

# THE LIVE WIRE

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

<http://www.brars.org>

**JULY 2001**

**President:** Philip Yanov K4PJY  
**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

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President's Corner – July 2001  
philip yanov, K4PJY

It is with deep regret that we note in these pages the recent passing of Hugh Anderson. Hugh was one of the charter members of the old Greenville Radio Club and a long time member of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society. As unofficial club historian (a movable title) Hugh put together a history of the club that ran in these pages a few years ago. We are looking to republish that history in a future issue so as to reacquaint some of the new members with the long history of the club. We are sorry to hear of Hugh's passing and the club has sent a memoriam in his honor.

Last month's club meeting was a real winner. Dave Odom did a spectacular job of educating us on the ins and outs of how paging systems work. Dave has some real experience in the area and put on a great presentation. His visual aids included a number of pager models that have been in use over the years as well as a white board discussion of how cell tower coverage overlaps. The discussion was very educational and a lot of fun, too. We extend our sincere thanks to Dave for his effort.

Last month we discussed opening the 146.820 autopatch. We are going to finish that discussion this month and vote on opening the autopatch to public use. There were some concerns at the last meeting

which I think we addressed to the group's satisfaction. One concern was the possibility of incurring long distance charges on the autopatch, but that has been disabled and we don't think there is any risk associated with that. Opening the autopatch is an opportunity to extend a public service to other amateurs in our local amateur radio community as well as those who travel through our area. Please come and participate in the discussion at the next club meeting.

I got a phone call last week from member, W4VIW, Leroy Lawhorn to say that he is moving out of the area. Unbeknownst to me he had been looking for a place in Florida that would better suit his sunny disposition. I have known Leroy for years, even before I was an amateur and will miss him at the club meetings. I hope to see him on the APRS map (via the Internet) again real soon.

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, 864-895-2908, or  
[phil@philyanov.com](mailto:phil@philyanov.com)

### Volunteer Opportunity Available!

Would you like to help with the monthly production of the LiveWire? Volunteer opportunities are available. Call Gretchen Ellison 859-2323 or philip yanov 895-2908 to find out how you can help!

### July 2, 2001 Minutes

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

Carlisle gave the treasurers report.

Chris Fite AC54 was accepted as a new member. Welcome Chris.

Upcoming Events: Basic Skywarn Class on July 28th at 7:00 PM at the NWS and on July 30th, the WCARS Hamfest will be held at the Haywood Fair Grounds.

Charlie K4CLT gave a wrap-up on Field Day. Scores were about equal with last year. He suggested that we could use more operators next year and also to work on a computer logging program. A good time was had by all. Philip K4PJY showed a video of the Channel 4 and Channel 21 coverage of the event. The recipients of the ARRL Field Day shirts were: Charlie K4CLT, John ND4N, Sue N4ENX, Chris AC5R and Philip K4PJY.

Ray K4SUG gave a net report for the month of June.

The donation to the Red Cross will be made next month.

An open autopatch on the 146.820 repeater was brought up, and after a motion to open it to all amateurs was made and seconded and discussed. A second motion was made and seconded to table this until next meeting so it could be thought over thoroughly by all members.

Door prize won by Robert K4AWB.

Dave W4VOR delighted the attendees with a great program on pagers –a brief history and how they work.

The meeting was adjourned.

### VE Testing Sessions

Greenville - The WCARS VE's give exams the first Saturday each month (except May-Hamfest and September is on the second Saturday) at the American Red Cross Building on Grove Rd., Greenville, SC beginning at 8:30 AM. Contact Sue, N4ENX or John, ND4N for further details. ND4N@mindspring.com.

Spartanburg - The Spartanburg VE's give exams the second Tuesday of every even month at the American Red Cross Building on Garner Rd., Spartanburg, SC beginning at 7:00 PM. Contact W4NTO @ 864-583-6716 For further details.

You must have original & photocopy of your license, plus any CSCE to be used for exam credit and a positive picture ID.

### Your Name in Print!

There is room in the LiveWire for you! Each month the LiveWire brings news of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society and its members as well as news of interest to amateurs in the upstate of South Carolina. If you would like to submit an article or news item for the newsletter, please contact Gretchen Ellison or philip yanov.

## Board Of Directors MINUTES 7-9-01:

Present: Philip K4PJY, Gretchen KE4HGX, Carlisle WA4ULE, Tommy K4TWE, Gary KF4YKX, Ed K4KK, Phil KG4FQG

Absent: Johnny WD4DYH

The Minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

Application that will be submitted for Membership approval at the 8/8/01 meeting is:

Sara Murdock KC8DTI, 230 Pelham Rd. # 156, Greenville, SC 29615.

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

Carlisle WA4ULE gave a treasurers report.

Meeting programs are set up for the rest of this year: August – Show & Tell, September – Fox Hunting, October – APRS, November – holiday meeting with Les K4NK in charge and December will be election of officers & directors for 2002. Meeting topics for next year were discussed.

On repeaters, Ray K4SUG removed an antenna that wasn't being used and he has purchased a fan for the 146.610 repeater hut and that will be installed shortly.

Opening up the auto patch on the 146.820 will be voted on at the next meeting on August 8, 2001.

The purchase of a repeater amplifier will be voted on when Ed K4KK and Johnny WD4DYH complete their homework.

The possibility of the club getting a 440 repeater will be discussed at the next meeting. Ed K4KK will do the research and present it to the club.

### Old Business:

The club storage building which is presently at Charlie's K4CLT in Simpsonville needs to be moved. The Chisms ND4N & N4ENX and Johnny WD4DYH have volunteered their property for possible sites. Phil KG4FQG and Ed K4KK have contacts for moving the building.

The possibility of a club house was discussed and Philip K4PJY offered a room in his school house for temporary quarters.

The meeting was adjourned.

## AUGUST MEETING

Monday, August 6, 2001

Members Show and Tell

Presented by various members with  
Johnny Allison as Master of Ceremonies

7:00 PM Refreshments

7:30 PM Meeting begins

Red Cross Building, Grove Road, Greenville, SC

From the ARRL Letter...

### SUSAN HELMS, KC7NHZ, WEARING FIELD DAY PIN PROUDLY ABOARD ISS

International Space Station Expedition 2 crew member Susan Helms, KC7NHZ, is proudly wearing her ARRL Field Day 2001 pin in space. The pin was ferried up to the ISS on the recently completed shuttle Atlantis mission and presented to Helms by crew member Jim Reilly.

Helms not only has been an outstanding participant in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station school contacts, she also took it upon herself to run the first Field Day operation from space.

"We were so impressed with Susan's abilities on the air that we wanted to give her a little recognition for her efforts," said ARISS International Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

The pin came with a formal letter of presentation that cited Helms' "pioneering efforts as a Field Day contender." Carolyn Conley, KD5JSO, of NASA reports Helms was "thrilled" to get the Field Day pin and glad to learn that her participation was appreciated.

Using the ISS US Amateur Radio call sign NA1SS, Helms joined in the annual ARRL Field Day fray June 23-24, working several dozen stations. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, has said that NA1SS contacts will count for Field Day credit, but they will not count for satellite bonus points.

### ==>AMATEUR RADIO HELPS SAVE FOUR LIVES

Just four weeks after exercising their emergency communications skills during ARRL Field Day, members of the Northern Southeast Amateur Radio

Emergency Services and Juneau Amateur Radio Club in Alaska put those skills to use to help to save a fellow ham operator and several companions.

On July 22, Mark Griffith, KL0MO, was rafting down the Herbert Glacier River with three friends when their raft was severely damaged. The group was

stranded on a small island in the middle of the raging river, swollen by heavy rainfall.

Early that evening, Griffith used the KL7PF repeater phone patch to call 911, and search-and-rescue personnel were alerted. Meanwhile, Bob Dewey,

WL7QC, overheard Griffith's transmission and set out for the trailhead to meet with the rescue personnel. He was able to contact Griffith on simplex, providing direct contact with rescue personnel.

Rain hindered the rescue, and the river now covered the trail. The Juneau Mountain Rescue team had to cut its way through dense undergrowth to get to the stranded rafters. The weather prevented the use of a helicopter, and the river was too fast--and had too much debris--to use a rescue boat.

The four huddled for the night beneath the remains of their raft. Although Griffith's battery was depleted, it retained enough power to receive Dewey's communications.

A member of the SEADOGS search-and-rescue dog team located the rafters at around 1 AM, and they were airlifted off the island around 7 AM by the US

Coast Guard. The four rafters suffered only mild hypothermia.

"Ham radio really saved their lives," said incident commander Bruce Bowler. "It was a great help in finding out exactly where they were and what

condition they were in. We were able to get updates throughout the night on how they were doing."--Nick Meacher, N3WWE

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