



MARS News

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A Letter from the President

News from the President – June 2010

Hello All,

I wanted to update you on my progress. Medically, I am doing better. I still need to wear the uncomfortable black boot cast until at least the end of June. So you know what that means... I will be wearing it on Field Day. Right now, it is very hard to put any pressure down onto my foot. But, I hope to start my physical therapy any time now. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. I can't wait to be fit again and be able to get around myself, and to return some the kindnesses you have all shown to me so far.



June is already busy and it is going to get busier for all of MARS. We have MARS' ARRL Field Day club activity coming up on June 26th and 27th, at the Wilgrove Park in Mint Hill. It all starts out with a Set Up work party starting at about 2:00 p.m. on Friday the 25th and it ends with a Take-Down work party at 2PM Sunday. To volunteer to help with Field Day, please contact our FD Chairman Kevin Keyes K4YYD@W4BFB.org. Please come out and support your club with a couple of hours of your time, so no one has to work too hard making this event the success it has always been in the past.

In last month's President's News, I mentioned that we will be having our MARS Field Day Kick-Off Cookout around noon on Saturday. The club will furnish hamburgers and hotdogs, water and drinks. We already have some sides coming, donated by fellow MARS members, like baked beans, potato chips, cookies, brownies, watermelon, pasta salad, Cole slaw, potato salad, but we still need burger and hot dog fixings like mustard, ketchup, tomatoes, chili, onions, and lettuce. And, we would like to have some more desserts if possible. If you would like to bring something to donate and share with us on that day, please contact me at W4BFBPresident@w4bfb.org. This way everyone will have a great time, and there will be some items left over for snacks for everyone making W4BFB contacts throughout the 24 hours of Field Day operations.

One last thought for the month of June. I would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who went to Gaffney, SC first week of June, to support the 2010 MS Challenge Walk. I would have loved to help out, but under the circumstances, I was unable to attend this year. But come September, I do plan on being at the MS Bike ride to the beach.

Again, **Thanks for your support, see you at Field Day, and 73,**

Jodie Rowland

K14CXO

President of MARS - W4BFB

Public Service Events

Public Service Committee News from Mary Hunt-N4MH, Chairperson

I left out some folks who also supported our Charlotte Walk on May 15. They were our rest stop ham volunteers – Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO, Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM and Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC. Sorry for the oversight in leaving you out.

The MS Challenge Walk was held on June 4-6, 2010 in Gaffney, SC. We had about 130 walkers participating in the event. We were very fortunate that we had good weather – a little hot but no rain until the end of the day on Saturday.

We had several ham operators from our club participate in the event as well as hams from the Spartanburg and Gaffney clubs.

A special thank you to the following club members in addition to me who supported the event:

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ

Frank Halloway, N4WIK

Kevin Keyes, K4YYD

Otis Pruitt, KB4UFO

Sparky Ramey, KE4TES

James Patterson, KJ4CIW

Barry May, KC4SSS

Shawn Goodin, K4RSG

This was the 10th Anniversary of the Challenge Walk. They had special events going on to celebrate the 10th Anniversary. A special Candle-light Ceremony was held on Saturday night. Sunday around noon time the Closing Ceremony was held. Tom and I were honored to be recognized for our 10 years of Challenge Walk support and presented with a beautiful plant. We along with 4 others were inducted into the "Order of Magnificent Soles" and presented a special certificate.

Public Service Events, Cont.

September 25-26, 2010

It is BREAK AWAY TO THE BEACH cycling event. For 2010 we are returning to a two day destination ride to the beach. Our final destination is Sunset Beach – not a high school near the beach BUT THE BEACH. Currently we have 930 cyclists registered for the event and MS expects that number to double.

I am a member of the MS Bike Tour Committee and meet monthly with the other members at the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The route committee has pretty much finalized the route and are now working on rest stops.

On Day #1 we will have three start sites:

Start Site #1 – Monroe, NC for the Century Route

Start Site #2 – Pageland, SC for the 75 mile route

Start Site #3 – Camden, SC

The Monroe route will join the Pageland route and they become one at that point. The Camden, SC route will join up in Hartsville, SC at the lunch rest stop. From Hartsville to Florence, SC everyone will be on the same route.

I am excited to announce that the Columbia Amateur Radio Club is going to support the route from Camden to Hartsville. We will use linked repeaters for this route that are part of the SC Heart group.

From Monroe to Hartsville we will use linked repeaters that are part of the PALS Network.

On Day #2 we will have two start sites:

Start Site #1 – Francis Marion College in Florence, SC for 75 mile route

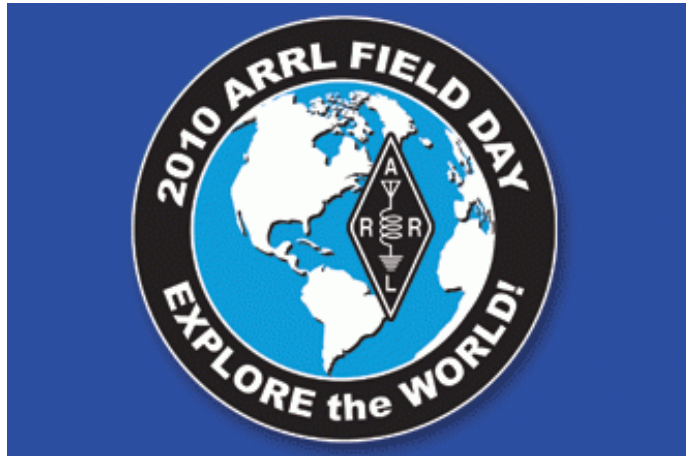
Start Site #2 – Lunch Rest Stop for 50 mile route

From Hartsville to Florence and on Sunday to Sunset Beach we will use the SC Heart linked repeaters.

We are in the process of determining all manpower requirement and plan to have it posted out on Elena's website in late June. So keep checking www.ridemaps.com for the radio positions open. A special thanks to Elena, KS4OX for getting the web site set up for the events.

To book your hotel room for Saturday night, go out to the MS Website: <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/NCP/fundraising-events/bike-ms/event-details/accommodations/index.aspx> to see all the hotels that are offering special rates for the Bike Tour.

Field Day 2010, A Final Reminder



Field Day is just about upon us. See Jodie's Letter from the President. Also, below is a copy of the text from Kevin Keyes' email to the members sent June 12. There are probably still a few open spots, and extra hands are always welcome. So bring your sunscreen and come on out to the Wilgrove-Mint Hill Park on Wilgrove Mint Hill Road.

"Field Day is quickly approaching and there are still plenty of operating and logging times available. The operating times available for each station are:

Saturday June 26th - HF SSB:
6:00PM - 7:00PM
8:00PM - 12:00AM

Sunday June 27th - HF SSB:
12:00AM - 6:00AM
8:00AM - 10:00AM
11:00AM - 2:00PM

Note that with the exception of Saturday 2:00PM - 4:00PM, logging slots are wide open.

Saturday June 26th - CW/Digital:
All operating times are taken but logging slots are wide open."

May Club Meeting

MARS Club Meeting 5-25-2010.

Jodie Rowland –K14CXO brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

She welcomed visitors and the general membership, all from her wheelchair as she recovers from her car accident.

Mary Hunt –N4MH recapped the upcoming MS public service events that are fast approaching. The MS Biketour on September 25th and 26th has decided on start points at Monroe, Pageland and Camden. Further details will be announced as information becomes available.

Mary also reported on the Carolina Time Trials Assn. (CTTA) events held throughout the summer at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Hams provide communications and act as track marshals. The trials generally run on Wednesday evening around 5:30pm. All Hams are welcome to help out. Contact Mary or Earl-K4KAY if you are interested.

Kevin Keyes- N4YYD brought up the Field day request for help and operators. This is our hobby's major training exercise for the year and provides for a great learning experience and loads of fun. W4BFB will be holding our field day activities at the Wilgrove-Mint Hill Park on Wilgrove Mint Hill Road. We require setup help on Friday and Saturday morning and take down help on Sunday afternoon. Between Saturday at 2:00PM and Sunday at 2:00pm we will be operating three stations, a SSB station, a CW/ Digital station and GOTA station. We will also be having a pot luck lunch/supper where the club will provide hamburgers and hotdogs and drinks, with the fixings to be provided by those who show up to eat. Please come out and have a good time, sign up to operate or log, or just come by for the fellowship.

Bill Fisher –W4GRW introduced Tony Sturey from the National Weather Service, Greer office, who presented a very informative and updated Basic Skywarn Class. This class covered the basic's of spotting and reporting on the weather likely to be experienced in this area of the country. The class was well attended and Tony was presented with a lot of questions to which he had all the answers.

Next month's meeting will be the Advance Skywarn Class.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at around 9:30 pm.

Submitted by Andy Hawkins K4GKK

MARS secretary.

Board Meeting Notes, 06/01/2010

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Minutes for Board Meeting of June 1st, 2010.

1- Meeting was called to order at 6.30 pm.

Attendees included: Jodie Rowland-KI4CXO, Mary Hunt-N4MH, Ben Antanitis-WB2RHM, Tom Hunt- KA3VVJ, Bill Fisher-W4GRW, Kevin Keys-K4YYD, Bill Harding-K4AHK, Barry May-KC4SSS, Andy Hawkins-K4GKK.

2- Minutes for the board meeting of May 5th, 2010 accepted as presented in the April newsletter.

3- Treasurer's Report: Tom presented the accounts report. This was accepted by the Board. Tom also included the proposed budget for 2010/2011. Barry-KC4SSS proposed acceptance of the budget for 2010/2011 as presented, seconded by the rest of the Board.

4- Vice Presidents report: Bill Fisher-W4GRW reported that the June program will be the Advanced Skywarn Program by Tony Sturey from the NWS from the Greer, SC office. July's program will cover Railroad communications.

5- Secretary's report: Nothing to report membership wise this month. The roster and club Data has been updated and set up in the club's laptop computer. We are receiving a slow but steady flow of renewals. We are currently at 142 members for 2010.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Please see secretary's report above.

Repeater Committee: W4BFB BBS upgrade still in process.

Public Service Committee: Mary Hunt-N4MH is again heading this committee. She publishes a calendar of events in each newsletter. This will help prospective volunteers plan ahead. Mary will act as the main liaison between the club and the MS Society. The MS Bike Ride on Sept. 25th-26th will be our next major public service event. The new route has been decided with starts at Pageland, Camden and Monroe. Sign Up will be handled www.ridemaps.com. Andy-K4GKK handed Mary-N4MH an e-mail about the upcoming 2010 Lake Norman Excursion Bike Ride to be held on July 17th. The club also helps with the Lungstrong event in October.

Board Meeting Notes, 06/01/2010, Cont.

Equipment Committee:

A discussion was presented on the use of the ex-Discovery Place equipment and fittings. We are currently spending a monthly storage fee to keep the equipment safe. This is whittling away at the Discovery Place account. A thought is to purchase a Cargo style trailer and equip it as a communications trailer, this could be used for various activities, i.e. disaster communications, teaching aide for Geek fest at CPCC, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts etc. The unit could be used at field day and on our public service events. These are just a few of the ideas we have. Any ideas or comments from the membership would be welcome. This idea is still being developed.

Grants and Resources: Kevin –K4YYD. The club will benefit from members who join or renew their membership with ARRL. A small amount will be donated to the club accounts if you renew your ARRL membership with a form provided by Tom, KA4VVJ or Andy, K4GKK.

Field Day Committee: Kevin-K4YYD is heading this committee again for 2010.

Entertainment Committee: Jodie-KI4CXO and Mary-N4MH will be heading this committee. The Christmas Party Venue will be arranged earlier this year. The Board is looking into having a catered event this year. More details to follow.

Website: We are currently experiencing some intermittent problems with the W4BFB reflector. This is being addressed, mean-while keep you eye's on the website

Please note that ALL the committees are open for anyone to provide support and idea's that will help this club be successful in all it's endeavors. If you see or hear anything that you have an opinion on or feel you can improve upon, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members and discuss accordingly.

Old Business: Bill-K4AHK will take on the responsibilities of being the club's QSL manager. The club room door combination has been changed, if you have renewed your membership and require use of the room please call a board member for the new code.

There being no more business for this evenings meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Hawkins, K4GKK, Secretary M.A.R.S.

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society— <http://www.w4bfb.org>

Club Meetings

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

We meet at:

East Baptist Church
6850 Monroe Rd
Charlotte, NC 28212

(Next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive)

Club-room

Red Cross Building
2425 Park Rd, Room 023
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 334-3900

Club Repeaters

Send	Receive	Offset (KHz)	Autopatch
146.34	146.94	-600	Yes
144.69	145.29	-600	No
144.63	145.23	-600	No
222.8	224.4	-1600	No
449.6	444.6	+5000	No

Mecklenburg 2m Emergency Net
9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.94 (-600) featuring the ARRL
Audio News feed on Sunday night.
Alternate frequencies announced

Club Officers and Board of Directors

President

Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO, ki4cxo@w4bfb.org

Vice President

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, w4grw@w4bfb.org

Secretary

Andy Hawkins, k4gkk@w4bfb.org

Treasurer

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ, ka3vvj@w4bfb.org

Directors

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, wb2rhm@w4bfb.org

Mary Hunt, N4MH, n4mh@w4bfb.org

Bill Harding, K4AHK, k4ahk@w4bfb.org

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