

THE LIVE WIRE

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

<http://www.brars.org>

MAY 2001

President: Philip Yanov KG4FOZ
Vice President: Johnny Allison WD4DYH
Secretary: Gretchen Ellison KE4HGX
Treasurer: Carlisle Rogers WA4ULE

3 Year Dir.: Tommy Ellison K4TWE
2 Year Dir.: Gary Goudelock KF4YKX
1 Year Dir.: Ed Grooms K4KK
1 Year Dir.: Phil Robinson KG4FQG

President's Corner – May 2001
philip yanov, K4PJY

Field Day is coming! Always, the fourth full weekend in June, Field Day 2001 is on the 23rd and 24th of June. The BRARS Field Day is equal parts emergency preparedness training, contesting, and social event. For the emergency preparedness exercise, we will pull out our generators and make sure they are running. We will be setting them up, along with our radios and antennas in a known, but temporary location. This simulates what we may be called upon to do in a real emergency. The contest component comes easy as we will be contesting for 24 hours straight (more about this in a minute.) And to satisfy our social urges we will be eating and talking most of the time we are not contesting. For those who have never been to Field Day, I should probably point out one additional allure of Field Day...you can be an Extra Class operator for a day. Field Day is an opportunity to sit alongside operators with many years of experience and learn from them. You will see a variety of modes, and work stations very far away without using a repeater.

We have been in preparation for this year's Field Day for several months, but now is when the Field Day machine heats up in earnest. Charlie Thomson, K4CLT is our Field Day Chair, and the official answer-man for our 2001 Field Day. Charlie pointed out his key helpers at the last meeting and will be talking with us in more detail at the coming meeting. Be sure to come to our meeting and help us shape field day. Don't worry, there are plenty of volunteer

opportunities for you regardless of your specific interest in Field Day.

Don't forget about the specifics of the meeting. For freshest possible doughnuts, arrive at 7PM, the meeting proper begins promptly at 7:30 PM on June 4, 2001.

Wow! What a Hamfest! We have a good crowd of attendees, great vendors, and a first rate key-note speaker. I am sure there is a bit of pride of ownership, but we sure did have a good time at this year's hamfest. There was plenty of time to chat with friends old and new, peruse the new equipment and dig through the boxes in the tailgaters section. Not only did Sue (N4ENX) and John (ND4N) do a bang up job of bringing the event together, they even arranged for beautiful weather! Their efforts, along with those of a LOT of volunteers came together to build a really fun hamfest. Our heartfelt thanks go to the many volunteers who gave lots of hours before, during, and after the hamfest. The hamfest is a big job, and you did great work, Thank You. If for some reason you missed our hamfest, make plans now to attend next year. Would you believe that next year's hamfest committee has already met? (It's true.)

At the beginning of the year, I promised 12 great meetings. Last month, Stephen Burress, of the National Weather Service, helped me fulfill the promise. Stephen's presentation on NOAA Weather Radio, cloud formations, and our upcoming severe weather season was fun and informative. What's more, Stephen has enough energy to create his own weather and he sure was a lot of fun. Thanks Stephen

for making an important and technical topic so entertaining. We'll look forward to having you again.

It is with sadness that we hear of the passing of J. D. Norris' mother. J.D. (KF4RVH) and his wife Janet (KF4REJ) are a real joy to be around and always helping out with the club. We extend our sympathies to them in their time of loss.

If sitting in front of a computer monitor would give you a tan, I would be a bronze god. The good news for you is that I can frequently be found online. If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or Elvis sightings to report please feel free to send them to me via any of the methods below.

-philip yanov, K4PJY, 864-246-0468, or phil@philyanov.com

General Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order by President K4PJY and followed by the introduction of members and guests.

Upcoming events;

BOD meeting – 5/14

Hamfest – Saddlers Creek State Park -5/19

Field Day – June 23-24

Philip K4PJY gave a “big” thank you to all the members who helped with the March of Dimes Walkathon and also all the volunteers who helped with the Hamfest.

Also he announced that a Red Cross fund raising Road Rally will be held on June 2 and the club has been asked to help with communications. Anyone who can participate can get in touch with Philip K4PJ.

Carlisle WA4ULE gave the treasurers report.

Welcome to the new members who voted in: Greg Roane KG4MFF, Mike Miller KG4KRW, Dave Odom W4VOR, Margaret Engles KE4VEW, Mike Engles KE4SKF.

Ray K4SUG says the control receiver is in and ready to put on repeater. He gave a net report for April.

Old Business:

Research is still being done on a generator. The club voted to put a \$900.00 cap on the purchase of a new one.

Al WA4LUQ brought to the attention of the club a past issue that he discussed with Riley Hollingsworth at the Hamfest.

New Business:

Philip K4PJY wants to get together a bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention in 2002. The BOD will get the details.

Next month's meeting program will concentrate on Field Day and the following month, Dave Odom W4VOR will do a program on pagers.

The door prize was won by: J.D. KF4RVS.

Steve Burriss KF4KYG from the National Weather Service gave a very lively and informative program about NOAA weather radio and related subjects.

The meeting was adjourned.

BOD Meeting May 14, 2001:

Present: Philip K4PJY, Johnny WD4DYH, Gretchen KE4HGX, Carlisle WA4ULE, Tommy K4TWE, Ed K4KK

Absent: Gary KF4YKX, Phil KG4FQG

Carlisle WA4ULE gave a preliminary report on Hamfest revenue and expenses. Also discussed CD's and a motion was made and carried to invest in 90 day CD's and roll them over.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Applications that were submitted for Membership at the 6/4/01 meeting are:

John Greenall K9NAA, 158 Club View Dr., Greenville, SC 29609

Bill Morris WD5KAE, 5 Hitching Post Ln., Greenville, SC 29615

Phil White KG4MFG, 6849 Hwy. 29 North, Pelzer, SC 29669

Robert Coleman K4AWB, 701 Hwy. 25 North, Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Submit any comments in writing to: Attn. Board of Directors, BRARS, Inc., PO Box 6751, Greenville, SC 29606.

Vice-president Johnny WD4DYH gave a report on up-coming meetings. Field Day procedures were brought up. Also discussed were the 2001 & 2002 Hamfests.

Old business: The pending purchase of a new generator was gone over again.

New Business: Bus trip to Dayton Hamvention. Tommy K4TWE was appointed to research this venture. Meeting adjourned.

Congratulations to the winners of the main prizes at the 2001 Upstate Hamfest:

Pre-registration – Peat Bros. Weather Station:
William Mills WA8KXP, Easley, SC

IC-W328 Handheld:

John Travis W4QCF, Asheville, NC

IC-207H, Mobile:

Michael Moore WB4RSU, Starr, SC

Meeting Announcement:

The next meeting will be on June 4, 2001 at the Red Cross Building on Grove Road. Doughnuts and coffee will be ready around 7:00 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

From the ARRL Letter

KENTUCKY AMATEUR DIES INSTALLING ANTENNA

A Kentucky Amateur Radio Emergency Service member died May 20 while installing a 2-meter antenna he'd just bought at the Dayton Hamvention. According to ARRL Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, Ronald L. Oller, KG4JVT, of Irvington, died when the groundplane antenna he was installing fell onto the overhead electrical service line to his house. He had been a ham for about eight months.

Dodson said Oller and a teenaged friend, John Betner, KG4LHQ, had purchased new 2-meter groundplanes at the Hamvention. The pair already had installed one of the units at Betner's home and were in the process of raising Oller's antenna when the incident occurred. Betner was not injured and summoned help for his friend.

Dodson said Oller had a history of heart trouble but said he did not know if that was a factor in his death. Dodson described Oller as "one of the most enthusiastic hams I have ever met" and as "a generous individual who loved to be helpful in spite

of his heart ailment." Earlier in the weekend, Oller had traveled to Dayton Hamvention on a chartered bus with other amateurs from Kentucky's Meade, Breckinridge, Jefferson and surrounding counties.

Oller got his license last October and became involved in public service and, as AAT4YQ/T, in the Military Affiliate Radio System. He also had "elmered" the 16-year-old Betner when he studied for his license.

"It can happen to any of us at any time," said Dodson, who advised caution when installing antennas. "It's too late to help Ron, but, please, let's not lose anyone else to such a terrible tragedy."

FCC TO AMATEURS: DETAILED REGULATION "NOT IN THE PICTURE"

The FCC says the ball is in the court of the Amateur Service to determine the course of future Amateur Radio regulation. Speaking May 20 at the Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, Bill Cross, W3TN, of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said that the days of Commission-imposed regulation are past.

"Detailed regulation of the nitty gritty of communication services, including the Amateur Service, is not in the picture," Cross said. "Rather, the FCC is shifting to strong and effective enforcement of truly necessary regulations." The FCC, he said, now plans to look to the amateur community to reach consensus on any new regulations it thinks it wants and needs.

"I hope that those of you who are thinking about asking us to carve up a band by fiat will think again," he told the packed forum. "You really are asking us to tie your hands regarding your use of your spectrum."

Cross said he expected the issue of restructuring operator privileges to come up "in a couple of years" at the outside. "Changes in operating privileges for the different classes of operator licenses are inevitable," he said.



**The American Radio Relay League
RADIOGRAM
Via Amateur Radio**

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date
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To:

This Radio Message was received at: Amateur Station _____ Date _____ Name _____ Street Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number:

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REC'D	From	Date	Time	SENT	To	Date	Time
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A licensed Amateur Radio Operator, whose address is shown above, handled this message free of charge. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating, a "Ham" Operator can accept no compensation. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Membership Society of licensed radio amateurs and the publisher of *QST* Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.



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