

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: Adam Reed (KM4UKP)

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

We will present the Treasurer's Report at the March club meeting and will resume regular updates in *The Echo* beginning with the March edition.

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



Famous Women Hams You May Not Know About....



Allow Us to Present Miss Kathleen Parkin, Expert Radio Operator at Fifteen Years of Age. She has made her own apparatus.

Gladys Kathleen Parkin (VK2APK)

Licensed in 1931, Gladys Parkin was Australia's first female amateur radio operator. She later supported wartime communications and public service efforts, paving the way for women in technical radio roles.

Joan Fontaine

An Academy Award-winning actress of Hollywood's Golden Age, Joan Fontaine was documented as holding an amateur radio license during the WWII era. Like many licensed amateurs at the time, her training and licensing supported national preparedness and communications readiness. (Call sign records from this period were not always preserved.)



Mae Jemison

The first Black woman in space, Mae Jemison is also a licensed amateur radio operator. Amateur radio plays an important role in space education and outreach, including astronaut-to-student contacts, making her a modern and inspiring example of ham radio's reach.



On the Air: Women in Ham Radio

WOMEN IN AMATEUR RADIO

Women have played an important role in amateur radio since its earliest days, contributing as operators, educators, emergency communicators, and technical innovators. Today, women continue to grow their presence in the hobby, bringing diverse perspectives, skills, and leadership that strengthen amateur radio and the communities we serve.

From public service events and emergency communications to contesting, digital modes, and mentoring new operators, women are actively involved across every aspect of ham radio. Their participation helps ensure the future of the hobby by encouraging inclusivity, fostering learning, and showing that amateur radio is truly for everyone. Our club is proud to support and welcome women operators, and we encourage anyone interested—regardless of background—to explore the many opportunities amateur radio has to offer.

On December 31, 2025, Suzann Swann (K9FMZ) organized a Women of Power brunch held at *A Day in the Country*. The event brought together more than a dozen women amateur radio operators for an afternoon of social connection and discussion focused on increasing the participation of women in ham radio.

From this gathering grew the idea to host a quarterly social event designed for women who are current amateur radio operators, those interested in becoming licensed, or anyone simply seeking community and friendship. These gatherings will be open to all women—whether they are members of Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club, other amateur radio clubs, unlicensed, or not affiliated with a club at all.

If you—or someone you know—would be interested in joining us, please email Cati Harris, W4AOT at catiballard@gmail.com.

In addition to the social aspect, plans include field trips to repeater sites, educational opportunities, mock Field Day activities, and more. Our goal is to encourage, support, and inspire more women to join the airwaves.



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!

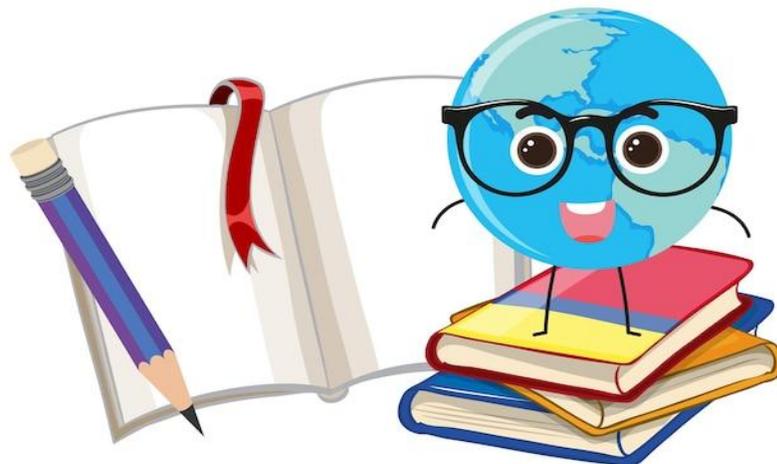
One of the most rewarding aspects of amateur radio is the opportunity to give back to our community. This summer, our club members proudly demonstrated the value of amateur radio by supporting several major local events with communication and coordination services.

At this time we do not have an upcoming event in need of volunteers. Stay tuned to your email and “The Echo” for future volunteer opportunities.



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.





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



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 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

Band	Frequency Range	Best Use
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,

To better align *The Echo* with our meeting schedule and monthly workflow, the publication date will move to the 1st of each month, beginning March 1. This change will allow for more timely production and distribution to our BRARC members.

If you know of anyone who is not currently receiving *The Echo* newsletter, please have them email me at catiballard@gmail.com so I can ensure they are added to the monthly distribution list.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Cati Harris
W4AOT
BRARC Secretary



ARRL - The National Association for Amateur Radio

AARRL WEBSITE: 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

Vice-President: Adam Reed (KM4UKP) - adamreedy@gmail.com

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

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