

# THE LIVE WIRE

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

<http://www.brars.org>

**October 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



President's Corner

Philip Yanov, K4PJY

The November meeting is our eating meeting! In a break with last year's tradition, we moved our holiday eating meeting to November. It allows us to do it in a month that is not already full of other holiday dinners and it also gets it out of the way of our annual elections. That means we spend more time on food, fun, and fellowship, and less on business. Do make plans to attend. It will be on the regular date and time (November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.) The meeting will be at the Ryan's Family Steakhouse on Laurens Road in Greenville. Please do bring your significant other and plan to spend the evening remembering old friendships and cultivating new ones. If that isn't fun enough, we will have prizes and awards to hand out as well. Please do come, we would love to have you.

If you missed the October meeting, then you missed an animated presentation on APRS. The meeting was something of an update to the meeting we gave a year ago and seemed to be well received by the audience. I am happy to report that at least one member is on APRS since the meeting. That makes it all worthwhile to me. It sure is fun to see more of the club on the APRS network.

If you are looking for a way to serve the club as an officer, your chance has arrived. In October the board named Buddy Rogers (KA4END), Charlie Thomson

(K4CLT), and Gary Goudelock (KF4YKX) to the official nominating committee. If you would like to serve the club, contact one of these members and let them know. The job of the nominating committee is to make sure that there is a slate of people to vote for in the coming election. They accept informal applications, and make their recommendations to the club at the November meeting. We will then (at the November and December meetings) take nominations from the floor for anyone else you would like to see on the ballot. At the December meeting, we will then present all of the choices to you, our members present at the December meeting, and you will make a selection from the candidates. Please do plan to participate in the process. The club is, as always, yours to govern.

By the way, if you have not signed up for the November 10<sup>th</sup> work day and field trip at the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, please do so today. This may be your last chance. Interested parties should call or email me.

Would you like to help? We have lots of opportunities to help with upcoming club events. Hamfest, Field Day, and other events will be here before you know it. If you would like to help, please give me a call.

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](mailto:phil@philyanov.com)

### Minutes of the October Meeting

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

Member and club events: Rusty W4IKO upgraded and a great time was had helping with the Red Cross Poker Run.

Carlisle WA4ULE gave a treasurers report.

Michael Privette was accepted as a new member in the club. Welcome Michael.

Up-coming volunteer events:

Michelin Classic bicycle race on October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Chuck KG4KBC explained the communication duties of the members who are helping. K4PJY asked for volunteers.

WD4DYH asked for helpers to get the storage building ready for moving. He will be getting in touch with KK4K's son to see if he can do it. No date has been set.

Philip K4PJY announced a field day trip to PARI north of Rosman, NC on Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The nominating committee for the 2002 officers and directors: Buddy KA4END, Charlie K4CLT and Gary KF4YKX.

Philip K4PJY gave the net report for the month of September.

Reminder: The November meeting will be at Ryans on Laurens Road. Bring your spouse. December meeting at the Red Cross and election will be held.

Door prize won by Merlin W4GZL.

A presentation on APRS was done by Philip K4PJY.

Meeting adjourned.

## BOD Meeting 10/8/01

**Present:** K4PYJ, WD4DYH, KE4HGX, K4TWE, KG4FQG, KF4YKX, K4KK, WA4ULE

**Guest:** KG4PFJ

Applications that will be submitted for membership approval at the 11/5/01 meeting:

Cecil Kelly N4TSK, 304 Deerfield Drive, Greer, SC 29650

Butch Brooks KG4ORU, PO Box 12, Piedmont, SC 29673

Josh Owings KG4PFJ, 102 Summer Drive, Easley, SC 29642

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

Question was brought up about full membership in SERA.

No new plans yet for Hamfest 2002.

The nominating committee will present the slate of officers for 2002 at the November meeting.

Repeaters:

Still working on opening up the Auto patch on the .820 repeater.

WD4DYH & K4TWE will work on installing the 440 controller for the .61 repeater.

K4TWE and ND4N will take care of completing the inventory of the club equipment.

A work time will be scheduled to install the new antenna for the 146.82 repeater.

WA4ULE conducted an internal audit of the club finances from 98 to present date parallel to the BOD meeting. Assisting him were: KG4MFF, KA4END, W4KOW, KG4KRW, WD4CD & WD4LD. All accounts were found to be in order.

Meeting adjourned.

## VE Testing Sessions

Greenville - The WCARS VEs 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 VEs 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.

### August Net Report:

KG4FQG (Phil) 315	W4IKO (Rusty) 182
KG4KRW (Mike) 211	K4PJY (Philip) 231
K4SUG (Ray) 284	AG4GR (Josh) 256
KE4RNF (Joe) 42	WD4CYM (Karen) 76

Total 1597 Check-ins and 48 pieces of traffic.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

**Michael Privette – KG4MGS**

## Are You An Elmer or a Fudd?

by L. Myrhh

Many of you may not even recognize the term "Elmer." In the earlier growth period of amateur radio, almost all hams had an "Elmer." Elmer was their mentor. Since the entry into hamdom

was almost always via a Novice class license, the Elmer was often the examiner and then worked with the new ham to bring them along as they sought to upgrade. The Novice license was not renewable and expired at the end of a year. It was either upgrade or give up the hobby. Elmers took great pride in seeing that their new hams got all the help needed in studying, practicing morse code, tuning a transmitter, zero beating a CW signal, erecting antennas, finding surplus gear, etc. to make the step to a General license or higher. Novices were originally limited to crystal controlled transmitters although VFO receivers were allowed. That meant that you would often call CQ for an extended period and then tune the receiver up and down the band to find the responder's crystal controlled signal in response to yours. It was tedious and frustrating but thrilling to hear an answer to your call.

Today's growth in amateur radio is no longer tied to the Novice license and most new hams don't even recognize a mentor. They come into the hobby via the Technician class license and many see that as the end of the road. It is a culmination rather than a beginning. The VHF/UHF equipment is almost always purchased as an appliance and operation is as simple as keying a microphone and dialing up the local repeater frequency. Consequently, the new ham's introduction to amateur radio is usually an on the air experience. Most of us have heard the latest KZ4XYZ callsign nervously come onto the air from time to time and announce that he/she just passed their test.

Have you taken the time and opportunity to say, "Welcome?" Do you invite the new ham to our club meetings? Do you encourage them to continue and upgrade their class of license? Are you an on-the-air Elmer? Or, do you berate them or, even worse, ignore them? Do you choose to be an on-the-air Fudd?

One of the most difficult transitions in any form of communications involves the "protocols." Even the internet has its own protocols with the emoticons and abbreviations. CB radio has/had their own lingo. The nice thing about ham radio is that it doesn't require a foreign language. The only thing that sets us apart is our license.

Therefore, it becomes the critical part of our communication protocol. Nothing more is required.

I would encourage you to be an Elmer by going out of your way to welcome new hams by recognizing their callsigns as a sign of achievement. Make them feel welcome as they are the key to our maintained frequency allocations. Let them know that amateur radio is a growth hobby and encourage them to experience more than what they see with their first exposure. Make their exposure to ham radio pleasant. If you hear poor operating procedures, let them know...gently. And make those corrections whether it be a new ham or an old timer. Don't tolerate abuse by anyone, and have fun by helping.

**Be an Elmer.**

#### **Comments from the Editor.**

If any member of the club has an article that you would like to have printed in the newsletter I will be glad to include it in future issues. The article may be presented to me in written form, sent to me attached to an email or given to me on a disk at a future club meeting. I would appreciate having any electronic data in Microsoft Word format, any version.

#### **Future Meeting Topics**

November – Fall Dinner Meeting – Ryan's Steak House on Laurens Road – 7:00 PM

December – Election of Officers  
Be ready to serve your Club. This is a very important meeting for you.

#### **Directions to Ryan's:**

From I-85 north or south

Exit # 48-B Hwy 276 Laurens Rd. towards Greenville, drive a little over 1 mile. McDonald's will be on the right and Ryan's will be on the left.

From Hwy 25

Follow Hwy 25 through Travelers Rest, angle to the left to follow Hwy 276 through Greenville. Follow signs for Hwy 276 carefully for several miles. Ryan's will be on your right after you pass Fairway Ford.

Or

Follow Hwy 25 through Greenville to I-85 and go north. Your second exit will be exit 48, take 48-B and follow first directions above.

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