

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
Editor: Rusty Kirkpatrick W4IKO

3 Year Dir.: Tommy Ellison K4TWE
2 Year Dir.: Gary Goudelock KF4YKX
1 Year Dir.: Ed Grooms K4KK
1 Year Dir.: Phil Robinson KG4FQG
Publisher: Celia Booth KF4DRG

President's Corner
Philip Yanov, K4PJY

What a great month we have had since I spoke to you last! We had a great crowd at our November dinner meeting and we had a spectacular volunteer event at PARI!

Our Thanksgiving meeting was a lot of fun. It was great to get together and see all of those friendly faces. The food was good and plentiful, and we had a room all to ourselves. Special thanks goes to Mike Miller, KG4KRW for getting the space for us. It was a perfect fit for our needs. I also had help in putting the meeting together from Carlisle Rogers, WA4ULE.

Carlisle bought all of the fabulous prizes we gave away and the suspense of seeing what prize we might draw from the box next was probably more fun than it should have been. Les Shattuck, K4NK, also showed up with some special, unexpected prizes from the Amateur Radio Relay League. Thanks again for the help in making it a fun event.

We used the occasion of the Thanksgiving meeting to express our appreciation to those who have served the club and the Blue Ridge Two Meter Net over the past year. Certificates were presented to all of the net control stations for the net. We also awarded certificates to other members who have helped over the year. A complete list appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

With all of the food, fun, and good fellowship, we had a great time. I can't say thank you enough to everyone who took the time to attend.

Thank you to all of the club members and others who helped out at the PARI, the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, volunteer day. A number of our members helped with a variety of projects including dismounting and remounting an antenna, cleaning up some old wiring, rebuilding a computer and more. PARI is a non-profit organization that bought the Satellite tracking station near Rosman, NC and has turned it into an educational and research facility for both radio and optical astronomy. (www.pari.edu) Originally built by NASA, the site is an impressive array of antennas, numerous buildings, underground tunnels, and miles and miles of optical fiber connecting them all.

The site is a bit like visiting the pyramids, you are in awe of what can be built when money is available in such abundant supply. Charles Osborne, the Technical Director, and Ken Randall, frequent volunteer and web master, guided us through the facility after our lunch break. The site is spectacular and the tour was well worth the volunteer time. An 85 foot dish antenna is pretty impressive when you are standing next to it. Some of the members were available to stay into the evening and for those we capped off the evening with a weenie roast and some of the best star-gazing you will ever get. The sky is dark in Rosman, the elevation is

great, the air was clear and cool. We laid down on the Heliport pad and stared into the very starry night sky. Wow. I saw ten shooting stars myself and missed some that others saw. There was something beautiful about the moment, the sky, and being surrounded by friends. I have been trying to get back there ever since. We plan to take a group back up again early next year to help again. You owe it to yourself to attend.

December is elections. Please come by and show your support. We have had a great year this year, and are looking forward to more of the same for next year. We can not do this without your support, however, and hope that you will take the time to come to the December meeting and cast your vote. Elsewhere in the newsletter, our faithful editor Rusty will have a list of the offices and the current candidates. If you would like to run for office there is still time to be nominated at the December meeting, just let me know and we will get you on the ticket. All members in good standing are eligible to vote at the December meeting, so please come by. The club is, as always, yours to govern. (Also we can accept your Dues payment for next year!)

Would you like to be more active in the club? Our group is blessed with members with lots of energy and flexible work schedules, and we have lots of opportunities to serve 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 extra turkey to get rid of please feel free to send them to me via any of the methods below.

-philip yanov, K4PJY, 864-895-2908, or phil@philyanov.com

Minutes of the November Meeting:

The holiday meeting for this year was held at Ryans Steak House on Laurens Road. Les K4NK returned thanks. After everyone got their fill of good food, President Philip K4PJY called the brief business meeting to order. Introduction of members and guests followed. Great attendance!!

New members accepted in the club were: Butch Brooks KG4ORU, Josh Owings KG4PFJ and Cecil Kelly N4TSK. Welcome all!

Buddy KA4END, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the slate of officers for 2002. It is as follows:

President: Philip K4PJY
Vice President: Johnny WD4DYH
Secretary: Gretchen KE4HGX
Treasurer: Carlisle WA4ULE
Three Year Director: Carl WD4CD
Ed K4KK
One Year Director: Linda WD4LD

There were no nominations from the floor. Tommy K4TWE goes to Two Year Director and Gary KF4YKX goes to One Year Director. Additional nominations will be take from the floor at the Dec. 3rd meeting when elections will be held.

Philip K4PJY presented the following certificates of appreciation: Charlie K4CLT – Field Day Chairman, Sue N4ENX – Hamfest Chairman, Ray K4SUG – Repeater Trustee, Jonathan KE4CVU – Web Master, Gretchen KE4HGX – Live Wire Editor & Publisher, Rusty W4IKO – Live Wire Editor, Celia KF4DRG – Live Wire Publisher.

For Ray K4SUG, Philip K4PJY presented certificates to the net controllers: Rusty W4IKO, Phil KG4FQG, Mike KG4KRW, Philip K4PJY, Josh AG4GR, Karen WD4CYM, Joe KE4RNF, Mike KF4ZCC, Larry KC4SKD and Rhonda KG4AHS.

Les K4NK announced that the ARRL will give the club \$15.00 for each new ARRL member. He also had a drawing for items donated by the ARRL.

The door prizes were drawn for and the meeting was adjourned.

Gretchen KE4HGX
Secretary

Minutes of the 12 November 2001 Board Meeting

Present: K4PJY, WD4DYH, KE4HGX, WA4ULE,
K4TWE, KG4FQG

Absent: KF4YKX, K4KK

Carlisle WA4ULE gave a treasurers report. The operating reserve will be reported to members.

Applications that will be submitted for membership at the 12/03/01 meeting:

W5UGD John Hoyt, 125 Wyatt Oaks Court,
Easley, SC 29642

KT4XD Tyler Gaillard, 3 Paddock Lane, Greer, SC
29650

KG4PFI Don Lollis, 169 Oak Hill Drive, Piedmont,
SC 29673

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

The 440 controllers for the .61 and .82 repeaters were discussed, as was the opening of the autopatch. Maintenance still to be done on the repeater hut on Caesars Head before winter.

Hamfest Chairman K4PJY will have a list to sign at the next meeting to volunteer for hamfest duties.

Field Day was discussed – sites, chairman, etc.

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.

WA4ULE brought up the idea of having a club library with books, tapes, etc. that would be helpful to members who are interested in up-grading their licenses.

WD4DYH has talked to a possible mover for the storage building. He will get more quotes.

A club member has offered to donate a tower & antenna to the club. K4PJY, K4TWE & WD4DYH will investigate.

The up-coming election was gone over.

Meeting adjourned.

October Net Report:

KG4FQG (Phil) 295	W4IKO (Rusty) 216
KG4KRW (Mike) 200	K4PJY (Philip) 295
K4SUG (Ray) 215	AG4GR (Josh) 272
KE4RNF (Joe) 87	WD4CYM (Karen) 88

Totals for the Month:

31 Sessions 39 Pieces of Traffic
1668 Check-ins

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Butch Brooks – KG4ORU
Josh Owings – KG4PFJ
Cecil Kelly – N4TSK

Jamboree on the Air-2001

By Joshua H. George, AG4GR

How many of us remember our first exposure to amateur radio? The stories I've read show a huge diversity in where and how each of us was bitten by the "radio bug". From demonstrations at school, to listening in on short-wave receivers, to the simple fact of seeing that big antenna hanging precariously off the tower of the neighbor down the street, ham radio can strike a person's interest in many different ways. There is something decidedly mystical about

being able to touch a CW paddle, or pick up a microphone and carry on a conversation halfway around the globe.

With that in mind, members of the Greenville County ARES set out to share some of the excitement with members of the Boy Scouts of America. The annual JOTA, or Jamboree on the Air, is a yearly affair held in cooperation with hams the world over. It has traditionally been held the third weekend in October at sites bearing ominous reminders of Field Day-like setups. This year's activity for us was held on a horse farm in Fountain Inn, SC. It was coordinated through much hard work of Sue Chism-N4ENX and made possible by the hams that gave up their Saturday to "share the magic". It is also very important to give many thanks to the man whom, in his words, "gave us the power"; that is, thanks to Greg Roane-KG4MFF who allowed us to borrow a 10kW generator, and to Charlie-WA4PKL who ran it out of the bed of his truck.

Plans were made to have 3 HF stations and 1 VHF, all with operators giving the Scouts opportunities to talk over the air to other scouts, and pose questions to amateur radio operators. John Chism-ND4N, Bill Chartier-N4IQ and Philip Yanov-K4PJY were the antenna raising crew who went down Friday before the event to survey the site and set up the antennas. Saturday of the event we tried to convene near 8:00 to give ourselves an hour to make the final preparations. Of course, Charlie-WA4PKL and I had to make a quick stop on the way to the event for a biscuit run. After the generator roared to life, we hit the airwaves.

In addition to talking *on* the air, we also tried to talk *into* the air, or more succinctly, right to the scouts. Visual aids constructed by Sue made the process of explaining licensing, SKYWARN, and QSL cards far easier. We were able to show progressions of QSL cards dating from 1939 and up!

As the day progressed, the Scouts seemed to arrive in waves. We also had the distinction of being located next to the Piedmont Model Rocket Society's launch range. It certainly did make the off time more interesting!

All things considered, we had a great time. Amateur radio was exposed, scouts were interested, and we

were able to practice field operations and setup procedures. Quite a few scouts showed a definite interest, and we even had one who stayed with us for the greater part of the day. The author is hoping to see some of these scouts showing up at a VE test session soon.

In closing, thanks need to go out to the following operators that participated in the event:

Sue-N4ENX	Mike-KG4KRW
John-ND4N	J.D. – KF4RVH
Bill-N4IQ	Janet-KF4REJ
Charlie-WA4PKL	Greg-KG4MFF
Philip-K4PJY	Bob-W4RGW

Events like this allow us to show our hobby for what it is, and give individuals the opportunity to express what interests them in the hobby. Amateur radio has so many facets it is hard to show the whole without getting bogged down in just one or two things that can be done with it. I end with a quote from Clinton DeSoto's Book *Calling CQ*. When the scouts, or anyone else for that matter, ask, "What's this ham radio thing all about?" I only hope I can put as well as he did.

“Fraternalism...good fellowship...ingenuity...public service...the power to annihilate distance and bring oneself closer to mankind throughout the world...the ability to build and create and put the products of one's hands to overcome the miles and hours...thrills and sport and adventure...

That's what amateur radio is like.”

(If you would like to see pictures from this event please go to the BRARS web page)

Future Meeting Topics

December – Election of Officers
Be ready to serve your Club.
This is a very important Meeting
And each of you should try to be
There.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.