

MARS NEWS

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™



Mars Rovings



Greetings,
W4BFB-ers!

Elections for the MARS Board for 2017 are underway. Andy Hawkins K4GKK is administering our election this year. You should have already received an email with links to all of the candidate profiles and an online ballot to cast your vote. If you did not receive the email or if you have any questions, please contact Andy or the Board. If you'd like to vote in person, ballots will be available at our club meeting on November 29.

It's time to renew your MARS club membership! You can do it via the mail or on the web. (Go to w4bfb.org and click on the *MARS info* tab.) Watch for an upcoming email for more information.

Charles Comerford KK4HOK will facilitate the presentation, showing some of the programs and also programming some radios. If you have a radio and a programming cable, bring it along and we will help you program it.

Mark your calendar for the MARS Winter Party! It will be on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at 6:00pm at the St. Giles Presbyterian Church. It's always a fun get-together with great food, good fellowship, the Ham of the Year award and a few other surprises.



As we enter the holiday season, I hope every one of you will take time to contemplate the blessings of this year. We have much to be thankful for. I am thankful for God, my family and all of you in MARS!

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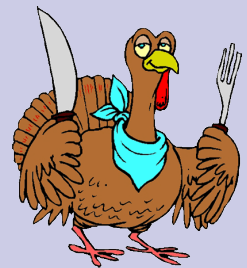
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Our November club program will be about radio programming! As you may know, there are many programs and methods available to program repeaters into the various radios out there today. Mitch Barbato KX4MB and



Eric Webner, K4FAN, MARS President

Happy Holidays to you and your families!
— Eric Webner K4FAN,
MARS President



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eric Spero WA1SXX

MARS in Motion

Another GeekFest in the Log



The thirteenth annual CPCC GeekFest was the eleventh year that W4BFB was there. We were represented by Jerry N2PSA, Alfred KC2GZI, Bill W4WNT, Jim W4JBP, Charles KK4HOK, and John

WB2NHQ. It was also good to have Richard K4KRW visit, bringing his new mini QRP (Arduino controlled) kit which looked right at home on our GeekFest table.

We renewed old acquaintances, met lots of "new geeks," visited with other technology exhibitors, and described ham radio to lots of visitors. Along with CPCC students, faculty, and staff, there were also hundreds of Charlotte Mecklenburg high school students visiting. With the theme "When All Else Fails," we could show visitors that we can do comms without infrastructure. We had our HF Go-Box and our VHF GoBox on the air, using PSK-31 and packet, with G5RV and EDZepp antennas hung

from the roof over the adjacent patio. Using our 2-meter packet connection with either our NCCLT or SPENCE nodes to the RMS connection in the clubroom, we could send an email to a visitor as he watched the lights blink and heard the radio chirp.

"Murphy" was also there. Those new computers, new version of Fldigi, and new Yaesu menus, created some frustrating entertainment until "the moxie of Charles" found that subtle config parameter to poke, getting PSK on the air. Also it seemed like RMS didn't want to play with the ECLT or RKYRMS packet nodes. (Was Internet a four-letter word?) It's great that we have other routes, like W4BFB-10 in the clubroom which hung in reliably throughout. It reminded me that it was similar to a real disaster comms environment. Alternatives are good. So take that, Murphy!

My sincere thank you to Jerry, Alfred, Bill, Jim, and Charles, for being there when we needed you. Also thanks, Jon, for showing me the new current Windows compatible packet program. Another successful event! – John White WB2NHQ

Come Visit!



Come to our club meetings which are held on **the last Tuesday of each month**, from **7:00pm-9:00pm**. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Giles Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2027 Emerywood Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Come visit! Everyone is welcome! Come see what our club and ham radio are all about. For more information, visit: www.w4bfb.org.



Public Service Events!

Our Public Service team gets a break now until the first weekend of March when we kick off 2017 with the MS Challenge Walk in Savannah, GA. I just want to say a special thank you to everyone who volunteered at public service events this year. It takes all of us working together as a team to support the events.



I received an email from my contact at the American Diabetes Association. They are changing their event for 2017. The Tour de Cure for 2017 is adding a 1 and 3 mile walk and a 5K run to their cycling event. It will be held in Ballantyne Corporate Parkway on **September 16, 2017**. Their cycling event will include the four routes same as in the past. At this point, I'm not sure if we will be supporting the walk or the 5K.



We are already putting events for 2017 on the calendar:



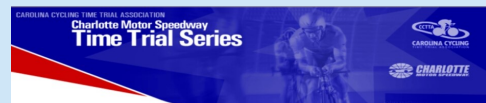
The Sandblast Rally will be on **March 4, 2017**, in Cheraw, SC. Because this conflicts this year with Challenge Walk, I am unable to attend. However, Tim Slay, N4IB has agreed to be Net Control for the event.



The MS Challenge will take place on **March 3-5, 2017**, in Savannah, Georgia and we will be staying at Tybee Island.



The MS Charlotte Walk will be held on **April 29, 2017**. It starts and ends at Symphony Park.



The monthly CCTTA Events at Charlotte Motor Speedway will start in **April 2017**. As soon as we have the schedule, we will publish it.

As other organizations let us know about their events. I will add them to the calendar.

— Mary Hunt N4MH, Chairperson

Thoughts & Prayers

Please remember those who are serving overseas and won't be home to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones.



Upcoming Events!

MARS Winter Party!



Make your plans now to attend the 2016 MARS Winter Party!

Our Winter Party on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at 6:00pm at St. Giles Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2027 Emerywood. We will dine at 6:30pm.

You might find some nice surprises on our door prizes for this party.

Sports Page Food & Spirits will again cater the event this year. The menu selection has not been made yet, so you will be surprised.

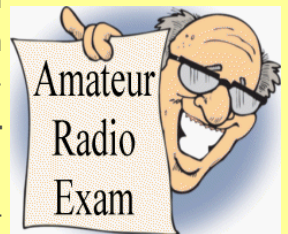
The cost is \$10.00 per person. You can sign up at the club meeting in November or mail your reservations to me (Mary Hunt) at 1205 Waypoint Court, Stallings, North Carolina 28104.

All reservations must be made by Tuesday, January 3, 2017!

Last year, our members provided a delicious dessert bar. If you would like to bring a dessert, please let me know. Hope to see you there! — Mary Hunt N4MH

VE Session!

Are you ready to get your ham license or upgrade to the next class? Our next MARS-sponsored ham radio licensing session will be held on **Saturday, December 3, 2016**, at 9:00am in the gymnasium of at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. VEs will conduct all exam levels. Please bring the following to the exam session: **\$10** (cash preferred) exam fee, **Photo ID** (drivers license, etc.), and if already licensed, your **original license** and a **copy**, any active CSCE's and a copy of each that you will be using. If you have any questions, please contact me at ki4faq@gmail.com or 704-641-0959. — Steven Burke KI4FAQ, MARS-WCARS VEC Liaison



Sometimes you can get into hot water, but what are the hot water radios? ❖

- ☐ High power EIMAC tubes that use a water jacket for cooling
- ☐ A unique Icelandic radio that uses the natural geothermal energy
- ☐ A slang term for a group of the Heathkit series radios
- ☐ A radio that emits out of band or spurious signals

— Submitted by Steve Nosko (See answer on Page 18.)



Happy Birthday, November Birthdays!

Thomas Byrum N3TCB
Bob Ferdinand K9TMU
James Galuska KA1FEQ
Libby Garris KF4WGW
William Hooper KF4ZZP
Paul Jones K4VCF
Anthony Lewis KE4VVF
William Turner W4WNT

Do you have anything you'd like to donate as a meeting raffle prize? If so, please let our President or any board member know.



Do you need a new or updated member badge?

Please see Patrick Fink W4PFI and he'll make one for you. Provide him with a head-shot and your call sign, and he'll deliver it to you at a future club meeting. You can contact him at w4pfi@arrl.net.

The MARS News is the official newsletter of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. It's published monthly and posted on the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society website (<http://w4bfb.org>).

As Editor of *The Mars News*, I welcome pictures (.jpeg), articles, and other member contributions. Please send your submission to N4PSN@carolina.rr.com. Also as Editor, I reserve the right to edit any and all pieces. **The submission deadline for each month's newsletter is the second Friday of that month.** Anything received later may be held for the next month's publication.

Thanks to photographers: Steve Nosko W4SJJN, Marshall Lail KK4OHF, and Rodney Moore W2ROD. Thanks also to Diane Laval KF5JJW for offering her proofreading skills.

As the *MARS News* Editor, I am honored to serve the good people of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society,

P. Susan Nosko N4PSN



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 contact them with any questions!

Antennae	Bob Ferdinand K9TMU, Bill Miller KT4YE, Mike Wentz KE4EHC
Digital Modes	Stan Bagwell AJ4ZL
D-STAR	Eric Webner K4FAN
ICOM Radios	
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

SB QST ARL ARLB001 ARLB001 W1AW 2016 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 "	Wf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	DIGITAL	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.
14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 .990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.39
0 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

- Eric Webner K4FAN



The repeater in Chester, SC - W4CHR - has EchoLink now and can be accessed by KW4BET-R node 736794. All stations are welcome!

73— Brian Timms KW4BET

METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET™

M2MEN Controllers

Sunday: Tim N41B
Monday: Rodney W2ROD
Tuesday: Stan AJ4ZL
Wednesday: Marshall KK4OHF
Thursday: Jon KK4ZIZ
Friday: John WB2NHQ
Saturday: Dave KW4RY

Join us for the
Metrolina 2-meter
Emergency Net™ every
night at 9:00pm! The
primary frequency is
our 146.94 repeater
and the alternate
backups are our
145.29 repeater or
146.52 simplex.

M2MEN Alternate Controllers

Brandon KM4FLU
Merrilee WA1FHK
Mike KK4JFM
Paul K4VCF
Rick KA4WXS
Steven KI4FAQ

If you are interested in becoming an alternate net controller, please contact our Net Manager (John White WB2NHQ) at wb2nhq@arrl.net or at M2MENNetManager@W4BFB.org.

JABBERNET

Join Bob K9TMU for some fun on the Jabbernet at 7:30pm every Tuesday night on 224.40, linked to the 146.94 repeater and EchoLink.

Other Local Nets

Sunday — Mecklenburg Simplex Net, 8:30pm (147.505)

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

Wednesday — Union County Skywarn Net, 8:30pm (145.39- PL 94.8)

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)

Saturday — 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

EchoLink is available for download on your computer through www.echolink.org, as well as for use

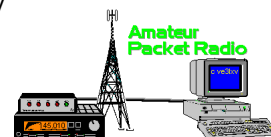
on your smartphone (Android and Apple iPhone) through the App Store. To access our repeaters, connect to K4NET-L or node number 625440.



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)



For more info: <http://www.w4bfb.org/packet.php>

ARRL — North Carolina News Excerpts

October 2016

Greetings from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

REMINDER! MOMENTUM BUILDING TO URGE SENATE PASSAGE OF THE AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT – The response to ARRL's call to action urging the support of US Senators for the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, has been gratifying — although the campaign continues. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/momentum-building-to-urge-senate-passage-of-the-amateur-radio-parity-act> (source: ARRL website)



Presently, the US Senate has recessed without acting upon the Amateur Radio Parity Act. But, that does not mean ARRL Members should take a break — your help is still needed! As of October 20th, more than 62,000 letters have been sent to Capitol Hill, including 1,036 letters that have been delivered to each office of our US Senators — Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. If you have not sent letters, please use the Rally Congress tool to contact Senators Burr and Tillis and request their support of HR 1301 by voting favorably for the Bill. Here is the website for the Rally Congress tool: <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act> (source: Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager)

RECENT SUCCESS STORIES ON ANTENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURE PERMITS – While we wait for projected passage and enactment of HR 1301 Amateur Radio Parity Act by the US Senate, there have been two recent success stories where NC Hams living in areas not covered by homeowner covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CCRs) overcame antenna support structure restrictions through the use of existing federal rules and State statutes.

Larry J. Ford, K4AEC, ARRL Volunteer Counsel, Roanoke Division, reports a recent case which resulted in amateur radio operators in Caldwell County now being able to erect antenna support structures, such as towers, in single-family residential zoning districts. Previously, the County Attorney for Caldwell County had issued a ruling that stated zoning permits could not be issued for amateur radio towers on property zoned single-family residential, thereby relegating amateur towers to commercial or other zoning districts. Of course, the vast majority of hams want and need their towers as accessory structures to their homes, and the County Attorney's ruling prevented that in most cases.

After learning of the ruling, Larry K4AEC contacted the County Attorney and over the course of several weeks, provided the County Attorney with the legal authority, including Federal case law, Regulations, FCC PRB-1, and the North Carolina Statute on amateur radio towers, all of which require a local government to "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio antennas support structures including towers. After these communications, the County Attorney reversed his ruling, and the ham whose application was denied received his zoning permit to construct his tower.

Larry K4AEC also reports this was the second similar case recently in North Carolina, as he was involved with a similar matter in the City of High Point a couple of years ago, which resulted in the City of High Point amending its Zoning Ordinance to allow towers.

Larry K4AEC stated: "From my experience, a lot of City and County Attorneys, as well as Zoning Administration officials, are totally unaware of the Federal law and state statutes which prevent local governments from summarily denying or prohibiting amateur radio towers. In many cases, I can talk to the City or County attorney, provide the legal authority they are unfamiliar with, and achieve a positive outcome. I encourage ARRL Members to contact me or one of the other Volunteer Counsels (all of whom are licensed hams) if a tower application has been denied so we can attempt to rectify the situation on an informal basis (there is no charge to an ARRL Member for an initial consultation). However, there are cases where the local government is so entrenched in its position that the only solution is litigation, as we experienced a few years ago in the Charlotte tower case." For further information on ARRL Volunteer Counsel Program, see <http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-counsel-program> Thanks to Larry J. Ford, K4AEC, ARRL Volunteer Counsel, for his efforts on behalf of amateur radio operators in the NC Section! (sources: ARRL website, N2COP, K4AEC)

CURRENT RULES HOLDING HAMS BACK FROM ADOPTING STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY, ARRL SAYS (DEADLINE, 11/10) – In comments filed on October 12 with the FCC, ARRL reiterated its case that the FCC should change the Part 97 rules both to delete the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) and replace them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz. In a July Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 16-239, the FCC proposed to eliminate the current baud rate limitations for data emissions, consistent with

More ARRL — North Carolina News

ARRL's Petition, but it declined to propose a bandwidth limitation for data emissions in the MF and HF bands to replace the baud rate limitations. The deadline to file comments in the proceeding — i.e., comments on comments already filed — is November 10. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/current-rules-holding-hams-back-from-adopting-state-of-the-art-technology-arrrl-says> (source: ARRL website)

2016 SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY (12/3) – 2016 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2016, from 0000z to 2400z. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/skywarn-recognition-day> Thanks to Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer, and Bill Morine, N2COP, ARRL Roanoke Division Vice Director, for providing this information! (sources: KJ4JPE, N2COP, ARRL website)

REMINDER! ARRL FOUNDATION INVITES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR (DEADLINE, 1/31/17) – The ARRL Foundation will begin accepting scholarship applications on October 1st from eligible radio amateurs planning to pursue post-secondary education during the 2017-18 academic year. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2017. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrrl-foundation-invites-scholarship-applications-for-2017-18-academic-year> (source: ARRL website)

MEDIA HITS AND REPORTS – The following media hits and reports are included in this month's newsletter:

STOLEN EQUIPMENT ALERT! The following message (edited) was forwarded by Jim Johnson, KI4TAT and Van Vander Clute, N4ERM: "Stolen equipment ... I had some ham equipment stolen from my house on Atlantic Beach on Sunday, October 9th. If you don't mind passing it on to your members, I would appreciate them being on the lookout and let the AB police know if they see items that would appear to be from this list. Yaesu HF-VHF FT-857D radio, serial number 5F970403; MFJ-937Y antenna tuner; Buddipole portable antenna in carrying bag; antenna analyzer, IP-302 from Buddipole; MFJ-4215P power supply; Pelican carrying case for the radio, tuner, cables, and analyzer; and, small Pelican carrying case for the power supply. These items probably will turn up at a flea market somewhere. Thanks in advance for any assistance you can give. 73, Lynn Ford W9CLF, (919) 880-4478." (sources: KI4TAT, N4ERM, W9CLF)

A newspaper clipping dated October 6th was received from Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, which reported on some of the Hurricane Matthew preparations being made by Newport SKYWARN and the Carteret County Amateur Radio Society (online link not available). Thanks to those individuals involved with emergency preparedness and service during Hurricane Matthew; and, thanks to Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer, for providing this media hit!

The following media hit was sent by Stan White, KI4NC: "All, This story was posted on the Wilmington Star-News website this afternoon.? ... Thank you Stephen [Russ] N14SR for using your ham radio license to help others! Thank you for your service to community and County! FB! BZ! 73 Stan KI4NC." See <http://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20161010/in-midst-of-matthew-couple-turns-to-ham-radio-for-aid> Thanks to Stan White, KI4NC, President, Hampstead Hams, for providing this media hit! (sources: KI4NC, N2COP, ARRL website)

On Murphy Boy Scout Troop 400 and Cub Scout Pack 400, and JOTA, see <http://www.cherokeescout.com/scouting-around-murphy-scouts-connect-world-jamboree> Thanks to all Hams participating in this JOTA station; and, thanks to Kevin Heyboer, KD4UYR, Assistant Emergency Coordinator (Cherokee County), for providing this media hit! (sources: KD4UYR, Google search, ARRL website)

The following report was sent by James Johnson, KI4TAT: "Moore County Amateur Radio Society (MOCARS) Simulated Emergency Test (SET). MOCARS regularly conducts training exercises to improve our emergency response capability and communications skills. On Saturday, 10/1/2016, 15 MOCARS members responded to a simulated emergency net call and were dispersed to key locations around Moore County including the Emergency Operations Center in Carthage, Moore Regional Hospital and shelter locations at Southern Middle School, North Moore High School and New Century School, a digital relay center, ARES Command Center and two (2) alternate Net Control locations. Personal communications equipment was set up at each location and reliable intracomunications established. Scope of the activity coverage included 15 hams at 10 locations, passing multiple voice and digital communications messages. Amateur radio will provide reliable communications when all other methods fail." Thanks to James Johnson, KI4TAT, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer, for providing this report!

The following report (edited) was received from the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club: "Hazmat Exercise at Happy Valley School. ... The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club and Caldwell ARES and [NC AUXCOMM Society] members participated in a Hazmat Exercise today at Happy Valley School. ... [For further information, see] <http://n4lnr.org/hazmat-exercise-at-happy-valley-school/> ... " Thanks to all participants in the Hazmat Exercise for their public service, and the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club for providing this report!

Still More ARRL — North Carolina News

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur radio operators is reported: Alfred Quincy ("Al") Cooke, NC4AL (SK) of Raleigh; Donald James Cowden, Sr, N8DDK (SK) of Knightdale; Donald A. Donadio, KT4KV (SK) of Winston-Salem, NC; Lloyd Milton Spencer, KA9MNR (SK) of Charlotte; and, John L. ("Les") Zavadil, W4FRA (SK) of Rocky Mount. Please note it is not possible to post information about an amateur radio operator that has become a Silent Key without confirmation via a copy of an obituary or death certificate.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS –

November 5: Veteran Day Parade Special Event Station, 1330Z-2100Z, W4YMI, Newport, NC. Carteret County Amateur Radio Society. 14.270 14.260 7.260. Certificate. Carteret County Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 1302, Newport, NC 28570. <http://w4ymi.com/>

November 11: WB4TAL Veterans Day Special Event Station, 0200Z-0900Z, WB4TAL, Fuquay Varina, NC. American Legion Post 116. 14.260 14.265 14.255 14.250. QSL. Kenn Kubacki, WB4TAL, 6400 Johnson Pond Rd, Fuquay Varina, NC 27526. WB4TAL being the first and only American Legion Post Station will have a special event to honor all veterans that have fought for our freedom. www.alpost116nc.org

November 11: The following information (edited) was provided by Irv McWherter, K3IRV: "American Legion Legionnaires will honor their fellow veterans in a special on-the-air amateur radio tribute on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2016. Members of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) will operate on the short wave bands starting at 9:00 AM through 4:30 PM EST (1400 - 2130Z), using the call sign K9TAL. Any ham radio operators who contact the station are eligible to receive an attractive full-color commemorative certificate. After working K9TAL, send a 9x12 inch self-addressed stamped envelope to The American Legion Amateur Radio Club, 700 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204." Thanks for Irv McWherter, K3IRV, Public Information Coordinator, for providing this information!

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –

January 14, 2017: Winston-Salem FirstFest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC, http://www.w4nc.com/ws_classic_hamfest_2016.htm

March 10-11, 2017: Charlotte Hamfest, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Concord, NC, <https://charlottehamfest.org/>

April 15, 2017: Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio Association, Morganton, NC, <http://cvhamfest.com>

April 15, 2017: 45th Annual RARSFest/ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest/>

April 28-29, 2017: 2017 SVHFS Conference, Southeastern VHF Society, Charlotte, NC, <http://svhfs.org>

It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's 2017 hamfest! For more information, see <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events> (source: ARRL website)

QUA* – It is hard to believe what happened during Hurricane Matthew. My thoughts and prayers are extended to all that have suffered loss – whether that is to their property, to their wellbeing, or due to the injury or death of loved ones or friends. I thank the untold number of individuals, including the Ham-volunteers, who have been involved in the disaster management and rescue response. Those individuals have given much to their communities and its residents. Again, thanks for a "job well done", which is still not finished.

I want to thank all Hams, Scouts, and Scouters that participated in Jamboree On The Air, which was held on October 14-16. Unfortunately, flooding from Hurricane Matthew affected the plans for several registered JOTA stations in eastern North Carolina, which resulted in "scaled down" or cancelled JOTA operations. I am very sorry that Hurricane Matthew affected this worthwhile, youth program. It is hoped that future Jamborees On The Air proceed uneventfully.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to provide input on our Section. I can be reached via email at w4chx@arrl.org or via cell phone. As always, thank you for sending your emails, photos, and club newsletters – they keep me informed about your activities and programs! I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming hamfest or club meeting. Thanks for everything you are doing for amateur radio and your community. 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell)

MARS Club Officers for 2016



President:	Eric Webner K4FAN
Vice President:	Mitch Barbato KX4MB
Secretary:	P. Susan Nosko N4PSN
Treasurer:	Tom Hunt KA3VVJ
Director (2016):	Charles Comerford KK4HOK
Director (2017):	Patrick Fink W4PFI
Director (2017):	Jon Greene KK4ZIZ
Director (2016):	Dave Holbrook KC4SGT
Director (2017):	Marshall Lail KK4OHF

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Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

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

Packet on * 145.010 * 145.090 * 224.400 * 446.500 * All 1200 baud FM simplex

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)



Club Meeting Minutes



Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting Minutes
St. Giles Evangelical Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

Date: October 25, 2016

Meeting called to order: 7:01pm

Welcome, Visitors: Eric Spero WA1SXX

New members: Eric Spero WA1SXX joined the club! Welcome, Eric!

New license or license upgrades: Howard Howe KM4WDN got his Extra. Congratulations, Howard!

Announcements: CQ Worldwide is coming up this weekend!

December 3 – There will be a VE Session here at the church at 9:00am.

Contact your Senator in support of Parity Bill.

Last call for donating to Garinger High School ham club.

John White W2BHQ announced that Geek Fest is coming! Thursday, November 10 at CPCC Levine campus. John needs help with: PSK, packet radio.

Elections are coming up! It will take place at our next club meeting in November. Send a picture and bio to Susan if you are a candidate.

Public Service Events: (Mary)

Cycle for MS (Event held last weekend): **There were about** 100 cyclists,

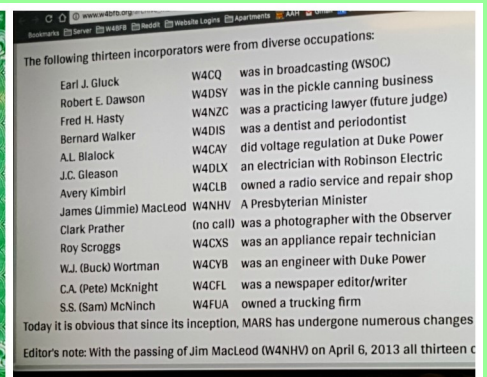
UPCOMING EVENTS: MS Challenge Walk (March), MS Charlotte Walk (April)

MARS Winter Party: Saturday, January 7 (\$10/person). Get your reservation and money to Mary.

Cliff Greene WB4NCQ (ARES): Cliff offered many thanks to those who have checked-in or run net control while he's been involved with Hurricane Matthew. On Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 11am Bill Turner W4WNT will provide training for "Introduction to Digital Communications" at W4BFB clubroom. In December, Cliff will offer training in his home.

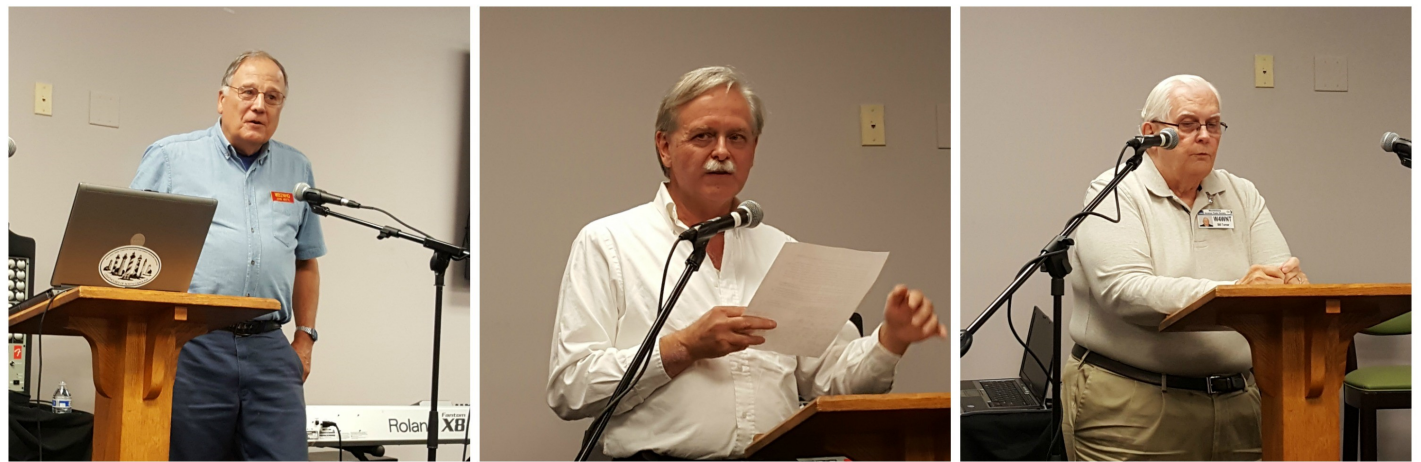
Program: October 25th MARS History

Mary Hunt N4MH kicked off our program by telling everyone that our club was started on March 25, 1949, with thirteen members. She gave an "overview" of the Buck Wortman's article "A Bit of MARS History." Amateur



radio didn't take off until WWII. [http://www.w4bfb.org/archive_marshistory.php]

Cliff Greene WB4NHQ shared his history starting in 1968, when he drove to Charlotte from Waxhaw to take his first novice exam in the Red Cross Building. He remembered lots of rides being offered across counties by hams. In 1969, the ham community covered the expenses for both his friend Thomas and him to take their General license exams in Atlanta. Cliff shared many heartwarming stories about his ham radio family.



(Left to right) John White W2NHQ, Cliff Greene WB4NCQ, Bill Turner W4WNT

Mary N4MH got her ham license in 1960 in Johnson, Tennessee. The VE program wasn't established until 1980. She joined MARS in 1984.

John White W2NHQ –

In 1977, John lived in New York. At that time, you had to be able to send and receive 5 WPM Morse Code before you could take the test. 1979 – John came to Charlotte and was looking forward to take his Technician test at the Charlotte Hamfest. In the middle 70s, a bunch of guys got together and formed W4CQ. He went to his first ham club meeting at the Red Cross Building. They met at Duke Power and then the Charlotte Memorial Hospital conference room. We had one of the first packet nodes. The internet wasn't around then nor smartphones, but you'd get your QST Magazine! You'd decide what you wanted to buy and then would start saving your money for Charlotte Hamfest in March!

During the late 80s and early 90s, John was the Public Service Chair with a clipboard trying to get sign-ups. Each year, they would visit the pediatric ward of the Charlotte Memorial Hospital. A young woman named Lisa would dress up as an elf and carry a ham radio. Then she'd go to the pediatric ward of Charlotte Memorial Hospital to talk to the kids. They'd give the kids water bottles with a picture of Santa on it with the inscription, "I talked to Santa on ham radio." Doug played Santa on the air, asking the kids what they'd want to say to Santa.

In 1989, we had a special event at the Discovery Place to announce the addition of a ham radio station there.

Bill Turner W4WNT– Bill has been a MARS member since 1991. What amazed him is how well everyone gets along in the Charlotte ham community.



Andy Hawkins K4GKK showed his MARS membership certificate dated 1985, and **John Covington W4CC**, a MARS member since 1988, wrapped up our Club History program via a video presentation.

Raffle winners: No raffle tonight.

Meeting was adjourned: 9:06pm

Respectfully submitted,

P. Susan Nosko N4PSN, MARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes



Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

American Red Cross, 2425 Park Rd. Charlotte, NC

Date: 11.01.2016

Call Meeting to Order: President Eric Webner K4FAN called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

Present: Mitch Barbato KX4MB, Charles Comerford KK4HOK, Patrick Fink W4PFI, Jon Greene KK4ZIZ, Dave Holbrook KC4SGT, Marshall Lail KK4OHF, P. Susan Nosko N4PSN, Eric R. Webner K4FAN

Absent: Tom Hunt KA3VVJ Dave gave us an update on Tom, who was recently admitted to the hospital due to a cyst on his kidney.

Visitor(s): Jack Cureton K4LRH, Jerry Hodgson N24PSA, Steve Nosko W4SJM, Aron Tekulsky WA2RTV, Bill Turner W4WNT, Matt Young KK4HNU

Welcome: Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Eric informed everyone that Gary Chernega KN1GMC is doing well at home recovering.

Approval of minutes: (See October newsletter.)

Eric asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October Board Meeting. Marshall moved to approve the minutes; Jon seconded it.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (Tom Hunt KA3VVJ): Aron reviewed the budget report in Tom's absence.

Eric asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Susan moved to approve the report; Mitch seconded it.

Vice-President's Report (Mitch Barbato KX4MB):

November program: Club Elections, Winter Field Day, Radio Programming (CHIRP presentation)
We won't have a meeting in December.

January program: Winter Field Day Review, NC QSO Party (January 26 & 27)

Secretary's Report (Susan Nosko N4PSN): **133** total members -- **121** regular members, **3** Honorary Club Members and **9** paid Life Members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee (Charles Comerford KK4HOK and Susan Nosko N4PSN):

Start membership drive for 2017

Postcards for new hams – Charles proposed sending out postcards to new hams, congratulating them and inviting them to visit our club. Aron suggested making them look like QSL cards.

Charles will send out a membership survey again during the second week in December. We will discuss any revisions to the survey at the December board meeting.

It was suggested that we reach out to W4CQ and invite them to our club meetings. Steve pointed out that many W4BFB members were also W4CQ members.

Marshall suggested offering a discount to new hams at VE sessions? After a brief discussion, the Board decided against it.

Eric suggested we need a new member packet. Mitch stated we need a handout listing the reasons why someone should join W4BFB. He also said we need to consider that whatever we decide to distribute to new hams, that the VE Session workers will need to carry it to each VE session, along with everything else they already transport. Marshall suggested we could send emails to the new hams with good reasons to join W4BFB.

Public Service Committee (Mary Hunt N4MH):

Charles: For 2016, W4BFB had a total of 573.5 Participation hours, and had an overall Financial Impact of around \$47,722.00. These are just in our "public service events" that we sponsor as a club; this does not include any impact we have had for ARES events that the club or its members have taken part in.

Equipment & Clubroom Committee (Jon Greene KK4ZIZ and John White WB2NHQ): The

clubroom was used by Bill Fisher W4GRW during CQWW SSB. The IT employee at Red Cross may be running the Ethernet cable, or Jon would be available to do it.

Repeater Committee (Marshall Lail KK4OHF and Jon Greene KK4ZIZ): Dave Holbrook is aware of an upcoming trip that will take place to repair/replace the 145.35 repeater.

=====

REPEATER COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - 10/26/16

Attendees: Jon, Marshall, and Bryan via email

Agenda:

Trip to Orr Road within the next couple of weeks to place new amp on 2m side. While at site will check weather radio, and maybe have time to get DB224 antenna setup for transmit and receive. Considering how steady the repeaters have run this month, there haven't been any emergency trips to sites. MFJ has refunded the money from a MFJ amp that was used and failed on the 94 site.

Status/Issues by site:

23 - Spencer Mountain

Repeater link dropped on Wed. M2MEN (9:25p). No outage.

29/440 - Downtown

With weather starting to cool down, trip will be scheduled.

94 - Orr Rd

DB224 - Currently still being used for receive antenna, and will be used for transmit and receive at next trip.

Outages:

Echolink: none

Repeater issues

94 - Weather radio not connecting.

23 - none

29 - none

Open Discussion:

The 23 Spencer Mountain time sync is doing well.

No change to the 94 Orr Road site. The weather radio is not connecting and it is likely that during the next visit, that will be one of the things looked at.

=====

Website (Charles Comerford KK4HOK):

Signups for events (in place of Elena's website): Charles will still try to get Elena's domain. For event sign ups, he thinks the Silver level of SignUp Genius www.signupgenius.com may fit our needs. It costs \$10/month, is easy to use and will do everything we need it to. It can be used for 6 CCTTA Events, Field Day, Winter Party, and other volunteer events, as they come up. The HamFest website will soon work with PayPal.

Volunteer Examiners Committee (Steven Burke KI4FAQ): The December 3, 2016, VE Session has been scheduled and is posted on the ARRL website.

Net Manager (John White WB2NHQ or Jon Greene KK4ZIZ):

DATE: 11/02/16 TIME: 9:00 AM
M2MEN REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2016

Net Sessions	31
Total Station checkins	721
Total Formal Net Time minutes	619
Total Net Time minutes	1114
Total Formal Traffic	0
October Participation hours	11

SIGNATURE: 73, WB2NHQ
POSITION: M2MEN Mgr.

Hamfest Committee (Tim Slay N4IB and Gary Chernega KN1GMC): Jon said that Tim mentioned on Sunday that he'll send an email out about the next HamFest meeting. Charles will follow up with Tim about it.

OLD BUSINESS

November Officer Election:

Susan – After the newsletter was published, I received bios from Aron Tekulsky and Jerry Hodgson. Susan will put all received bios in a .pdf file and get it to Charles by Sunday, November 6. Charles will then send it to the membership, along with the election ballot. Marshall moved to accept the candidate slate; Patrick seconded it.

MARS Winter Party (Saturday, January 7, 2017, at 6:00pm)

Charles suggested awarding certificates for member participation and having them signed by Karl Bowman (for a higher level of recognition). Much discussion ensued. It was decided that we would start a monthly award program instead, to be given to an exemplary member, with nominations made by other club members. We will announce the new program via email and in the December newsletter; it will start in January.

Jon Greene KK4ZIZ will present the Ham of the Year Award at the December board meeting. (We will meet at Mitch's business location.)

Keys to clubroom and/or file cabinet (Eric Webner K4FAN): We need to get the title for the old generator trailer to JD.

Garinger High School Ham Club: We will officially close the donation period with a total of \$100.00 for matching donations.

ARES (Jon Greene KK4ZIZ for Cliff Greene WB4NCQ): "Thank you" to Bill Turner for volunteering to do an ARES training session on November 19. Cliff will do a training session in December.

NEW BUSINESS

Winter Field Day (Bill Turner W4WNT):

The Winter Field Day folks have published the rules for the January 28-29, 2017, event. Rules:
If we operate from the Red Cross, looks like our exchange will be 1I NC if we operate one station, 2I NC if we have two stations on the air.

Meeting Adjourned

Susan moved the meeting be adjourned. Marshall seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
P. Susan Nosko N4PSN
MARS Club Secretary

What are the hot water radios?

ANSWER: 3 Heathkit's HW series were affectionately nicknamed the "Hot Water" series.

