



# MARS News

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## A Letter from the President

News from the President – March 2010

Hello Everyone,

It is the middle of March and March Madness arrived again.... No, I'm not talking about basketball; I'm talking about the annual Charlotte Hamfest .

Before I share some of the Hamfest happenings with you, I want to give my sincere "Thank you" to each and every one of you who pitched-in to help make this year's Charlotte Hamfest a fun-filled and successful event.

Hamfest weekend starts out just like in all the past years. A work crew gathers early in the morning on the day before the Hamfest, to begin setting up all the Flea Market tables so they match the pattern in our approved floor plans. As the Flea Market area takes shape, some of the commercial dealers begin setting up their booths with their banners, equipment, and goodies. Just after noon-time, the Flea Market set up is done and the Flea Market dealers start to put out their treasures. That's the way it is supposed to work, but this year was different... before we even had the Flea Market set up, it was already Sold-Out! 312 tables were all pre-sold by Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, the day before the Hamfest. So, we conferred with the folks at the Cabarrus Arena on Friday morning and got permission to add even more tables to our Flea Market. We added just over 20 additional tables to the layout. It was a good thing too, because almost all of the additional tables were sold by early Saturday morning. A Double Sell-Out in the Flea Market Area, wow! This is a good problem to have. Most of the commercial dealers we talked with said they were pleased and having steady Saturday business, with lots of visitors to their booths. Our W4BFB Club Booth saw a very brisk business, with lots of interest being shown by Hamfest visitors and dealers. All of our hourly prizes were awarded, and Richard Dodd-K4KRW won the W4BFB raffle. Bingo provided some fun and distraction on Saturday morning, lots of license exams were given, and the forums all occurred on time.

There are some pictures from this year's Charlotte Hamfest on the following page (thanks to Jerry-N2HV for the pics.)

Before we ended the 2010 Charlotte Hamfest, we met with the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center folks and confirmed the dates for the 2011 Charlotte Hamfest – March 12 & 13, 2011



## A Letter from the President, cont.

With the 2010 Charlotte Hamfest behind us, we start to look toward the rest of the year... there are MS Society Special Service event opportunities coming up in May and June, and there is the 2010 edition of the ARRL Field Day on the last weekend of June. Kevin – K4YYD, is heading up MARS' Field Day. Kevin is looking for any input or ideas about our Field Day effort. He has announced that we will be returning to the Wilgrove Park in Mint Hill. Contact Kevin at [K4YYD@W4BFB.org](mailto:K4YYD@W4BFB.org) with your suggestions or to volunteer to be on his committee.

I hope to see everyone on March 30th at the club meeting at 7:30 at East Baptist Church on Monroe Rd.

73,

Jodie Rowland - KI4CXO

President – Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society



## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Public Service Committee News from Mary Hunt-N4MH, Chairperson (Reprinted from last month's Newsletter. Just remember, that these dates are now a month closer, so please be ready to help!)

We have several public service events already scheduled for 2010.

### **May 15, 2010 --**

Our first event for the Multiple Sclerosis Society will be the Charlotte Walk on May 15. The walk will start and end at Symphony Park by South Park Mall.

We will need volunteers for 4 or 5 rest stops, SAG Vehicles, bicycle mobiles and Director Chauffeurs. This year we are trying to use more bicycle mobiles on the route especially for the sweep vehicle as it is not as intimidating for the walkers. This event takes place in the morning and we are normally done by 12:30.

### **June 4-6, 2010**

The MS Challenge Walk is a three day event with the walkers doing a total of 50 miles. They walk 20 miles on Friday, 20 miles on Saturday and 10 miles on Sunday. The event will be held again this year at Gaffney, SC starting/ending each day at Lime-stone College. We will need volunteers for 8 – 10 rest stops on Friday/Saturday and 5 on Sunday. Even if you can only volunteer for one day we will be glad for your support. For this event we are also looking to use several bicycle mobiles as well as SAG Vehicles, Medical Support vehicles and Director vehicles equipped with radio operators.

Overnight accommodations will be available at the college. And there are several area motels in Gaffney.

### **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.

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 is working on finalizing the route and plans to have a final route by April. Once we get the route the process can begin to check repeaters and also see if repeaters can be linked for the event.

On day #1 we will go to Florence, SC and overnight at Francis Marion College. On Day #2 the end point will be Sunset Beach.

As soon as additional information is learned regarding the routes and rest stops I will let everyone know. We will probably have about 7 – 8 rest stops each day as well as need 8 to 10 SAG Vehicles. We will also need radio operators for Medical Support Team, and a Supply Team Leader.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please send me an email to [N4MH@w4bfb.org](mailto:N4MH@w4bfb.org).

## AND IN OTHER NEWS



### FIELD DAY'S COMING

Just a reminder that Field Day is getting closer. Field Day 2010 will be held June 26 and 27 at Wilgrove Park in Mint Hill. Kevin Keyes-K4YYD is the Field Day Chairman

### MARS Badge Pictures to be taken – Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>

If you have joined MARS over the past several months, upgraded your license and gotten a new call, or just obtained a new vanity callsign.... then *you need a new MARS Member photo ID badge*... come to the March MARS monthly club meeting, on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> to get your photo taken.

MARS' Official ID Badge maker, Ben – WB2RHM, will be taking photos after the meeting, to make a batch of MARS ID Badges for delivery in April.

Remember, the Official MARS photo ID badge is your only proof of MARS Membership, and you may need your MARS photo ID badge to participate in various ARES activities at the EOC, Police, Fire, or EMS locations, or to participate in MARS Special Service Events... plus, it is nice to wear at club meetings- *so we know who you are*, and what your name and callsign are...

So, comb your hair and shave if you need it, but come on out to the meeting on the 30th if you want/need a new MARS photo ID made.

73 – WB2RHM



## FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

MARS Club Meeting 2-23-2010.

Jodie Rowland - KI4CXO called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Jodie welcomed the members and guests.

Bill - W4GRW made apologies for a cancellation of the evening's program from the NCHEARs group. They will hopefully be making an appearance next month.

Jeff - KA4WYC held a minute of silence in respect for Ben Douglas - N4PAC, who passed away suddenly. Ben was a member of the club, and helped out every year with talk-in to the Hamfest.

Mitch - KM4AMB gave a brief synopsis of the Car Rally time trials held in Cheraw around 6<sup>th</sup> February. There was an article in the February newsletter.

Mary - N4MH gave a brief dissertation on the purpose of the Hamfest and introduced the Hamfest committee chairpersons. Committees that required volunteer help, held sway and passed around the sign up sheets. Barry - KC4SSS went first with a plea for help filling the "Yellow Jack-ets" time slots. John - N4MMQ requested a couple of volunteers for the "talk in" station, a great job: just sit inside a plush RV whilst telling everyone where to go.... Ben - WB2RHM and Tom - KA3VVJ, read out the list of visiting dealers that had confirmed their reservations. Bill - W4GRW provided a list of the Forums that had been arranged for Saturday. Wayne - WB4BXW had the club booth under control with volunteers in place. Earl - K4KAY had the testing station in hand with his volunteers in place. Mark - NC1G requested help with stage liaison. John - WB2NHQ requested help with the ticket booth. The Flea market set up was under control by Barry - KC4SSS. With all the volunteer spots covered we could look forward to a successful Ham fest.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at around 8:30 pm.

Jodie, KI4CXO provided refreshments.

Submitted by Andy Hawkins - K4GKK

MARS secretary

## BOARD MEETING NOTES, 3/3/2010

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Minutes for Board Meeting of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

1- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Attendees included: Jodie Rowland-KI4CXO, Ben Antanitis-WB2RHM, Mary Hunt-N4MH, 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 February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 were accepted as presented in the February newsletter.

3- Treasurer's Report: Tom presented the accounts report. This was accepted by the board. Tom also included Year to Date balance sheet and a Profit & Loss report for the current fiscal year.

4- Vice President's report: Bill Fisher has arranged for the NC HEARS Group (NCHEARS.ORG) to speak at the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. A back up plan to present an ARRL or similar Ham Radio topic should be in place to cover any mishaps.

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 132 members for 2010.

### Committee Reports

Membership Committee: Please see secretary's report above.

Repeater Committee: Bill Newsome-AC4ZR has been working on getting the Clover Packet Node up and running, it will be installed at a new location to be announced later. Tim Slay-N4IB is trying to re-establish the Packet Node on the downtown Duke Energy building. He is awaiting a professional installation crew to place the equipment. Steve McCabe - KE4IYH & Lee Price - KD4GCF are planning an upgrade to the club room BBS.

Public Service Committee: Mary Hunt-N4MH will again head this committee. She will publish 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. There are three main MS events, the MS Walk on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the MS Challenge Walk on June 4<sup>th</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> and the MS Bike Ride on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

The club also helps with the Lungstrong event in October. We hopefully had some of our members participate in marshalling at the car rally in Cheraw, SC.



## BOARD MEETING NOTES, 3/3/2010, Cont.

Equipment Committee: This was headed up by Andy last year. A new Chairman is requested. There are a lot of issues that need to be discussed and sorted out, including ideas about what to do with the equipment we have, where to store equipment that is not currently being used, and what equipment we can cull from our inventory. These are but a few of the topics that need to be addressed.

Grants and Resources: Kevin –K4YYD. The Food Lion Program has been discontinued and we have received our last donation from this program. However the club will benefit from members who join or renew their membership with ARRL.

Field Day Committee: Kevin-K4YYD will head this committee again for 2010. A meeting requesting help was held just prior to the February club meeting.

Entertainment Committee: Jodie-KI4CXO and Mary-N4MH will be heading this committee. The Christmas Party Venue will be arranged earlier this year, with a survey sent to the membership on how it is to be catered.

Website: This is under the stewardship of Ben-WB2RHM and Wayne-WB4BXW. Ben has just updated the website and Ham Fest pages.

Please note that ALL the committee's are open for anyone to provide support and ideas 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: 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.

New Business: Ben WB2RHM, will have the camera ready for photographs at the March Club Meeting. Barry, KC4SSS was acknowledged for his untiring work at drumming up volunteers for the upcoming Hamfest.

There being no more business for this evening's meeting, the meeting was adjourned

at 7:45 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**

Receive	Send	Offset (KHz)	Autopatch
146.34	146.94	-600	Yes
144.63	145.29	-600	No
144.69	145.29	-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](mailto:ki4cxo@w4bfb.org)

**Vice President**

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, [w4grw@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4grw@w4bfb.org)

**Secretary**

Andy Hawkins, k4gkk@w4bfb.org

**Treasurer**

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ, [ka3vvj@w4bfb.org](mailto:ka3vvj@w4bfb.org)

**Directors**

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, [wb2rhm@w4bfb.org](mailto:wb2rhm@w4bfb.org)

Mary Hunt, N4MH, [n4mh@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4mh@w4bfb.org)

Bill Harding, K4AHK, [k4ahk@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4ahk@w4bfb.org)

Kevin Keyes, K4YYD, [k4yyd@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4yyd@w4bfb.org)

Barry May KC4SSS, [kc4sss@w4bfb.org](mailto:kc4sss@w4bfb.org)

**Newsletter Editor**

John Forbus, NV4A, [W4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org](mailto:W4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org)



**Mecklenburg Amateur  
Radio Society, Inc**

Newsletter Editor:  
John Forbus, NV4A  
4586 Lynwood Rd.  
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

[w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org)