



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



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

## MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH, 2023

The March 7<sup>th</sup> 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 February meeting were approved by the membership.

### ATTENDANCE

26 Members attended (17 in person and 9 online via Zoom), with 3 guests (2 in person and 1 online via Zoom).

### TREASURER’S REPORT

February 1 – February 28, 2022

Balance as of 01/31/23		<b>\$ 6,602.99</b>
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits: 2023 Dues 11 members @ \$20	\$ 220.00	
2023 Dues 2 family members @ \$10	20.00	
PARI guest reimbursement @15	15.00	
Donation	<u>5.00</u>	
	Total Income	<b>\$ <u>260.00</u></b>
	Sub-Total	<b>\$ 6,862.99</b>
<b>Less:</b> Expenses: Zoom annual subscription	\$ 149.90	
Office supplies	7.45	
Club shack Zepp antenna replacement	<u>239.93</u>	
	Total Expenses	<b>\$ <u>397.28</u></b>
	<b>BALANCE AS OF 02/28/23</b>	<b>\$ 6,465.71</b>

### BUSINESS

#### *Upcoming Events*

Carl Stover [KW4EO] announced that this month’s **classes on electronics and radio** about soldering and connectors are full, but there is a waiting list. To be put on the waiting list: [carl.stover@gmail.com](mailto:carl.stover@gmail.com), 404-872-3969.

**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



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25 to 50 connections of various types, a real hands-on experience! This will be a two session class to get everyone plenty of practice.

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

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio society is holding the **Charlotte Hamfest** this weekend, Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm-7:00pm and Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-4:00pm. It will be at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center – Gold Hall, 4551 Old Airport Road, Concord, NC. All spaces are sold out, so it should be a good turnout.

A couple of folks will be going up to **Bearwallow Mountain** this Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> to straighten out some antennas which were damaged in recent storms. Contact Danny [NA4X] at [rectordl@bellsouth.net](mailto:rectordl@bellsouth.net)

Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] is heading up the WCARS Asheville club's communications for the **Asheville Marathon and Half-Marathon** on Saturday morning, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Zach says they could use a couple more hams with 2m talkies to work at rest stops. [km4blg@gmail.com](mailto:km4blg@gmail.com)

The Sevier County Amateur Radio Society holds the **Sevierville Hamfest** Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am-4:00pm. (Tailgaters can enter at 7:00am.) More information online at <https://seviercountyrars.com/hamfest-2023>

The **Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at 6:30pm (except in December) at the State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock. They also holds a weekly traffic, information and training net, Wednesdays at 9:00pm (except in December) on the Hendersonville 146.640 MHz repeater, PL tone 91.5. At the April BRARC meeting we plan to have Scott Sutton, Henderson County Emergency Coordinator present a program on ARES/AUXCOMM.

The **WNC Flyer** will be Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:rectordl@bellsouth.net), is coordinating communications. Signup sheets will be passed around at the April and May BRARC meetings.

**Field Day** will be June 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. We need to nail down our Field Day operating location by next month. We missed the deadline for getting on the Henderson County Board of Commissioners' agenda to receive approval to stay in Jackson Park overnight. Marty Wood [N4AMW] has offered his home, about a mile and a half from our shack, which has two very good areas for antennas and would have bathroom access from the outside of his house as well as outdoor electricity for the food area. We might experience less AM Broadcast overload and noise, too. We would lose public exposure, although we could still invite the public. All other Field Day Bonuses would still apply. In the past we have not always gotten official permission to stay at Jackson Park overnight and have not yet had problems. (Camping is specifically prohibited, but we don't have anyone camping at Field Day.) Cati Harris offered that working with the Commission is her background and she is willing to call on her contacts to see about getting us the necessary permission should we decide to operate from Jackson Park. No decision was made at tonight's meeting.



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## ***Local DMR Repeater***

Carl Stover shared the history of our local VHF DMR repeater. Work was started on it some time ago. It has now been set up, tuned and tested, and works fine. It has been in test mode, but now is open and has been mapped to the WNC UHF DMR repeater. Whatever is received by one is transmitted by both, when not in local mode. All UHF options are now also available on the VHF unit. They may link it to the WNC Monday Night Net, but that has not yet been done. The machine is Martin Harris' [W4FOT] property, with Carl's call. Carl has code plugs available for Motorola and TYT radios, as well as a printed handout.

## ***Club Shack Antennas***

On Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Danny Rector [NA4X] and a group of club members met at the shack and replaced the existing Zepp antenna, as approved at the February club meeting. It's the one you see when you're walking toward the shack building and look straight up. (Wayyy up!)

## ***NC QSO Party Bonus Station N4G***

James Reed [KK4JFO] shared that our operation in the NC QSO Party on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> was "an extremely huge success." This year, rather than competing in the contest, we were N4G, one of six Bonus Stations, and the only one west of Raleigh. The suffixes of the Bonus Stations spelled out "WRIGHT", and participants received extra points for working each one, and even more if they worked all six. With 2 transmitters, we had 1205 SSB and CW QSOs with 73 NC counties, 44 states, 9 Canadian provinces and several other countries. None of the other Bonus stations had over 600 QSOs! We may also be the only Bonus Station to have a specially-designed QSL card available. All had the option of having the Raleigh ARS send QSLs, but they would be their standard cards with a note on the back that it was for station N4W, N4R, etc. James said that many who visited the shack experienced their first contest-style operation and really enjoyed it. He mentioned in particular a newly-licensed Tech and his 10 year-old son who each spent about an hour operating SSB. The son in particular did a great job, as his voice stood out on the air. He didn't want to stop when his hour was up and his dad wanted to operate!



## **PRESENTATION**

Zach Thompson presented a program on "*Severe Weather Preparedness for the Ham Radio Operator*". He gave us much detailed information, with sections including what to do before an emergency, including why we should want to be prepared, what it entails, how to prepare, and emergency kits. Then he covered what to do when storms are coming and here, as well as after



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the storm when we need to continue our situational analysis. He followed up with a discussion of the National Weather Service's SKYWARN Storm Spotter program, and ended by taking questions from in-person and virtual attendees. Those present warmly thanked Zach for an informational program

## **MEETING ENDED**

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30pm.

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

## **CORRECTION TO DMR HANDOUT FROM MARCH MEETING**

From Carl Stover: *The handout at the BRARC meeting listed the test frequencies which were temporary and should NOT be used.*

CORRECTION: The newly available VHF DMR repeater on Bearwallow receives on Rx: 144.46000 Mhz and transmits on Tx: 145.06000 Mhz

**Your radio code plug should be set for:**

**Rx: 145.06000**

**Tx: 144.46000**

## **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**

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](mailto:kb2gunb@yahoo.com)



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, Mar 18	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Mar 18	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Mar 18	Asheville Marathon and Half Marathon
Sat, Mar 18	Sevierville Hamfest
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.
Tue, Apr 4	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. <b>Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.</b>
Sat, Apr 8	Raleigh Hamfest
Sat, Apr 15	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Apr 15	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, Apr 24	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, Apr 27	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



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<b>FM NETS - 6 METERS</b>		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz / T100 H'ville	Friday 9:00pm
<b>FM NETS - 220 MHz</b>		
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

<b>HF NETS</b>		
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

<b>DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO NETS</b>		
WNC Local DMR Net	WNC Local Talk Group (UHF)	Monday 7:30pm
High Country DMR Net	PRN Local Talk Group	Tuesday 8:00pm
WNC Net	WNC System Fusion YS24157	Wednesday 9:00pm
WNC DMR Net	WNC Talk Group (VHF/UHF)	Thursday 8:30pm

## BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS

Title	Name	Call Sign	Phone	Email
PRESIDENT	Bill Gunn	KB2GUN	704-934-1950	<a href="mailto:kb2gunb@yahoo.com">kb2gunb@yahoo.com</a>
VICE-PRESIDENT	James Reed	KK4JFO	828-698-3609	<a href="mailto:jshreed@bellsouth.net">jshreed@bellsouth.net</a>
TREASURER	Susann Swan	K9FMZ	828-747-2250	<a href="mailto:susann93@use.startmail.com">susann93@use.startmail.com</a>
SECRETARY	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-489-6637	<a href="mailto:kc5f@arrl.net">kc5f@arrl.net</a>