



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY, 2023

The February 7th 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 January meeting were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

22 Members attended (17 in person and 5 online via Zoom), with 7 guests.

TREASURER’S REPORT

January 1 – January 31, 2022

Balance as of 12/31/22		\$ 6,795.44
Plus: Deposits: 2023 Dues 16 members @ \$20	\$ 320.00	
50/50 drawing	<u>7.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ 327.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 7,122.44
Less: Expenses: Flashlight batons for Parade	\$ 127.88	
Camera, room and personal mic	341.57	
QSO Party CW prize sponsorship	<u>50.00</u>	
	Total Expenses	\$ 519.45
	BALANCE AS OF 01/31/23	\$ 6,602.99

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

Carl Stover [KW4EO] announced that his upcoming **classes on electronics and radio** have been *moved* to the “big house” in Jackson Park where the club meetings are held. They were moved to have more room and more time to set up and take down equipment required for the classes. He thanked the Salvation Army for hosting the classes from November through February.

MARCH 14: The March classes will be on making good electrical connections - soldering, crimping, spot welding. This will be a bit of instruction, but primarily every student completing 25 to 50 connections of various types, a real hands-on experience! All materials will be supplied



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

at no cost. Soldering /crimping equipment will be available but if you have any of your own, please feel free to bring them to get some additional practice! We will start with heavier connections (radio power wiring using heavy soldering iron or soldering gun), then move on to small connections (soldering pencil type iron), and finally spot welding demonstration for battery packs. Then Crimping tools of various types including those for coax connectors and Molex connectors as well as conventional splices & terminals. This will be a two session class to get everyone plenty of practice. This class is also a great one for any youngsters that might have interest - they are welcome! DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT AND SETUP REQUIRED, PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS COURSE BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO CARL STOVER: Carl Stover@gmail.com 404-872-3969

MARCH 21: (Part two of the above class.)

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 as N4G, with SSB operations from the club shack and CW operations from the shack of Steve Smith [KC5F]. There will be a training day at the club shack on Saturday, Feb 25th at 10:00am. (Danny Rector [NA4X] passed around a signup sheet for operators for the SSB station.)

QSO Party Bonus Station N4W will operate from the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kitty Hawk and 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 SSB schedule or Steve Smith [KC5F] at kc5f@bellsouth.net to get on the CW 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.)

The **Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM** meets the 4th Monday each month at 6:30pm (except in December) at the State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock. (Enter through the door to the left of the main entry.) ARES/AUXCOMM also holds a weekly traffic, information and training net, every Wednesday evening at 9:00pm (except in December) on the Hendersonville 146.640 MHz repeater, PL tone 91.5. Danny Rector [NA4X] invites all to take part in this vital emergency communications organization.

The **WNC Flyer** will be Sunday, June 4th. This is a 100-mile bike ride covering the Brevard and Mills River areas. Operators with 2 meter radios are needed for rest stops and to ride with SAG vehicles. Danny Rector [NA4X], rectordl@bellsouth.net, is coordinating communications. Signup sheets will be passed around at the April and May BRARC meetings.

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.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Club Shack Antennas

Danny Rector [NA4X] shared that on Wednesday, February 1st he and several club members walked through the woods behind the club shack to ascertain the condition of the various HF wire antennas raised years ago. They were able to raise one corner of one, and found that sections of the large loop and delta loop had come down or lost some corner supports and were now held up against nearby tree trunks. Since then, Danny and Michael [AI4GR] pulled down the Zepp and found many damaged parts, wire and lead-in. They suggest that we replace the Zepp and Danny says that for about \$175 we can replace the wire, pulleys, center insulator and ladder line. They talked about putting up a G5RV, but the Zepp gets more wire into the air. It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to rebuild the Zepp, and noted that we have some twinlead in our storage area that might be usable.

Lifetime Membership Awards

President Bill Gunn [KB2GUN] announced that the Steering Committee has decided to award Lifetime Memberships to two special members of the BRARC:

A framed certificate was “Presented to Martin Harris, W4FOT to certify lifetime membership in the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club of Hendersonville, North Carolina. Thank you, Martin, for your years of service to the club at club meetings, activities and public service events, as well as for providing repeaters that serve the amateur radio community in our area and the wider region. It’s an honor to have you be an active member of the BRARC.”

A framed certificate was also “Presented to Sid Hendricks, W4IOE to certify lifetime membership in the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club of Hendersonville, North Carolina. Thank you, Sid, for your years of service to the club as the voice of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club as Net Control of the BRARC Sunday Night Net. You’ve kept it going for years and are known throughout the region as a friend in amateur radio. It’s an honor to have you be an active member of the BRARC.”

In the future, each year the club will award a paid One-Year Membership to a special member of the BRARC. Toward the end of each year, we plan to take suggestions from the membership, by collecting names in a hat or a similar manner, which the Steering Committee will consider.

PRESENTATION

Treasurer Susann Swann [K9FMZ] introduced tonight’s online speaker, Professor James McCanney of Nashville. He spoke briefly on Solar flares and how they disrupt earth transmissions, on Voyager and Pioneer space craft radio signaling and on Marconi oscillators at Jupiter and Saturn and the red shifted signals. Then for the majority of his time he spoke on his “discovery and 2015 publication that the Nazca and Palpa lines in Peru are large interstellar transmission and receiving radio telescope arrays and that there are similarly the same deep space network of these ancient antennas around the world.” His paper about this is at <https://rense.com/general96/The-Nazca-and-Palpa-Lines-Peru.pdf>

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30pm.

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



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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

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, 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.
Tue, Mar 7	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Tue, Mar 14	Class on Good Electrical Connections, Part 1 – 6pm, <u>Jackson Park</u>
Sat, Mar 18	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Mar 18	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Tue, Mar 21	Class on Good Electrical Connections, Part 2 – 6pm, <u>Jackson Park</u>
Thu, Mar 23	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, Mar 27	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.

CLUB CALENDAR

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



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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