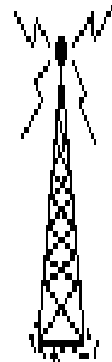


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



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

Volume 22, Number 8 – August 2009

The Prez Sez — I just want to again thank everyone for their participation in the many different events that we have been in this summer. I look forward to seeing each of you at the next meeting where Dan Henderson from the ARRL will give us some insight on what goes on inside the ARRL. Be sure to come with your questions.

The next event is the annual picnic which will be on August 22nd this year. There is more information about this in the ECHO. After that we have what I think will be a very exciting event September 11th through the 20th. We, along with WCARS, will have a booth at this year's WNC State Fair. At our next meeting I will be looking for some volunteers who will join with others in a committee to help organize this endeavor. Rusty has worked very hard to get all of the details taken care of with the fair officials. Now it is up to us to present a professional-looking booth. This will be a great opportunity to share a taste of amateur radio with Western North Carolina.

73 and see you at the meeting,

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ

MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7TH, 2009 — The meeting of July 7th, came to order at 7:00 p.m., with Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, club president, presiding. There were 18 in attendance for the meeting, counting two visitors. We were pleased to have Dan and Rick with us.

The minutes were approved as recorded in the ECHO, and Lil Clark, KG4GFP, club treasurer gave the treasurer's report. We had \$2293.00 in the treasury, with \$1000.00 of the sum total being raffle proceeds. Bill, KD4RRY, made the motion to accept the treasurer's report with Bruce, KI4RBK, making the second to the motion. The vote was taken, and the report was approved.

Bruce Rogers, KI4RBK, presented to the club a donation for \$200.00 from the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club. The club is most appreciative of the donation, and Bruce was asked to convey our thanks to the club.

Those present then took a few minutes to recap field day. The scope of the discussion ran from the effectiveness of the antennas used, the new band pass filters, and the number of contacts. Michael was able to give us some raw data from field day, and it appears that we did pretty well. Of course.....we owe a big "thank you" to the cw ops. We wish to thank all who participated, and if I heard correctly, we had more members that took part this year than last year.

Danny took a few moments to show us an 80-meter helical vertical that he had home-brewed. It is a neat looking antenna. Danny was having some trouble getting it to resonate in band, and asked for some help after the meeting. When I departed for home after the meeting, several members were giving pointers in the front parking area. I'm hoping Danny will let us know what the outcome was.

The program was given by Duke Knief, W4DK. Duke brought his equipment, set it up, and presented a demonstration of how Winlink works. Winlink is a method of messaging that uses an e-mail type setup to handle messages by HF radio. This mode of communication can be used worldwide. It is especially suited for emergency situations, as Duke demonstrated to us. Duke also related how it had been used in the Katrina disaster in New Orleans, and the Gulf Coast. Several had questions for Duke during and after the presentation, which he handled aptly.

Since our last meeting, we have had two silent keys from the area: Riley Cumberland, AF4SQ; and Bob Williams, KG4KHH.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Sid Hendricks, W4IOE.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE



Danny and 80m Antenna

Our Next Meeting: August 4, 2009

7:00 pm – Dan Henderson, N1ND, What's Happening in Amateur Radio?

[Editor's note: At the ARRL, Dan handles regulatory information, Field Day, and lots more. He is a fun and informative speaker, and a local ham. Don't miss this one.]



OUR Field Day 2009 Sets Records — The rigs are back in the shack. The tents are stowed. Thank you Will, WI1L, and Debbie, AD2H, for use of your generators, tents, tables,everything, THANKS! And also thank you, Tornado Tree Trimming, 828-243-0510 for the much-appreciated donation of drinks.

This year we used 4 rigs (plus 1 VHF station) for the first time, so our scores may have benefited a bit compared to previous efforts with two or three rigs. Overall, we made 1,016 contacts, 67% of which were CW, and 3% digital. (Cameron made

contact # 1,001, one of our several youth contacts) Looking back over the past 5 years, the next highest number of QSOs was 977 in 2007.

Our score was 3,456. This noses out our previous 5-year record of 3,438 set in 2006. Best of all, we set a record for attendance – 55 participants. And the weather was fine!



Setting up the Rigs



Visitors Sign In

Room for improvement? You bet! At the July meeting members made several suggestions:

- The site cannot fit 4 horizontal antennas
- Try a vertical antenna or a beam on a mast

- Bring more chairs
- More soap for the portable john
- Snacks other than potato chips
- Add bandpass filters for 15m
- Give training on the contest software
- Explain the settings on older rigs



Times-News Interview



Hands-on Logging Instruction

Shelby Hamfest — We have been informed of the following by organizers of the Shelby Hamfest:

This year our club, in an effort to save money on postage, has decided not to mail brochures. Tickets can now be purchased via paypal through our website at <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>

We are giving away 14 radios this year and you do not have to be present to win.

Come to our Picnic — The club's annual picnic will be on Saturday, August 22nd. As usual, it will be held in the covered shelter at Holmes State Forest starting about 11:00am. We'll provide hot dogs and soft drinks, so bring a salad or dessert. Also bring your family and friends.



ARES Notes

The Wednesday ARES training net starts at 8:30PM.

A NC Emergency Management simulated earthquake exercise was held on June 23-24. The scenario was that all landline and cellular telephone systems were interrupted. Communications between EOCs and the Red Cross offices occurred via Amateur Radio. By all accounts, the exercise was a great success. State and local emergency management agencies were impressed with our capability. Henderson County ARES provided close radio support for mobile and fixed units of the Henderson County Red Cross.

Will, WI1L
Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County



ITEMS FOR SALE

- 1) Radio Shack PRO-96 hand-held trunk track/P25 scanner for sale. (see specs at <http://wiki.radioreference.com/index.php/Pro-96>) - \$225, obo
 - 2) RIGblaster sound card interface (w/RJ45 mic plug) - \$75, obo
- Bob, KB5YZG, 696-4103.

Rohn 45G Tower – 60' of tower, 3' base, 7' top
Grant, 865-288-3073 or 828-712-1844 or Rick, 828-551-7172

If you have items for sale, or need something, notify the editor.

Mark Your Calendar —

July 25	– WCARS Hamfest
August 22	– BRARC Picnic
September 5-6	– Shelby Hamfest
September 11-20	– WNC State Fair

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

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

President:

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Treasurer:

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VE Testing: Sid Hendricks, See above

Membership: - Lil Clark, See above

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Trustee: Steve Smith, KC5F - 828-697-6388
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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 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

\$

Financial Report for July 2009 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 6/30/09 \$ 2113.67

Plus: Deposits 215.00

Less: Expenses 207.76

Balance as of 7/19/09 \$ 2120.91*

*includes \$1000.00 raffle money

\$

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: August 8, 2009.** 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 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
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	8:30 PM
440 Rag Chew	442.225 MHz/107.2	Monday	9:00 PM
Red Cross Communicators	146.640 MHz/91.5	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 6m Net	53.630 MHz/100	Friday	9:00 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	3.571 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 at ai4gr@arrl.net.



Club Meeting Tuesday
 August 4th, 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting
 September 1, 2009 7:00 pm
 Stoney Mountain Activity Center



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

