



# MARS News

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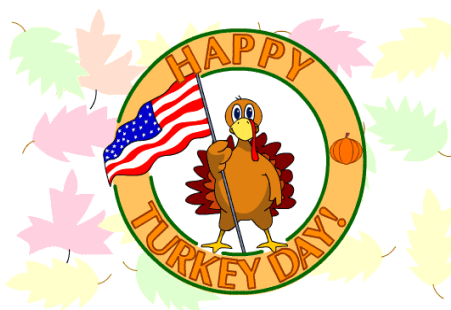
## A Letter from the President

News from the President – November 2010

November 2010 News from the President

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone has a really Happy Thanksgiving Day with family and friends. We all have so much to be thankful for these days. I want to say that I personally feel very lucky to have such a wonderful family in MARS.



I hope all of you will sign up soon to join us at our Christmas Holiday Dinner. This year, based on your survey input, our celebration will be a catered event. Our caterer "SportsPage" is preparing and presenting a Holiday Dinner for us on December 4th at 6:00 pm. They will be serving turkey and ham, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, glazed carrots, rolls, tossed salad, desserts, and tea. For those of you who prefer not to have tea, we will have soda or water to drink also. We will have a drawing for prizes of gift certificates and beautiful poinsettias. It should be a very nice dinner, and what better way to have a holiday dinner than with friends. The cost of the dinner

is \$5.00 a person, regardless of age, and paid reservations are requested before Nov 29<sup>th</sup> via mail or at the next club meeting in November. (A detailed article follows below).

At our next MARS meeting as well as at our Christmas dinner, we will be collecting donations of canned food products, to be given to needy families for Christmas. In addition to donating food to a food bank, we would like to assist the teachers and staff of the Oakhurst Elementary School, who with the help and coordination of the CMPD, provide aid to impoverished families from their student body during the holiday season. The most needy families are identified (and verified.) Wish lists are made and then individuals or families can be 'adopted' to assist with donations of food and toys. I will be sending out an email within a week or so to let everyone know the ages of the children that we would like to help so they will have a nice Christmas. Please help our club assist with a needy Oakhurst Elementary School family this year.

## A Letter from the President, cont.

The Mecklenburg VE Team will be having an Amateur Radio License testing session on November 20<sup>th</sup> for all classes of FCC amateur radio licenses. If you know of someone that wants to get a license or upgrade please let him or her know or send them to the following URL.  
<http://www.w4bfb.org/tests.htm>

We will hold a 2011 Charlotte Hamfest planning meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. I would like everyone who is helping, or wants to help, at the Hamfest to come out and help us. It will be at 6:30PM at the RED Cross Building.

I hope to see you all at the next MARS meeting. This is our annual election meeting and your vote counts! If you cannot attend, please send in a proxy vote either via mail or email. (See election details in this issue) Once a year you can shape the direction of your club, and this is that time.

73,

Jodie Rowland - KI4CXO

President, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

## Public Service Events

### Public Service Committee News from Mary Hunt, N4MH, Chairperson

As we approach the holiday season we do not have a lot of public service events going on.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR: THE 2011 MS CHALLENGE WALK!!!

The 2011 MS Challenge Walk will be held the first weekend in March 2011 and will be in Charleston, SC. Elena has the [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) website updated so you can go out there and sign up for the event. We are looking for some extra bicycle mobiles this year due to some of the narrow streets in the Charleston area. We will be staying at the Wild Dunes Resort for the event and MS has arranged good rates for everyone.

The repeaters we will use for the event have not been determined yet but there are several in the Charleston area and I have already been in contact with one of the hams in that area that will assist us with the repeaters. He will also get some of the locals hams to help with this event.

This will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> year MARS has supported this event.

73,

Mary

## MARS HOLIDAY PARTY

We are pleased to announce the MARS Holiday Party for 2010:

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2010

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Central United Methodist Church, 6030 Albemarle Road

Dinner will be ready at approximately 6:30 pm.

This year we are having the event catered. So come on out and enjoy the party.

Our Menu for the party is as follows:

Ham and Turkey/Dressing  
AuGratin Potatoes  
Green Bean Casserole  
Glazed Carrots  
Tossed Salad  
Rolls and Butter  
Iced Tea – Sweet and Unsweet  
Apple Cobbler

The fee for each person will be \$5.00

Please make your check payable to MARS and mail it to:

Mary Hunt, 16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy, Huntersville, NC 28078.

If you need additional information send an email to [party@w4bfb.org](mailto:party@w4bfb.org)

Don't delay! Get your reservation in today, as *November 29 will be the cutoff date* so we can notify the caterer for food preparation.

MARS Holiday Party Committee

**Mary Hunt, N4MH and Jodie Rowland, K14CXO**



## MARS Annual Election of Officers and Directors

### Nov. 30, 2011



The annual election of Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society officers and directors is scheduled for 7:30PM on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, during a MARS business meeting held immediately before the regular monthly club meeting. All members of MARS who are current 2010 members may vote in the election during the business meeting if they have not already cast an electronic or proxy ballot in the election. Bill Harding, K4AHK, and Barry May, KC4SSS, are the Nomination and Election committee and responsible for the election process this year.

All MARS officers are elected yearly. Either 3 or 2 (alternately) of the 5 MARS directors are elected to two year terms. This year 2 directorships are open for election.

### **MARS 2011 Ballot:**

This year the slate of candidates for office is:

#### **President**



#### **Vice President**



#### **Secretary**



#### **Treasurer**



President: Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO, Unopposed

Vice Pres.: Shelley Eaves, KJ4ATK, Unopposed

Secretary: Andy Hawkins, K4GKK, Unopposed

Treasurer: Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ, Unopposed

## **MARS Annual Election of Officers and Directors Nov. 30, 2011, Cont.**

### **Board of Directors – 2 open seats – 2 yr. term**



**AJ4ZL, Stan Bagwell**



**W4GEH, George Hohas**



**K4YYD, Kevin Keyes**

# -Official MARS 2011 Proxy Ballot -

## Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society- -W4BFB--

Notice of Annual Business Meeting to Elect 2011 MARS Officers and Directors

On Tuesday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010, a Business meeting of MARS will be held immediately prior to the regular monthly club meeting, for the purpose of holding the annual election of MARS Officers and Directors. The current slate of declared candidates is:

**President:**

☐ Jodie Rowland, K14CXO

☐ (write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

☐ Shelley Eaves, KJ4ATK

☐ (write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

☐ Andy Hawkins, K4GKK

☐ (write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

☐ Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ

☐ (write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Directors: Two (2) 2-year Directorships:**

***(Select or use write-in for two only!)***

☐ Stan Bagwell, AJ4ZL

☐ (write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ George Hohas, W4GEH

☐ Kevin Keyes, K4YYD

☐ (write-in) \_\_\_\_\_

To submit a paper proxy, you may present one at the meeting, or mail one to the MARS Election Co-Chair: **Bill Harding, K4AHK, 733 Plantation Estates Drive - A411, Charlotte, NC 28105**

OR using email: [BALLOT@W4BFB.org](mailto:BALLOT@W4BFB.org)

NOTE: ***Mailed or electronic Proxies must be received before Monday, November 29th .***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

*You may use this notice as a written proxy, by printing it, signing it, and returning it to **K4AHK** with a check mark next to those candidates you will be voting for, a cross out through the name of those you vote against, and/or a write-in name for alternate candidate(s). (Write-ins are subject to qualification review, their agreement to hold office if elected, and a seconded nomination at the election.)*

***To cast an email proxy: you may send an email containing your name, callsign, plus the names of your choices for positions to: [BALLOT@W4BFB.org](mailto:BALLOT@W4BFB.org)***

73, MARS Nomination and Election Committee

# Mecklenburg VE Team\* - November 20<sup>th</sup> FCC Exam Session

The **Mecklenburg VE Team** will be conducting an Exam Session for all classes of FCC Amateur Radio License on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9AM at the East Baptist church 6850 Monroe Road Charlotte, NC. (East Baptist Church is located next to East Mecklenburg HS, near the intersection of Monroe Rd and Conference Drive.)

*All applicants are requested to arrive by 8:30AM, to complete the registration process before testing begins at 9:00AM. They must bring a photo ID (drivers license OK), their current original amateur license (if any), **ONE COPY** of their current amateur license (if any, to be submitted along with their exam), an original and a copy of any current CSCEs, plus the 2010 WCARS/VEC testing fee of \$10.00.*

Walk-ins examinees are welcome, but we would appreciate it if you register in advance by sending an email to [MecklenburgVETeam@W4BFB.org](mailto:MecklenburgVETeam@W4BFB.org) Call 704-948-7373 if you need additional information.

**Any special testing needs, ie verbal exams, translators, etc. must be pre-requested at least two full weeks before the testing date.** (NOTE: While it will try to accommodate the needs of any applicant, the **Mecklenburg VE Team**, as an all-volunteer staffed VE Team, *cannot guarantee* that special need requests can be honored at all testing sessions.)

Thanks, 73, WB2RHM

**\*Mecklenburg VE Team now affiliated with both WCARS/VEC and ARRL/VEC**





## Thanks From Oakhurst Elementary



**Paideia Academy at Oakhurst Elementary School**

4511 Monroe Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205

September 23, 2010

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society  
2425 Park Road, Room 023  
Charlotte, NC 28203

Dear W4BFB,

Oakhurst Elementary would like to thank you, for the generous donation of school supplies that you presented to our school. It is gifts like this that help make a difference with the education of our children.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan A. Wilson'.

Susan Wilson  
Principal  
The Paideia Academy at Oakhurst

## MARS Club Meeting 10-26-2010

Jodie Rowland – K14CXO brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Jodie welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting.

Andy- K4GKK had the membership present vote on admitting three new members to the roles. The vote was a unanimous yes.

Jodie stated that the club would be collecting canned and dry goods for distribution to a needy family for Christmas. This follows on the heels of the school supplies collection in September; these supplies were distributed to Oakhurst Elementary School and were very gratefully received by the school. On a separate note, Jodie stated that she might not make the November meeting due to Knee replacement surgery. [Please keep her in your thoughts through this difficult time. –Sec.]

Mary Hunt -N4MH updated the membership on the MS Challenge walk to be held in Charleston SC one week before our Hamfest. Sign up with Mary if you are interested in helping out with this worthy cause. Mary also gave some details about the MARS Christmas party. Price will be \$5.00 per head and the party will be catered this year.

John- WB2NHQ gave us some information on the ARES meeting being held in Morganton on October 30<sup>th</sup>, and he would like to see a presence from the club. He also mentioned that he had been approached by W5XX for advice on how to set up an Amateur Radio Exhibit for a Children's Museum in Mississippi or Louisiana. We thought about the fixtures we still have that could be useful to them. The ARES Simulated Emergency Test will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Participation by members would be appreciated.

Jimmy – KJ4CIW thanked the club for the help provided at the Lungstrong 15K race/walk. The event raised between \$50-\$75 thousand.

Andy called for a moment of remembrance for some of the Silent Key's reported during the last month, most notably, George Wimbish K4TTD.

Bill – W4GRW brought to our attention that this weekend Oct 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> is the big CQWW SSB contest. George Hohas -W4GEH will be operating from the club room during the event.

The evening's program was presented by Andy-K4GKK, G4GKK, K14EIO and VP8QI, on his adventures in Antarctica. Unfortunately the ancient slide projector failed to perform satisfactorily, so the presentation was postponed until a later date.

Jodie thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm.

Notes compiled by Jeff Blythe-KA4WYC

Respectfully submitted by

Andy Hawkins -K4GKK

Secretary MARS.

## MARS Board Meeting Notes, 11/02/2010

1- Meeting was called to order at 6.30 pm.

Attendees included: Jodie Rowland-KI4CXO,  
Ben Antanitis-WB2RHM, Tom Hunt- KA3VVJ,  
Mary Hunt -N4MH, Bill Harding-K4AHK, Kevin Keyes-N4YYD  
Barry May- KC4SSS, Andy Hawkins-K4GKK,  
Absent: Bill Fisher- W4GRW

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

3- Treasurer's Report: Tom presented the accounts report. This was accepted by the Board. Insurance to cover the Christmas party has been acquired. We also received a small rebate from the ARRL due to a member subscribing through the club.

4- Vice Presidents report: Bill Fisher W4GRW. Will contact Dave Wentzel – KD4ITI to see if he can give a short presentation on the Enigma Machine.

5- Secretary's report: One new member was added to the roles this month and a recount shows we are at 150 current members.

### Committee Reports:

#### Nomination Committee:

This will be headed up by Bill Harding-K4AHK and Barry May-KC4SSS. Please see article in this month's newsletter.

#### Repeater Committee:

W4BFB BBS upgrade still in process. A temporary timer has been installed on the BBS computer to reboot it every 7 day's. Andy will forward SERA repeater information sheets to Earl-K4KAY for checking before we renew our SERA dues.

#### Public Service Committee:

Mary announced the dates for the 2011 MS Challenge Walk as the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of March to be held in the Isle Of Palms, Charleston. This event will try using bicycle mobile to help with the walker's safety. Log onto [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) to volunteer. The Board has declined to participate in this years Geek Fest held at the Levine Campus of CPCC due to lack of support.

#### Equipment Committee:

A discussion was presented on the use of the ex-Discovery Place equipment and fittings. We continue to spend 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 that could be used for various activities, i.e. disaster communications, as a teaching aid for Geek fest at CPCC, Boy Scouts, and 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.

## Board Meeting Notes, 11/02/2010, Cont.

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.

Entertainment Committee: Jodie-KI4CXO and Mary-N4MH are heading this committee. The Christmas Party will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Central United Methodist Church located on Albemarle road at Farm Pond Road. The event is being catered this year. Please see details in this newsletter.

Website: Ben-WB2RHM, through hours of hard work, has transferred the Club's W4BFB Mailbox over to Go Daddy. The mail box and reflector are now safely sited on EZOSHosting.com, Go Daddy was a temporary stop. Ben has also been hard at work updating the website, adding information on the HamFest, upcoming VEC exams etc. Please check out [www.W4BFB.org](http://www.W4BFB.org)

Please note that ALL the committees are open for anyone to provide support and ideas that will help this club be successful in all its 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.

Hamfest Committee: This Committee is about to crank back up for next year's Huge Event to be held again at the Cabarrus Arena in Concord NC. We require lots of help and ideas with this endeavor. This is our only major source of income to support this Club and its activities. Please contact a Board member if you are interested.

The club room door combination has been changed, so if you have renewed your membership and require use of the room, please call a board member for the new code.

New Business: See Nominating Committee above.

There being no more business for this evening's meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK  
Secretary M.A.R.S.

## Editor's Notes

As usual, I'm looking for articles, pictures, etc. Any help will be appreciated ...so there won't be an almost blank page like this in the next Newsletter!

Thanks and 73

John—NV4A

**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](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)

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