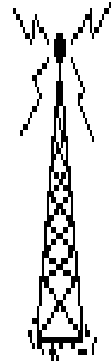


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# The Blue Ridge Echo . . . Echo . Echo .

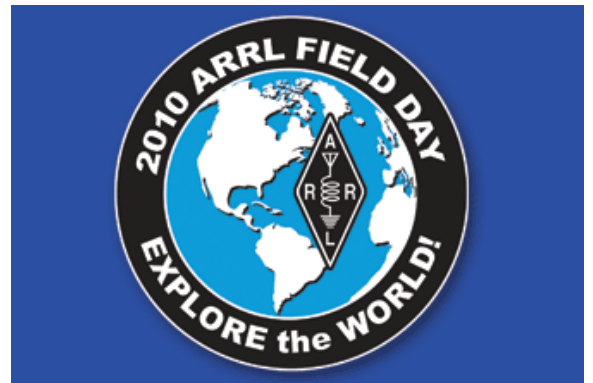


*Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club -  
W4YK -*

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Volume 23, Number 7 - July 2010

**The Prez Sez** — It's Field Day time again! This is my favorite event of the year. It is a time to show off our hobby to the surrounding community. It is a time to learn about new setups with radios, networks and antennas. It is a time to eat! It is a time to learn to deal with the afternoon storm that shows up without fail. It is a time to sit around and shoot the bull with old friends. It is a time to attempt to use the repeater in the sky. It is a time to have a little fun competition with other clubs and with our own past records. It is a time to introduce ham radio to young visitors that come by. It is a time to introduce some of our capabilities to community leaders that come by. It is just a great time and I hope to see every one of you there along with at least two visitors.



Field Day is June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Bring some covered dishes to the meal at 5:00 on Saturday. Also bring a chair. We will start setup at 8:00 AM. We also will need help Sunday afternoon tearing things down around 2:00.

Don't forget the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. We need help starting around 2:00 PM on July 4<sup>th</sup>. This should be a fairly short parade, but we have a good reputation that we need to uphold. There will not be a club meeting before the parade other than Field Day, so be sure to let us know if you can help.

73,  
Danny Rector

*Our Next Meeting: July 6, 2010*

*7:00 pm – Michael, AI4GR: Predicting Antenna Performance*

**MEETING MINUTES OF June 1st, 2010** — The June meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Club came to order at 7:00 p.m., the evening of June 1st. Danny Rector, AJ4HZ, club president, was the presiding officer. We had an attendance of 21, including three visitors. Our three visitors were Doug DeJong, W6DDJ; Mitch Ensley, W4UGC; and, Bill Prather, KC4KMG. We wish each one a hearty welcome!

Rick Matthews with the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club made a special appearance to appeal for operators for the annual Fletcher Flyer Event. Rick gave us an overview of the event, and showed a map of the ride route. A sign-sheet was passed to recruit operators.

The minutes were accepted as was printed in THE ECHO, and the treasurer reported the amount in the treasury was \$1536.80. This report was also accepted as read by those present.

Danny announced that a Ringo Ranger 2-meter antenna had been donated from the estate of Joe Kloiber, W8NBX (SK), to the club. We wish to express our thanks to Joe's family.

Remember our upcoming events: The Fourth of July parade will be held on Sunday afternoon in Hendersonville, N.C. Operators are needed! Contact Jonathon Williams, KF4NVX, or Duke Knief, W4DK, to get on the list. The club picnic will be on September 18th at Holmes State Forest.

Our main focus discussion was about field day which will be held on June 26th and 27th at the Fletcher Recreation Park. This park is just off Howard Gap Road in Fletcher. All areas of the field day event were covered. We plan to be a 3A station, and we will have several types of antennas up for use. The field day supper will be at 5:00 p.m. Saturday the 26th. Bring sides, please, to go with the BBQ that Ron, KF4HAT, will be preparing. Some of the operators who are helping with the set up will meet at 7:00a.m. at the Fletcher Café (the old Steakhouse) for breakfast. Set up is to begin around 8:00a.m.

**ALL AMATEURS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR FIELD DAY!**

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

**VHF From the Mountains** – Three members of BRARC joined the fun of ARRL's June VHF Party. Bob, KB5YZG, Kathleen, AJ4FV, and Michael, AI4GR, operated from the parkway at about 6,000' elevation. Their experiences differed.



**Michael Roving at Dusk**

Bob operated as a fixed station using 2m and 70cm, while Michael and Kathleen used 6m, 2m, 1.25m, and 70cm as a Rover team. Bob would need 2m E-skip or ducting to score beyond local grids. There were none.

Fortunately for the rovers, propagation on 6m was great. They reached stations as far off as Canada, Mexico, and Turks and Caicos. But the higher frequencies were poor, partly because the other contesters were loathe to switch from 6m for fear of missing new multipliers. At times the pace of 6m activity rivaled that of an HF contest.

**Working with the Fletcher Flyer** — On Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, ten members of the BRARC helped provide communication support for the annual Fletcher Flyer bicycle ride. The ride is sponsored by the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, and drew just short of 850 entries. It covered up to 100 miles, centered at Fletcher Community Park and extending north of Fletcher and south of Etowah.

The temperature reached well into the eighties, so delivery of water to rest stops, and returning cyclists to the park, formed a large part of our support role. Our operators staffed most of the rest stops and SAG support vehicles. Radio communications were via the 146.640MHz, WB4YAO, repeater atop Bearwallow Mountain. Using roof-mounted antennas on the SAG cars, we could reach this repeater from the entire route except for parts of the southern-most loop.

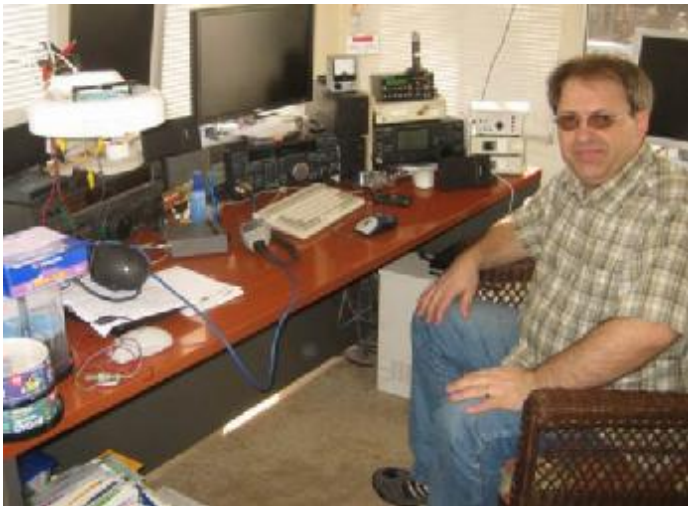
Danny, AJ4HZ, organized our participation. Net Control station was at Fletcher Park. Duke, W4DK, was the control operator from start of event until he was relieved by Danny in the afternoon. The others operated either from SAG vehicles or at rest stops. Participating for the club were:

Duke, W4DK	Steve, KC5F	Michael, AI4GR	Debbie, AD2H
Danny, AJ4HZ	Frank, WN4NC	Jonathon, KF4NVX	Bob, KD4OKT
Dick, W4RSS	Gene, KG4SXE		



**Duke and Danny as Net Control**

**Vlad Scores on 160m** – The results are posted for ARRL’s 160m contest of last December, and Vlad, N3CZ, scored high. It was a CW contest confined to a single band, 160m. It is held in December because the band is fairly free of the annoying static crashes that plague Top Band in summertime.



Vlad made 571 contacts during the contest, giving him a score of 107,640. This placed him 3<sup>rd</sup> among the 43 contestants in the Roanoke Division, and 1<sup>st</sup> in North Carolina. (For comparison, AI4GR came in 33<sup>rd</sup> in NC with a score of 9,064.)

No, Vlad did not accomplish this feat using a 160m rotatable Yagi. He has a simple inverted-L antenna strung between 2 trees, and a couple of above-ground counterpoises. But, as seen in the photo, he feeds this antenna from his well-equipped contest and DX station.



**ARES Notes**

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

Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, has resigned as Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) and Tom Brown, N4TAB, has agreed to serve as his replacement.



## Mark Your Calendar —

26 – 27 June	– Field Day
4 July	– Hendersonville Parade
24 July	– WCARS Hamfest
4-5 September	– Shelby Hamfest
18 September	– BRARC Picnic

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

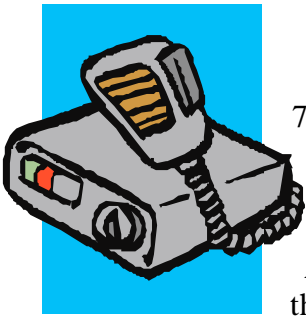
## ITEMS FOR SALE

**HeathKit HW-2036 2m FM Transceiver**

**\$25**

Contact **Michael**, [ai4gr@arrl.net](mailto:ai4gr@arrl.net)

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



**PTT** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ The ARRL Amateur Auxiliary comprises approximately

700 ARRL volunteer-appointees known as Official Observers (OO). Located across the country, they monitor the bands and notify amateurs of technical and operating discrepancies as a service to their fellow hams. Time and again, the FCC has indicated that responsibility to keep our operating standards and spectrum in shape rests with the Amateur Service. The Amateur Auxiliary program and its OOs are the League's answer to this challenge. Prospective OOs must pass a comprehensive examination based on a set of study materials before they can be certified as members of the Amateur Auxiliary; they must also be ARRL members and be licensed for at least four years. If you are interested in becoming an OO, contact your Section Manager. ARRL Letter 1/2

The WA4KNI repeater on Bearwallow Mountain now requires a CTCSS (PL) tone for access. It retains its output frequency of 147.105MHz with positive offset, but with a sub-audible tone of 91.5Hz.

The Monday night net from the N4YR repeater on Mount Mitchell has added equipment swap to its ragchew. The net is called the "High Country Swap & Ragchew Net." Sid, W4IOE, is the control operator. Catch it at 9:00pm on a frequency of 442.225MHz, with a tone of 107.2Hz.

— AI4GR is clear.

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club  
Points of Contact

\$

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Danny Rector, AJ4HZ - 828-698-3231  
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[ke4dfv@arrl.net](mailto:ke4dfv@arrl.net)  
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828-553-8116 [will@willstech.com](mailto:will@willstech.com)  
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](mailto:kc5f@arrl.net)

**Financial Report: June 2010 - Lil Clark**

Balance as of 5/30/10	\$ 1536.80
<b>Plus:</b> Deposits	200.00
<b>Less:</b> Expenses	0.00
<b>Balance as of 6/18/10</b>	<b>\$ 1736.80</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: August 14, 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.

**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.

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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
High Country Swap & 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	3.625 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).



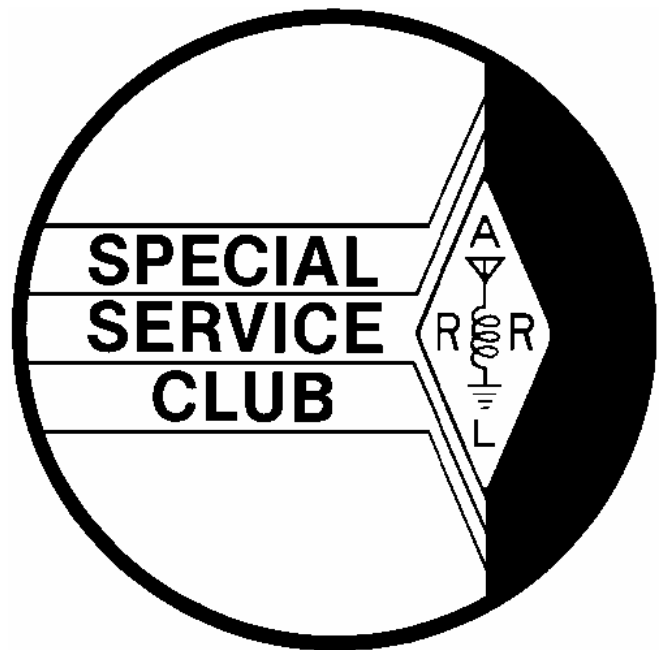
Club Meeting Tuesday  
June 6, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
August 3, 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> > –