



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER, 2023

The October 3rd 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.

ATTENDANCE

26 Members attended (20 in person and 6 online), plus 2 guests in person and 1 online.

TREASURER’S REPORT

September 1 – September 30, 2023

Balance as of 08/31/23		\$ 6,002.71
Plus: Deposits: Donation	\$ <u>10.00</u>	
	Total Income	\$ <u>10.00</u>
	Sub-Total	\$ 6,012.71
Less: Expenses: (<i>none</i>)	\$ <u>0.00</u>	
	Total Expenses	\$ <u>0.00</u>
	BALANCE AS OF 09/30/23	\$ 6,012.71

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

The Great ShakeOut earthquake preparedness exercise will be Thursday, **October 19th**. The premise of the local ARES exercise is that an earthquake at 10:19am will damage local repeaters’ fuel supplies, so they will be on the air for only a short time. The Buncombe County ARES group will be using a variety of bands and modes to keep communications open. Contact Zach Thompson [KM4BLG] and visit <https://www.shakeout.org/> for more details.

Jamboree On The Air is Saturday, **October 21st** from 10:00am-6:00pm at the Scout hut next to the new miniature golf course at Five Points in Hendersonville. Setup will take place Friday evening. It will be a low-impact event. The Asheville and Waynesville clubs are also setting up stations with Scouts in their area. For more information, contact Charles Webb [KN4KWA] and watch for emails and Facebook Group postings.



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The **BRARC Meeting** on **November 7th** will feature our Officer Elections for 2024 and planning for the December 2nd Christmas Parade.

The **Hendersonville Christmas Parade** will be on Saturday, **December 2nd**. At our November meeting we will have a sign up list to help. The parade itself will start at 6:00pm. It will not be televised this year. This year the police department has asked for help at the back end of the parade helping get the units out of the way. We used to do that probably 15 years ago but we quit doing it because we just did not have enough help. We have had great volunteer help at the different events this past year so we are going to try to help on that end also. I need about 20 people on the front end of the parade and we will need 3 or 4 on the back end of the parade. We will be in the staging area by 3:00. If you cannot come until later I could really use you on the back end of the parade. Please let me know. – Danny [NA4X]

The **BRARC Christmas Dinner** will be Tuesday, **December 5th** at 6:00pm at the Golden Corral on US-64 in Hendersonville. We will have a section reserved, and we'll have our normal Zoom link running for those who want to watch us stuff our faces!

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.

Meeting Minutes

President Bill Gunn [KB2GUN] called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Susann Swan [K9FMZ] gave the Treasurer's report for the month of September, 2023.

Upcoming events were discussed and are included above.

The club is selling our Icom IC-718 HF Transceiver, which has been replaced with an IC-7300. The IC-718 was offered for \$350 including an HM-219 hand microphone and the digital interface cables we have used with it. There was only one person interested in it, so the Treasurer will contact him to verify he is still interested. If not, we previously said we would offer it online for a higher amount.

Marty Wood [N4AMW] still has club t-shirts available in most sizes for \$10 each.

Brandy Coolidge [N1HO] reminded us of the national test of the Emergency Awareness System to show up on our phones, televisions and radios tomorrow between 2:20 and 2:50pm.

PRESENTATION

Susann Swan introduced tonight's speaker, Mark Waldrop [KE4WA], joining us via Zoom from Moncks Corner, SC. His topic was Amateur Radio and Artificial Intelligence. Mark presented this topic at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo on the weekend of September 9th and 10th.

Mark began by saying there is a collision between amateur radio and artificial intelligence, that he views as "Frequency Meets Function". Although he had topics prepared, he said the Question & Answer session afterward would be even more informative.

His major points were "What is AI?", "What is Amateur Radio?", "Why Combine Them?" and "What's in the Future?". He said AI includes Machine Learning, Data Analytics and Real World Application. Amateur Radio involves Personal Communications, Emergency Response and



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Community-Building. Examples of ways they are being combined include Signal Enhancement, Emergency Modeling and Community Engagement, and gave examples of each.

The Future includes Technical Challenges, Ethical Considerations and Future Prospects. For now, he suggested we could get started with AI by trying out the ChatGPT mobile applications available for cell phones or going to the website <https://chat.openai.com/> and trying it out. It requires an account to be set up, but is then free for the basic version. The fancier version costs about \$20/month, and Mark said the difference in writing was about equal to comparing middle school writing to college writing, but that the database behind both versions is the same.

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith [KC5F].

2024 OFFICER ELECTION SLATE FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

The following is the slate of proposed officers for 2024 presented by the Steering Committee. Additional nominations for all positions will be accepted from the floor at the election.

President:	Bill Gunn [KB2GUN]
Vice-President:	James Reed [KK4JFO]
Treasurer:	Paul Nice [KQ4ALD]
Secretary:	Steve Smith [KC5F]

BRARC POEM FROM OCTOBER SPEAKER MARK WALDROP

Susann Swan shared this poem, created and sent by our October presenter, Mark Waldrop, KE4WA. He said, “*Thanks again for the opportunity to visit with your club last night. I’ve constructed a little something for you and the Club. Enjoy “The Poetry Porch”, ap777.org*”

*In Blue Ridge's embrace, radio waves dance,
A club, vibrant and full of chance.
Dedicated hearts in hobby and care,
Community bond, they willingly share.*

*Jackson Park echoes with their meet,
758 Glover Street, where friendships greet.
Zoom's embrace, for those far and wide,
Monthly gatherings, joy amplified.*

*First Tuesdays bloom with shared delight,
7:00 pm, the hour of camaraderie's height.
Fellowship, before and after the meeting,
In December, a holiday feast, hearts fleeting.*

*Informal mornings on Saturdays unfold,
At Ingles Cafe, stories told.
Spartanburg Highway, a familiar place,
Swap meets, discussions, a shared embrace.*

*Amateur spirits, exams by appointment,
A tapestry woven, each radiant joint.
Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club, a melody,
In waves of connection, they find their glee.*



HAM WORD SEARCH PUZZLE BY SUSANN SWAN, K9FMZ

Y P G W W S I N R G O F A B Z
 O L D S F O L J N E R R N A D
 R X P U P T D I F E N I N Q L
 A Q G P C A D B Q J K U E X Z
 K S A H U N K U M H D Y T Y N
 Z A L N U S E O I D A R N S U
 O M V O H N R L W R U P A W H
 J Y R P C S A E K K U C O I C
 Z G H Y E T D Z W Q A R V T Y
 E D U T I L P M A O K A F C A
 F C O G L I N E A R P R Z H Y
 I D I G V D V P M B P B V I X
 O D R O T A L L I C S O N N F
 A O K T X U H H W Z K F P G V
 P P I V K Q I T R F D L D M R

AMPLITUDE **ANTENNA** **BRARC** **DIGITAL**
DMR **FREQUENCY** **GROUNDING** **LINEAR**
MORSE **OSCILLATOR** **POTA** **POWERSUPPLY**
RADIO **SOTA** **SWITCHING** **TUNER**

ITEMS FOR SALE

MFJ-931 Artificial ground. 1.8-30 MHz. 300w. \$80. Dave - W2CGG. 828-230-9333

Kenwood TS 2000 with manuals and desk mike. \$800. Marty, N4AMW.

woodmarty@rocketmail.com

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, October 21	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, October 21	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, October 23	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, October 26	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Tue, November 7	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. In addition, you can still attend virtually. Latest instructions to login are on the BRARC website.



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Sat, November 18	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, November 18	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, November 27	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, November 30	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom. (5 th Thursday because the 4 th Thursday is Thanksgiving)
Sat, December 2	Christmas Parade – 6pm, with operators in place at 3pm for positioning units.
Tue, December 5	Christmas Dinner – 6pm at Golden Corral. (In place of our regular meeting.)

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

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



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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