



MARS NEWS

W4BFB



Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

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Next Meeting - Apr 26. 2006
7:30pm - East Baptist Church

A program-demo of digital techniques will be presented by Ben WB2RHM at the next meeting.



Old RTTY Machine

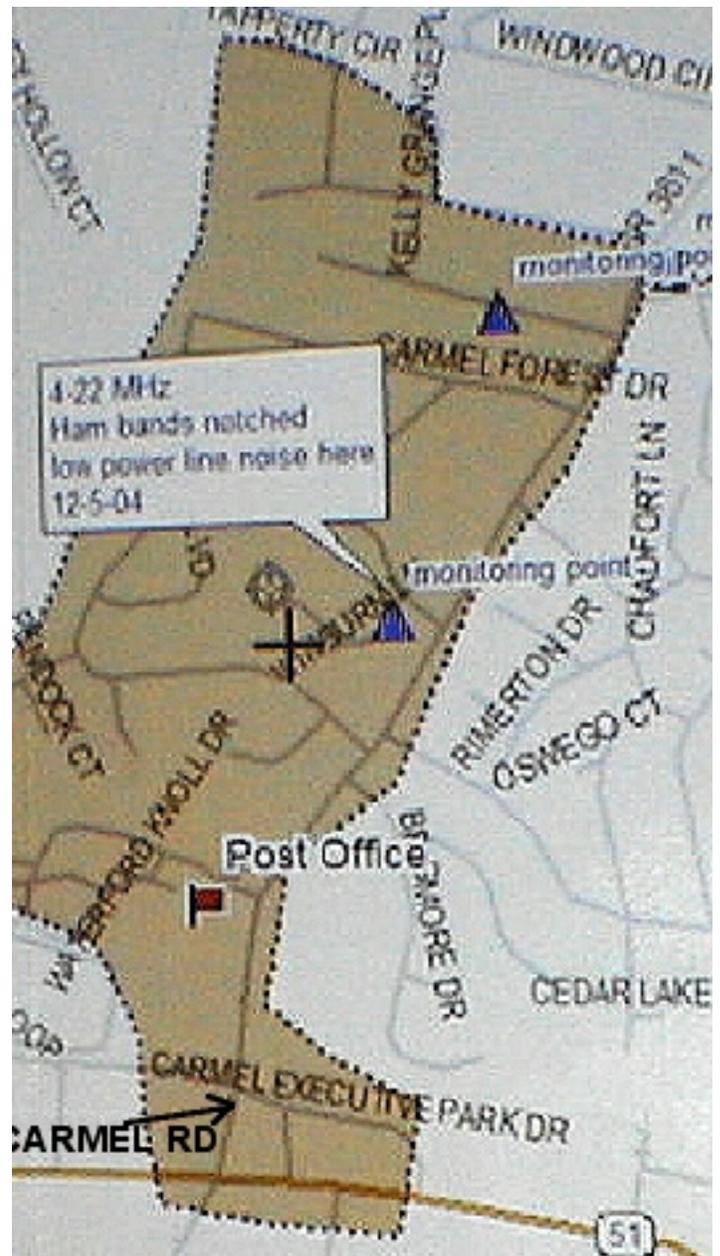
Editor's Column

The 2005 Hamfest is over and it seems as if all went as predicted. Although final results must wait for a few weeks, the number of attendees seem to be just slightly down from last year. Thanks to all who helped with setup/takedown, tickets, security, club booth, stage, dealers, bingo, presentations and more. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

A really great program on BPL was put on by Gary KN4AQ at the last meeting. According to him the Duke system seemed to be producing less interference within the Ham Bands than others he has tested. This may be due to the light load currently in use and may change dramatically when Duke begins it's new 15,000 home area testing. A map of the area currently under test is shown to the right.

A separate file is being sent to you that contains an **Update** to Gary's talk..

Don't forget **The MS Challenge Walk** -- June 3 thru 5 -- 50 miles over three days! More in the next issue. In a hurry? Go to: <http://www.WalkMaps.com>



- Field Day 2005 -

<http://www.W4BFB.org/fieldday2005.htm>

The MARS 2005 ARRL Field Day will be held at the **Wilgrove Park in Mint Hill on June 25th and 26th**, with setup planned for the afternoon of the 24th. The Wilgrove Park is located just off of the Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road in Mint Hill, NC. This is the same location used for past Field Day activities.

The current plans include having a similar station layout as last year, offering opportunities for Phone, CW, and Digital modes of operation. We hope to have all stations active in all modes for the entire Field Day 24-hour operation period. If a lack of operators for any particular mode occurs, the stations will be able to switch modes to accommodate available operators. In addition to 'operators', we will need 'loggers' for the stations. Closer to Field Day, a sign up sheet will be circulated, to allow for pre-scheduling of time slot preferences on a first come - first served basis. "Walk-up" operators/loggers will be most welcome and will get an opportunity to 'work contacts'. We want to have stations 'working contacts' when the public, reporters, VIPs, or served agencies stop by to visit our Field Day operation.

Site setup and take down will also need lots of volunteers. This is important work, to ensure a complete and SAFE Field Day site preparation. Experienced club members, and newer club members who wish to learn and gain experience, are needed for this part of Field Day 2005.

Mike Gates, KF4UVO, has volunteered to be our Public Greeter and Tour Guide as well as write our press releases. A manned MARS information table will be set up with pamphlets and flyers describing Amateur Radio, Field Day, Public Service, How-To-Become-A-Ham, and MARS. Info will be geared to youth as well as adults.

A 'Field Day 2005 Info' web page has been placed on the W4BFB web site. To reach the Field Day page, click on the Field Day logo on the W4BFB home page

<http://www.W4BFB.org>

or go direct by pointing your browser at:

Please put Field Day 2005 on your calendar and plan on attending and volunteering to assist in this club effort.

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM is this year's Field Day Chairman. Please email to volunteer as well as make any suggestions or comments about Field Day 2005.

(WB2RHM@ARRL.net)

WE can make this year's Field Day a memorable one for W4BFB.

MINI FIELD DAY

Mini Field Day this year will be Saturday morning April 23. Mini Field Day is a "special event" these past few years done by NC ARES Area 12 which includes Meck and our surrounding counties.

Unfortunately I will be out of town that day, but here's some frequencies and some encouragement to participate.

Remember also, our stations at Discovery Place and the Red Cross club room can be used to contact each of our surrounding counties.

Area 12 includes the ARES groups in counties below.

You will probably hear activity on the various "ARES repeaters", see how many you can contact....

Gaston	145.23 - & 147.12 +,
Lincoln	147.015 + t 141.3,
Cabarrus 1	47.30 + t 136.5,
Stanly	146.985 - t 100.0,
Union	134.39 - t 94.8,
Meck	146.94 -

Also if you can hitch up your packet station, you might see some traffic to check in with on 145.05.

If you would rather HF tune around 3923 Khz and 7232 Khz.

...John - WB2NHQ

ARRL Field Day 2005 T-Shirts SPECIAL PRICE!

Nothing looks more distinctive to Field Day visitors than to see all the members of a ham radio club wearing Field Day T-Shirts. Field Day T-Shirts allow visitors to instantly pick out who is a club member and who they can ask questions about Field Day and ham radio. Wearing a Field Day T-Shirt before Field Day is a great way to announce to friends and neighbors that you are an Amateur Radio operator and that Field Day is coming.



The ARRL has a distinctive new design for this year's ARRL Field Day 2005 T-Shirt:

You can view a sample image at

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=no-9548>

Available Sizes are Small -> 3XL; Unisex sizes, soft heavyweight cotton.

Now, if you were to buy a single Field Day T-Shirt directly from the ARRL, it would cost \$12.95 + \$7 shipping/handling or \$19.95.....

BUT, at the request of the Field Day committee, the MARS Board of Directors has agreed to pay \$1.95 of the cost for each T-Shirt AND all shipping and handling costs associated with a MARS group order of ARRL Field Day 2005 T-Shirts.

This makes a MARS member's total cost for a Field Day 2005 T-Shirt only **\$11.00**... That's a whopping \$8.95 off the single shirt order

price or a 45% savings for MARS members. **WOW!** At that savings, get more than one, get them for the whole family!

Paul Ponak, AD4IE, will be coordinating this group order.

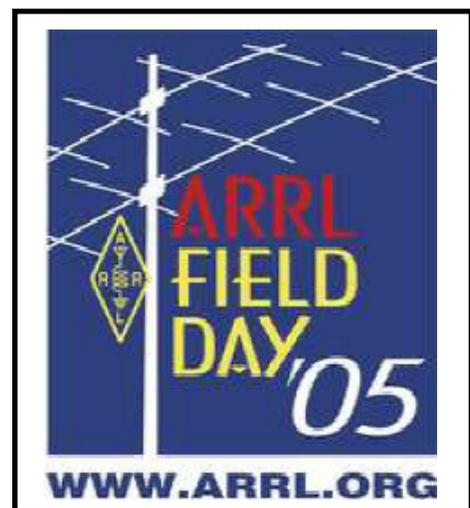
You can order your Field Day T-Shirts at the April MARS club meeting on April 26th, or you can send your quantity and size information along with a check for only **\$11** per T-Shirt to:

Paul Ponak, AD4IE
635 Crater St.
Charlotte, NC 28205

Info: pponak@carolina.rr.com
(704) 332-1882.

We want to distribute the T-Shirts at the May club meeting. To ensure timely delivery, the group order must be sent in early May. **Please DO NOT DELAY your order.** If you think you might not be able to attend the April 26th club meeting, mail your order to Paul, as soon as possible.

(Offer open to current MARS members and their families only).



A Girl Scout Carnival

It was a typical April Saturday morning in the Carolinas, chance of showers, breezy, cool, the last word was that the event might be canceled if it rains. I didn't believe that for a minute however, because the pollen was scrubbed off of the Communications RV, the equipment was loaded, and we were ready. OK so the road was a little wet for a couple miles just enough to get the clean RV dirty, but the clouds went away leaving that clear blue Carolina sky.

The site was on Mallard Creek Road at the Bar-B-Que grounds, and we rolled in at about 8:00 to set up antennas and radios. Brian, KF4VOO, brought his 105 howitzer (a BIG tree surgeon's slingshot) to put some lines over the light poles for dipole wires, Ben, WB2RHM, brought his portable HF vertical, and we had VHF and UHF on the RV brackets. The Kenwood 570 and two of our Go-box radios along with the little Honda Generator completed the setup under the RV canopy (a quick and easy Field setup). We were ready for a few hundred Girl Scouts to come talk on Ham radio.

Susanna Stuart, KI4JCY, brought her remote RC car decorated like a parade float saying "HAM Radio is Fun", and guided it around the grounds leading the scouts to our exhibit.

Some of the scouts were kindergartners just starting in Girl Scouts, many were third graders at various schools around the county, and some were sixth graders. All of them though, we got to 'interview' on the radio using various repeaters.

Many thanks to those of you who had a few minutes to talk with the scouts! The 444.675 W4WBT repeater was the most popular, also using 444.350 K4KAY, 146.94 W4BFB, and 147.06 W4CQ. It's always fun to see the enthusiasm when a young scout says "I was on the radio!", or when a shy kindergartner holding her mother's hand, actually gets a few words out and hears a reply through that radio speaker.

Thanks also for the Saturday morning help: **W4OH Daryl, Mike W4DXL, Greg KG4IOE, WB2RHM Ben, WIFE Anne, KI4JCY Susanna, N5NAH Donna, WB6QMN John, KE4LZE Sherry, KG4SAA Jack, W4WNT Bill.**

Just another small victory, and another small warm-up for Field Day.

WB2NHQ

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5



Gilr Scout Carnival Ham Group



**Our latest Ham....
KI4JCY Susanna**

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc. - Officers and Board of Directors -2005:**President** - Shawn Goodin, K4RSG; Email Address: k4rsg@w4bfb.org**Vice President** - Wilton McAllister - WB4PCS; Email Address: wb4pcs@w4bfb.org**Secretary** - Bill Turner, W4WNT; Email Address: w4wnt@w4bfb.org**Treasurer** - Greg Onachila, KG4IOE; Email Address: kg4ioe@w4bfb.org**Directors** - Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK; Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO
Scott Ellis, KG4UDX; Tom Nicholls, W4NCU**Meetings** @ East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Road (next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive) - Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.**Clubroom** - Red Cross Building, 2425 Park Road, RM 023, Charlotte, NC - No telephone.**Club Repeaters****W4BFB Web Site**

146.34/146.94 With Autopatch.	144.69/145.29 NO Autopatch
144.63/145.23 NO Autopatch	222.80/224.40 NO Autopatch
449.60/444.60 NO Autopatch and P/T 100.0	
Autopatch Access *(don't unkey)+phone number. Disconnect #	
145.01 Packet Digipeater, W4BFB-1	

<http://www.w4bfb.org>

Webmaster: Wayne Setzer - WB4BXW
<wsetzer@att.net>

Meeting After Next - May 31, 2005

Next Meeting - April 26, 2005

MARS News
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