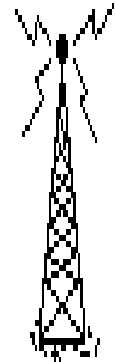


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



***Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
- W4YK -***

Volume 21, Number 9 – September 2008

The Prez Sez — Hello to one and all. Hope this Echo finds everyone doing well. We have several volunteer opportunities coming up for those who would like to get out and practice using our radio skills communicating and coordinating events. We are appreciated and needed when we help keep the information flowing in the parades, walks, bike rides, etc. So stay tuned and volunteer if you are able to do so. We also have the picnic coming up September 6th, so keep an eye out for Echo extras in the near future. With that, I will say 73 for now.

God Bless, Gene (KG4SXE).

MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 5TH, 2008 — The regularly scheduled meeting of August was held the 5th of the month. The club meetings are always held the first Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The place of meeting is the Henderson County Parks and Recreation building on Stoney Mtn. Road. All are invited to the meetings. We had 27 folks in attendance at this month's meeting. Gene Mathis, KG4SXE, club president, was the presiding officer. We also gained one new member, KJ4DLG, Ted Blackwell.

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance, and Gene welcomed all who were present. The floor was given to Duke Knief, W4DK, who announced that we had heard nothing from the folks at Hendersonville concerning the Labor Day Apple Festival Parade. Duke passed a sign-up sheet for those wanting to help with the parade. (We have learned since the meeting that we will NOT be working the parade).

Duke also mentioned power supplies. He encouraged all new hams to decide what type(s) of radio(s) they will be buying for their shack. This way, the right size of power supply can be purchased, and one won't be stuck with several too small supplies. Duke also led a Dutch auction to sell several pieces of the equipment left from the estate of George Ruby, KN4TZ (SK).

There were two other announcements that were made. Gene said that the annual Hunger Walk would be held September 20th in Hendersonville. A sign up sheet was passed, and will be passed again in September.

Michael, AI4GR, announced that the shack would be open on the 16th of August for the North American QSO Party. All who wished to come and work at the shack were encouraged to come on by.

REMEMBER THE CLUB PICNIC SEPTEMBER 6th!!

Ronnie Parham, K2SST, brought forth the Hints and Kinks portion of the program. Ronnie brought his home-brew multi-mode inverted vee antenna to show the group. He also told us about his two week visit to Canada. He had some photos to pass around for folks to look at.

George Korper, K3GK, then brought the main presentation. George had recently been to Germany to meet one of his ham friends that he has known for many years. George and Rolf operated from several places of interest, QRP. One was a beautiful fire tower, and another was an island in the Baltic Sea. Rolf had a portable station that he could set up in about ten minutes. George had many photos to share. In most, windmills were prominent in the countryside. George gave us facts about the huge windmills.

George also had been to China; and, he had some interesting facts and photos to share. The group was not able to see all the presentation as time ran out.

The fifty-fifty drawing was won by Ray Tautic, N1WIE, who was visiting with us. Meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

Our Next Meeting: September 2, 2008
Stoney Mountain Activity Center, 7:30pm

Duke, W4DK — D-STAR

Hints & Kinks: Walt, KO4JN, RF Interference -Love thy neighbor

License Exams — Sid, W4IOE, organized his team of Volunteer Examiners to conduct a test session at the Mountain Home fire department on August 9th. He had sufficient examiners to staff two locations, one upstairs and the other on the ground floor. Two applicants passed the examination, and by now they have their new operating privileges. Participating with Sid were Eric, W4ENC; Michael, AI4GR; Debbie, AD2H; Will, W111; and Tim, K4TZZ.

Shelby Hamfest — The Shelby Hamfest is August 30th and 31st. It will be held this year at a new location, the Gaston County park in Dallas, North Carolina. It's the largest hamfest around, with major vendors and interesting forums. There also will be testing for amateur licenses. < www.shelbyhamfest.org >

BRARC Enters the North American QSO Party — For the first time, the BRARC competed in the annual North American QSO party. The contest ran from 2:00pm on Saturday August 16th until 2am Sunday, and we operated for most of that period, using the ICOM-718 transceiver at the shack and N3FJP logging software. Only single-sideband is used in this event and output power of all participants is limited to 100W, so with our two fine antennas we felt competitive. We entered the multi-operator category using the club call, W4YK.

We had four operators, each taking a turn at the rig while another did the logging. The exchange is simple: operator's name and North Carolina. The bands were in good condition. At times it seemed that few stations were out there, but suddenly propagation improved, things came alive, and we made contacts faster than they could be logged. The new laptop showed its worth. We made 177 contacts, and had 78 multipliers of which 5 were on 15m, and 21 on 80m. The workhorse bands were 20m and 40m, each of which afforded us 26 multipliers. We reached states as near as North Carolina and as distant as Alaska for a claimed score of 13,806 points.

So what's next? ---The November Sweepstakes, of course, Reserve space on your calendar for November 17th and 18th for a busy 24 hours at the shack.

Contesting for the club were Michael, AI4GR; Danny, AJ4HZ; Rusty, KG4JGQ; and Tom, KI4TGZ.



**Danny, AJ4HZ, Makes Contact
While Tom, KI4TZG, Logs**



**Rusty, KG4JGQ, Takes a Turn at
the Microphone**

From our ARRL Section Manager, Tim Slay — All of us have plenty to keep us occupied without having to attend a club meeting every month. That's why it's so important to make club meeting programs as interesting as possible. ... Many members have an area of interest or specialty they would be happy to discuss at a meeting. Also consider non-ham topics that might interest spouses and other non-ham family members. Invite a guest speaker from your served agencies to talk about activities in their area (Red Cross, Salvation Army, Emergency Management, elected officials, etc.). Have a "Mobile Hamming" night where members show off their mobile installations. Ask members to discuss recent ham radio projects or give a video tour of their ham shacks. Ask a member to share pictures and stories from their latest trip overseas. Invite section ARRL officials (including me!) to present a program. Have someone from your local power company discuss RFI. Bring in an ARRL volunteer counsel to discuss legal issues or an ARRL technical specialist or volunteer engineer to discuss grounding and lightning protection.

Mark Your Calendar —

August 30-31 – **Shelby Hamfest (at Dallas, NC)**

September 6 – Club Picnic, Holmes Forest

September 20 – Hunger Coalition Walk

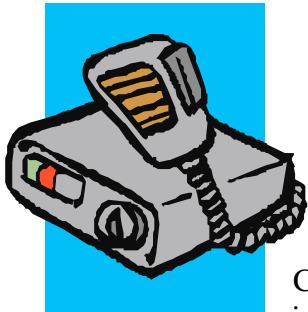
September 26-27 – Ten-Tec Hamfest

September 27 – SEDCO Conference

October 12 – DuPont Marathon

October 18 – Tour de Leaves YMCA bike ride

Please notify the editor if these dates change, or as new events arise.



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ At the August meeting George, K3GK, mentioned an activity called Summits-On-The-Air, SOTA. For information see < www.SOTA.org.uk >. This program is so new that none of our nearby mountains is yet included, but there are many distant summits that can be contacted.

Check out pages 82 and 85 of the August QST and you will find Duke, W4DK, listed in the stratospheric upper reaches of the DXCC Honor Roll. He is only one entity short of a clean sweep –wonder what he's missing? There may be others of the club listed; I just couldn't spot their calls. If you are listed, please let us know.

Results of the phone portion of the International DX Contest are out. AI4GR placed 22nd in Roanoke Division and 5th in NC as a Single OP, Low Pwr. Did anyone else send in a log?

Ten-Tec is hosting its annual hamfest at its offices in Sevierville. It starts Friday, September 26th at 2pm and continues Saturday at 9am. Saturday afternoon the SouthEastern DX & Contesting Organization (SEDCO) has its annual conference at the Mainstay Hotel in nearby Pigeon Forge. Tickets for the SEDCO event and dinner are on sale at Ten-Tec. For info < [//sedco.homestead.com/](http://sedco.homestead.com/) > .

———— AI4GR is clear.

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

President:

Gene Mathis, KG4SXE - 828-698-2734
mathis3@brinet.com

Vice President:

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ - 828-698-3231
rectordl@bellsouth.net

Secretary:

Sid Hendricks, W4IOE - 828-684-8130
w4ioe@bellsouth.net

Treasurer:

Lil Clark, KG4GFP - 828-877-5223
peregrine13@citcom.net

Members-At-Large:

Ron Parham, K2SST - 828-890-4802
ronk2sst@bellsouth.net
Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ - 828-891-1526
kg4jgq@arrl.net

Antennas: Walt Wernsing, KO4JN - 828-891-9956
walter134@bellsouth.net

Echo Editor: Michael Parente, AI4GR - 828-891-8970
ai4gr@arrl.net

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

ARRL Emergency Coordinator: George Korper, K3GK -
828-694-3820 k3gk@arrl.net

VE Testing: Sid Hendricks, See above

Membership: - Lil Clark, See above

Public Relations: Dick Smith, See above

Trustee: Steve Smith, KC5F - 828-697-6388
kc5f@arrl.net

Club Information

Address: Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 831, Horse Shoe NC 28742

Dues: Our dues cover the period from January through December. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member are one-half the applicable rate. Dues for full-time students of an accredited school are one-half the regular rate as long as student status is maintained. New members joining between July and December pay one-half the applicable rate for membership through the end of the year. This year's dues are \$20.00 per person; \$10.00 per additional family member.

Please send your renewals to: Lil Clark, 15 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 Report for August 2008 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 7/15/08	\$ 637.25
Plus: Deposits	496.00
Less: Expenses	14.04
Balance as of 8/19/08	\$ 1119.21

\$

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

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.

Volunteer Examinations: Once per quarter, our volunteer examiners provide an opportunity for YOU to get your amateur license or to upgrade your present status. *NEXT SESSION: November 8, 2008.* Contact Sid, W4IOE for details

Classes: We occasionally have classes so you can learn how to get your own amateur radio Technician class license.



A message from the editor..... Articles and submissions for the Echo should be sent by email or phone by the 15th of each month.

If you have something to add to YOUR newsletter, send it to: Michael, AI4GR.

Call me at: 828-891-8970 or E-mail me at:

ai4gr@arrl.net



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	28.350 MHz	Sunday	following 146.640 net
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
440 Rag Chew	442.225 MHz/107.2	Monday	8:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 6m Net	53.630 MHz/100	Friday	8:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3.740 MHz (SSB)	Saturday	8:45 AM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:30 PM
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F	9:00 AM
WCARS Info. Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Monday	9:00 PM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday	9:00 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily	9:00 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday	8:00 PM
NC Morning Net	3.926 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:45 AM
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily	10:00 AM
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily	6:30 PM
Carolinas Slow Net	3.695 MHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily	8:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3.573 MHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily	10:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3.573 MHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily	7:00 PM

If this information has changed, please contact Michael Parente at ai4gr@arrl.net.



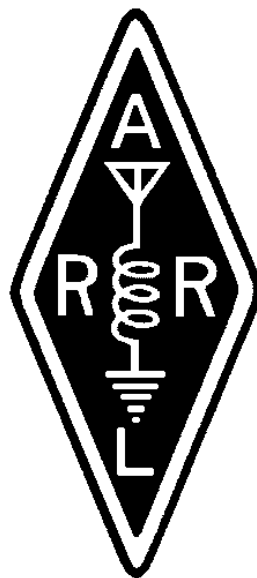
Club Meeting Tuesday
September 2nd, 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting
October 7, 2008 7:30 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Henderson County ARES
Training Session
Fourth Monday of month
Etowah Lions Club, 7pm



— Find us on the web at <http://www.radioclub.org> —