



MARS News

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News from the President, Feb 2012



February 22nd, 2012

Message from the Prez....

We are off to a good start for the year, the attendance at the January meeting was outstanding and I think that from the feed back I have received, we will continue with the round table introductions from time to time through out the year. I was pleased to see the abundance of members that stayed after the main meeting for fellowship and chit chat. We even had a group helping a prospective new member on his antenna issues.

Today, (22nd) it was Heinrich Hertz's 155th birthday, (this info was provided by a Google Doodle that appeared on my desktop at work as a variable sine wave). We have him to thank for discovering the properties of frequency variation which was eventually named for him.

Next month is our ONE and ONLY annual event that helps fund the clubs activities: The Charlotte Hamfest on March 10th and 11th at the Cabarrus Arena on Hwy 49. Please consider giving at least 2 hours of time to help keep this event running smoothly. We will still be asking for volunteers at the next club meeting on Feb. 28th at East Baptist Church.

For those budding DXer's in the club, the ARRL International DX contest – Phone, will be held over the weekend of March 3rd and 4th. This is also the weekend where the club supports the MS Challenge Walk, which is being held this time in and around Charleston, SC. See Mary Hunt N4MH for details.

Please do not forget to check out our website: www.W4BFB.org for any information and the latest news.

Please do not forget to renew your membership; dues are due for 2012. Please go to www.w4bfb.org for the renewal form.

73

Andy Hawkins – K4GKK

Announcements and News

Public Service Committee News from Mary Hunt, N4MH, Chairperson

Our next public service event will be the MS Challenge Walk. This is a 3 day, 50 mile event. It will be held in the Charleston, SC area the first weekend in March – 2-4. They walk 20 miles on Friday and Saturday then 10 on Sunday. For those who support the event for all three days we stay at the Wild Dunes Resort for a nominal fee.

Currently we have 300 walkers signed up for the event and that is 150 more than last year,

If you are interested in supporting this event as a SAG Vehicle or a rest stop radio operator for the three days or even one day, go out to Elena's web site: www.ridemaps.com and scroll down to the Challenge Walk. After you sign up on that page, there is a link that takes you over to the MS Site to sign up with MS. There is also a nominal charge for the food at Wild Dunes and this site will ask for accreditation card for payment.

We also have members of the Charleston Amateur Radio Club that help support this event.

This is a slower paced event than Bike Tour but is a great event!!!!



Renew now for 2012

[Print Form](#)

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society W4BFB

Membership Application/Renewal/Update Form


 New Membership ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ Information Update ☐

 Individual (\$20.00 per year) ☐ Student/Novice Licensee (\$14.00 per year) ☐
 Family Membership (cover all licensed family) (\$25.00 per year) ☐ Family membership (5+) (\$12.00 per year) ☐

 PLEASE NOTE: For Renewal or Update: Please - CIRCLE ANY CHANGES (Name)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ DOB (mm/dd/yyyy) ____/____/____

Phone: Home _____ Work (optional) _____ Cell (optional) _____

 Permission to Display Phone Number in Club Roster? Yes ☐ NO ☐

Internet E-mail Address _____

 Permission to Display Email Address in Club Roster? Yes ☐ NO ☐

Call sign(s) _____ Class _____ Expiration ____/____/____

 Is this a call sign change? NO ☐ ; IF YES, what was your OLD CALL _____

Occupation/Company (optional) _____

 APRIL Member? ☐ YES → Exp. Date on QST Label (mm/dd) ____/____; ☐ NO → <http://www.w4bfb.org/home/membership>

 Do you have a Club room key? ☐ NO; IF YES → You MUST Turn it in to receive the Club Door lock combination!

 Newsletter Delivery Method: ☐ via E-mail; ☐ Other (Circle of secondary for optional)

 Other Clubs: APRS: ☐ W4002 ☐ COMA ☐ UDNRs ☐ CityW4m ☐ Other: _____

Membership in the club is open to any person licensed in Amateur Radio. An Amateur Radio License is not required for membership. Only full members holding a valid Amateur Radio License may vote in club elections; only members over 12 years of age may become a club officer or committee chairperson. Every current member is notified when a new renewal is available via email. Only current and dignified members may operate club equipment, following a checkout and instruction session, and they are responsible to comply with and subject to FCC rules and regulations. Members must notify the club secretary of address, phone, and/or email changes.

 MARS holds a regular meeting monthly. See <http://www.W4BFB.org> for information about the scheduling and location.

To be a MARS member, you must submit a completed application/renewal/update form and pay the annual dues required. Your appropriate MARS dues amount may be determined by consulting the membership option below.

 The annual membership year is from January 1st thru December 31st.

*Any licensed Amateur less than 65: the lower of \$20.00, or \$2.00 per full month remaining in the then current membership year.

*Any licensed Amateur OVER 65, any licensed Amateur UNDER 12, any unlicensed person (following a novice license): the lower of \$14.00 or \$1.50 per full month remaining in the then current membership year.

***All licensed Amateur(s) residing at one address: the lower of \$25 or \$2.25 per full month left in the then current membership year.

***All licensed Amateur(s) residing at one address: the lower of \$12 or \$1.60 per full month left in the then current membership year.

With this renewal of this application, and appropriate payment, I do hereby agree to abide by the by-laws and Standing Order of the Society, and I am notified and notified by the President, Chris, David, and Carol.

Signature: _____ Call: _____ Date: _____

Make check payable to Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc. and send to:

Tom Hunt - K4GVW - MARS Treasurer

14001 Wynd Hill Creek Parkway

Huntersville, NC 28072

Date Entered: _____ Check Number: _____ Amount: _____ Date Due: Please do not delay

Version: 10/12/09

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Pictures

Hi 'BFB Members-

Pics are starting to roll in from the 2012 Sandblast Rally in Cheraw NC in which some of the W4BFB club members volunteered to assist with Ham radio communications a couple weeks back. The cars were modified street cars, Lancers, EVO's, WRX's, Focus and Escort's (yes, even an escort or two) and most stock engines, little exhaust and a 5 point racing harness to keep you in your seat at almost 100 mph on sand "roads".

Funny part during the volunteers meeting was when a coordinator explained what constituted an "emergency" for the volunteers; His reply was, "If the car is flipped upside down against a tree, and displaying the OK sign in their window, this is not an emergency and you CAN assist them in flipping their car upright if it is safe to do so" LOL! Why don't they flip their cars back over on 85 and go on?

Here are some of the highlights, and looking for time to get my vids uploaded as well. There is a reason why people hide behind trees! Check the bottom link as this includes everything new being uploaded daily. Enjoy!!!

When 2 headlights are just not impressive enough, we bring you this.....

http://nasarallysport.smugmug.com/2012SandblastRally/Andrew-Phillips-128/21400603_4JJs7C#!i=1705117282&k=QW6jLk3

This is a GREAT video from a helmet cam. At some point, I would estimate he was doing about 75, in the sand on a motorcycle! Not for me! Cars reached 100mph on some of these same sand "Roads"

http://nasarallysport.smugmug.com/2012SandblastRally/Andrew-Phillips-128/21400603_4JJs7C#!i=1705139866&k=ZRckgRS&lb=1&s=A

A bike during "Shakedown" testing, they were going slow:

http://nasarallysport.smugmug.com/2012SandblastRally/Jesse-Lewis-2-cr/21380229_MkLFTb#!i=1703315691&k=Swgxr2r&lb=1&s=A

There is NO WAY you would catch me going this fast on a bike in sand!

http://nasarallysport.smugmug.com/2012SandblastRally/Jesse-Lewis-2-cr/21380229_MkLFTb#!i=1703322058&k=4q664xm&lb=1&s=A

What is sounds like when a mosquito is not happy!

http://nasarallysport.smugmug.com/2012SandblastRally/Jesse-Lewis-2-cr/21380229_MkLFTb#!i=1703326935&k=m7h9Npv&lb=1&s=A

All Pics/vids can be found here. There will be more uploaded by teams and volunteers daily, check back often.

<http://nasarallysport.smugmug.com/2012SandblastRally>

73-

Bryan

K4NET

MARS Volunteers Hard at Work!!



K4NET's Jabber Corner

220 Alive, Well and Expanding It's Footprint in Charlotte

Hi everyone, I did not get a chance to put out and update last month as I have been very busy with work as of late. In any case, there seems to be an increasing amount of 220 activity in the Charlotte and surrounding area as of late. Maybe it is because it is just now being brought to my attention, or the fact that indeed we are reviving the great 220 band. In any case, remember the saying "Use it or lose it" and it appears that parts of Canada have recently lost 220-222mhz and they risk losing the rest of it to commercial interests.

Since my last writing, we have acquired some new stations that have checked into the 224 Jabber Net. Most recently Derek (KD4ADL) and commented that it is great to hear the W4BFB machine back on the air, and performing very well. Additionally, he was gracious enough to offer up another 220 machine as a backup for our net should ours fail. The backup 224 Jabber Net repeater will be 224.800 -1600khz with a 110.9 tone going forward with a 223.500 simplex which we will try soon.

As for my ability to hit this West Charlotte machine, while I am located in a hole near East Charlotte, my beloved CX-333 cannot seem to get the job done (SWR 1:1), BUT surprisingly I can reach it effectively with a 2m 13 element vertical beam at a relatively low SWR of only 1:1.6 or so.....go figure. A few members have already experimented with multiple dual 2m/440 antennas that can run a low SWR of generally 1:1.5 or so on the 220 band. DISCLAIMER: I am not saying you hook up your favorite 60w 220 amp and go at it with a dual band antenna, but generally at the 5-20w level you should be well within range and not let out any "magic smoke". ALWAYS check the SWR on lowest power out first!

All in all, I could not be happier with the performance of our 220 machine since Earl (K4KAY) helped us tweak the band reject filters. This helped eliminate nearly 90%!! of the desense that was occurring since we installed the PA, and I can now hear weak signals with 90% noise! It continues to perform well on a daily basis, even with nearly an hour of constant use during nets. Hope to hear YOU on the 224.400 (no tone -1.6meg) machine one of these Thursday evenings at 8pm EST.

Dont have a 220 rig? John (NK4X) has done a lot of homework on available rigs out there, and came up with the following links to share....Thanks John for your contribution.

A multitude of HT and mobile rigs can be found here:

<http://members.shaw.ca/francislyster/220/index.html>

Additional Rig and info regarding 220 can be found here:

<http://members.shaw.ca/francislyster/220/index.html>

Till next time, keep the repeater finals warmed up.

73-

K4NET

Bryan

From the editor



Thank you for your patience as I work to bring you a useful, balanced, newsletter. I welcome your input about MARS and/or other amateur radio issues to include as well as photos etc. of your ham activities. Call/email me if you have questions about what to include or how you want it done. *Send me stuff ya'll!*

88

KK4DAW

Sandy

Hamfest Equipment Sales Sign-Up

W4BFB provides this club booth for members WORKING THE HAMFEST to have a place to sell their equipment. Please complete this form below before you place any item(s) on the club table.

Members working the W4BFB booth will make every effort to keep your equipment safe, but CANNOT be responsible for missing or stolen equipment.

Members working the booth will make every effort to get your asking price, but please be aware that most buyers know you have a minimum price, and usually ask to see it.

Notice: There will be no item(s) accepted before 1:00PM on Friday No Exceptions.

No items will be accepted without this form completed.

Call Sign _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Contact Number _____ (AT THE HAMFEST)

[illegible]

MARS Board Meeting 01-31-2012

MARS CLUB MEETING 1/31/12

The meeting was called to order by Andy – KG4GKK at 7:30PM

Individual introductions were made by each club member indicating their call sign and ham radio interests. Common interests were public service, HF, contesting and digital modes.

Mary Hunt – N4MH discussed the upcoming MS Challenge Walk in Charleston and the need for SAG and rest stop hams. In addition, Mary discussed the upcoming Hamfest and provided a history of the Charlotte Hamfest over these many years.

Each Hamfest committee chairperson then gave a brief description of their duties. Volunteers are still needed for flea market setup (bring work gloves if setting up tables) yellow jackets. Contact John Igenbrogue if interested in assisting with flea market setup and Jeff Blythe – KA4WYC if interested in being a yellow jacket. The talk-in station will be staffed again by hams from the Cabarrus club.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00PM

Submitted by Kevin Keyes – K4YYD
Secretary MARS

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

Send	Receive	Offset (KHz)	Autopatch
146.34	146.94	-600	Yes
144.69	145.29	-600	No
144.63	145.23	-600	No
222.8	224.4	-1600	No
449.6	444.6	+5000	No

Mecklenburg 2m Emergency Net
9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.94 (-600) featuring the ARRL
Audio News feed on Sunday night.
Alternate frequencies announced

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

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