
◀ MARS NEWS ▶

Volume 53, Issue 01

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc

January 2002



JANUARY MEETING

The January program will be our annual equipment auction. We will have an amateur auctioneer. No one can replace Doug Moore who was our resident auctioneer for years and became a silent key in November. So please bring all your used equipment and other items to auction off at the meeting. We will start accepting items at 6:45 to be entered in the auction. Please check in with Mary Hunt and get your number if plan to auction equipment at the meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Our annual holiday party was held on Saturday, December 2 at Idlewild Country Club. We had 86 members and guests in attendance and had a great time. On page 7 are pictures taken by George Fryer, KI4KK at the party. Thanks George.

We did not have our annual January "Peel and Stick" Party for the Hamfest this year as we had the names printed on the flyers by the printer. However, the committee is now in full swing working on the Hamfest.

We will start soliciting help at each meeting. We needs lots of volunteers the weekend of March 8-10 to have a successful show. So please mark your calendars now and volunteer at one of the meetings to help with selling tickets, security, flea market set-up. If everyone volunteers and works at least one two-hour shift we will have plenty of help.

If you have any questions about the Hamfest, please contact our Hamfest Committee Chairperson, Tim Slay, N4IB.

Mary Hunt, N4MH



From the President:

Happy new year, everyone! Really looking forward to the auction at the club meeting. It's always fun!

We had a great start at the Board meeting. I think we have a great group. We are hoping to make the meetings and programs more interesting for all. We would appreciate suggestions from any of you as to what you would be interested in. Please help us!

Speaking of that, this is YOUR club so please be active in it by giving the officers and board your input so that the direction we take is what YOU want.

Start making plans for the Hamfest. This is where we get the most of our money. Every body that possibly can needs to help. It's a big undertaking and takes a lot of manpower. Be there! It is fun when everyone pitches in.

See you at the meeting--

Wilton, WB4PCS

Tower and Antenna System For Sale New in the box, has never been assembled

Antenna:	HyGain TH6-DXX 6 elements, 10, 15, 20 Meters, 9.5 db gain, 25 db front to back boom - 24 feet long, heavy wall 2" new in the box, never assembled	Rotator: HyGain T2X Tailtwister new in the box
Tower:	Wilson Systems Inc. TT-45A Steel Tubular telescoping tower 20' down, 45' up RB-45A Rotor Base for TT-45A 2 new winches: 1000 lb for crank-up 1200 lb for tilt-over 4 new concrete anchor rods other misc. re-bar	
Owner:	John Mullis W4NHZ 704-543-5499 (or contact WB2NHQ)	

FOR SALE: Epsom Color Stylus II Printer. \$50 OBO. Contact Mary Hunt, N4MH at 704-948-6006 or send an email to n4mh@w4bfb.org.

MINUTES OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 27, 2001

President Shawn Goodin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Shawn stated that Mary Hunt would be able to take reservations for the Christmas Party at this meeting.

John White announced that Joe Cline had given him a good deal on tonight's door prize, a digital meter. The prize was later won by Irv Hoechner, KF4KFN

Daryl Sampson is looking for ARES operators.

John Covington, W4CC, ARRL section manager, presented an award to Bob Southworth, KI4YV, for his 10 years of service as station manager at Discovery Place.

Shawn noted the passing of Doug Moore, W4WDM, Sam Rolen, W4SAM and Frank Bateman, N4HRP.

The annual election of officers and directors for the year 2002, was held with the following results:

President	Wilton McAllister
Vice President	Vince Mates
Secretary	Dave Stewart
Treasurer	John White
Board Members	
	Bob Cole (reelected)
	Sherry Conrad Frye (new)
	Rick Hampton (new)

Bill Heybruck, WA2EDN gave an excellent demonstration of assembly of a personal computer from basic components. The assembled machine was powered up and was set up to run Xwindows.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Dave Stewart AF4ZK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 29, 2002 — Club Meeting, East Baptist Church, Monroe Road

Saturday, February 9, 2002 — VE Test Session, East Baptist Church, Monroe Rd, 9 AM

Tuesday, February 12, 2002 — Board of Directors Meetings, Red Cross Building, 7 PM

Tuesday, February 26, 2002 — Club Meeting, East Baptist Church, Monroe Road

Friday, March 8, 2002 — Set up for Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair

Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10, 2002 — Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair

MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOVEMBER 13, 2001

Present: Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, President; Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, Vice President; John White, WB2NHQ, Treasurer; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Secretary; Board Members: Jeff Blythe KA4WYC; Mac McCray, K4PDY; Bill Turner, W4WNT

Shawn Goodin called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Reports from the Officers:

President Shawn Goodin K4RSG – Shawn noted that the club was saddened by the recent passing of Doug Moore, W4WDM and Sam Rolen, W4SAM.

Vice President Wilton McAllister WB4PCS – Wilton reported that the November meeting would be about computer assembly and that the January meeting would be an auction although finding a replacement for Doug Moore would be difficult.

Treasurer John White WB2NHQ – John reported that income and expenses are in line with the planned budget although some decline in revenue is expected due to declining interest rates and decreased membership.

Secretary Dave Stewart AF4ZK – Dave reported that about half a dozen members had sent in absentee ballots.

New Business

There will be no board meeting in December.

John White was authorized by the board to apply for a new call sign for the club to become the call sign used at Discovery Place. John will be the call sign trustee.

A discussion was held about the by-law reference to “member in good standing”. This led to the formulation of the following motion by the Secretary, “A member who is not current in his dues and is running for office must bring his dues up to date by certified check by one week prior to the election.” The motion was seconded by Jeff Blythe and passed unanimously by the board. The board expressed an intention to modify the by-laws to clarify this requirement.

A discussion was held about declining club membership and meeting attendance. It was suggested that establishing interest groups to focus on specific topics might be a way to make meetings more interesting.

A discussion was held on the problem that some of our public service clients are coming to believe that cell phones might adequately serve their communications needs. This in spite of considerable evidence to the contrary. No ready solution to this situation was found.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Dave Stewart AF4ZK

Radio Room Volunteer Contacts Space station

It's not everyday that we get up in the morning and put in a call to the International Space Station, but on one particular morning not long ago, that's exactly what Discovery Place Volunteer Kara Hampton did.

Kara, 14, is a volunteer in the Discovery Place Amateur Radio Education Center and an active participant in the annual Jamboree On the Air (JOTA), an international ham radio program for Boy and Girl Scouts. One morning this past October, Kara arrived at Discovery Place to participate in the program that encourages young hams to talk to one another over the airwaves.

She was aware that Commander Frank Culbertson, aboard the Space Station 250 miles overhead until late November, was a former Boy Scout and an amateur radio enthusiast that would likely be participating in JOTA, but her window to contact the astronaut was running out. A computer screen in the radio room that tracks the space station's orbit indicated time was dwindling from nearly 15 to two minutes.

"I didn't expect in a million years for him to come back, but he did," Kara said. "Everyone in the room cheered, but then it got really, really quiet."

A group of Girl Scouts taking part in the experience had a chance to listen to the brief exchange with astronaut Culbertson, who said he was dedicating the entire weekend to JOTA.

This was the fourth time Kara has tried to contact the space station, at the suggestion of her father, also a ham. It was the second attempt that day as the space station made its 90-minute trips around the earth.

"My dad said that a girl's voice would really stand out in a sea of guy's voices," Kara said. "I guess he was right."



Kara Hampton volunteers in the Radio Education Center

Annual Report from your VE Team

In 2001 we held four test sessions . We tested a total of 56 people and gave 70 elements. Forty-six of these candidates upgraded or got new licenses.

I would also like to thank the volunteer examiners listed below because without them the exam sessions would not be possible. Thanks for your help during 2001 and we look forward to your continued assistance in 2002. If anyone is interested in helping the VE Team and has an Extra Class license, please contact Mary Hunt, N4MH. You must be ARRL certified to participate in our exam sessions.

Rob Rochelle, W4DAZ
 Dave Leonard, AE4AT
 Bob Burton, N4PQX
 Tim Slay, N4IB
 Jack Guion, W4JG
 Barry Mulvaney, K4QN
 Dave Stewart, AF4ZK
 Ed McKnight, W4EJM
 George Fryer, KI4KK
 Tim O'Rourke, KG4CHX

Bill Turner, W4WNT
 Paul Ponak, AD4IE
 Jerry Malin, N2HV
 Tim O'Rourke, KD4CHX
 Bob Thomas, N4BX
 Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ
 John Scott, K8YC
 Rick Hampton, WDKEL
 Irv Hoechner, KF4FKN

We will be giving exams quarterly again in 2000 on the following dates:

February 9	May 11
August 17	November 9

The test session fee for 2002 is \$10.00.

Mary Hunt, N4MH
 Coordinator for the Mecklenburg ARRL VE Team

LICENSE RENEWAL INFORMATION

Within 90 days of expiration date, you can submit your renewal via the internet at:

www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls (first register in ULSA by following the "REGISTER, TIN/Call Sign" tab procedures, then choose the "FILE, ULS Filing" tab procedures.

Renew by Mail: Mail Form 605 to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. The form has a main form plus Schedule D with two parts. Main form is all that is needed for renewals. Form 605 is available via the internet at: **www.fcc.gov/formpage.html**.

Any ARRL member can send Form 605 to ARRL for renewal which is a free ARRL Members only service.

MARS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY PICTURES



Kara and Beth Hampton



Elena, KS4OX definitely had the Christmas spirit.



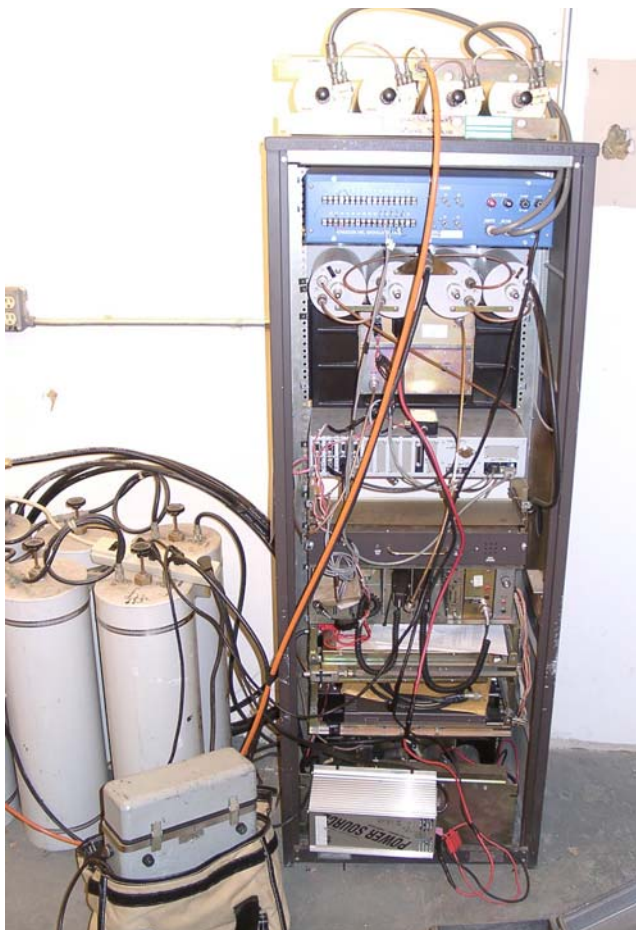
Christine & Paul Ponak



We had lots of good food!!!



Bev & Jerry Malin



The repeaters on top of the First Union Building in downtown Charlotte.

The 220 Mhz duplexer is on top of the cabinet.

The 220 Mhz repeater is the blue box at the top inside of cabinet. next is the 444.600 Mhz duplexer. The 444.600 power amplifier is under that and then the controller. The items below are the 444.600 Mhz repeater, the 145.29 repeater and amplifier with the power supplies on bottom. The Cans to the left are the 145.29 duplexer. We have all three duplexers feeding a triplexer (not shown) which feeds our Diamond triband antenna.

The 444.600 Mhz repeater is off the air due to a spurious emission. The exciter has been sent to E.F. Johnson Co. for repair. The repeater should be back on the air near the end of January.

Simple HF Antennas

During the 2001 CQWW Phone Contest, I alternated between the R-7000 and 18AVT verticals and two very cheap and inexpensive loop antennas. The loops are square, a quarter wave on a side with 75 ohm coax matching transformers connected to 50 ohm coax feeding the transceiver.

As I'm in a tower deprived neighborhood, I use stealth antennas. The verticals are in the trees in the backyard and the loops were temporarily hung between the railing of the back deck and the trees in the side yard. The loops were designed from the handbook dimensions, about 11 ft. on a side for 15m and 8 feet on a side for 10m. They were hung so that the bottom part of the square cleared the ground, but only by 6" to a foot or so. I can only throw the end of a piece of string so far! The antennas hung so that 45 degrees (Europe) was perpendicular to the plane described by the square. The matching transformers were made from RG-59 coax (75 ohms) cut to a length equal to 0.66 times one quarter wavelength. 0.66 is the velocity of 75 ohm coax and that's what the transformer formula uses.

My observations are that the loops were more effective than the verticals in most cases. I'd normally try to make the contact with the vertical first, then switch to the loop for the band in use. Most times, the European station was 2 S-units stronger on the receiver (Yaesu FT-890 without an SSB filter). Very often I'd get the contact on the first call with the loops, even though I was running 100 watts.

My results:

241 Contacts, 126,442 points in about 8 hours of operation.

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
40	9	4	9
20	57	13	31
15	91	21	53
10	84	16	44

241 54 137 => 126,442

In summary, you can make contacts in DX contests with simple antennas and have lots of fun doing it. See you in the next contest.

Bill Turner, W4WNT

About This Newsletter

MARS News is published monthly for the members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Permission is given to re-print 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.

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@yahoo.com

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; Rick Hampton, WD9KEL; Mac McCray, K4PDY;

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

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Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —
Tuesday, January 29, 2002