



MARS NEWS

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society



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**Next Meeting - Tue. August 31 @
7:30pm - East Baptist Church**

Program: Tim Slay - N4IB

An overview of amateur radio towers, including deed restrictions and covenants, permitting issues, tower selection, foundation construction, tower installation, grounding and lightning protection.



President's Letter

Hello All,

Just a note to thank Jason Kay - N4JCK for his presentation last month on Linux and Ham Radio applications written under Linux. Everyone I spoke to said it was not only entertaining but they learned from it.



**President
Shawn Goodin
K4RSG**

Don't forget to sign up for the MS-150 Ride to the Beach. Go to <www.ridemaps.com>, Elena's web site, for more info and sign ups.

We will be having a Hamfest Committee soon where we will be discussing, among other things, where we can hold the 2006 event. The Merchandise Mart is being sold and we may not be able to get it for 2006 and beyond. If you have a suggestion as to a place we might obtain, please send email to me at <k4rsg@w4bfb.org>.

Several things have happened at the Discovery Place Ham Station. A new R-8 Cushcraft vertical has been installed for the Digital Station. The coax leading to the Mosely Pro-57, 5-band yagi has been replaced. The Ten-Tec Orion has returned from being serviced at Ten-Tec and is in excellent shape including new firmware updates.

For those new to Ham Radio there is a Yahoo News Group designed just for you. Here is the description of the group and their website address:

"This group is dedicated to those who are interested in getting started in amateur radio or upgrading to a higher class license. Many folks have some sort of radio background whether it's shortwave listening SWL, scanning or CB/FRS operating, but just aren't sure how to go about getting into ham radio. We have numerous people in the group with various expertise levels that are more than willing to help anyway they can. We also share study guides and reference material within the group, so if you have something to share or are looking for something please let us know. If you have any questions regarding ham radio, feel free to ask and you're guaranteed to get numerous responses."

<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup/>>

This will be the last time the Membership Application will be included here. If you haven't yet done so, please print it and bring it to the next meeting with your dues....Thanks!



**Volunteer Net Controllers
needed for the Metrolina
Emergency 2-mtr net.
Contact Jim Payne,
n4jbp@arrl.net, Net Mgr.
Net meets nightly @ 9pm**



A New Portable Antenna

by Ben - WB2RHM

Worked YV0D yesterday at about 1:30PM on 20m, SSB. What a mess of a pile up. They were working with a 30KHZ wide split zone, nothing but QRM. I was using my new portable antenna:



This is set up in the 20m configuration. The counterpoise is lengthened or shortened when changing bands.



You also change the tap on the 7 -> 30 MHz loading coil. The middle coil allows operation down to 3MHz. I also added a coax balun with a spare pvc coupling.



Everything breaks down into 30" sections except for the fiberglass electric fence holders that I use to support the counterpoise wire off of the ground. they are 4ft.

Ben - WB2RHM

For more info email Ben <WB2RHM@ARRL.net>

DX Nets

by Tom - W4NCU

Just starting to chase DX? Well it is fun to look around the bands, find foreign stations and work them. However, with propagation the way it is, DX can be pretty scarce. When you find one, there is often a pile up that is difficult to break through, especially if you run 100 watts or less.

Is there a way to get through to the DX even when running low power? One way is to participate in a **SSB DX NET**.

A DX NET usually operates daily on DX bands bands like 15 & 20 mtrs. Here's how they work. Most often there are two or more Net Control Stations. The two controllers are located in different parts of North America although sometimes they are DX stations.

Let's say the first Net Control is located in California. He gets on and calls for any DX stations that would like to join the net. Depending on conditions, he may find none, one or many. After this, he then repeats the list of DX stations who have joined and you should write them down. Now he calls for stations in North America that would like to work the DX. He will often ask for the last two letters of your call sign. Usually he takes 10 stations or so at a time. You may not be able to hear Net Control very well and he may have not been able to hear your callsign. Don't worry as after the first Net Control is finished his list he turns it to the second Net Control who may be located somewhere on the east coast or elsewhere. You may have a better chance of being picked up by the second Net Control than the first.

If Net Control says he heard you he may ask you to confirm that he has your call correctly. You answer "Roger" or repeat your call sign.

Now Net Control calls each North American ham on his list one by one. If he calls you, then call the DX sta-

tion you wish to work (remember you wrote them down). You should use standard phonetics and call the DX station twice - add your call twice then say, "Over". If he hears you he will return with your report. When he turns it back to you, verify that you got the report by saying something like "QSL your 57". Then send his report and ask if he got it ok by asking "QSL?" He will verify and you can then send control back to Net Control.

It is important to say the report you received so that Net Control knows that a good contact has been made.

Each time a Net Control calls for North American stations you may try to get on the list, even though you may have worked a DX station from a previous list.

Here are a few nets you might like to try:

Southern Cross DX Net	14.2265	11:00utc
Bob Bennett Family Hour	14.245	14:00utc
Bob Bennett Family Hour	14.245	19:00utc
The 14.252 DX Net	14.251	20:00utc
Halo Net	21.390	Various

If you frequent these nets you will probably begin friendly relationships with the controllers and the DX stations you speak with. Have fun!



Minutes of the Last Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met at the Red Cross Building, on Tues., August 3, 2004

Present: Shawn Goodin, K4RSG; Bill Turner, W4WNT; John White, WB2NHQ; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK; Tom Nicholls, W4NCU; Scott Ellis, KG4UDX; Irv Hoechner, KF4KFN; Greg Onachila, KG4IOE; Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC

Guest: Ben Antanaitis - WB2RHM

Meeting called to order at 7:13PM.

President's Report: The 145.23 repeater has been moved to emergency power. GARC also has a key to the building.

Vice President's Report: The August club meeting will be presented by Tim Slay, N4IB, on his experiences installing a tower and beam at his new house. No topic has been set up for September. Sherry and Jack Frye are looking into a visit to the Aviation Museum as a future meeting.

Secretary's Report: Copies of the by-laws were provided to the board members for review. The by-laws are on the website. Members are invited to review and send suggestions for changes to Bill Turner, W4WNT.

Treasurer's Report: MARS has sold the Wells Fargo trailer and the Pincor generator for \$400.

Public Service:

Aug. 6: MS Training Ride

Aug. 6: Union County Red Cross Go for Blood Bike Ride. Jeff Blythe will provide the go kits to the UCARS club for use at the Red Cross event.

Sept. 18-19: MS-150 Sign ups are on Elena's website www.ridemaps.com.

Letters are being sent to the Grand Strand and Chesterfield Radio Clubs to invite them to participate in the MS-150. We have permission to use the Grand Strand repeater this year.

Repeaters: The 220 repeater has been moved to the 94 site for possible use as an IRLP repeater. It has not been re-installed yet.

Newsletter: Tom needs articles for this month's newsletter. Deadline is Aug. 14. We are now sending out about 50 copies by mail, the rest by e-mail distribution.

Contests:

Aug. 6-8 NA QSO Party

Aug. 6-8: ARLHS Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society event

Aug. 20-22: International Lighthouse/Lightship

Weekend

Christmas Party: Jeff Blythe and Dave Stewart will handle the party arrangements. Dave will put a form in the October Newsletter.

Hamfest: Shawn will arrange a Hamfest committee meeting for the third week of August.

Old business: By-Laws are being reviewed. Comments will be compiled by Bill Turner, W4WNT.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Submitted by Bill Turner, W4WNT, Secretary.

Off we go to VHF...

Looking at a map of South Carolina, I noticed that between Gaffney, Spartanburg and Greenville, there is a corner of grids EM94, EM95, EM84 and EM85. I decided to take a drive down there over the weekend of the CQ VHF contest, July 17-18. A number of locals were also contesting that weekend, Bill Fisher, W4GRW, was up on the mountain in Boone doing a solo effort and Ted and Itice Goldthorpe were roving around in northern NC.

As I left home about 3PM on Saturday, 6m opened up. My first two contacts before I left Weddington were with Jodie Millspaugh, VP5JM on Providencia Is. in the Caribbean, and VE1YX in New Brunswick, Canada. Unfortunately, someone reached up and threw the switch on 6m at that point, and no further out of state 6m contacts showed up! Granted, I'm running 50w with a 6m Hamstick antenna, so I've got the wrong polarization and only one "element" on my antenna.

I meandered down I-85 over the rest of the day, nearly getting drowned when the skies opened up in Greenville. I'd planned to stay in Greenville anyway, so the next morning I started back, finding Bill Fisher still operating and I worked Thomas Roberts, N4HN and Jack Guion, W4JG from along the way. At one point I was parked along the frontage road of I-85 when a Sheriff's car came along the other direction. I thought I was going to get another opportunity to introduce someone to amateur radio, but the officer did not find anything unusual about a Jeep with an antenna mast sticking up through the sunroof.

The next VHF contest is the same weekend as the MS-150, so you can expect to see my antenna setup in Rest Stop 3 Saturday and Sunday on the Rockingham route.

73, Bill Turner, W4WNT

W4BFB - Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society - Membership Application

New Membership ____ Membership Renewal ____ Information Update ____

Individual (\$20.00 per year) ____ Student/Associate/65+ (\$14.00 per year) ____

Family Membership (all hams in family, one price): \$25.00 per year ____ Family over 65:\$19.00 ____

Name ____ Address ____

City ____ State ____ Zip Code ____

Home Phone ____ Work Phone (optional) ____

Callsign(s) ____ Class ____ Expiration ____

Occupation/Company (optional) ____

ARRL Member? ____ YES ____ NO Do you have a Club room key? Number ____

Newsletter Delivery Choice: ____ U.S. Mail ____ Internet E-mail

Internet E-mail or Packet Radio Address ____

Other Clubs: ARES: ____ W4CQ: ____ CDXA: ____ UCARS: ____ Other: ____

Membership in the Society is open to every person interested in Amateur Radio, whether he or she is a licensed Amateur or not. Each member or family is sent a monthly newsletter, and each licensed Amateur member may operate Club equipment following checkout.

The Club holds a regular meeting monthly (except December) on the last Tuesday at 7:30 P.M. We meet at East Baptist Church on Monroe Road in Charlotte.

Any licensed Amateur 18-65 may become a FULL MEMBER by paying a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) membership fee of the lesser of \$20.00, or \$2.00 per fill month remaining in the then current fiscal year. Any licensed Amateur OVER 65 may become a FULL MEMBER or any licensed Amateur UNDER 18 may become a STUDENT MEMBER by paying a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) membership fee of the lesser of \$14.00 or \$1.50 per fill month remaining in the then current fiscal year.

Any unlicensed person may become an ASSOCIATE MEMBER by paying a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) membership fee of the lesser of \$14.00 or \$1.50 per month remaining in the then current fiscal year.

With the submittal of this registration, and appropriate fees, I do hereby agree 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 ____

Version: 4/24/2004

**Make checks payable to Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc. and send to:
Bill Turner, W4WNT, 4000 Horseshoe Bend, Weddington, NC 28104**

Date Entered: ____ Check Number: ____ Amount: ____

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc. - Officers and Board of Directors -2004:

President - Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, Email Address: k4rsg@w4bfb.org

Vice President - Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, Email address: ka4wyc@w4bfb.org

Secretary - Bill Turner, W4WNT, Email Address: w4wnt@w4bfb.org

Treasurer - John White, WB2NHQ Email Address: wb2nhq@w4bfb.org

Directors - Irvin Hoechner, KF4KFN; Greg Onachila, KG4IOE; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK;

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

<wlsetzer@att.net>

Next Meeting - August 31, 2004**September Meeting - September 28, 2004**

MARS News
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