



MECKLENBURG AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY, INC

# MARS News

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Club Membership	2
CQWW SSB WPX Contest	3
March/April Club Meetings	4
V.E. Testing Session - May 12th	4
Winding Toroidal Coils	5
Board Minutes	7
Name the Hamfest	8
MARS 58th Anniversary	9
Dits and Dahs	10
Skywarn Basics	11
Membership Renewal	12
Field Day T-Shirts	12
Mini Field Day	13
Gaston Club QRP Rig Project	13

## A letter from the President

First off, I hope everyone had a Happy Easter and got to spend some quality time with family and friends.

I would also like to welcome our newly elected board members Andy Hawkins G4GKK and Bill Fisher W4GRW to their positions within the club.



We all had a really great time on March 25<sup>th</sup>, participating in the CQWW WPX Contest using our brand new Jupiter Radio. I hope that the club can continue to find opportunities to update some of our older equipment as well as look for ways to explore new technologies of interest to our club members. One thing about operating in contesting-type events is it helps each of us build our operating skills. It is also a great way to meet and work with other members of the club.

We are beginning our W4BFB Membership Renewal Drive in April and May for 2007-2008 membership renewals. (Remember: your MARS annual membership runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year) Look for an article further down in this month's newsletter for more details and please send in your dues as soon as possible. I am sure it would mean a lot to Jeff, our Club Secretary. He has been really working hard to get the club records organized and completely up-to-date. So let's give him a hand by getting your dues in early.

I want to remind everyone about two important club events that are coming up soon. One is our Mini Field Day on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and the other is just around the corner from that, when we will be participating in the ARRL Field Day on June 23rd and 24th. Don't forget to bring your families; we will have a great time eating, rag chewing, and making contacts around the world. The kids will have fun and be awarded a First Contact Award Certificate when they make their first contact on the radio. We have decided to do Hamburgers and Hot dogs for the Mini-FD and are planning on having a fun filled day. Come out to support your Club and let's all show our families we *have fun being Hams*. So please, *mark your calendars now* to set aside the time to come out and join your fellow MARS members making these events a great time for all of us to remember.

A final thought... We have a great Metrolina 2m Emergency Net (M2MEN) every night beginning at 9PM on 146.094. It has been in operation for many many years and we need to continue to support

## Letter from the President (cont.)

this effort by checking into the net each and every night if possible. Our Net Control Operators also occasionally need support. If you would like to help them, and the net operation, a little more than just checking-in, perhaps you will consider becoming a Net Controller or Alternate Net Controller one evening for someone. If we have a real emergency situation, it would be a great resource to have as many club members as possible know how to run a net.

73

Jodie - KI4CXO

## Club Membership

I am happy to report that membership in the club continues to grow. We have over 30 more active members than at the beginning of the year. Our active membership stands at 130 now. The club has approved the following individuals for membership in the last month. Welcome to the club. Have fun!

Jed Hayes - KI4UER

Jerry Brewer - KI4UFQ

Mark Brambier - KI4REV

James Kelly - N2GFE

The following members have recently changed their call sign.

Joe Cocke - KI4OKH is now N5RTG

Jerry Brewer - N4MIU is now KI4UFQ

If you upgrade or change your call sign. Please let the club know so we can help you spread the word. We also need to keep our database up to date.

73,

Jeff Blythe - KA4WYC

# 1 CQWW WPX + 1 Ten Tec Jupiter + MARS = Lots of Fun!

On Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>, the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio society, members of the club gathered during the day to take part in the CQWW WPX contest and try out the club's new Ten Tec Jupiter transceiver.



**Wow! What a rig!**

The Ten-Tec Jupiter (described in last month's newsletter) arrived less than three days before the CQWW WPX. WB2RHM checked out the new rig at his home QTH, and then installed it in the MARS clubroom at the Red Cross. It was connected and tested with the club's Hercules II linear amplifier and the club's antenna system. N3FJP's CQWW WPX logging software was installed on the club laptop and interfaced with the Jupiter's RS-232 computer interface. A 'quick-study' operator's manual was printed and placed at the operator's position in the clubroom along with dire warning messages that said 'Read the Manual!'.

The CQWW WPX contest is an HF band based event. The objective is to contact as many different prefixes (W4, K4, WA4, KA4, KB4, WB4, etc, etc) from all over the world. Over the past three months, W4BFB has operated in 3 contests involving VHF/UHF, HF within NC, and now a world-wide HF challenge. The plan was also to provide 'hands-on' instruction and operation experience with the new Jupiter for any and all club members who came to the clubroom during the contest.

All through the day on Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>, and into part of the evening since W4BFB was on the air for 12 plus hours on Sunday, more than 10 club members and 1 guest (who heard about the new rig and contest effort during daily 9PM Metrolina 2m Emergency Net announcements) visited the contest operation. Club members were instructed about the operation and capabilities of the Jupiter, and many were amazed by the sound quality, sensitivity, capabilities, and versatility of the new rig.

When the last QSO was made, W4BFB had compiled over 170,000 points and, completed 303 QSOs, consisting of 32 US states, and 48 new countries, for the 2007 W4BFB contest efforts.

W4BFB operators included: G4GKK, K4KRW, KA4WYC, KI4CXO, N4APR, N8CQD, W4GRW, and WB2RHM. Visitors to the station were: K4RSG, K4WAE, KE4AAI, and WA2TKS.

Future contesting activities are planned for mini-Field day as well as Field Day. Contests involving additional modes of operation are also in the works, with dates TBD, depending on club interest and participation.

73 – WB2RHM



**The author hard at work.  
(The fun kind of hard work)**



**The 'Wild Yellow Chicken' (Jeff-  
KA4WYC) getting acquainted with  
the new rig.**



**Richard - K4KRW and Bill -  
W4GRW batting cleanup for the  
contest.**

# March and April Club Meetings

In March, the club had two open board positions that needed to be filled. An election was held and our new board members are Andy Hawkins - G4GKK and Bill Fisher - W4GRW. Congratulations to Andy and Bill. Thank you for volunteering to run for these two positions. We know that the time and energy you will put into your roles will yield great dividends for all of our members.

Speaking of volunteering: The MARS board asks that all of our members look for opportunities where they can help to keep the gears of W4BFB turning. Having fun takes work. But, a little work from each of us will make for a world of fun for all of us.

MARS was fortunate to have Ken Boyd—K4DXA give a presentation on RFI. Ken has extensive RFI experience and has taken the ARRL RFI course. Ken shared with us how he got started investigating RFI problems. In addition he gave the club a lot of great information on how to handle various RFI situations from a technical, legal and social perspective. He had a lot of great stories of interesting RFI problems and how they eventually were resolved. Thanks Ken for a wonderful presentation on a very interesting and timely topic.

For the April meeting, Shawn Goodin will be doing a presentation on APRS. Shawn is very knowledgeable on the subject. This should be a great meeting. Make sure you attend.

Richard - K4KRW

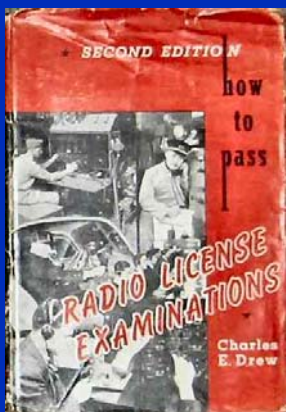
## VE Testing Session - May 12th 9:00 AM

On Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Mecklenburg VE Team will be conducting a VE Test session beginning at 9AM at the East Baptist Church. FCC exams for all classes of Amateur Radio license will be given. Paper upgrades will also be accepted for processing in the same manner as written examinations.

Please bring your original license along with any original current CSCE, plus a copy of each, a picture ID, and the fee of \$14.00. Try to arrive around 8:30AM to complete the necessary paperwork before 9AM.

For more info, send an email to [N4MH@w4bfb.org](mailto:N4MH@w4bfb.org) or call 704-948-7373 or see <http://www.w4bfb.org/tests.htm>.

73 - Mary Hunt, N4MH, Mecklenburg VE Team



# Winding Toriodal Coils

If you ever get the opportunity to build a radio, you will likely have to wind a toroidal coil. This past January, I was building my first QRP rig. The radio is an Appalachian Trail Sprint IIIa. This is a four band CW rig that uses band modules to select the band on which you will operate. Steve Weber (KD1JV) makes small kits such as this and sells them in limited numbers.

In addition to circuitry to tell the oscillator which band is in use, each of the band modules contains toroidal coils and capacitors tuned such that they allow transmit and receive signals within the desired bandwidth to pass through while restricting those outside of the desired bandwidth.

I had never wound one of these coils before. When looking at kits such as the Elecraft K2 I had noticed that the web sites often advertised that there were hams or companies who would sell you pre-wound coils for the kit. Seeing how small they were, I certainly suspected that winding them correctly could be a real challenge.

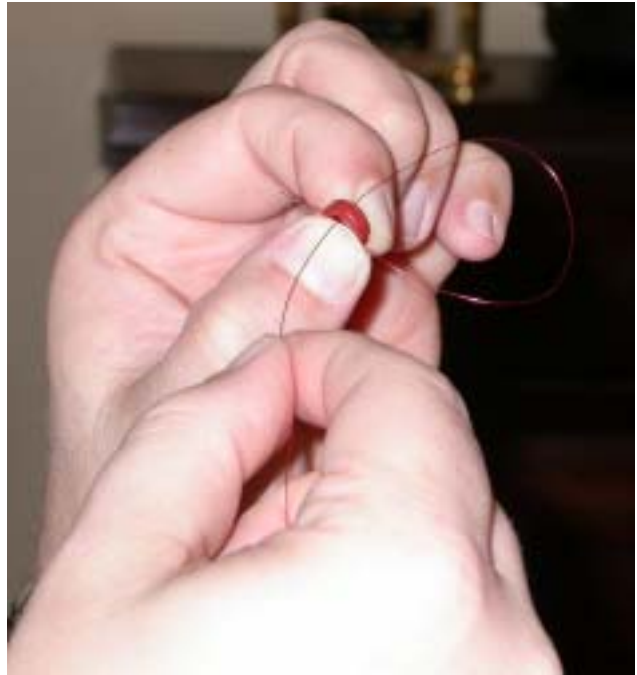
The first band module that I built for my AT Sprint IIIa was the 40 meter band module. It had three toroidal coils. It took me half of a day to build that card. Most of the time was spent winding the coils. By the time I finished that first card, I had figured out the process such that I built the other three band cards which had a total of 7 coils over a 6 hour period on a Saturday.

If you want to take on a task such as this, the first thing I would say is read the instructions very carefully. Make sure you understand which size toroids and which size wire go with each coil. If you mix them up, you will most likely have problems. If you are fortunate, the instructions will tell you how long a piece of wire to start with when you wind each coil.

In the case of the AT Sprint IIIa, I was dealing with 3 toroid sizes and 3 different gauges of enameled wire. I was fortunate that Steve's instructions were quite good. Despite that, I made a mistake on the first one and had to wind it again. FYI: you cannot unwind and rewind the enameled wire once it is wound tightly on the toriod. The enamel will peel right off of the wire. My kit did not allow for errors, so I ended up having to buy more enameled wire. Fortunately, Radio Shack had the correct gauge.

Once you get winding, the hardest part is counting the turns of wire on the form. Counting is kind of counter intuitive. Intuitively, you would expect that if you placed the wire through the center of the toroid, wrapped it around and then pulled it through the center such that it wrapped around of the toroid one time, you would have one turn. You would be wrong. That is actually two turns. Each time the wire passes through the center of the toroid, it is a turn. Just inserting the wire through the center of the toroid without wrapping it around the toroid is considered one turn. So, to count turns you need to count at the point where the wires pass through the center of the toroid.

One of my toroids had 80 turns. Included in those 80 turns was a tap in the coil at the 70 turn point. I started trapping a short length



**Is this one turn or two? I used the fingernail on my left index finger to guide each turn into place.**



## Winding Toroidal Coils (Cont.)

of thread in the winding every 10 turns so I could keep count. For easier coils with fewer turns, I found that I could keep track by winding 5 turns at a time. I would then place 5 marks on a sheet of paper after each set of 5 turns.

A few cautions are in order. When winding these coils, make sure you wind the wire tight around the toroid. If you pre-measure your wire but leave too much slack you may find that you run out of wire before you finish winding.

Also, make sure you leave about a half an inch of wire available at each end of the winding. The last thing you want to do is get finished winding 80 turns on a coil and find you cannot solder the coil in place because the leads are not long enough.

Another thing you have to be careful about is removing the enamel insulation from the wire ends before soldering the coil into place. If not done properly, your coil will not work. Steve's instructions recommended building up a bead of molten solder on the tip of your soldering iron. Then immerse the ends of the enameled wire in the bead of solder. This will burn the enamel insulation off of the wire. Watch how you hold the toroid when you do this. Or even better, don't hold it at all. Carefully put it in some sort of vice. I was quickly reminded that heat does travel up copper wire quite well.

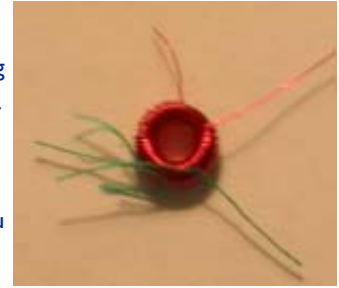
Winding these toroids was certainly a learning experience. In the end, all of my toroids worked fine. I'm sure that next time I will again wind my own. While I understand why others might pay to have someone else wind them, you can't buy the satisfaction of having successfully pulled it off.

73,

Richard – K4KRW



**The Completed 80 meter band module.**



**A thread every 10 turns helped me keep count**



**The completed 80M coil. Notice extra leads for the tap.**



**The enamel insulation has been removed from the leads on this one.**

# April Board Meeting Minutes

Jodie opened the meeting at 7:01 and welcomed Board Members and new Board Members, Andy – G4GKK and Bill – W4GRW. Others present were; Jodie, Ben, Paul, Greg, and Jeff. Don and Kevin were unable to attend.



We had a successful Hamfest. Jodie, Jeff and Bill talked about going to the Raleigh Hamfest. The Hamfest Committee will be running a contest to redesign the name and logo of our Hamfest.

Ben said the Jupiter's overall cost was \$871.00 after exchanging the Paragon vs. the cost of the Jupiter. A tuner was discussed; Ben will be looking into this.

The club broke in the Jupiter by participating in the CQWW WPX SSB contest.

Greg had a financial report. He explained the balance sheet for new Board Members. We will need to start getting information, in May, for the 2008 budget to be brought to the club at our June Club Meeting. Our new budget starts in July 2007.

Greg brought up 2 new members for a vote. All were accepted unanimously. When voted on, this will bring our Club up to 131 Members!

Jeff brought a list of the Membership. Each Board Member will have a list of Members to call to remind them of the renewal period along with other information about the Club. The renewal starts July 1<sup>st</sup>. We discussed Past Members, who still have keys to the Club Room and are using the equipment. A new lock is being installed very soon. We want to keep these Members, so Jeff will contact them about past dues and soon to be current dues will be due.

Jodie brought up Lifetime Membership for 4 members. It was discussed that Lifetime Members are those who have held a continuous Membership in the Mecklenburg Radio Society since the early 50's. The benefits of this award are free Membership in the Club, which would include Newsletters and open invitations to Club functions and parties. All voted unanimously to present plaques at the April Club Meeting. Jeff will get the plaques.

Jodie called for Committee Reports.

Repeater Committee – no report.

Contests and Operating Events – Ben stated we had the CQWW WPX contest with the New Jupiter. No other contests scheduled at this time in April.

Grants and Resources – Kevin stated at the Club Meeting, we have reached the 25 limit. Jeff stated we might see some funds by the end of the year.

Party and Entertainment – Jodie states she is still trying to find a place for the Christmas Party. For the Mini-Field Day Ben made a motion to have hamburgers and hot dogs and buns, provided by the Club. The rest will be provided by the Membership. Seconded by Andy. Passed by majority vote. Bill had a concern about only 10 people had signed up at the Club Meeting. We need to stress that we need members and their families to commit to the Mini-Field Day and Picnic.

Public Service – Jeff stated the MS Walk is April 14<sup>th</sup>. We need more SAG's, and some more Rest Stop hams. A repeater has been obtained



## Board Meeting Minutes (cont.)

for the Challenge Walk, with the Hilton Head Island Club in Beaufort, SC. Mary – N4MH is heading up this group, and should contact her for volunteering. A sign-up sheet is on Elena's website [ridemaps.com](http://ridemaps.com)

A discussion was held on our Net. We need more Net Controls and Alternate Net Controls. Jodie will discuss the Net in General with our Net Manager, John – WB2NHQ.

Nomination and Elections – No Chairman – no report. If you would like to Chair this or just be a member, contact Jodie.

Newsletter by paper instead of email was discussed. This is a long list and will be discussed when Board Members call their list of the Membership.

Bill brought up the need to get some of our awards replaced at a cost of \$27.00. This was approved by majority vote to replace missing or soiled awards along with frames.

Andy volunteered to join a group looking into re-decorating the clubroom at the Red Cross.

Jodie asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded at 8:48PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff KA4WYC – Secretary W4BFB

## Name the MARS Hamfest

Over the years, the annual MARS Hamfest has gone by several names and had several logos representing it on our flyers.

Time has come once again for a change.....

We are asking the membership of MARS to suggest a new name, or a new design for the flyer logo. We have decided to make this a contest.

To enter, just send your suggestion(s) for a new name for the event and/or a new design for the flyer logo for the event to: [hamfestlogo@w4bfb.org](mailto:hamfestlogo@w4bfb.org) (.txt .doc .gif or .jpg) Submissions will be posted on the club web site, reviewed, and the winner(s) will receive a prize to be named.

Note: we are looking for fresh ideas.... the word *hamfest* is not required in the name or logo, but that is up to you.... have fun!

73,

Jeff, KA4WYC



# MARS Celebrates it's 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society celebrated the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation (March 25<sup>th</sup> 1949) as part of the regular monthly club meeting held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Also in attendance were five Past Presidents of MARS. We are grateful to them for all their efforts to forward the goals and promote the growth of the club before, during and after their terms of office.



(L-R Gene Ribas N4UMI, Wilton McAllister WB4PCS, John Covington W4CC, Shawn Goodin K4RSG, John White WB2NHQ )

A first person account of the events leading up to the formation and incorporation of MARS was printed in last month's newsletter. Along with the text there was a photo of a commemorative plaque that hangs in Discovery Place. Due to the requirement to compress the size of image data for transmission over the Internet, the names of our club founders were not easily readable. To correct that situation, and to pay respect to the club forefathers, the list of the 13 original members is presented as text.

**Earl J. Gluck, W4CQ was in broadcasting (WSOC)**

**Robert E. Dawson, W4DSY was in the pickle canning business**

**Fred H. Hasty, W4NZC was a practicing lawyer (future judge)**

**Bernard Walker, W4DIS was a dentist and periodontist**

**A.L. Blalock, W4CAY did voltage regulation at Duke Power**

**J.C. Gleason, W4DLX an electrician with Robinson Electric**

**Avery Kimbirl, W4CLB owned a radio service and repair shop**

**James (Jimmie) MacLeod, W4NHV A Presbyterian Minister**

**Clark Prather, (no call) was a photographer with the Observer**

**Roy Scroggs, W4CXS was an appliance repair technician**

**W.J. (Buck) Wortman, W4CYB was an engineer with Duke Power**

**C.A. (Pete) McKnight, W4CFL was a newspaper editor/writer**

**S.S. (Sam) McNinch, W4FUA owned a trucking firm**

Note: Regrettably, twelve of the thirteen members are deceased. The surviving member is Jim MacLeod W4NHV and we are very proud to have Jim still on our roster today. 73 – WB2RHM



# Dits and Dahs

I thought I would share with you some of the places I like to surf with a CW/Ham Radio theme. I've already shared with you, in earlier issues, the Straight Key Century Club - SKCC. But in case you missed it go to: [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com). This group is very much interested in helping you learn the code and get on the air. *Their Membership is free.* And your SKCC Number is yours for Life. They are my favorite by far.

One of the oldest clubs around is the FISTS group. There is a fee to join them and their website is: [www.fists.org](http://www.fists.org). As it is stated in one description, "The Quintessential CW Ops Group." This is a fun and very active group. There are 'local' chapters all around the world.

One more group I belong to is the Society for the Preservation Of Amateur Radio – SPAR. They have a wide range of interests. Both Phone and CW. To find them, look for: [www.spar-hams.org](http://www.spar-hams.org). You'll spend hours on this site, if you're not careful. Did I mention they were *FREE* also?? Hi!

Next are the programs to help you learn the Code. Ray Goff – G4FON, has a website where you can download *FREE* software to help you learn the Code. [www.g4fon.net](http://www.g4fon.net) will get you to the Koch Morse Code Training Software. It only takes time...!

I have heard of another *Free* CW trainer. It is what it says it is: Just Learn Morse Code! Try this one out at: [www.justlearnmorsecode.com](http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com).

Most of the groups I listed here have newsletters. *None of which are as good as ours :>)* There is another free e-zine. Try [www.k9ya.org](http://www.k9ya.org). It's the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club – K9YA. You can subscribe by going to their website. Read about why the club is using his call sign – K9YA (SK). It's kind of sad. But what an HONOR!!

You can spend as much time as you do on the radio surfing the net. Don't forget to checkout the 'links' page on all these sites. Now you can spend even more time on the net!!!! Until next time remember – Most CW ops don't cuss on the air!! Jeff KA4WYC



This is a Vibroplex Brass Racer – EK-I. It is an Iambic paddle. You will notice the little blue wheel on the bottom edge. This is no longer in production by Vibroplex. This one has the electronic keyer inside the base. They claim a speed of 20-50 WPM. Well, someone may be able to send that fast, but not me!! YET... 'WYC

# Skywarn Basics



Advanced Weather Spotter Training Class is scheduled for our May 29 club meeting. We welcome Vince DeCarlo KF4ZOQ, Greer-Spartanburg National Weather Service meteorologist, as our guest instructor as he has done many times in past years.

There are actually three different Spotter classes: Basic, Advanced, and Weather Radar. Severe weather season has already started. We have some folks in our group who haven't been involved yet with SKYWARN, so I thought it appropriate that we review some of the Basic Spotter ideas here, before we get to the Advanced Spotter class.

When conditions indicate a probability for severe weather, NWS issues a severe weather *watch* for the general area. If severe weather has been spotted or is eminent a *warning* is issued, it's time to find a safe place. A *warning* is more specific, covering a smaller area and a shorter amount of time.

Weather alert radios are important. Listen! Many 2 meter radios now also tune NOAA weather (162.425 Rock Hill, 162.475 Spencer Mtn). During a *Watch*, if severe weather becomes more probable, a Skywarn Net will be started on 145.35 repeater. Be ready to *listen* and be aware of weather conditions *at your location*. Our purpose is to provide tactical, local, eyewitness reporting, a supplement to Greer weather radar. On 145.35 Skywarn, remember we have a credible reputation to maintain with many others listening including scanners, commercial broadcast stations, and Greer weather meteorologists. Directed net procedures apply, pay attention, transmit only if check-ins are requested by net control, or if you have *first hand* (not from a scanner) weather conditions, meeting the reporting criteria at your location. Be specific about your location.

As a review, here are the reporting criteria for severe weather. Conditions other than these should not be aired on the Skywarn Net.

1. Winds in excess of 58 MPH. That's the speed where wind impedes walking, large tree limbs break off, some trees uproot, and damage to structures can occur.
2. Hail - "dime size" or larger. Don't report "glorified sleet" but stay alert and keep your eyes on the clouds. Larger hail is an indicator of tornado conditions.
3. Funnel Cloud – Or a "wall cloud" with rotation. There can be lots of big bad and ugly clouds but it's the rotating part we're interested in.
4. Tornado – A funnel cloud that touches the ground where it probably will cause significant damage.
5. Rainfall heavier than 1 inch per hour, or 2.3 inches in 3 hours. That's when traffic is stopped, or local flooding is occurring *at your location*. No second hand "I heard" is allowed.

Many years ago one of our better Skywarn operators summed it up as follows: So Don't Just Do Something! Sit There!

You flip on your radio and hear a Skywarn net in progress. You don't know what's going on. What should you do? Here are some tips.

**KEEP QUIET.** Don't ask what's going on. Don't ask if it's real or a drill. Don't offer to help. Don't answer questions. Don't relay. Don't tell other people to shut up. Don't ask weak stations to say again, and don't tell them how to fix their antenna. Don't ask where this repeater is located. Don't ask if your friend Lonnie who used to live up this way has checked in because he had a real good signal back in 1965. Net Control is in charge. Just **KEEP QUIET and LISTEN !**

**If after carefully listening long enough to understand what is going on, you discover that you can be of specific assistance, check in when it is not disruptive to the ongoing activity on the net. If net control asks for any other checkins, then that would be a good time to check in. If net control asks for stations in Gaston or York county, it's disruptive to check in from McQuack county. After you are acknowledged by net control, KEEP QUIET and LISTEN until asked to transmit again.**

73, John White - WB2NHQ

# Membership Renewal

It's that time again! Just like taxes, tags and Club dues, they are due. Our renewal period is June and July. The year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.

I have received renewals in February and March 2007 that were due in July 2006. I know this is something that can be easily forgotten. But now the Board will be reminding you, so you won't fall behind in your Membership. You can go to the Club Website to get an application for renewal. Single Memberships are \$20.00 per year, and Family Memberships, for more than one Ham in each household and same address, are \$25.00 per year. The Club Website is: [www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org). Look for Applications and Renewals on the left side of the page. You can print this out and mail it or bring it to Jeff KA4WYC Secretary W4BFB, at a Club Meeting. Please print it out and fill it in. We use that to update our Membership and accounting for the money. If you have any questions contact any of our Board Members.

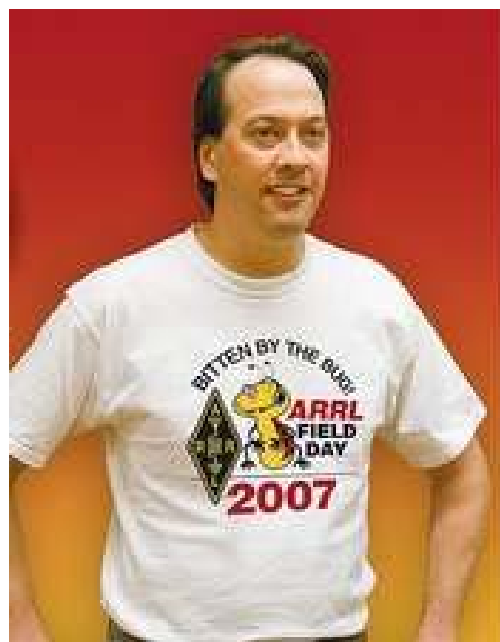
If you have a Club key or your Cell Phone has changed or email address is different, please let the Secretary know. You may not get the Newsletter! 73 – Jeff KA4WYC

## Field Day T-Shirts

It's time to make preparations for this year's Field Day. Bill Fisher (W4GRW) and Tim O'Rourke (W4YN) are heading things up as co-chairmen. Once again the club will pick up the shipping for your ARRL Field Day T-Shirt order. Sizes are S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, and 4XL. I can also order the Field Day and GOTA (Get On The Air) pins along with the Field Day Outdoor Kit and the Field Day Water Bottle.

I'll be taking orders at this month's (April) club meeting so we can have your items ready at the May club meeting. Remember that Field Day this year comes before our June meeting so time is short. Prices for the shirts are \$12.95. If you can't make it to the meeting to place your order you can contact me via email and we'll work something out. To see all of the available items you can go to [www.arrl.com](http://www.arrl.com) and click on the Field Day advertisement, or you can go to the page directly by going to: [www.remote.arrl.org/catalog/?item=no-9742#top](http://www.remote.arrl.org/catalog/?item=no-9742#top).

-Paul, AD4IE



# Mini Field Day - May 19th

On Saturday May 19th, W4BFB will have a Mini Field Day and Family picnic at Back Creek Presbyterian church. This is a family event and everyone is encouraged to attend and bring their families. The church is located in the University area at the corner of Hwy 49 and Back Creek Church Rd. near I-485.

We will have 2 operational stations, a phone station, and a digital station participating in the European PSK contest. Setup will begin at 9:00 AM. If you want preview of how the club sets up for Field Day, be there when setup starts. The club can certainly use your help. And, it is almost guaranteed you will learn something new. We plan to get on the air about 11:00 AM.

The picnic will begin shortly thereafter. The club will supply hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks for all attendees. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish or dessert. There should be plenty of time during the day for members and their families to visit with old friends and meet new ones.

This will be a great time to for non-hams and hams new to HF to get some air time on the HF bands. The old pros in the club can have some fun operating and at the same time teach the new folks how it is done. At 5:00 PM we will begin breaking down the stations.

Please let us know how many will be attending. Also you will need to sign up to bring a covered dish or a dessert. You may send an email to [miniFD@w4bfb.org](mailto:miniFD@w4bfb.org). You can also sign up for the event at the April club meeting.

For directions to the site, please check out the [www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org) website, and look at the field day link.

## Gaston Club QRP Rig Project

(Our friends at GAARC asked us if we could pass this information on.)

Several members of the Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club are organizing a hands on amateur radio event . This event will be the construction of an 80 meter CW QRP transceiver. This transceiver operates from a 9-volt battery and it is small enough to take anywhere.

With the new FCC rule changes, Technician licensed operators now have privileges in the 80 meter band, so here's an excellent opportunity to create something that will be yours to keep and to try out some new privileges and a new mode.

The date of the project is scheduled for Saturday May 19,2007.The location for the project build will be the Union Road Volunteer Fire Department on Union Road across from the Gastonia airport.

Time: 10:00am

The cost is \$20. This includes everything to build the transceiver and get it on the air. All you will need to supply will be an Altoids can or similar container of your choice if you so wish. There will be equipment available to put your kit together and to check out your completed project. Those interested in building a kit are asked to sign up and we would like for the kit to be paid in advance. We would like to have your reply by Friday, May 4th to have everything ready for you.

Thanks and hope to hear from you soon.

Don Wankel - KG4TQE - [kg4tqe@arrl.net](mailto:kg4tqe@arrl.net)

## **Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society— <http://www.w4bfb.org>**

**Club Meetings** The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

We meet at:

East Baptist Church  
6850 Monroe Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28212

(Next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive)

**Clubroom** Red Cross Building  
2425 Park Rd, Room 023  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
(704) 334-3900

**Club Repeaters** 146.34/146.94 (w/autopatch)  
146.63/145.23 (no autopatch)  
144.69/145.29 (no autopatch)  
222.80/224.40 (no autopatch)  
449.600/444.600 (no autopatch) PL 100.00

### **Mecklenburg 2m Emergency Net**

9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.34/146.94 featuring the ARRL Audio News feed on Sunday night.

Alternate frequencies announced

## **Club Officers and Board of Directors**

### **President**

Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO, [ki4cxo@w4bfb.org](mailto:ki4cxo@w4bfb.org)

### **Vice President**

Don Biltcliffe, N4IZ, [n4iz@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4iz@w4bfb.org)

### **Secretary**

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, [ka4wyc@w4bfb.org](mailto:ka4wyc@w4bfb.org)

### **Treasurer**

Greg Onachila, KG4IOE, [kg4ioe@w4bfb.org](mailto:kg4ioe@w4bfb.org)

### **Directors**

Paul Ponak, AD4IE, [ad4ie@w4bfb.org](mailto:ad4ie@w4bfb.org)

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, [wb2rh@w4bfb.org](mailto:wb2rh@w4bfb.org)

Kevin Keyes, KI4KFS, [ki4kfs@w4bfb.org](mailto:ki4kfs@w4bfb.org)

Andy Hawkins, G4GKK, [g4gkk@w4bfb.org](mailto:g4gkk@w4bfb.org)

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, [w4grw@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4grw@w4bfb.org)



**Mecklenburg Amateur Radio  
Society, Inc**

Richard Y. Dodd, K4KRW, Editor  
7000 Heatherford Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
E-mail: [k4krw@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4krw@w4bfb.org)