
MARS NEWS

Volume 54, Issue 06

Mecklenburg Amateur

Radio Society,

June 2003



JUNE MEETING

THERE IS A **CHANGE IN THE MEETIN DATE** FOR THE JUNE MEETING. THE JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY JUNE 30 AT 7:30 PM AT THE CHURCH. SO BE SURE AND MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CORRECT DATE.

The Meeting for June will be on APRS. Shawn Goodin and Randy Matthews will set up an actual APRS Demonstration.

From the Editor:

The MS Challenge Walk was held on May 31-June 1. We had about 140 people participating in the Walk and they raised \$439,000 for MS.

Just wanted to say a special THANK YOU to all of those in the club who participated in this event on behalf of Anne Marie McDermott.

Mary, N4MH

IT'S DUES RENEWAL TIME AGAIN - THE RENEWAL FORM IS INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER ON PAGE 3.

From the President:

Field Day is coming up this month, and we can still use your help! We plan to have a mini-picnic for those participating, and for club members who want to come down and socialize a bit. Bring a covered dish or some sort of treat. We will pick up chicken or BBQ for those coming out. We may very well wind up being a 3A or 4A station this year with the addition of a 40 meter CW station and a digital station as well. We will be at Mint Hill Park on Wilgrove-Mint Hill Rd. We will begin setting up early on Saturday morning. If you can come down and help, please come! As John White would say "Many hands make for less work!"

May 30, 31, and June 1, we completed the MS Challenge – a three-day 50 mile walk from White Oak, SC to Charlotte. Many thanks to those who came out and participated – folks like N4MH, KA3VVJ, AE4AT, AF1Y, AF4ZK, KA4WYC, and W4DXL. If I skipped anyone, please accept my apologies in advance.

We do have some MS MS-150 Dollar Rides coming up – more info will be coming at the club meeting.

The first signup sheet for the MS-150 will be going around at the June meeting too – it's not too early to think about reservations in Florence.

While I'm talking about Public Service – I'd like to encourage all of you to come out and support Amateur Radio by participating in our events. We represent Amateur Radio and the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, and our event sponsors really appreciate the work we do. We cannot do it without you.

Someone asked me the other day "What kind of club are we?" Is it a contesting club, a packet club, a VHF/UHF club, an HF club, a public service club, a social club or what? The answer is "All of the above!"

As a Special Service Club, we cater to a wide variety of interests, and it's not surprising that most members are interested in only one or two particular amateur radio activities. But we have a lot to offer our members. Unlike many smaller clubs, we have a variety of radios and stations to operate, which can help people get their feet wet, or give them some experience with a modern HF rig before they buy their own. We do a fair amount of public service, which helps justify our frequency allocations to the FCC and the public at large. And we do like to participate in "eyeball QSO's" or socialize with our friends, many of which we would not have met if not for this wonderful hobby. Our Club benefits all of us, and benefits through all of our participation. Please help us all benefit by submitting your ideas for meetings, by helping us out in club activities such as Field Day, and by volunteering for public service when needed. We will all benefit from your participation.

See you at our next Club meeting on June 30th.

73,

Shawn, K4RSG

MECKLENBURG AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
For the Year 2003-2004

Call sign: _____ License Class: _____ Previous Call: _____

Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____

Age group (for dues): Under 18: _____ Full: 18 To 65: _____ Full: Over 65: _____

Member of: ARRL: _____ SERA: _____ ARES: _____

Do you have a Club Room key? _____ If so, number: _____

E-mail address, if you have one: _____

I would like to see the club do the following this year:

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ONLY IF THERE ARE CHANGES

Street or Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Submitting this renewal form with the appropriate fees, I do hereby agree to continue to abide by the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the society as well as the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Renewal Amount: \$20.00 - Full Member

\$14.00 - Student (Under 18) Member, Full Member over age 65,
Associate Member or Family Member

Please complete required information on this renewal form and mail to:

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
Vince Mates, KF4LVC, Secretary
104 Eden Circle
Pineville, NC 28134

For Club Use only:

Date entered to File: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 20, 2003

Meeting came to order at 7:40 pm by Shawn Goodin K4RSG President. .

The business was announced:

- Field Day sign-up sheets were passed around for the members to sign up to help with setup and operating. We will also have a picnic with Field Day.

• .
The MS Challenge 50 Mile Walk is May 30-June 1. A sheet was passed around to members to assist with this public service event. .

The main program commenced. The program was presented by Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, and consisted of a "Pre-Field Day" HF setup. Antennae and radios were all club-owned equipment. Antennae setup by KA4WYC, W4WNT, who were helped by other club members. Thanks is extended to all who participated!

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Highway 321 in SC on Day #1 of the Challenge



From the Vice President

Special Bulletin on New 60 Meter Band:

SB QST ARL ARLB038

ARLB038 New 60-meter band becomes available July 3

The new five-channel 60-meter domestic secondary amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight local time on July 3. The FCC Report and Order granting the allocation was published June 3 in the Federal Register. Federal government users are primary in the 5 MHz band.

The FCC has granted amateurs use of five 2.8 kHz-wide channels with center frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz. The channels will be available to General and higher class licensees.

The only permitted mode will be upper-sideband USB phone, and 50 W ERP is the maximum power allowed.

Users of the 60-meter channels should set their carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel center frequency. ARRL suggests restricting transmitted audio bandwidth to 200 Hz on the low end and

2800 Hz on the high end for a total bandwidth of 2.6 kHz. ARRL recommends that amateurs considering modifying existing amateur equipment for operation on 60 meters contact the equipment's manufacturer for advice.

LOCAL RADIO ENTHUSIASTS COMPETE INTERNATIONALLY WHILE
SHARING THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND DEVOTION TO PUBLIC SERVICE
DURING FIELD DAY

On-air demonstrations, international competition and more are on tap when members of the Mecklenburg County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) participate in the annual preparedness exercise called "Field Day," June 28 and 29. The event is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.

Field Day was designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of electricity. The event is a serious test of skill, and a contest for fun, too. During the weekend, the radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating the fast on-air skills needed to assist town officials and served agencies during an emergency. More than 30,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

Field Day takes on an international flavor this year -- for the first time ever, the event expands beyond the U.S. to include countries in North and South America.

"Amateur Radio plays a role in today's communications infrastructure, and our emergency communications capabilities are even more in demand after the events of September 11th," says Daryl Sampson, Emergency Coordinator for Mecklenburg County Amateur Radio Emergency Service. "Ham radio also allows us to make friends around the world, to get students interested in technology and to volunteer in our communities. We hope that people will come out on Field Day and see firsthand what it's all about."

The Mecklenburg County Amateur Radio Emergency Service will hold Field Day at Mint Hill Park off Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road, and will be operating from 2 p.m. Saturday, June 28 to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 29. Set up (including raising antennas and tents, connecting emergency power sources and radio gear) will begin around 9 a.m. Saturday morning. Mecklenburg County ARES is affiliated with the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society.

Today there are more than 680,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide. Information on how to become involved in Amateur Radio is available from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. The URL for the ARRL's home page is www.arrl.org.



Pictures from the MS Challenge from K4RSG.

The beginning of the MS Challenge on Friday, May 30.

Sunday the Walk was in Charlotte.



Participants that brought up the rea.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, June 30, 2003 — Club Meeting, Monroe Road, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29, 2003 — Field Day

Tuesday, July 8, 2003 — Board Meeting, Red Cross Building, Park Road

Saturday, August 16, 2003 — — VE Test Session, 9:00 a.m., East Baptist Church

Saturday-Sunday, September 20-21, 2003 — MS Break Away to the Beach

About This Newsletter

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

Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, Email Address: k4rsg@w4bfb.org

Vice President

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, Email address: ka4wyc@w4bfb.org

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Vince Mates, KF4LVC, Email Address: kf4lvc@w4bfb.org

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John White, WB2NHQ Email Address: wb2nhq@w4bfb.org

Directors

Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE; Irv Hoecher, KF4KFN, Greg Onachila, KG4IOE
Paul Ponak, AD4IE; Bill Turner, W4WNT

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

Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, Editor

16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy

Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —
Monday, June 30, 2003