



## News from the President – November 2008

Hello Everyone,

Gosh, I can honestly say that this year is really going by very fast. Here it is November already, and it is time for me to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. And since Thanksgiving is a day to be thankful, I want to say a heartfelt **Thank You** to the entire club for the support and friendship I've received from everyone.



I want to say special thanks to John WB2NHQ, Jeff KA4WYC, and Ben WB2RHM. These guys came out with me in dark and drizzly weather to set-up the club RV, an HF PSK station, a VHF station, and an APRS demonstration. We were at the GEEKFEST at CPCC Levine Campus, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. Boy, are they loyal MARS members. We all got soaking wet and bone chilled cold in the wind and pouring rain, trying to get the students and visitors interested in Ham Radio. But we enjoyed it(?) and that is what counts.

If all goes well, some of us plan to get together with the girl scouts, at the Hornet's Nest Girl Scout Council Headquarters, on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> to see how many of them we can get interested in Ham Radio. If you want to help with this, please send an email to Jeff KA4WYC <mailto:KA4WYC@w4bfb.org>

Also, our Mecklenburg ARRL VE Team will hold an exam session on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9AM at the East Baptist Church.

As you can see we have a busy month.



**I want to announce details about our 2008 Holiday Party**, which will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Central Ave here in Charlotte.

We will be gathering from 5:00 till 9:00 P.M. We plan to begin eating around 6:00 pm.

Again this year, the club will be supplying baked Turkey and Ham as well as fried Chicken. *We are asking that each family bring a side dish or dessert or both to share with*

*everyone else.* If you have particular dietary needs or wishes, you are encouraged to make that your choice of item to bring.

The cost of the dinner will be \$5.00 per person, children 12 and under free. All MARS members are welcome and encouraged to come and enjoy our holiday party. Last year, we all had a great time and enjoyed ourselves.

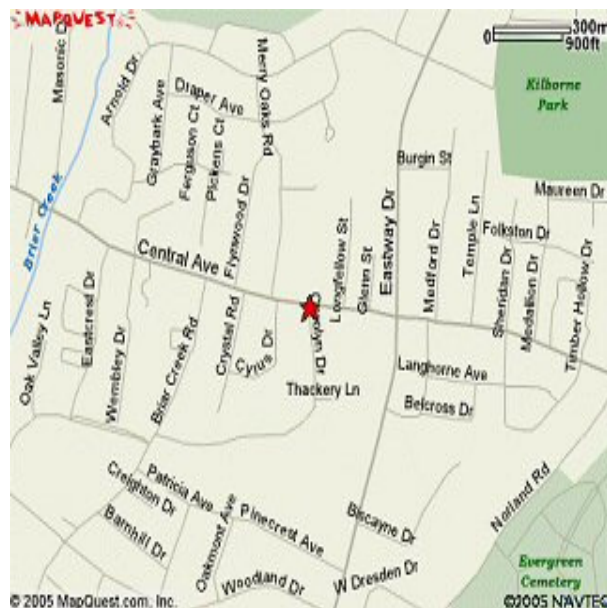


We will be signing up for the party at our club meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign up sheet to say how many will be attending and list what side dish you would like to share with everyone.

We also really need people to volunteer to help with the table set-up and hall decorating. And, we also need a crew to help in the church 'clean-up' after the party. Please contact Jodie – KI4CXO <mailto:VW4BFBPresident@w4bfb.org?subject=PartyHelp>

If, for some reason, you cannot be at the club meeting and you would still like to come to the party you can send your \$5.00 per person and tell us what you would like to share to Jeff KA4WYC by U.S. mail: Jeff Blythe 1122 Pine Knot Ct. Clover, S.C. 29710 Or you can email a reservation to him at [mailto:party@w4bfb.org?subject=2008\\_MARS\\_Holiday\\_Party](mailto:party@w4bfb.org?subject=2008_MARS_Holiday_Party). BUT - The **Last day to sign up will be November 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you cannot come, we will miss you and you will have missed a great time. So we all hope to see you there.

I want to remind everyone to make sure to come to our club meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding our annual elections to select MARS club officers for 2009. We need your vote, and we need you to help select the officers who will make our club the best it can be.





Based on your feedback, the MARS Board of Directors has decided that for the 2008 Holiday season, MARS will 1) assist a local family in need, 2) collect canned food items to be donated to a local non-denominational food bank, and 3) once again 'adopt' an orphan at the Ebenezer Christian Home (in a joint project with W4CQ).

We asked the two local churches we use (East Baptist and St. Andrews) for needy family candidates. We were told about a distressed 5-member family. The dad has lost his job, and is very worried about how he will just provide for his wife and three teenage children. The children are two boys, ages 16 and 17, and an 18-year-old sister. This family needs our help. We are also trying to provide a Merry Christmas for a 13-year-old boy named Raymond at the Orphan Home in Wilkesboro. We will be collecting canned food items to give to a non-denominational food bank, in order to assist the many, many families who find themselves unable to feed themselves this year.

I have a 'wish list' from Raymond and from the needy family. If you would like to help in this MARS effort please email me at [mailto: W4BFBPresident@W4BFB.ORG](mailto:W4BFBPresident@W4BFB.ORG) or call me: Jodie at (704) 813-6283 and let me know. **I sent out a separate email on the reflector with specific wish lists.**

We will be collecting items from now thru December 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Party.

Thanks in advance for all your help and your charity.

Remember..... When all else fails, there is Amateur Radio... and W4BFB!

And with that, I say a heartfelt THANKS to each of you for your help and support.

73,  
Jodie KI4CXO

