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# ◀ MARS NEWS ▶

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Volume 53, Issue 09

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc

September 2002

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The program For the SETTEMBER meeting will be will be on mobile radio installation.

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

In July the Board of Directors initiated a program to help re-establish connection with members or past members who no longer attend our meetings or events.

Postcards were mailed with the following message:

*We haven't seen you in a while and hope to see you soon!*

*Remember! The monthly meetings of Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society are the last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 at East Baptist Church.*

If you know of someone that we may have omitted, please contact John (WG2NHQ) or Sherry (KE4LZE).



## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUGUST 13, 2002

Present: Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, President; Vincent Mates, KF4LVC, Vice President; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Secretary; John White, WB2NHQ, Treasurer.

Board Members: Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC; Bob Cole, KD4IIN; Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE; Mac McCray, K4PDY, Bill Turner, W4WNT.

President McAllister called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Reports from the officers:

President McAllister welcomed Bill Turner, W4WNT, to the board. Bill was elected to serve the unexpired term of Rick Hampton, WD8KEL, who resigned upon leaving the area.

Vice President Mates is working on member meeting program possibilities, such as fox hunting techniques and mobile radio installation dos and don'ts.

Secretary Stewart reported that 74 members have paid their 2003 dues so far. Dave read a summary of the comments members made on their renewal forms about activities they would like to see the club engage in this year.

Treasurer White reported that the operations trailer is parked in the Medic facility and its first use is expected to be at the MS 150 in September. He also noted that the new HF antenna for the Red Cross roof has finally been received and needs to be installed. John also observed that a recent postcard mailing by board member Sherry Conrad Frye to recently inactive members seems to have stirred renewed interest among the recipients.

General Discussion:

Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE, has been working on getting a club picnic together. She has located shelter facilities in nearby parks and is working on Saturday, Oct. 12 as a tentative date. More about this later.

Interest was expressed in resumption of the production of club badges. Dave Stewart had been producing them but found that it was incompatible with secretary duties. Vincent Mates volunteered to see what could be done to resume production.

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, will look after nominations for the November elections. Two board member terms are expiring. Officers except Secretary have indicated a willingness to run again for their offices.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Secretary.

## MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 27, 2002

President Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

President McAllister mentioned that the blue ID tags are available by order through a sign-up sheet at the front table

Vice President Mates, KF4LVC, announced that he will be taking photographs for picture badges at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer John White, WB2NHQ, has some of the new NC ARES standard Powerpole connectors and these are available for purchase.

Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, discussed the MS150 bike ride scheduled for September 28 & 29. Volunteers are needed for several functions. A representative from the MS Society spoke of the importance of ham radio volunteers to the success of the event. The event is an important source of funding for the MS society. See Shawn to sign up for a very enjoyable activity.

John White presented Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE, and Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, with a "Thank You" package for their work at Discovery Place. John also announced that the ASTC convention will visit the Radio Room at Discovery Place during Oct 12-15 and that on Oct 19-20 the Scouts will participate in "Jamboree on the Air". These events will produce a lot of activity and fun at the Radio Room. Come by and participate.

Sherry Conrad Frye announced that the club picnic is planned for Oct 12 at James Boyce Park. Be sure to sign up for this event so that we will know how many are planning to attend.

Bill Miller, KT4YE, gave an interesting presentation on compact HF antennas. He talked about the remarkable performance available through these unique designs.

The door prizes were won by Bill Turner, W4WNT, a Black and Decker cordless screw-driver; and Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, an ARRL 2002 Handbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK

Come to our MARS Picnic !

At James Boyce Park  
224 Boyce Rd

Saturday October 12  
from 2:00 PM - until

We will be in the picnic shelter at the park, the club kitty will furnish the chicken, tea, paper plates, & plastic tools. Beer and alcohol are not permitted. This is just a plain old family picnic, so please bring a dish to share.

Plan to eat around 3:00 PM.

So we know how many chickens to pluck, please RSVP to:  
[ka4wyc@w4bfb.org](mailto:ka4wyc@w4bfb.org), or to the machine at 704-366-5375,  
or at the September club meeting.

Directions to the park:

*From Monroe Rd* - Follow Rama Rd to where it joins Sardis Rd, TURN LEFT onto Sardis Rd (toward Matthews), At the first traffic light TURN LEFT onto Boyce Rd, just past the prep school the Park is on the RIGHT.

*From South Park* - follow Tyvola/Fairview/Sardis (all the same road) TURN RIGHT where Sardis Rd Turns Right (toward Matthews), At the first traffic light TURN LEFT onto Boyce Rd, just past the prep school the park is still on the RIGHT.

Questions?

KE4LZE - Sherry	(704) 814-4940
KA4WYC - Jeff	(803) 222-9285

## MS-150 Fast Approaching!

Our annual pilgrimage to the beach in support of the Multiple Sclerosis Society - Mid-Atlantic Chapter is fast approaching! The MS-150 Breakaway to the Beach is our biggest public service event of the year, with over 35 different positions supported by at least 32 amateur radio operators at last count. This year, we can expect over 2,500 cyclists starting in Lugoff, SC, Rockingham, NC, and Weddington, NC. The Weddington starting point represents our Century route, with cyclists pedaling 100 miles before reaching the Saturday night stop-over in Florence, SC.

The MS-150 is ALWAYS a directed net. Once the net starts, all traffic will be controlled by Net Control. Net Control will be Tim Slay, N4IB in the W4BFB trailer. If you need to pass traffic to Tim, simply throw out your callsign or suffix during a pause in the net. Tim will acknowledge your place in the queue and call on you when it is your turn to pass traffic. The word BREAK is to be used only in an emergency, and all net participants should immediately hold all non-critical traffic until Tim gives the word to continue. Listen to the traffic on the net and be a good listener - many times, the answer to your next question may have already been answered in a previous communication.

All radio frequencies being used should be programmed into your gear prior to the event - we never know when we may be asked to switch to an alternate frequency. For Saturday, they include:

145.49 (-600) in Cheraw, SC - used for the ride from Rockingham to Florence. 146.895 (-600) in Pageland, SC - used for the Century route in Weddington until Rest Stop F or G.

The above two repeaters will be linked together for Saturday.

147.195 (+600) in Florence, SC will also be linked in at some point to cover the Florence area. Bishopville at 146.925 will be used by the South Carolina cyclists leaving from Lugoff.

On Sunday, things are just a little bit complicated this year. The frequencies are:

147.195 (+600) in Florence, SC  
147.000 (-600) in Marion, SC - being repaired at the moment, should be ready for the ride. 145.470 (-600) in Myrtle Beach, SC

(continued on next page)

MS-150 Fast Approaching! (continued)

The above three machines will be linked together. Mobile rigs will be REQUIRED for Sunday - use your highest power and best antenna. Things could get spotty in a few areas. If necessary, we will move people to 145.110 (-600) but it is preferred that everyone be through the Sunday lunch stop before we QSY. 147.375 (+600) in Georgetown, SC will also be linked in as well. Our backup from last year, the Dillon machine at 146.745, is DOWN and is not expected to be back up for another six months or so. Blame a combination of HDTV, tower load factors, and some equipment failures for this, but perhaps it will be available next year.

446.100 simplex may be used for non-critical communications and do not involve Net Control, such as SAG to SAG or SAG to rest stop traffic.

Many of us will be using APRS as well. Digipeater coverage has greatly improved in recent years on the route. If you are at home in Charlotte, you may be able to check the progress of the event via <http://www.findu.com>.

The ride starts at 7:00 AM in Weddington, and 8:00 AM in Rockingham. It will also start around 8:00 AM in Florence on Sunday. Since the cyclists seem to be moving faster and faster every year, it would be a good idea for Rest Stop HAMS to get to their rest stop at least one hour or more before the first cyclists are scheduled to arrive. This will allow us to get supplies to you in case of shortages and allow plenty of time to let the directors know of problems.

SAG vehicles should receive their SAG kits at their starting points. Magnetic signs will also be available but we may not have enough for everyone to get two. I will look into some sort of sign that can be taped inside a vehicle side window for identification. All SAGs should remember that the cyclists depend on us to help them in the event of a problem, but the cyclists also get very nervous if a SAG is following them too closely.

We hope to pass out our T-shirts for the event at the club meeting on September 24th.

Elena's website at [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) will have the most current information available. Contact me at [k4rsg@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4rsg@w4bfb.org) if you have any questions. See you in a few weeks.

Shawn, K4RSG

## From the President:

THE PREZ SEZ --

Boy! Summer`s almost gone -- Already!!!! Where did it go so fast?

Club meeting is the 24th. The last Tuesday is early this month.  
Don`t let it slip up on you.

Want to have a real part in the Club? Shawn, K4RSG is looking for a few good people to run for office. VOLUNTEER to run. Let him know you are interested.

Come to the meeting and find out how the plans for the picnic are coming along. I`m really looking forward to seeing a lot of you there.

Break Away to the Beach is coming soon. Still room for YOU if you would like to help one day or both.

See ya at the meeting!

Wilton, WB4PCS

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, September 24, 2002** — Club Meeting, Monroe Road, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, September 28-Sunday, September 29, 2002** — MS Break Away to the Beach

**Tuesday, October 8, 2002** — Board Meeting, Red Cross Building, Park Road

**Saturday, October 12, 2002,** — Family Picnic, 2:00 p.m. James Boyce Park, Boyce Road

**Saturday, November 9, 2002** — VE Test Session, 9:00 a.m., East Baptist Church

**Saturday, December 7, 2002** — MARS Holiday Party, Idlewild Country Club

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## About This Newsletter

MARS News is published monthly for the members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Permission is given to reprint any article, provided that credit is given to Mecklenburg ARS and the respective author. Subscription to the newsletter, via US Mail, is provided to club members. Complimentary copies are available to guests and prospective members.

The deadline for submitting material is the 10th of each month. Please submit newsletter material to: **Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, 16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway, Huntersville, NC 28078 948-6006 or office 892-3270, Fax Number 892-8326**

You may submit material via Electronic Mail to: [n4mh@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4mh@w4bfb.org) or on 3.5" diskette. The files should be in TEXT or WORD format.

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## Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

### Officers and Board of Directors:

**President**

Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, Email Address: [wb4pcs@w4bfb.org](mailto:wb4pcs@w4bfb.org)

**Vice President**

Vince Mates, KF4LVC, Email Address: [kf4lvc@w4bfb.org](mailto:kf4lvc@w4bfb.org)

**Secretary**

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Email Address: [af4zk@att.net](mailto:af4zk@att.net)

**Treasurer**

John White, WB2NHQ Email Address: [wb2nhq@w4bfb.org](mailto:wb2nhq@w4bfb.org)

**Directors**

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, Bob Cole, KD4IIN ; Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE; Mac McCray, K4PDY; Bill Turner, W4WNT

**Meeting Place:**

East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Road (next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive)

**Meeting Time:**

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

**Clubroom:**

Red Cross Building, 2425 Park Road, RM 023, Charlotte, NC Telephone 704-334-3900

**Club Repeaters:**

146.34/146.94 w/Autopatch. 144.69/145.29 w/Autopatch.

144.63/145.23, no Autopatch

449.60/444.60 w/Autopatch and P/T 100.0

Autopatches Access \*(don't unkey)+phone number. Disconnect #

222.80/224.40 w/Autopatch 145.01 Packet Digipeater, W4BFB-1

**METROLINA 2m EMERGENCY NET: 9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.34/146.94 featuring the ARRL Audio News feed on Sunday night. Alternate frequencies announced**

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### MARS News

Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, Editor

16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy

Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —  
Tuesday, September 25, 2002