

# THE LIVE WIRE



The Monthly Publication of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

<http://www.brars.org>

**February 2011**

## BRARS OFFICERS

Pres. Wyatt Miler, KJ4CTD  
V. Pres. Josh Owings, KG4PFJ  
Sec. Rick Bagwell, KD4DRA  
Treas. Robert Martin, WA4HRK

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Taylor, N3PT  
Phil Robinson, KG4FQG  
Vic Gallo, WA2PJZ  
Johnny Allison, WD4DYH

THE BLUE RIDGE AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY

&

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

# 2011

Jan. 3	Feb. 7
March 7	April 4
May 2	June 6
July 4	Aug. 1
Sept. 5	Oct. 3
Nov. 7	Dec. 5

## February Club Meeting

John Ligon, of the American Red Cross was present at the February Club meeting to accept our annual donation.



Mr. Charles Barber presented the program on CERT training in South Carolina (Greenville). Story on page 2.

## CERT Program for South Carolina (Greenville)

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. This is the reason for the CERT Program, to train Citizens, to be able to respond safely during an Emergency. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

### The Training

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed lifesaving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive. *The Club thanks Mr. Charles Barber for bringing this information to the club.*

ALL THE INFO YOU NEED IS HERE: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

Story and photos submitted by Rick Bagwell, KD4DRA

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## THE BLUE RIDGE 2 METER NET MONTHLY TOTALS FOR JANUARY 2011

**SESSIONS 31**

**TRAFFIC 46**

**TOTAL CONTACTS 2638**

**W4DJW 377**  
**WA4HRK 160**  
**KJ4RQZ 70**  
**KJ4BSJ 74**

**AJ4RK 378**  
**KI4DOS 413**  
**WD4CYM 144**

**KF4ZCC 341**  
**K4SUG 3336**  
**KG4FQG 345**

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**"Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits."**

– Thomas A. Edison



## CHECK IN AND CHAT ON THE LOCAL NETS

**Greenville: 9 pm nightly - 146.610**

**Greenwood: 9 pm Thursday night - 147.165+t107.2**

**Greenwood Ladies: 8 pm Tuesday night - 147.165+t107.2**

**Anderson: 8:30 pm nightly - 146.790**

**Good Morning Net: Mon-Wed-Fri: 9 am - 146.760**

**ARES Training Net: 8 pm Thursday night - 146.820**

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### **Ham License Testing Sessions**

**Administered by Volunteer Examiners (VE)'s**

**For all tests you should arrive at least 15 minutes early  
and bring the following:**

- **Photo ID (such as Drivers License or State ID)**
- Original and photocopy of your current Radio License, if applicable
- (as well as any CSCE's you will present for verification for upgrades)
- Social Security Card or FCC-issued Registration Number

***Good Luck!***

#### **Greenville SC**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month  
Testing begins at 8:30 AM  
Red Cross Building  
940 Grove Rd. (near G'ville Memorial Hospital)  
Fee is \$10.00  
Contact: [Steve Shaffer, AF4RN](#)  
[Map Here](#)

#### **Spartanburg SC**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every even numbered month  
Testing begins at 7 PM  
Red Cross Building  
104 Garner Road (off Pine St. -US176)  
Fee is \$ 15.00  
Contact: Fritz, W4NTO @ 864-583-6716  
[Map Here](#)

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***"Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way."***

*– Booker T. Washington*



**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!**



## **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR BRARS MEMBERSHIP DUES?**

**BRARS membership dues were due January 1, and should be paid no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Per the BRARS Bylaws, Section I, item "E"; "Membership renewals received after March 1 will be handled as a new membership application, unless otherwise approved by the Board."**

**If you have not yet paid your dues, avoid the hassle of reapplying for membership and mail your check today. Dues received postmarked no later than February 28<sup>th</sup> will be accepted as within the deadline. You may either mail your dues direct to Rick Bagwell, Secretary or to the BRARS post office box (see addresses below). All checks should be made payable to BRARS.**

**BRARS  
PO Box 6751  
Greenville SC 29606**

**Rick Bagwell  
108 Pinonwood Court  
Simpsonville SC 29680**

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### **A Self Proclaimed "Hamfest Nut" Visits Lawrenceville**

I've been a licensed Ham and a certified "Hamfest Nut" for nearly 11 years now. I took and passed my Technician test at the now-defunct Union Hamfest. I make it a point to try to get to all the nearby Hamfests. Much like our own, this is usually the main income source for the Radio Clubs who put them on, and I want to support them to. Of all the 'local' Hamfests, I'd never been to the one in Lawrenceville (aka Stone Mtn.). Boy howdy! I didn't know what I was missing! And, I won't be missing this one again!

New and used, inside and out, this one was large and most excellent! Whatever Ham radio related equipment you were looking for, it was probably there somewhere. 200 Ft. Tower anyone? Or how about a huge old home-built AM HF Transmitter? Too old or too big, you say? Then Flex Radio- the software defined 'latest and greatest' HF Radio outfit had a display there, as did several other Manufacturers. I made it a point to say hello and purchase the few small items I needed from some of the Vendors who come to our Hamfest, and thanking them for supporting us to. I went home with 4 porcelain 'dogbones', 3 PL-259's, 2 pocket screwdrivers, 1 coax adaptor, and a partridge in a pear tree... Oops, it's a little early for that last item! As always, I would have needed a semi-truck to haul everything home if I had been able to buy what I saw and liked.

I had a bit of fun with the representatives from Times Microwave, the nice folks who make really good low-loss Coax cable. It's costly stuff but worth the price, (which means I can't afford it) so jokingly I asked them if they had any freebies to give away. With a smile one of them handed me a embossed letter opener with their logo that produced a good laugh all around! And don't forget the people; not only those who I rode with, but I met several of you there, as well as other friends who are from nearby that I don't get to see as much as I'd like. If there's a Hamfest nearby then go there, even if you don't need any of the things which you can't find locally anymore, or even if you are not planning to buy anything. Just being at a Hamfest you're bound to meet friends and enjoy the experience. The Vendors take note of attendance and make future plans based on that, so your just being there matters. Without Vendors our own Hamfest would suffer. So remember, attend your local Hamfests; the Hobby you're supporting and saving is our own!

Article submitted by Phil Robinson, KG4FQG

## 2011 HAMFEST Schedule

For more information, go to [WWW.ARRL.ORG/Hamfests](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG/Hamfests) .

- **02/26/2011 | [Dalton Hamfest #29](#)**

**Location:** Dalton, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Dalton ARC  
**Website:** <http://www.w4drc.net>

- **03/05/2011 | [Alabama Section Convention \(BirmingHAMFEST\)](#)**

**Location:** Birmingham, AL  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Birmingham Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://w4cue.com>

- **03/12/2011 | [North Carolina State Convention \(Charlotte Hamfest\)](#)**

**Location:** Concord, NC  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://w4bfb.org/hamfest>

- **3/19/2011 | [Kennehoochee Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Marietta, GA  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** <http://W4BTI.org>

- **03/19/2011 | [MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Tullahoma, TN  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/mtars>

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- **04/22/2011 | [Southeastern VHF Society Conference](#)**

**Location:** Huntsville, AL  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Southeastern VHF Society  
**Website:** <http://www.svhfs.org/conference.html>

- **04/23/2011 | [North Carolina State Convention \(Raleigh Hamfest\)](#)**

**Location:** Raleigh, NC  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Raleigh Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

- **05/07/2011 | [South Carolina State Convention \(Upstate Hamfest\)](#)**

**Location:** Spartanburg, SC  
**Type:** ARRL Convention  
**Sponsor:** Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society  
**Website:** <http://upstatehamfest.com>

## From the Board of Directors

It is the policy of the Board of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society that should any member of the Club have an issue with something the leadership of the Club is doing, the member is encouraged to bring their concerns to the attention of the Board at any Board meeting or to the membership of the Club at any regularly scheduled Club meeting. Further, the actions of the Board may be reviewed by any member of the Club at any time.

### Contact the Officers

Pres. Wyatt Miller – [kj4ctd@wmiler.org](mailto:kj4ctd@wmiler.org) - 864-6639203  
V. Pres. Josh Owings – [Jeowings@gmail.com](mailto:Jeowings@gmail.com) – 864-884-6587  
Sec. Rick Bagwell – [kd4dra@gmail.com](mailto:kd4dra@gmail.com) – 864-907-6121  
Treas. Robert Martin – [wa4hrk@gmail.com](mailto:wa4hrk@gmail.com) – 864-335-9679

### Board Members

Bob Taylor – [rtaylor62@charter.net](mailto:rtaylor62@charter.net) – 864-331-9864  
Phil Robinson – [mastercarpentry@gmail.com](mailto:mastercarpentry@gmail.com) – 864-906-7892  
Vic Gallo – [vsg20@Aol.com](mailto:vsg20@Aol.com) – 864-243-9827  
Johnny Allison – [jallison0529@mindspring.com](mailto:jallison0529@mindspring.com) – 864-884-1314

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## **BRARS Club Meeting Minutes February 7, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by Wyatt (KJ4CTD)  
Roll Call took place around the room to recognize members, and guests,  
5 guests were recognized and 3 were members when they left.

### ***Officer Reports:***

**Secretary:** Rick (KD4DRA) Read the minutes from last meeting. Motion and accepted.

**Treasurer:** Robert (WA4HRK) reported that the Bank account is in good shape.  
He will be paying the hosting bill for our Web site this month, and reimbursing himself for the new recorder.

***(Club accounts are available for review by club members at any time).***

### ***Committee Reports:***

#### **NET Report:**

Ray (K4SUG) reported the net totals for December were 2638 total contacts; 31 sessions; 46 pieces of traffic. Ray also made special mention of Gary (KI4DOS) with a one month total of **413**. Good work!

#### **Repeater Report:**

Repeater work is on hold till spring.

**Field Day:** Josh Owings, (KG4PFJ) showed us pictures and videos of four sites for the field day. The attending members then voted on the one they like the best.

Donaldson Center, just inside the main gate, to the left, off Donaldson Road, this site has a lot of trees and it should be a cool spot in the heat of June. The date is June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

**Ham fest:**

JD (KF4RVH) says that things are moving along with the planning, they have 9 vendors on board, he ask if anyone had suggestions for forums, they are planning a solidier station as a forum, and one to help with radio programming. If you have something you would like to see please contact JD at [mmjnorris@att.net](mailto:mmjnorris@att.net) Also does anyone want to volunteer to rework the Ham fest Website?

**FWA:**

Freedom Weekend Aloft will be held in Simpsonville again this year, there will be a meeting for planning, on February 21, at Hillcrest Hospital at 6pm.

**Old Business:**

Red Cross Donation, see attached story.

**New Business: None****New application:**

Sam Bradshaw (KG4LPP), Lee McDaniel (K4CRT), Gary Titcomb (KI6RFT), and Mike Miller (KG4KRW)

*The members voted that they be accepted as BRARS members.*

**Drawings:**

Lou (KE4UIZ) Won the Club Prize of \$10.00 and Chris (KJ4GJG) won the **50/50 drawing** of \$18.50

**Program:**

Charles Barber presented CERT Greenville. See attached Story.

Meeting adjourned **9:00** pm

*Happy QSOs till we meet again*

*Rick / kd4dra*

*Secretary*