

MARS NEWS

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™



Prez Sez — A Letter from the President

Hello again, fellow members,

This has been a quiet month radio-wise from this QTH, a project list that keeps growing is part of the reason, the other being a very busy work schedule. I had hoped to start the mast-raising by sorting out the various components and creating a plan of attack. I did manage to sort out the coax cable that has been laying around in my garage for many moons. The plan of attack is still in the embryonic stage. I hope that your month has been a little more successful than mine.



ing around for people to run for the Board in 2016. If you are called, don't dismiss the request without first thinking about what you could bring to the club and keep it moving forward. I have had a very good four years at the helm and it's time to pass the torch. The support I have experienced and been afforded throughout my tenure as President has been second to none, and I am sure it will be provided to the next president, too. Please think seriously about serving the club in any capacity. We will

have positions open for: President, Secretary and three Board Directors. The President and Secretary are one year terms whilst the director is a two year term.

The club has an ongoing project of renovating the club room at the Red Cross. We have just purchased 1000' of coax which needs to be run to the roof of the building. We are also going to replace a couple of antennas and work on the tower.

The next work party is on **November 7**. We will meet at 8:30am for breakfast at the Toast of Dilworth which is located at 2400 Park Road, Charlotte. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun; you may also learn something at the same time. This is all part of an attempt to get the membership to make use of the club room. The room is there for you to use and if you are skeptical about going down there on your own, we plan to have members available to help find your way around the radios. Please come out and enjoy some fellowship.



This month's meeting will be about the role amateur radio can play with the

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On to club activities — the weekend of October 17 & 18 was the Multiple Sclerosis beach ride, which started and finished each day at Sunset Beach. I hope we have a good volunteer turnout for the event. The next event is the Cystic Fibrosis Bike Ride, which was run on October 12 with the rides starting and ending in Waxhaw. The next event where the club shows off the excitement of Amateur Radio is the upcoming THE Geek Fest at the Levine CPCC campus in Matthews. More information on that at the next club meeting.

We are currently call-

Explorers. This should prove interesting and yet another avenue to encourage amateur radio participation.

It is with a sad heart that I report the passing of one of the club's life time members. Mac McCray, K4PDY was an active member of the club until just a few months ago. He will be greatly missed.



Andy Hawkins, K4GKK President

See you all at the next meeting.

73,

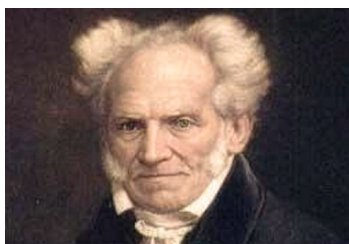
Andy Hawkins, K4GKK

President

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Thoughts & Prayers

Please pray for the people in South Carolina who were affected by the recent flooding and for the agencies that are there to help them rebuild their lives. Please also pray for the safety of those serving in the military.



All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed.
Second, it is violently opposed.
Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

— Arthur Schopenhauer

W4BFB Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society (MARS) Club Meetings

Our club meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm-9:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall of St. Giles Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 2027 Emerywood Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210.



Everyone is welcome! (Even if you don't have your license.) We love meeting new people, so come visit and see what our club and ham radio is all about.

Visit us at www.w4bfb.org



Upcoming Events

Check our calendar for current events: <http://w4bfb.org/calendar>

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –

October 31: 19th Annual Grand Strand ARC "Beachfest 2015", Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, Conway, SC, see <http://www.w4gs.org>

November 15: JARSfest 2015, Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Benson, NC see <http://www.jars.net>

It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's 2015 hamfest! For more information, see <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events>

VE Sessions!

Are you looking to upgrade or get your first ham radio license? The next MARS-sponsored ham radio exam session will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015. It will begin at 9:00am at the St. Giles Presbyterian Church Gymnasium (where MARS holds its meetings). For more information, go to www.w4bfb.org and click on the "VE Testing" tab or contact me at ki4faq@arrl.net. — Steven Burke, K14FAQ



The Editor did not notice that her husband's call sign was erroneously noted in September's newsletter.

Steve Nosko's callsign is W4SJN.

You are invited!

to join us for good food and conversation before each club meeting between 5:30pm and 6:00pm. We meet somewhere different every month, and the restaurants we choose are always easy to find.

You can find the monthly restaurant gathering locations (and directions) [here](#).

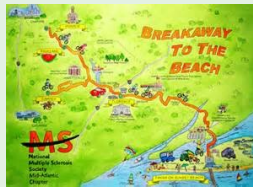
If you have any questions, please contact any board member. We hope to see you there!



Public Service Committee News

We have one final Public Service Events for 2015 and will have already had the MS Break Away to the Beach by the time the newsletter comes out.

On October 17-18 – We supported the MS Society Break Away to the Beach, Sunset Beach, NC - The route had to be changed at the last minute due to damage to the roads from all the rain they had at the beach. Special thanks to the following hams who supported the event: Elena Maya-Scott, KS4OX; Kevin & Suzanne Keyes, K4YYD; Andy Hawkins, K4GKK; Wally Smith, KJ4UKV; Sparky Ramey, KE4TES; Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ; Dave Holbrook (and Carol Spencer), KC4YPB; Tim Slay, N4IB; Charles Comerford, KK4HOK; Stan White, KI4NC; Dave Marcelli, N4CQ; Tim Byrum, N3TCB; and Bill Turner, W4WNT.



I did Net Control for the event from the Start/Finish Line. A special thank you to Dave Holbrook. We used Dave's portable repeater for the event. Tom and I went down to Sunset Beach with Dave and Carol the end of September as he installed the repeater on a 500' tower near South Port to check the coverage. The majority of the route had excellent coverage with the repeater.

October 24 – Cystic Fibrosis Cycling Event, Waxhaw, NC. If you are interested in supporting this event please contact Tim Slay, N4IB as he is coordinating this event. Tim's email address is N4IB@arri.net.



THE Geek Fest event will be held on November 12, 9am-4pm, on CPCC's Levine Campus. John White, Eric Webner and Patrick Fink have volunteered to support this event. If you are interested please contact one of them.



2016 PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

We will start off our 2016 Season with the MS Challenge Walk in Savannah, GA, on February 26 – 28, 2016 – a three-day event. They walk 20 miles on Friday and Saturday and 10 miles on Sunday. If you are interested in working this event, you will need to go out to the MS website and register: http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=26596&pg=entry. There is a \$75 registration fee that covers food for the weekend. When you register, key in the code of Comm2016 and this code gives you a \$10 discount. As soon as all the rest stops are confirmed we will put the information out on Elena's web site for you to register there also.



Saturday, April 30, 2016 – American Diabetes Association Tour De Cure. This event starts and ends in Ballantyne area. This will be the third year we have supported this event. This is a local event so mark your calendar to come out and support the event. We will need SAG Vehicles as well as rest stop hams.



Mary Hunt, N4MH Chariman



MARS in Motion

THE MCGUIRE NUCLEAR EXERCISE ON AUGUST 4, 2015

ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service provides Disaster Communications for the EOC and the agencies and organizations which are represented there. The Emergency Operations Center is the place where representatives of all of the major governmental agencies and civic organizations go to coordinate their activities during a disaster. The EOC is generally run by the Office of Emergency Management. The Office of Emergency Management organizes the work structure and activities of all of the participating agencies and organizations to provide an efficient and effective response to the needs of our community. The McGuire Nuclear Power Station is required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to have an exercise every 2 years.



To give a little background, the current Mecklenburg EOC is located at the Police and Fire Training Academy on Shopton Road in South Charlotte. We have antennas installed at that location which allows us to initiate ARES activities quickly. There are currently no Amateur Radios located in that facility and all of the radios that will be used must be taken there and installed for each exercise.



As with all typical nuclear exercise deployments, we arrive at the EOC approximately forty-five minutes early. Getting there early allows us plenty of time to get in line at the accreditation station. The accreditation station is where your NC ID is scanned and you are issued a badge specific to the event that you will be attending. After the entire team is accredited and badged we proceed to the room where we will set up the radio equipment. The radios are installed and tested and then we wait until the exercise has been initiated.

Once the exercise scenario has officially started, we begin an ARES net in support of the operations. In parallel with the repeater net, digital operations will also begin. We will be active using voice, packet and RMS Express/WL2K until the exercise has ended. Using these three different modes of operations gives us local, regional and state wide communication capabilities.

This year four operators — John White WB2NHQ, Cliff Greene WB4NCQ, Marshall Lail KK4OHF and I — reported to the EOC during the McGuire Nuclear Exercise. The space where we are deployed is the 911 Call Center Training Room which is right next door to the EOC. Unfortunately we cannot install radios in the EOC room due to noise restrictions. We do have constant liaison with the EOC even though we are not stationed inside the EOC.

During the exercise we made contact with operators in eight NC/SC counties, EOCs in four adjacent counties, and an evacuation center northwest of Charlotte. Overall, the exercise was a considerable success and proved again that amateur radio can get the job done without the use of traditional communication infrastructure.



Many thanks to John White, Cliff Greene and Marshall Lail for their excellent performance. Also thanks to the W4BFB club for the use of their repeaters, packet nodes and go-boxes.

73, Tony Lewis, KE4VVF



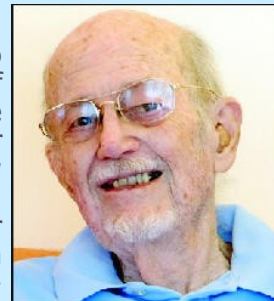
I want to share something with you. The three little sentences that will get you through life. Number one: Cover for me. Number two: Oh, good idea, boss! Number three: It was like that when I got here.
— Homer Simpson



SILENT KEYS

HARRISON "MAC" McCRAY, K4PDY, SK

Harrison "Mac" Rowland McCray, Jr., 86, husband of Audrey Sampson McCray, passed away on September 30, 2015. He was born and raised in Charlotte to Harrison Rowland McCray, Sr. and Sarah Black McCray. He was an alumnus of Central High School '47 and North Carolina State '51, B.E.E. He served in the army from 1953-1955. Mac was an electrical engineer and had a passion for computers and gadgets; a lifetime ham radio operator, his best friends knew him as K4PDY. He is survived by his wife of 63 years; his daughter Marian McCray Pruett and her husband Michael Pruett of Carolina Beach; his daughter Sarah Ann Sykes and her husband Steve Sykes of Charlotte; his son Joseph Harrison McCray of Marshville; grandchildren Chris and Kim Pruett, Ashley Howell, and Sam Sykes; great-grandchildren Carter and Milo Pruett, and Avery Howell. A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church on Monday, October 5th, at 2:30 pm. The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Malone, Dr. Ghosh, Dr. Packman, Peter and the compassionate staff of Levine. To honor his memory, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Carolina Hematology Research Fund at Levine Cancer Institute <http://www.givecarolinas.org/>.



Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society lost another of our lifetime members, and good friend to many of us, on Wednesday September 30. — John White, WB2NHQ

BARRY MULVANEY, K4QW, SK

Barry Mulvaney, also a longtime Charlotte Ham, became a silent key on September 30, 2015. He may have been a W4BFB member at one time. — Earl Fortner, K4KAY

Barry was a member back when I was the club president (1997-1998). — John Covington, W4CC

WILLIAM CHARLES HARRIS, WA4RVD, SK

Willie Charles Harris, 77, Nebo, died Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at Burke Hospice and Palliative Care.

Born November 1, 1937, he was the son of the late Walter Lee Harris and Eva Melton Harris. In addition to his wife of 47 years, Joyce Ann Harris; a daughter, Delisa (Susie) Houk and husband, David of Nebo; a sister, Jean Hicks and husband, Ronnie of Kingsport, Tenn.; a granddaughter, Crystal Houk of Columbia, S.C.; a grandson, Benjamin Houk and wife, Krystal of Morganton; and a great-granddaughter, Skarlett Kaye of Morganton, survive him. In addition to his parents, a brother, Carl Harris, preceded him in death.

Memorials may be made to McDowell Amateur Radio Assoc., 60 E Court St., Marion, NC 28752. Please sign the online guestbook at www.jenkinsfuneralhome.net.

It is with much sadness I pass along the passing of Uncle Willie (William C. Harris) - WA4RVD. He surely was a fixture on many of the Charlotte and Area Repeaters. — Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC

We held a moment of silence for Uncle Willie on the PSG net and performed the last call. SK WA4RVD 73 OM. — Chris Gay, N1CRG

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!

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

For Sale: Radio Equipment from George Siegrist N3BW

Contact Andy Hawkins, K4GKK for information.

HF Equipment:

MODEL	DESCRIPTION	EST. VALUE
Kenwood TS-590	HF/50MHz All Mode Transceiver, Good Condition	\$1000-\$1400
Icom IC718	160 thru 10 meters, good condition	\$350 - \$450
Icom IC746 Pro.	HF/50MHz/144MHz All Mode Tranceiver, GC	\$1,000 \$800-\$1800
Icom IC756 Pro III	HF/50MHz All Mode Tranceiver, Good Condition	\$450-\$600
Ameritron AL-811 Amp.	600 W PEP, all HF bands Covered, Good Condition	
MFJ Versa Tuner III	Antenna Tuner, 5KW capability, Good Condition	\$100-\$150
Ameritron ARB-704	Transceiver to Amplifier Interface Box	\$30 - \$40

Power Supplies:-

MFJ-4245MW	45 Amp Switching Power Supply, Good Condition	\$100
Samlex SEC 1223	23 Amp Switching Power Supply, Good Condition	\$50-\$70
Icom PS-125	25 Amp Power Supply. Goes with Icom IC 746 Pro.	\$180 - \$250

Mics, Keys & Headsets

Icom SM-20	Desk Mic. Good Condition.	\$80 - \$125
Icom SM-5	Desk Mic, Good Condition.	\$40 - \$60
Icom HM-36	Hand Mic Fir IC-7200 or similar rig.s Qty 2	\$10 - \$15 ea.
Hiel Pro Set Plus	Headphones & Mic	\$50 - \$75

For Sale: Radio Equipment from George Siegrist N3BW (Continued)

Contact Andy Hawkins, K4GKK for information.

Vibro Plex Keys	Ser #'s 09343 & 06493. Qty 2	\$120 - \$150 ea.
MFJ-281 Speakers	MFJ Cleartone Speaker. Qty 2	\$10 - \$20 ea.
Signal Link USB	Tigertronics Signal Link interface	\$50 - \$70 ea.

VHF/UHF - RX/TX's

Alinco DR605	VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver	\$150
Icom IC-2100	2m VHF Mobile Transceiver	\$150
Kenwood TH-F6A	2m/220/440 Tri Band Handheld = HF Transceiver	\$200 - \$275
MFJ-921	2m/220 Antenna Tuner w/meter	\$20 - \$40

Miscellaneous Items

Rigrunner 4008	Anderson Power pole Multitap Power Strip	\$50 - \$80
MFJ-1703	Antenna Switch	\$15 - \$20
MFJ-704	Low Pass Filter	\$40 - \$60
Foot Switch	Foot Switch	\$30
MFJ-250	Antenna Style Dummy Load	\$30-\$40
Radio Wavz	Antenna Hyperhanger Catapult Launcher	\$60
Spi-Ro MFG	80m Dipole Kit	\$40
RigExpert CX201	2 Way antenna switch	\$15
Channel Master 9521	Small Antenna Rotator	\$20

Books

ARRL	Antenna Book 21st Edition	Make Offer
??	Basic Radio 1st Edition	Make Offer
??	Basic Electronics	Make Offer
ARRL	Wire Antenna Classics 1st edition	Make Offer
??	Basic Antennas	Make Offer
??	Vertical Antennas	Make Offer
ARRL	2010 Handbook	Make Offer
ARRL	Electrical Grounding 4th Edition.	Make Offer
ARRL	Emergency Communications Handbook	Make Offer
??	Practical wire Antennas - G3BDQ	Make Offer

Various equipment manuals with receipts.



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 headshot and your call sign, and he'll deliver it to you at a future club meeting. You can contact him at w4pfi@arrl.net.

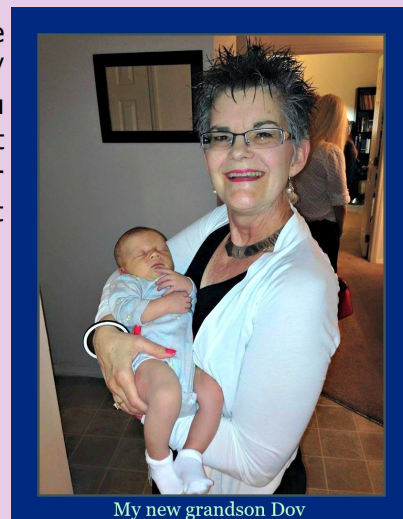


The MARS NEWS is published monthly and posted on the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society website (<http://w4bfb.org>) the week prior to our club meeting. If you have a picture or a story (in .doc format), please send it to me via N4PSN@carolina.rr.com. Once I receive your submission, I'll respond with an "I got it." If you didn't get it, I didn't either!

Please ensure all submissions are given to me by the second Sunday of each month.

As the MARS NEWS editor, I am honored to serve the good people of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society,

P. Susan Nosko, N4PSN



My new grandson Dov

Make a Wish Occasion
May all your dreams come true
Happy Birthday!
the gift of you Memories
Anniversary of one's birth
Gather together IN HONOR OF YOU Party
Your Special Day Spending time with family and friends

October Birthdays!

Marc Bowen, KS4EH
Jose Castro, KC9OZE
Stephen Davis, KJ4FEL
Randy Matthews, KE4JXF

Jon Plyler, AK4XO
Michael Porter, KJ4WZJ
McFarland Wood, W4PVT
John Yarbrough, AE4PX

Shop AmazonSmile and Support MARS! AmazonSmile offers the same great products, deals, and shopping experience as Amazon. The only difference is Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice.

Step One: Go to smile.amazon.com log in using your email and password as if you were at amazon.com from there select a charitable organization you would like to support.

Step Two: Select **Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society**

Step Three: Shop, Amazon Smile will remember the charity you selected and will always donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to that charity.



METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET™

M2MEN Controllers

Sunday: Tim, N41B

Monday: Rodney, W2ROD

Tuesday: Stan, AJ4ZL

Wednesday: Dave, KJ4SJY

Thursday: Jon, KK4ZIZ

Friday: John, WB2NHQ

Saturday: Marshall, K4OHF

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, K4FLU

Mike, KK4JFM

Paul, K4VCF

Steven, KI4FAQ

*If you are interested in becoming
an alternate net controller, please
contact our Net Manager (John
White) 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 .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

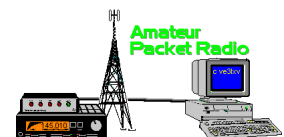


EchoLink is available for download on
your computer through
www.echolink.org, as well as for use
on your smartphone (Android and
Apple iPhone) through the App Store.

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)

ARRL — North Carolina News

Excerpts from ARRL NC Section Newsletter September, 2015

Posted October 16, 2015

Greetings from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

HR 1301 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 (UPDATE) – As of September 28th, HR 1301 has 99 co-sponsors, including 4 Representatives from North Carolina: David Price (D-NC-4); Walter Jones, Jr (R-NC-3); Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10); and, David Rouzer (R-NC-7).

S 1685 AMATEUR RADIO PARTY ACT OF 2015 (UPDATE) — In June, it was announced that S 1685 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 has been introduced in the US Senate. The wording in S 1685 and HR 1301 are identical. Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS) introduced S 1685 into the US Senate. As of September 28, there is only 1 co-sponsor, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), who is the original co-sponsor of the Bill. For comments by Senator Wicker on the benefits of S 1685, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/senate-sponsor-of-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-said-bill-promotes-regulatory-transparency-equali>

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 PAGE ON ARRL WEBSITE (REMINDER) – A combined web page has been setup by the ARRL to accommodate activities related to HR 1301 and S 1685, and to provide a central location for information on these identical Bills. ARRL members are urged to contact their Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and the Senate and ask them to sign on to the Bills as a co-sponsor. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-website-has-new-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-page> and <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act>

OPPONENTS' REPRESENTATIONS OF PARITY ACT'S PURPOSE "JUST NOT TRUE," ARRL PRESIDENT SAYS – ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has taken strong exception to certain claims being made by community association organizations about HR 1301 and S 1685 Amateur Radio Parity Acts of 2015. In an interview with Ham Radio Now host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, during the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention in Shelby (9/5-6), President Craigie stressed that passage of the legislation is critical to ensuring the future of Amateur Radio. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/opponents-representations-of-parity-act-s-purpose-just-not-true-arrl-president-says> and http://arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN_Episode_0217.html

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR 2015 STATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN – Worldwide station registration is open for the 2015 Boy Scouts Jamboree On The Air / Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA/JOTI), which will take place over the weekend of October 16-18, 2015. JOTA is focused on encouraging Scout-to-Scout contacts across borders, and it is the largest Scouting event in the world. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/jamboree-on-the-air-2015-station-registration-is-open> If you, or your club, are planning on participating in JOTA, please send information on your plans so that it can be included in an email communication to the NC Section, which will be distributed on or about October 14th. Thanks!

ARISS PROPOSAL WINDOW OPEN SEPTEMBER 1 – NOVEMBER 1, 2015 – The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is accepting proposals until November 1, 2015 from US schools and educational organizations wanting to host an amateur radio contact with an International Space Station crew member during the period July – December 2016. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station>

NAVY – MARINE CORPS MARS CEASES OPERATION AT 302359Z SEP 2015 – After more than 52 years, the Navy – Marine Corps MARS will cease operations at 2359Z on September 30, 2015. According to its Communications Instructions NTP (8) D, "the Navy – Marine Corps Military Auxiliary Radio System (NAVMARCORMARS) is a program conducted by the Department of the Navy in which licensed US amateur radio stations and operators voluntarily participate and contribute to the mission of providing auxiliary communications on a local, national, or international basis as an adjunct to normal naval com-

More ARRL — North Carolina News

munications" (from <http://www.navymars.org/ntp8/CHAP01.pdf>, accessed on September 28, 2015). As reported earlier this year, the US Department of Defense decided to phase out the NAVMARCORMARS program and move its operational mission to other MARS service branches by the end of September. In addition to its Navy mission, NAVMARCORMARS provides support to the US Coast Guard, FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, and local emergency management agencies (from <http://www.arrl.org/news/us-navy-marine-corps-mars-program-to-end>, accessed on September 28, 2015). For further information on the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Auxiliary_Radio_System (copy and paste this link into your web browser, if needed). On behalf of all Hams, I would like to thank NAVMARCORMARS, particularly those members in the State of NC, for their dedicated service to our Country; to the Navy and Marine Corps and their personnel and families; and, to their communities. And, best wishes are extended to all NAVMARCORMARS members as they pursue their future endeavors! Finally, thanks to Frank Pleshe, N3FRP / NNN0LBJ NC / NNN0GBL NC – State MARS Director, for his assistance with this article!

TX3X CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS DXPEDITION (10/1-12) – On September 28th, members of the TX3X Chesterfield Islands DXpedition left Noumea, New Caledonia on the sailing expedition vessel, Evohe, bound for the Chesterfield Islands. Following arrival and setup, the team expects to begin operations on October 2nd and continue until October 12th. One of the goals of the TX3X DXpedition is to offer an ATNO ("all time new one") to as many Hams as possible. For further information, see <http://www.tx3x.com/>

BARNES AND NOBLE MINI MAKER FAIRES (11/6-8) – Barnes and Noble Booksellers Inc has announced that it will be holding Mini Maker Faires at all of its retail locations during the weekend of November 6-8, 2015. This is a great opportunity for all Hams – clubs and individuals – to meet with attendees and introduce them to amateur radio. For further information, see <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/announcing-the-barnes-noble-mini-maker-faire-november-6-8-2015/> Thanks to Allen Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager; and, Bill Morine, N2COP, Roanoke Division Vice Director, for providing this information!

CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION FORMS CAROLINA DX FOUNDATION – The Carolina DX Association (CDXA) has announced the formation of the Carolina DX Foundation as an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial support to DXpeditions, specifically those conducting scientific research, exploration of HF propagation, and education of the public. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/carolina-dx-association-forms-carolina-dx-foundation> and <http://www.cdxa.org/> Thanks to The Daily DX via Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL, Secretary-Treasurer, Carolina DX Association; and, the ARRL website for providing this information!

ARRL VEC REMINDS LICENSE APPLICANTS: THE FCC IS NOW PAPERLESS! – The ARRL VEC reminds amateur radio license applicants that the FCC no longer routinely prints or mails license documents. This was done to streamline procedures and save money. However, there are still ways that licensed Hams can obtain an official license document from the FCC. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrrl-vec-reminds-license-applicants-the-fcc-is-now-paperless>

MEDIA HITS AND REPORTS – The following media hits and reports are included in this month's newsletter: On veteran ham radio operator George Poteat, NC0G (video), see <http://www.shelbystar.com/videos/ID:4318506694001/Video:Veteran%20Ham%20Radio%20Operator>

On the Russian side of the International Space Station, including comments on amateur radio satellites, see <http://www.airspacemag.com/space/rare-look-russian-side-space-station-180956244/?no-ist>
On the Shelby Hamfest, see <http://www.shelbystar.com/article/20150906/NEWS/150909257/15689/LIFESTYLE>

On the Voice of America shortwave transmission station in eastern NC, see <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/sep/19/rural-nc-tract-is-last-shortwave-site-for-us-broad/?page=all> Thanks to Jack Cureton, K4LRH and Charles Comerford, KK4HOK of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, for providing this media hit!

Still More ARRL — NC News

NTS SECTION TRAFFIC REPORT FOR AUGUST 2015 – QNI (total check-ins): 1,762; Total messages passed: 466. Station Activity Reports (SARs), total number: K4IWW 336, KC4PGN 125, AK4RJ 117, WB4ZIQ 104, W2EAG 92, W4DNA 68, W4TTO 62, KE4AHC 35, KW4EMG 34, KJ4JPE 21. Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR), total number: KW4EMG 214, WB4ZIQ 160, W4DNA 150, K4IWW 130, KJ4JPE 126, W2EAG 110, KM4HXX 109, AK4RJ 100, W4TTO 100, KK4LGM 94. Thanks to all stations for participating in NC Section traffic activities; and, to Dave Roy, W4DNA, Section Traffic Manager, for providing this information!

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur radio operators is reported: James Robert ("Jim") Harp, WD4CEY (SK) of Southern Pines; Dr. William Fred ("Mac") McClure, AD4GX (SK) of Raleigh; and, Percy Lee McIver, WB4TOK (SK) of Clayton. 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 – October 3: Commemoration of The Battle of Kings Mountain, 1230Z-2030Z, NA4CC, Shelby, NC. Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service. 14.283. QSL. CCARS, PO Box 864, Shelby, NC 28151. For QSL card, please send your card with report and a stamped and addressed envelope. <http://ccarsnc.org/> October 17: USCG Auxiliary 76th Anniversary, 1400Z-2200Z, K4C, Merritt, NC. Oriental, NC Auxiliary Flotilla 054-20-03. 7.270. QSL. Wayne G. Mulligan, 57 Mercer Dr., Merritt, NC 28556. <http://orientalaux.com> Special Event Station listings in the NC Section newsletter are based on what appears on the ARRL website, see <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> Please consider listing your Special Event Station at least 60 days before the event, see <http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application> Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a Special Event Station. Thanks!

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS – October 31: 19th Annual Grand Strand ARC "Beachfest 2015", Grand Strand Amateur Radio Club, Conway, SC, see <http://www.w4gs.org> November 15: JARS-Fest 2015, Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Benson, NC see <http://www.jars.net> It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's 2015 hamfest! For more information, see <http://www.arrl.org/arri-sanctioned-events>

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@arri.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. Finally, 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)



Famous Hams

King Juan Carlos of Spain, EA0JC, was born on January 5, 1938. He reigned as King of Spain from 1975 to 2014, when he abdicated in favour of his son, Felipe VI.

— Submitted by Steve Nosko, W4SJNI

Club Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm.

Visitor(s): John – KM4MTK, Stephen P., David – KM4NJK, John B., Justin – W4HAB and wife Blair, Kevin – KM4NAE, Nicole, Ann Farrell - WS4LLY

The next public service event will be October 17 and 18, which will be the MS Bike Tour at Sunset Beach. There are about 500 cyclists signed up for the event. We desperately need rest stop volunteers. You can go to www.ridemaps.com to sign up. We will be using a portable repeater provided by Dave Holbrook. Coverage is very good with this repeater and you can even use handhelds in some locations along the route. The repeater is located on the very top of a tower; the frequency is 440.750 MHz, 311 DCS. The following weekend will be the CF ride in Waxhaw. If you are interested in helping, email Tim Slay at N4IB@arrl.net. These will be the last two public service events for the year.

There was a Hamfest meeting last week and it was announced that Andy Hawkins and Gary Chernega will be Co-Chairmen, training under Mary and Tom Hunt. Volunteers are still needed to help in the planning of this event. David Kever is heading up yellow jackets again this year with Paul Jones. The next meeting will be October 21 at 6:30 at the Red Cross building.

Greg H. and Lee S. spoke with the club about Charlotte Regional Skywarn and Piedmont Spotter Group. The CRS covers 15 counties, with a population of 2+ million people. PSG is more of a training/social net which takes place nightly at 8pm. The Skywarn net is a business net which involves severe weather events and winter weather reports. During severe weather, the Skywarn net will always activate. They talked about what they do as two separate entities and how they work together as one.

Richard Monahan informed the club that he just completed his latest goal – walking the entire Appalachian Trail! He did this over the course of the last 7 years and consisted of about 2,000 miles. Congrats on your accomplishment!

Just a reminder that the Rock Hill Hamfest is taking place this weekend and will be at a different church this year; it will be at New Kirk Baptist Church at 175 Museum Road in Rock Hill. The event takes place at 7:00am and tickets are \$5 per person.

Next month we will have Bryan Sweeney here to discuss the Explorer Program. Elections are also coming up at the end of November, so the board members will be calling to recruit members to run for multiple positions, which include Directors, President, and Secretary. The list of those members running will be announced at the next club meeting.

We may be in need of a new home for the club trailer, so keep your minds open as to possibilities in case the need arises.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. — Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR, MARS Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2015

Begin: 7:10pm

Present: Andy, John, Stefanie, Tom, Patrick, Eric, Charles

Not Present: Mitch, Paul

Visitor(s): Jon Greene, George Hohas, Tony Lewis

Minutes from last meeting: Patrick motioned to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Andy seconded and the board approved.

Treasurer: Tom presented the budget ending September 30, 2015. John motioned to approve the budget. Patrick seconded and the board approved.

VP: The October meeting will be a presentation by a representative from the Explorers program.

Secretary: We currently have 125 regular members, 3 Honorary Life members, 4 Life members.

Committee –

Public Service Committee: The MS bike ride to Sunset Beach and the CF bike ride in Waxhaw are both coming up in October. The Geek Fest at the Matthews CPCC campus will be taking place on November 12. We would like to have a booth set up again this year as this has typically been a good turnout in the past. We are also preparing for the MS Walk in Charleston.

Equipment Committee: Jon has done some more organizing in the club room. We still have not been able to sell the club's Orion. We are still looking for about \$2,400 for the package. There are plans for a work party on November 7, 2015, to work on the club room roof.

Repeater Committee: Bill, AC4ZR has found a location at the Embassy Suites on Tryon Street where he would like to set up a packet and APRS station. The packet station would serve 220 and 440 and the APRS would serve 2 meters. Bill will provide radios – he will just need the club to provide an antenna, triplexer, and TNC. He has already spoken with the people at the hotel and gotten approval. The board approved of the project and supports the idea.

Nominating Committee: George went over a list of eligible candidates for the upcoming election, which will take place on November 24. Members do not have to be present at the club meeting to vote. Voting will be available again this year online for those who cannot make it to the meeting. The slate will be presented to the membership by November 14, 2015. Andy proposed that George be the Nominating Committee Chairman and run the election this year. Eric seconded and the board approved.

Grants/Resources: Tom informed the board that the club filed their taxes and we needed to fill out extra paperwork as an addendum for our 501(c)(3) status. This should not interfere with our standings.

Field Day Committee: No report.

Hamfest Committee: The next meeting is scheduled to be October 21, 2015 at the Red Cross.

Board Meeting Minutes

Entertainment Committee: Mary will start looking into details for the Winter Party this December/January.

Old Business: No update.

New Business: No report.

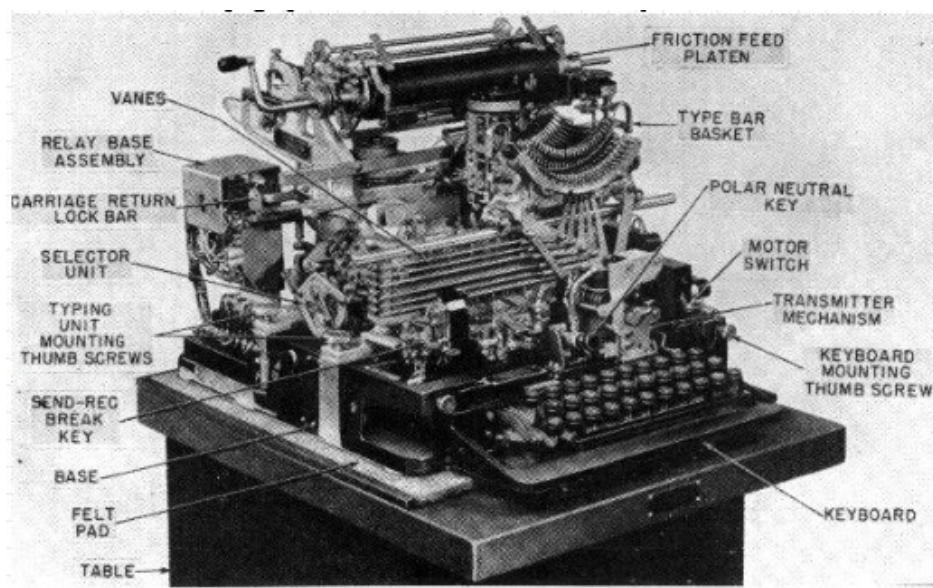
Adjourn: 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR

Secretary, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

MODEL 15 TELETYPE



*Submitted by
Steve Nosko,
W4SJV*



**You better cut the pizza in four pieces
because I'm not hungry enough to eat six. — Yogi Berra**

MARS Club Officers for 2015



President	Andy Hawkins, K4GKK
Vice President:	Mitch Barbato, KX4MB
Secretary:	Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR
Treasurer:	Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ
Director (2016):	Charles Comerford, KK4HOK
Director (2015):	Patrick Fink, W4PFI
Director (2015):	Paul Jones, K4VCF
Director (2015):	John White, WB2NHQ
Director (2016):	Eric Webner, K4FAN

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)



"I have been frankly fascinated with that unpaid group of people with those ham radios, the Auxiliary Communications Service" [ACS]. [The ACS makes available] "a wireless system that seldom if ever can be totally disrupted by a disaster...ham radio operators are the heart and the soul and the life blood of that system."

The Hon. Mayor Willie Brown
Mayor of San Francisco (1996-2004)



Meet The MARS Candidates!

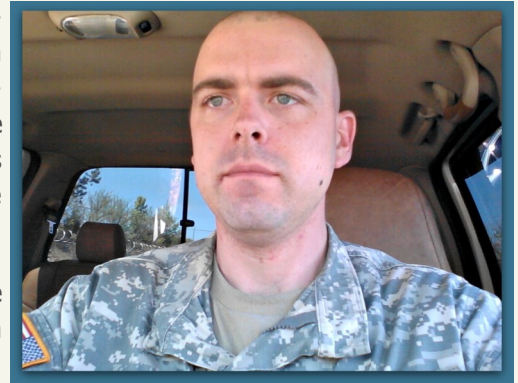
Board Director

JON GREENE, KK4ZIZ

It's hard to believe I've been licensed for almost two years as a radio operator. As a kid, I was exposed to amateur radio by my Dad (Cliff WB4NCQ), who I accompanied to the Shelby Hamfest every year. At that time, code was a part of the requirement of a radio operator.

It took a few years before I got my license, but in the meantime I never gave up working on radios or antennas. I am in the North Carolina Army National Guard, which is helpful in reminding me of the phonetic alphabet and net procedures. I've been in the military for over fourteen years, when radio ethics are key during overseas tour. There are three key points in the military, and communication is one of them.

Since becoming a radio operator, the skills I've learned in the military are applied to proper communication not only as a licensed operator, but also when upgrading to a general license. Needless to say, I am learning new things every day.



One of the key components of being a licensed operator is the ability to call an emergency net, which I've done. Also, I am familiar with using different modes, including packet radio, specifically the East Charlotte packet node (KK4ZIZ-7), which I operate. I have also helped out in numerous public service events, as well as assisting our committees with the W4BFB from the packet radio group and also helping the repeater committee.

As a member of the board, I would be involved in presenting new ideas to the club, demonstrate the use of current equipment owned by the club, and also bringing people into the club room at the Red Cross to help show off different modes of operation associated with being a licensed operator.

Another area which is close to my heart is communication during emergencies, whereupon the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society works synergistically with the Amateur Radio Emergency Services. When something adverse happens, not only in the Charlotte region, but also within the surrounding counties — as a club, we have the resources to draw from, including packet radio and voice communications. Collectively, we can make a difference in communications during an emergency.