
◆ MARS NEWS ◆

Volume 53, Issue 08

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc

August 2002



AUGUST MEETING

The program for the August meeting will be announced at the meeting since the Editor received no information prior to publication time.

DUES RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year again. Enclosed in the newsletter is the renewal form for 2002-2003. Please bring the form to the next club meeting or mail it to the secretary along with your dues renewal fee.

Unless there is information changes, you only have to complete the top part of the form.

If you do not renew your dues by August 31, the newsletter will no longer be mailed to you. Send your renewals in today.



From the President:

THE PREZ SEZ --

Not a whole lot going on. A couple things of interest, though.

John White has installed a port through which coax can be brought into the new communications trailer. This consists of a hole in the floor under one of the seats with plastic fittings installed so that water wont get in while it is being towed down the road. Good work, John!

Sherry Frye, KE4LZE is planning a picnic for October. She wants the club to furnish the meats and everyone to bring a covered dish (Vegitable or dessert). She is checking on available dates, but the plan is October, probably the 12th or 19th. All detaillls to be announced in September news Letter. Sounds great to me!

Everyone be careful this hot weather.

Wilton, WB4PCS

PUBLIC SERVICE — from the Editor

Our largest public service event of the yar is just around the corner. That is the MS 150 Break Away to the Beach that will be held the weekend of September 28-29.

This event takes a lot of support and Shawn and Jeff are looking for volunteers. We need volunteers for SAG wagons, rest stops and situation teams. So if you can give us one or two days that weekend, please sign up and send an email to Shawn, K4RSG or Jeff, KA4WYC.

If you plan on working a rest stop and your spouse or significant other is going to be with you, please let me know. The MS Society would be glad to sign them up as a rest stop volunteer and they would be assigned to the same rest stop as you. We always need volunteers.

We will ask Elena to make arrangements for the dining room for supper as she has done in the past . That way we all get together for a buffet supper on Saturday night in Florence.

Go out to Elena’s web site, www.ridemaps.com and you can get additional information on this event. Hope to see all of you thee.

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 30, 2002

Present: Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, President; Vincent Mates, KF4LVC, Vice President; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Secretary; John White, WB2NHQ, Treasurer.
Board Members: Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC; Rick Hampton, WD9KEL; Mac McCray, K4PDY.

President McAllister called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

The purpose of this meeting of the board was to pass on the proposed rules for assignment and use of the newly purchased club trailer. A set of rules had been worked out by part of the board and was in consideration for passage by the full board. There was some discussion as to whether the some additional detail might be desirable. It was felt, however, that the rules could be amended later as experience might warrant. Therefore, a motion was made to accept the rules as written and the rules were passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

David Stewart, AF4ZK

HF Corner from W4WNT

Some of the publications have been saying that the sunspot cycle is waning, and that propagation can only get worse in the near term. Unlike the stock market, the sunspot cycle really does have an 11 year cycle, and yes, we are past the peak which occurred several months ago.

That does not mean that propagation on the HF bands has gone away, however. I've been working on QRP DXCC for a few months, after going through my logs since early 2001 when I first got interested and compiled what I had worked at 5 watts. So far, I've got 49 countries in the bag using 5 watts and an R-7000 vertical.

The most recent catches were 8Q7ZZ in the Maldives on 17m and OE2REL in Austria on 20m. Get out your trusty atlas and look up the Maldives off the coast of India. That's over 9200 miles according to DX4WIN. Pretty good propagation when the band is supposed to be going downhill!! Both of these contacts were around 8:00PM local time (00:00Z). They were also CW contacts. One good thing about QRP, you have better luck sending more slowly, since the listening station may get some fading or QRM that will knock out your signal anyway. Repeating your call several times ensures that the other station heard you and will get the call right.

Good luck and good DX

MINUTES OF MEETING JULY 30, 2002

President Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

President Wilton McAllister conducted the voting to admit a new member, Jack Frye, KG4SAA into the club. The action was unanimously approved. Welcome to the club, Jack.

President McAllister noted that the new club communication trailer was parked outside the church and invited the members to look it over after the meeting. He also noted the cost, including all accessories, of \$8520 was somewhat less than had been anticipated. Wilton discussed the rules for trailer usage and passed out copies of the rules to the members. He explained the rules and the reasons for them.

Rick Hampton, WD8KEL, a member of the Board of Directors, announced that he is moving to the Boston area to take a new job and that this will probably be the last meeting he will be able to attend.

Wilton McAllister nominated William Turner, W4WNT, to fill Rick Hampton's unexpired term. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, discussed the MS150 bike ride scheduled for September 28 & 29. Volunteers are needed for several functions. See Shawn to sign up for a very enjoyable activity.

Mary Hunt, N4MH, announced that a VE test session will be held at the church on August 17 starting at 9 am. Please be 20 minutes or so early to fill out the paperwork.

John Covington, W4CC, a past president of the club, and ARRL Section Manager gave the evening program. John discussed the challenges facing amateur radio in the years ahead and what we and the ARRL can do to make sure amateur radio is available as an enjoyable activity in the future.

The door prizes were won by Perry Garris, KF4UVL, a clock; Vince Mates, KF4LVC, a Yaesu hat; and Lee Price, KF4UVL, a Kenwood hat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK

OPERATING STATION RV

Operating Requirements and Procedures

Approved by the Board of Directors July 30, 2002.

The travel trailer is the property of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society (MARS). It is available for use by MARS members in support of club activities through permission of a majority of the board of directors. In emergency situations when there is not enough lead time to bring the full board together, this permission may be obtained from a club officer, or if unavailable a board member, or if unavailable the equipment manager. Club activities are those supported by the MARS organization, such as, but not limited to Public Service events, Field Day, Contesting, or a Communications Response to emergencies or disaster locations.

The trailer will not go to an emergency situation or a disaster location with less than two people.

The trailer will be stored in a location that is freely available to Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society members who have met the following tow-vehicle requirements and operator training.

The tow vehicle:

-Must be of sufficient weight and condition for safe "heavy traffic" operation.

Vehicle weight at least 3000 lbs, safe tires, brakes, lights, and mirrors working
Trailer tow capacity at least 3000 lbs
(example) At least Ford Ranger or Explorer, Chev S10 or Blazer, Jimmy, etc

-Must be equipped with category II or better frame hitch (2" receiver).

-Must be equipped with electric trailer brake controller.

-Must have standard RV trailer electric hookup (7 prong plug, lights, 12v, brakes, gnd).

New Operator Training is Required:

-On site RV checkout with operator and tow vehicle present

-Hook up to trailer, check all lights, brakes, tire inflations (including tow vehicle)

-Road Test, in traffic and on interstate, to experience braking, following distance, vehicle clearance, and handling.

-Turn around and parking test with backing into a parking space required

-2 people required anytime the trailer is being backed up (operator and a rear spotter)

(continued on page 6)

Operating Requirements and Procedures (continued)

New Operator RV Equipment operation checkout:

- Fresh water tank, and water pump
- Use of gas tank valve
- Water heater lighting and extinguishing
- Refrigerator starting and use (requires trailer leveling)
- Use of the awning.
- The use of, draining, and rinsing of holding tanks
- All tanks must be drained and rinsed before parking at storage space (2 holding tanks and fresh water tank)
- The use/storage check-list must be completed.

These rules can be amended by the Board of Directors as further experience deems necessary.

To all our Amateur Radio friends;

Well, by now, everyone has probably heard the Hampton family is getting ready to relocate to the Boston area. Many of you have already expressed your disappointment at our moving. We deeply appreciate your kind sentiments and wish you to understand that we will miss each and every one of you. We have made many friends in the past couple of years, and deeply appreciated the kindness, generosity, and support given to us.

We regret we weren't able to put in more time at Discovery Place, attend and operate more contests, or help more with Club functions. We all assure you, the times we were able to be with you and help will be cherished forever; last year's MS-150, all the training rides, Crop Walks, Special Olympics, ARES drills, SkyWarn sessions, Jamboree-On-The-Air, Hamfests, etc.

For fear of forgetting someone, it's hard to single out just a few people from such a large crowd who have contributed, and we can't even begin to start, but we can say what we are thankful for and let the people involved know how much we appreciate their kindness. Thanks to everyone who encouraged and helped Beth, Kara, and Matt to finally get their licenses. To the Discovery Place crew, thanks for not only putting up with all of us so much, but for all the encouragement you gave to the family, especially Kara. To the folks who called, stopped to help, and offered so much when our car got "rearranged" on the way to one of our early meetings, THANK YOU! To the Drive Time Gang, thanks for the entertainment over the many miles. To all the folks who elected Rick to the Board of Directors, thanks for the trust in giving him the opportunity serve; he is so sorry he can't fulfill the term.

In the overall scheme of things, most of us can't really say we've changed the world. The Hampton family can tell all of you that to us, you really did make a world of difference!

Sincerely,

Rick, WD8KEL, Beth, KG4GMJ, Kara, KG4GVS, and Matt, KG4QKX

A special note to Bob, KI4YV, John, WB2NHQ, and Mac, W4PVT: When Kara and Matt found out Boston's Museum of Science didn't have a Ham Radio room, their comment was the same, "Correction.... They don't have one YET!" It looks like we'll be in touch. And I PROMISE I won't be the only one with code privileges for much longer! -

Rick



MECKLENBURG AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
For the Year 2002-2003

Call sign: _____ License Class: _____

Previous Call: _____

Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Age group (for dues): Under 18: _____ Full: 18 To 65: _____ Full: Over 65: _____

Member of: ARRL: _____ SERA: _____ ARES: _____

Do you have a Club Room key? _____ If so, number: _____

E-mail address, if you have one:

I would like to see the club do the following this year:

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ONLY IF THERE ARE CHANGES

Street or Mailing Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Submitting this renewal form with the appropriate fees, I do hereby agree to continue to abide by the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the society as well as the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Renewal Amount: \$20.00 - Full Member

\$14.00 - Student (Under 18) Member, Full Member over age 65,
 Associate Member or Family Member

Please complete required information on this renewal form and mail to:

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
 David Stewart AF4ZK, Secretary
 113 Foxfield Lane
 Matthews, NC 28105

For Club Use only:

Date entered to File: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 27, 2002 — Club Meeting, Moonroe road, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13, 2002 — Board Meeting, Red Cross Building, Park Road

Saturday, September 28-Sunday, September 29, 2002 — MS Break Away to the Beach

Saturday, November 9, 2002 — VE Test Session, 9:00 a.m., East Baptist Church

Saturday, December 7, 2002 — MARS Holiday Party, Idlewild Country Club

About This Newsletter

MARS News is published monthly for the members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Permission is given to reprint any article, provided that credit is given to Mecklenburg ARS and the respective author. Subscription to the newsletter, via US Mail, is provided to club members. Complimentary copies are available to guests and prospective members.

The deadline for submitting material is the 10th of each month. Please submit newsletter material to: **Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, 16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway, Huntersville, NC 28078 948-6006 or office 892-3270, Fax Number 892-8326**

You may submit material via Electronic Mail to: n4mh@w4bfb.org or on 3.5" diskette. The files should be in TEXT or WORD format.

SUPPORT THE MS 150 BREAKAWAY TO THE BEACH

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2002

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

REST STOPS

SAG WAGONS

SITUATION TEAMS

CONTACT K4RSG OR KA4WYC

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Officers and Board of Directors:

President	Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, Email Address: wb4pcs@w4bfb.org
Vice President	Vince Mates, KF4LVC, Email Address: kf4lvc@w4bfb.org
Secretary	Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Email Address: af4zk@att.net
Treasurer	John White, WB2NHQ Email Address: wb2nhq@w4bfb.org
Directors	Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, Bob Cole, KD4IIN ; Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE; Mac McCray, K4PDY; Bill Turner, W4WNT
Meeting Place:	East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Road (next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive)
Meeting Time:	Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.
Clubroom:	Red Cross Building, 2425 Park Road, RM 023, Charlotte, NC Telephone 704-334-3900
Club Repeaters:	146.34/146.94 w/Autopatch. 144.69/145.29 w/Autopatch. 144.63/145.23, no Autopatch 449.60/444.60 w/Autopatch and P/T 100.0 Autopatches Access *(don't unkey)+phone number. Disconnect # 222.80/224.40 w/Autopatch 145.01 Packet Digipeater, W4BFB-1
	METROLINA 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

MARS News
Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, Editor
16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy
Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —
Tuesday, August 27, 2002