



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY, 2023

The January 3rd 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 September meeting were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

24 Members attended (17 in person and 7 online via Zoom), with 4 guests.

TREASURER’S REPORT

December 1 – December 31, 2022

Balance as of 11/30/22		\$ 6,515.44
Plus: Deposits: 2023 Dues	\$ 260.00	
Donation	5.00	
PARI visit guest	<u>15.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ 280.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 6,795.44
Less: (No expenses during December 2022)		
	Total Expenses	\$ 0.00
	BALANCE AS OF 12/31/22	\$ 6,795.44

BUSINESS

Meeting chaired by Vice-President James Reed

President Bill Gunn [KB2GUN] could not attend in person, so Vice-President James Reed [KK4JFO] chaired the meeting. Bill attended via Zoom.

50/50 Drawings at Meetings

Our meetings used to have a 50/50 Drawing, where attendees paid \$1 for ticket stubs and a winning number was pulled from the tickets in a coffee can. The winner got half of the money collected and the remainder helped pay for the coffee at the meetings. It continued after we started meeting where we could not have refreshments, with the remainder still going to the club.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

We have not been doing it since we began meeting in person again after Covid. Those present tonight voted by acclamation to restart the 50/50 Drawing tonight.

Introductions

We began with a round of introductions, including those attending online.

Tonight's Speaker

There were communication issues with tonight's planned speaker, and he will do the presentation at the February 7th meeting, instead. BRARC member Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] offered to present a program tonight which he has recently put together.

Next Club Trip

Following the enjoyable and educational trip in November to the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, Ronnie Parham [K2SST] offered to set up another trip to PARI in the future, but to first head up a trip to the BMW facility in Greer, SC. We hope to make a trip in the Spring. Contact Ronnie at ronk2sst@bellsouth.net if you're interested. (Ronnie also asked whether anyone could help him tune a vertical HF antenna at his home.)

Club T-Shirts

Marty Wood [KI4ZDV] still has some BRARC T-Shirts available, at \$12 through size XL, and \$15 for sizes XXL and above. They are short-sleeved, with W4YK, the club callsign, on the front, and the club logo on the back. In the future he might be able to get other styles including long-sleeved and sweaters.

Equipment Purchase for Zoom Meetings

Tonight's meeting was the debut of the audio-visual equipment approved for purchase by the club – a document/room camera, a lapel microphone for our speaker, and a room microphone which can focus on individuals with noise cancellation. It cost around \$350, and will provide quality audio and video for both in-person attendees and those on Zoom.

Upcoming Events

Carl Stover [KW4EO] on his upcoming **classes on electronics and radio** at the Salvation Army:

“I'm really excited about the upcoming classes. The Battery class (Jan 19th) is ready and jam-packed full of down to earth useful information. Then comes the two-session course on Slow Scan TV (Feb 2nd & 16th). David Day (N1DAY) will be the lead instructor who will get you started on VHF & HF slow scan. Then I'll follow in the second session with wiring together computers/radios/adapters to improve image quality. All classes are informal with questions at any time, no charge, and no Amateur Radio License required. Carl (KW4EO) 404-872-3969”

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 the whole house to one small battery!)



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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.

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.

The **North Carolina QSO Party** will be Sunday, Feb 26th from 10:00am-8:00pm. The BRARC will be one of the Bonus Stations this year, operating from the shack as N4G. Station N4W will operate from the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kitty Hawk and station N4T will operate from the Battleship North Carolina moored in Wilmington. The others (N4R, N4I, us and N4H) are spread across the state, with participants trying to collect all six suffixes to spell "WRIGHT". Each bonus station is worth 50 bonus points, and a clean sweep of all six earns an additional 200 bonus points for a possible 500 total as well as a special certificate of achievement. We'll be in demand, so things should be hopping from start to finish. If you want to take part in the N4G fun, contact Danny Rector [NA4X] at rectordl@bellsouth.net to get on the schedule. (The QSO Party rules say that operators of the bonus stations cannot also operate from home as participants, so understand that it's either/or and decide which you want to do.)

PRESENTATION

Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] presented tonight's program on the "US Islands Awards Program" (USI). Zach just did his first USI activation, and will do more. There are currently 3,368 islands listed in the program, but it's not the same as "Islands On The Air" (POTA). IOTA is global, and only includes off-shore islands in seas. USI islands are in US states and territories, only, and are in lakes, rivers or along coastal shoreline. To be included, an island has to be surrounded by water, 100' long in any direction, at least 50' from shoreline and be named on a map such as Google Maps. (Puerto Rico, the individual islands of Hawaii and the US Virgin Islands also are included, as well as smaller islands on their coasts.) An activator can be on the island, but can also be on a boat if some part of the station is physically located on the island. Zach shared pictures and maps of his recent activation, explaining why it is included, and why his activation was valid. The program operates on the honor system, and no logs are required by activators or hunters, although some award submissions require physical or electronic copies of QSL cards or eQSLs. For more information on the program, including awards, island lists, maps, cross-references to POTA parks, activation photos and videos, etc, visit <https://usislands.org/>

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30pm.



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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.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Dave Parlier [W2CGG] passed along some advice about online purchases: “I just got scammed for a \$375 radio on the QRZ Wanted section. I did not read the posted warnings about the Wanted section and paid the price. The offender lives in Kansas and I have a name and address to call the local police there and have them check it out. Please read the QRZ warnings before posting any Wanted items.”

From Marshall Harrison, W4MKH: I have an Icom LC-192 backpack for the IC-705 for sale. It is in like-new condition. Retail is \$179.95 at GigaParts. I will include the Maple 7 antenna mounting bracket that goes on the side panel of the backpack. The bracket retails for \$29.99. I'm asking \$150 for the pack and antenna bracket. I prefer cash as my bank is in Florida so I don't have a local way to cash a check. My best contact is a text message to 904.655.6502 or an email to marshall@gotsspeech.net

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
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.
Thu, Feb 2	Class on Slow Scan, Part 1 – 6pm, Salvation Army.
Tue, Feb 7	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Thu, Feb 16	Class on Slow Scan, Part 2 – 6pm, Salvation Army.
Sat, Feb 18	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Feb 18	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, Feb 23	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, Feb 27	Henderson County Ares/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.



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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