



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



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

Message from the President, Danny (NA4X)

The Prez Says...

Is winter over? Maybe not since it is still March. Anyway we are having nice days so be sure to get outdoors. The trees have not sprouted leaves yet so if you are putting off erecting a wire antenna you better get moving. We hope to call a work day in the next couple of weeks as soon as our wire comes in for our loop so be watching your emails. There are hamfests and special events taking place now so be sure to get involved. Look for opportunities to help other groups with communications. It is fun to see how others coordinate their communications. I got to help the Sandblast Rally recently down below Charlotte. This event used close to 100 ham radio operators covering over a 30 mile area. The net controllers did a great job in this event. Anyway we have a number of opportunities coming up including antenna repair, Fletcher Flyer and Field Day so come join in the fun.

Danny (NA4X)

Minutes from March 3, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Rector at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance: 18 people signed the attendance sheet.

Visitors: We had three visitors; Mike McCray, Neil Monroe, and Matt Hoyle who are interested in becoming hams and joining BRARC.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that we have a balance of \$1,562.62.

Public Events

The BRARC support for the *Biltmore Ride* is cancelled this year. They will use cell phones instead of ham radios and the Club's services will not be needed.

We will need several volunteers to help with *Field Day* and we need a volunteer for *Field Day Chairman*.

Club News

Name tags have been ordered for those who need them.

Last month's minutes and Treasurer's Report were both approved by group consensus.

Installation of the new loop antenna is delayed waiting for the Wire Man to get the correct wire for the club.

David Day (N1DAY) met with the *Carolina Conservatory* people in Asheville and the *Forestry Service* – trout fisheries. They are all interested in becoming hams.

We Score a NC QSO Party Record

On Sunday, March 1st, seven members of BRARC, and one guest, joined the **NC QSO Party**. For the first time, we operated SSB from our new shack in Jackson Park. Our antenna was the 40M double-extended Zepp that we used for recent Field Days. It's a low-power event, so our output power was limited to 100W. Radio issues caused us to power up 3 different rigs: two IC-718s; one IC-7000. About 70% of our contacts were on 40M, where the antenna is at its best.

The 20M band counted about 20% of QSOs. Most of our out-state QSOs were on 20M; it skipped over the nearby counties and states. The remaining contacts were all on 80M. We finished with a new record high score for the club. Our multipliers reached 92, which is just short of the club's record of 95. But we made 328 QSOs, a new high. Combining the multipliers, QSOs, and bonus stations our score was 60,268. This tally handily outstripped our previous high, set only last year, of 55,096.

Danny (NA4X) served-up gourmet coffee and chocolate cake. So it was a real Party. Our very helpful guest was Richard, WD4CBA. Operators included: David (N1DAY), John (KM4DHP), Eric (KM4DOM), Steve (ZC5F), Michael (AI4GR), James (KK4JFO), and Danny (NA4X).

Solar Blast

Geomagnetic storms blasted local repeaters Monday night and Tuesday. Users complained of heavy static and poor audio from usually quiet repeater stations. Perhaps we should all practice using simplex with our fellow hams in case we loose these valuable resources due to Mother Nature. What do you think?

Formal Presentation

The formal presentation was given by John Quinn (N9JZX) *ARES Emergency Coordinator* of Henderson County on RMS Express and Winlink. He explained why all hams should install and use this free services for emergency purposes.

50/50 Drawing

There was no drawing this month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Davis (KJ4WWN) Secretary.



Treasurer's Report

BRARC Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 01/31/15	\$1,562.62
Plus: Dep: Dues x 8	\$160.00
Feb 3 meeting 50/50	<u>\$22.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$182.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$1,744.62
Less: Exp: "Radioclub.org" domain fee	\$20.00
Post Office Box rent	\$56.00
Liability Insurance	<u>\$281.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 357.00</u>
BALANCE AS OF 02/28/15	\$1,387.62

Calendar of Events

Here are some notable dates to be aware of:

Date	Description
Tuesday, April 7, 2015	BRARC Meeting. Held at Jackson Park. Time 7:00 PM. In the case of inclement weather on a meeting night, we follow the <i>Blue Ridge College</i> evening schedule. When <i>Blue Ridge College</i> is closed, we do not have a meeting.
Saturday, April 18, 2015	Extreme Hike. Appalachian Trail in Tennessee. Radio operators needed.
Sunday, June 7, 2015	Fletcher Flyer. Contact Danny (NA4X) for details.

Announcements

Dues

The 2015 dues for the *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* are \$20 and are now payable. Please send a check made out to "BRARC" or bring a check or cash to the next meeting. Thanks!

- Steve Smith, KC5F, BRARC Treasurer
607 E Blue Ridge Rd
East Flat Rock NC 28726-2205

Items for Sale or Wanted

No items were listed.

Popular Ham Radio Nets

Name	Frequency/Tone	Day/Days AM/PM (EST)
BRARC Net (W4YK)	146.640 MHz/ T 91.5	Sunday 8:00 PM
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / T 91.5	Wednesday 8:30 PM
Oasis Shrine Net	145.190 MHz	Sunday 9:00 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily 9:00 PM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday 9:00 PM
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F 9:00 AM
WCARS Information Net	146.910 MHz/ T 91.5	Monday 9:00 PM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ T 91.5	Wednesday 9:00 PM

Transylvania ARC Net	147.135 MHz	Thursday 8:00 PM
WCARS Simplex Net	147.525 MHz	Tuesday 8:30 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday 9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday 8:00 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Thursday Net	224.260 MHz	Thursday 8:00 PM
Hit and Bounce Net (CW)	7.042 MHz	Daily 8:30 AM
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225.5 MHz (SSB)	Mon-Sat 7:00 AM
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571 MHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily 8:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3.573 MHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily 7:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3.573 MHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily 10:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3.740 MHz (SSB)	Saturday 8:45 AM
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily 6:30 PM
Tarheel ARES Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily 7:30 PM
NC Morning Net	3.927 MHz (SSB)	Daily 7:45 AM
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily 10:00 AM
BRARC Rag Chew	28.350 MHz	Sunday after the 146.640 Net
Friday 6 Meter Rag Chew	53.130 MHz/ T 100	Friday 8:00 PM Repeater is still down.

Club Information

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club (BRARC)

One of the key benefits of joining or having a ham radio club in your community is to link-up with like-minded people who share similar interests. Radio operators come from all walks of life. Some are students, teachers, pilots, technicians, police officers, doctors, executives, retired military, engineers, you name it.

The *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* is all of these things. Another key benefit it that they give-back in many ways back to their community. Amateur radio operators at BRARC donate time and equipment to participate with the *Department of Emergency Management*, the *Red Cross*, and *FEMA*. Radio operators practice using their equipment without power from the grid. So during REAL emergencies they can supply the necessary communication to first responders so they can provide help to those who need it. *Hurricane Sandy* was a perfect example. Ham radio operators helped FEMA direct needed supplies and medical attention.

The BRARC also provides volunteer community support in a variety of community activities including, parades including the 4th of July, and Christmas parades, walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons, horse riding events at the Biltmore Estates, and the Fletcher Flier.

The *Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club* also provides daily and weekly forums via what they call "Nets." You don't need a ham license to listen to a net - just a radio. These forums include informal sessions or "*rag chews*" that discuss local events or just about any topic.

Blue Ridge Echo Submissions

If you have timely information that you would like to publish in the Echo, all submissions must be received by the first 6-7 days of each month in order to meet publication deadlines. Please send your copy to Doug (KJ4WWN) at themtns@yahoo.com.

Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club Officers

Title	Name	Call Sign	Phone	Email
President	Danny Rector	NA4X	828-329-8863	rectordl@bellsouth.net
Vice President	Bill Gaede	KK4VCQ		rattletree7@gmail.com
Treasurer & Membership	Steve Smith	KC5F	828-697-6388	kc5f@arrl.net
Secretary	Doug Davis	KJ4WWN	828-685-1291	themtns@yahoo.com
Member @ Large	David Day	N1DAY	203-450-0053	davidlday@yahoo.com
Member @ Large	Michael Parente	AI4GR		
Web & Testing	Dick Smith	W4RSS	828-687-9531	w4rss@att.net