



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



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

## MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY, 2023

The May 2<sup>nd</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 April meeting were approved by the membership.

### ATTENDANCE

26 Members attended (21 in person and 5 online via Zoom), with 3 guests and our guest speaker in person plus 1 guest online.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

April 1 – April 30, 2022

Balance as of 03/31/23		<b>\$ 6,505.71</b>
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits: 2023 Dues 10 members @ \$20	\$ 200.00	
2024 Dues 1 member @ \$20	<u>20.00</u>	
	Total Income	<b>\$ 220.00</b>
	Sub-Total	<b>\$ 6,725.71</b>
<b>Less:</b> Expenses: No expenses during April	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	
	Total Expenses	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
	<b>BALANCE AS OF 04/30/23</b>	<b>\$ 6,725.71</b>

### BUSINESS

#### Upcoming Events

The **BRARC Meeting** on June 6<sup>th</sup> will primarily concern Field Day.

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 hold 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.



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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 mobiles are needed for rest stops and to ride with SAG vehicles. Danny Rector [NA4X], [rectordl@bellsouth.net](mailto:rectordl@bellsouth.net), is coordinating communications.

**Field Day** will be June 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. This year we will hold it at the property of Marty Wood [N4AMW], about a mile and a half from our shack. It's between East Henderson High School and the Hendersonville airport, with easy access and lots of parking. Marty has 10 acres with open fields, with another acre on the other side of his house. There is a mud room/bathroom with access from the outside of his house, as well as outdoor electricity for the food area. And we'll have catered food, too! The June meeting will have all the details.

## *Meeting Minutes*

President Bill Gunn [KB2GUN] invited guests to introduce themselves.

Carl Stover [KW4EO] spoke about the series of four DMR classes he will be teaching weekly starting Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required.

Carl mentioned that he has 2 Baofeng speaker-mics available for free. He also has an FM Deviation Monitor available to borrow.

Carl Stover [KW4EO] will be the guest speaker at the WCARS meeting on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at A-B Tech in Asheville. He will speak about the repeaters on Bearwallow Mountain. The meeting will also be available online via Zoom. See <https://wcars-club.org/>

Danny Rector [NA4X] mentioned that although he has 19 hams signed up, he could still use volunteers for communications for the WNC Flyer on June 4<sup>th</sup>. You will need a mobile rig instead of an HT for many parts of the course. He circulated a sign-up sheet.

Danny also mentioned that the Henderson County ARES group is taking part in a hurricane exercise on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be focused on using WinLink and SHARES. More information is at the updated Henderson County ARES website at <http://nc4hc.us>

Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] reminded us about the NC State Parks On The Air event to be held on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The event hopes to activate all 107 NC state parks (all NC References except Game Lands or National References) over the weekend. Clubs and individuals may participate. See [www.ncpota.org](http://www.ncpota.org) or contact Zack for info.

Bill Gunn [KB2GUN] asked for volunteers to come early to the BRARC meetings to help with setup. This would involve bringing equipment down from the club shack as well as setting up tables and chairs. Help is also needed at the end of the meetings to return everything.

## **PRESENTATION**

President Bill Gunn turned control of the meeting to the club's guest speaker, Deborah Atkins.

Debbie is the President of Wireman, Inc, in Landrum, SC. Press Jones (N8UG, SK 2018), the "original" Wireman, saw a need in the 1970's for a source for coax for hams. He started Wireman in Michigan, and moved to South Carolina in the 1980's, where Debbie joined them. At hamfests and conventions across the US for more than 50 years, the company has supplied coaxial cable, wire, insulators, balanced feed line and more, as well as from their warehouse.

Debbie suggests we all learn best by doing, and building antennas is fairly easy. She says that if you're a new ham, find an "Elmer" to help you, put up an antenna and get on the air!



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Wireman sells wires for every application in radio communications. For hams, it's mainly for home, mobile, portable, emergency and public service uses. Debbie stressed that even off-the-shelf antenna systems need fine-tuning. She likes to help folks design their setups, and often tells folks they don't need to buy anything to achieve their goal!

Debbie brought samples of many types of coax and wire. There are many types of coax and wire even in the same sizes. What you buy will be affected by the length needed, your power, where it will run, whether it's buried or above ground, and of course, your budget. She suggests that if you have a problem, give them a call, whether it's before or after you buy something.

The Wireman has worked over the years with wire companies to request changes to their stock, and to design cables and wire especially for them. She shared many stories about their history of changes that were so effective that there are now other companies copying them.

Debbie noted that connectors, too, are not all equal. Theirs are all US-made, where not many others are. Those that aren't may not meet the standard specs, and she shared stories of folks who said a certain cable wouldn't fit a connector they had, and it was because they'd bought a cheap connector somewhere that had an inside diameter too small or some other problem.

After sharing even more information about their baluns, insulators and other items, Debbie took questions from those present. She noted that their office is a warehouse, not a store, but that you're welcome to stop by if you call first. She's usually there from 8am-4pm, although on Fridays through Sundays they're often at a show. She also said to email if you leave a phone message and it's not returned within a day. They're out in the country and have been having problems with their telephone service.

But she emphasized that they're willing to help, and ended by adding, "Sometimes we'll sell you something, and sometimes we'll talk you out of it!"

## **MEETING ENDED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F)

## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

RSP2pro, SDR Receiver.

Two separate receivers built-in. Three antenna inputs. Your computer's USB provides the power. Check out the specs at <https://www.sdrplay.com/rsp2pro/>. Uses with SDRUno software (free download). Comes with 60-page printed/bound manual. Mint condition. Asking \$125.

Contact Bob Felt - W4RYF, [robertfelt@bellsouth.net](mailto:robertfelt@bellsouth.net), cell/text 703-915-2796

## **DAVID DAY IN ART MOB DISPLAY AND AUCTION**

Through May 20<sup>th</sup>, David Day (N1DAY) has three pieces for sale at the Art Mob (124 4<sup>th</sup> St E in Hendersonville) in their silent auction for the Hendersonville Public School System Arts Department to help buy supplies for students who are interested in the arts. As budgets continue to be tight in our local schools for children interested in the arts, this event is very important to their development. Michele or Simone at Art Mob will be happy to talk with you about it.

<https://ddayphotography.zenfoliosite.com>



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, May 20	<b>Informal Breakfast Get-Together</b> – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, May 20	<b>License Exams</b> – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, May 22	<b>Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM</b> – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, May 25	<b>BRARC Steering Committee Meeting</b> – 7pm via Zoom.
Tue, June 6	<b>BRARC Meeting</b> - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. <b>Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.</b>
Sat, June 10	<b>Road Show Swapfest</b> – 8:30am, Janitzio’s, 1053 Spartanburg Hwy
Sat, June 17	<b>Informal Breakfast Get-Together</b> – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, June 17	<b>License Exams</b> – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, June 22	<b>BRARC Steering Committee Meeting</b> – 7pm via Zoom.
Fri, June 23	<b>Field Day Antenna Setup – Late afternoon</b>
Sat, June 24	<b>Field Day Stations Setup</b> – 9am-2pm
Sat/Sun June 24-5	<b>Field Day – 2pm Saturday through 2pm Sunday</b>
Sun June 25	<b>Field Day Teardown</b> – 2pm
Mon, June 26	<b>Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM</b> – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, June 22	<b>BRARC Steering Committee Meeting</b> – 7pm via Zoom.

## CLUB CALENDAR

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

## AREA HAM RADIO NETS

<b>FM NETS - 2 METERS</b>		
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



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Slow Scan TV Net	146.790 MHz (no tone)	Saturday 9:15pm
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz Mt Mitchell	Sunday 9:00pm
<b>FM NETS - 6 METERS</b>		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz / T100 H'ville	Friday 9:00pm

<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>