



Mars News

Prez Sez for December 2012

Hello fellow hams,

Here's hoping the Mayan calendar continued beyond the 21st Dec 2012. I suspect they sent it out to the hieroglyph guy and it got lost in the Christmas rush.....

To those that attended the MARS Christmas party, I think a good time was had by all and I thank you for your participation and fellowship.

November's club meeting brought out a few new faces to serve on the board for 2013; at the next club meeting I will introduce the new board and have them say a few words of wisdom.

I am looking for more participation and Ideas from the membership; we need to keep the club vibrant and interesting for everyone. If you have any suggestions, please let me or the board know.

Some of the ideas I would like to see are a bigger participation in preparing and execution of a successful Hamfest in March. Bryan-K4NET is heading up this effort as Hamfest

Chairman, but he still requires plenty of volunteers to pull off a great event. One of the areas we need volunteers is as a "Yellow Jacket". This entails working at a door or checking guests tickets as they come and



Andy Hawkins

go, or even keeping an eye on the crowd. This is a vital part of the running of the Hamfest and provides a sense of security to the guests and vendors alike.

We have a great Hamfest Committee, and they have worked hard to bring a great event to the Cabarrus Arena in Concord. When asked, please give your support by volunteering for a 2 hour shift.

Another event that I enjoy each year is Field Day. We will need some help with this and I have a goal of maybe being Number 1 in the state for our Class. Let's see if we can pull it off!

Public Service is one of our club's biggest assets to the community. We

will have the MS Challenge Walk in Charleston SC, The Carolina Cycling Time Trials at Charlotte Motor Speedway, The MS walk around Myers Park, The Cystic Fibrosis Ass'n Bike Ride around the Waxhaw area, The MS Break Away to the Beach from Monroe to Sunset Beach, The Lungstrong Walk, plus others I may have missed. Please volunteer wherever you can when asked, as it not only provides satisfaction to you psyche, it also helps the community and promotes Amateur Radio in a very positive way.

I hope you all have a very safe and wonderful Holiday season. I wish you all a very happy new year.

73

Andy Hawkins K4GKK.

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
Club Meeting	2
Board Meeting	3
Wrap Up	6

MARS CLUB MEETING 11/27/12

The meeting was called to order by Andy – K4GKK at 7:38PM

We welcome the following new members:

Jeff Viscount (Associate)

Patrick Fink, KK4DHM

Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR

Visitors:

Whitney, student at CPCC

Upgrades:

Congratulations to Mike Wentz, KE4EHC on his upgrade to General class

George Hohas, W4GEH is recruiting for Hamfest ticket sellers at the Hamfest ticket booth. Three to four additional volunteers are needed. Contact George if you are interested in assisting with ticket sales.

Mary Hunt, N4MH, reported on the Christmas party scheduled for December 1, 2012 at Central United Methodist Church.

Election Results:

Congratulations to the following newly elected Board members:

President, Andy Hawkins, K4GKK

Vice President, Mitch Barbato, KX4MB

Secretary: Sandra Jones, KK4DAW

Treasurer: Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ

Director: Charles Comerford, KK4HOK

Director: George Hohas, W4GEH

Meeting Topic:

Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET made a presentation on Echolink. Echolink is ROIP (Radio Over Internet Protocol). Echolink allows licensed operators to communicate with each other worldwide. Licensed amateurs can use a PC, Mac or smartphone to access Echolink. Mac users access Echolink through Echomac. There are currently a total of 200,000 Echolink users worldwide. Echolink requires a computer interface, soundcard, mic and speakers. Rigblaster and Tigertronics Signalink USB are two pieces of affordable equipment needed to access Echolink via PC. Visit www.echolink.org for more information

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.

Submitted by Kevin Keyes, K4YYD

Secretary MARS

Minutes for Board Meeting of December 4, 2012

1. Meeting called to order at 6:47 pm.

Present: Andy Hawkins – K4GKK; Tom Hunt – KA3VVJ; Kevin Keyes – K4YYD; John White - WB2NHQ; Shelley Eaves - KJ4ATK, Bryan Ferdinand - K4NET; Barry May - KC4SSS

Not present: Dave Holbrook – KC4YPB; George Hohas - W4GEH

Visitors: Charles Comerford, KK4HOK; Mitch Barbato, KX4MB; Sandra Jones, KK4DAW

2. Barry motioned to accept the minutes for the Board Meeting of November 6, 2012 as presented and Shelley seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Tom presented the treasurer's report. Barry motioned to accept, seconded by Shelley and approved by the Board.

4. Vice President's Report:

Shelley reported that Vice President responsibilities will transition from her to Mitch Barbato in January. February meeting will be partially devoted to Hamfest. Andy may present slide-show of past ham radio activity at January's club meeting.

5. Secretary's Report:

145 total current paid members including 4 life members.

6. Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee:

Bryan reported that Repeater Committee is looking into installing another repeater on top of the Gold Building on Independence Blvd.

Public Service Committee:

The next public service event is the MS Challenge Walk in Isle of Palms, SC in March 2013.

Equipment Committee:

Andy continues to inventory club equipment in club room and in storage at Mary's property. Bryan discussed the possibility of purchasing several new 2 meter radios to boost performance of the packet network. Boosting the RF hub will take pressure off the internet hub.

Grants & Resources:

Kevin will continue to explore changing the club's tax status from 501(c)(7) to 501(c)(3) which will allow contributors to make tax deductible donations to the club. Kevin plans to contact two club members who have legal backgrounds to assist in determining whether making such a change is feasible.

Field Day Committee:

Bryan and Mitch will be working on the new Honda generator to make needed minor repairs before Field Day. The Committee is also considering other sites in addition to Belk Scout Camp to set up for Field Day. The Committee is considering a possible test run of equipment in April. Andy suggested collecting photos from past Field Days in order to make a digital collage to be presented at next year's Christmas Party.

Entertainment Committee:

Christmas Party to be held on December 1st at Central UMC, 630 Albemarle Rd in Charlotte. The party starts at 6:00 and dinner is served beginning at 6:30. Sports Page catering will again provide ham, turkey & dressing, tossed salad, mashed potatoes, green beans and banana pudding.

Website:

Charles and Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW have set up the beta version of the club's website. The site is much cleaner and better organized with pull down menus integrated into the site. Charles and Wayne continue to work in conjunction with Ben Antanaitis to keep the club's website up and running.

Old Business:

Net Manager:

Stan Bagwell, AJ4ZL is the new Net Manager upon taking the reigns from Don Eaves, KJ4ATJ. Alan Richards, KF4NJP has accepted the position as Assistant Net Manager.

New Business:

Board discussed buying several ARRL Tech Q&A books to loan to new non-ham members to assist these members in earning their Technician license.

The Board discussed advertising the club's teach and test licensing sessions through local schools, local paper and Geekfest.

The Board discussed looking into a new meeting location. Mitch Barbato offered to look into facilities at his church for future meeting activities. Mitch will report back to the board the results of his findings.

There being no further business, Barry motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM seconded by Andy.

Submitted by Kevin Keyes, K4YYD
Secretary, MARS

MECKLENBURG AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Club Repeaters

Input	Output	Offset (KHz)	Autopatch	Tone
146.34	146.94	-600	No	118.8
144.69	145.29	-600	No	118.8
144.63	145.23	-600	No	118.8
222.8	224.4	-1600	No	none
449.6	444.6	+5000	No	118.8

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

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK, k4gkk@w4bfb.org

Vice President

Shelley Eaves, KJ4ATK, kj4atk@w4bfb.org

Secretary

Kevin Keyes, K4YYD, k4yyd@w4bfb.org

Treasurer

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ, ka3vvj@w4bfb.org

Directors

Bryan Ferdinand,, K4NET, k4net@w4bfb.org

George Hohas, W4GEH, w4geh@w4bfb.org

Dave Holbrook, KC4YPB, kc4ypb@w4bfb.org

Barry May, KC4SSS, kc4sss@w4bfb.org

John White, WB2NHQ, wb2nhq@w4bfb.org

Newsletter Editor

Sandra Jones, KK4DAW, w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org

*Mecklenburg 2m Emergency Net
9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.94
(-600)*

Alternate frequencies announced

www.w4bfb.org



Newsletter Editor:

Sandra Jones, KK4DAW

8824 Gelligum Drive

Charlotte, NC 28277

w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org