
MARS NEWS

Volume 54, Issue 03

Mecklenburg Amateur

Radio Society,

March 2003



MARCH MEETING

The Meeting for March 25th will be given by Dave KC4YPB and Perry KF4UVL on locating ELT's. These are devices used for finding down planes or lost people. Dave and Perry will give a 'live' demo in the parking lot at the church, so come and join in the fun!

FROM THE EDITOR:

Well the 2003 Charlotte Hamfest and ComputerFair was another successful Hamfest. We don't have any preliminary numbers yet but we sure had a long line of folks waiting to buy tickets until about 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

The Flea Market area was a sellout this year.

If you worked at the Hamfest, make sure you gave your name to the committee chairperson you worked for. Remember your name will go in the drawing for a GPS receiver that will be given away at the March meeting.

A special thanks to everyone who put in lots of hours that weekend to make the Hamfest a success.

Mary Hunt, N4MH



From the President:

It was good to see the turnout at our February meeting and we had a great response to the plea for hamfest volunteers. As I write this, the 2003 Charlotte Hamfest has just concluded, and it looks like another great event. Thanks again to all for volunteering – we could not do this without your help.

We did a Fox Hunt on Saturday March 1st. We had four stations participate in trying to find the “fox” (me). I began transmitting at about 9:20 AM and the first HAM to find me was Mike, W4DXL, at about 9:45 AM, followed about 10 minutes later by Brian, KF4VOO. Charlie, KG4EJZ, found me a half-hour or so after that, with Earl, K4KAY, bringing up the rear. We had a good time and we’ll do it again sometime very soon. I know that many others were interested but could not join us that morning. All are welcome to participate.

At the hamfest, the Club purchased an HF antenna for the RV. It comes to us from Tarheel Antennas and is a screwdriver-style antenna (I’m sorry, I do not know the model number). It should serve us well for events in the field and for Field Day. The RV also has its lettering now – Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Communications is the name decided on by the Board of Directors. If you were at the hamfest, you may have seen the RV in the rear of the Dealer Hall, where it housed our talk-in station.

Field Day is not far away – we will be planning details very soon. The location has not been firmed up yet, but we will let you know details as soon as possible.

Public Service events are coming up too – you can check www.ridemaps.com for the latest information on amateur radio events in the Charlotte area. On March 29th, we have our annual MS Walk. Adam Busch will be at our Club meeting on the 25th of March to tell us about it and help us line up volunteers.

There may be an event on April 11 – 13 involving a trip from Monroe to Myrtle Beach. No details available yet, but we’ll send out info via email when we receive it.

April 27th is the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, but we have not yet been asked to participate. If the situation changes, I’ll let you know at the Club meeting.

The Senior Games at UNCC will be held May 3rd – we always need at least a half-dozen or more operators for that event. It’s a great opportunity to take it easy, enjoy the spring weather and play with the radio toys.

May 30, 31, and June 1, we have the MS Challenge – a three-day 50 mile walk from White Oak, SC to Charlotte. HAMs will be needed to staff rest areas and SAG vehicles. We had a great time last year despite the rain and I look forward to participating again.

See you at our next Club meeting on March 25th. Until then....

73,

W4BFB RECYCLE BIN

As a service for the members of W4BFB, the www.w4bfb.org website now has a **Recycle Bin** for your equipment. This **Recycle Bin** is for members to advertise their no longer needed equipment for sale or trade.

Any member of W4BFB can have up to 5 pieces of equipment in the **Recycle Bin** at any given time. Pictures of the equipment and description of what is for sale or trade can be included. All items listed will remain in the **Recycle Bin** until notified by seller that it has been sold or traded, or for a maximum of 60 days.

W4BFB **will not be responsibility** for any discrepancy or condition of listed equipment. All contracts are between buyer and seller.

To list your equipment, please send the following information to wb4bxw@w4bfb.org. Please include your name, call, phone number, email address, or other means you can be contacted by. Also include pictures, short write up, or other information deem necessary. Price is not required but will be included in other information if you want. Please state that it is for the W4BFB **Recycle Bin**.

All items will be place in the **Recycle Bin** in the order they are received by.

In an effort to make the www.w4bfb.org/ website a more active part of the club, we would like to have members suggestion as to what they would like to see on the website. Please send all suggestions to wb4bxw@w4bfb.org.

Wayne – WB4BXW

MINUTES OF MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2003

Meeting opened by Jeff KA4WYC and Shawn K4RSG at 7:30PM.

Shawn welcomed everyone and asked for any visitors and any new upgrades from the recent exam session given at the Church. **KG4PYF Tracie Ellis** was recognized. Mary N4MH noted that 20 tested, with 4 CW tests.

New members were recognized – **Michael KB4WWQ and Sparky KE4TES**.

John WB2NHQ give an update on new signage on the trailer, "**Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Communications**". Also the trailer will be used at the Hamfest for talk-in.

Meeting was turned over to **Tim N4IB Hamfest Chairman**. Tim stated if anyone worked 2 hours or more at the Hamfest, got free admission. Everyone that helped out also had their name in the drawing for a GPS III receiver, to be given out at the March Club Meeting. This included people that worked the Peel and Stick party, and Committee Chairmen that worked on the Hamfest, prior to the Hamfest.

The following people gave reports on various Committees:

Dealers - Tom KA3VVJ
Flea Market - Mary N4MH
Flea Market Setup - Bill W4WNT
Internal Security/Safety - Shawn K4RSG / Jeff KA4WYC
Tickets - John WB2NHQ
Stage Liaison - Wilton WB4PCS
Club Booth - Mac K4PDY
Test Station - Earl K4KAY
Talk-in Station - John N4MMQ
CAP Liaison - Dave KC4YPB / Parry KF4UVL
Overnight Security - Wilton WB4PCS / Jerry WB4QCS

Tim N4IB thanked others, who worked behind the scenes – getting the Hamfest ready. These included:

Paul AD4IE - Peel and Stick Party
Ted W4VHF - Publicity and Forums, with Tim KG4CHX and Jerry N2HV
Bob Heil K9EID - for door prizes and Forum session
Wayne WB4BXW - Web page
Randy KE4JXF - mailings and flyers
Itice K4LVV - Stage PA.
Chip AC4ZE - for Char/Meck. Police Liaison
Bill AE4XV - Flea Market Check in
Tim stated it takes a lot of work, for a lot of people, to put the Hamfest together.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday March 25, 2003 — Club Meeting, Monroe Road, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 29, 2003 — MS Walk A Thon

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

Saturday, May 3, 2003 — Senior Games

Saturday, May 10, 2003 — VE Test Session, 9:00 a.m., East Baptist Church

Friday-Sun, May 30-June1, 2003 — MS Challenge

Saturday-Sunday, September20-21, 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.

Minutes of meeting (continued)

The meeting was turned over to Shawn K4RSG – who gave a presentation and had handouts on Fox Hunting. Shawn noted, he will be having a Fox Hunt in Charlotte on March 1st - anyone was welcome. He advised he would be in a public place in East Charlotte and on the 5.29 repeater around 9 AM.

John W4CC advised there will be a test using digital modes on March 16th. He is requesting as many people as possible, send him traffic through any digital mode. More information will be provided.

Wilton WB4PCS won a cordless screwdriver as a door prize.

No other business – the meeting was adjourned @8:30 PM.

Submitted by Jeff KA4WYC Vice Pres.

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

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Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —
Tuesday, March 25, 2003