



# MARS News



Mecklenburg  
Amateur Radio  
Society™

April 2015      Volume 66, Issue 4

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## PREZ SEZ - A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Andy Hawkins (K4GKK), President*

Hello Fellow Amateurs,

It must be an age thing, but these months seem to be zipping by! Before you know it, it'll be time for the next club meeting and the various public service events that are cropping up. As a reminder, we have a busy start to May with the MS Walk starting at Symphony Park on May 2nd and the American Diabetes Association's Tour De Cure cycle ride on May 3rd. May 7th brings us the CCTTA cycling time trials at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Please be sure to try and volunteer to help with at least one of these events.

We have just completed a very successful Charlotte Hamfest, which I mentioned in last month's newsletter. Now is the time to start thinking about next year's event. We are in need of a Hamfest Chairperson or Chairpersons to oversee the arrangements for next year's spectacular event. Most of the planning has been done by Bryan, K4NET and Mary, N4MH and the details stored in google documents for everyone to access. This should make it easier for whomever takes over this prestigious position to make next year's event an even bigger success. Please do not let this opportunity pass; we need to keep the momentum going and keep this

organization in the forefront of amateur radio in this area.

The next big event for the club is going to be the June Field Day event. This year we are going to try and set up in downtown Matthews (permission permitting). This also needs a lot of help and operators to keep us up and running for 24 hours. We will be having a discussion on this at the next meeting with signup sheets at the ready. This is an event where we normally incorporate our club picnic just prior to the start of the operating. This has proven to be a big success in the past and we hope to continue with the same this time. The reason for the change to the Matthews town center location is to try and promote the hobby with a little more visibility than we had with Wilgrove Park or the Boy Scout camp.

Some of the club members are still working on improvements to the MARS club room at the Red Cross on Park road. We still have a little ways to go, but we should end up with a more user friendly setup when it's finished. Work parties will be announced on the net and on the website when they are scheduled.

On the contest front, we managed a very respectable third for our class with our entry into the NC QSO Party. Well done to all involved. I am sure we will be participating in many more contests throughout the year.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

73 -  
Andy, K4GKK  
President MARS

### Upcoming Events

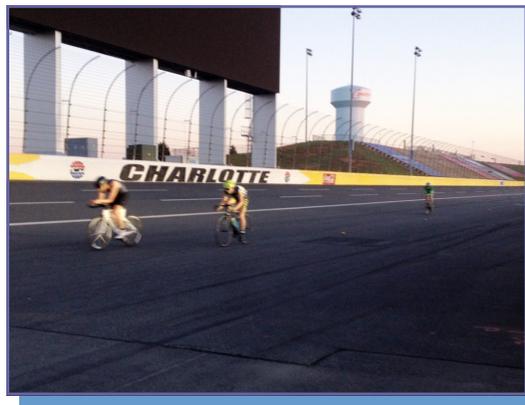
- ◆ MARS VE Test Session: Saturday, May 2nd, 2015
- ◆ MS Charlotte Walk: Saturday, May 2nd, 2015
- ◆ American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure: Sunday, May 3rd, 2015
- ◆ CCTTA Event: Thursday, May 7th, 2015

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS - MARY HUNT, N4MH



Mary Hunt (N4MH),  
Chairperson

We supported our first CCTTA Event for 2015 on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to the following club members who volunteered for this event: Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ; Dave Holbrook, KC4YPB; Auford Neal, KU4PF; and Stan Bagwell, AJ4ZL. We had 265 cyclists who participated in this event.



Other events we currently have scheduled for the year are as follows:

- ◆ April - September: **CCTTA Event** once a month at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. We run this event using a Simplex frequency and handhelds work great. The events normally start at 6:30 pm, so we need to be in place on the track by 6:00 pm. To get onto the track, enter through the in-field gate and a waiver has to be signed by everyone who enters.
  - ◇ May 7 (Thursday), June 3 (Wednesday), July 8 (Wednesday), August 5 (Wednesday – This is the Team Night Event), September 2 (Wednesday)
- ◆ May 2: **MS Charlotte Walk**. This event will start and end at Symphony Park. We will be looking for 2 rest stop volunteers, bicycle mobile and a few SAGS on the route. The sign up will be available shortly on [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com).
- ◆ May 3: American Diabetes Association **Tour de Cure Cycling Event**. This is around the Ballantyne area and this will be our second year supporting this event. The event will start and end at the Ballantyne Corporate Park. We will have four routes this year – a 10 miles route, 25 mile route, 43 mile route and 63 mile route. We will need rest stop volunteers and lots of SAG Vehicles. The sign-up sheet will be out on [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) very shortly.
- ◆ October 17 - 18: MS Society **Break Away to the Beach** at Sunset Beach, NC.
- ◆ October 24: **Cystic Fibrosis Cycling Event** in Waxhaw, NC.

*Please mark the above dates on your calendar and plan to come out and join us for the events!*

According to David K8IP and Paul K4VCF, they were given a day-pass by their spouses to attend the 43rd annual RARS Hamfest at the North Carolina Fairgrounds Jim Graham Building. Conventional wisdom says the wives probably wanted them out of the house for the day. David and Paul reported the hamfest had good traffic during the morning hours, which eased off in early afternoon before the 3:00 p.m. close. ARRL had great visibility, especially since the Raleigh hamfest was the state convention.

Our sources report that Paul spent his weekly allowance at the hamfest. His expenditures totaled one-dollar spent for fuses, not counting the \$10.00 he spent on two raffles. One of those raffles paid off. He won the Windows 8 Toshiba tablet raffled by CDXA. This was the second win of a raffle prize for Paul in seven months. He won a Baofeng (now Poofeng) HT raffled by UCARS at the Shelby Hamfest. He is considering buying one Lotto ticket - just one - to further test his luck.

Also seen at the RARS Hamfest, Don KJ4ATJ, Shelly KJ4ATK, Rodney W2ROD, and Mike N4ILK.

## JOIN US FOR DINNER!

Come join us for good food, fellowship, and conversation before the next club meeting! We meet around 5:30/6:00pm and every month is somewhere different - so you don't worry about your taste buds getting bored with the same food month after month! The restaurant location is always easy to find, and as an added benefit, you will have people to follow while heading to the meeting location.

This month, we will be meeting at **Tryon House Restaurant**. The address is *215 E Exmore St, Charlotte, NC 28217*.

If you have any questions, please contact any board member. We can't wait to see you there!

\*NOTE: To see where we will be meeting the rest of the year, you can visit the dinner page on our club website at [http://w4bfb.org/meeting\\_dinners.php](http://w4bfb.org/meeting_dinners.php)!\*

## METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET

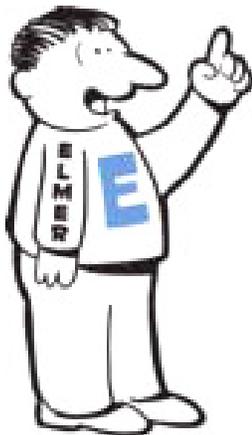


### Report for March:

Total Nets: 31  
 Total Time: 1,262 min  
 Check-ins: 854  
 Traffic: 5

## ASK YOUR ELMER

They say one of the best ways to learn something is to ask questions and some of your best resources are right within our club. These club members are willing to share their knowledge with you to help you become a better, more informed ham. Please email them with any questions!



Antennas	Bob Ferdinand, K9TMU; Bill Miller, KT4YE; Mike Wentz, KE4EHC
Digital Modes	Stan Bagwell, AJ4ZL
D-STAR	Eric Webner, K4FAN
ICOM Radios	
Kenwood Radios	Bob Ferdinand, K9TMU; Bryan Ferdinand, K4NET
Packet Radio	Bill Newsome, AC4ZR; Seth O'Neal, KF4LLF
Ten-Tec	George Hohas, W4GEH
Yaesu Radios	Mitch Barbato, KX4MB

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSION - MAY

There will be a MARS-sponsored exam session on Saturday, **May 2, 2015**. The test will be held at St. Giles Church at 2027 Emerywood Dr, Charlotte, NC 28210. The exam session will begin at 9:00am. Walk-ins are allowed at this session. If you have any questions about this session, please contact Steven Burke at [ki4faq@gmail.com](mailto:ki4faq@gmail.com).



## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSION - JUNE



Address:

YCARS Clubhouse  
2119 Squire Rd  
Rock Hill, SC 29730-7593

There is an upcoming license exam session in Rock Hill, SC on Saturday, **June 20, 2015**. This event will be sponsored by the YCARS club. Testing will begin at 9:30am and walk-ins are allowed.

Contact Information:

Jason R. Starnes  
(803) 493-4921  
[jrstarnes@gmail.com](mailto:jrstarnes@gmail.com)

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM SESSION - AUGUST



Address:

YCARS Clubhouse  
2119 Squire Rd  
Rock Hill, SC 29730-7593

There is an upcoming license exam session in Rock Hill, SC on Saturday, **August 15, 2015**. This event will be sponsored by the YCARS club. Testing will begin at 9:30am and walk-ins are allowed.

Contact Information:

Jason R. Starnes  
(803) 493-4921  
[jrstarnes@gmail.com](mailto:jrstarnes@gmail.com)



### CLUB MEETING

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™ club meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. Our meetings are held at St. Giles Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The address is 2027 Emerywood Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28210.

Everyone is welcome, even those who do not have their license yet! We love seeing new faces, so come out and join us and see what our club is all about!

**April Meeting Topic: Meteorologist Brad Panovich from NBC Charlotte**



The purpose of our newsletter is to serve as a resource for you to find the most up-to-date information as to what is going on within the club and the amateur radio world.

Our newsletter continues to grow each month, but with the start of a new year comes the need for fresh, new articles and stories to share with you! All articles, stories, and blurbs (whether they are 2 sentences or 20) are always welcomed and appreciated!

Please send us your most interesting finds or stories and we will publish them in an upcoming edition of *MARS News*. We look forward to seeing what you all come up with!

### ATTENTION CURRENT MARS CLUB MEMBERS:

If you are in need of a new or updated club name badge, please send a headshot and your call sign to Patrick, W4PFI and he will get one made for you and bring it to the a future club meeting for you.

Patrick's email address is [w4pfi@arrl.net](mailto:w4pfi@arrl.net). Thank you!



David Holbrook - **KC4YPB**  
 Rodney Moore - **W2ROD**  
 Tom Moore - **K4DRV**  
 William Newsome - **AC4ZR**  
 John Reid - **WA2HQL**

William Richarz - **N4DH**  
 Wayne Setzer - **WB4BXW**  
 Robert Teague - **WA4RT**  
 Eric Webner - **K4FAN**  
 Matt Young - **KK4HNU**



Fellow MARS members:

After 2 years of holding the position as "Newsletter Editor" for *MARS News*, I have decided that it is time to pass the position along to another eager fan of ham radio! I have greatly enjoyed the experience of being your editor and am thankful for being given the opportunity. This edition of *MARS News* is the last one I will be editing. I am sure that the next editor in line will produce wonderful work, and I am looking forward to seeing what fresh, new ideas they present to us!

With that being said, we are in search of someone to take over the position. The newsletter is currently being produced in Microsoft Publisher, but if the new editor has a different program they prefer to use, this could be discussed with the board. Members of the board (myself included) are willing to help in any way necessary to help the new editor become acquainted with their new position and make the transition as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions regarding what the position of "Newsletter Editor" entails, or you think you would be interested in the position, please contact anyone on the board and we will be happy to lead you in the right direction.

Again, thank you for letting me serve amateur radio in a such a special way through our club's newsletter!

73 - Stefanie, KK4LZR

**A note from Karl Bowman, W4CHX (ARRL NC Section Manager):**

Hello everyone! In light of his recent appointment as Vice Director Roanoke Division, Bill N2COP has resigned his position as Assistant Section Manager in the NC Section. Please join me in thanking Bill N2COP for his leadership and sage advice regarding NC Section matters. Fortunately, we will be interacting with Bill N2COP in the future in his new role as a Roanoke Division leader! Thanks, Bill!

All articles for the April newsletter must be submitted to the newsletter editor at [w4bfbeditor@w4fbf.org](mailto:w4bfbeditor@w4fbf.org) by **Saturday, May 9th!** Thanks for your cooperation.



## ASK AN ELMER

This idea was presented to the board at their April meeting and I've started to make arrangements with the Red Cross to do an Ask an Elmer session on Saturday, May 16. Several board members have volunteered to work this session presenting topics such as HT programming, antennas, contesting. In addition, we plan to have the club room operating to encourage folks to join MARS. I hope to have more info at the April MARS meeting.

This idea is based on a session recently held in Wilmington, NC. Technician classes are held a couple of times each year by Mark Hudson, N1KFC. A VE session at the end of the class generates several new Techs. As with other folks that do VE sessions, there is always the question about how to keep these new folks active and interested. Mark decided to bring some experienced hams together to create an Elmer session to help out the new hams.

A couple of rooms were reserved at the Cape Fear Hospital for a Saturday afternoon in March and several of us were invited to help out. The Wilmington VHF Association President, David McGough, KB4FXC, set up a soldering demo that included info on coax, PL259 connectors and Anderson Power Poles. Jeff Holmes, NC4JF gave a presentation on DMR digital voice and digital voice repeaters. I gave a presentation on Contesting and DX operations and talked about Cheap Yagis for VHF. Stephen Russ, NI4SR, who you may know from the MS-150 bike tour, set up a computer and programmed new ham's HTs. A question and answer session followed these activities. There were about 30 hams involved with 20 being new Techs from the last class. There were lots of questions and the attendees were very enthusiastic about the session. A session like this should be very helpful to new hams in our area as well.

*-Bill Turner, W4WNT*



# WE NEED YOU

### VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED!

**MARS News is in need of a new editor. After 2 years of hard work and dedication, Stefanie - KK4LZR is requesting to step down from the position of newsletter editor for the club. If you are interested in taking on this fun, creativity-driven position, please contact Stefanie or any other board member for more details!**



## WORKING ALL STATES WITH JT65

### Introduction

One of the things I like about amateur radio is that there is always a new mode or activity to try. In recent years I have heard about hams using JT65, one of the relatively new digital modes, for HF weak-signal work. Some hams have reported it has allowed them to make contacts even with very low power and simple antennas, and under poor band conditions. I decided to try JT65 in November 2014, and the results have been very interesting. I thought this would be a short-term experiment, but I have ended up using it regularly for several months now. In this article, I will describe what JT65 is, how I set up my station to use it and share some of my accomplishments while using it on the air.

### JT65 Background

The JT65 protocol was developed by Nobel Prize Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, and has allowed many VHF operators to explore meteor scatter and moonbounce (earth-moon-earth or EME) using far less power than before [1]. It has since become very popular on HF, even allowing operators with stations in antenna-restricted neighborhoods to work DX. It requires the use of a computer sound card and special software. The name comes from JT being the inventor's initials and 65 indicating that there are 65 distinct signal levels used to encode data).

If you hear JT65 on the air, it sounds like musical notes. It requires a bandwidth of just under 200 Hz, so it can be used in any part of the spectrum where traditional RTTY is permitted. There are standard operating frequencies designated on each of the bands (e.g. 3576 kHz on 80 meters), and most of the activity will be clustered around those frequencies [2].

There are several JT65 software packages available, such as WSJT, MAP65 and WSJT-X, and there are versions of these for Linux, FreeBSD, OS X and Windows [1]. WSJT-X was originally started as the "experimental" branch of WSJT; however, future plans call for WSJT and WSJT-X to be merged together.

JT65 is a low data rate mode, and as a result you should not expect to use it for casual conversation as you might with RTTY or PSK31. In most cases you are limited to 13 characters per transmission. However, this is not as bad of a limit as it sounds. Think about how clever some people are at making the most of the 8-character limit on license plates, and you will find that hams are even more clever with 13 characters to work with!

A typical QSO with standard messages looks like this:

```
CQ W4CC EM95
W4CC P52BFB PM29
P52BFB W4CC -05
W4CC P52BFB R-09
P52BFB W4CC RRR
W4CC P52BFB 73
P52BFB W4CC 73
```

In a typical QSO, stations will exchange grid squares, signal reports, an acknowledgement (RRR) and 73. It is common for the messages to be customized to say something like TU JOHN 73 GL or 5W VRT EQSL 73 instead of the standard 73 message.

### My Platform

I chose to use WSJT-X partly because it is easily available for OS X and partly because it interfaces well with my station. You can use JT65 with nearly any station capable of running PSK31. At my main station I am using an iMac computer and an Icom 7200 HF transceiver running less than 100 watts into either a vertical or a dipole, depending on the band. The 7200 has a built-in USB port so it only requires a single cable to my computer. I installed WSJT-X, configured it to connect to my Icom 7200 using CAT control for PTT and Frequency, and the external USB audio ports for sending and data, and I was ready to go.

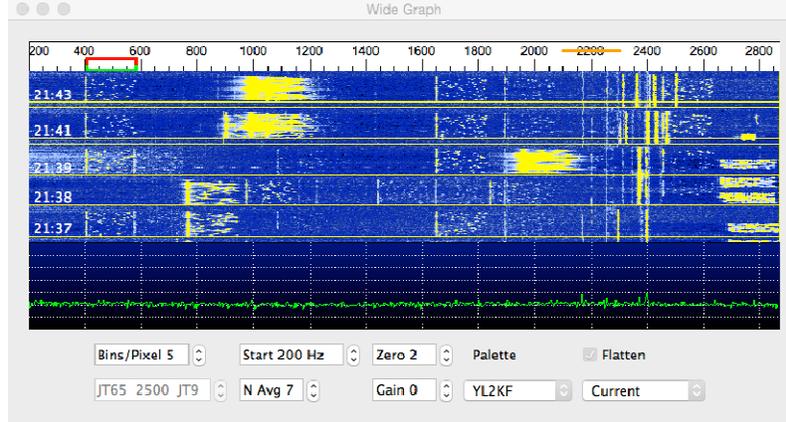


Figure 1: Wide Graph window, showing a waterfall display of signals.

WSJT-X displays two windows on my Mac (and presumably on the other platforms too). The Wide Graph window (Figure 1) shows a "waterfall" where you can see a visual representation of signals on the band. The main WSJT-X window (Figure 2) allows you to control your radio and shows band activity, which consists of one-line messages along with the time, signal strength and frequency offset.

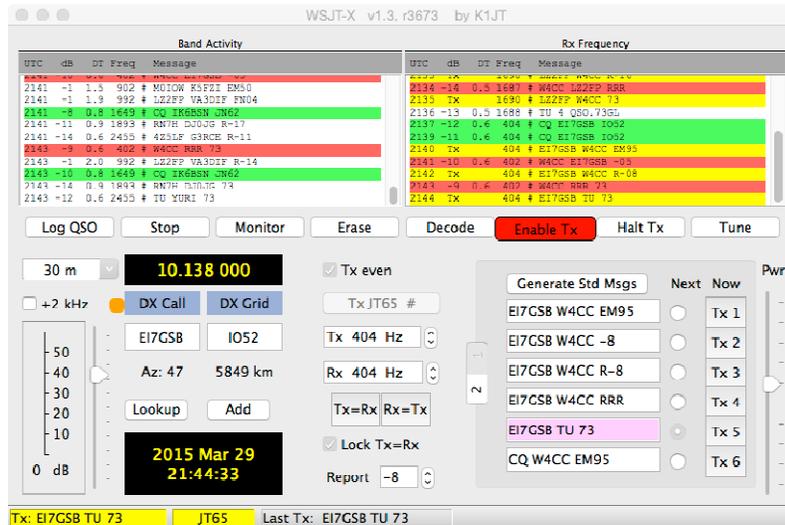


Figure 2: WSJT-X main window, used to send and receive messages.

### On-The-Air Results

On the first weekend after setting up WSJT-X, I started by monitoring activity on 30 meters (10.138 MHz). During the late afternoon the band was nearly full of signals, and I answered a few CQs and worked several European stations. I was able to work nearly everyone I could "see."

Later, I tried calling CQ. I think band conditions were good that day, because I called CQ and answered stations continuously for over two hours! Later on I would find out that there will be times when CQs go unanswered, but it was an impressive start.

I used JT65 casually for a couple of months, trying it on each HF band. An interesting note is that in JT65 the signal strength is computed automatically. By working many stations on the same band, I could compare signal reports sent and received to see how my antenna was doing on that band. This is more useful than just comparing signal reports for a single contact, which might be naturally far apart if the other station was running a directional antenna or very low or high power. For example, I found that on 17m I get reports that are on average about 6 dB less than reports I send. This tells me that I need to improve my antenna on that band.

In January I noticed that I had 42 states confirmed in Logbook of The World (LoTW) using JT65. At that point I just had to see if I could work the remaining 8! I started looking for those 8 states and was able to find most of them quickly. On February 10th I confirmed my last state on JT65, North Dakota (Stephen, K0STK on 10 meters), having worked him just four days prior and just over three months after starting to use JT65.

At this point in early April, I have confirmed all 50 states and 72 countries on JT65. I have worked Australia on 80 meters, which I have been trying to do on CW for quite a while but never quite got through. I have worked Antarctica, Gabon, Malta, Samoa, United Arab Emirates, Liechtenstein and many others.

My adventures with JT65 remind me of the things I find to be special about amateur radio. There are so many different ways in which we can find enjoyment from the use of radio and the people we meet by doing that. Very few other hobbies give you the ability to use your interest in so many different ways; whether it is providing a public service, enjoying worldwide friendships or exploring science and technology. I think that diversity is what keeps most of us interested for the rest of our lives once we get started.

#### References

- [1] WSJT Home Page, <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>  
 [2] JT65-HF Frequency Information, <http://hfink.com/jt65/>

-Written by: John Covington, W4CC



## MARS MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 31, 2015

The club's first CCTTA event will be tomorrow night at 6:30pm. We will use a 440 simplex frequency. This is a monthly event held through September. At the end of the season, CCTTA will give us a \$1,000 donation to club. On May 2nd we will be helping at the MS Charlotte Walk in the South Park area; it will start and finish at Symphony Park. We need volunteers for 2 rest stops, SAG vehicles, and a couple bicycle mobiles. This event runs from 9am-12pm. On the following day, we will be supporting the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure event. We will need volunteers for 7 rest stops as well as SAG vehicles.

Patrick is still making badges for club members. These badges have the club logo, member photo, member name, and member call sign on them. If you are interested in getting a badge, please have Patrick take your photo at a club meeting or email him a headshot.

On March 7th & 8th, there was an ARES drill. John White, Steven Burke, Cliff Greene, and Tony Lewis were present. The event was scheduled to simulate that the EOC was damaged. There were about 50 stations that checked in. This was a successful event – thank you to all who participated.

Budget reports are due to the board, in writing, by April 30th to be considered for the new fiscal year. If we do not receive anything, we will assume you have no budget request. Even those who currently have a request in for this year need to turn in a request for the next year.

Today was an official business meeting per the bylaws; Tom presented the club's balance sheet as of March 31, 2015. He then showed the budget as it stands right now. We are over the projected income for the year.

Eric Webner and Dave Tyndell led a presentation on Antennas and Antenna Theory. They started out explaining different types of antennas that can be used on a HT. They then talked about small antennas that can be used in your attic or outside your house. They also talked about antennas that you put on your roof or on a tower. They showed pictures and diagrams of many of the antennas and even talked about how to build some of the antennas. There were a couple of antennas brought in for "show and tell" so we could see them in person. Many of the basic vocabulary terms were explained to help beginners better understand the world of antennas. We only got through half of the presentation because they had so much information to share – keep tuned for the 2nd half of their presentation. They will be discussing directional antennas and mobile HF antennas, as well as how to plan on purchasing and finding the right antenna for your needs. Thank you for the great presentation, gentlemen!

The club raffled off A Knights Gift Pack (T-shirt and hat), 2 band charts, an antenna handbook, and a Slim Jim antenna made by Bob Ferdinand.

Submitted by: Stefanie, KK4LZR  
 MARS Secretary/Newsletter Editor



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 7, 2015

**Treasurer Report:** Tom presented the budget ending March 31, 2015. He gave reminder that all budget requests are due by the end of this month. The board approved a donation of \$50 to N3FJP for the software that we use and he updates for us each year.

**VP Report:** There are plans to have Brad Panovich from NBC Charlotte to come and speak to the club at the end of this month. We will also touch on Field Day. The primary presentation on Field Day will be in May, with a follow-up in June. There will be sign-up sheets available at this meeting for people to say what time frame they are planning to operate at Field Day. There will also be sign-up sheets to order ARRL Field Day t-shirts through the club. Money will be due by the end of the month. More information will be communicated through email.

**Secretary Report:** We currently have 114 regular members, 3 Honorary Life members, 5 Life members. All members who have not renewed their membership for the 2015 year have been removed from the roster and mailing lists and have received notification of this.

### Committee Reports:

**Public Service:** There are two events going on the beginning of May – the MS Walk in South Park and the American Diabetes Association bike event. These events will take place on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3. CCTA time trial events are underway. There were not quite enough volunteers at the last event, so if you are interested in helping at the next event, please contact Mary.

**Repeater:** The PA on the 146.94 repeater went down within the last couple weeks. Bryan has informed the board that he is willing to continue being the Repeater Committee chairman for the next 6 months and will then reevaluate his situation. Bill Newsome gave an update on packet: the antenna and coax are installed on the tower for the Anderson Mountain site. These materials and labor were donated to the club by the contractor that did the work for us. Mitch proposed a \$50 donation to the crew for the work they did for us. Patrick seconded and the board approved.

**Equipment:** There was some discussion about replacing some of the radios and power supplies currently in the club room – one of those being the Orion. There was a motion made to sell the Orion Omni 565, a Hercules amp, a tuner, and a power supply together as a package deal on the CDXA BoneYard website for \$2,450. Paul seconded and the board approved. This

information will be provided to Wayne to host on the website. We are then going to make an offer to purchase a new Ten-Tec radio to replace the radio we sell. We will plan a work party for the clubroom to take another look at the coax and antennas on the roof to see what needs to be replaced/purchased to get the new stations organized and up and running.

**Grants/Resources:** Paul and Andy are still working on drawing up a mission statement for the club. This will be used on forms requesting donations to the club with our 501(c)(3) status. Andy is going to speak with George to see if he would like to head up a Development Committee to help us get our name out there for potential donations.

**Field Day:** Paul is still waiting to get in touch with the gentleman in charge of letting us know if we can use the space in Downtown Matthews that we are looking to use. He should have an update within the next two weeks. Planning is underway for the details of the event and will be discussed at the next two club meetings as details become available.

**Hamfest:** We are in need of a new Hamfest Committee chairman, as well as a co-chairman, for the 2016 Hamfest. Bryan and Mary are not interested in helping next year. If we are interested in having an antenna workshop again at next year's Hamfest, we will need to find someone else to be in charge of that as well as Bob is not going to be able to help next year.

### New Business:

- Bill Turner will be hosting an Elmer event on Saturday, May 16th from 1pm-4pm. This event will most likely take place at the Red Cross. If that falls through, the church where we have our monthly club meetings is a good backup location.
- Stefanie informed the board that she will be passing along the position of newsletter editor. We will be looking for someone to take over this position in the next couple of months.

Submitted by: Stefanie, KK4LZR  
MARS Secretary/Newsletter Editor

## METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET™

### Net Controllers

Sunday: Tim, N4IB  
 Monday: Rodney, W2ROD  
 Tuesday: Stan, AJ4ZL  
 Wednesday: Dave, KJ4SJV  
 Thursday: Charles, KK4HOK  
 Friday: Don, KJ4ATJ  
 Saturday: John, WB2NHQ

Join us for the Metrolina 2-meter Emergency Net™ every night at 9:00 P.M.! The primary frequency is our 146.94 repeater and the alternate backups are our 145.29 repeater or 146.52 simplex.

### Alternate Net Controllers

Brandon, KM4FLU  
 Jon, KK4ZIZ  
 Jose, KC9OZE  
 Marshall, KK4OHF  
 Mike, KK4JFM  
 Paul, K4VCF  
 Steven, KI4FAQ

\*If you are interested in becoming an alternate net controller, please contact our Net Manager (John White) through email at [wb2nhq@arrl.net](mailto:wb2nhq@arrl.net) or at [M2MENNetManager@W4BFB.org](mailto:M2MENNetManager@W4BFB.org).



JOIN US ON  
 THE AIR...  
 WE'D LOVE  
 TO HEAR  
 FROM YOU!

## OTHER LOCAL NETS

### Sunday

Mecklenburg Simplex Net,  
 8:30pm (147.505)

### Wednesday

Mecklenburg ARES Net,  
 7:30pm (146.94- PL 118.8)  
 Union County Skywarn Net,  
 8:30pm (145.39- PL 94.8)

### Thursday

UCARS 2m Net, 8:00pm  
 (145.390- PL 94.8)  
 (444.425+ PL 94.8)

### Saturday

Union County ARES Net,  
 8:00pm (145.39- PL 94.8)  
 The Dixie Radio Pirates  
 Weekly Net, 8:30pm  
 (145.410- PL 136.5)

### Nightly

Piedmont Emergency  
 Training Net, 8:00pm  
 (145.350- PL 131.8)  
 The Piedmont Spotter  
 Group Net, 8:00pm  
 (145.230- PL 118.8)  
 Rock Hill Net, 8:30pm  
 (147.030+ PL 88.5)

## ECHOLINK/PACKET RADIO NODES

**EchoLink:** EchoLink is available for download on your computer through [www.echolink.org](http://www.echolink.org), as well as for use on your smartphone (Android and Apple iPhone) through the app store. To access our repeaters, connect to **K4NET-L** or node number **625440**.

### Packet Radio:

W4BFB & Local 1200 Baud Packet Radio Frequencies:  
 145.010 / 145.090 / 223.400 / 446.500  
 W4BFB-9 = Charlotte BBS / W4BFB-2 = World Wide Chatroom  
 (All W4BFB packet nodes have links to all listed frequencies)  
 More info: <http://www.w4bfb.org/packet.php>



EchoLink application on a smartphone.



# Ham Happenings

## May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 MS Charlotte Walk MARS VE Test Session
3 Tour de Cure	4	5 MARS Board Meeting 7:00pm	6	7 CCTA Time Trial Event	8	9
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16 W4WNT's Elmer Event
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 	26 MARS Club Meeting 7:30pm	27	28	29	30

See more at <http://w4bfb.org/calendar>

# Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society™

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society  
ATTN: Stefanie Comerford  
2425 Park Rd, Room 023  
Charlotte, NC 28203

Phone (Call or Text): (704) 750-9QSO  
Email: [w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4bfbeditor@w4bfb.org)



**Stefanie Comerford**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**KK4LZR**



Visit us on the Web!  
[www.w4bfb.org](http://www.w4bfb.org)

## Club Repeaters

Input	Output	Offset (KHz)	Tone
146.34	146.94	-600	118.8
144.69	145.29	-600	118.8
144.63	145.23	-600	118.8
222.8	224.4	-1600	None
449.6	444.6	+5000	118.8

## Club Officers & Board of Directors

### President

Andy Hawkins, K4GKK  
[k4gkk@w4bfb.org](mailto:k4gkk@w4bfb.org)

### Vice President

Mitch Barbato, KX4MB  
[kx4mb@w4bfb.org](mailto:kx4mb@w4bfb.org)

### Secretary

Stefanie Comerford, KK4LZR  
[kk4lzl@w4bfb.org](mailto:kk4lzl@w4bfb.org)

### Treasurer

Tom Hunt, KA3VVJ  
[ka3vvj@w4bfb.org](mailto:ka3vvj@w4bfb.org)

### Directors

Charles Comerford, KK4HOK  
[kk4hok@w4bfb.org](mailto:kk4hok@w4bfb.org)

Patrick Fink, W4PFI  
[w4pfi@w4bfb.org](mailto:w4pfi@w4bfb.org)

Paul Jones, K4VCF  
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John White, WB2NHQ  
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