



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL, 2023

The April 5th 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 March meeting were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

28 Members attended (25 in person and 3 online via Zoom), with 1 guest speaker in person.

TREASURER’S REPORT

March 1 – March 31, 2022

Balance as of 02/28/23		\$ 6,855.54
Plus: Deposits: 2023 Dues 2 members @ \$20	\$ 40.00	
	Total Income	\$ 40.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 6,815.54
Less: Expenses: February expense checks cashed in March	\$ 389.83	
	Total Expenses	\$ 389.83
	BALANCE AS OF 03/31/23	\$ 6,505.71

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

The **BRARC Meeting** on May 2nd will feature Debbie from “*The Wireman*”. She will bring samples of cables and related items, explaining the uses for each and the differences between them. She will than offer a Q&A session to help us with any questions we might have.

Carl Stover [KW4EO] has graciously offered to hold a series of **Classes on Digital Mobile Radio** for club members:

Tuesday May 9th, 6:30 -> 8:30pm #1 DMR History, Theory, Network, Nomenclature, and local implementation.

Tuesday May 16th 6:30 -> 8:30pm #2 The Code Plug; what it is, why, various implementations, how programmed.



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Tuesday May 23rd 6:30 -> 8:30pm #3 Building a code plug for select radios

Tuesday May 30th 6:30 -> 8:30pm #4 Building a code plug for select radios

#3 & #4 (attend one of these depending on your radio)

All classes will be held at the "the Big House" in Jackson Park.

Due to the nature of the material, you will need to complete classes beginning with #1, then #2, Then #3 or #4. You **must** complete #1 & #2 to attend #3 or #4.

This is NOT easy material, so only consider registering if you are willing to put in some study! The classes do not include D-Star, Fusion, or other digital formats – it is strictly a DMR course!

Disclaimer! Carl Stover is the primary instructor and is by no means an expert on DMR, so don't expect too much magic!

Registration is **REQUIRED!** E-mail Carl.Stover@gmail.com (404-872-3969) with the following information:

Name, Call, DMR radio manufacturer and model, name of programming software you use if any. Phone number would be helpful.

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. 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.

The **North Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief ministry** will be holding a regional training at First Baptist Church in Hendersonville in May. The Comm/IT team has invited club members to tour the communications trailer and meet the communications team members on Friday evening, May 19th beginning at 7:00pm. Please wear your Club or other Amateur radio name badge if you are interested in attending. The comm trailer location has not been determined but will be easy to find or just ask anyone in a yellow shirt for location.

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.

Field Day will be June 24th-25th. This year we will hold it at the property of Marty Wood [N4AMW], about a mile and a half from our shack, which has two very good areas for antennas and has 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.

Meeting Minutes

Vice President James Reed [KK4JFO] invited members and guests to introduce themselves.

New Member Phil Drake [K4UOK] announced that The North Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief ministry will be at Hendersonville First Baptist Church in May for disaster team training. The Comm/I.T. team has invited club members to stop by the communications trailer on Friday evening May 19th between 7 and 8:30pm to tour the communications trailer and talk with the Comm/IT team members. The trailer is very interesting and will be well worth a visit.



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DMR class. Carl Stover [KW4EO] has offered to hold a series of DMR classes for members who are interested. Phil asked for a show of hands of members who had an interest in attending. He counted 12 members present who were interested. He said Carl would be sending information on the classes at a later date.

Marty Wood [N4AMW] presented the award for the NC QSO Party to the club.

James mentioned that Marty Wood has offered the use of his land for the 2023 Field Day. John Helbling [K4JKH] made a motion that BRARC hold its 2023 Field Day event on Marty Wood's property. Marshall Harrison [W4MKH] seconded the motion. Discussion: the vote is only for the 2023 Field Day and does not obligate the club to hold the event there annually. James called for a vote and it was unanimously approved to hold the 2023 Field Day at Mary Wood's property.

Danny Rector [NA4X] mentioned that we need volunteers for communications for the WNC Flyer on June 4. He will be circulating a sign-up sheet at the May club meeting.

Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] informed members about the NC State Parks On The Air event to be held on September 9th and 10th. The event hopes to activate all 107 NC state parks. Clubs and individuals may participate. Zach referred members to www.ncpota.org for more information.

James summarized how POTA works.

James that many of us came to ham radio because of something that intrigued them about it. He cited how valuable amateur radio is for use in disaster situations and mentioned how he used his recently acquired experience with Echolink to contact hams on the west coast near areas hit by storms to check on their safety.

PRESENTATION

James turned control of the meeting to the club's guest speaker, Scott Sutton, who serves as: Henderson County Auxcomm Coordinator, N.C. State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT 600), N.C. COML (Communications Unit Leader), Henderson County Rescue Squad (2451) and is an Amateur Ham Radio Operator [N4LNC] - GENERAL CLASS

Scott reviewed terms common to ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services). He described various modes of communication that Auxcomm (Auxiliary Emergency Communications) uses, such as Winlink, Shares, VIPER, and DMR.

He recommended a sequence to follow of the FEMA classes relating to the Incident Command System (ICS) in order to be a member of Auxcomm.

Scott noted that the Henderson County ARES group will be participating from its Flat Rock meeting place in a regional event on May 4th.

He invited any interested BRARC members to attend the local monthly ARES meeting on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30pm at 518 S. Allen Road in Flat Rock at the State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) warehouse. He noted that the Henderson County ARES group has a weekly net on Wednesday nights at 2100 hrs on the 146.640 frequency.

BRARC members, who are also ARES AUXCOM members, Danny Rector [NA4X] and John Helbling [K4JKH], added comments to Scott Sutton's presentation.



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Bob Felt [W4RYF] BRARC/ARES member followed Scott Sutton's presentation by explaining the go kit that he brought to display for the meeting. He also talked about some of his experiences being deployed to areas affected by hurricanes, as well as the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte.

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Susann Swan (K9FMZ), Acting Secretary in the absence of Steve Smith (KC5F)

REPEATER INFORMATION FROM CARL, KW4EO

#1 A spreadsheet of all the (Hendersonville area local repeaters) is now available by sending an e-mail request to Carl.Stover@gmail.com. It would be nice if someone in the club would pick-up this project and work with other area clubs to maintain and enhance this list, or even put it on-line in such a manner that it could be maintained. The present spreadsheet is revision #7 and will be my last effort as I move on to other projects.

#2 There are no longer any 1 1/4 M (220 MHz) active local nets. The two repeaters used for these nets are not in service. Two other repeaters are available, but no nets scheduled on them at this time.

#3 The Gaston club has a very active net on 224.020 every Thursday at 8pm. I find it easy to access their repeater and they are a welcoming bunch!

DUES FOR 2023

A roster of 2023 Paid Members of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club as of April 14th will be sent with this newsletter. For those who haven't yet paid, 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

Antennas for Sale

Buddiepole kit used very lightly, new condition. Kit is complete and includes all parts, traps, taps, coax and nylon carrying bag with hard round case. Also includes the "triple switch balun". \$275.00

Three section, fiberglass vertical with stainless whip that is eighteen feet tall. 80 to 6 meter coverage with 300 watt limit. Used, excellent condition by Sigma-4-antennas. A great limited space antenna that is easy to put up and take down. \$100.00

Phil Drake, K4UOK@arrl.net



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
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.
Tue, May 2	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Fri, May 19	North Carolina Baptist Disaster Relief Training – 7pm, First Baptist Church
Sat, May 20	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, May 20	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, May 22	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, May 25	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



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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		
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	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