



MARS NEWS

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society



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Program at the June Meeting

Tim Slay - N4IB will speak on Tower Installation and Safety.

He may also relate any new information on BPL testing.

John White will lead Budget Discussion and Approval.

See last page for meeting date, time and place.



President's Letter

Field Day will soon be upon us. Let me encourage all members to join in the fun and operating activities.

Although the ARRL sez this is not a contest, it really is. But also, it is a fun time to be with fellow hams, learn what they are doing and enjoy operating. Be sure to go to the area where you want to operate and place your name on the sign in sheet.

Bring a friend with you! He or she can operate also, even without a ticket. Lots of hams have had their first experience with amateur radio at Field Day.

Please be there before noon to help set up. Field Day officially starts at 2 pm Sat.

Would you like to participate in a Morse Code Class. If so, drop me an email <k4rsg@w4bfb.org>. If we have more than 2-3 we can set something up. We even might be able to do the practice over Echolink or perhaps get permission from ARRL to send their code practice there also. Not everyone has an HF transceiver to listen with but today most have a computer and can get on the internet.

Also, do we need to have a technician class? They are thinking about one at Discovery Place but this would probably be in the daytime and not easily attended by folks who work. Let's hear what you have to say!



**President
Shawn Goodin
K4RSG**

Don't forget we now are offering a "Letter to The Editor" department. Got a gripe, a suggestion, want to praise a fellow ham, got an idea, etc.??? Please write to Tom Nicholls <w4ncu@w4bfb.org>, the newsletter editor.

Dues are coming up. Please print the form on page 5. Fill it out and bring it, along with your check, to the June 29 meeting or send it to Bill Turner, via instructions on the form. There will be blank copies at the meeting so if you can't print it from here, you can fill it out there.

Shawn

Next Month's Feature Article

"The Birth Of A Repeater"

By: Earl Fortner



Tim Slay - N4IB

**Volunteer Net Controllers
needed for the Metrolina
Emergency 2-mtr net.
Contact Jim Payne,
n4jbp@arrl.net, Net Mgr.**



Field Day will soon be here. It starts on Saturday June 26th and ends Sunday June 27th. Again, this year, our site is at Mint Hill Park. See directions and map to the Park elsewhere on this page.

All club members are welcome and are needed. It is the best place to learn how to assemble beam antennas and rotors, string dipoles, raise towers and much more. Its also an excellent place to jaw with other members about your experiences in Ham Radio.

And of course we need operators. There will be three stations. A SSB phone station, a digital station (see/learn/operate RTTY or PSK-31) and a CW station. Both experienced and inexperienced ops are welcome at all stations.

When you arrive, go to the station(s) where you want to operate and place your name on the clipboard to be found there.

If you are a technician you can operate at any of the three stations as long as a control operator is there. If your friend who is thinking about getting a ham license comes along he/.she can also operate with the presence of a control operator.

We need experienced operators also. If CW is your thing, bring your favorite key with you or use the paddles we have.

In addition to operators we need loggers. The logger uses a laptop computer to record all the contacts. If you want to watch an experienced op for a while maybe you could log his contacts then take over after you feel more comfortable about operating.

Please bring a lawn or other chair with you. There will be some food and drinks on hand but you might want to bring your own lunch-dinner-drinks.

Join us & make this our best Field Day ever!

See You There!

Directions to Mint Hill Park

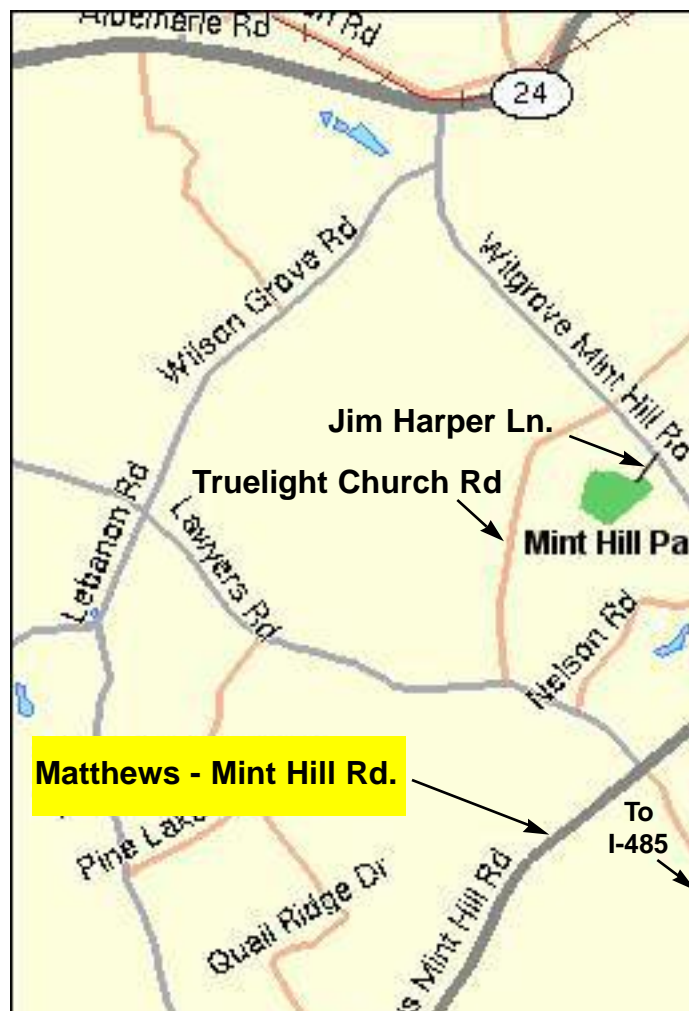
Via Albemarle Road

Heading away from town on Albemarle Road, go past the Walmart (on your left) at Harrisburg Road. At the next traffic light (approx. 1 mile), turn right onto Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road. Go 1.6 miles and then turn right onto Jim Harper Lane (the sign for the park is slightly set back from the intersection). You have missed the turn if you reach the traffic light at NC 51.

Via I-485

Take the Mint Hill (NC 218) exit and turn toward Mint Hill. Go past "Mint Hill Park on Fairview" -- that is the wrong park. Go approximately 1.8 miles and turn left onto Jim Harper Lane (the sign for the park is slightly set back from the intersection). You have missed the turn if you cross Truelight Church Road.

Thanks to Elena - KS4OX for these directions



Reprinted with permission of the author:

From: EDMUND REDINGTON <mailto:w4ebr02@msn.com>
To: ac4rc List Member <mailto:W4NCR@BELLSOUTH.NET>
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2004 5:23 PM
Subject: RE:MY SOAPBOX

Hi Everybody,

Today I was talking with Shirley down at Com Inc and we were talking about The Dayton Hamvention. As many of you know I have been going to that hamfest for many years (26). I really enjoy the weekend and I will continue to go as long as I am able. Over the past few years attendance has been down but this year according to figures that were mentioned at the closing, attendance was up 350 over last year.

While many of you may not want to make the trip to Dayton, hamfest attendance in general has been declining over the past few years and some hamfests have cease to exist (Gathersburg, MD.). I believe the reason for this is the internet. Perhaps it is easier to purchase something over the electronic highway.

I think the real fun is the fellowship one gets when you get up at zero dark thirty and drive several hours to get there. Breakfast at Mickey D's or La Hardeys and then on to the fairgrounds or wherever.

Hamfests have been a part of the amateur radio history. I now go to hamfests to see old friends and not necessarily to purchase something. I will get off the soapbox but I would like to suggest that each of us owe the hobby something, support the local hamfests in the area and go to these affairs. With the number of hamfests within 200 miles each of us could well afford the expense.

Thanks for your time.

73
ED / W4EBR

COMING HAMFESTS

JUNE 5TH	Dixie Classic	Winston-Salem, NC
JUNE 6TH	Old Virginia Hams	Manassas, Va.
JUNE 12TH		Franklin, Va.
JULY 3RD	Fire Cracker Hamfest	Salisbury, NC
JULY 17TH	Cary Hamfest	Cary, NC
AUGUST 1ST	54th Winchester Hamfest	Berryville, Va.
AUGUST 14TH	CFARS	Fayetteville, NC
SEPT 4TH & 5TH	Shelby	Shelby, NC
SEPT 18TH & 19th		Virginia Beach, Va.

Minutes of the Last Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met at the Red Cross Building, on Tues., June 1, 2004

Attendees: K4RSG, W4WNT, W4NCU, KG4IOE, AF4ZK, KG4UDX, KF4KFN

Absent: KA4WYC, WB2NHQ

The meeting was called to order at 7:13PM.

President's Report: Shawn and several other members attended Elsie McAllister's visitation in Rock Hill on Monday, May 31. The club provided a flower basket for the funeral home.

Mailing list information was given to Bill Turner and Elena Maya-Scott in order to expand the number of people who can work on the mailing lists.

V. P. Report: The meeting for June will be Tim Slay presenting Tower Installation and Safety. Also the membership will be asked to approve the 2005 Budget.

Treasurer's Report: The 2005 budget was reviewed in detail at the May meeting. John White will send out the draft budget for a final review by the board.

Secretary's Report: The membership renewal form will be sent out in the next three newsletters.

Public Service: Time trials are being held at the Lowe's Motor Speedway for the MS-150, Bill Heybruck, WA2EDN is one of the judges. So far there are no Dollar rides scheduled, according to Shawn Goodin. The MS-Challenge Walk still need some help for June 6.

Field Day: The event will be June 26-27, the insurance certificate has been sent to the Mint Hill town office. A sign-up sheet will sent out for the Field Day weekend.

Newsletter: The newsletter is being placed on the W4BFB website.

Repeaters: The 145.23 unit will moved to the other side of the room in order to make use of the emergency

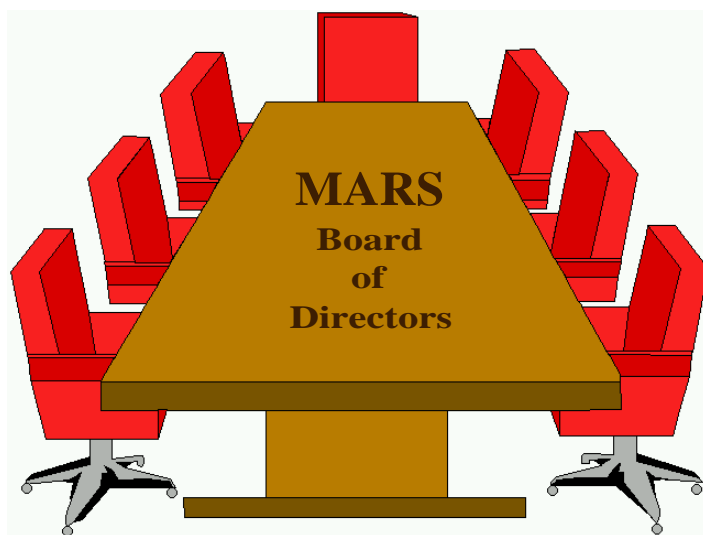
power outlets.

Open House: Open house at the Red Cross will continue. Please contact K4RSG or WB2NHQ to make arrangements if you would like to make use of the equipment in the Club Room. There are plans to improve the lighting in the Club Room.

Member Packet: This needs updated and re-issued so that it is available for new members when they join. The secretary has the files.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Submitted by Bill Turner, W4WNT



Please Remember....

**Club Dues are payable in JULY
An application is on
PAGE 5**

W4BFB - Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society - Membership Application

New Membership ____ Membership Renewal ____ Information Update ____

Individual (\$20.00 per year) ____ Student/Associate/65+ (\$14.00 per year) ____

Family Membership (all hams in family, one price): \$25.00 per year ____ Family over 65:\$19.00 ____

Name ____ Address ____

City ____ State ____ Zip Code ____

Home Phone ____ Work Phone (optional) ____

Callsign(s) ____ Class ____ Expiration ____

Occupation/Company (optional) ____

ARRL Member? ____ YES ____ NO Do you have a Club room key? Number ____

Newsletter Delivery Choice: ____ U.S. Mail ____ Internet E-mail

Internet E-mail or Packet Radio Address ____

Other Clubs: ARES: ____ W4CQ: ____ CDXA: ____ UCARS: ____ Other: ____

Membership in the Society is open to every person interested in Amateur Radio, whether he or she is a licensed Amateur or not. Each member or family is sent a monthly newsletter, and each licensed Amateur member may operate Club equipment following checkout.

The Club holds a regular meeting monthly (except December) on the last Tuesday at 7:30 P.M. We meet at East Baptist Church on Monroe Road in Charlotte.

Any licensed Amateur 18-65 may become a FULL MEMBER by paying a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) membership fee of the lesser of \$20.00, or \$2.00 per full month remaining in the then current fiscal year. Any licensed Amateur OVER 65 may become a FULL MEMBER or any licensed Amateur UNDER 18 may become a STUDENT MEMBER by paying a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) membership fee of the lesser of \$14.00 or \$1.50 per full month remaining in the then current fiscal year.

Any unlicensed person may become an ASSOCIATE MEMBER by paying a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) membership fee of the lesser of \$14.00 or \$1.50 per month remaining in the then current fiscal year.

With the submittal of this registration, and appropriate fees, I do hereby agree 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 ____

Version: 4/24/2004

**Make checks payable to Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc. and send to:
Bill Turner, W4WNT, 4000 Horseshoe Bend, Weddington, NC 28104**

Date Entered: ____ Check Number: ____ Amount: ____

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 - No telephone.

Club Repeaters**W4BFB Web Site**

146.34/146.94 With/Autopatch. 144.69/145.29 NO Autopatch

449.60/444.60 NO Autopatch and P/T 100.0

222.80/224.40 NO Autopatch

Autopatch Access *(don't unkey)+phone number. Disconnect #

145.01 Packet Digipeater, W4BFB-1

<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. Net Manager: Jim Payne, N4JBP, <n4jbp@arrl.net>.

Next Meeting - June 29, 2004

July Meeting - July 27, 2004

MARS News
Tom Nicholls, W4NCU, Editor
4004 E Providence Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28211
wnicu@arrl.net