



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



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

MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

The September 3rd 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

26 Members attended (20 in person and 6 online), plus 5 guests in person and 1 online.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(No Treasurer's Report this month, as our Treasurer has been in the hospital.)

BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

Antique Radio Museum – September 14th from 7am-1pm is the 4th annual *Vintage Radio Market* as well as the Asheville Radio Museum reopening in its new space, three times larger than before. The market will be in the parking lot behind the A-B Tech campus parking garage. Set GPS devices to 16 Fernhurst Drive, Asheville, NC or 283 Victoria Road, Asheville, NC, then follow the signs. Note: In the event of rain, the market will be held **INSIDE** the parking garage, with visitor parking also available inside the garage. The official webpage is: <https://www.avlradiomuseum.org/vintage-radio-market>

The **Hendersonville Christmas Parade** will kick off Saturday, December 7th.at 6:00pm. The BRARC will again assist in staging the parade. It was suggested that unlicensed family members could also help out with handing out position numbers, etc. We'll be asking for volunteers at the BRARC October 1st meeting.

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. **NOTE: For September 2024 only, the meeting will be the fifth Monday, September 30th!** “We will be working on setting up a permanent antenna attached to the SMAT building to be used for



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emergency communications. October's meeting will be an Open House. Come tour the SMAT building and see what it's all about." (See the last page for info on ARES/AUXCOMM.)

Meeting Minutes

Tour D'Apple – Danny Rector (N4ANX) thanked all who helped with communications for the September 2nd *Tour D'Apple* bicycle ride.

NCPOTA – September 6th and 7th is the *North Carolina State Parks On The Air* event.

BRARC Shirts – A visitor from WCARS shared that he can provide shirts for the club, with the club getting a discount. Button-up shirts would be \$60 with a club logo, or \$65 with your callsign added, Plus would be \$30 and T-Shirts would be \$25. It's been some time since we had BRARC shirts or hats available. The club needs to decide whether we want to do it again.

DXing – Danny Rector offered that those of us who operate on the HF bands (160m-10m) might enjoy working some of the many "DXpeditions" and DX contests. It's getting to the time of year when long-distance QSOs will be much easier to make than they have been the past few months. Danny passed out handouts with some of the DX events coming up this month, so that we could put them on our calendars and try for some DX. (It was noted that many DXpeditions when operating FT8 have been using "*Fox and Hound*" or even "*Super Fox and Hound*" mode to work multiple stations at once, and that standard FT8 settings would not work. Be sure to check the DXpedition's website to see what form of FT8 they're using, and also brush up on how to set up and use these different operation modes.)

Projection Screen – Hola Carolina has more permanently affixed its paintings to the walls of the room where we meet, so we are not able to project onto the walls as well as we'd done before. It was suggested we buy a projection screen, but there were a few ideas about where we might find one available.

Presentation Topics – James Reed (KK4JFO) reminded members to let anyone on the Steering Committee know if there is a topic you'd like to see presented at a BRARC meeting. And especially if you're available to make the presentation!

Hometown Hero – On Friday, August 16th, our own Susann Swan (K9FMZ) was WHKP's featured "*Hometown Hero*". Bill Ponder (KD4RAM) recorded the entire interview and shared it with us tonight. Congratulations, Susann!

PRESENTATION

Tonight's presentation was by BRARC member Gary DePalma (AC8NE). He titled it, "*Understanding Standing Waves & SWR - or - It must be true, I saw it on the internet.*" He shared and explained several facts and myths about SWR and Standing Waves. He emphasized that specifications for loss in coaxial cable only apply at 1:1 SWR and that losses go up as SWR goes up. He shared a specific example of a 100w transmitter and how much power is lost with SWR of 1:1 versus 3:1, showing what's lost to reflections plus what's lost just in the coax. If you "fix" your SWR with a tuner at the rig, it only makes the rig happy, and the SWR on the coax remains, with its associated losses, although it can usually be ignored on lower bands. Better solutions are to tune the antenna, put the tuner at the antenna end of the coax, and/or use higher grade (low loss) coax.



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Gary shared one calculation he finds useful for anyone who wants to adjust a wire antenna to the correct length in one pass: *“Using an antenna analyzer or VNA, find the frequency with the minimum SWR with the antenna in its final position. Subtract this frequency from the desired frequency - Positive means cut, Negative means add wire. Divide this number by the current frequency where SWR is lowest and multiply the result by the current length of the antenna. This final number is how much wire (same units as you used to measure antenna length) you need to cut from or add to the antenna.”*

The club thanked Gary for another great presentation. If you would like the PowerPoint slide deck from the presentation, email Gary at ac8ne@arrl.net

MEETING ENDED

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Steve Smith (KC5F)

ITEMS FOR SALE OR WANTED

Icom 718 xcvr w/DSP \$395. Icom SM-6 desk mic \$35.

Dave W2CGG. 828-230-9333

Icom IC-7100 mobile xcvr (160-2m + 440, CW/SSB/FM), with RT Systems prgmg s/w, LZ2RR GPS module, Lido cupholder console mount, spare mobile mic, MFJ-4416 Battery Booster, TennaTronix (N2VZ) TurboTuner2 screwdriver antenna ctrlr, HF Antenna mount, Nifty mini-manual - asking \$1000.

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

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

Brandy, N1HO@yahoo.com (828) 693-5770 or (954) 818-6790



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Description
Sat, Sept 14	Vintage Radio Market – 7am-1pm, AB-Tech, Asheville.
Sat, Sept 21	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Sept 21	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, Sept 26	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, Sept 30	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Tue, Oct 1	BRARC Meeting - In person in Jackson Park. Also streamed via Zoom.
Sat, Oct 19	Informal Breakfast Get-Together – 9am, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Sat, Oct 19	License Exams – 9am by reservation, Ingles 625 Spartanburg Hwy.
Thu, Oct 24	BRARC Steering Committee Meeting – 7pm via Zoom.
Mon, Oct 28	Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM – 6:30pm. Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition warehouse at 518 S Allen Rd, Flat Rock.
Tue, Nov 4	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”.

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



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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 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



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Henderson County ARES/AUXCOMM

Who We Are

ABOUT NC4HC AND HENDERSON COUNTY ARES

NC4HC is the amateur radio callsign assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the Henderson County Amateur Radio Emergency Radio Service (ARES) organization.

Henderson County ARES is a group of volunteers with a mutual interest in providing communications services to our county and towns in emergency situations.

It is at the local level where most of the real emergency organizing gets accomplished, because this is the level at which most emergencies occur and the level at which ARES leaders make direct contact with the ARES member-volunteers and with officials of the agencies to be served.

The usefulness of the communications service we provide is recognized by the American Red Cross and North Carolina and Local Emergency Management who include us in their disaster plans. We also cooperate with other Emergency organizations in Henderson and surrounding counties.

We continuously strive to improve our capabilities. Individual members are responsible for providing their own equipment. Through the group, we train so that we can provide a useful service. We hold meetings, both face-to-face and on the air, during which we conduct readiness training. We also participate in exercises and public service events during which we practice our communications procedures to refine our skills.

We meet every 4th Monday night at the SMAT warehouse located at 518 S. Allen Road, Flat Rock NC at 6:30pm.

If you would like more information, please visit our website <http://nc4hc.us/wp/> or you can email the EC (Emergency Coordinator) Scott Sutton at smat691@gmail.com (cell: 828-674-0617).

We are always looking for volunteers to provide emergency communications to our community.

- Scott Sutton