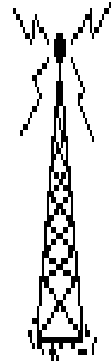


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# The Blue Ridge Echo . . Echo Echo



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

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Volume 23, Number 4 - April 2010

## **- DUES FOR 2010 ARE DUE -**

**The Prez Sez** — Since we have not been able to meet in forever I wanted to let you know of some upcoming events to put on your calendar. April 10 is the DuPont ½ Marathon which is headed up by Duke and ARES. Next will be the MS Walk April 17<sup>th</sup> in Hendersonville. May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Biltmore Endurance Ride will take place. June 26 and 27 we have Field Day. I have already signed the papers to use Fletcher Park on this date. If we decide to come up with a different location we can always cancel. July 4<sup>th</sup> which is a Sunday, we have the Hendersonville July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade at 4:00. Finally, September 18<sup>th</sup> Sid has made reservations at Holmes State Park for our summer picnic.

These are the events that I have been contacted about. If you have anything else to add please let me know. I do not know about any bike rides and quite frankly our calendar is getting full, but we will try to help where possible. Also, I assume we will be asked to help with the Apple Festival Parade but I have not been approached about it yet. We also have to make a decision about whether or not we will be involved in the Fair again this year. Now we throw in a few hamfests and I just feel worn out. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on April 6.

This winter weather has been very uncooperative when it comes to meetings. It has been a disappointment to have to cancel, but in the interest of safety it has been necessary.

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ

*Our Next Meeting: April 6, 2010*

*7:00 pm – Rusty, kg4jgq –RTTY*

**Minutes/Musings** — We have no official minutes, as we have been snowed out of the meetings the last two months. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that we can meet in April. I hope all of you have been well during this time of winter weather.

The V.E. session that was scheduled for the second Saturday of February was snowed out also. We will have the next test session as scheduled for May 8th, 9:00 a.m., at the Mountain Home Fire Department.

Danny will be filling in the dates on the upcoming activities: the M.S. Walk, the Dupont Half Marathon on April 10, the Biltmore Endurance Ride, Field Day, and the parades we normally help. Any club member who is not in A.R.E.S., and wishes to help in the Dupont event, should contact Duke Knief: [w4dk@arrl.net](mailto:w4dk@arrl.net).

Please remember the Sunday evening net at 8:00 p.m. each week. The Red Cross communicator's net comes on at 9:00 p.m. after the Blue Ridge net, so that inspires us to keep the net moving.

The club participated in a couple of contests since we last met, and I am sure Michael will be bringing us up to date at the next meeting.

That is about it from my shack to yours. I hope to see all of you at the next meeting!

Sid Hendricks W4IOE

**Team BRARC Sets Club Record** — Six of us gathered at the shack on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> to compete in the annual North Carolina QSO party. In an effort to improve our score, we used both phone and CW this year. Phone contacts count 2 points each, while CW contacts count 3 points. This strategy worked out fine; we tallied our highest score ever.

Several club members answered the call for contacts from their home stations. These helped our score quite a bit. We made 85 CW contacts and 140 phone. We reached 67 NC counties and states, giving us 67 multipliers. The final score was 37,520 points; a record high for our club. We will not know how our score ranks across the state until all scores are published. However, one western NC club, operating solely in the SSB mode, claims to have reached a score of more than 44K points.



Hal, KI4RD; Steve, KJ4CRQ, Make QSOs

Year	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Score	3,038	6,415	28,283	17,555	37,520
Multipliers	13	35	68		67

Participating for the club were:

Steve, KJ4CRQ	Michael, AI4GR	Debbie, AD2H
Danny, AJ4HZ	Rusty, KG4JGQ	Hal, KI4RD

**Three Score Well in VHF Contest** — Three members of BRARC submitted scores in the September VHF QSO Party. Bob, KB5YZG, entered as Single Op Low Power, and made 65 contacts on 2m and 70cm from a 6,020 ft. overlook along the Blue Ridge Parkway. His antenna on 2m was an 11-element Yagi; on 70cm, a 7-element Yagi. He scored 2,352, placing him 6<sup>th</sup> in that category for the state of North Carolina.

Kathleen, AJ4FV, and Michael, AI4GR, again formed a Limited Rover team and roved along the Blue Ridge from Black Balsam to Roan Mountain. As Limited Rovers they could work the four lowest VHF bands: 6m, 2m, 1.25m, and 70 cm. They used home-brew quads on all bands except 6m, which had a dipole. Their 87 QSOs gave them a score of 3,838, placing them **first** in the Roanoke Division (NC, SC, VA, WV).

Here are some Operator Notes from Bob:

(1) The parkway elevations give considerable advantage for DX line of sight VHF/UHF contesting. The parkway is an hour and half from Hendersonville.

(2) Get up early to get there for sunrise. You will also want to take advantage of the early morning DX propagation due refractive layering in the atmosphere because of overnight cooling and inversions,

(3) and the fact that the band is quieter then, low QRN.

(4) And "the big guns" (powerful and well organized stations) are also operating at sunrise for all the same reasons.



**Bob's Set-up**

(5) The number of log entries per hour begins to fall off after 9AM because the bands get noisy with QRN. But then around noon (Sunday) the log hits begin to pickup again with the hams who just got out of church, but for the most part these contacts are local, less than 200 miles. In the afternoon there is also the rare rover who has repositioned himself from a morning QSL.

(6) Monitor your car battery very closely –for obvious reasons. I use a digital inline "Power Analyzer" by Medusa. When the battery starts to drain, I will start the engine. A couple of volts make a big, big difference in your transmitter power out. My Icom 910 draws about 11-12 AMPS!! And because you will eventually be running the engine from time to time, be sure from

the start to place your operating position (radio, table, chair) upwind of the exhaust pipes.

(7) For the most part the park rangers are pretty permissive; do keep a low profile in the parking lot as much as I can. I use a trailer hitch mount for the antenna. The park rangers don't like a big footprint and don't like you driving anything into the ground except tent pegs, and then only in designated camping areas. (Note the trailer hitch mast mounting was welded/built Bob Delwiche, thank you Bob)



**Bob,KB5YZG, On Parkway**

## Mark Your Calendar —

10 April	– DuPont Marathon
17 April	– MS Walk
2 May	– Biltmore Ride
26 – 27 June	– Field Day
4 July	– Hendersonville Parade
18 September	– Picnic

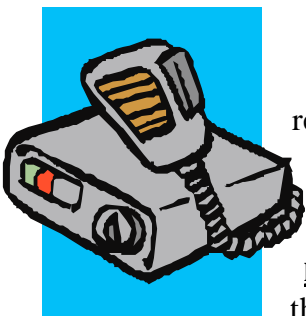
Please notify the editor if dates change, or as new events arise.

## ITEMS FOR SALE

ICOM IC-02AT 2m handheld, mint condition. \$75.00  
Walt, KO4JN < [walter134@morrisbb.net](mailto:walter134@morrisbb.net) >

- 1) **Yaesu FT 900 Transceiver and FP 800 Power supply \$450.00**
  - 2) **Ameriton AL 80B Amplifier \$800.00**
  - 3) **Kenwood MC 60 Microphone \$75.00**
  - 4) **MFJ 1621 Antenna System 40/10 mtrs \$40.00**
  - 5) **Daiwa CN 720B SWR meter \$75.00**
- Contact **Danny**, [rectord@bellsouth.net](mailto:rectord@bellsouth.net)

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



# PTT ■■■■■■■■

Long-time BRARC member Bob Delwiche, KD4OKT, is resting at home as he recovers from surgery. We hope your recovery is speedy.

Don, K4PDW, has a new emcomm chat for anyone in the red CROSS, ARES, RACES or any emergency service organization. The address for the emcomm chat is <http://webchat.freenode.net/?channels=emcomm>. Just put your call-sign or your organization in the nickname box and hit enter.

ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, notes that many a contest superstation's secret weapon for domestic contests is a 40 meter dipole up between 25-30 feet. -- you can get close-in contacts during daylight and rake in the distant Sections when the band goes long in the evening hours. (ARRL Newsletter 10/29/09)

———— AI4GR is clear.

**– DUES FOR 2010 ARE DUE –**

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club  
Points Of Contact

\$

President:  
Danny Rector, AJ4HZ - 828-698-3231  
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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  
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Club Information

**Address:** Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 831, Horse Shoe NC 28742  
**Website:** <http://www.radioclub.org/>

**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: March 2010 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 2/28/10	\$ 1920.52
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	0.00
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	<u>83.40</u>
<b>Balance as of 3/15/10</b>	<b>\$ 1827.12</b>

\$

**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 to get your amateur license or to upgrade your present status.  
**NEXT SESSION: May 8, 2010**

Contact Sid, W4IOE, for details.

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

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*A message from the editor..... Articles and submissions for the Echo should be sent by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

If you have something to add to our newsletter, send it to: Michael, AI4GR.  
Call me at: 828-891-8970 or E-mail me at:  
[ai4gr@arrl.net](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net)

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## Nets and On-The-Air Activities

Net	Freq / PL	Day	Time
<i>BRARC Net</i>	146.640 MHz/ 91.5	Sunday	8:00 PM
<i>Henderson County ARES Net</i>	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	8:30 PM
440 Rag Chew	442.225 MHz/107.2	Monday	8:00 PM
Red Cross Communicators	146.640 MHz/91.5	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 6m Net	53.630 MHz/100	Friday	8:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3.625 MHz (SSB)	Saturday	8:45 AM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 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
Rutherford County ARES Net	147.240 MHz/ 94.8	Wednesday	8:00 PM
Tarheel Emergency Net	1.943 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:30 PM
NC Morning Net	3.926 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:45 AM
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](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net).



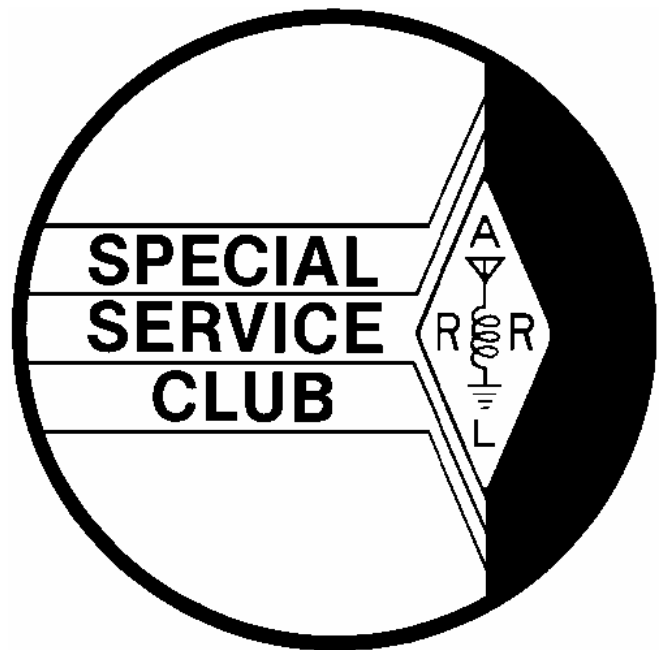
Club Meeting Tuesday  
April 6th, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
May 4th, 7:00 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> > –