc, they show who's being heard and where.

KiwiSDR and WebSDR Web-based Software-Defined Radio receivers allow you control and listen to shared receivers around the world. You can even use them to listen to yourself to find out whether your signal is making it to Lower Slobbovia or whatever location you hope to contact. (<http://kiwisdr.com/public/>, <https://ve3sun.com/KiwiSDR>, <http://www.websdr.org/>)

Beacons Beacons are the original tool for real-time propagation, allowing you to listen to various frequencies and hear whether beacons are making it to your receiver. They used to just be individual stations on single frequencies, but now have many more features. One Zach shared is the International Beacon Project, with coordinated transmissions by stations around the world on multiple bands, each at four power levels. (<https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/>)

WSPR The Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network uses the MEPT-JT digital mode to check RF propagation conditions using very low power transmissions. You send one or more 2-minute sequences and then see where you were heard. (<https://www.wsprnet.org/drupal/>)

PSK Reporter The PSK Reporter Network maps CQ's heard in several digital modes, not just PSK. You can see where an individual call has been reported heard, what a particular station has heard, where stations in your grid square have heard or been heard, and many other options. (<https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>)

Reverse Beacon Network RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well. You can find out what stations, from a given country or zone, have been heard, at what times and on what frequencies. You can see when you've been spotted, who spotted you, and how loud you were. (<https://www.reversebeacon.net/main.php>)

RBN spots are also used by other systems, such as the POTA spotting network. One useful site for CW operators is the CW Club RBN Spotter. (<https://rbn.telegraphy.de/>) With many options (including "No filter" for the "Members of" clubs setting, to see all spots heard), you can



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see what signals have been heard on what frequencies, how long ago, at what speed, where and how strong. This can help in looking for an open frequency when you might not be able to hear another station already there, or for seeing what frequency a particular station is on.

VOACAP The Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program is the calculation engine for this site which predicts your chances of working another station. You enter (many) parameters and can view charts showing how well different bands should work. Really useful is the Propagation Wheel which shows at a glance your probability of making a contact on all HF bands by hour, based on the parameters you entered. (<https://www.voacap.com/hf/>)

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30pm.

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, Sept 17	Hunger Walk communications – 8am, Jackson Park.
Sat, Sept 17	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sun, Sept 18	Asheville Off Road Series communications – 8am, Camp Kanuga.
Thu, Sept 22	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm
Mon, Sept 26	Henderson County Ares/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Tue, Oct 4	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Wed, Nov 9	PARI Visit – 10am-Noon. Club visit to PARI, in Rosman. To carpool meet at 8am at Jackson Park. Brownbag lunch or eat after the tour.

CLUB CALENDAR

The BRARC Club Calendar is on the BRARC website at <http://radioclub.org/> “Club Calendar”.

AREA HAM RADIO NETS

FM NETS - 2 METERS		
BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHz / T91.5 H’ville	Sunday 8:00pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.640 MHz / T91.5 H’ville	Sunday 7:00pm
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / T91.5 H’ville	Wednesday 9:00pm
Anderson Radio Club Net	146.790 MHz Pickens SC	Daily 8:30pm
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz Caesars Head SC	Daily 9:00pm
Good Morning Net	146.910 MHz Asheville	M-W-F 9:00am
WCARS Information Net	146.910 MHz/ T91.5 Asheville	Monday 9:00pm
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday 8:30pm
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz / T91.5 Asheville	Wednesday 9:00pm



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Transylvania ARC Net	147.135 MHz Brevard	Thursday 8:00pm
6600 Net	145.190 MHz Mt Mitchell	Saturday 9:00pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.790 MHz (no tone)	Saturday 9:15pm
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz Mt Mitchell	Sunday 9:00pm
FM NETS - 6 METERS		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz / T100 H'ville	Friday 9:00pm
FM NETS - 220 MHz		
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz Mt Mitchell	Monday 8:00pm
Mount Pisgah 220 Thurs Net	224.260 MHz Mt Pisgah	Thursday 8:00pm

HF NETS		
NC Morning Net	3.927 MHz	Daily 7:45am
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily 10:00am
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz	Daily 6:30pm
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz	Daily 7:30pm
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.228 MHz	M-Sa 7:00am/Sun 8:00
80 Meter Simplex Net	3.843 MHz	Thursday 9:30pm
Get Up and Go Net	28.350/28.360 MHz	Sunday 9:00pm

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

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