



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 6, 2024

The August 6th 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.

ATTENDANCE

18 Members attended (11 in person and 7 online), plus 3 guests in person and 3 online.

TREASURER’S REPORT

July 1 – July 31, 2024

Balance as of 06/30/24		\$ 6,312.72
Plus: Deposits: Dues 2024	\$ 10.00	
	Total Income	\$ 10.00
	Sub-Total	\$ 6,322.72
Less: Expenses: (none)	\$ 0.00	
	Total Expenses	\$ 0.00
	BALANCE AS OF 07/31/24	\$ 6,322.72

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

The **Tour d’Apple Bike Ride** will be **September 2nd** from 7:00am until 4:00pm. Danny Rector passed around a sign-up sheet. Email Danny at rectordl@bellsouth.net if you would like to help.

The **Shelby Hamfest and ARRL NC Section Convention** will be Friday through Sunday, **August 30th** through **September 1st** 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/>

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.



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Paul Nice [KQ4ALD] reported on the recent Steering Committee discussion about BRARC program presentations. We'd like to have our monthly meetings include interesting educational programs that meet the needs of all of our members, from new hams to "Elmers" (a term for experienced hams who help others "learn the ropes"), and all in between. These would be periodic club meeting presentations with all taking part, mixed in with our regular presentations by speakers.

There's no "one size fits all" option for presentations. But to fit the club's mission and for the viability of the club, we need programs at all levels. If it's a basic concept, then the more advanced hams can jump in and answer questions. But all will learn and benefit. As one member present stated, "There are no stupid questions."

We're looking for a basic list of topics that members want to know more about. We need the basics, as even experienced hams can learn more about any topic, but we would have more advanced topics, as well. We could have a specific radio at the meeting, another hands-on item or even a YouTube video as an introduction, and then discuss the topic. Tonight we have a YouTube video introduction to the Icom IC-7300 HF/6m transceiver, since the club has two in the radio shack and many members also have them. Future meetings could feature other radios or antennas, operating techniques or technical topics such as propagation.

Paul shared the most popular topics requested in a survey the club took in 2022. Topics requested by more than half of the respondents were "*Home Antennas, BRARC shack rigs and antennas, RF Propagation, Emergency Services, Portable Antennas, HF Digital Operation, Computer Interfacing to Radios, Net Operation, Public Service Events*". Additional topics requested by more than a third of responders were "*HF CW Operation, Mobile Antennas, Batteries and Solar Energy, Equipment Troubleshooting, Portable Operation - POTA/SOTA, Raspberry Pi and Arduino, Safety, Messaging*".

A suggestion was made to save Zoom recordings of our meetings and make the educational portions of them available on YouTube and the club Facebook page. (There was concern about additional bandwidth needed and the time required for Zoom to process and download the recordings following the meeting. Follow-up shows that there is no additional bandwidth used during the meeting, the laptop can be turned off during the processing and the generated video can be downloaded later onto a different computer, to then be edited and saved online.)

A request was made for help with home shack setup and antenna siting, including possible on-site help by Elmers. This could also become a "case study" that could be presented at a future meeting. As well, a good place to ask one-on-one questions is the Third Saturday informal BRARC meeting at 9:00am at the Ingle across from Harris Teeter on US-176.

PRESENTATION

Tonight's presentation began with a pair of YouTube videos about the Icom-7300. The first was a basic introduction and the second was thoughts after using one for two years. However, they both tended to show buttons and controls without much explanation of what they do. This led to good discussions like what do filters, preamplifiers and compression do, and how do we use them. Those present seemed to enjoy the format, with lots of participation in person and online.



MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:35pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F)

W4YK FIELD DAY UPDATED 2024 SCORE SUBMISSION

Here's the updated BRARC W4YK 2024 Field Day Submission Summary, as confirmed in an ARRL email to Danny Rector [NA4X], who did a great job of compiling and submitting it.

Changes from the preliminary information reported in the July *Echo*: The digital station QSO log file was able to be extracted from the PC used, and its QSOs included. 1 dupe CW QSO was removed. GOTA station QSOs are now included in Phone QSOs as well as for Bonus points. Bonus Points for Media Publicity (100) and GOTA Coach (100) were removed for lack of documentation, and Public Information Table (100) added. The net result was an increase in Total Claimed Score from 3,911 to 4,005.

Many thanks again to Danny for doing all of this, as well as running the GOTA station, working hard to make sure we had tents, tables, generators, and so much more.

Field Day Base Points			
	CW	Digital	Phone
QSO's	400	40	330
Mode Mult	x2	x2	x1
Pwr Mult	x2	x2	x2
Points7	1,600	160	660
Total Base:	2,420		

Class 3A, 100 watts or less, 770 QSO's. **2,420** Base Points.

Bonuses: 100% Emergency Power (3 transmitters @ 100 points). Public Location (100). Formal Message to ARRL SM (100). W1AW Field Day Message (100). Formal Messages Handled (10 @ 10). Natural Power QSOs Completed (100). Site Visit by Invited Elected Government Official (100). Site Visit by Invited Served Agency Official (100). Youth Participation (2 @ 20). Educational Activity (100). Social Media (100). Safety Officer (100). GOTA Coach (100). GOTA QSOs (19 @ 5). Submitted Entry Online (50).

Claimed Bonuses: **1,585** points. Total Claimed Score: **4,005**.

Band/QSOs	CW	Digital	Phone
80m	4	-	28
40m	177	38	24
20m	135	2	224
15m	80	-	32
10m	4	-	3
GOTA	-	-	19
TOTAL QSOs	400	40	330

(In 2023, W4YK had 1,155 QSO's (525 CW, 630 Phone) for a 3,360 Base Score, with Bonuses of 1,250 points and a Total Score of 4,610.)



HOMETOWN HERO!

Our own Susann Swan [K9FMZ] will be featured as WHKP's "Hometown Hero" on Friday, August 16th at 8:45am! WHKP 107.7 FM & 1450 AM or online at <https://www.whkp.com/>

SECOND IC-7300 DUST COVER

Treasurer Paul Nice [KQ4ALD] reported that we have ordered a matching embroidered dust cover for the newer IC-7300. Paul ordered one for himself and is donating one to the club. Thanks, Paul! (*Update* – the dust covers arrived, and each shack IC-7300 now has one.)

ITEMS FOR SALE OR WANTED

For Sale: Icom IC-746Pro and PS-125 power supply with CR338 TCXO, DC power cable, handheld mic, manuals - \$500

Icom SP-20 speaker with audio filters - \$50

Icom IC-7100 mobile xcvr (160-2m + 440, CW/SSB/FM), plus RT Systems Prgmng SW, LZ2RR GPS module, Lido cupholder mount for console, spare mobile mic, MFJ-4416 Battery Booster, TennaTronix (N2VZ) TurboTuner2 screwdriver antenna controller, HF antenna mount, Nifty Mini-Manual - \$1000

Icom ID-51A handheld 2m/440 D*Star xcvr, with BC-202 desktop charge, spare BP-272 1880mAh Li-Ion battery, belt clip, silicon rubber jacket, cigarette lighter charger/PS, data cable for KPC3+, Nifty Mini-Manual and Nifty Quick Reference Card - \$250

SCS PTCiiUSB Pactor/Packet Controller with Pactor-3 firmware, and various cables (P/N 9095, 8083, 8081, 9090, 8129, plus misc. interface for IC-746 and Elecraft K3) - \$250

Kantronics KPC3+ packet controller with interface cables and APP power cable, but no manual. - \$50

Icom OPC-2218LU data/programming cable - \$25

RigTalk USB serial TTL CAT/CI-V interface for Icom and Ten-Tec - \$25

MFJ-945E "Compact Mobile HF Antenna Tuner" (with APP power cable for meter light) - \$25

Contact Brandy, NIHO@yahoo.com (828) 693-5770 or (954) 818-6790

I'm looking for a Yaesu FT-897 as a backup field radio if anyone has one to unload. Thanks, Phil Drake, K4UOK@ARRL.net



“RADIO MOBILE” RADIO LINK CALCULATOR

Ed Winstead [WD8RON] shares, “This may be a useful free tool for club members. It takes a bit of learning. YouTube has many videos about it. Do a search for "radio mobile software tutorial.””

“Radio Mobile” is a tool that is used to design and simulate wireless radiofrequency (20 MHz – 20 GHz) communication systems. It predicts the performance of a terrestrial radio link by calculating link budgets given station RF parameters, distance, terrain, and land cover. Propagation is calculated using the Longley-Rice model, also known as the irregular terrain model or ITM. This program could be used to compute coverage for an emergency service, Wi-Fi like wireless ISP, hypothetical radio station, amateur radio repeater, simplex operation, etc.

The TOOL: https://www.ve2dbe.com/rmonline_s.asp

A learning aid: <http://radiomobile.pe1mew.nl/>

This might be good for repeater planning and simplex net planning. Apparently, it works best in Windows. There are two versions, one as an app and one online.

Other sites that maybe useful:

<https://ns6t.net/azimuth/azimuth.html> (Has video)

<https://www.latlong.net/degrees-minutes-seconds-to-decimal-degrees>

<https://www.amateurradio.com/great-circle-map-generator/>

<https://www.scadacore.com/tools/rf-path/cell-tower-map-united-states/> (see "RF line-of-sight" under Tools, upper left under RF Path Study. This is Free. Some on site have costs.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, Aug 17	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Aug 17	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, Aug 22	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, Aug 26	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Fri-Sun, Aug 30-Sept 1	Shelby Hamfest – Hamfest and ARRL NC Section Convention. (Hamfest info at http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/)
Mon, Sept 2	Tour d’Apple Bike Ride – 8am-4pm – Contact Danny Rector
Tue, Sept 3	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. Also streamed via Zoom.
Sat, Sept 21	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Sept 21	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Mon, Sept 23	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Thu, Sept 26	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Tue, Oct 1	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. Also streamed via Zoom.

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



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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
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

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)	Wednesday 8:30pm



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

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	Paul Nice	KQ4ALD	703-657-9783	paul.nice@verizon.net
SECRETARY	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-489-6637	kc5f@arrl.net