



# MARS News



Mecklenburg  
Amateur Radio  
Society™

November 2013

Volume 64, Issue 11

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## PREZ SEZ - A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Andy Hawkins (K4GKK), President*

Hello everyone,

It has been a little on the quiet side since my last article, or I've been hiding under a rock since the last newsletter came out.

Last month's meeting subject of showing the radio rooms of various members of the club was very enlightening and gave me a couple of ideas on how I could improve my modest set up. I hope it had a similar effect on those of you that needed some inspiration to turn that closet stuffed with long forgotten items into a radio room resembling a NASA control center.

Radio-wise, I think the DXpedition to Wake Atoll by a group that included some local hams from our friends in the CDXA club caused a lot of extra radio radiation from this area. I hope you managed to work the K9W call sign (I did not). We look forward to the club talk about the DXpedition, which Mitch, KX4MB hopes to arrange in the near future.

This month is the month you all get to choose your favorites to serve as your Board of Directors for 2014. George, W4GEH and Dave, KC4YPB have excelled themselves by giving you a great list of nominees - any of which will make a great board for us to continue and improve our presence in the local and national amateur radio arenas.

Most of you all know by now that we are not holding a Holiday party this year in December. This year, we are moving our holiday party to Saturday, January 11,

2014. This will hopefully attract more of you to attend and not booked up with all your pre-Christmas holiday parties. We are holding it at the same location as in the past - Central United Methodist Church on Albemarle Road. We are having it catered and the cost to you is only \$5.00 per person. Mary, N4MH is heading up this committee and will be looking for some help to make sure everything runs smoothly. This promises to be a fun time with plenty of fellowship, food and prizes. Please mark you calendars and come join us.

Hamfest preparations are moving along nicely, ably chaired by Bryan, K4NET and Mary, N4MH. We already have a full slate of forums acquired by Bill, W4GRW, which will go a long way to giving us a successful Hamfest. Your help is always needed and we are holding meetings monthly. These are announced on the evening nets and published on the website, as well as through mass e-mailings to the members. The national trend of Hamfests is one of declining attendees; we are hoping to turn this trend around and aggressively advertise our event and bring in more people.

I've said this before - this is our MAJOR source of income for the club. It funds all our activities and keeps the equipment in tip top shape, without which we would not be able to fully support our public service events throughout the year. So, I am asking for a minimum of a couple of hours of your time to help keep the Hamfest running smoothly. You get free fellowship with your fellow hobbyists and yes, you will probably want to come back for more.

Well, there we are for this month - hopefully I've given you enough food for thought.

Have a great remainder of the month and see you at the next meeting.

Best 73,  
Andy K4GKK  
President MARS

## Upcoming Events

- ♦ MARS New Year Party: Saturday, January 11th
- ♦ MS Charleston Challenge Walk: February 28th - March 2nd
- ♦ Sandblast Rally: Saturday, March 1st
- ♦ Charlotte Hamfest: Friday, March 17th & Saturday, March 18th



# Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™

**\* W4BFB \* Charlotte, Mecklenburg Co. NC \***

Repeaters on 146.94-(118.8), 145.29-(118.8), 145.23-(118.8), 224.40-, 444.60+(118.8)

Metrolina 2m Emergency Net™: 9:00 PM Local Time on 146.94-(118.8)

Mecklenburg ARES Net: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM Local Time on 146.94-(118.8)



November 14, 2013

W4BFB Members:

On Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 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 roster of declared candidates is:

**President**

\_\_\_\_\_ Andy Hawkins, K4GKK \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mitch Barbato, KX4MB \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_ Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tom Hunt, KA4VVJ \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

**Directors – Three (3) 2-year Directorships**

\_\_\_\_\_ Andrew Beary, WA3DQS \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Bagwell, KJ4SJY \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Keever, K8IP \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ John White, WB2NHQ \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Patrick Fink, KK4DHM \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul Jones, K4VCF \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Shelley Eaves, KJ4ATK \_\_\_\_\_ (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

You may use this notice as a written proxy, by printing it, signing it, and returning it to W4GEH. Please put a check mark next to those candidates you will be voting for, a cross out through the names 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, send an email containing your name, call sign, plus names of your choices to:

[BALLOT@W4BFB.ORG](mailto:BALLOT@W4BFB.ORG)

To cast a written proxy by Mail, send your choices to: George Hohas, W4GEH, 9506 Tresanton Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210.

**Note: Mailed or Electronic Proxies must be received before Monday, November 25, 2013.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS - MARY HUNT, N4MH



Mary Hunt (N4MH),  
Chairperson

We just completed our final Public Service Events for 2013. That was the Cystic Fibrosis Cycling Event on Saturday, October 26. The event was coordinated by Tim Slay, N4IB and below is his write up on the event.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes a buildup of mucus in the lungs and other organs. The average life expectancy for someone with CF is 37 years. There were two courses around Waxhaw, NC - a 35 mile and a 65 mile route. This is the second year for the event, which was rescheduled last year because it conflicted with the Charlotte Hamfest. The CF national organization said they couldn't have the ride without amateur radio support!

It was 27degrees when I arrived at 6:30am to begin setting up net control, which was outside on a porch. Was it a MARS record for cold public service events? The NCS rig was so cold that only half the LCD's were visible in the display. Fortunately, NCS Charles brought a small propane heater and some warm clothes!

Hams were well represented. One ham, Richard, at RS6 was pressed into service also as a rest stop volunteer when the other volunteers didn't show up. We had hams at all the rest stops and 4 great SAGS.

Some confusion in the route marking caused about 30 riders to take the wrong course. Thanks to ham radio, the ride directors were able to re-arrange the route on the fly, shift volunteers around and provide a new course for the riders.

I rode with Gwyn, the route director, because she wanted to be out on the route and also wanted to be close to a radio to hear what was going on. She was very stressed during the route marking issue. She repeatedly told me how impossible it would have been to re-route the cyclists without ham radio and the ham volunteers. I heard her on the phone, "Tell her to stop using her cell phone and find a ham... we can't do this with cell phones". Gwyn would often try to call other ride volunteers and staff and usually got no answer on her cell phone. Or, if she was on the phone, she would get a couple calls from other route staff at the same time, which she would miss because of her other conversation.

The hams that supported this event are:

**Net Control** : Charles, KK4HOK

**RS1**: Tom, KA3VVJ

**RS2**: Jeff, KA4WYC & Jody, KI4CXO

**RS3**: Stan, AJ4ZL

**RS4**: George, W4GEH

**RS5**: Stefanie, KK4LZR

**RS6**: Richard, KK4NKN

**SAGS**: Tim, N4IB; Andy, K4GKK; Bryan, K4NET; John & Myra, WB2NHQ

Lunch was good, with bbq with all the trimmings, Chick-fil-a chicken, and even a beer cooler.



## SPENCER MOUNTAIN PACKET RADIO SITE AND MORE!

Can you hear the club repeater on 145.230 Spencer Mountain? If so, you can also hear our new club node on packet radio. Give it a try! We've had it up and running for a few months now and would like you to try it and tell us what you think!

### Here's How:

Get out your TNC or connect your sound card device and tune your radio to 145.090 or 223.400 for a "new packet node" located alongside the W4BFB repeater on Spencer Mountain! Our newest 2 meter node uses the call sign W4BFB-6 and goes by the alias SPENCE. The 1.25 meter node uses the call sign W4BFB-8 and goes by the alias SPN220. Both stations are linked together so you can access one node through the other. Since nodes in our area are also linked by RF to other distant nodes, you can gain access to most of the packet network just by connecting to SPENCE!

### A Taste of the Uses:

You can use this "node stack" with (digital) packet radio to access other stations that are operating the mode, or enjoy the many other features of the packet system in our area. Think of a node like a packet repeater (or a digital relay site). Back in Charlotte, our BBS (Bulletin Board System) awaits your connection for sending messages world-wide and our chat server connects you with LIVE hams from around the world! You can QSO by keyboard, or maybe you'd rather monitor DX activity by connecting to the local DX Cluster and reading the stream of call signs being spotted on various bands/modes etc... Don't forget about the RMS Gateways in the area as well. Hams are still using packet radio and so should you! Don't let the internet and all its luster take away from the simple communications of packet radio... This mode is still very reliable in the event of a natural disaster, emergency, or special event. Need an NTS message delivered? Leave it on the CLTBBS and Lane (WK4WC) will pick it up for delivery! Use the standard NTS radiogram format within your message when sending.

### Here's Where to Get Help:

Never tried packet before? Visit <http://packet.w4bfb.org> for more information on our local packet network, maps, links and information. In most cases, you won't need more than an HT, a computer and an interface to enjoy packet radio! Scroll down the page for a nice set of links to other packet radio websites as well as tutorials to the mode. If you have a Signalink USB adapter or a sound card for HF digital modes, these can often be used for packet radio as well! Visit <http://soundcardpacket.org> for more details.

Paul, AD4IE, sent in this short snippet of a neat product he's been using for recent projects:

"I've been using an enclosed AA battery case sold by Radio Shack (part # 270-408) as a small project box. On the left is a hand held push-to-talk control and on the right is a BNC to ladderline box that I made for a home made 6 meter Zepp antenna."

Thanks for sharing, Paul!



## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSION - NOVEMBER



The next W4BFB sponsored VE test session will be held on Saturday, **November 16, 2013** at 9:00 am. The test will be held at East Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Please arrive at 8:30 am to complete your paperwork.

Please bring the following items with you to the exam: a picture ID, the original and a copy of your license or the original and copy of a CSCE (if you currently hold a license).

The exam fee is \$10.00. This is a walk-in exam. For more information, send an email to Mary Hunt at [mhuntbc@gmail.com](mailto:mhuntbc@gmail.com) or call 704-948-7373.

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSION - DECEMBER

### Address:

YCARS Clubhouse  
2119 Squire Rd  
Rock Hill SC 29730-7593

There is an upcoming license exam session in Rock Hill, SC on Saturday, **December 21, 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](mailto:jrstarnes@gmail.com)



### CQ... CQ... CQ... !



It's time to renew your MARS membership! To apply to be a member of the W4BFB club or renew your current membership, please visit [w4bfb.org/application](http://w4bfb.org/application) and fill out a Membership Application/Renewal Form. The required dues are listed at the top of the form. Forms and dues need to be given to Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ - MARS Treasurer.

You can contact Tom with any questions at [w4bfbtreasurer@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4bfbtreasurer@w4bfb.org).



Robert Ferdinand - **K9TMU**  
Libby Garris - **KF4WGW**  
Paul Jones - **K4VCF**  
Anthony Lewis - **KE4VVF**

Bill Maerkle - **N8CQD**  
Ted McCachren - **WW4TED**  
Corey Steele - **KK4SKH**  
William Turner - **W4WNT**



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



*Jevon Ray, KK4SOZ & Sarah Ray Brooks, KC2PYD*

It's not every day the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society (MARS), W4BFB, gets to welcome a two-fer into the club. At the October meeting, a mother and son became the newest members of our ham family. **Sarah Ray Brooks, KC2PYD**, and son **Jevon Ray, KK4SOZ**, live in Monroe.

Sarah is a native of Newark, New Jersey and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. Sarah has been a ham since 2006 and MARS is her first club affiliation. She tested for and received her license in New Jersey. A good friend encouraged her to consider amateur radio, since she had an interest in public service. The same friend encouraged Jevon to study and get his license. In addition to amateur radio, Sarah's interests include knitting, reading, and cooking (she's a fan of the Food Network). In Monroe, she is active in charitable causes, especially special needs programs and projects.

Jevon is 15 years old and has been licensed since July 2013. He was born in Biloxi, Mississippi at an Air Force base where Sarah was stationed at the time. His other interests are video games, Chinese language and culture, math and science. It would be fair to describe him as a math and science whiz. He is in an early college curriculum through the Monroe school system and hopes to attend a west coast college or university and major in computer science. Without any research, this writer believes it is safe to say that Jevon is the youngest member of the club and certainly one of the youngest to ever be a member of MARS.

We welcome Sarah and Jevon to the MARS family and look forward to having them engaged in the many public service events and projects of the club.



*Toni Fink, KK4TRH*

**Toni Fink, KK4TRH** (the other half of the Patrick, W4PFI), already a familiar face at our club meetings, joined the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society last month. She tested and received her license in 2013 at the Shelby Hamfest. Toni, a native of Salisbury, is an elementary school teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system. Her interest in getting her ham license evolved from watching and listening to Patrick talk about the fun he has been having in amateur radio. Toni had already jumped into the hobby with both feet before she submitted her application for membership in MARS. She volunteered, with Patrick, to take the lead in setting up a Youth Lounge for the March 2014 Charlotte Hamfest at the Cabarrus County Arena. Toni and Patrick are the proud parents of Alex, who will be two years old in December. With her teaching responsibilities, being a mother, and now a lead role in a Hamfest element, she still has time to unwind with exercise, yoga, and kick boxing (note: if she asks you to do something --- do it). Members of MARS have already welcomed her to the ham family, but now we are happy to welcome her as an official member.

## 2014 MARS NEW YEAR PARTY



This year we are going to be doing something a little different for our yearly club party. Instead of having a Holiday Party in December, we are going to have a New Year Party. It will be on **Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 6:00 pm** at the Central United Methodist Church at address 6030 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, NC 28212. We will eat dinner at 6:30 pm.

You might find some nice surprises for our door prizes at the party. We are also having the event catered again this year by Sports Page Food & Spirits. The menu selection has not been finalized yet, so you will be surprised.

The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please see Mary Hunt at the November meeting to make/pay for your reservation. You can also mail your reservations to her at 16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway, Huntersville, NC 28078. NOTE: The last day to make a reservation is **Tuesday, January 8, 2014**. If you do not attend the November Club Meeting, you will need to mail me your reservation and payment as we will not be having a December Club Meeting.

Last year we had a few members bring extra desserts for the event and they were enjoyed by all. If you would like to bring a dessert, please let Mary know.



# Hamfest Meeting

We are making great progress in our planning of the club's 2014 Hamfest. We are working on implementing a lot of new ideas this year. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm at the Red Cross building (2425 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28203).

We welcome any and all comments/suggestions/ideas to help make this year's Hamfest another success. Sign-ups for volunteering at the Hamfest are now underway, so get your thinking caps on and figure out how/when you may be able to donate your time to the club. If you are interested in helping out at the Hamfest in any way, please contact the Hamfest chairman, Bryan Ferdinand, at [hamk4net@gmail.com](mailto:hamk4net@gmail.com). Thank you!

## HAMFEST YOUTH LOUNGE

This year at the 2014 Charlotte Hamfest, we are going to have an ARRL Youth Lounge. This is going to be headed up by Toni and Patrick Fink. They are requesting some help from our club members for one of the projects. There is a "Create Your Own QSL Card" project where the kids can do just that - create their own QSL card. Toni was wanting to make a poster with **personal** QSL cards from club members so the kids can see real-life examples, which will give them ideas for creating their own. If you could please bring **2** of your personal QSL cards to one of the club meetings between now and February (to allow adequate time to prepare the posters), this would be a great help! If you have any questions, please contact Toni or Patrick Fink.

Help support our club by becoming an ARRL member! Since we are an ARRL Affiliated Club, we receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal we submit to ARRL Headquarters. Clubs retain a portion of the dues for each regular membership submitted to ARRL Headquarters.

- Clubs retain \$15 for each *new membership* OR *lapsed membership* (of two years or more). A **NEW MEMBER** is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL, or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.
- Clubs retain \$2 for each *renewal*. A **RENEWING MEMBER** can renew at any time, even before their current membership term expires.
- Family, Blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships are **not** applicable for any discount.

Click on the following link for membership forms and reconciliation sheets:

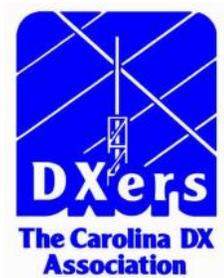
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/ARRL%20Affiliated%20Club%20Membership%20Application.pdf>

Once you fill out the above forms, they need to be given to Tom Hunt. You can contact him at

[w4fbftreasurer@w4fbf.org](mailto:w4fbftreasurer@w4fbf.org).



## 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).

## 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!



## METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET

### Report for October:

*Total Nets: 31*

*Total Time: 16 hrs 45 min*

*Check-ins: 644*

*Traffic: 19*



All articles for the December newsletter must be submitted to the newsletter editor at [w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org) by **Saturday, December 7th!** Thanks for your cooperation.



## MARS MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 29, 2013

**Visitors:** Bob - WJ1Z; Rick - no call sign; Michelle - KK4LKZ

**New Member(s):** Toni Fink - KK4TRH; Sara Ray Brooks - KC2PYD; Malachi Ray - KK4SOZ

**Upgrades:** Mike - KK4JFM

The Board election will take place in November. There is a ballot in place with write-in spaces available for some positions. Nominees for the position of "Director" introduced themselves to the club and proposed why they wanted to run for this position. The ballot will be on the club website and in the newsletter. If you will not be at the November club meeting, you can email or snail mail your selections to George Hohas.

Stan, AJ4ZL is looking for an assistant net manager. He is also looking for more alternate net controllers for the M2MEN. If you are interested in either of these, please contact Stan.

Jeff, KA4WYC (the net manager for the Piedmont Spotter Group – [www.piedmontspottergroup.com](http://www.piedmontspottergroup.com)) informed the club that their net takes place every night at 8pm on the 145.230 repeater – tone is off. This is the primary Skywarn machine for our area. The 145.290 repeater is the backup repeater. This net has 14 net controllers.

Chris, N1CRG is the Charlotte region Skywarn EC. You can find information about Charlotte Skywarn by visiting their website at [www.charlotteskywarn.com](http://www.charlotteskywarn.com). You can also find them on Twitter at @cltskywarn and on Facebook by searching for "Charlotte Region Skywarn". There are courses available online to train you in "Basics to Skywarn" and on how to report weather.

Mary discussed that we will be having a "New Year's" party in January rather than the usual Christmas party in December. The party will be on January 11, 2014 at United Methodist Church on Albemarle Rd. Tickets will be sold for \$5 per person at the November meeting. She also informed the club of the next upcoming VE Test session sponsored by MARS. It will be on November 16, 2013 at 9:00am. You should arrive at the church at 8:30am. The test will cost \$10.

Tony mentioned there will be a traffic training session after the next club meeting. This will last approximately 30 minutes and we will be discussing the proper way to pass traffic during an emergency net.

Andy briefly mentioned there will be a bike ride supporting the American Diabetes Association in May in the Ballantyne area. The club is planning on volunteering at this event. More details to come closer to that date.

The program at this month's meeting was a slideshow titled "Show Us Your Shack!". Short PowerPoint presentations were presented with pictures of club members antennas and hamshack setups at their homes. Thank you to Andy (K4GKK), Mitch (KX4MB), Vin (K2AMV), Bill (WA2EDN), Earl (K4KAY), Marshall (KK4OHF), Eric (K4FAN), and Patrick (W4PFI) for providing pictures for this program.

*Submitted by: Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR*



### 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!

**November Meeting Topic: MARS Board Election / Recap of Wake Atoll Dxpedition**



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 5, 2013

**Present:** Andy Hawkins, K4GKK; Mitch Barbato, KX4MB; Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ; Charles Comerford, KK4HOK; Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR; Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET; George Hohas, W4GEH; John White, WB2NHQ

**Not present:** Sandra Jones, KK4DAW; Dave Holbrook, KC4YPB

**Visitors:** Paul Jones, K4VCF; Tony Lewis, KE4VVF; Mike Wentz, KE4EHC; Bill Turner, W4WNT

**Treasurers Report:** Tom presented the treasurer's report and the board discussed the numbers. Andy motioned to accept report for the month ending October 31, 2013. Bryan seconded and the board approved.

**VP Report:** Mitch is hoping the program for the November club meeting can be a recap of the Wake Atoll Expedition (if Lou is available). We will also be having the election for the new board members at this meeting. The January meeting will most likely be a presentation from Marty on the NCQP.

**Secretary Report:** Membership has increased to 129 paid members.

### Committee Reports:

**Repeater Committee:** Bryan reported that we now have all equipment purchased that we were looking to have for all the club's repeater sites. Everything is running smoothly as

of this point. Ideas are in the works to allow for linking abilities from the 146.94 repeater to the 145.230 Spencer Mountain repeater and possibly others in the near future.

**Public Service:** The CF event in Waxhaw went well and the foundation has already had bikers sign up for next year's ride. The club will be participating with a new public service event in May. The event will take place in Ballantyne and will support the American Diabetes Association.

**Field Day:** We plan to have Field Day at the same park location as last year. Andy asked that members start thinking of ideas for this year's Field Day to help make it a success.

**New Business:** There was discussion about the interest of classes for license exam prep. Bryan discussed his thoughts on this year's Ham of the Year. Mitch discussed an idea to look into a new location for the monthly club meetings.

*Submitted by: Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR*

## 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: Tim, N4IB  
 Monday: Bryan, K4NET  
 Tuesday: Stan, AJ4ZL  
 Wednesday: Dave, KJ4SJY  
 Thursday: Charles, KK4HOK  
 Friday: Don, KJ4ATJ  
 Saturday: John, WB2NHQ

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.

### Alternate Net Controllers

Dave, KC4YPB  
 Jerry, N4MIU  
 Jodie, KI4CXO  
 John, WB2NHQ  
 Mike, KK4JFM  
 Paul, K4VCF  
 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)

### Wednesday

Mecklenburg ARES Net,  
 7:30pm (146.94- PL 118.8)

### Thursday

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

### Saturday

Union County ARES Net,  
 8:00pm (145.39- PL 94.8)

### 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)

The Piedmont Spotter  
 Group Net, 8:00pm  
 (145.230- PL 118.8)

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.html>



EchoLink application on a smartphone.



# Ham Happenings

## November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <a href="#">Gaston County ARS VE Test Session</a> 9:30am
3	4	5 MARS Board Meeting 6:30pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Hamfest Meeting 6:30pm	14 <a href="#">Geek Fest</a> 9:00am	15	16 MARS VE Test Session 9:00am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 MARS Club Meeting 7:30pm	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29	30

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 (KHz)	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  
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Dave Holbrook, KC4YPB  
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John White, WB2NHQ  
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