



MARS NEWS



W4BFB

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

INDEX	Next Meeting June 28, 2005 7:30 pm East Baptist Church	HAMFEST CALENDAR	
Editor's Column.....1 Hamfests Calendar.....1 From the President.....2 Program.....3 & 4 Board of Directors Minutes.....3 Field Day.....4 2005-06 Dues.....7 Club Information.....8	PROGRAM Elena, KS4OX will talk about the MS Breakaway to the Beach and about Service Events in general & Members Approve Budget	June 25-26 July 2 July 16 July 23 August 13 Sept. 3-4 Oct. 9* Courtesy of SERA	FIELD DAY Salisbury, NC Cary, NC Waynesville, NC Fayetteville, NC Shelby, NC Maysville, NC * Date not confirmed

From the Editor

The QRZ article sent out by Dave Wentzel by email got me to thinking that we need to do much more than we are doing today to strengthen and grow our hobby. Several immediately viable and reasonable options occurred to me.

The first is to invite young people into our hobby more aggressively than we are today. High Schools offer opportunities for students to join clubs – why not a HAM club? Let's face it; we are aging at a pretty fast pace. According to the article "It is estimated that the median age of AR is 58 - 60 years old." We need to bring our median age to the 20's and 30's, and one way is to introduce our youth to Ham Radio and spark their interest in the hobby. We need to initiate HAM clubs in our high schools, even our middle schools, and invite them into MARS - a youth version of MARS – more hands on, more projects, before our MARS meeting then let them stay for our "oldster" version if they desire, and visa versa.

We also need more adults in the hobby. But people join what they know about - what sparks their interest: but they need to hear about what we do and who we are. We need much more visibility. When we are involved in service events, we should view them not only as a way to serve our communities, but as opportunities to also disseminate information about Ham Radio. A simple Press Release covering basic facts sent to newspapers, radio and TV stations will aid us in this endeavor, if done correctly Press releases must be short, concise, and direct to the topic not a long winded history of the hobby, the club and everything else in between. Three short paragraphs. Like most editors, newspaper editors have short attention spans.

If you have a contact with anyone in the news media – let one of the officers know. Perhaps it's the key we need!

More next issue, till then, please send feedback to me at K9SUE@W4BFB.ORG I look forward to hearing from you...and apologies for late mailing. First issues can be tough. [Suego](#)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Shawn **K4RSG** in orange hat. Photo taken at the MS Challenge Walk, weekend of June 3, 2005

First of all, thanks and welcome to Sue Goodin, **K9SUE** for taking over our newsletter after the untimely passing of **W4NCU**. This first issue is usually the most difficult, but we should be ok for next month.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday June 3-5, 2005, we assisted the National MS Society Mid-Atlantic Chapter with the 5th Annual MS Challenge Walk. 162 walkers raised an average of \$2,100 each by walking 50 miles over three days from Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, NC to Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord. Members of the Cabarrus Amateur Radio Society assisted us during this activity and also provided the use of their 146.655 repeater for the event on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the following amateurs for their assistance – we could not have done this without them! **N4MH**, **KA3VVJ**, **N4WIK**, **WB2NHQ**, **K4RSG**, **K9SUE**, **KA4ATT**, **W4LN**, **WA4BRL**, **AE4AT**, **KI4KFS**, and **W4JDR**. Thanks!

It's not too early to begin thinking about the MS-150, our biggest public service event of the year. It's a 150 mile bicycle ride from Rockingham and Weddington to North Myrtle Beach, and it

happens every year, rain or shine or hurricanes. Be sure to consider whether you need motel reservations, and please remember that there will be some route changes this year (overnight will be in Darlington and not Florence). This is a fun event but we really need lots of help from everyone to make it a success. Amateurs will be needed for rest stops, situation teams, and as SAG vehicles during the event. This is the 20th anniversary of the event, September 24 and 25, 2005.

We will be voting on the budget for 2005-2006 at the June meeting. Since the Hamfest income was up a bit, we do not expect many changes in our operating budget compared to last year.

Earl Fortner, **K4KAY** now has a 900 MHz repeater up on 927.6125 MHz (-25 MHz), with a PL of 118.8. If you are interested in 900 MHz, the Club has a mailing list where you can exchange 900 MHz information with other list members. If you are interested in joining the list, drop me an email at k4rsg@w4bfb.org, and I'll be happy to add you to the group.

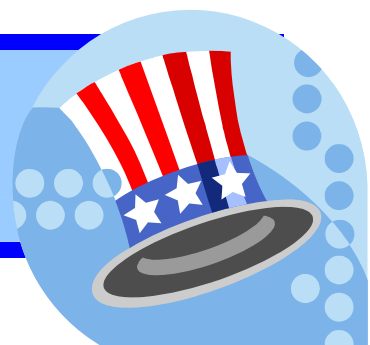
I will also be setting up a BPL mailing list in order to exchange information on BPL activities in the Charlotte area. Gary Pierce, **KN4AQ** visits the area from time to time, and is *very* interested in what Duke Power is doing in their trial area around Carmel Road. Again, if you'd like to be part of this group, send me an email.

Best wishes to all and have a happy Independence Day holiday.

See you at our next Club meeting on June 28th.

73,
Shawn, **K4RSG**

Happy Independence Day!



June Program

All I asked for was fifteen minutes at the next club meeting to answer some of your questions about the September Breakaway to the Beach bike ride. I had no idea that I was volunteering to be the program for June!

So . . . I guess I'm going to talk about my favorite part of Amateur Radio -- Public Service Events.

If you have any questions or subjects you'd like me to address, please email me at Elena@RideMaps.com or catch me on the 9:00pm [M2MEN](#) net at 146.940. That will give me a chance to find an answer before the meeting.

Also, if you have any pictures of recent public service events that you'd like to share, please let me know.

See you then!

Elena - KS4OX

MARS Board Meeting Minutes June 7, 2005



Submitted by [Bill Turner](#),
[W4WNT](#), Secretary.

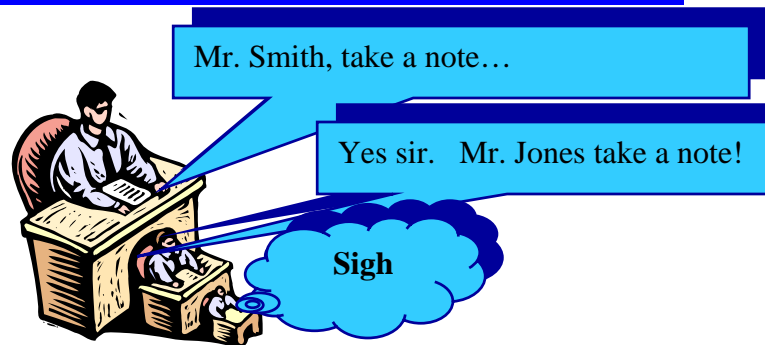
The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM.

Attendees: [K4RSG](#), [KG4IOE](#), [N6TYE](#),
[AZ4ZK](#), [WB2RHM](#), [W4WNT](#), [WB4PCS](#),
[KG4UDX](#)

Absent: [KI4CXO](#)

Old Business

[Elena Maya-Scott](#), [KS4OX](#), will present the meeting in June. [John Covington](#), [W4CC](#), will present the July meeting.



The dues form is in the newsletter, and dues are beginning to come in.

The check for \$500 to the East Baptist Church will be paid this month, and a \$200 check will be cut for Field Day expenses.

[Ben Antanaitis](#) showed the board pictures of the new FD tent on the new club Compaq computer that was purchased from Comp USA.

[Sue Goodin](#) ([K9SUE](#)) will take over the MARS Newsletter. [Bill Turner](#) will provide a copy of the database to [Shawn Goodin](#) for printed label creation.

The MS Challenge Walk went well over the first weekend of June. The club used the Locust repeater on Friday, then the Concord repeater on Saturday and Sunday. MS raised

about \$2100/person and 160+ people participated in the Walk.

The MS-150 will be held Sept. 24-25. The ride will go through Darlington this year instead of Florence (to avoid the bridge on Sunday morning).

The Christmas Party will be held on Friday, Dec. 2 at the Pine Lake Country Club.

The Hamfest Committee will meet the week of June 13.

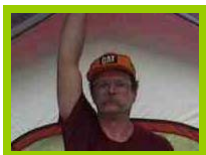
New Business:

Dave Stewart reported that there is a BPL website, www.uplc.org, that tracks the power companies view of BPL implementations. **Shawn Goodin** will set up a BPL reflector on the W4BFB website.

Dave Stewart suggested that the club should review its investments. **Shawn Goodin** created an Investment Opportunity Committee comprised of **Dave Stewart**, **Greg Onachila**, and **Jack Guion** to review the investments of the club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Field Day - June 25/26, 2005 – UPDATE



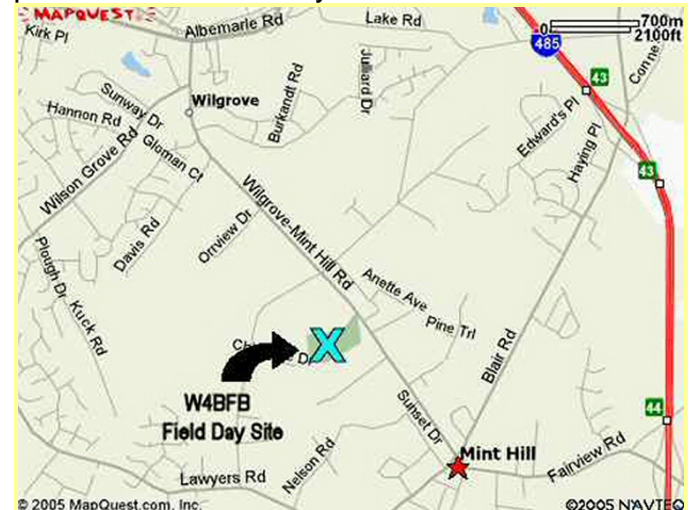
by WB2RHM

The 55th Annual **MARS ARRL Field Day**, will be held at the Wilgrove Park in Mint Hill over

Field Day Cont'd...

the last full weekend in June, Saturday June 25th and Sunday the 26th.,.

The Wilgrove Park is located just off of the Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road in Mint Hill, NC. This is the same location we have used for the past several Field Days.



You can get exact driving directions from your home to the Field Day site by using the mapping service provided by **Elena**, **KS4OX**, at <http://www.ridemaps.com> Find the entry for Field Day and click on the MapsOnUs logo for custom directions.

The planned Field Day site looks like this



Field Day Cont'd...

As of June 10th, there are only 11 folks signed up for the SetUp/TakeDown teams. Because of this, the SetUp effort will be split into two parts.

Weather permitting; the first part of SetUp will be on Friday June 24th, during mid afternoon. A start time of 3 PM to 4 PM is the target . We will be monitoring the [146.94](#) and [444.350](#) repeaters, so they can be used to check on actual status of the effort.

We need to:

- Pitch the two tents. In addition to the dome tent, we have a new cabin tent for the Phone station this year.



- Place and open the RV.
- Place the generator trailer.

Field Day Cont'd...

- Safely assemble, erect, and guy the aluminum tower equipped with rotators, tri-band beams, standoffs to support wire dipoles, the wire dipoles, rotor control cables, rotor controllers, antenna coaxes.



On Saturday morning, June 25th, at 9 AM, SetUp will continue with:

- Safely assemble, erect, and guy the steel tower equipped with rotators, tri-band beams, standoffs to support wire dipoles, the wire dipoles, rotor control cables, rotor controllers, antenna coaxes.
- Run power cables from generator, set up portable generator.
- Setup Radios in the Phone, CW and Digital stations.
- Setup WiFi Lan, linking the station's computer log.
- Setup for the MARS FD 55 Public Information area.
- Make preparations for the Setup crew after setup picnic.



Field Day Cont'd...



- At 2 PM, operate and demonstrate our communications skills for 24 hours, until 2 PM Sunday. The current plan has opportunities for Phone, CW, and Digital modes (RTTY/PSK) of operation. There are 10 folks signed up to operate stations for periods during the weekend. There are many hours without operators signed up. We hope to have all stations active in all modes for the entire Field Day operation period. The Phone and CW stations will be able to switch modes to accommodate available operators. In addition to 'operators', we need 'loggers' for the stations. We also want to have a VHF-FM station in the Public Information Area for visitors to talk on the ham radio. Tours of the site, to compliment visits from the general public, public officials and served agency representatives will be held as required.

On Sunday afternoon, we take it all down and pack it all up.

That's probably not all that needs to be done for Field Day but you can see we need lots of help. Experienced help is critical, but anyone who wants to help will be more than welcome.

If you want to help at Field Day, email me directly at WB2RHM@W4BFB.ORG or phone me, Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, at 704 568-6417.

A Field Day 2005 Info web page is on the [W4BFB](http://www.w4bfb.org) web site. To reach the Field Day page, click on the Field Day logo on the [W4BFB](http://www.w4bfb.org) home page at [HTTP://WWW.W4BFB.ORG](http://www.w4bfb.org) or go direct by pointing your browser at [HTTP://WWW.W4BFB.ORG/FIELDDAY2005.HTM](http://www.w4bfb.org/fieldday2005.htm)

Computer Savvy

Most web sites now, If not all, can now be accessed on the internet by their domain root name, such as W4BFB.ORG, or often simply as W4BFB (assuming there is only one W4BFB and not several, such as .org, .com, etc. Why then do we continue to type out the entire address <http://www.w4bfb.org>? Oddly, it is to save time. When the entire address is typed, it automatically forms a link to the site. In a newsletter that is sent electronically and by hardcopy, it makes sense to type it all out to form a link and enable electronic readers to go to the sites quickly.

W4BFB – Mecklenburg Radio Society Membership Application

☐ Membership Renewal ☐ New Membership ☐ Information Update

☐ Individual (\$20/yr) ☐ Student/Associate/65+ (\$14/yr) ☐ Family (all hams in family (\$25/yr)
☐ Family over 65 (\$19/yr)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____ / _____

Work Phone* _____ / _____ Cell Phone* _____ / _____ (*) Optional

Call Sign(s) _____ Class _____ Expiration _____

Occupation/Company* _____

ARRL Member ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have a club room key? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, Number _____

Newsletter delivery choice ☐ Internet Email or Packet Radio Address _____
OR ☐ US Mail

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 regular meeting monthly (except in December) on the last Tuesday of the month t 7:30 pm. We meet at Eat Baptist Church on Monroe Road in charlotte.

Any licensed amateur, 18-65, may become a full member by paying a fiscals year (July 1 – June 30) membership fee (\$20) or \$2 per fill month remaining in the then current fiscal year, whichever is the lesser.

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 membership fee of \$14 or \$1.50 per fill month remaining in the then current fiscal year, whichever is the lesser.

Any unlicensed person may become an associate member by paying a fiscal year membership fee of \$14 or \$1.50 per month of the then current fiscal year, whichever is the lesser.

With the submittal of this registration and appropriate fees, I do hereby agree to bide 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 4/24/04

Make checks payable to Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc., and mail to Bill Turner, W4WNT, 000 Horseshoe Bend, Weddington, NC 28104

Date entered _____ Check Number _____ Amount _____

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc., Officers and Board of Directors, 2005

		Callsign	Email
President	<i>Shawn Goodin</i>	<i>K4RSG</i>	k4rsg@w4bfb.org
Vice President	<i>Wilton McAllister</i>	<i>WB4PCS</i>	wb4pcs@wbfb.org
Secretary	<i>Bill Turner</i>	<i>W4WNT</i>	w4wnt@wbfb.org
Treasurer	<i>Greg Onachila</i>	<i>KG4IOE</i>	kg4ioe@wbfb.org
Directors:	<i>Ben Antanaitis</i>	<i>Dave Stewart</i>	<i>Jodie Rowland</i>
	<i>WB2RHM</i>	<i>AF4ZK</i>	<i>KI4CXO</i>
	<i>Scott Ellis</i>	<i>August Flassig</i>	
	<i>KG4UDX</i>	<i>N6TYE</i>	

MEETINGS - East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Road (next to east Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive) on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm

CLUBROOM - Red Cross Building, 2425 Park Road, Room 203, Charlotte, NC – no telephone

Club Repeaters	<i>146.34/146.94</i>	<i>144.63/145.23</i>	<i>144.69/145.29</i>
	<i>With Autopatch</i>	<i>No Autopatch</i>	<i>No Autopatch</i>
	<i>222.80/224.40</i>	<i>449.600/444.600 PL 100.00</i>	
	<i>No Autopatch</i>	<i>No Autopatch</i>	
WW4BFB Website	<i>http://www.w4bfb.org</i>		
Webmaster	<i>Wayne Setzer</i>	<i>WB4BXW</i>	<i>wlsetzer@att.net</i>

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