

THE LIVE WIRE



The Monthly Publication of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
<http://www.brars.org>

April 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

GOT HAMFEST? YOU BET WE DO!

The Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club announces our 50th annual Hamfest, Saturday May 7, 2011 at The Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds in Spartanburg, SC.

Well here comes spring, hummingbirds, pollen, grass cutting and the thing us Ham's like the most; our Hamfest. Now is the time to get stuff ready to sell and make your list for HAM related supplies. We have some new vendors and all our old favorites to make this one of the best HAMFESTS in years. Please take a minute and take a look at our new HAMFEST website. The link is on the main BRARS website at www.brars.org. It will be changing every day as new vendors and prizes are added to the site. If you want to upgrade your license, there are training aid links and information on the testing page of the website. Winning the prize you want will be easier than ever! Make sure you check the prizes area for information. You will also want to remember extra prize tickets will be on sale everywhere. Prize tickets this year are 2 for a \$1. This will increase your chances to win one of the hottest rated Yaseu radios on the market. This year we have great forums, even one presented by our members on APRS, and a workshop on it you do not want to miss. There will be free workshops on programming your radio and soldering, each with "Elmers" to answer questions. We will have HF and 2 meter antennas setup to help you where we can and to test what you are buying.

Remember to check the website often!

JD Norris, Hamfest Chairman

BRARS 2011 HAMFEST INFORMATION

@

www.brars.org

April 4th Meeting Program

Jason Lane from the Greenville-Spartanburg weather center presented a program about “Basic Sky Warn” training. The importance of trained Sky Warn spotters was emphasized. Jason explained that even though they can track storms on radar, it is actually **not** possible to “see a tornado and they certainly cannot see downed trees or power lines.” The group watched and listened as Jason showed a video of damage from straight line winds within a severe storm. While explaining the difference between damage from straight line winds and tornados, Jason said the folks from NOAA/NWS, “have to go out and view the damage before a tornado is confirmed.”



THE BLUE RIDGE 2 METER NET MONTHLY TOTALS FOR March 2011

SESSIONS 31

**W4DJW 295
WA4HRK 87
WD4CYM 122
KJ4BSJ 60**

TRAFFIC 55

**AJ4RK 442
KI4DOS 465
KJ4RQZ 67**

TOTAL CONTACTS 2522

**KF4ZCC 157
K4SUG 583
KG4FQG 244**



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

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

3rd 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

2nd 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](#)

BRARS MAY 7, 2011 HAMFEST - TESTING SESSION

**Testing will be held at the Spartanburg Red Cross Building
104 Garner Road (off Pine St. - US176**

Visit the BRARS website at www.brars.org for all the details.

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@wmiller.org - 864-6639203
V. Pres. Josh Owings - Jeowings@gmail.com - 864-884-6587
Sec. Rick Bagwell - kd4dra@gmail.com - 864-907-6121
Treas. Robert Martin - wa4hrk@gmail.com - 864-335-9679

Board Members

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

Upstate Kit Builders

We are announcing the formation of a fun and educational ham radio kit building group for the upstate South Carolina Amateur Radio Community. The Upstate Kit Builders club will be open to all interested Amateur Radio Operators. There are no dues, no officers, just volunteer "ELMERS" to help where needed. In many cases you will meet or work alone with an Elmer friend from your area or club. We will have a monthly suggested project from the group at 3 levels of experience, Novice, General, Extra. These are the levels of complexity to complete the project. Each project will have a volunteer "Elmer" available either online or in person.

Meetings will be held at convenient locations around the upstate at least every 60 days or as required or desired for your group.

A web site and an email list will be created to assist in locating parts, ideas, vendors and instructions for each project.

Some of the more advanced topics will be in the areas of SDR radio, PIC programming, and testing equipment.

The starting areas will be in soldering, schematic reading, assembly techniques, and testing equipment etc.

Here is a time to buy some old test equipment and figure out how to make it work again or just repair some of the simple things you wish you could do now.

Your ideas and suggestions are what we will work on. As the group grows so will, what you will wish to do. This is a great opportunity to tap into the knowledge of those around us, make a friend and be proud of what you can do.

Some of the "Elmers" will have testing equipment at their location to get you over the bumps.

Tom Fry, KI4ONJ: tfry@charter.net

If you wish to participate email your name, call sign, email address, and area of interest to Tom Fry at tfry@charter.net.

HAVE YOU MOVED, CHANGED YOUR CALL SIGN or PHONE NUMBER?

If so, please email your changes to Rick Bagwell, KD4DRA, BRARS secretary so that he can update your information on the Club webpage roster. Rick's email address is kd4dra@gmail.com.

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

– Thomas A. Edison

BRARS Club Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2011

Josh (KG4PFJ) called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM
Roll Call took place around the room to recognize members, and guests,
3 guests were recognized and (KB2RVO) was a member at the end of the night.

Officer Reports:

Secretary: Rick (KD4DRA) read the minutes from last meeting. Motion to accept, and approved.

Treasurer: Robert (WA4HRK) reported that the Bank account is in good shape. The Hamfest tickets are paid for, and he will be paying for the Hamfest site, and also paying for the prizes. ***(Club accounts are available for review by club members at any time).***

Committee Reports:

NET Report:

Ray (K4SUG) reported the net totals for March were 2522 total contacts, 31 sessions, and 55 pieces of traffic.

Repeater Report:

Ray says that Johnny (WD4DYH) and Dave (W4DJW) went to check out the 61 repeater and that all things checked out OK. The problems that have been reported could probably be associated with the leaf growth on the trees.

Field Day: Josh Owings, (KG4PFJ) reported that we are still waiting on approval from the Donaldson Center operation manager. The date for Field Day is June 25th and 26th

Ham fest:

JD (KF4RVH) had some Hamfest tickets for sale. Don't know if any were sold.
Tom (KI4ONJ) Said that we had enough vendors to pay for the Hamfest Site and that we have plenty of Vendors coming to the Hamfest.

FWA:

Freedom Weekend Aloft will be held in Simpsonville again this year. The dates are **May 27-30**. Cindy Nelson, Associate Director, can still use some volunteers for the Balloons call her at 864-399-9481 let her know you are with the BRARS Group. Also Tom (KI4ONJ) will loan his RV for an Office for BRARS.

Old Business: Johnny (WD4DYH) would still like to get together a group of Members that would like to take the CERT Training classes, these would take place sometime in the spring. If you are interested contact Johnny at, jallison0529@mindspring.com

New Business:

Need one or two persons to come in early for every meeting to make the coffee and get things setup for the meeting, this will allow more time for the meet and greet before the meeting starts, and keep things moving on a timely bases. Contact a Board member if you are Interested. Thanks

New application:

Tyler Gaillard, (KT4XD) and Allen Manfre, (KB2RVO)

The members voted that they be accepted as a BRARS member.

Drawings:

Steven (AJ4QA) was drawn for the Club Prize of \$20.00, but he wasn't present, so next month the prize will be \$30. Pat (KB4HKR) won the **50/50 drawing** of \$12

Program:

Justin Lane from the NWS gave a great presentation for SKYWARN and for more info Go to www.noaa.gov and click on NOAA in YOUR STATE.

Meeting adjourned **9:10** PM

Happy QSOs till we meet again

Rick / kd4dra

Secretary

