

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 APRIL 2025

APRIL 1, 2025 - APRIL 30, 2025

Treasurers Report is Unavailable this Month due to Treasurer - Paul Nice (KQ4ALD) having surgery

Next Update will be the May 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



Don Dessenberger - KF4YFM has multiple items for sale. Items include:

- Uniden Bearcat BC 560XLT 16 Channel Mobile/Base Scanner
- Anytone AT-778UV Dual Band Transceiver Mobile Radio VHF/UHF Ham Radio for Vehicle Car Radio
- Alinco DR-130T VHF FM DX/RX Transceiver w/ Microphone & Bracket S/N T008483
- Dell 1210S DLP Projector 2500 Lumens Conference Room 1080p HDMI Adapter w/ bundle
- Quality Replacement Projector Lamp for Dell 1210S
- PROROK New Remote Control IR2804 fit for Dell Projector 1210S
- Signal Generator, TSG-17 110V Radio Frequency Signal Generator 100kHz - 150MHZ High Frequency RF/AM Radio Frequency with Power Cord for Commercial Household.

For more information or to purchase, please contact Don Dessenberger, KF4YFM, Email: harleyfan@aol.com Phone: 828-696-6309



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MAY 2025

Due Things beyond by control, we will not be having a member spotlight this month. We will continue the member spotlight in next month's ECHO. Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to next months member spotlight!

Ham Radio Word Search:

Find the hidden ham radio terms in the grid below. Words can appear horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in any direction.

Word List:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Transceiver | 8. Call Sign |
| 2. Antenna | 9. DXing |
| 3. Repeater | 10. Modulation |
| 4. Morse | 11. Frequency |
| 5. QSO | 12. Hamfest |
| 6. Ionosphere | 13. Emergency |
| 7. Bandwidth | 14. Grid Square |

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K X L M P O D U L A T I O N E
T U L M Q G C T I E A V S P Z
X A O I N T L B W H D M Y K E
Q S O J H R I N S E K O A F R
I D R P L D O P N O S P H E R
Y N H O R A N S C E I V E R M
Z C G O V W L X T M Q Y A U X
N I A L W T E I S E D T R N Y L
A O F H A M F E S T U J C G V
D E R B A R K M G Q B H F X D
K X L M P O D U L A T I O N E D
  
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BRARC Meeting Minutes May 6, 2025

Meeting Date: May 6, 2025

The May 6th meeting of the *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)* was in person. The online streaming was not able to be conducted due to technology issues. We had a small social time with refreshments beginning at 6:30pm and the meeting started at approximately 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

29 Members attended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Nice provided the April Treasurers Report

SOCIAL TIME - 6:30PM:

BRARC provided light refreshments for meeting attendees beginning at 6:30pm, prior to the meeting start time. This is an opportunity to come early to the meeting and enjoy time chatting with other members, new comers, etc.

GIFT CARD DRAWING:

Cati Harris announced we would be giving away a gift card at each club meeting for those who attend both in person or online. This month's gift card was a \$25 gift card for gas. Cati advised she would enter all names from the meeting sign in sheet and those attending online and would enter them into an online drawing randomizer to select the winner. This was completed and the winner was announced via email. The winner for the May Meeting was JP Sullivan W4PAZ

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

James Reed, president, advised of the upcoming presentations on Bear Wallow and Field Day. BRARC member advised of an upcoming clinic on emergency preparedness. Cati Harris advised the importance of completing a membership application for new member and renewal to ensure we have accurate contact information. Cati also advised we would not be distributing the membership roster via email due to privacy and security risks. Cati thanked everyone who has volunteered for Bear Wallow Mountain upkeep and advised she would be sending more information via email in the future regarding workdays. Cati reminded the members to send her, via email, items for sale, free, volunteer requests, upcoming events etc. to be published in the Echo.

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.

PRESENTATION - APRS

Jay Martin - N2NVY gave an excellent, informative presentation on APRS - Automatic Packet Reporting System

*This months meeting minutes were compressed due to technology issue. Please accept our apologies for the brief meeting minutes provided in this month's ECHO



****Beware of Email Scams Targeting Our Club Members****

Fellow operators, we need to alert you to a scam making the rounds in our community. Some members have recently received emails that appear to be from our Steering Committee, requesting urgent financial assistance. These messages may ask you to:

- Pay fees for an event with a promise that the club will reimburse you.
- Purchase gift cards on behalf of the ham radio club for giveaways.

The scammers are using real names from our Steering Committee to make the emails look legitimate. However, these requests are fraudulent—our club **NEVER** asks members to pay fees on our behalf or to purchase gift cards in this manner.

How to Protect Yourself

- **Verify First:** If you receive a suspicious request, **DO NOT RESPOND**. Instead, **contact the Steering Committee directly** to confirm its legitimacy.
- **Check the Email Address:** Scammers often use similar-looking email addresses that don't match official club communications.
- **Look for Red Flags:** Urgent tone, unusual requests, and promises of reimbursement are common scam tactics.
- **Report & Delete:** If you receive a scam email, report it and delete it immediately.

Staying vigilant will help protect our club members and prevent fraud. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out! Email: catiballard@gmail.com with any issues or concerns. You may also reach out to any steering committee member.



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

Member Shared Event:

Emergency Preparedness Seminar, hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints

Dates: June 14, 2025, June 28, 2025, July 12, 2025 Time: 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Location: 2005 Brevard Road, Hendersonville, NC 28791

For more information: 828-697-8910



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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.

WNC Flyer Volunteers: Danny Rector - NA4X is seeking volunteers to help with the upcoming WNC Flyer race. The volunteers will help provide communications for the race organizers and participants. Date: June 1, 2025 Location: Brevard, NC. Please reach out to Danny Rector to volunteer: Danny Rector (NA4X) - 828-329-8863, Email: rectordl@bellsouth.net

AARL FIELD DAY 2025:

BRARC needs you to volunteer to help at ARRL Field Day June 28-29 2025, Location: Jackson Park. It's a great way to learn, get on the air, and build lasting friendships! Contact: James Reed (KK4JFO) - 828-698-3609 - jshreed@bellsouth.net



UPCOMING BRARC EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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 ARRL 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



BRARC MEMBER SUBMITTED

OPINION PIECE

Bill Brownlow, K4BJW

I know most of us have used the CHIRP software to program their radios but, this recent posting on www.chirpmyradios.com is sure to raise some ire and a lot of posturing. For the record, I have both Yaesu and ICOM radios along with a plethora of other brands.

The only major amateur radio brand I don't own is Kenwood and that is because none of their offerings interest me currently. All my radios have been programmed with the manufacturer's Customer Programming Software (CPS), software purchased from RT Systems and CHIRP. I make no recommendations as which works better as it is a subjective choice. My choice of software depends on availability and suitability for each situation.

From my reading of this message string, it appears as if the issue is over software and not hardware. I will also state I do agree with the statement that Yaesu programming from the front panel is more complicated than I have experienced from other manufacturers but again, that's my personal observation.

Bill Brownlow, K4BJW

FROM CHIRPMYRADIO:

I have an FT817ND and an FTM7250DR, both of which are listed as supported radios. However, I have seen a number of posts on the internet from Yaesu stating that using Chirp with Yaesu radios may damage them. On the 7250, Chirp uses the clone mode of the radio which, to my mind, is a very safe way to go. I am not sure how it works with the 817. I would like to use Chirp with both but I am, of course, worried by the Yaesu statements. Are these statements still valid? Or have they been invalidated by progress within Chirp? Or were they not valid in the first instance but a reflection of some other issue?

Thanks for any information on this.

Howard, VK4BS

I have an FT817ND and an FTM7250DR, both of which are listed as supported radios. However, I have seen a number of posts on the internet from Yaesu stating that using Chirp with Yaesu radios may damage them. On the 7250, Chirp uses the clone mode of the radio which, to my mind, is a very safe way to go. I am not sure how it works with the 817. I would like to use Chirp with both but I am, of course, worried by the Yaesu statements. Are these statements still valid? Or have they been invalidated by progress within Chirp? Or were they not valid in the first instance but a reflection of some other issue?

Of your options, I'd say not valid in the first place. Yaesu has never reached out to the project to complain (or help), but I've heard the same rumors of passive-aggressive bashing. The 817 has been in use by tons of CHIRP enthusiasts for a very long time, and even provided the first (only?) solution to fix their 60m channel memories when the details needed changing.

That said, I will say that Yaesu radios are the least-robust of really any radio I've ever worked on. Their programming protocols and memory formats are more fragile than \$25 chinese handhelds, with no good excuse for why. They're the only radios that (still) require a silly dance of coordinated button-pushes and software clicks, they don't actually reset their memories when you ask them to (they just mark all the channels as deleted), and they don't do much checking of the content you send them over the wire.

It's totally inexcusable for an expensive computer-programmable device in 2025 to claim that sending something bad over the wire could cause it physical harm, but that's the implication of their claims. I feel like you're probably in good company with other 817 users. The 7250 was a hot mess that is now discontinued, IIRC. There were apparently some silently incompatible firmware version discrepancies floating out there, so your mileage with CHIRP may vary. I can definitely say you'd be better off replacing your Yaesu radios with something better and then you don't have to worry about it :)



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