



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



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

## MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE, 2023

The June 6<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 May meeting were approved by the membership.

### ATTENDANCE

33 Members attended (22 in person and 6 online), with 3 guests in person plus 2 guests online.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

May 1 – May 31, 2023

Balance as of 04/30/23		<b>\$ 6,725.71</b>
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits: 2023 Dues 3 members @ \$20	\$ 60.00	
Donation – Hendersonville Merchants Association	<u>300.00</u>	
	Total Income	<b>\$ 360.00</b>
	Sub-Total	<b>\$ 7,085.71</b>
<b>Less:</b> Expenses: Risk Strategies Equipment Insurance premium	\$ <u>88.27</u>	
	Total Expenses	<b>\$ 88.27</b>
	<b>BALANCE AS OF 05/31/23</b>	<b>\$ 6,997.44</b>

### BUSINESS

#### *Upcoming Events*

The **BRARC Meeting** in July will be on **July 11<sup>th</sup>**, rather than on the Fourth of July.

**Field Day** will be June 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. (See this month’s program notes for details.)

The BRARC will coordinate the Hendersonville Merchants and Business Association’s **Fourth of July Parade** on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The **Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at 6:30pm at the State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

The **Knoxville Hamfest** will be Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-3:30pm at Kerbala Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave, Knoxville, TN. See <https://www.w4bbb.org/knoxville-hamfest>

## *Meeting Minutes*

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

A sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Hendersonville Fourth of July Parade on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> was passed around.

A sign-up sheet for those coming to the Field Day barbecue dinner on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> was passed around. Members and their spouses/guests are welcome, starting around 5:30-6:00pm, when the food arrives, and there is no charge. The list was just to get a headcount to know how much food to order from Piggy's.

The club provided communications for the WNC Flyer bicycle ride on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. About 780 riders took part, some from as far away as Europe. Only about 200 riders were local. We had hams at the base, four rest areas and five support vehicles covering the 100-mile course.

## **PRESENTATION**

Club Vice-President James Reed [KK4JFO] spoke to the group about Field Day 2023.

James emphasized that Field Day is the biggest annual ham radio event in the United States. It allows us to perfect what we need to do in less-than-ideal radio and physical conditions when we are needed for a real emergency.

This year we will hold Field Day 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. (See Marty's map). The Steering Committee met there last week and scoped out locations for the main operating tent, antennas, generator and food, as well as spots for educational programs and a "Get On The Air" ham station for visitor and new hams to get their feet wet without slowing down the three main operating positions.

After Field Day, please share your thoughts, positive and negative, about this year's location. We had problems this year getting County Commissioner permission to use Jackson Park overnight, but with enough notice should be able to return next year if the club prefers it.

Plan to help with setup on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, with getting tents and tables set up as the main goal, plus some antennas, if possible. Let James know ([jshreed@bellsouth.net](mailto:jshreed@bellsouth.net), 828-698-3609) if you have a truck to help bring items from Jackson Park. Marty has tables, so we won't need to bring them.

On Saturday at 9:00am we'll continue setting up the antennas, radios and networking to be ready to have three stations on the air from 2:00pm Saturday straight through until 2:00pm on Sunday.

We plan to use N3FJP software for logging.

On Sunday after 2:00pm we'll tear down the stations, which always goes fairly quickly. We should be done by 3:30-4:00pm, and will again need trucks to carry things back to the shack.

We'll have operating sign-up sheets at the Field Day site, but if you want to claim time slots in advance as an operator or logger, let James know at [jshreed@bellsouth.net](mailto:jshreed@bellsouth.net). We plan to have two SSB and one CW station on the air through the entire 24-hour period.



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Food will be available throughout the weekend. The club will provide a barbecue dinner from Piggy's/Harry's on Saturday evening at about 5:30pm. Bring a camp chair if you have one! For the rest of the weekend, feel free to bring snacks and finger food to share. Marty's detached garage will be the food spot for the weekend.

Specific assignments made at the meeting: Jay Martin [N2NVY] will collect the messages to be sent for a Bonus. Steve Smith [KC5F] will process the logs and submit scores to ARRL. Cati Harris [KQ4GKF] will be our media representative and get news out to the local media as well as social media. Martin Harris [W4FOT] will copy the ARRL Field Day Bulletin for a Bonus.

Club members can also operate from their own homes and have their scores aggregated with the W4YK score. Use your own call sign, but when you submit your score to ARRL include **Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club** under "Club or Group Name". The ARRL published results listing will include your individual score, plus a combined score for all entries identified as our club.

Note that *spelling is important*, to have your score added to the club's score. (We thought about just using BRARC, but there are several other clubs around the country that identify themselves as BRARC.) One other important item: You cannot work W4YK from your home station if you have your score added to ours or if you participate at our Field Day site.

## MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F)

**Marty's map to this year's Field Day site:** (Easiest entry is via Upward Road.)





## NEW RF EXPOSURE EVALUATION RULES

On May 3, 2021, new FCC rules requiring conducting an RF exposure evaluation were made applicable to amateur licensees. A 2-year transition period ended on May 3, 2023. All licensees must now conduct evaluations of their current station and reassess compliance when making changes to their stations that would affect exposure going forward.

The rules now require amateur radio operators to perform station evaluations. We are no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the RF exposure rules, and can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because we transmit below a given power level.

The ARRL website features an [RF Exposure landing page](#) with resources, such as an RF exposure calculator, the entire RF Safety section from the 100<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *ARRL Handbook*, a video explaining the topic, FAQs about the subject, and more. These tools and resources are available to the public without an ARRL membership or website account.

## STEALTH ANTENNAS FOR USE IN AN HOA

Ed Winstead [WD8RON] suggested the following YouTube video titled, “*Stealth HF Antenna the HOA will NEVER Find*”. He notes that several other possible HOA antennas are described on YouTube videos. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uG\\_D0bDGuI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uG_D0bDGuI)

## 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

YAESU FT-7900 R/E, Dual Band FM Transceiver (VHF/UHF) with Head Separation Kit YSK-7800. 50/20/10/5 W VHF, 45/20/10/5 W UHF. Asking \$120.

Contact John Johnson – KT4JJ, [john.johnson153@gmail.com](mailto:john.johnson153@gmail.com), cell/text 828-817-6434

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, June 17	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, June 17	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, June 22	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Fri, June 23	Field Day Tents/Tables Setup – 5pm-dark
Sat, June 24	Field Day Antennas/Stations Setup – 9am-2pm
Sat/Sun June 24-5	Field Day – 2pm Saturday through 2pm Sunday
Sun June 25	Field Day Teardown – 2pm
Mon, June 26	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

<b>Tue, July 11</b>	<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>
<b>Sat, July 15</b>	<b>Informal Breakfast Get-Together</b> – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
<b>Sat, July 15</b>	<b>License Exams</b> – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
<b>Mon, July 24</b>	<b>Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM</b> – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
<b>Thu, July 27</b>	<b>BRARC Steering Committee Meeting</b> – 7pm via Zoom.
<b>Sat, July 29</b>	<b>WCARS (Waynesville) Hamfest</b> (info at <a href="http://wcars-club.org">http://wcars-club.org</a> )

## 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
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



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

<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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call Sign</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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>