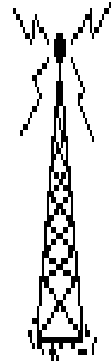


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# The Blue Ridge Echo . . Echo Echo



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

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Volume 23, Number 8 - August 2010

**The Prez Sez** — It has really been a busy summer! I want to thank Craig for standing in for me and running our last meeting while I was out of town. I heard Michael did a very good presentation on EZNEC. Also, I want to thank Jonathan Williams and those that helped him for doing a very good job with the Hendersonville July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. I know it was small, but it took you guys to make it go smooth. Also, I want to thank everyone for making Field Day an exceptionally fun time. Not only were we competitive points-wise but more importantly I saw a lot of new faces which is the most important part of Field Day. I do want to say a special thank you to Ronnie K2SST for getting the publicity out to the newspapers and to Ron KF4HAT for taking care of the food. I hope to see all of you at the WCARS Ham Fest on July 24<sup>th</sup> or at our next meeting August 3<sup>rd</sup>.



73,  
Danny Rector

*Our Next Meeting: August 3, 2010*

*7:00 pm – Program To Be Announced*

**MEETING MINUTES OF July 6th, 2010** — The meeting of July 6th, 2010 began at the appointed time of 7:00 p.m., at the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Building on Stoney Mountain Road. In the absence of the club president, Craig Miller, KE4DFV, club vice president, was the presiding officer. There were 26 in attendance, including two visitors. We wish to welcome Doug Davis, who is preparing to test for his technician's license; and Stan Leddon, KI4JGF. Both men are fairly new to our area. Welcome gentlemen!!

The treasurer's report was given by Lil Clark, KG4GFP. Lil reported that there was \$1,601.53 in the treasury. This report was approved by those present. The minutes were also approved by those present as printed in The ECHO. Andy Kilpatrick, K4YKZ, reported that he needed help in getting his A4S antenna back on the tower. He is unable to do it by himself. As a club we need to help one another with projects like this! As this is written, I am hoping he has his antenna back on the tower.

Rusty Jones, KG4JGQ, brought to the club's attention that we need new club QSL cards. At the meeting we agreed to get new cards, and the members are asked to offer designs for the new card. What would you like to see on the new cards? Draw something, or take a nice scenic picture of the area!

For the presentation at this meeting, Michael Parente, AI4GR, showed us how to use the EZNEC program for designing antennas. Some present were familiar with the program; but many were not. It is a good computer program to design antennas and see what they look like before they are put up. You can also see how it will radiate, and data will show expected degree of take off, SWR, and impedance. It will even show you the current wave on the wire. If you have the latest antenna book from A.R.R.L., EZNEC 4.0 is on the cd-rom. Give it a try!

Al Abercrombie, W2GJS, won the 50-50 drawing.  
Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE

**BRARC Helps July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade** – Despite the intense heat, marchers and spectators turned out for the annual parade. Placing the entrants in proper order and setting them out on the parade route was done by BRARC. Jonathan, KF4NVX, organized our effort, and devised an efficient technique for setting the units out in timely fashion.

Participating were:

Duke, W4DK            George, KG4LQX    Frank, WN4NC            Jonathan, KF4NVX

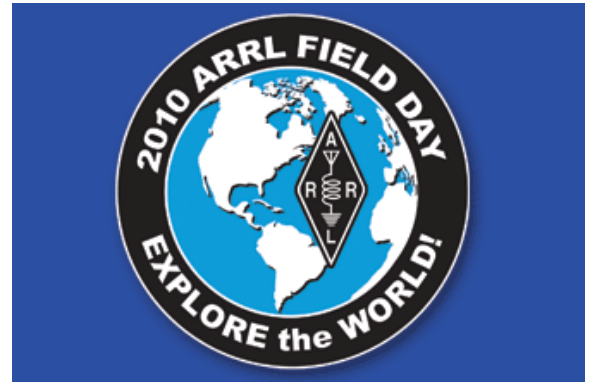
**W4YK Takes 2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – That's right, we placed in the 2010 North Carolina QSO Party in-state club, mixed-mode category. Last February 28<sup>th</sup> our team scored 37,570, easily topping our previous record of 28,283 set in 2008. In 1<sup>st</sup> place was the NC Kilowatt Club with their astounding 150,672 points. We were well ahead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher, NI4BK on the battleship USS North Carolina at Wilmington scoring 17,034. Look for the colorful certificate soon to appear on the wall of our shack.

**Mark Your Calendar —**

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.

**A GREAT Field Day** – It was GREAT in many respects. First, there was not a drop of rain, no lightning, no wet feet. Second, we made a record number of contacts, and highest score in recent memory. Finally, we had 59 participants –really a fine record-setting showing.



We raised our 80-meter double-zepp into the trees on Friday evening, and on Saturday connected it to the operating tent using an AH-4 tuner some 50' outside. This arrangement minimized feed-line interference. The other antennas were Ronnie's 10m - 40m inverted Vee, and Dave's screwdriver vertical. Danny erected a home-brew 15m Moxon beam, which helped to make 15m our most productive band. We also had a 6m dipole that provided our 10 solar-powered contacts.



**3 Rigs in Operation**

our previous high of 3,456.

Of our 1,130 contacts, 46% were CW and 53% were Phone. We made 11 RTTY contacts.

10% of contacts were on 80m; 18% on 40m; 27% on 20m; and 43% on 15m. After multipliers and bonus points were figured in, we had a total score of 4,728 points. This easily outdistanced



**Overnight CW Team**



**Night-time Operations**



**Debbie and Will adding contacts**

And it was a fun weekend!

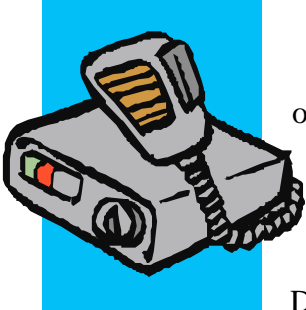
## ITEMS FOR SALE

**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 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■** Speaking of certificates, Michael, AI4GR, was awarded one as 1<sup>st</sup> place for Call Area 4 in CQ's 2009 World-Wide WPX contest. He competed as SSB in the low-power wire antenna category, and scored 81,220. But get this --Dave, K4SV, competed in the CW High Power category and earned a certificate for Call Area 4. He scored 1,426,760. Wow!

Did you notice young Austin, N4AMB, operating at our Field Day? He is not only active in amateur radio, but is also quite talented in another way. Check out [www.youtube.com/aussiediabolo](http://www.youtube.com/aussiediabolo) and click on Little Bit of Everything 23.

Last spring we cut back the vines climbing our antenna feedline at the base of the tower. But they have returned. If you are in the area with a garden pruner and some gloves, cut them back.

Don't forget the WCARS hamfest on Saturday.

—— AI4GR is clear.



## 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).



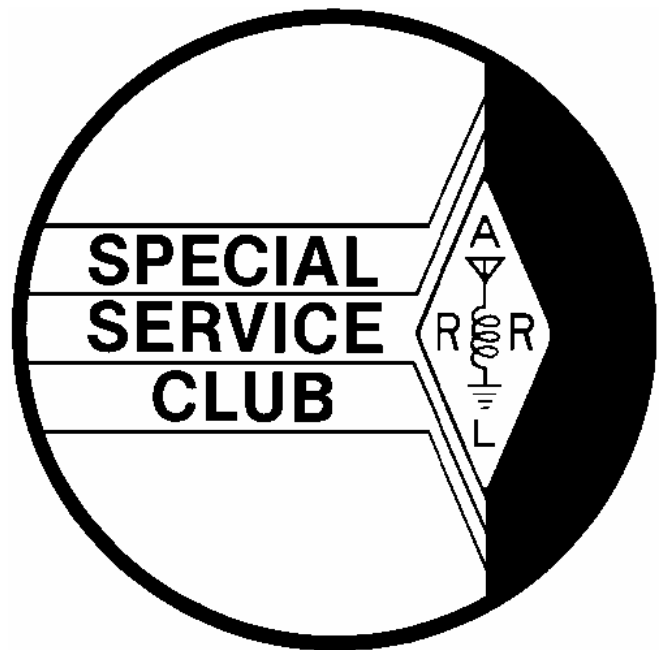
Club Meeting Tuesday  
August 3, 7:00 pm  
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting  
September 7, 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> > –