

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 MARCH 2025

MARCH 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2025

Balance as of 02/28/2025: \$7260.12

Treasurers Report is Unavailable this Month due to Treasurer - Paul Nice (KQ4ALD) having surgery. President James Reed advised at the April Meeting BRARC has just over \$7000.00 in the bank.

Next Update will be the April Treasurer Report.

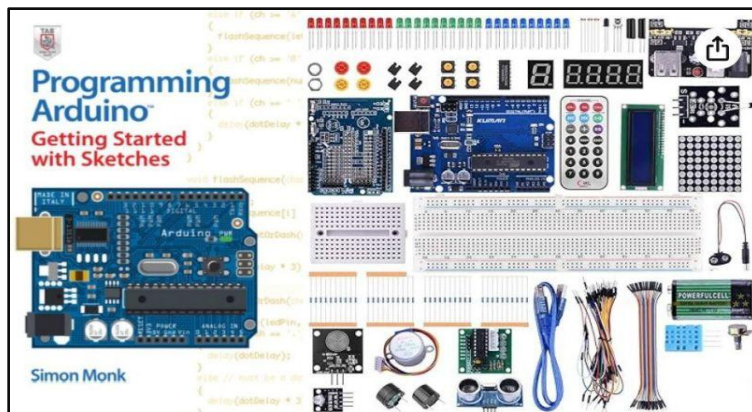
FOR SALE

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Jim Nourse, K0JQL a local Ham since 1962, still licensed, but not active for years is in the process of downsizing his home in preparation for moving. He has multiple Ham items he would like to donate to our club members who may be interested. Various miscellaneous items. Example: Hardline, Coax, Antenna Wire, Insulators, Power Supplies, Tuners, Possibly an Old Kenwood 2m HT.

If you are interested in any items he may have available, please reach out to him via email: acushrink@mindspring.com



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, C5F, 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



APRIL 2025:

Danny Rector, Member
NA4X

How did you first get interested in Ham Radio?

During Hurricane Katrina I was deployed to Mississippi for disaster relief and had no cell phone, no way to communicate. Randy Johnson was with us and he had a Ham radio setup in a room. When I saw that, I knew I need to have it. When we arrived back home, I enrolled with Norm Harrol class and obtain my license.

What is your favorite aspect of the ham radio hobby?

I enjoy more of the service aspects like bike events, races, parks on the air, and some contesting.

Do you have a memorable or interesting contact you have made?

One of my most enjoyable is during contesting connecting with N3FJP which is Scott Davis. Almost every contest we will talk with him. Also being able to talk with other countries.

What type of equipment do you use, and do you have any recommendations for beginners?

At first I started with a Tentec radio and from there I have graduated up to an ICOM 7610. For beginners, anything you have to use.

Are there any specific frequencies or modes you enjoy operating on?

I prefer phone and 40m. I also do some FT8.

Have you participated in any contest or special events?

NAQP, CQWPX, Field Day, Parks on the Air, NCQSO

What advice would you give to someone new in the community?

My advice to a new Ham is to join a club and simply just try things. Don't be afraid to talk on the radio. It took me almost a year to get over "mic fright" and talk on the air.

Do you have any other hobbies or interest that you enjoy?

I do a lot of disaster relief.

How has being a part of the ham radio club impacted your experience with the hobby?

The BRARC is where you can find the mentors who can help you, answers questions, and help get stations set up.

Is there a particular project or goal you're currently working on or would like to achieve in ham radio?

Not particularly.



BRARC Meeting Minutes April 1, 2025

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

The April 1st meeting of the *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)* was in person and streamed online via Zoom and began at about 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

26 Members attended (21 in person and 5 online), plus 5 guests in person and 1 online.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(There was no Treasurer's Report, as our treasurer Paul Nice, KQ4ALD had surgery yesterday. President James Reed, KK4JFO reported that we're in good shape, with a current bank balance of over \$7000.)

DUES FOR 2025

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club annual dues if unpaid will be past-due at the end of April. They remain \$20.00 per year for Full (licensed) and Associate (unlicensed) members. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member are one-half the regular rate. Dues for full-time students in an accredited school are one-half the regular rate. Send checks made payable to *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* (or *BRARC*) to the BRARC Treasurer:

Paul Nice - KQ4ALD, PO Box 234, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0234.

FLAT ROCK CITY COUNCIL REQUEST

Barbara Jeter, a member of the Flat Rock Village Council attended to get a feel for the club before meeting in the future with the Steering Committee. At a meeting with the Land of Sky Regional Council following hurricane Helene, they discussed the lack of communications, with no power, no internet and no cell phone service due to lines and poles being down after the hurricane. Polk County was the only area which had communications, thanks to the local ham group providing local information reports. Although Flat Rock was eventually provided with Starlink, they would like to discuss having ham radio communications support in Henderson County, "especially in Flat Rock".

BRARC "BRANDING"

The club has had shirts, hats and nametags over the years. Shirts are very expensive, when personalized. Hats were once given to paid members, and we are discussing doing so again. They could be yellow and similar to the previous ones, possibly with "W4YK" on the side. Secretary Cati Harris, KQ4GKF offered to prepare one or more additional designs to choose from. She can do a mockup and arrange for their purchase. Cati also has the equipment to produce nametags. The "Sign Man" nametags are available on the club website but cost \$15.50 each plus \$6.70 shipping and more for additional options. Cati will investigate the minimum cost to produce them locally.

BRARC ANTENNA LAUNCHER - WHERE IS IT?

The BRARC Antenna Launcher has not been in the club shack for several months and was not signed out on the sign-out sheet on the bulletin board. If you have it, please contact a club officer to return it to the shack. We need it for Field Day and for other members who have requested to use it.

EXCITING CLUB MEETING CHANGES

Cati Harris announced that starting with the May meeting, all those attending the monthly BRARC meeting in person or online will be entered into a drawing that evening for a gift card to an area business. (If online, be sure your name and/or call appears on Zoom. Hard to tell who wins when it says "iPhone #1" or some such!) As well, starting in May we will have refreshments available starting at 6:30 to encourage socializing!

BRARC Meeting Minutes Continued April 1, 2025

BEARWALLOW MOUNTAIN REPEATER SITE HELP NEEDED

Cati Harris shared that Martin Harris, W4FOT needs assistance if we are to continue having the 146.64 and other repeaters available for the area. You don't have to have technical knowledge, as hands are needed for many projects including cleaning, building maintenance, etc. Technical skills can be taught, as well, if you're interested. If you are tech-inclined, please consider learning about the equipment. How many volunteers do we need? "As many as possible." There is something for everyone to do. We've had excellent help in the past, but Martin won't be able to do it much longer.

We're planning a date for socializing and getting to know the mountaintop, which is quite beautiful. Email Cati at catiballard@gmail.com if you're interested. Workdays will be planned for once per quarter, but if you can only make it once or twice per year, come anyway. There will be more information in the newsletter, and part of next month's meeting presentation will be about the repeater site and its needs. Email questions to Cati.

BRARC NEWSLETTER - THE *ECHO*

The BRARC *Echo* is emailed to all members for whom we have email addresses. If you're not receiving it every month, email Cati, the editor, at catiballard@gmail.com with your current information. If you have an event, notice, items for sale, volunteer need, etc, please reach out to Cati and she will put it in the ECHO.

WNC FLYER

Danny Rector shared that the WNC Flyer will be Sunday, June 1st. It's a bike ride of 100 miles with 5 rest stops, multiple SAG vehicles and net control that we support with communications. It's lots of fun, and Danny will have more information and signups coming up.

APRS - AUTOMATIC PACKET REPORTING SYSTEM

BRARC member Jay Martin, N2NVY will give a presentation on "*APRS - Automatic Packet Reporting System*" at the May 6th BRARC meeting. The club uses it at some events for the net control station to be able to see on a computer screen where the SAG (support) vehicles are, to be able to direct help where needed. Member Bob Felt, W4RYF recently used it on a cruise to Antarctica so friends at home could track his progress. Now in its 25th year, APRS also includes Announcements, Bulletins, Messages, Alerts, Weather, and a map of activity including objects, frequencies, satellites, nets, meetings, Hamfests, etc. Jay is completing a project to be available for our June 1st WNC Flyer support and will share details at the May meeting.

PRESENTATION - UTC

Danny Rector, NA4X gave a presentation on "*UTC - Coordinated Universal Time*". Danny shared an example of last weekend's CQ Worldwide WPX Contest, which was listed as starting at "0000 UTC Saturday" and ending at "2359 UTC Sunday". What does that mean? It's the internationally recognized method of specifying a time that can be used anywhere in the world if you know the "offset". (In this case, the contest runs from 8:00pm Eastern Daylight Time on Friday until 7:59pm Sunday.) "Greenwich Mean Time" got its start in the mid-1800's. At that time, mariners and others used Latitude, signifying the distance in degrees from the equator, but there was no concept of degrees of Longitude, specifying East and West. East and west from where? There were several locations in the world transmitting the time by telegraphy by the 1880's, including the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England. In 1884, a conference chose Greenwich as "the Prime Meridian" at 0° of Longitude, and their time as "Greenwich Mean Time". Longitude goes 180° east and west from there. Because the Earth rotates 360 degrees in 24 hours, each 15 degrees of longitude corresponds to a one-hour time difference. In the 20th century, atomic clocks showed that the earth's rotation speed fluctuates, so GMT was replaced in the 1960's with UTC, "Coordinated Universal Time", now based on about 400 atomic clocks. ("UTC" was adopted internationally as the abbreviation as a compromise between the name as spelled in various languages. "Zulu" or "Z" is the same as UTC, and is used in aviation and by the military, as well as on many ham QSL cards!) For ham operators, UTC is important for contesting, Parks on the Air, and all awards programs, among others. It gives a way to easily confirm a contact between two different time zones if both report the contact in UTC. Also, as there is no Daylight Savings Time with UTC, the UTC clock never changes. Just be sure to know that the offset in hours from local time to UTC changes if your time zone uses DST.



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?

Upcoming Ham Fests:

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

SHELBY HAMFEST

When: 08/29/2025 thru 08/30/2025

Location: Cleveland County Fair Grounds - 1751 E Marion St, Shelby, NC 28152

Website: <https://shelbyhamfest.com>

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.880 (-), 67.0 Hz Tone Repeater

Contact: (980) 295-5151 or chairman@shelbyhamfest.org

Email: chairman@shelbyhamfest.org

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

AARL FIELD DAY 2025

When: June 28-29 2025

BRARC Location: Jackson Park

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

WNC FLYER

When: June 1, 2025

Where: Brevard, NC

What: To provide communications for the race organizers and participants

Contact to Volunteer: Danny Rector (NA4X) - 828-329-8863, Email: rectordl@bellsouth.net



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

Bearwallow Mountain - Maintenance Volunteers: We are currently looking for a group of volunteers to assist with maintain the Bearwallow Mtn Equipment. Martin Harris will continue to maintain but will require assistance to do so. Please email catiballard@gmail.com with any questions or to express your interest in volunteering. We will be providing a calendar of planned quarterly workdays soon. Stay tuned to "The Echo" and your email for more information.

INFORMATION:

Team 3Y0K - Bouvet 2026 reached out to the club to provide information regarding their upcoming trip to Bouvet Island on an DX expedition trip. Any club member wishing to make a donation to their trip, independently, may do so by visiting their website: www.3YOK.COM. Please note: This is for information only and does not reflect any support in favor or against by BRARC.



UPCOMING BRARC EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

May 2025: N2NVY (Jay) APRS

June 2025: KK4JFO (James) Field Day prep, Cati Harris/Martin Harris - Bearwallow Mtn

October 2025: N2NVY (Jay) Scouts Jamboree and Youth involvement

October 18th Scouts Jamboree - shack open 10:00-2:00 to receive Scout contacts

November 2025 - NA4X (Danny) discuss Christmas Parade,

December 2025: Club Family Dinner Golden Corral.

Pending Education Presentation: Michael Chapman (W8PCS) - Pisgah Forest Safety communications for hikers and horseback riders

If you have a request for an educational topic or would like to present a topic, please email: Cati Harris (KQ4GKF) at catiballard@gmail.com



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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

ARRL FIELD DAY**JUNE 28-29**

An Insight Into AARRL Field Day! June 28-29

ARRL Field Day 2025: Radio Connects

Mark your calendars for June 28-29, 2025, when the amateur radio community comes alive for ARRL Field Day, the most popular on-the-air event in the U.S. and Canada. Held annually on the fourth full weekend of June, Field Day brings together over 35,000 hams to set up temporary stations in public places, showcasing the science, skill, and service of ham radio. This year's theme, "Radio Connects," highlights how wireless technology bridges distances, fosters relationships, and serves communities, especially in times of crisis.

What is Field Day?

Field Day is a unique blend of picnic, campout, emergency preparedness exercise, informal contest, and, above all, fun! Organized by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), it encourages operators to deploy portable stations in parks, schools, or Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to simulate communication during disasters when traditional infrastructure fails. From tents to trailers, hams operate on emergency power sources like batteries, solar panels, or generators, testing their ability to communicate under less-than-optimal conditions. The event runs from 1800 UTC Saturday to 2059 UTC Sunday, with the goal of contacting as many stations as possible across bands like 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters HF, as well as VHF/UHF bands.

Why Field Day Matters

Field Day is more than a contest—it's a chance to demonstrate ham radio's critical role in emergencies. Hams have a long history of providing communications during disasters, from hurricanes to wildfires, when modern systems falter. By practicing rapid deployment of equipment and operating in challenging environments, operators hone skills that make them invaluable to agencies like FEMA and the Red Cross. It's also an opportunity to engage the public, showcasing technologies like single-sideband voice, Morse code (CW), and digital modes such as FT8, PSK31, and RTTY, often alongside satellite communications. The event inspires the next generation of technical leaders by offering hands-on experience in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Clubs often set up Get On The Air (GOTA) stations, allowing unlicensed visitors and new hams to try operating under the guidance of a mentor, making it a perfect introduction to the hobby.

The competitive side is thrilling, with stations vying to log the most contacts (QSOs). In 2024, the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society scored 19,742 points with 4,650 QSOs, ranking seventh overall out of 4,319 entries, showing the dedication involved. Bonus points are available for activities like sending a formal message to the ARRL Section Manager, handling emergency messages, and engaging youth operators.

Why Participate?

Field Day is a celebration of what makes ham radio special: connecting people, solving technical challenges, and serving the community. Whether you're a seasoned operator chasing 10,000 QSOs or a newcomer making your first contact, it's a chance to learn, have fun, and share your passion.

For more details, contact James Reed (KK4JFO), President, Email: jshreed@bellsouth.net, Phone: 828-698-3609



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