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MARS News

A Letter from the President

News from the President – September 2010

September 2010 News from the President

Hello everyone,

Here it is, the end of September. Fall has just arrived and all the leaves are beginning to turn beautiful colors. But 2010 sure has been a tough year for me. I want to start off letting you know that I am improving daily with my PT, but I still have a long way to go before I recover from my accident.



On September 4th and 5th, we took the MARS RV up to the Shelby Hamfest for the weekend. We want to say Thanks to everyone who came by to visit with us awhile and chat. We all had a great time getting together for fellowship and being able to look around at all the ham radio equipment that was there.

Then on September 8th we held our first 2011 Charlotte Hamfest meeting. We reviewed where we are in the process of making the Charlotte Hamfest happen and discussed a lot of the work items that need to be done yet. We had several new members come out to help us. They provided their thoughts and offered to work on the Hamfest this year. We plan to have another meeting in October, to keep everything moving and to inform everyone about what's going on with our Hamfest plans. I personally would like to say thanks to everyone who can and will come out to give us a hand. You will be getting an email as we get closer to the next date for another Hamfest meeting, and it will be posted on the W4BFB.org homepage.

I want to say Thanks to everyone who helped out with the MS Bike Ride on September 25th and 26th. MARS has provided support and communications for many of the MS Society events for a very long time. If you haven't volunteered for any of these events, you are missing out on a lot of fun and friendship. I have helped with just 6 years of these events since I became a Ham. I have truly enjoyed being at every event. Although I will probably not be able to be as much help this year, I will still be a part of MARS events.

A Letter from the President, cont.

At the MARS club meeting on August 31st, we collected lots of donations of school supplies, to help our community's needy kids. We took your donations to a local School Tools drop-off where they were very much appreciated.

There are lots of things coming up in the near future.. stay tuned to the nightly 9PM M2mEN, read your emails, and visit the MARS homepage <http://www.W4BFB.org> and <http://www.W4BFB.org/hamfest>

I hope everyone will come out to enjoy our club meetings and events. One final note: we still need articles, pictures, or anything of interest that our members would like to see published in the Newsletter.

73,

Jodie Rowland - K14CXO

President – Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

MARS Club Meeting 08-31-2010

MARS Club Meeting 8-31-2010.

Jodie Rowland – KI4CXO brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Jodie welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting.

Jeff Blythe – KA4WYC gave a brief synopsis on last month's topic of the proper connection of Anderson Power Poles. He also gave an update of the club's location at the upcoming Shelby Hamfest.

Mary Hunt - N4MH updated the membership on the MS 150 Breakaway to the Beach ride coming up in September, she and Tom - KA3VVJ handed out SAG kits to those of us who had already signed up for the event. Mary also went over the updated Amateur Radio Crisis Plan for the bike ride. Please log onto <http://www.Ridemaps.com> to volunteer.

Mary introduced the evening's speaker, Jeff Viscount, MS Director with the Bike Tour. Jeff spoke to us about the organization, planning and implementation of this years' Bike Tour. Details of the route were discussed, start points for the riders, rest stops, lunch stops and the overnight stop in Florence.

The Tour would continue on Sunday with a second start planned for 50 miles into the route, with the end point being Sunset Beach. There is concern that the new bridge will not be open for traffic, but may be available for the Riders. All other vehicles will use the old swing bridge. This was quite a lively talk with lots of questions posed and answers provided.

Earl - K4KAY's birthday was recognized and cake and soft drinks were provided.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm.

Submitted by Andy Hawkins K4GKK

MARS secretary.

Board Meeting Notes, 09/07/2010

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Minutes for Board Meeting of September 7th, 2010.

1- Meeting was called to order at 7.30 pm.

Attendees included: Jodie Rowland-KI4CXO,
Ben Antanitis-WB2RHM, Tom Hunt- KA3VVJ, Bill Fisher-W4GRW, Mary Hunt N4MH,
Bill Harding- K4AHK, Kevin Keyes-N4YYD, Barry May- KC4SSS, Andy Hawkins-K4GKK,

2- Minutes for the board meeting of August 3rd, 2010 accepted as presented in the August newsletter.

3- Treasurer's Report: Tom presented the accounts report. This was accepted by the Board.

4- Vice Presidents report: Bill Fisher—W4GRW. September's meeting will be a talk on the Enigma Cypher Machine by Dave Wentzel-KD4ITI and a talk on the Boy Scout Jamboree by Paul Trotter-AA4ZZ

5- Secretary's report: Two new members were added to the roles this month and a recount shows we are at 146 current members.

Committee Reports:

Nomination Committee: This will be headed up by Bill Harding-K4AHK and Barry May-KC4SSS. We encourage all eligible members to run for the Board of Directors.

Repeater Committee: W4BFB BBS upgrade still in process.
146.535 Skywarn repeater is up and running.

Public Service Committee: The MS Bike Ride on Sept. 25th-26th will be our next major public service event. The new route has been decided with starts Pageland, Camden and Monroe. Sign Up will be handled at "Ride-Maps.com". Wilmington ARS has contacted Mary to assist with the amateur radio logistics. The SC Hearts Communications Trailer will be used for net control throughout the ride. Mary reported that she had been contacted by the organizers for the American Endurance Ride, to be held from October 14th thru the 16th. This is an Equestrian event being held at the Cooper Black Recreational area in Cheraw SC. Mary also announced the dates for the 2011 MS Challenge Walk as 1st weekend of March to be held in the Isle Of Palms, Charleston. The club also helps with the Lungstrong event in October.

Board Meeting Notes, 09/07/2010, cont.

Equipment Committee:

A discussion was presented on the use of the ex-Discovery Place equipment and fittings. We are currently spending a monthly storage fee to keep the equipment safe. This is whittling away at the Discovery Place account. One thought is to purchase a Cargo style trailer and equip it as a communications trailer, this could be used for various activities, i.e. disaster communications, teaching aide for Geek fest at CPCC, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts etc. The unit could be used at field day and on our public service events. These are just a few of the ideas we have. Any ideas or comments from the membership would be welcome. This idea is still being developed.

Grants and Resources: Kevin –K4YYD: The club will benefit from members who join or renew their membership with ARRL. A small amount will be donated to the club accounts if you renew your ARRL membership with a form provided by Tom, KA4VVJ or Andy, K4GKK.

Entertainment Committee: Jodie-KI4CXO and Mary-N4MH will be heading this committee. The Christmas Party Venue will be held on December 4th at Central United Methodist Church. The Board is looking into having a catered event this year. More details to follow.

Website: We are currently experiencing some intermittent problems with the W4BFB reflector. This is being addressed, mean-while keep you eye's on the Website. Ben-WB2RHM, through hours of hard work, has transferred the Club's W4BFB Mailbox over to Go Daddy.

Please note that ALL the committee's are open for anyone to provide support and ideas that will help this Club be successful in all its endeavors. If you see or hear anything that you have an opinion on or feel you can improve upon, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members and discuss accordingly.

Hamfest Committee: This Committee is about to crank back up for next year's huge event held at the Cabarrus Arena in Concord NC. We require lots of help and ideas with this endeavor. This is our only major source of income to support this club and its activities. Please contact a Board member if you are interested.

The club room door combination has been changed, if you have renewed your membership and require use of the room please call a Board member for the new code.

New Business: See Nominating Committee above.

There being no more business for this evenings meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted by

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK

Secretary M.A.R.S.

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 Repeaters

| Send | Receive | Offset (KHz) | Autopatch |
|--------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 146.34 | 146.94 | -600 | Yes |
| 144.69 | 145.29 | -600 | No |
| 144.63 | 145.23 | -600 | No |
| 222.8 | 224.4 | -1600 | No |
| 449.6 | 444.6 | +5000 | No |

Mecklenburg 2m Emergency Net
9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.94 (-600) 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

Vice President

Bill Fisher, W4GRW, w4grw@w4bfb.org

Secretary

Andy Hawkins, k4gkk@w4bfb.org

Treasurer

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ, ka3vvj@w4bfb.org

Directors

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, wb2rhm@w4bfb.org

Mary Hunt, N4MH, n4mh@w4bfb.org

Bill Harding, K4AHK, k4ahk@w4bfb.org

Kevin Keyes, K4YYD, k4yyd@w4bfb.org

Barry May KC4SSS, kc4sss@w4bfb.org

Newsletter Editor

John Forbus, NV4A, W4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org



**Mecklenburg Amateur
Radio Society, Inc**

Newsletter Editor:
John Forbus, NV4A
4586 Lynwood Rd.
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org