



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER, 2022

The December 6th meeting of the *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)* was held in person and streamed online via Zoom, and was held during our annual Christmas dinner. We met and ate at The Golden Corral on Hwy 64 in Hendersonville. Dinner began at 6:00pm, and the meeting began about 7:30pm.

ATTENDANCE

About 40 Members and guests attended in person, and Sid, W4IOE joined us online via Zoom.

TREASURER’S REPORT

November 1 – November 30, 2022

Balance as of 10/31/22		\$ 6,405.44
Plus: Deposits: 2022 Dues	\$ 10.00	
2023 Dues	250.00	
PARI visit – one guest	<u>15.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ <u>275.00</u>
	Sub-Total	\$ 6,680.44
Less: Admission and parking for Nov 9 th PARI outing	<u>\$ 165.00</u>	
	Total Expenses	\$ <u>165.00</u>
	BALANCE AS OF 11/30/22	\$ 6,515.44

BUSINESS

Equipment Purchase for Zoom Meetings

The Treasurer purchased the audio-visual equipment approved at the November meeting – a document/room camera, a lapel microphone for our speaker, and a room microphone which can focus on individuals with noise cancellation. It will be debuted at our January meeting. Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] provided the camera and microphone used at the Christmas dinner.

Hendersonville Christmas Parade

Danny Rector [NA4X] thanked all who helped at the Hendersonville Christmas Parade on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, December 3rd. This parade was different than any other that



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we have done, not just in being a large evening parade but in having to deal with a new traffic layout and less streets available than in past years. Danny is already working with group leaders and others to make changes for next year.

November PARI Visit

Ronnie Parham [K2SST] talked about the November 9th visit to PARI, the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute in Rosman. He said we were given the “scientific”, not the “standard” tour. All seemed to enjoy it, and the club thanked Ronnie for organizing it. (Ronnie told us he is trying to set up a future visit to the BMW Plant in Spartanburg, and emphasized “*trying*”!)

Outgoing and Incoming BRARC Officers

The club thanked the outgoing officers for their service in 2022 and welcomed the incoming officers for 2023, elected at the November meeting. (This year there were no officer changes.)

Upcoming Events

Carl Stover’s [KW4EO] **classes on electronics and radio** on **Thursdays** have been well-received. The series will continue in January, probably every other Thursday evening. (*See below.*) They will continue to be at the Salvation Army. Carl already has some ideas for topics, and asks that folks send him any additional ideas they have for classes. The classes will continue to be informal with questions at any time, no charge, and no Amateur Radio License is required.

PRESENTATION

(There was no presentation this evening, as it was our annual Christmas dinner.)

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:00pm.

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

DUES FOR 2023

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 BRARC Treasurer:

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

UPDATE ON CARL’S CLASSES

My thanks to everyone for the good suggestions for classes that would be useful to the local amateur community. I’ve chosen “*More Power To ‘Ya*” as the topic for January, and “*A Picture is worth 1000 Words*” for February. There are many more good ideas but that’s about as far ahead as I can plan right now.

THESE CLASSES ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE - NO NEED TO BE A BRARC MEMBER!

Classes are held at The Salvation Army Building in Hendersonville, 6-8pm.



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JANUARY 5 Power for your rig It seems so simple – just hook up the red and black wires to 12 volts (more or less) from somewhere and all will be ok. Well, not really! Wire size, fuse(s), connector types, power supply type, actual voltage, current rating, power supply ground (or perhaps not), adapters, distribution blocks, and, and, and. This class will have a lot of demonstrations of how to do it right and how to make a mess of it! Just for fun bring along your rig's power cord AND instruction manual – I promise a fun class with at least a few surprises.

JANUARY 19 Batteries From those tiny little ones soldered into your rig to keep up the memory and clock to the nice big fat ones in the car or camper, we'll cover them all. Types (Chemistry), uses, and the good/bad/and ugly of each one! Ratings can be mighty deceptive, so we will take a thorough look at what they really mean. Demonstrations of Charging and Testing including how not to do it. Special emphasis will be placed on the care and feeding of Lithium based cells and their propensity to catch fire and burn up airplanes, cars, and even houses. (Hey, this is important – I almost lost my workshop and possibly whole house to one small battery!)

FEBRUARY 2 Slow Scan TV, Part 1 Can you talk on the 146.640 repeater? If the answer is YES and you have a cell phone (Android or Apple) you are all set! That's all it takes and there is even a local SSTV net. You mean even a Baofeng UV-5r and an android phone will work? Yep, and we'll show you how. Of course, that's not the only way so the class will have set up several rigs with various interfaces to demonstrate options.

David Day has volunteered (?) to be the instructor for this class with hardware support from Carl Stover.

FEBRUARY 16 Slow Scan TV, Part 2 If you find SSTV to be fun and wish to improve the quality of your transmissions or just to try the many options included in the MMSSTV program, then this is for you. Using a computer (sorry, only Windows-based) connected to your radio will eliminate a lot of 'noise' and 'interference' in your images as well as providing higher quality images and lots of options. **BONUS POINTS** – if you go to the trouble of getting the computer interfaced to your radio then you can use this same connection for numerous digital protocols (psk, vara). There will be at least two SSTV stations set up and operating for this class.

Carl Stover will be the instructor for this part – he loves computer to radio interfacing and will cover numerous options – from direct wiring to using special sound card interfaces.

REPEATER NEWS:

(From Carl Stover [AE4WO]) December is the month that amateur radio repeater operators are requested to register/renew their repeater coordination. In our area of the country this service is provided by SERA (SouthEastRepeaterAssociation). While this is NOT a requirement, it is a mighty good idea. SERA co-ordinates all the repeater frequencies to minimize cross-repeater interference and does it's best to re-issue frequency pairs that are no longer active in a fair manner. I'm pleased to say that most of our local repeater operators comply; so, say "thanks" to your local operator; we all benefit from their good behavior!

ITEMS FOR SALE

I have a MFJ 1780 box fan portable loop antenna asking \$400.00. It's new. I printed the manual for it. The new price is \$419.95. Bull Gunn [KB2GUN], kb2gunb@yahoo.com

CW Key: Kent Twin Paddle Key, model TP1-B. Heavy metal base, with cable. 1 year old, like-new condition. Photos / examination on request. New \$165; sell for \$95. Contact John Scruggs, N4JRC, at jpscruggs@gmail.com



CQ WORKED ALL ZONE AWARDS

(From Brandy Coolidge [NIHO]) It's taken decades, but it finally happened this fall, when I was able to work a guy in northwestern China (in Zone 23) for WAZ (#10359) and then a week or so later, worked an American ex-pat in the Philippines for WAZ-Digital (#410). And, as I told José, the CQ WAZ Manager, I did it "barefoot" (< 100W, no big amplifier) using wire antennas (i.e., no tower or rotating antenna atop it). José, BTW, is a retired US Navy Master Chief Petty Officer who put in 30 years and was in a lot of "interesting" places...

I figured applying would be a difficult process, but it wasn't. José managed to not only process the application in no time, but he also got the plaques I ordered finished and shipped within a day or so.

As it happens, I managed to work the T33T expedition on a number of bands, but I'm still waiting to hit good enough propagation to finish the WAJA (Worked All Japan Award, for confirming all 47 prefectures).

Very 73 to the gang up there!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, Dec 17	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Dec 17	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, Dec 22	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, Dec 26	Henderson County Ares/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Tue, Jan 3	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Thu, Jan 5	Class on Power for your Rig – 6pm, Salvation Army.
Thu, Jan 19	Class on Batteries – 6pm, Salvation Army.
Sat, Jan 21	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Jan 21	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, Jan 23	Henderson County Ares/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, Jan 26	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.

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
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

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