

# 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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Check out page 9 of *The Echo* for our volunteer opportunities at upcoming community events. We truly appreciate your readiness to help and for delivering the vital communications that make every event safe and successful!



# Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club

## Club Officers



### BRARC CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2025

President: James Reed (KK4JFO)

Vice - President: Bill Gunn (KB2GUN)

Secretary: Cati Harris (W4AOT)

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 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

Ending Balance as of September 30, 2025: \$7135.00

Ending Balance as of October 31, 2025: \$6341.58

# 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! Explore the items below and connect with

# NO ITEMS FOR SALE AT THIS TIME



## New Trends in Ham Radio: What's Changing and What to Watch

As our hobby moves deeper into the digital age, several exciting trends are shaping how we operate, experiment and connect. Whether you're a seasoned operator or newer to the bands, here are a few things worth paying attention to:

### 1. Digital Platforms & Modes Get Smarter

Digital modes keep evolving. More operators are using low-power, weak-signal modes (like WSJT-X) to connect across long distances under tough conditions. ([Cranbrook Radio Club Society](#)) At the same time, open-source digital voice/data projects are gaining traction—giving amateurs more flexibility and innovation than ever before. ([iaru-r1.org](#))

If you haven't tried one of the newer digital modes lately, it's a great time to explore: you may find unexpected contacts and new ways to use your station.

### 2. Software-Defined Radios (SDRs) & Connected Tech

The hardware side isn't standing still. SDRs are becoming more accessible, offering lots of capability in smaller packages. As one user put it:

“SDR ... the ability to combine electronics and software into a small, light, very capable ... unit that only decades before would have required a massive, heavy radio” ([Reddit](#))

Coupled with computers, network links and digital interfaces, SDRs are opening up more station-flexibility, remote control and experimentation.

### 3. New Operator Profiles & Maker/Hacker Spirit

Our hobby is also seeing a refresh in the type of operator getting involved. Many newcomers come from IT, software development, maker/hacker communities, space/engineering backgrounds. ([rrra.org](#)) That's bringing fresh ideas, new tools, and more cross-discipline experimentation (for instance combining ham radio + IoT + telemetry + data links).

### 4. Preparedness, Resilience & Purpose-Driven Use

While the fun-side of ham radio always remains, there's growing recognition of its relevance in emergencies and when conventional comms fail. In a world increasingly dependent on internet/cell systems, ham radio stands out for its independence. ([Ham Radio Prep](#))

For clubs like ours, that means opportunities—not only for fun nets or DXing—but for volunteer/emergency preparedness activities, public service, community outreach.

### 5. What This Means for Our Club & Station Setup

- Consider running a digital-mode special event night (e.g., FT8, JT9, or a new mode) so members can try them out.
- If you have SDR gear or access, experiment with it and maybe demonstrate it at an upcoming meeting.
- Engage younger/maker-type members by hosting a “build-your-own” small digital link or telemetry project.
- Work with local ARES/RACES groups or emergency comms coordinators to think about how our club gear could serve in a comms backup scenario.
- 

### In Summary

The hobby that many of us knew from the 1970s/80s is still alive—but it's also transforming. Whether you're drawn to DX, digital experimentation, emergency service or the social side of nets, there are more ways to plug in than ever. Our club stands to benefit by encouraging exploration, welcoming new operator profiles, and staying open to digital, SDR and resilience-oriented opportunities.

# BRARC CHRISTMAS 2025 PARTY



Please join us for the annual BRARC Christmas Party!

Enjoy food, fellowship, giveaways, games, and a wonderful evening together.

Everyone is welcome!

Date: December 2, 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Golden Corral – Hendersonville

2530 Chimney Rock Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792

**Be Sure To Join In On The Fun!!!**

**There Will Be Awesome Giveaways And Games With Prizes!**



## **\*\*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](mailto: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 volunteer, meet fellow ham radio enthusiasts, participate in forums, and explore exhibits and flea markets. Are you planning to attend any of these events?

## UPCOMING HAMFEST EVENTS – 2026

### NORTH CAROLINA:

#### [Charlotte Hamfest](#)

**Dates:** 03/06/2026 - 03/07/2026

**Location:** Concord, NC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Mecklenburg ARS

**Website:** <http://charlottehamfest.org>

#### [RARSfest, The Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention](#)

**Date:** 04/04/2026

**Location:** Raleigh, NC

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.rarsfest.org>

### TENNESSEE:

#### [MTARS Hamfest - Tullahoma, TN](#)

**Dates:** 03/13/2026 - 03/14/2026

**Location:** Tullahoma, TN T

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society (MTARS)

**Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/mtars>

#### [Greeneville Hamfest](#)

**Date:** 04/18/2026

**Location:** Greeneville, TN

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Andrew Johnson ARC

**Website:** <http://greenevillehamfest.com>

# Volunteer

## Serving Our Community Through Amateur Radio!

One of the most rewarding aspects of amateur radio is the opportunity to give back to our community. This summer, our club members proudly demonstrated the value of amateur radio by supporting several major local events with communication and coordination services.

### HENDERSONVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE

**Date:** December 6, 2025

**Time:** Meet at 1:00pm

**Location:** Hendersonville High School Parking Lot

**Address:** 1 Bearcat Blvd, Hendersonville NC 28791

**Contact:** Danny Rector – [dannyrector67@gmail.com](mailto:dannyrector67@gmail.com)

We welcome **ALL** volunteers—spouses and non-hams included. For details or to sign up, please contact **Danny Rector**. This is one of our largest events of the year, and we truly need all the helping hands we can get.

As a radio club, we provide extensive support before and during the parade. Although the parade begins at 6:00 PM, our team arrives around 1:00 PM to begin staging entries. There are a wide variety of roles available, so there's a place for everyone:

- **Mobile roles:** Volunteers who are comfortable walking are needed to help line up parade entries.
- **Seated roles:** We need volunteers who prefer to sit to guard barricades.
- **Check-in support:** Volunteers are needed to check in entries; minimal mobility is required.
- **End-of-parade assistance:** A few mobile volunteers are needed at the finish area to help clear out entries—this is ideal for those who can only arrive after 6:00 PM.

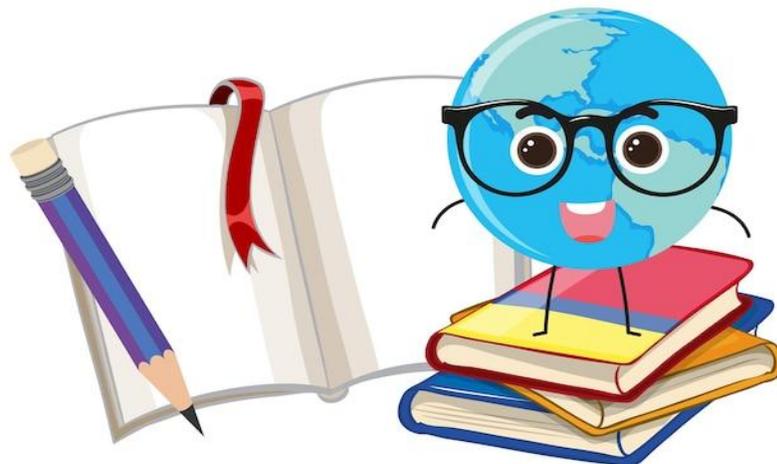
All communication is done using HTs, and we will make sure every volunteer is paired with someone experienced. If you're new, this is a great event to get involved—there's always something to learn, and it's truly a lot of fun to see the floats lit up and the excitement on the kids' faces.

If you or someone in your family—licensed or not—would like to help, we would love to have you join us.



## UPCOMING BRARC EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

We're preparing the BRARC 2026 Education Series, and we'd love your input. If you have topic ideas or suggestions, please email them to [brarc.w4yk@gmail.com](mailto:brarc.w4yk@gmail.com).





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

## Area Ham Radio Nets

<b>FM NETS - 2 METERS</b>		
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
<b>FM NETS - 6 METERS</b>		
6 Meter Net	53.130 MHz/T100 - Hendersonville	Friday 9:00pm
<b>HF NETS</b>		
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
<b>DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO NETS</b>		
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



## **BRARC Member Contact Update**

We're asking all current BRARC members to complete a quick **Google Form** to ensure your contact information is up to date. This helps us keep you informed about club activities, events, and important updates.

 Please complete the form by **January 15, 2026** using the link below (You can click on link and it will take you directly to form):

<https://forms.gle/yx9eM4RY47ZWsTKN7>

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

# Ham Radio Frequency Quick Guide

<b>Band</b>	<b>Frequency Range</b>	<b>Best Use</b>
160 Meters	1.8–2.0 MHz	Night use, long-distance DX in winter
80 Meters	3.5–4.0 MHz	Regional nets, evening ragchews
40 Meters	7.0–7.3 MHz	Day & night, popular state/regional nets
20 Meters	14.0–14.35 MHz	Worldwide DX during the day
15 Meters	21.0–21.45 MHz	Good DX when solar conditions are high
10 Meters	28.0–29.7 MHz	Local + DX during high solar activity
2 Meters	144–148 MHz	Local repeaters, simplex, emergency comms
70 cm	420–450 MHz	Repeaters, satellites, short-range comms

- Always listen before transmitting to avoid interfering with ongoing QSOs.
- Use phonetics (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie...) for clarity when giving call signs.
- Keep transmissions short and to the point, especially on repeaters.
- Log your contacts – it helps track your progress and QSL confirmations.
- Check propagation reports to know which bands are open before operating.
- Practice proper repeater etiquette – identify clearly and avoid doubling.



Here are four excellent resources geared toward helping new **Technician-class hams** get on the air with confidence:

## 1. ARRL "Now You're Talking!" Guide

- The ARRL (American Radio Relay League) is the national association for amateur radio.
- Their *Now You're Talking!* guide and website resources walk new hams through setting up a station, understanding band privileges, and making first QSOs.
-  [ARRL Beginner Resources](#)

---

## 2. Ham Radio Crash Course (HRCC) YouTube Channel

- Hosted by Josh Nass (KI6NAZ), this channel has practical, down-to-earth videos for new operators.
- Topics include “how to use a repeater,” “programming your handheld,” and “ham radio etiquette.”
-  [Ham Radio Crash Course on YouTube](#)

---

## 3. HamStudy.org / QRZ.com Practice & Community

- HamStudy.org (well known for license prep) also offers helpful flashcards and forums for post-licensing learning.
- QRZ.com forums let you ask questions, find local contacts, and learn from experienced operators worldwide.
-  [HamStudy.org](#)
-  [QRZ Forums](#)

---

## 4. Local Club Nets and Repeater Directories

- Nothing beats *on-air experience*. Find your local club’s weekly nets (like BRARC’s) and check into them.
- Use repeater directories like **RepeaterBook** to find nearby repeaters where new hams are welcome.
-  [RepeaterBook](#)

---

 **Pro Tip for Beginners:** Start by listening in, then try a simple introduction during a local net: “*This is [your call sign], monitoring.*” That’s often all it takes to get a friendly response and start learning by doing.



**Dear BRARC Members,**

I would like to offer my sincere apologies for the absence of the October *Echo* and the delay of the current edition. In recent weeks, my family has faced several serious emergencies, including my husband's heart attack and the subsequent passing of both my stepmother and my father.

I truly appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time. I value the importance of *The Echo* as a communication tool for our members and acknowledge the inconvenience caused by the gap in publication.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to moving into the 2026 club year with regular editions of *The Echo*.

Respectfully,

Cati Harris  
W4AOT  
BRARC Secretary



## ARRL - The National Association for Amateur Radio

AARRL WEBSITE: [WWW.AARRL.ORG](http://WWW.AARRL.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](mailto:jshreed@bellsouth.net)

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

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

Secretary: Cati Harris (W4AOT) - 828-595-1332 - [catiballard@gmail.com](mailto:catiballard@gmail.com)