



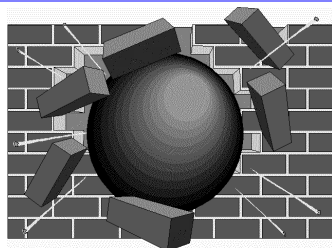
MARS NEWS

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society



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Breakthrough or Breakup???

Our meeting* on **Jan, 27th** will have a most interesting program. **Dave Masters** of Duke Power will tell us of Duke's plans to test

BPL (High Speed Internet Access over Power Lines) in early 2004.

An RF signal is injected into the power line and some groups, including ARRL, have voiced serious concern that not only will this technology cause interference with the HF and lower VHF amateur bands but that hams may cause interference with BPL.

Please come with your questions for our guest. Bring radio amateurs who may not be club members with you.

President's Letter

It's a new year, and with that we are making plans for the Club -- what would **you** like to do in 2004? I am working on a calendar of events for the year and we will update it as new events pop up. I'd like for our Club to participate in one operating event per quarter. The second quarter event would be Field Day, for example. We will also list our other public service events, board meetings, Club meetings, VE sessions, and so on.

We are looking for volunteers for various committees. We would like to have a Field Day chairman appointed soon, someone to head up the Holiday Party next year, and people to help with the Hamfest. If you'd like to assist with our repeaters or participate in our contesting events, that would be fine too. Public Service is among our biggest needs, so if you would like to help us organize our MS events or other public service events, please let us know.

Our next Club meeting will cover the BPL issue -- in reading about BPL, I note that Austria has appeared to outlaw BPL in their country due to interference to communications. I also noted one of the BPL trials

here in the US, and saw that their town officials "didn't care" about interference concerns. As amateurs, we need to stay on top of this issue.



President
Shawn Goodin
K4RSG

We have two well-equipped stations to use here in Charlotte -- our Club station at the Red Cross on Park Road in Charlotte, and the Discovery Place Amateur Radio Education Center. We will be setting up some Open Houses at the Red Cross to help our members become more familiar with what we have, and to help our members and visitors learn more about amateur radio and receive assistance, not to mention being able to ragchew with eyeball

QSO's.

See you at our next Club meeting on January 27th!

Get there early to get a good seat as we are expecting guests from other clubs to hear the program on BPL!



*Meeting location & time on last page.

An Interview with - Bob Southworth - KI4YV

by John White - WB2NHQ

Many of us have known Bob for years, others haven't met him yet. To start this series of chats with some of our club members I couldn't think of anyone better than Bob. Bob's first callsign ? W9FOB in 1937 (he was 14). Back then there was a Operator license and a Station license. You didn't get a Station license until you had a station, you didn't get a station until you built one. Bob's first contacts were on his Elmer's station, log entries were important, Bob got QSLs for his contacts, his Elmer got the rest. Bob's first transmitter? Homebrew, a single tube 01A oscillator made with parts from a Crosley receiver, having maybe 3 watts out on 40M CW. Later his Dad gave him a Hallicrafters SkyBuddy receiver, and he upgraded his transmitter using a pair of 6L6 tubes (more than the 3 Watts then).

Then came WWII and 3 _ years in the South Pacific, followed by Univ of Nebraska on the GI Bill. Bob had an Electrical Engineering degree in 1950 BT (before transistors). After college and "women" he got his Nebraska callsign back, now W0FOB, and also over the years gained his Professional Engineer License in 33 states, Great Britain, and Saudi Arabia. Bob lost a car and all his furniture somewhere between here and Lebanon; bad for him but good for us, that's when he came to NC as WA4YIU in the early '60's.

Working with W4URS Roland, he and Roland built our first 146.94 repeater and got some of the guys to help carry it to the top of the Independence Bank building at Trade and Tryon (it was NCNB then, tallest building in Clt, Hugh McColl was the bldg mgr). Bob and Roland were the first repeater trustees back when repeaters had to be actively monitored full time. When they were both sleeping the repeater was shut down and sometimes Bob's phone would ring at 3 AM. He doesn't want to be a repeater trustee now.

During the 1970's Bob lived in Virginia, continuing his career-long traffic handling activity, (he estimates an average 200 messages per month over many years). With the many traffic handling commendations, Bob was also appointed to other important ARRL jobs

like EC, DEC, and SEC of Virginia.

Later when we got him back to Charlotte he was NC Section Traffic Manager, twice president of MARS, and MARS secretary for many years. When he retired in 1988, he refurbished our clubroom at the Red Cross, and built our Discovery Place Station (a huge task). I still remember Bob's encouraging words when our Board of Directors didn't think we could work with Discovery Place, guess we showed those bored nay-sayers. Many of us "young kids" associate Bob with what is now NC4DP, after 10 years as station manager, the prestigious Spirit Award given to Bob by the Arts and Science Council documented 50066 volunteer hours for that job (but I think they missed some).

I asked Bob about wallpaper... Worked All States while in Ne, Va, NC, and La. Notebooks full of traffic handling certificates and special commendations, many ARES and other ARRL special commendations, and some very rewarding photos of Bob working with the kids at Discovery Place. Bob never submitted QSL's for DXCC (he's a traffic guy, not a "59" guy) but he has a suitcase full of DX QSL's and over 90 countries worked in a short amount of time from his current QTH.

Bob showed me some of his plaques on the wall, an impressive collection: Utilities Telecommunications Council President 1983-84, ARRL Life Member, radio club Honorary Life Member in Farmville Va, MARS Ham of the Year in both 1989 and 1995, Discovery Place Most Volunteer Hours Contributed, ARRL Roanoke Division Service Award 1995, Iredell Ham of the Year 2001, Mint Museum of Art SPIRIT AWARD. I asked Bob what we should be doing that we aren't doing. Volunteerism isn't cool now for some reason (our public service events have also dropped off). "We need to get the HAM spirit back, we need to get more people involved with the ARRL School Program in conjunction with Discovery Place. We have to do more HF operations mentoring. HAMs have been buying off-the-shelf equipment for so long that we need

(Cont'd on Page 5)

W4B or a Field Day at Kitty Hawk

by Ron Bailey, AA4S

About a year ago I agreed to take part in putting on special event station to help commemorate the **100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first airplane flight** on December 17, 1903. Members of the North Carolina Special Events Group (See ncseg.org.) based in my home QTH of Shelby, NC had obtained the call W4B and had arranged with the management of The Black Pelican restaurant in Kitty Hawk, NC to operate from their building. The significance of that particular location is that it was the site from which the telegraph message was sent announcing to the world that the first successful flight had taken place. Hence, people tend to associate Kitty Hawk with the event even though the actual flight took place at Kill Devil Hills, NC, but no telegraph office was operational there at that time.

Several members of our group arrived Thursday December 11th and began setting up. Two SSB stations and one CW station were assembled. The operation was supported by Kenwood, Heil Sound, and MFJ Enterprises through the loan of equipment and antennas. Because of the time of year and anticipated weather conditions (cold temperatures and high winds), it was decided to keep the antennas simple. Dipoles, inverted vees, and a multi-band vertical were erected. An anticipated operating period from 1700 UTC, 12/12 to 2000 UTC, 12/17 was posted. Operators were scheduled in shifts to keep at least one station on the air 24 hours a day during that time. The net result was that over 4000 QSOs were made despite extremely poor band conditions. As the only CW operator in the group I logged 1300 of those mostly on 40, 30, and 20 meters. Phone operators included KA4TFP, WA4RH, W4KQ, W4GRW, N4BXB, and others. Many CDXA and W4BFB members ended up in our log - several on more than one band.

To set the scene one has to realize that The Black Pelican is now a restaurant / bar which is extremely popular in this area. It stays crowded during most of their operating hours and, in fact, I don't believe I

have ever eaten better food anywhere. The actual operating position at The Black Pelican was in a storage room on top of the building. It was small, but adequate for our purposes. Equipment and software performed well except for some r.f. feedback problems due to the close proximity of the antennas to the transmitters. For this reason, power was limited to between 100 and 300 watts for the most part. Even so, rumor has it that we caused the lights on the Christmas tree in the bar to blink; but, everyone just thought they were witnessing very clever special effects!

As if all this wasn't enough, I felt it was necessary to activate some of the rarer counties in the northeastern part of North Carolina making things more interesting by using the W4B call sign. So on Monday morning the 15th I jumped in the Blazer with my IC-706 and Hamsticks for 20 and 40 meters and headed north then west on Rt. 158 into Currituck County. Beginning at 1442 UTC with K2JG acting as net control on the County Hunter, s net on 14.336 MHz, I spent the next six hours making contacts from nine different NC counties. Well, 300 miles and 453 QSOs later I found myself back in Dare County at The Black Pelican eating the best chicken marsala I've ever had. My log shows I was consistently able to work stations at a rate of five per minute during my 10-minute run in each county! Counting the trip out and back, I have now put out (transmitted from) 55 of the 100 NC counties. My objective is to do them all by the end of next summer.

W4B cards are in the design stage at this time, but should start being received by the latter part of January. Thanks to everyone for their interest and support.
Very 73, Ron.



Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first airplane flight on December 17, 1903.

Minutes of the Last Board Meeting - January 14, 2004

On January 14th the following members of the Board met at the Red Cross Building.

Present: Shawn Goodin, K4RSG; Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC; Bill Turner, W4WNT; John White, WB2NHQ; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK; Tom Nicholls, W4NCU; Scott Ellis, KG4UD; Irv Hoechner, KF4KHN - Absent: Greg Onachila, KG4IOE

President's Report: Shawn got a call from WBT indicating that someone was playing WBT over 145.35. Shawn indicated that we do not own 145.35, but would be willing to help in case of any locating efforts.

Vice President's Report: This month's club meeting will be representatives of Duke Energy to discuss their plans for BPL in the Charlotte Area. Future meetings will include discussions of digital and IRLP, Echolink, etc. John White suggested the Aircraft Museum as a future meeting.

Secretary's Report: The club computer is up and running and will be used for minutes.

Treasurer's Report: John White discussed the balance sheet for January. Insurance bill will be due this month. Trailer storage and church rental expense has been paid.

Public Service: April 17 will be the MS Walk at Freedom Park. The calendar needs correcting before publication, as it says April 14. A club calendar is being generated for 2004. Repeater control codes will be sent out to Board Members and a copy to the Gaston County group for use with the 145.23 repeater.

Newsletter: Tom Nicholls, W4NCU, has taken over as Newsletter editor and would like to include the board minutes in each month's newsletter. Paper labels need to include Life Members and Club newsletter exchanges. The GARC will be added to the newsletter distribution: kg4awo@gastonares.org.

Old business: No significant issues were carried over; they will be dealt with as New Business.

New Business: The Gaston County Amateur Radio Club needs to find a repeater for their ARES activities. They have used the 145.23 repeater for casual conversations in the last month. They are proposing a Memorandum of Understanding for use the repeater for ARES Nets and drills and training purposes. One item that needs resolved is that the Skywarn Net has 145.23 in its preamble as a backup for Skywarn nets. Skywarn also uses K4CCR 145.17 (88.5 tone) as a backup. The Gaston County ARES Net is 4

Thursdays at 7:00PM. Jeff Blythe moved that the MOU be approved, second by Irv Hoechner. The motion was approved unanimously. The MOU was signed by Shawn Goodin (MARS) and Milton Rice (GARC).

Calendar of Events: Public Service Events, Test Sessions, Board Meetings and Club Meetings and a few contests are on the calendar.

Antennas: The tower on the Red Cross building has been worked on and has new guy wires. The SWR has been checked out and is adequate. The Kenwood TS-570D has been added to the clubroom. SWR was checked during this project in January 2004. A radio switch to change from the 570 to the Paragon has been added and John White, WB2NHQ, has prepared a set of operating instructions for the new set up.

IRLP: Discovery Place cannot be used for IRLP, so other alternatives are being considered for IRLP use. Shawn is looking into placing the equipment at a member's house with a cable modem.

Club phone bill: Reduced use of phone patches due to cell phone use makes it possible to eliminate autopatches, which would reduce our repeater control phone bills.

2 Meter Nets: It would be useful to have board members act as Net Controls for the M2MEN in order to improve communication with our membership. The net should be used to keep members up to date on club activities. Jim Payne, N4JBP, is the net manager.

Additional items: John White would like to order a new ARRL Operating manual for the Club Room and Technician and General Class manual for the DP library. Moved by Shawn Goodin, seconded by Bill Turner, motion approved.

Ham Radio Class: Gaston County amateur Radio Emergency Service will be running a Technician class for seven consecutive Tuesday nights, beginning Feb. 17, 2004 to March 30, 2004. Information is at www.gastonares.org.

Dave Stewart will do a Technician course in April 2004.

Club Badges: Dave Stewart will work on producing photo club member badges.

Survey: Programs were listed as the most important item that came out of the recent survey.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

Submitted by Bill Turner, W4WNT, Secretary.

Help Wanted: 4 or 5 Good Hams...

Mark your calendar! We have an assignment on the Thursday afternoons of February 26, March 11, 25, April 15, 29, and May 6, from 2 - 4:30 PM.

We're hosting a Ham Radio Workshop at Discovery Place with about 20 young people, 12 - 15 years old.

Each one will be armed with solder and irons to build the famous TenTec 1054 Receiver Kit. This is a simple kit for those who have soldered something before, but we need to guide and assist our first timer guests with solder techniques, burn prevention, and component identification (Their eyes probably see those transistor numbers and resistor ring colors better than ours do.) We'll probably have to suck off a few solder bridges too, so if you have a VOM or a solder sucker bring it along. If you can come for some or for all sessions, contact John - WB2NHQ. (wb2nhq@w4bfb.org).

2004 VE Testing at East Baptist Church.

The exams start at 9:00 a.m. and the test fee is \$12.00. People need to be there at 8:30 to complete their paperwork. Technician, General & Extra with morse code when required. Bring original. license and a copy if upgrading.

2004

Saturday, February 7
Saturday, August 21

Saturday, May 1
Saturday, November 13

Southworth - Cont'd from page 2

some mentoring to understand how radios work. Maybe some kit building as a group, we've learned more about radio by building a kit than from any book and a multiple guess exam." We haven't heard Bob on the air this past year or so because the pacemaker/defibrillator keeps Bob away from RF. But the Good News, he looks really good, the cardiologist says don't come back until next year, and he's still working on his remote Jupiter transceiver project with some underground cables to bury and the tower ready to go up again. Sounds like a fun work party coming up this spring.

Recipie of the Month

If you are out in the woods in a radio contest or on an expedition, here is a recipe that might be just the thing but only if you are mighty hungry!

How to Cook a Loon

This recipe was given to me by an Indian guide in the North Woods of Canada. in 1948

From Bill Grahling Oasis Wagoneers
wb4ibw@juno.com

One Loon	1-bay leaf
4-cloves of garlic	4-slices of week old
1-lb of lard	bread crumbs
4-stalks celery, chopped	1-tp of thyme
1-tp of salt	1-lb of sea weed
1-tp of ground pepper	1-tb of oregano leaves
	1-tb basil leaves

Mix all the ingredients together (except the lard) and stuff the loon, . The next step is very important and can not be left out. First dig a hole 3 ft in diameter and 18 ins deep. Line the hole with flat rocks. Build your fire on the rocks next put greased rocks on top of the fire. Use the lard to grease the rocks. Put the loon on top of the rocks. Put more rocks on top of the loon. Cover with green leaves, then with dirt and bake for 5 hours.

When the time is up open the pit, throw away the loon and eat the rocks.

Bon appetit & 73,

Bill - WB4IBW

Calendar of ARRL Events Jan. & Feb.

January

24 - 26 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

February

9 - 13 School Club Round-up
21 - 22 ARRL International DX Contest
(CW)

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 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

W4BFB Web Site

<http://www.w4bfb.org>

Webmaster: Wayne Setzer - WB4BXW
<wlsetzer@att.net>

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

Next Meeting: January 27, 2004 -- February Meeting February 24, 2004