

The Blue Ridge Echo

W4YK - OFFICIAL TRANSMITTER OF THE BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



FOR SALE

ITEM(S) FOR SALE

Our club members occasionally have a variety of items for sale, including ham radios, accessories, and computer equipment. Whether you're looking for an upgrade or just starting out, you'll find great deals on gear that's been well-maintained and loved by fellow hobbyists. Here is the current listing of items members have for sale or even Free! Find the "For Sale" Section on page 3 of this months ECHO Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Our Member Spotlight features a member of our amateur radio club. Each spotlight is an opportunity to share a personal glimpse about the member. It's an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the unique stories and experiences of our members, fostering a sense of connection and inspiration within our club. Currently, the member being featured is selected by random draw. If you would like to be featured in the spotlight, please send an email to: catiballard@gmail.com Find our member spotlight on page 4 of this months ECHO Newsletter

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

Club Officers



BRARC CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2025

President: James Reed (KK4JFO)
 Vice - President: Bill Gunn (KB2GUN)
 Secretary: Cati Harris (KQ4GKF)
 Treasurer: Paul Nice (KQ4ALD)
 At Large Member: Martin Harris (W4FOT)
 At Large Member: Steve Smith (KC5F)

The BRARC Club Officers/Steering committee provides direction, oversight and planning for BRARC. The Club Officers/Steering Committee work together to guide the planning, decision-making, and implementation of various activities, education, and events. We are dedicated to ensuring goals are aligned with the club objectives and bi-laws, planning events, resolving issues, and making decisions to keep the club moving forward in a positive manner.

TREASURER REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025

JANUARY 1, 2025 - JANUARY 31, 2025

Balance as of 12/31/2024: \$6924.42

Deposits:

Total Income for January 2025: \$440.00

Subtotal: \$7364.42

Expenses:

Check# 578 - Steve Smith - Zoom Subscription \$159.90

Deposit Correction Fee: \$6.00 (this will be offset in February)

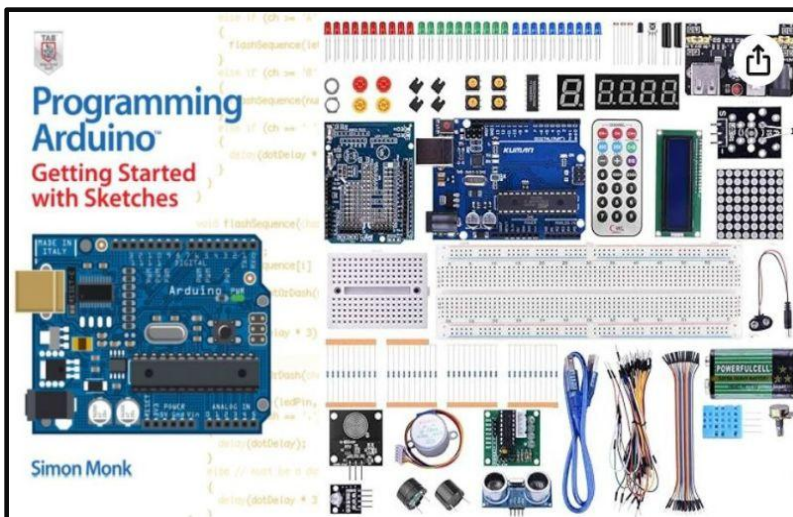
Total Expenses for January 2025: \$165.90

Balance as of January 31, 2025: \$7198.52

Report provided by Treasurer - Paul Nice (KQ4ALD)

FOR SALE

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FREE: Kuman Kits "Arduino Start Kit" with lots of parts included in the case, as shown in the photo. Unused gift. Manual available online. Plus "Programming Arduino - Getting Starter with Sketches" book by Simon Monk. **CONTACT:** Steve, KC5F, kc5f@arrl.net



FREE: Dell LCD monitors. One 1907FPT 19-inch and one 1707FP 17-inch. 5:4 Aspect Ratio, 1280x1024 resolution, DVI and VGA inputs. Steve, KC5F, kc5f@arrl.net



FEBRUARY 2025:

JAMES REED, PRESIDENT
KK4JFO

How did you first get interested in Ham Radio? My interest in ham began with an invited by Danny Rector (NA4X) to look into Ham Radio and come to a club meeting. I grew up talking on a CB and enjoyed listening to scanners. Come to find out this was a natural next step in that process. I got my Tech license and quickly followed that up with General. Danny gave me an older HF radio which I used for over 10 years and Sid (W4IOE) gave me a 2m radio, which I'm still using. My first HT radio was a Baofeng UV5R which I learned to find the "sweet spot" while keeping my rubber duck antenna vertical.

What is your favorite aspect of the ham radio hobby? I think the most enjoyable part of the hobby is contesting. The adrenaline rush! A close second is POTA (Parks On The Air).

Do you have a memorable or interesting contact you have made? The most memorable contact was to Venezuela (about 4000 miles away) right after I got my General license. THAT really got my attention.

What type of equipment do you use, and do you have any recommendations for beginners? My equipment falls into three categories: base station Icom IC 7300, mobile Yaesu FT-857d , and portable Elecraft KX3. My advice to new hams is pretty simple. Rely on the experience of Elmers. They can guide new hams with everything from equipment, antennas, and activation techniques.

Are there any specific frequencies or modes you enjoy operating on? A couple of dependable bands that I go to are 20m and 40m in the general class bands.

Have you participated in any contest or special events? I participate in many contest and special events. Among these are the North America QSO party, NC QSO party, Parks on the Air (POTA), WNC Flyer, Tour de France, and Christmas Parade.

What advice would you give to someone new in the community? My advice to new hams is to not give up. There are "ah-ha" moments just around the corner. The more you get on the air the more experience you will gain. Seek guidance and participation with others who share the same interests that you have.

Do you have any other hobbies or interest that you enjoy? Besides ham radio I enjoy hiking, kayaking, wood carving, pencil drawing, and playing the piano.

How has being a part of the ham radio club impacted your experience with the hobby? Developing relationships in radio is like anything else, it's community-- a sense of belonging.



BRARC Meeting Minutes January 7, 2025

Meeting Date: January 07, 2025

Meeting Location: 758 Glover Street, Hendersonville NC (Jackson Park)

Meeting was held in person and streamed online via Zoom

Attendance: 19 Members Attended (14 in person, 5 online), 8 Guests in person and 3 online

Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm

Opening of Meeting by James Reed - President followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer Report provided by Paul Nice - Treasurer

Starting Balance: \$6374.00

Deposits: \$550.00 (Dues and Donations)

Ending Balance: \$6924.00

- Steve advised he would provide a more detailed report including recognition of those that donated to the club in the February addition of THE ECHO. Additionally, Steve advised the club paid \$190.00 to the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society for our upcoming NC QSO Party where we are sponsoring an award. The Steering Committee approved the purchase of 10 Balfong radios.
- James spoke about the importance of paying your yearly dues of \$20.00
- Suzanne Swan is coordinating and hosting the licensure exams. Persons taking the tech test are asked by Suzanne if they have a radio. Those without a radio are provided a radio by the club. Suzanne has done an excellent job in connecting the newly licensed techs with the club and a great exam process.
- James advised the Wire Man could be rescheduled due to the no show for the presentation at the meeting. Additionally, the club was advised of the work being done by the steering committee for upcoming presentations/education for the club meetings.
- James explained for new persons in attendance the various events the club participates in yearly.
- The meeting then proceeded with various members introducing themselves and sharing their ham radio journey along with other interesting information about themselves.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm

**Please note: The meeting minutes may be missing pieces of information due to the recording missing parts of the various conversations.



Upcoming Events

These events are great opportunities to meet fellow ham radio enthusiasts, participate in forums, and explore exhibits and flea markets. Are you planning to attend any of these events?

NC QSO Party

When: February 23, 2025

Time: 10:00am to 8:00pm

Information: The BRARC will be taking part from the shack as W4yk and we will be a Bonus Station. We will be in demand for our extra 50 points. We will also be in the competition with other Bonus Stations. We will have two radios on the air and will be SSB only this year. We need all the help we can get! All are welcome to come and operate or log. Contact James Reed (KK4JFO) at jshreed@bellsouth.net to help (Please note: James and Danny will not arrive until 1:00pm)

Website: <https://ncqsoparty.org>

SC QSO Party

When: February 22, 2025

Time:

Information: We will only be on the radio at the shack for a very short time. Please try and get a few SC counties from home on Saturday.

HAM FEST:

WCARS Hamfest

When: 07/26/2025

Location: Smokey Mountain Event Center - 758 Crabtree Rd, Waynesville NC 28785

Website: <http://wcars-club.org>

Talk-In: 147.39 + PL 94.8

Contact: Randy Harris, KI4VLW

Email: wcars.nc.hamfest@gmail.com

RARSfest, ARRL North Carolina State Convention

When: 04/05/2025

Location: Jim Graham Building, NC State Fairgrounds - 4285 Trinity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27601

Website: <https://www.rarsfest.org>

Sponsor: Raliegh Amateur Radio Society

Talk-In: W4DW, 146.64MHz, -0.6 MHz offset, No tone

Contact: Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR

Email: ntorborg@mac.com

To search for Ham Fest, please visit: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>



In Search Of / Help Wanted

In this section of The Echo you will find items/supplies fellow Hams are in search of to purchase, borrow, or for free.. There is also a "Help Wanted" area for members who are in need of help with Ham Radio or Ham Radio projects. If you have information for this section, please email: catiballard@gmail.com

IN SEARCH OF:

VHF/UHF Dual Band Radio Mobile (Preferably ICOM 2730a or something similar)

Information: Newly licensed Ham in search of the above radio equipment to help him get on air until he finishes out his goal of a building a shack with HF/MF capability. His goal with the mobile is to simplex to his brother in Denver CO. Anyone interested in selling this type radio, please contact him directly via email listed below.

Contact: rcpace16@gmail.com

HELP WANTED:

Russell Pace: He currently passed his tech license and is studying for the general now. He is planning on joining BRARC. He welcomes any advice on getting started in the craft of amateur radio. At this time he has 2 BT GT 5R pros HT for getting started and his goal is to invest in a base station at some point throughout this year with guidance. If you are interested in speaking/helping Russell, please contact him directly through email: rcpace16@gmail.com

INFORMATION:

If you are interested in a copy of the presentation given by Gary DePalma entitled "Wire and Stealth Antennas, Design and Build Your Own" please email: catiballard@gmail.com to request a copy of the presentation.



Join the Waves: Your Voice, Our Airwaves. Together, We Make Radio Magic!"

Area Ham Radio Nets

FM NETS - 2 METERS		
BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHz/T91.5 - Hendersonville	Sunday 8:00pm
Slow Scan TV Net	146.640 MHz/T91.5 - Hendersonville	Sunday 7:00pm
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz/T91.5 - Hendersonville	Wednesday 9:00pm
Anderson Radio Club Net	146.790 MHz - Pickens SC	Daily 8:30pm
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz - Ceasars 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 - Hendersonville	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	Mon-Sat 7:00am/Sun 8:00a
HCARC 10m Net	28.400MHz	Monday 8:00pm
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 County 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



Picture Perfect: Unlocking the Magic of Slow Scan TV for Ham Radio Enthusiasts!

Slow Scan TV (SSTV) for Ham Radio Operators

Slow Scan Television (SSTV) is a fascinating mode of communication used by amateur radio operators to transmit still images over radio waves. Developed in the 1960s, SSTV uses a narrow bandwidth of around 3 kHz to send images, making it a practical option for long-distance communication¹.

Why Use SSTV?

SSTV is particularly useful in situations where traditional communication methods might fail, such as during natural disasters or when internet and cellular networks are down. It allows operators to share images of maps, weather patterns, schematics, and other visual data that can be crucial in emergency situations¹.

Getting Started with SSTV

To get started with SSTV, you'll need a few basic pieces of equipment:

1. **A Ham Radio Transceiver:** Capable of SSB (Single Sideband) operation.
2. **An Antenna:** Tuned to the band you'll be operating on.
3. **A Computer with a Sound Card:** To interface with your radio.
4. **SSTV Software:** Free software like MMSSTV can be downloaded and installed on your computer.

Receiving SSTV

To receive SSTV transmissions, you can use an application like **Robot 36** on an Android device. Simply place the device's microphone close to your radio's speaker, and the app will decode and save the images automatically¹.

Transmitting SSTV

Transmitting images is straightforward. Download an app like **Slow Scan SSTV** on your Android device, select an image, and transmit it using your radio. Ensure you don't use audio compression to avoid distortions in the image².

Conclusion

SSTV is not only a practical tool for emergency communication but also a fun way to share images with fellow ham radio operators. With minimal equipment and some patience, you can quickly get started and enjoy the unique experience of SSTV.



ARRL - The National Association for Amateur Radio

AARL WEBSITE: WWW.AARL.ORG

BRARC Club

Website: <https://radioclub.org/>

Monthly Meeting Zoom Information:

First time ZOOM Users:

1. Go to <https://zoom.us/> and click Join A Meeting at the top
2. Enter Meeting ID **898 4099 5655** and Click Join
3. Enter Meeting Passcode **brarc** and Click Join Meeting
4. When prompted, SAVE the download, then click RUN
5. Click JOIN MEETING

The first time you use Zoom, the Zoom application will be saved to your computer, and on subsequent meetings do the following:

Returning Zoom Users:

1. Select and run ZOOM from your computer's list of applications and Click Join a Meeting
2. Enter meeting ID **898 4099 5655** and Click Join
3. Enter Meeting Passcode **brarc** and Click Join Meeting

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club 2025 Officers - Contact Information

President: James Reed (KK4JFO) - 828-698-3609 - jshreed@bellsouth.net

Vice-President: Bill Gunn (KB2GUN) - 704-934-1950 - kb2gunb@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Paul Nice (KQ4ALD) - 703-657-9783 - paul.nice@verizon.net

Secretary: Cati Harris (KQ4GKF) - 828-595-1332 - catiballard@gmail.com