



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY, 2023

The July 11th meeting of the *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)* was held in person and streamed online via Zoom, and began at about 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the June meeting were approved by the membership.

ATTENDANCE

24 Members attended (19 in person and 1 online), with 1 guest (our speaker) in person.

TREASURER’S REPORT

June 1 – June 30, 2023

Balance as of 05/31/23		\$ 6,997.44
Plus: Deposits: 2023 Dues 3 members @ \$20	\$ 60.00	
2023 Dues 2 family @ \$10	20.00	
Donation – Blue Ridge Bicycle Club	500.00	
Donation - Individual	40.00	
Sale of shack radio	<u>125.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ 745.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 7,742.44
Less: Expenses: Field Day Food/snacks/beverages	\$ 645.07	
Field Day Supplies	<u>13.70</u>	
	Total Expenses	\$ 658.77
	BALANCE AS OF 06/30/23	\$ 7,083.67

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

At the **BRARC Meeting** on **August 1st**, Gary, AC8NE, will talk about Vector Network Analyzers (VNAs). The focus will be on what they are, how they differ from other instruments hams use, and some useful things you can do with them. He will bring a VNA for you to play with either before or after the meeting.



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

The **WCARS (Waynesville) Hamfest** will be Saturday July 29th at the Smokey Mountain Event Center, 758 Crabtree Rd, Waynesville, NC. Gate for vendors opens at 6am and doors open for all at 8am. Talk-in on 147.39+ PL 94.8 See <http://wcars-club.org>

The **Shelby Hamfest and ARRL NC Section Convention** will be Friday through Sunday, September 1st-3rd from 9am-5pm / 8am-5pm / 8am-1pm at the Cleveland County Fairground, 1751 E Marion St, Shelby, NC. Talk-in on 146.88- No Tone. See <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/>

Meeting Minutes

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

Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] gave details about the upcoming WCARS (Waynesville) Hamfest. This year it will be Saturday, July 29th, the 5th Saturday instead of the usual 4th Saturday, due to scheduling problems with the site. It will include presentations, fox hunts, exhibits, vendors, indoor and outdoor flea market and food concessions. Bill Gunn said he would be getting an indoor table and invited others to join him if they had anything to sell. Zach mentioned that the Hamfest provides one free table each to nearby clubs, and those present DECIDED that BRARC should request a table every year and pay \$15 to have a second table. If you would like to help or have anything to sell this year, contact Bill.

PRESENTATION

Our presentation this month was by Marv Hoffman [WA4NC], the ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, giving his personal comments on the ARRL in North Carolina. Marv publishes the NC ARRL email newsletter commonly known as “*Greetings from the High Country*”. If you are not receiving it and would like to, email Marv at wa4nc@arrl.org and he’ll add you. He also has a version in Word format that is easier for some folks to view.

Marv is the ARRL NC Section Manager through March, 2024. Nominations for the next 2-year term are open in October, with ballots mailed early January for voting thru late February.

Section Managers serve as volunteers, but Marv added that they can request reimbursement for mileage of up to \$4,000/year. Aside from working with the Roanoke Division Director he leads Section activities and keeps ARRL members informed about League affairs. He communicates with ARRL members and his volunteer staff, including going to ARRL and Roanoke Division meetings, hamfests, club meetings and Field Day operations. He is also responsible for providing Silent Key reports.

Marv identified and discussed a series of issues the ARRL deals with: FCC inaction on pending Rule Petitions. Rules change to grant Technician licensees limited HF voice privileges on 75m and 40m. Property Owner Association and Home-Owner Association antenna rules. 300 baud symbol rate limit, which prohibits the use of Pactor 4 by amateurs on HF. The need for digital data sub-bands. Member problems with ARRL email and logging in. ARRL membership flat or declining over five years and the need to get more youth involved in ham radio. \$2 million deficit now covered by unrestricted endowment, which cannot continue.



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Marv identified some issues related to the annual deficit. There have been “ambitious” projects including a recent \$1 million computer software upgrade and a new production studio and related equipment in place of the HQ staff operating station. There is consideration of dues changes and/or charges for printed copies of QST or use of services like Logbook Of The World.

Some statistics shared included a loss of over 7,000 ARRL members between 2022 and 2023, and that there are over 760,000 hams in the FCC database, with 378,000 of them being Technicians. Marv suggested that there are probably only about 500,000 active hams in the US, and the rest include deceased hams and those who quit or never did become active. He mentioned a survey that showed that half of newly-licensed Technicians who got their license for emergency communications never turned on a radio during their first year after getting licensed.

Marv next talked about Emergency Communications (EmComm), including ongoing public service and training and as-needed services such as shelter communications during weather emergencies. The ARRL ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) Task Book was updated in 2022, and a full-time Director of Emergency Management was added at HQ. ARRL/ARES and FEMA in 2023 signed a new agreement, in FEMA’s words *“establishing our partnership with licensed, voluntary amateur radio operators to support response [and] recovery efforts. We’re honored to work side-by-side to meet the needs of millions in the wake of disasters.”*

Marv also noted that current nets are not functioning well, partly because they’re hard to find and because there aren’t enough of them or training for them. EmComm training nationwide has had very few hams taking both required and optional training courses. The League is instituting NTS 2.0 to upgrade ARES and NTS (National Traffic System). They hope to improve the speed and accuracy of messages in the system, to meet the expectations of emergency managers.

No state or territory in the US currently recognizes the ARRL ARES Task Book or the ARES ID Card. North Carolina mandates ICS (Incident Command System) training for its EmComm volunteers. ARES recommends it, but currently doesn’t require it. NC operates per the federal Stafford Act and the Department of Homeland Security, requiring ICS training and certification.

AuxComm (*“The North Carolina AUXCOMM Society represents the interests of affiliated volunteer auxiliary communications organizations throughout North Carolina”*) does require ICS training, and Marv said about 25 members in NC have completed the required courses and training, with 175 working on it and another 300 taking the online classes. AuxComm uses SHARES Winlink, which is assigned frequencies and encryption not subject to the QRM of amateur radio frequencies. There are currently 9 RMS stations in NC, 3 provided by the state and 6 by amateurs. The system allows quick and secure communication with Raleigh.

Marv concluded with a round of Q&A, and the club thanked him for his presentation.

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F)

NEW CALL SIGN

Ed Winstead’s call sign is now N4EDW. Ed shares, *“Changed from WD8RON. I guess it was finally time to move south! Tried to get NC4, but the NC is restricted. It still looks funny, but I will get used to it. Now I will not be called ‘Ron.’”*



W4YK FIELD DAY 2023 SCORE SUBMISSION

Base Score Calculation:

Band	QSO's	
	CW	Phone
80m	29	20
40m	123	232
20m	340	179
15m	29	199
10m	4	0
QSO's	525	630
Mode Mult	x2	x1
Pwr Mult	x2	x2
Points	2,100	1,260
Total Base:	3,360	

2023: Class 3A, 100 watts or less, 1,155 QSO's after removal of duplicates. Bonuses: 100% Emergency Power (3 transmitters @ 100 points). Media Publicity (100). Formal Message to ARRL SM/SEC (100). W1AW Field Day Message (100). Formal Messages Handled (10 @ 10). Natural Power QSOs Completed (100). Site Visit by Invited Elected Government Official (100). Educational Activity (100). Submitted Entry Online (50). Safety Officer (100). Social Media (100). Claimed Bonuses: 1,250 points. Total Claimed Score: **4,610**

In 2022, W4YK had 965 QSO's (303 CW, 2 Digital, 660 Phone) with a Base Score of 2,540, Bonuses of 1,150 points and a Total Score of 3,690.

FIELD DAY AUDIT

At the request of Treasurer Susann Swan [K9FMZ], BRARC members Marty Wood [N4AMW] and Bill Gunn [KB2GUN] performed an audit of costs and reimbursements for the BRARC 2023 Field Day exercise. They found no errors.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Icom SP-38 external speaker. Matches IC-718 & IC-7300. Like new. \$140

MFJ -931 Artificial Ground. 1.8-30 MHz. 300 watts. New. \$85

Elite 750 AM/FM/LW/SW/AIR/SSB portable radio. AC or Battery. Like new. \$335

Contact Dave - W2CGG, dcp_ltp@bellsouth.net, 828-230-9333

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, cell/text 703-915-2796



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, July 15	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, July 15	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, July 24	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, July 27	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Sat, July 29	WCARS (Waynesville) Hamfest (info at http://wcars-club.org)
Tue, August 1	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.
Sat, August 19	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, August 19	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, August 24	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, August 28	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Fri-Sun, Sept 1-3	Shelby Hamfest – Hamfest and ARRL NC Section Convention. (Hamfest info at http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/)

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

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		
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