



# MARS NEWS

W4BFB

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society



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**Next Meeting - Tue. Feb 22  
7:30pm - East Baptist Church**

**We will discuss the Hamfest (Mar 12-13)  
There are a number of work areas that we  
need to find people for.**

**HAMFEST  
MEETING**

## Editor's Letter

The chairmen of the various work committees for the Hamfest are asked to be in attendance at the February meeting. Many of the members do not as yet have hamfest jobs and would like to sign up with you at this meeting. Remember, those who work at the Hamfest get in free.

In case you need additional admission tickets, prize tickets or parking tickets they will be available at the meeting.

Last month's auction of electronic gear seemed to go well. There were about 25 items auctioned. Some of the more interesting items that were auctioned off were a 40 meter antenna and a uhf amplifier. Many thanks to our Vice President, Wilton - WB4PCS who acted as auctioneer.

EchoLink, the Ham Internet Chat, is now approaching 250,000 members. It is not unusual to see 3,000-4,000 hams on at one time. There are four categories. You can hook up your repeater for wide area coverage. A -R is added to a callsign to indicate a repeater. You can set up a link -L so that you can use a hand held and a vhf or uhf rig to connect to echolink from various parts of your home or the backyard. You can set up to use a computer only (no letter). The final category is the Conference link that allows many to join together for large meetings or conferences. A new addition is a program called EchoAnswer. When using a computer as your entry tool, you can set this up like a telephone answering machine.

Should you have EchoLink up but are away from your computer, EchoAnswer will play a voice message you previously recorded to a visitor. Should the visiting ham leave you a message, another message can be sent thanking him for leaving a message. This is a free program and will save up to five incoming messages.

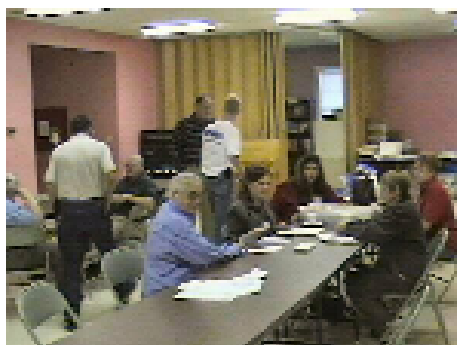
Echolink(tour/download): <http://www.echolink.org>  
EchoAnswer:  
<http://www.k1xd.hyperconnects.com/echoanswer/>



**The ARRL does a great job for  
Ham Radio. They support the  
hobby in many ways. If you are  
not a member perhaps you will  
consider joining.**

**Volunteer Net Controllers needed for the  
Metrolina Emergency 2-mtr net.  
Contact Darryl Sampson, Interim Net Mgr.  
W4OH@arrrl.net  
Net meets nightly @ 9pm - 146.34 / 146.94**

## Photos - Peel & Stick Party



As you can see, the Peel & Stick party was well attended and orders for pre-registration tickets have started coming in. The totals are not available at this time but hopefully at the February meeting we will be able to share information on pre-registration numbers. (Thanks to Ben - WB2RHM for the photos).

## South Carolina Hamfests - 2005

### 7 May 2005 + Blue Ridge ARS

<http://www.upstatehamfest.org>

Talk-In: 146.01/146.61

Contact: Matt Andrews, KF4NXS

PO Box 727

Lyman, SC 29365

Phone: 864-414-6233 (4-10 PM)

Email: [hamfest@brars.org](mailto:hamfest@brars.org) Greenville, SC

Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds

575 Fairgrounds Road

Spartanburg

Contact: Carl Ecabert, AA1MD

P.O. Box 193

Sumter, SC 29151

Phone: 803-469-0113

Fax: n/a

Email: [aa1md@ftc-i.net](mailto:aa1md@ftc-i.net) Sumter, SC

Sumter Fair Memorial Building

Sumter Fairgrounds

700 West Liberty

### 1 Oct 2005 + ROCK HILL HAMFEST

York County Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.ycars.org>

Talk-In: 147.030 (neg offset)

Contact: Robert Bacharach, WA2EMF

1627 Bridal Trail

Rock Hill, SC 29732

Phone: 803-327-2634

Fax: 803-324-8659

Email: [WA2EMF@ARRL.NET](mailto:WA2EMF@ARRL.NET) Rock Hill, SC

American Legion Hall - Post 34

199 South Cherry Road

### 29 Oct 2005 \* South Carolina State

Convention ("Beachfest 2005")

Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.w4gs.org>

Talk-In: 145.110

Contact: Jim Wood, KF4CJE

614 North Hollywood Dr.

Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Phone: 843-238-0800

Fax: 843-238-8221

Email: [kf4cje@w4gs.org](mailto:kf4cje@w4gs.org) Conway, SC

Conway National Guard Armory

1621 16th Avenue

### 22 Oct 2005 + Sumter Hamfest

Sumter Amateur Radio Association

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/2695/sara.htm>

m

Talk-In: 147.015



**MARS Board Meeting  
February 1, 2005**

**Attendees:** K4RSG, WB4PCS, W4WNT, KG4IOE, W4NCU, WB2RHM, AF4ZK

**Absent:** KI4CXO, KG4UDX

Called to order at 7:00PM.

**President's Report:** The W4CQ club will hold a **Technician Class** at the Salvation Army beginning on Sat. Feb. 12 at 9:00AM. The class will run for three weeks. The CLTNE packet node may be experiencing problems. Shawn will check with Steve McCabe, KE4LVX.

**Vice President:** The Feb. club meeting will be the Hamfest meeting to explain the activities and request volunteers. The April meeting will be a RTTY demo by Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM. We are also trying to line up Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, to talk about the status of BPL in NC and around the country.

**Secretary:** Updates to the reflectors have been done and the administrator's list has been updated (by Shawn). The secretary will locate the copy of last year's Pre-Reg database and send to Greg.

**Treasurer:** The Trailer storage bill has been paid, a copy of QuickBooks has been purchased for the club, the phone bill has been paid for the repeaters and auction expenses have been paid.

**Committee Reports:**

**Shawn appointed a Membership Services chair, Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO.**

**Public Service:** Three events are planned for 2005.

April 2 **MS Walk** Freedom Park

June 3-5 **MS Challenge Walk**

Sept. 24-25 **MS-150 Breakaway top the Beach.** This event will go through Darlington this year, no more Route 76 out of Florence!!

**Hamfest:** Shawn will plan a meeting the second full week of February and will send an e-mail notice.

**Christmas Party:** Due to the overwhelming positive feedback for the Pine Lake site, Dave Stewart will make arrangements for Dec. 3, 2005 at the same site. He reports meals may go up by \$1.

**Field Day:** Ben, WB2RHM, will chair this year's effort. The club is on the lookout for three used laptops, preferably with Minimum 300 MHz processors, 5-10 GB disks, large screens, USB ports, and a Minimum of 64 MB memory that will run Windows 98 SE 2nd Ed. These will be WiFi linked at the Field Day site. A motion by Wilton, WB4PCS and seconded by Bill, W4WNT, was unanimously approved to purchase up to 3 802.11b WiFi adapters plus one 802.11b Wireless router (which as specified by the 802.11b Standard must operate at 2.4 GHz) so we can network our W4BFB stations at FD, or whenever we wish, using a wireless LAN. We are also on the lookout for a tent to replace the SSB tent.

**Old Business:**

Ideas from the Jan. Board meeting are being followed. Shawn has made a contact with the Home School group. W4WNT will send the Member Packet files to Ben, WB2RHM for use a new members information packet. W4WNT will generate a file from the ARRL Members page of new and upgraded hams in the local area.

Festival in the Park used to have ham station set up as a demo. We could do a demo focusing on the Hurricane, Tornado, and Tsunami communications and locally on the ice storm response.

Wilton pointed out that in many conversations with non-hams, the question comes up about who provides the equipment, who pays for the hams' time, who feeds the volunteers, etc. People find it hard to believe that hams are doing all this effort for free. This would be a good point to emphasize in any publicity along with the public service nature of Amateur Radio and the basis in the FCC regs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Submitted by Bill Turner,  
W4WNT, Secretary**



**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: kg4ice@w4bfb.prg**Directors** - Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK; Jodie Rowlan, 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  
 <wlsetzer@att.net>

Meeting After Next - March 29, 2005

Next Meeting - February 22, 2005

**MARS News**  
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 Charlotte, NC 28211  
 w4ncu@att.net