



**Mecklenburg  
Amateur Radio  
Society™**

# MARS News

May 2013

Volume 64, Issue 5

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Charlotte MS Walk:  
Saturday, May 18th
- ◆ Charlotte Motor Speedway  
Time Trial Series for CCTA:  
Wednesday, June 5th
- ◆ Field Day: June 22nd &  
23rd
- ◆ Lake Norman Excursion:  
Saturday, July 13th
- ◆ Bike MS: Breakaway to the  
Beach: September 21st &  
22nd

See [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) for more  
information on these events!

## PREZ SEZ - A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Andy Hawkins (K4GKK), President*

Hello fellow Hams,

Yet again, I was very pleased with the turn out for the April Club meeting. We were very close to a full-capacity crowd, the main presentation of D-Star was well received by all, and the tempting Raspberry Pis added another dimension to the talk (pity we could not eat them).

Rumor has it that Mitch, KX4MB is planning a follow-up presentation showing the versatility of the Raspberry Pi modules and how they can be used in all aspects of Amateur Radio.

The Club website has undergone a major redesign with the combined efforts of Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW and Charles Comerford, KK4HOK. The new website is up and running and deserves checking out. Well done guys - the website looks great.

The website also lists the upcoming public service events for the whole year. These are important to us in that it puts the club in the public eye and promotes the hobby. I ask that you check the list and contact Mary Hunt, N4MH to let her know what you are interested in volunteering for. The website [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) is set up for

signing up for these events as well. Elena Maya-Scott, KS4OX is the owner of [ridemaps](http://ridemaps.com) and has provided a great resource for volunteering for the various public service events.

The club is still looking for someone to chair the training committee. We have had a couple of nibbles, but nothing concrete yet. This will involve setting up Technician, General and Extra classes for new and advancing hams. If you are interested, please contact me.

Field Day is fast approaching and we will be looking for volunteers to set up, tear down and operate during the allotted 24 hrs. We will be discussing this at the next meeting. This is a great event for learning about station set up and operation, camaraderie, fellowship, and of course, we will be having a burger and hot dog lunch just before the starting time on Saturday.

Mitch, KX4MB mentioned in an e-mail sent to all members a few weeks ago about members bringing something that you have built for the hobby to the club meeting and do a short show and tell. I hope to bring a small project I have been working on that may be of interest to fellow hams at the next meeting. Think about what you have made that may be useful to your fellow hams, bring it along, and show it off.

Well, that's it for this month.

Best 73,

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING...

Many folks think that in order to have fun on HF, you need an amplifier, a tower and a beam. That could not be farther from reality. There are many activities on HF that are undertaken at low power with wire antennas, verticals and various loops; these are the antennas that people have bent into pretzels in their attics, hung in many bent forms in trees, and some folks even use magnetic loop antennas in attics with great success. Here are some good reasons to upgrade to General.

There are many Nets on HF that relate to every subject you can imagine. If you have a non-radio interest, there is probably a ham radio net devoted to it somewhere. Examples of radio related nets that are available daily are:

- 7272 Chew, which is a busy conversation net running on 7.272 MHz daily.
- SouthCars Net is a mobile net that runs on 7.251 MHz daily.
- MidCars is another mobile net on 7.258 MHz daily.
- EastCars runs on 7.255 daily.

For members of QCWA, there is a net on 3.825 MHz on Saturday morning at 1245z. There are nets for Collins owners. AM enthusiasts meet around 3.850-3.880 MHz regularly. There are many other radio related nets. Some examples are the National Traffic System nets that run in all parts of the country. The NC Evening Net is at 2230z on 3.923 MHz. For the Emergency Response folks, there is the Tar Heel Emergency Net also on 3.923 MHz, an hour later at 2330z daily.

If you Google "Ham Radio Nets", you will find many resources. One that I found in researching for this article was [www.freewebs.com/kg4jvi/hamradioreferencepage.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/kg4jvi/hamradioreferencepage.htm), which is WZ4KIM's website. Lots of nets and other ham radio information can be found on this website. There is also a Net search engine on the ARRL website under the "On the Air" tab. Additional sources are: [http://www.n1yz.com/HFNET\\_LIST.HTM](http://www.n1yz.com/HFNET_LIST.HTM) and <http://www.ac6v.com/nets.htm>.

Another aspect for HF is all the digital activity on the bands. A transceiver, interface and a computer is all you need. Digital programs run on Windows XP, 7, 8, Linux and other platforms. Interfaces such as Signalink, Rigblaster, Donner and many others are available to connect the computer and the transceiver. The beauty of digital modes is that you don't run high power to make contacts. In fact, for PSK31, Feld Hell, JT65-HF and WSJT, you don't want to run more than 20-30 watts to make contacts around the world. There are active Yahoo groups for these programs that offer help in setting up and operating digital modes.

Software programs such as FLDigi, JT65-HF and WSJT are free and work very well at these power levels, even with compromised antennas. FLDigi is written by W1HKJ, Dave Freese, and is available at [www.w1hkj.com](http://www.w1hkj.com). The most recent program in the WSJT (Weak Signal Joe Taylor) series is WSJT-X. Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, is a Nobel Prize winning physicist who discovered Pulsars. His hobby has been weak signal communications at VHF, especially moon bounce (EME). While EME often is run at higher power with multiple beam arrays, this software suite also works very well at HF. The new WSJT-X is optimized for the very low HF frequencies at 137 KHz and 472 KHz. It is being actively developed and works extremely well at higher HF frequencies, including 40m, 20m, and 15m. You will find European stations working US stations every day on 20m.

At the Charlotte Hamfest this year, Bill Tippet, W4ZV, and Christian Herring, KF4LXB, gave a forum on SOTA (Summits on the Air) which gave us an introduction to a very interesting program. Having begun in the UK, there is a very active SOTA effort in the US. Their website is [www.sotawatch.org](http://www.sotawatch.org), and there is also an active Yahoo group that alerts you to their efforts by email. In addition, there is an Android app that can give you spots when someone is activating a summit. There are two ways to get involved in SOTA - as an activator or as a chaser. Activators climb mountains and operate QRP stations to put the mountain on the air (similar to the IOTA Island on the Air program). You will be pleasantly surprised to hear one of these stations operating once you learn where and when they are set up. Warning: this can be addictive! So, turn on the HF transceiver and look for all the opportunities for fun on the bands.



**Mary Hunt (N4MH),**  
**Chairperson**

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS - MARY HUNT, N4MH

On April 18, we supported the first **CCTTA Cycling Event** at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Thanks to: Bill Heybruck, WA2EDN, Auford Neal, KU4PF, Perry Garris, KF4UVL, Bob Ferdinand, K9TMU, and Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET for supporting this event. Below is an extract from comments Joe Price, a cyclist and the former president of CCTTA, made on the event:

*"The MARS team quickly responded to a cone that had blown out onto the track in Turn 4. I told the fella on the front stretch as I was riding by and by the time I was back around (3 minutes later) it was back safely in its place. I'm really glad we have that team spread out around the track for our events."*

Great job by our team and a nice compliment from Joe. We will be supporting the Carolina Cycling Time Trial Association out at Lowe's Motor Speedway on a monthly basis. We use a simplex frequency for this event. The event starts at 6:30 pm each month so we are in place and set up by 6:00 pm. Normally when you work the event for the first time, we have you work with an experienced operator so you can learn how we support the event. We drive into the Speedway through the infield and you are required to sign a waiver before you drive in. If you are interested in participating in this event, please let me know by sending an email to [mhuntbc@gmail.com](mailto:mhuntbc@gmail.com).

|                |                    |                       |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| The dates are: | Wednesday, May 8   | Wednesday, August 14  |
|                | Wednesday, June 5  | Tuesday, September 10 |
|                | Wednesday, July 24 |                       |

On May 18, we will be supporting the **MS Charlotte Walk**. This is a five mile walk that leaves from South Park. For this event, we have a ham radio operator at each rest stop. The radio operator is the communications from the rest stop back to net control. You check in with net control when you arrive and introduce yourself to the rest stop captain. If they start running low on supplies or are missing supplies, they notify you and the information is passed on to net control. We also have radio operators on bicycles and in vehicles that drive on the route. The purpose of this position is to make sure the walkers are okay. As the SAG vehicle, if a walker motions to you, you stop and pick them up. We will be using 145.23 repeater for this event. For all the MS Events, we put orange MS Arrows on the vehicles so the walkers can easily identify them as an official MS Vehicle. The event starts at 9am and we are in position by 8:30am. The walk normally finishes up by noon that day. If you are interested in supporting the event, go to [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com), scroll down to the event, and click on the button for ham operators to sign up.

On Saturday, July 13, the **Red Cross Lake Norman Excursion** will be held with the start point in Mooresville. John White, WB2NHQ coordinates the volunteers for this event.

September 21 and 22, 2013 will be the **MS Break Away to the Beach**. This is the largest Public Service event that we support each year. We leave from Monroe, NC on Saturday morning and the finish point on Saturday is Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. On Sunday, we have two start sites - Florence, SC and Green Seas, SC - finishing up at Sunset Beach, SC. We also have a start line on Saturday in Columbia, SC that is supported by the Columbia Amateur Radio Club. So mark your calendars early and plan to join us for this great event.

October 26, 2013 is the **Cystic Fibrosis Cycling Event** in Waxhaw, NC. Tim Slay, N4IB coordinates the volunteers for this event.

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSIONS - MAY



Our local WCARS VE Team will have a VE Test Session on Saturday, May 25 at 9:00am. The exam session will be held at East Baptist Church on Monroe Road. Please arrive at the church by 8:30 am to complete your paperwork. All classes of tests will be administered. The test fee is \$10.00. If you have a current license or CSCE, bring the original and one copy. You will also need to bring a Picture ID. This is a walk-in session so you are not required to register. If you need additional information, call our VE Info Line at 704-948-7373.

GCARS is also sponsoring a VE Test Session on Saturday, May 25 at 9:30am. The session will be held at the Gaston County Public Library in the Conference Room. The address is 1555 E. Garrison Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28054. Please contact Cyrus B. Rowe (K1CY) at 704-864-4388 or George Poteat (NC0G) at 704-860-6442 for more information.

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSION - JUNE

### Address:

YCARS Clubhouse  
2119 Squire Rd  
Rock Hill SC 29730-7593

There is an upcoming license exam session in Rock Hill, SC on Saturday, June 15, 2013. This event will be sponsored by the YCARS club. Testing will begin at 9:30am and walk-ins are allowed.

### Contact Information:

Jason R. Starnes  
(803) 980-2342  
jrstarnes@gmail.com



Stuart Alpart - **N1STU**  
Andrew Beary - **WA3DQS**  
Steven Burke - **KI4FAQ**  
Stefanie Comerford - **KK4LZR**  
Richard Ferrigan - **KB2UKU**  
Patrick Fink - **KK4DHM**

Brent Finnell - **W4ACO**  
Marshall Lail - **KK4OHF**  
Jerry Malin - **N2HV**  
Larry Schroeder - **KD4HSL**  
David Simmons - **K4KWL**  
Joseph Spears - **AF1E**





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Mike Folk, KK4JFM**

**Mike Folk, KK4JFM**, joined MARS at the club's April meeting. He received his Tech license in 2012 and upgraded to General in 2013. His interests and current radio gear covers multiple bands and equipment. He grew up on the Southeastern Virginia peninsula. Mike is a twice retired manufacturers' rep for electrical and mechanical products. After retiring, he spent five years as the Director of Missions for his church. He and his wife have lived in the Queen City since 1971. Amateur radio was in Mike's thoughts long before he studied and got his license. His wife was the catalyst for pursuing his license after he and his bride started discussing what happens when the lights go out and the need to be prepared beyond cell phones and computers. She encouraged him to get his license. Mike will be turning the encouragement around to his wife with the hope that she too will get her license. He is exposing his young grandson to amateur radio with the hope that a new young ham can be added to the FCC database in the future. Mike enjoys golf and model railroading – the latter taking up considerable real estate in his house. He has been a collector of HO gauge model trains and accessories for over 20 years. Like so many in amateur radio, Mike is dealing with antenna issues. He is HOA restricted and is spending time reading about antennas and getting advice from other hams who have their own issues with HOA restrictions. MARS welcomes Mike, KK4JFM, to the W4BFB family and hopes to hear him on the air – both VHF and HF.



**Susan Moore, KK4OHT**

**Susan Moore, KK4OHT**, is MARS' newest ham and newest member, joining the club at our April meeting. She was born in Monroe and has lived in Fort Mill for 23 years. She got her license in February 2013 in Charleston, S.C. Her boyfriend, Steve Davis, KJ4FEL, encouraged her to study for the test and used a trip to Charleston as a carrot and stick incentive for her to study and take the test at the Charleston Hamfest. She had been considering amateur radio since 2008, but had it on a back burner. She said she enjoyed listening to Steve on the radio and saw the fun he was having. The opportunity was presented and she took it. She is the mother of two daughters. One daughter has graduated from Winthrop University with a teaching degree in Chemistry. Her other daughter is married to an Airman stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Goldsboro. Susan is the primary caregiver for her mother, who is disabled. Susan loves to cook, a hobby that started with her grandfather showing her how to cook an egg when she was five or six years old. In addition to cooking, she loves the outdoors and hiking. She says the other thing she likes to do is "talk" and what better place to practice talking than on the radio. Susan makes daily trips from Fort Mill to Charlotte for her job. She's the Deli Manager at Harris Teeter on Sardis Road North near Matthews. Congratulations to Susan, KK4OHT, on getting her license and welcome to the W4BFB ham family.



**Bill Heybruck, WA2EDN**

**Bill Heybruck, WA2EDN**, a.k.a. "Dr. Bill" is a seasoned veteran in amateur radio. He has been a ham since 1967. His interest in the hobby started with a high school physics teacher in Poughkeepsie, New York, who set up an amateur radio in his classroom. Bill is a retired engineer from UNCC, where he was the Director of the Industrial Solutions Lab. He lives in Mint Hill. His interests in amateur radio cover a wide spectrum, from DX and CW to HF, UHF, and ARES. Those who monitor the 94 repeater can occasionally hear Bill discussing technical issues, flying, or providing guidance for other hams. (He's probably multi-tasking with VHF in one hand and chasing DX on 20 meters with the other hand). He's one of the institutional members of MARS. He attended his first hamfest in 1984 at the old Convention Center in downtown (uptown to some) Charlotte. He has a wide range of interests, including camping, computers, firearms, racecar driving, and flying. He's the proud owner of a 2001 Mustang GT High Performance machine. Bill has been flying single engine airplanes since 1970 and flies for *Pilots N Paws* a 501 c(3) charity that helps to rescue dogs from being euthanized. The dogs are flown to areas of the country where they can be adopted. He flies with Auford Neal, KU4PF, on these missions. Area cyclists who compete appreciate the support Bill gives their sport. He is a member of the Time Trial Board that is responsible for the time trial races at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. Because of Bill's efforts and support of other club members who operate the much needed HT's at the speedway, the cyclists are very appreciative of the organizational safety element MARS and our volunteers provide. When the need for advice about amateur radio arises, Bill is one of those experienced hams always willing to provide expert advice and direction. He is one of MARS' gems and there are many in the club.



modes. So far, in this area, I think packet messaging still makes sense considering the other stations we have to connect to. If you include packet equipment, use it regularly to be comfortable with the extra wires, connectors, computer complications, and power requirements for all of those pieces so it doesn't preoccupy you from providing on-site communications. Don't forget, we'll also have HF and Digital liaison stations if we need them.

With all of this said, you can use your Go-Box as your everyday home station. Then you know which knobs and buttons do what, which memories hold which frequencies, that the power supply still works, and your connectors all still connect. Then when the call comes, all you have to do is unplug your home station antenna coax and the AC power cord to your power supply, close the lid, and "Go".



John White / WB2NHQ

Check out our newly redesigned website!  
You can find it at the same address: [www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org).  
Thank you Wayne, WB4BXW, for all your hard work!

## JIM MACLEOD, W4NHV

On April 6, 2013, Jim MacLeod passed away. Jim was the last surviving founding member of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. He was declared a life member years ago. Even though he had lived in Lumberton for many years, we were fortunate to have him come to Charlotte speak at one of our club meetings in 1999, and he attended other club activities from time to time. Below is a copy of his obituary.

*James Burt MacLeod  
Lumberton*

*James Burt MacLeod of Lumberton, N.C. died April 6, 2013. After a private family burial a memorial service will be held on April 8, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. at the First Presbyterian Church, Chestnut Street, Lumberton.*

*He was born in Lumberton on December 21, 1919 to Alexander H. and Helen S. McLeod. He was a graduate of Lumberton High School, Presbyterian Junior College, Presbyterian College, and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA. As a summer intern he started the Sylva, N.C. Presbyterian Church. Ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in August, 1944, he served churches in North and South Carolina and Virginia, with a special love for small churches. During World War II, while in his first pastorate in Gloucester, Virginia, he served in the Virginia Reserve Militia. He also served as Chaplain of the Clan MacLeod Society.*

*Licensed as amateur radio operator W4NHV in the late 1940s, he served in amateur radio emergency communications in order to help others- -starting with Hurricane Hazel in 1954. He started American Radio Relay League's Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Robeson County and also served as ARES District Emergency Coordinator for 18 counties in Southeastern North Carolina. He organized, and until his death, supported and mentored the Robeson County Amateur Radio Society whose members are dedicated to the enhancement of amateur radio in general and the support of Amateur Radio Emergency Services in particular.*

*In his passion that others should have enough to eat he supported the food pantry of the Robeson County Church and Community Center with numerous donations. An excellent cook, he delighted in preparing meals for groups large and small. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Suzanne Hudson MacLeod, of Raleigh, NC, and his brother, A.H., "Sandy," McLeod.*

*He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Annette King MacLeod; children, Suzanne M. Dedrick, James Blount MacLeod and wife, Kathryn, and Emily H. Davis, and husband, Charles; stepchildren, David D. King and wife Sue, and Carol K. Elmore and husband, Frank; grandchildren, Britta J. Dedrick, C. Isaak Dedrick and wife, Katherine, Alexander H. MacLeod and wife, Meredith, John G. MacLeod, and Susanna C. Hendy; step grandchildren, Catherine King, Jonathon D. King, Bessie E. Hualk and husband, Ryan, Chris Elmore and wife, Lauren; and two step great-granddaughters.*





## MY FIRST HAM TOWER DREAM COME TRUE

After 50 years away from the hobby (formerly K8VZA) I went to the Dayton Hamvention in 2012 and was overwhelmed with all of the new technology I found there since I left the Ham Radio in 1963. I received my Tech license on site at Dayton. With the help of my cousin, KA8EDE, and a ham from Texas, I bought a Kenwood TS-590S so I could start looking forward to experiencing some of the new technology, which inspired me to quickly get my General Class license. Then, I knew that my next step was a tower. I read several books about tower construction and antennas which led me to decide that the best way to get on the air after all these years would be to find an expert to do a turnkey installation. I then read the [reviews on eHam](#) and [Don Daso, K4ZA "Tower Works"](#) stood out to me, so I gave him a call. Lucky for me, Don lives close by in Charlotte. He visited for a site survey and we then sat down and talked about what my interests were. He gave me some suggestions and options based on a used tower that he had taken down that fit my needs precisely. We decided what equipment I would need and we picked a location for the tower and he provided the foundation hole dimensions. After our initial meeting, I was relieved to know that I would be able to have my first tower I dreamed of, with all of the technical details of equipment selection and antenna construction and tuning done by an expert team.



My next door neighbor is a concrete contractor so he dug the foundation hole. Don was there during each phase of the foundation - supplying and installing the rebar cage and base hardware - and then supervised the actual concrete pour. In the meantime, he rebuilt one of his used Tri-Banders he had and I purchased the 6M Yagi he recommended to install above it after he found that the used antenna he had would not tune. I wanted a 40M dipole, so he supplied it and made a side arm and installed both at 62ft on the tower.

I told Don that I was not in a hurry, but wanted the project done right the first time to include new heliax. I soon found that Don proved to be an honest man true to his word. It was a real pleasure working with him on my first tower project. His rates are very reasonable. His years of experience installing towers and building world class ham and contest stations means that he can devise a solution to almost any problem one may encounter with their installation.

The reason I am writing this article is to share my positive experience with my first tower construction, but more importantly to share the fact that what really amazed me was that I not only received experienced technical expertise in planning and construction down to the last detail, but the cost was about *half* of what I had been looking at spending using

all new equipment (not even considering what I might have spent in a "learning as you go-it-alone" experience). Also, I was aware that installing towers can be very dangerous and the learning curve is very steep!

I highly recommend Don Daso, K4ZA "Tower Works" to any ham needing tower installation work. He more than exceeded my expectations and as he and his helper progressed, I knew that I had found one of the top professional tower installers in the country. Don's outstanding book that he wrote for ARRL on tower installation "[Antenna Towers for Radio Amateurs](#)" contains a wealth of information that details every step of the process. ([eHam Review](#)) It gave me a good understanding of what was before me and only cemented my decision that I wanted nothing less than a turnkey installation and that I could have 100% confidence in Don's advice. Visit his website at <http://k4za.com> and you can follow each of his projects as they progress. You can see pictures of my project at <https://picasaweb.google.com/piperedm/HamTower>.

## CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION BONEYARD



Don't forget about our partnership with CDXA and their Boneyard. They have a page on their website ( <http://www.cdxa.org/boneyard.shtml> ) for CDXA and MARS members to list their equipment for sale or swap. A maximum of 5 pieces of equipment can be listed on the Boneyard, per person, at any one time. Pictures of equipment are welcome. Equipment will be listed for a maximum of 180 days unless notified by seller that equipment has been sold or traded. After the 180 days, items may be removed from the list. Members wishing to list equipment can send the information to [wb4bxw@gmail.com](mailto:wb4bxw@gmail.com).

## ARES UPDATE

Congratulations to the new Mecklenburg County ARES coordinator - Tony Lewis, KE4VVF! We would also like to congratulate Jerry Brewer, N4MIU on his new position as the ARES coordinator for Union County. MARS wishes the best for these gentlemen and looks forward to seeing what plans they have in store for these two counties.



## HELP US REACH 100!

Please join us on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00pm for the Piedmont Emergency Training Net. Our goal is to reach 100 check-ins during this specific night's net. The net was established for the purpose of ARES training and is held on the frequency of 145.350- PL 131.8. Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you!

## JOIN US FOR DINNER!

Come out and join us for dinner before the monthly club meetings and indulge in some great food and great conversations. We meet every month at Landmark Restaurant Diner around 5:00pm. The address of the restaurant is 4429 Central Ave, Charlotte, NC 28205. See you there!



## MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

**It is that time of year again when we will be working on the budget for 2013-2014. Each committee chairperson needs to submit input for the next budget year. Please submit all requests by May 31, 2013 to [trhunt3@gmail.com](mailto:trhunt3@gmail.com). Thank you.**

**Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ  
Treasurer**



All articles for the June newsletter must be submitted to the newsletter editor at [w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org) by **Saturday, June 1st!** Thank you for your cooperation.



## MARS MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 30, 2013

The meeting topic was D-STAR, introduced by Steve Koone, KA4YMY. As further resources, there are several websites and a Yahoo group available.

[Charlottedstar.org](http://Charlottedstar.org)

clt-dstar Yahoo group

[www.dstarusers.org](http://www.dstarusers.org)

Additionally, Hamfest prizes were drawn from the names of ticket sellers and yellow jackets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Submitted by Bill Turner, W4WNT  
Temporary Scribe

*\*Official minutes available upon request.*

## HAMS CONTINUE TO HELP IN WAKE OF BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS

Did You Know? Hams were in the middle of the tragedy in Boston and provided extraordinary service during an emergency seen worldwide. From CQ Newroom on Friday, April 26 –

*“When two bombs exploded near the finish line of April’s Boston Marathon, the first thing ham radio net controllers did was check in on each of the 250 ham volunteers working the course to make sure they were OK (they were). Next, according to reports from ARRL and Newsline, the hams continued providing communications as police halted the race and runners began to congregate at first-aid and water stations along the route, all of which had ham stations as well. The hams kept runners updated on events and coordinated deployment of “sweep buses” to transport runners still on the course to pre-arranged meeting areas. Hams in the finish line area remained at their posts and provided communications as needed from the medical tents until police - fearing additional explosions - ordered everyone evacuated.”*



### CLUB MEETING

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™ club meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. Our meetings are held at East Baptist Church (next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive). The address is 6850 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28212.

Everyone is welcome, even those who do not have their license yet! We love seeing new faces, so come out and join us and see what our club is all about!

**May Meeting Topic: Field Day (and possibly a discussion about Raspberry Pi)**



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES: MAY 7, 2013

### Treasurer's Report:

Tom presented the treasurer's report. ATT bill still hasn't dropped; Tom is checking on it. Board looked at the BB&T checking/savings account for the period ending on 4/30/2013. The balances agreed.

### Vice President's Report:

Reports were good from last meeting. Budget vote will be the first item at the club meeting. May will include Field Day discussion for 30 min. Patrick might do a discussion on Raspberry Pi or some other technical aspect. June may include Field Day pictures and discussions. Jeff Viscount will discuss the Bike Ride in August.

### Secretary's Report:

109 total current paid members, including 5 life members. Robbie Finger was formally established as a life member.

### Committee Reports:

**Repeater/Packet Committee:** It needs some work, but it is working. The triplexer on the uptown repeater has been out for a while. We need a dual-band antenna. The weather alert radio was added to the University repeater site.

**Public Service Committee:** April-September will be starting with CCTA. May 18 will be the Southpark MS Walk, and the Lake Norman Red Cross Excursion is July 13. September 21-22 is the MS Breakaway to the Beach and the Cystic Fibrosis Ride is October 26. See [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) for more information.

**Grants and Resources:** Board decided to table the idea of the 501(c)(3) tax designation for now. Bryan discussed fundraising needs for Pam.

**Christmas Party:** Ideas for the Christmas party or a substitute

event were discussed. A winter social in January is a possibility.

**Field Day:** Reedy Creek park is a possible location for Field Day. The board discussed as well how to best encourage members to volunteer.

**Website:** It is going well, some parts need to be updated. Some of the members have specific requests for site allocation. Mention that club members often meet at the Landmark Restaurant at 5pm on Central Ave before the meeting was made.

**New Business:** Andy wants to have a work party to make the club room more accessible.

**Hamfest Report:** Bryan discussed the hamfest report and the increase in prize ticket sales as well as the overall success of the event. Bryan suggested that the hamfest be expanded toward renewable energy and new technologies as well as ham radio. We need a new hamfest chairman for next year as Bryan cannot do it. If someone is interested see Andy.

### New Business:

New Budget for 2013-2014 was discussed. Some adjustments were made by the board to assure the money was allotted efficiently. Tom will revise the budget per suggestions from the board and email everyone.

Submitted by Sandra Jones, KK4DAW  
Secretary - MARS

*\*Official minutes available upon request.*

## ASK YOUR ELMER

They say one of the best ways to learn something is to ask questions and some of your best resources are right within our club. These club members are willing to share their knowledge with you to help you become a better, more informed ham. Please email them with any questions!



|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Antennas       | Bob Ferdinand, K9TMU; Bill Miller, KT4YE; Mike Wentz, KE4EHC                        |
| Digital Modes  | Stan Bagwell, AJ4ZL   |
| D-STAR         | Eric Webner, K4FAN  |
| ICOM Radios    | <b>We're still looking for someone to put here... let us know if it can be you!</b> |
| Kenwood Radios | Bob Ferdinand, K9TMU; Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET  |
| Packet Radio   | Bill Newsome, AC4ZR; Seth O'Neal, KF4LLF  |
| Ten-Tec        | George Hohas, W4GEH   |
| Yaesu Radios   | Mitch Barbato, KX4MB  |



## METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET™

### Net Controllers

Sunday: Jerry, N4MIU

Monday: Bryan, K4NET

Tuesday: Stan, AJ4ZL

Wednesday: Dave, KJ4SJY

Thursday: Charles, KK4HOK

Friday: Don, KJ4ATJ

Saturday: Pam, N8PAM

\*John, WB2NHQ, is presently covering Saturday night's net until further notice.

Join us for the Metrolina 2-meter Emergency Net™ every night at 9:00 P.M.! The primary frequency is our 146.94 repeater and the alternate backups are our 145.29 repeater or 146.52 simplex. The tone is turned off during this net.

### Alternate Net Controllers

Bob, K9TMU

Carl, KJ4VLC

Jerry, N4MIU

John, WB2NHQ

Sandra, KK4DAW

Shelly, KJ4ATK

Stefanie, KK4LZR

\*If you are interested in becoming an alternate net controller, please contact our Net Manager (Stan Bagwell) through email at [M2MENNetManager@W4BFB.org](mailto:M2MENNetManager@W4BFB.org).



JOIN US ON  
THE AIR...  
WE'D LOVE  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!

## OTHER LOCAL NETS

### Sunday

Mecklenburg Simplex Net,  
8:30pm (147.505)

### Thursday

UCARS 2m Net, 8:00pm  
(145.390- PL 94.8)  
(444.425+ PL 94.8)

### Saturday

ARES Net, 7:00pm  
(146.940-)

The Dixie Radio Pirates  
Weekly Net, 8:30pm  
(145.410- PL 136.5)

### Nightly

Piedmont Emergency  
Training Net, 8:00pm  
(145.350- PL 131.8)

Rock Hill Net, 8:30pm  
(147.030+ PL 88.5)

## ECHOLINK/PACKET RADIO NODES

**EchoLink:** EchoLink is available for download on your computer through [www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org), as well as for use on your smartphone (Android and Apple iPhone) through the app store. To access our repeaters, connect to **K4NET-L** or node number **625440**.

### Packet Radio:

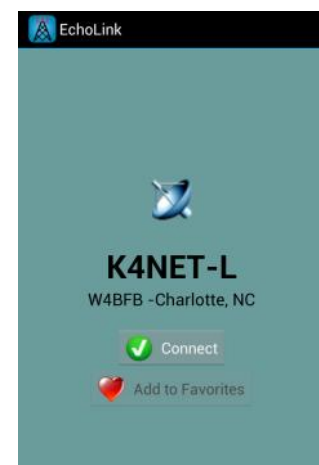
W4BFB & Local 1200 Baud Packet Radio Frequencies:

145.010 / 145.090 / 223.400 / 446.500

W4BFB-9 = Charlotte BBS / W4BFB-2 = World Wide Chatroom

(All W4BFB packet nodes have links to all listed frequencies)

More info: <http://www.w4bfb.org/packet.htm>



EchoLink application on a smartphone.



# Ham Happenings

## May 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue                                | Wed  | Thu | Fri | Sat   |
|-----|-----|------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|---|
|     |     |                                    | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4<br><a href="#">Upstate Hamfest</a><br>8:00am                        |
| 5   | 6   | 7<br>MARS Board Meeting<br>6:30pm  | 8<br><a href="#">CCTTA Time Trials</a><br>6:00pm | 9   | 10  | 11<br><a href="#">9th Annual RCARC Swapfest</a><br>8:00am             |
| 12  | 13  | 14                                 | 15   | 16  | 17  | 18<br><a href="#">MS Charlotte Walk</a><br>8:30am                     |
| 19  | 20  | 21                                 | 22   | 23  | 24  | 25<br><a href="#">DurHAMfest</a><br>8:00am<br>WCARS VE Test<br>8:30am |
| 26  | 27  | 28<br>W4BFB Club Meeting<br>7:30pm | 29   | 30  | 31  |   |

See more at <http://w4bfb.org/calendar>

## Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society  
ATTN: Stefanie Comerford  
2425 Park Rd, Room 023  
Charlotte, NC 28203

Phone (Call or Text): (704) 750-9QSO  
Email: [w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org)



**Stefanie Comerford**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**KK4LZR**



Visit us on the Web!  
[www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org)

### Club Repeaters

| Input  | Output | Offset | Tone  |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 146.34 | 146.94 | -600   | 118.8 |
| 144.69 | 145.29 | -600   | 118.8 |
| 144.63 | 145.23 | -600   | 118.8 |
| 222.8  | 224.4  | -1600  | None  |
| 449.6  | 444.6  | +5000  | 118.8 |

### Club Officers & Board of Directors

#### President

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK  
[k4gkk@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4gkk@w4bfb.org)

#### Vice President

Mitch Barbato, KX4MB  
[kx4mb@w4bfb.org](mailto:kx4mb@w4bfb.org)

#### Secretary

Sandra Jones, KK4DAW  
[kk4daw@w4bfb.org](mailto:kk4daw@w4bfb.org)

#### Treasurer

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

#### Directors

Charles Comerford, KK4HOK  
[kk4hok@w4bfb.org](mailto:kk4hok@w4bfb.org)

Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET  
[k4net@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4net@w4bfb.org)

George Hohas, W4GEH  
[w4geh@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4geh@w4bfb.org)

Dave Holbrook, KC4YPB  
[kc4ypb@w4bfb.org](mailto:kc4ypb@w4bfb.org)

John White, WB2NHQ  
[wb2nhq@w4bfb.org](mailto:wb2nhq@w4bfb.org)