



MARS News

Prez Sez for January 2013

Hello fellow members and visitors.

I hope everyone has recovered from the hectic Holiday season, a great reason to enjoy the company and fellowship of family and friends. Now that 2013 has begun it is time to think about what is going to happen in our MARS World. I am going to cheat a little here and ask you to refer back to the December issue for our upcoming events.

The January club meeting will be a general discussion and brainstorming session. Firstly, I will be introducing the Board Members and asking them to say a few words of inspiration. If no response is forthcoming, I have threatened to hold them all hostage with a slide show of my previous exploits.... get your thinking caps on and come up with suggestions on how we can keep the club vibrant and interesting for all interests of the hobby.

The club is off to a

busy start this year with the Sandblast Rally in Chester requiring volunteers for the various stages around the course. Mitch, KX4MB will have details on this event to be held in February. The

and carry out these duties with a smile on their faces. Bryan, K4NET is our Ham Fest chairman for this year and he will be soliciting help at the January meeting.

The rest of the year also promises to be as busy as the start, we have another MS event in May with a walk around South Park in Charlotte. We will then be supporting the Carolina Cycling Time Trials Assoc. They hold cycling time trials at the Charlotte Motor Speedway once a month through out the summer.

In June we will be holding the annual ARRL Field Day weekend, probably at the Belk Scout Camp in Mint Hill. This was a great success last year with room for improvement so we will be holding a practice set up day some time in April or May. Stay tuned for details.

July brings us the Cystic Fibrosis Ride around the Waxhaw area. This is our second year of helping with this ride and is very similar to the MS Bike ride in organization. August is a quiet month (I think) but September comes along with the MS Bike Ride to the



Andy Hawkins

second event that is going to require some help is the MS Challenge Walk in Charleston, SC. Mary, N4MH will have details on this event which will be a week before the Ham fest.

The major event for this time of the year is the Charlotte Hamfest on March 8th & 9th at the Cabarrus Arena in Concord. THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUND RAISING EVENT, which supports all the club activities, equipment purchase and replacement. This is where we are to shine and provide a good experience to all who attend. We would like you to volunteer to help with this event, we have positions for our famous "Yellow Jackets" which act as hosts, mobile information booths, security

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Beach. To those uninitiated, this is a two day event which starts in Monroe and Columbia to Florence SC on day one, and continues to Sunset Beach on day two.

On top of everything above, we have other ideas to try out, such as contesting out of the club room, starting a general license exam course, or VE test sessions (once a quarter).

These are just a couple of ideas we are tossing around. With a club this size, we should be on the go at least once or twice a month with various activities other than those mentioned above. How about mentoring sessions on Saturdays at the club room, or at a QTH of a new ham that needs help with antenna construction or raising?

If you think about it a little, you will be surprised at what we can achieve together, and the feeling of accomplishment is fabulous.

OK, enough rambling for this issue. I hope to see you all at the January meeting. Do not forget your thinking caps!

best 73,
Andy K4GKK

P.S. If you haven't already renewed your membership, please come to the club meeting prepared to do so!!

Messages from Mary Hunt

FEBRUARY 16—VE TEST PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS—MARY HUNT, N4MH, CHAIRPERSON

We will have a VE Test Session on Saturday, February 16th. The session will be held at East Baptist Church on East Monroe Road.

This is a walk-in test session, so you do not need to pre-register.

The tests start promptly at 9 am. Please arrive at 8:30 to complete your paperwork. The test fee is \$10.00. Please bring a Picture ID. If you have a current license or CSCE, please bring the original and a copy of either of these.

If you have any questions, please call 704-948-7373 or send an email to:

MHuntN4MH@gmail.com

Mary Hunt, N4MH
VE Team Liaison

I hope everyone had great Holidays!

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, (the 1st through the 3rd). They walk 20 miles on Friday and Saturday, then 10 on Sunday. For those who support the event all three days, we stay at the Wild Dunes Resort for a nominal fee.

Currently we have 200 walkers signed up for the event and we expect that number to increase.

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 visit Elena's web site at 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 a credit 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!!!!

MINUTES FOR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Andy Hawkins – K4GKK; Tom Hunt – KA3VVJ; Sandra Jones-KK4DAW; Dave Holbrook – KC4YPB; George Hohas - W4GEH; John White, WB2NHQ; Mitch Barbato-KX4MB, Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET

Not present: Charles Comerford-KK4HOK

Dave proposed the minutes for the Board Meeting of December 4, 2012 be accepted as presented and Tom seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Vice President's Report:

Mitch reported on a questionnaire prepared for members at the upcoming meeting and discussed ways to make the club meetings more engaging. Bryan will also discuss Hamfest and Andy may do a mini presentation on Antarctica.

Secretary's Report:

49 total current paid members including 4 life members.

Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee

Committee plans to swap our the 145.23 repeater at some point in the near future and there are plans to move the 145.29 and 444.600 repeaters in order to offer better coverage. Bryan mentioned the increase in output for packet radio equipment.

Public Service Committee:

The Challenge Walk MS 2013 in Charleston and the Sandblast Rally 2013 in Cheraw, SC are coming up at the beginning of March. Following that will be the MS Walk in Charlotte in May. John White suggested the possibility of volunteers with the Red Cross and is lining up a woman to speak about it an upcoming club meeting.

Equipment Committee:

Andy continues to inventory club equipment. He will categorize it and determine what should be kept etc.

Field Day Committee

This will be addressed after Hamfest.

Hamfest Committee

Bryan discussed the Hamfest presentation for the upcoming Club meeting and the importance of volunteers to make the Hamfest a success. He talked about how important Hamfest is to W4BFB. He shared the updated advertising as well as the success of the Social Media campaign by Charles-KK4HOK and Stefanie Comerford-KK4LZR.

Old Business

Andy discussed how to get a technician and/or general class underway. There is continued work on getting a microphone and the best way to go about making sure the Club meeting presenters are heard.

New Business

The website is in transition and there was discussion about delegation of those duties and backups for those people in case of need. Different website formats to fit the club's needs were looked at.

There being no further business, George motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Andy.

Submitted by
Sandra Jones,
KK4DAW, Secretary MARS

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

W4BFB & Local 1200 Baud Packet Radio Frequencies:

145.010 / 145.090 / 223.400 / 446.500

W4BFB-9 = Charlotte BBS / W4BFB-2 = World Wide Chatroom
(All W4BFB packet nodes have links to all listed frequencies)

More info: <http://www.w4bfb.org/packet.htm>

Club Meetings: The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

www.w4bfb.org



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Club Officers and Board of Directors

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Secretary

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

Alternate frequencies announced