



The Blue Ridge Echo . . Echo . . Echo . .



Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK
Also, find us on the web at <http://www.radioclub.org>!
Volume 17, Number 10 -- Octobert, 2004

The Prez Sez

Where did summer go? Here we are about to have our November meeting already. Since our meeting is scheduled for the evening of the Presidential Election, it is only fitting that BRARC have one too. As of this writing no one has stepped forward to run for President. I have already stated my intention to step down, and that stands. It is not good for the same person to be the president for more than 2 terms. We all know that, now all we need is someone to step up to the plate! I will continue to work hard for our club, it is an important part of the amateur community in Western North Carolina but it is time for a change of leadership. Give it some thought, won't you. It is not a difficult job with all kinds of folks willing to help out it doesn't take an inordinate amount of time. Finally, don't forget the antenna party at the club on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 10:00 am.

73,
Dick, K4KQJ

Our Next Meeting: November 2, 2004!!
Be there at the Stoney Mountain Activity Center at 7:30!
Dick Smith will present a program on Public Service Communications

"The years teach much that the days never know." -- Emerson

A BIG THANK YOU

to Larry Brady, NC4LB, and the Asheville QuickPrint Team for printing the Echo every month!

In Support of Ham Radio Operators:

The following appeared in the Sept. 3 edition of "Mobile Radio Technology."

Wavelengths

Amateur radio operators shine in crises

By Glenn Bischoff
September 3, 2004

It's common -- almost startlingly so -- to hear about total strangers banding together in times of crisis. For some unclear reason, basic human instincts governing compassion and charity that usually are suppressed by the dog-eat-dog world in which we live are unleashed when disaster strikes, and people who normally wouldn't even acknowledge each other's presence stand shoulder-to-shoulder to help those less fortunate, and often each other.

Such a scenario is playing out in Mobile, Ala., as Hurricane Frances bears down on the state of Florida. As you read this, a cadre of amateur radio operators are providing whatever assistance they can to those affected by the storm.

They are plying their craft at WLO Radio, the nation's sole provider of high-frequency ship-to-shore radiotelephone service, which it has been doing since 1948. WLO makes space available to an amateur radio club known as the Maritime Mobile Service Network (www.mmsn.org), which consists of 68

members who voluntarily monitor the 14.300 kHz band on a rotating basis from noon to 10 p.m. eastern time. The club was formed in 1968 by Navy Chaplain A.W. Robertson to handle phone-patch traffic during the Vietnam War and today still handles third-party traffic for military personnel stationed overseas, according to Rene Stiegler, co-owner of WLO.

When an event such as a major hurricane occurs, the club is "deluged with requests for information," Stiegler said. "It's usually ships at sea that are looking for the latest hurricane advisories and long-range forecasts."

Should one of the volunteers pick up a distress call, he or she connects the call via a phone patch to the U.S. Coast Guard; they also provide location information. "That frequency definitely has become a calling frequency for help, especially for vessels at sea," Stiegler said.

The service provided by the club is especially critical for smaller ships (under 300 gross tons), which are not required to have on board the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Those vessels generally place mayday calls over the 2182 kHz frequency monitored by the Coast Guard, but propagation challenges limit the effective range of those signals to 200 miles, Stiegler said. Ships beyond range of a Coast Guard receiving station then revert to the 14.300 kHz frequency, he added.

Stiegler said the club occasionally receives a distress call from larger commercial ships on that frequency, something he's not sure FCC rules allow. In times of trouble, that becomes a moot question, however.

"If you're out on a boat that's sinking, we're not going to turn you away."

Reprinted with permission.

Dues Increase

The Steering committee has recommended that membership dues be increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per year. The recommendation was made on the strength of increased costs to the club. The increased costs are primarily insurance and the cost of using Blue Ridge Community College for Field Day. However, all other costs associated with running the Club have gone up as well. Refreshments for the monthly meetings are not being covered by the 50-50 drawing each month. Food costs for Field Day and the Club Picnic have also increased.

No one likes to see anything increased, least of all club members. The need is there, so come and express your ideas and vote on this issue at the November meeting.

The increase, if approved, would be effective as of 1/1/2005 and be applicable to new memberships and renewals made on or after that date.

New Rosters

New club rosters will be available at the November meeting. For those who receive the ECHO via email a copy has been included.

**Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
Points Of Contact**

President:

Dick Smith, K4KQJ - 828-687-9531 k4kqj@arrl.net

Vice President:

Gene Mathis, KG4SXE - 828-698-2734

Secretary: Sid Hendricks, KG4NBN - 828-684-8130

Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP - 828-877-5223

peregrine13@citcom.net

Members-At-Large:

Tim Bennison, WB4ABW - 828-693-7561

Bennison3@brinet.com

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Antennas:

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ARRL Emergency Coordinator:

Duke Knief, W4DK - 828-891-4359 w4dk@arrl.net

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Membership: Ronnie Galloway, KF4AYG - 828-891-4135

Public Relations: Robert Lance, K4WOK - 828-685-3393

Trustee: Steve Smith, KC5F - 828-697-6388

kc5f@arrl.net

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Club Information

Dues: Annual dues shall be set by the membership, and can be changed by a majority vote of a quorum. The dues will cover the period from January through December. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member shall be one-half the applicable rate. Dues for full-time students of an accredited school will be one-half the regular rate as long as the student status is maintained. New members joining between July and December will pay one-half the applicable rate for membership through the end of the year. This years' dues are \$15.00 per person; \$7.50 per additional family member. **Please send your renewals to:**

Lil Clark, 301 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712

Meetings: We meet at the Stoney Mountain Activity Center at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

\$

Financial Statement for October, 2004 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 9/30/04 - \$ 568.36

Plus: Deposit (10/6/04) - 18.79

Balance as of 10/24/04 - \$ 587.15

\$

A message from the Echo editor..... Articles and submissions for the Echo should be sent in, phoned in, or 'otherwise' by Monday, a week before the Tuesday meeting. This year's deadline dates should be as follows:

7/26 8/30 9/27 10/25 11/29 12/20

If you have something to add to **YOUR** newsletter, send it to: Dick Smith, K4KQJ, c/o P.O. Box 831, Horshoe, NC 28742

Call me at: (828) 687-9531 E-mail me at: <k4kqj@arrl.net>

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Elmers: We have many "elmers"! An elmer is a knowledgeable amateur radio operator who is willing to help new hams and "students" with questions or procedures and help them to understand more about the hobby.

Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be to further exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to promote and conduct Club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community.

Volunteer Examinations: Once per quarter, our volunteer examiners will provide an opportunity for YOU to get your amateur license or upgrade your present status. *NEXT SESSION: November 13.* Call Carol, K4YYR for Details

Classes: We occasionally have classes so YOU can learn how to get your very own amateur radio Technician class license!

Henderson County ARES Net is every Wednesday at 8:30 **PM** on 146.640-.



For Sale Items

Joe Kloiber, W8NBX, has a 55' EZ-Way crank-up tilt-over tower for sale, buyer needs to remove ASAP. Call Joe for details.

Duke, W4DK, says "Anyone interested in a Hustler G7-144 2 Meter vertical? Very good condition, 7db gain, 15' high. AES new price \$169.99 plus shipping. Do a GOOGLE search for complete description and reviews at eHam. Yours for the paltry sum of \$100..... " Contact Duke directly.

BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MEETING MINUTES OF October 6, 2004

The meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club began on time, October 5th, 2004. Our club president, Dick Smith, K4KQJ, was the presiding officer. There was a total of 26 persons in attendance.

As is our normal custom, the meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to our national standard. After the pledge, Dick welcomed those present. We had one guest, Jeff Kelly, K4JAB. After the greeting and pledge, there was a flurry of announcements.

The announcements are as follows:

Nominees are needed for the upcoming club elections in November. At present there are three nominees: Lil Clark, KG4GFP, for club treasurer; Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, for club vice president; and, Sid Hendricks, KG4NBN, as club secretary. As you can see, a nominee for club president is needed. Other nominees will be accepted, if someone wishes to throw their hat in the ring.

There be a vote by the membership in November regarding the raising of dues to \$20.00 per year. At present the dues are \$15.00 per year. This increase is needed to help with rising overhead expenses.

There will be a work day, October 30th, to repair the quad at the club station. All who are able should be on the site at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a testing session for anyone wishing to obtain their amateur license, or to upgrade, at the Mountain Home Fire Department, Saturday, November 13th, at 9:00 a.m.

There will be a ham-fest at the farmer's market in Gastonia, N.C., December 4th, 2004. Hours are 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The annual Christmas dinner will be held December 14th, 2004. PLEASE NOTE: This is the second Tuesday in December. We were not able to schedule at normal time due to conflict. To repeat, December 14th, at 6:00 p.m., at Ryan's in Hendersonville, N.C.

Duke Knief, W4DK, reminded everyone that anyone can check into the A.R.E.S. net on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 p.m. The A.R.E.S. can also use some new members. If interested, please contact Duke.

Lil Clark, KG4GFP, gave the treasurer's report. At the time of this club meeting, the club has \$568.36 in the checking account.

After the announcements, Dick introduced Lee Mager, KN4GC, to the group. Lee presented a slide show, with narration, of the A.R.R.L. headquarters in Newington, Conn. We were able to view the lab for testing equipment, the offices were QST magazine is laid out, and the W1AW station with it's equipment. What made the program interesting was the fact that Lee made the slides as he and the xyl toured the site.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Doug Lee, W9SPC. Meeting then adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.
Sid Hendricks KG4NBN



Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4YK
 c/o Dick Smith, K4KQJ,
 P. O. Box 831
 Horse Shoe, NC 28742



Club Meeting Tuesday
 November 2, 2004



Hendersonville Christmas Parade
 December 4, 2004

Fletcher Christmas Parade
 December 11, 2004



Next club meeting
 December 14 (Note Date)!
 Christmas Party
 Ryan's Hendersonville



Nets and On-The-Air Activities

Net	Freq / PL	Day	Time
BRARC Net	146.640 MHz/ 91.5	Sunday	8:00 PM
BRARC Rag Chew	28350 kHz	Sunday	following 146.640 net
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F	9:00 AM
WCARS Info. Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Monday	8:30 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday	9:00 PM
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday	8:30 PM
<i>Henderson County ARES Net</i>	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	8:30 PM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Transylvania ARC Net	147.135 MHz	Thursday	8:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3942 kHz (SSB)	Saturday	9:00 AM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday	9:00 PM
K4UUQ Morning Net	7225.5 kHz (SSB)	Mon-Sat 7:00 AM	Sunday 8:00 AM
NC Morning Net	3927 kHz (SSB)	Daily	7:45 AM
SATERN Net	14265 kHz	Daily	10:00 AM
Carolinas Slow Net	3695 kHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily	8:00 PM
NC Evening Net	3923 kHz (SSB)	Daily	6:30 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3573 kHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily	7:00 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3923 kHz (SSB)	Daily	7:30 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily	9:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3573 kHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily	10:00 PM

if this information has changed, please contact Dick Smith at 687-9531 or k4kqj@arrl.net!