



# MARS News

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## A Letter from the President

First of all, I want to say 'Thanks' to everyone who came by to see us at the Shelby Hamfest at Dallas, NC. We took the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society RV up there, and set it up for the weekend. We all had a really great time. We sold tickets to our 2009 Charlotte Hamfest and got to see many of our Ham friends including some whom we don't often get to see. We also met many new friends. On Saturday, at lunch-time, we all gathered around for burgers, hotdogs and good conversation. "Wow!" You couldn't ask for a better time. For those of you who could not attend, I have to tell you that the Shelby Club did a wonderful job on their Hamfest this year. I am already excited about next year and hope to be there again representing all of you.



Coming up real soon, on September 27th and 28th, it's the MS 150. I want to say thanks to everyone who has already signed up to help. This is a wonderful public service event to help out with. And there is no better way to help a worthy cause than to give a little bit of your time. But we are still in need of volunteers to help on the Greenville, S.C. Saturday ride. We also need a few on the Century ride, which will begin in Rock Hill, S.C. I know gas prices are really high right now. Of course, there is also a gasoline shortage in Charlotte. But, this is such a great cause and you will truly be blessed for helping. Remember: what you do to help someone else will always come back to you somehow when you really need it. So if you will, please find the time to help, and sign up at [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) it will be greatly appreciated.



On October 4th, some of us will be going to the 56th Rock Hill Hamfest and Computer Expo for the day. It will be held at the Rock Hill American Legion Post 34 & the York County Fairgrounds at 199 S. Cherry Rd. Rock Hill, S.C. So please stop by our table, we will be selling our 2009 Charlotte Hamfest Tickets there. We are excited about our Hamfest coming in March 2009. It's going to be great.

Gee, October is a busy month. Please put the following date on your calendars: Sunday October 12th. On this date our club is having a MARS Fall Picnic at Reedy Creek Park. 2900 Rocky River Road, Charlotte N.C. 28215. We have reserved shelter # 2. Starting at 1:00 PM we'll gather and we should be eating around 2:00 PM. Then it's off to play with the kids, or just sit around and chat having a good time. Shelter # 2 is close to the playground. So, if you have children, there are not many better ways to spend an afternoon than to spend it with your children and friends at the park. Our club will be

## Letter from the President (cont.)



***By October 3rd, I need to know how many of you will attend and what you will be bringing***

providing hotdogs, hamburgers and buns. But we need you to help by bringing the side-dishes, salads, baked beans, chili, slaw, drinks, desserts and fixings like onion, tomatoes, lettuce, sliced cheese, chips.

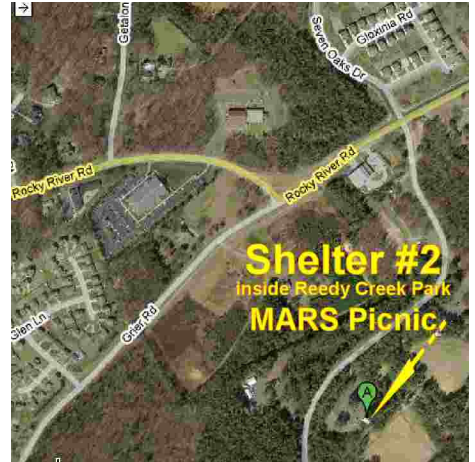
NOTE: by October 3rd, I need to know how many of you will be attending and what you will be bringing (I will coordinate this and have suggestions so we all don't bring the same things). Please email me at <mailto:W4BFBPresident@w4bfb.org> as soon as possible. We will have a wonderful time and I hope that everyone can come out to enjoy our MARS Fall Picnic with family and friends. I personally want to say thanks in advance to everyone who comes out to support the events that we have and I hope to see you at the picnic.

Also, during October, the Nominations and Election Committee of MARS will be looking for qualified members to run as club Officers and Directors. Please consider all that MARS does for you and think about running for a position in club. You can make a difference.

And with that, I want to say a heartfelt THANKS to each of you for your help and support.

73,

Jodie KI4CXO



## Talley Simpson (W4BUA) SK

The club just received word that Talley Simpson (W4BUA) died in his sleep on Thursday morning (September 25th) at around 8:00 AM. Talley was a member of the W4BFB club for over 50 years.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 28th from 2PM to 4PM at Harry & Bryant Funeral Home which is located at 500 Providence Rd in Charlotte.

A grave side service will be held at 2PM Monday, September 29th at Evergreen Cemetery which is located at 4426 Central Ave. in Charlotte.

73,

Richard - K4KRW



## August and September Meetings

Two upcoming public service events were discussed at the August meeting. Matt Honeycutt from the National M.S. Society came to talk to us about the MS-150. Matt promised that he wouldn't be back next year to tell us the route is moving again. He had a video about all of the Rides. The Century Ride will start at the Winthrop University in Rock Hill. And end in Greenville, SC. There will also be 2 loop routes in and around Greenville, SC. Mary stated that the route maps will be on Elena's website, [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com). Scroll down to September 27th & 28th and click on the little volunteer icon. There was a discussion on the various volunteer positions that need to be filled.

Jodie introduced James KJ4CIW who talked about the LungStrong Ride. The 15k/5k ride will be in Cornelius, NC. If you are interested, please see Jodie, Jeff or James. You can also go to Elena's website ([www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com)) and scroll down to October 18th to get info or to sign up.

The featured presentation "OSHA Fall Protection, or How Not to Fall On Your Head CFR-1926-502" was given by Jeff (KA4WYC). Jeff demonstrated OSHA requirements for fall protection. He pointed out that falling is not the only danger when climbing a tower. You could instead end up strangling yourself if you don't follow proper safety procedures and use proper equipment.

Jeff also pointed out that you should study and completely understand proper procedures before climbing a tower. Things change and you have to keep up to date. For example, standard procedure now is to use a body harness instead of a body belt. Jeff pointed out that just seeing his presentation does not constitute proper study and preparation.

Jeff also told the humorous tale of his experience of experiencing a heart attack on a water tower. Thanks Jeff for a great presentation on a very important topic.

For the September meeting, Scott (KI4FAU) will give a presentation on software for controlling radios.

73,

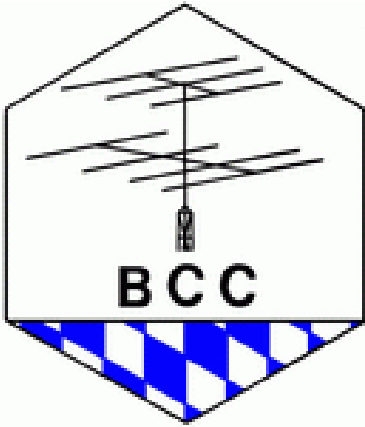
Richard - K4KRW



**Jeff (KA4WYC) gave the featured presentation (OSHA Fall Protection) for the September meeting.**

## Josh (W4WJF) to Participate in VK9DWX DXpedition

W4BFB member Josh Fisher (W4WJF), an Electrical Engineering honor student at NC State University, has been selected to participate in the VK9DWX DXpedition to Willis Island, Australia from October 6th-October 19th.



The Bavarian Contest Club Logo

Even though Josh just turned 21, he isn't a stranger to DX or HF contesting. Josh was first licensed at the age of eleven and holds an Extra class license. He has operated in many

ARRL Field Days with groups such as the Shelby Amateur Radio Club (SARC), Lincoln County ARES/RACES, the Dixie Radio Pirates, and the North Carolina State University Student Amateur Radio Society. Contesting as an HF single operator station he placed #1 in the ARRL's Roanoke Division in the 2004 ARRL DX Phone contest on 20 meters. Josh is also an award winning VHF contester. He achieved three consecutive first place finishes in the CQ Worldwide VHF contest in the Two Meter single operator (SOSB) category. He has also participated in many VHF contests as a team member of the AA4ZZ limited multi-operator contest team in Boone, NC, EM96.

Josh is a member of the following organizations; the American Radio Relay League, the NC State University Student Amateur Radio Society, the Carolina DX Association, the Radio Club of America, and the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society.

Josh is as passionate about his education as he is about ham radio and contesting. He is pursuing a dual major in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering. Even with these grueling curricula, he has made the dean's list every semester. His hard work has been recognized by many in the past including the American Radio Relay League Foundation and the Foundation for Amateur Radio who have awarded him several Amateur Radio related academic scholarships.

Unfortunately, his studies this summer at the University of Valencia, in Spain, prevented him from defending his CQWW VHF title this year. But, Josh clearly has his priorities right and there is always next year.

The Bavarian Contest Club of Germany recently held a world-wide competition for young hams between the ages of 18-29 "who have a passion for Ham Radio, DXing and contesting" to take part in the DXpedition to Willis Island in October of this year." After submitting an essay describing how he got started in ham radio, who his Elmer was and why he should be selected for this DXpedition opportunity, Josh was one of two hams selected from a worldwide field. The VK9DWX crew will pay for all of his expenses except his flights between Raleigh, NC and Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

Willis Island is located beyond the Great Barrier Reef in the Coral Sea some 420 km east of Cairns, Queensland, Australia. From a ham radio DX perspective, Willis Island is a highly sought after DXCC entity.

According to [DX Magazine's](#), 2007 most wanted list:

Willis Island is #15 in the World on CW needs.

***Josh was first licensed at the age of eleven and holds an Extra class license.***



## VK9DWX (cont.)

Willis Island is #12 in the World on SSB needs.

Willis Island is #18 in North America on CW needs.

Willis Island is # 21 in North America on SSB needs.

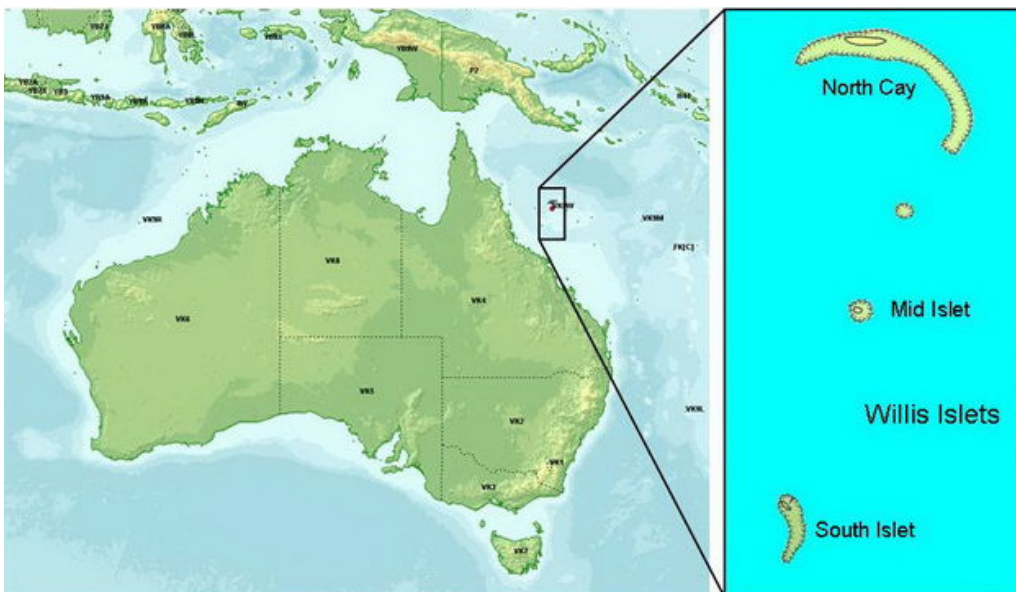
For more information about the VK9DWX DXpedition you can visit their web site :

<http://www.vk9dwx.de>

So, do you need VK9 in your log? If so, October 9<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> is your chance. If you hear a VK9DWX phone operator with a southern, American accent, it is our very own W4WJF. Tell Josh “73, Big Fat Boy” so he will know he's talking to a fellow W4BFB member.

73,

Bill - W4GRW



***Willis Island is a highly sought after DXCC entity.***



**The Willis Island welcoming committee.**



## LungStrong 15K

Members,

This is the updated information on the LungStrong (15k) running event:

Date: Saturday, October 18th, 2008

Where to meet: RaceWorld USA

20310 Chartwell Center Drive

Cornelius, NC 28031

For a map of the area please click [click here](#).

Time to meet:

All stations need to report to me, by 7:15, at the above location before going to their posts. More than likely transportation will be provided to post stations. I am estimating the entire event will take at the most 3 hours.

What to bring:

Ham Radio, hat for shade, and something to drink/eat during the event. Food and drinks will be provided at the finish line.

Duties:

The primary duties will be to provide emergency communications to the net. The net control will be provided with a list of contact numbers for different functions, such as: medical personal, SAG wagon, supplies, etc... Therefore, the net control needs to have his/her cell phone with him/her at the event.

Benefits:

Every volunteer will be provided with free food, drinks, and shirts. More than likely there will be a live band and a lot of games for the kids to be part of. Most important, there will be a ton of information about lung cancer and how it is the number one cancer killer. 85% of individuals diagnosed will pass away. LungStrong is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding lung cancer research.

I already have 5 people, including myself, who have volunteered for the event. There will be five stations where we will be located at. There is expected to be a lot of runners at this event, so it would be great to have more than one person at each station. I am still looking for a net control operator. Please send me an e-mail, or contact me at 336-262-1076 if you, or somebody you know can volunteer for this event. The more volunteers we have, the smoother the event will be.

Thank you so much for all your help. If any of you have any questions please contact me or visit the official website at [www.lungstrong.com](http://www.lungstrong.com).

73 - James Patterson KJ4CIW

## Board Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2008

Jodie started the meeting at 7:02 and welcomed everyone. Jodie, Bill, Ben, Andy, Tom, Kevin, Jeff, and Dave and Perry came in shortly after the meeting started.

Jodie said she had a good time at the Shelby Hamfest at Dallas. There seemed to be a good showing from our Club at the Hamfest. The Club had the RV there and hot dogs and hamburgers and drinks were offered to Club Members. The RV provided a good place to rest in the shade. Jodie and Ben sold Charlotte Hamfest tickets and extra door prize tickets. It was stated by Jeff that we would be at the Rock Hill Hamfest on October 4<sup>th</sup> selling Charlotte Hamfest tickets.

Hal Bouton - N4QT will be doing a program on the digital TV conversion coming up in January 2009. Bill also talked about making antennas at the club meeting. **Editor's Note: The meeting program has changed and will be on Radio Controlled Software by Scott KI4FAU.**

Tom gave a short report on the budget.

Jeff stated we have about 175 members with 2 more pending.

There was a discussion on the antenna on 145.230 Repeater. There was a receive sensitivity problem noted. The Repeater Committee hasn't been notified of the problem yet.

There will be a Hamfest meeting Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> the location will be announced.

New Business – Kevin said he has looked into the Insurance for the Club. There was a discussion on the Personal Liability coverage on our Board Members. This also led to a discussion on what the Arena had in their contract for the Hamfest. Kevin will research this more for the Board.

Jodie asked about a Club Member who doesn't have an ID badge. Ben stated that they missed the last meeting where the camera was present. This will be taken care of by Ben.

Jodie asked for a motion to adjourn and a motion was made and seconded. We adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeff KA4WYC

Secretary of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society.





**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**  
Mid Atlantic  
Chapter



## 2008 Bike MS Ride - This Weekend

This weekend (September 27th and 28th) the Multiple Sclerosis Society will hold the 2008 Bike MS Ride. More Ham Radio volunteers are needed. If at all possible, please plan to attend. You may visit Elena's web site: <http://www.ridemaps.com> to sign up to volunteer.

As I'm sure you all know, there is a gasoline shortage in Charlotte this week. Those of you coming from Charlotte, make sure you don't wait until the last minute to fill up. While things are supposed to improve in the next few days, we are not there yet and many stations have no fuel. Once you get out of Charlotte, things seem to be much better.

This bike ride is the largest public service event on our club calendar. The Multiple Sclerosis Society is a wonderful organization and truly deserves our help.

The following is a quote from their web site:

"We help each person address the challenges of living with MS through our 50-state network of chapters. The Society helps people affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, and providing programs and services that help people with MS and their families move their lives forward."

Please help us continue our tradition of supporting MS Society fundraising events. By doing so, you are helping them to continue their important work.

73,

Jodie - KI4CXO



## MARS Picnic—October 12th

Members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society and Families are invited to attend our club's Fall Picnic on Sunday October 12th. We will be gathering together at 1:00 p.m. and should begin to eat around 2:00 pm at Reedy Creek Park 2900 Rocky River Road Charlotte, N.C. 28215.

The club will be providing Hamburgers, hotdogs and buns. But we **need you to help** by bringing the side-dishes, salads, baked beans, chili, slaw, drinks, desserts and fixings like onion, tomatoes, lettuce, sliced cheese, and chips. **NOTE: by October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I need to know how many of you will be attending. And what you will be bringing and sharing.** (I will coordinate this and have suggestions so we all don't bring the same things.) Please email me at

<mailto:W4BFBPresident@w4bfb.org> before the 3<sup>rd</sup>.



This will be a great time for our club to gather for a fun filled day of eating and meeting and chatting together while our children get to play with each other at the playground.

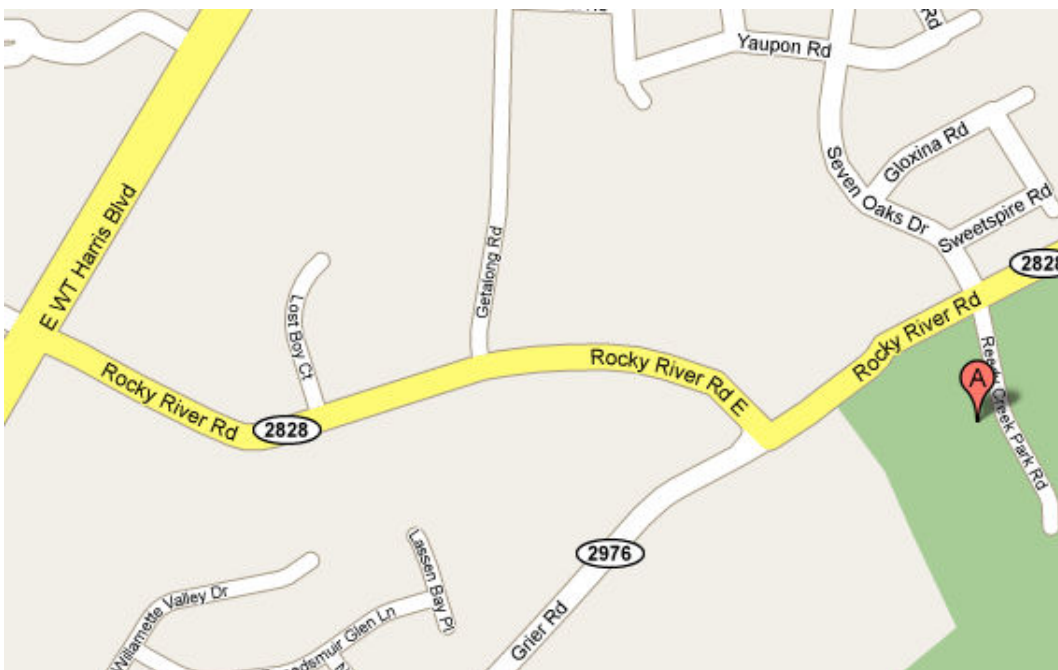
Traveling I-85 to or from Charlotte -

Follow I-85 to Exit 45-A (East W.T. Harris Blvd). Travel on east W.T. Harris Blvd to the 4th stoplight and turn left onto Rocky River Road. Follow Rocky River Road for approximately 1/2 mile, Turn left at the stoplight. And then just past the fire station turn right into Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve. Look for Shelter # 2.

Hope to see you there.

73,

Jodie - KI4CXO



**Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society— <http://www.w4bfb.org>**

**Club  
Meetings**

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society meets  
on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM

We meet at:

East Baptist Church  
6850 Monroe Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28212

(Next to East Mecklenburg High School, near  
Conference Drive)

**Club-  
room**

Red Cross Building  
2425 Park Rd, Room 023  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
(704) 334-3900

**Club Re-  
peaters**

146.34/146.94 (w/autopatch)  
144.63/145.23 (no autopatch)  
144.69/145.29 (no autopatch)  
222.80/224.40 (no autopatch)  
449.600/444.600 (no autopatch) PL 100.00

Mecklenburg 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

**Club Officers and Board of  
Directors**

**President**

Jodie Rowland, KI4CXO, [ki4cxo@w4bfb.org](mailto:ki4cxo@w4bfb.org)

**Vice President**

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, [w4grw@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4grw@w4bfb.org)

**Secretary**

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, [ka4wyc@w4bfb.org](mailto:ka4wyc@w4bfb.org)

**Treasurer**

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ, [ka3vvj@w4bfb.org](mailto:ka3vvj@w4bfb.org)

**Directors**

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, [wb2rhm@w4bfb.org](mailto:wb2rhm@w4bfb.org)

Perry Garris, KF4UVL, [kf4uwl@w4bfb.org](mailto:kf4uwl@w4bfb.org)

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK, [k4gkk@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4gkk@w4bfb.org)

David Holbrook, KC4YPB, [kc4ypb@w4bfb.org](mailto:kc4ypb@w4bfb.org)

Kevin Keyes, K4YYD, [k4yyd@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4yyd@w4bfb.org)



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