

WPARC News

W E S T E R N P I E D M O N T A M A T E U R R A D I O C L U B

CLUB OFFICERS

- President —**
Greg Branch
- Vice-President—**
William (Lefty) Brooks
- Secretary—**
Bill Crutchfield
- Treasurer—**
Sybil Stephens

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The Club's Class Paid Off!

The club put together a Technician class that started in late October of this year. The class had seven to register. After the second week we were down to three dedicated students eagerly awaiting to obtain their HAM ticket. After several weeks of dedication on Friday nights and lots of hard work and studying these three passed their test on Saturday December 3rd, Scott Black (KI4MSY), Lea-Ann Branch (KI4MSW) and Jim Russell (KI4MSZ). The call that slipped in between these was KI4MSX by Ryan Wheeler

from Marion and we would also like to congratulate him as well. Remember to make them feel right at home when you hear them on the air.



Pictured left to right: Scott Black, Lea-Ann Branch, and Jim Russell

REPEATER UPDATE !

At the November meeting, concerns about the status of the clubs repeater were brought up for discussion. The club members voted to pursue different avenues for the club repeater.

Also at the meeting the club decided we needed to look at the Club's trustee. It was agreed that the trustee needed to be more involved with club functions as well as available to address the repeater at any given time. The club votedcontinued page 5

BARES



Burke County
Amateur Radio
Emergency Service

ARES has been reestablished in Burke County! After several dormant years, Burke County ARES is back in session. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every

licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible for membership in the ARES. The only qualification, other than possession of an Amateur Radio license, is a sincere desire to serve. Because ARES is an amateur service, only amateurs are eligible for membership. The

possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership. If you wish to become a member of ARES please contact the Burke County Emergency Coordinator Greg Branch by phone at 828-475-4181, by e-mail at ki4gzd@hotmail.com or go to www.ki4gzd.com/ARES/register.html

CLUB MEMEBERS

AD4TY, Charles Martin

KD4VWV, Chris Poteet

KE4DCR, Ira Smith

K4KCW, Orville Allen Jr.

KE4PNL, Richard Mangum

KF4ILD, Terry Mangum

KE4NN, Roy Cox

AE4MG, Dr. Barbara Beier

NJ4K, Jerry Miller

KG4GSV, William Barr

AE4LB, Alvin Smith

KG4CDB, Paul Jordan

AA4GR, William Faulkner

WB4WXU, Carol Carter

KI4MSY, Scott Black

KI4MSZ, Jim Russell

W4BCM, Wilford Wolfgang

AF4BA, Charles Barnhardt

KO4GZ, Charles Harding

KD4WV, Dorothy Harding

KF4KQV, Dave Curry Jr.

KF4HFJ, Dave Curry Sr.

KU4JA, John Berry

W4TMU, Doug Winkler

KF4RHH, Sybil Stephens

WA4OBC, Clyde Shook

W0TED, Ted Summers

KI4GZD, Greg Branch

KI4MSW, Lea-Ann Branch

K4OLC, Lin Couch

KK4NI, Don Beam

KF4TMM, Bill Crutchfield

WA4HWP, James C. Reavis

KC4QPR, Tom Taylor

KC4FM, Gene Fulbright

K4ICU, Harriet Fulbright

KG4HJV, Robert Beam

KG4HJX, Jan Beam

KF4IHR, David Wortman

Members were as of publishing of this newsletter. If you have paid your dues to Sybil and you are not on this list please let me know so I can fix it.

PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO ME ki4gzd@hotmail.com IF YOU HAVE ONE SO I CAN SEND THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOU VIA E-MAIL.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

THE FARC SWAPFEST -

Winston Salem - Saturday,
January 7, 7AM-12 Noon
[http://www.w4nc.com/
pages/3/index.htm](http://www.w4nc.com/pages/3/index.htm)

ELKIN HAMFEST-

Elkin, NC Hamfest
February sometime?
Webpage unknown?
Will add more info as available

CHARLOTTE HAMFEST-

March 12 & 13
[http://www.w4bfb.org/
hamfest2005/hamfest.html](http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest2005/hamfest.html)

CATAWBA VALLEY HAMFEST -

Put on by The McDowell, West-
ern Piedmont and Lenoir Ama-
teur Radio Clubs
Morganton - April 15th
<http://www.cvhamfest.com/>

DAYTON HAMVENTION-

Dayton, Ohio -
LARGEST IN THE
WORLD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
May 19, 20, & 21, 2006
<http://www.hamvention.org/>

SALISBURY FIRECRACKER HAMFEST-

Salisbury, North Carolina
Saturday July 8, 2006
[http://home.carolina.rr.com/
rarsnet/w4exu/firecracker.htm](http://home.carolina.rr.com/rarsnet/w4exu/firecracker.htm)

WESTERN CAROLINA HAM- FEST-

Asheville- July 30th
[http://www.wcars.org/
hamfest/index.htm](http://www.wcars.org/hamfest/index.htm)

SHELBY HAMFEST -

Probably Sept 2nd and 3rd
<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/>
GRANDDADDY OF THEM ALL!
Usually labor day weekend
around Sept 1st. Try
to give you more information
when it gets here.

TEN-TEC FACTORY HAMFEST-

Fri. Sept. 30 and Sat. Oct. 1
[http://radio.tentec.com/
Hamfest](http://radio.tentec.com/Hamfest)

ROCK HILL HAMFEST-

Rock Hill, SC
October 6th
[http://
www.rockhillhamfest.com/](http://www.rockhillhamfest.com/)

MYRTLE BEACHFEST

Myrtle Beach
November 11th
<http://www.w4gs.org/>

GASTONIA HAMFEST

Gastonia Amateur Radio Club -
December 2nd
[http://www.gaarc.com/
swapfest/index.htm](http://www.gaarc.com/swapfest/index.htm)

Thanks to Rick Tilton (N4WYK)
for this list. I have edited it
somewhat and will try to keep it
up to date as more information
comes available. If you have
anymore info please let me
know. ki4gzd@hotmail.com


MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues for the Western Piedmont Amateur Radio Club are just \$18 for the year with a Family Membership at \$24.00. Associate member dues are only \$12.00 and do not need to hold an Amateur Radio Operator License but carry no voting rights. The club's fiscal year is from January 1st through December 31st. Our Mailing address is:

Western Piedmont ARC
1641 N.C. Hwy. 181
Morganton, NC, 28655

SOUTHEASTERN VHFS CONFERENCE IN APRIL 2006

And the Southeastern VHF Society is calling for the submission of papers and presentations for the upcoming 10th annual conference. It will be held on April 28th and 29th 2006 in Greenville, South Carolina. Papers and presentations can be on a wide variety of the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and Micro-wave weak signal amateur radio. This includes such special interests as transmitters, receivers, preamps, test gear, contesting, DX operations, rover stations and anything else found on the VHF and UHF bands other than routine repeater and FM operations. The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is March 3, 2006 with all submissions in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat file formats. Questions, comments and submissions go to Jim Worsham, W4KXY at 4kxy@bellsouth.net. Papers and presentations will be published in bound proceedings by the ARRL. (VHF Reflector)



There will be a few in the area going to the Conference this year, so if you are interested you may want to keep that in mind.

Also coming up **January 21-23** is the January VHF Contest for those interested in participating get with Greg (K14GZD).

WHERE DO I SEND MY DUES?

If you are wondering where to send your dues, you still send those dues to Sybil Stephens our Treasurer.

Sybil Stephens
1641 N.C. Hwy. 181
Morganton, NC 28655

Catawba Valley Hamfest

The Catawba Valley Hamfest Committee meet in December and as always in December there are plenty things to iron out, one being election of officers. Don Beam was re-elected as the Hamfest Chairman, Nathan Jaynes as Vice-Chair, Michael Fox as Dealer-Chair, Sybil Stephens as Treasurer and Pat Duckworth as Secretary. Also at this meeting the Prizes were decided and this year we will offer the largest Grand Prize that has ever been offered. This year a 746 Pro with a power supply has been decided as the Grand Prize along with many other prizes as well. The Hamfest continues to grow so please come out and support our local Hamfest and let's get the word out about the Grand Prize and how great our Hamfest is.

April 15, 2006

The Burke County Fairgrounds

KIDS DAY



Each year hams reserve two days for the young people in their neighborhood to show them the magic of amateur radio. With the era of computers, cell phones and video games it is getting harder to get young people involved in amateur radio. This year I encourage the club to participate in both

these Kids Day to show them how much fun Ham Radio really is. With the two days set aside just for the kids, one is slated for Sunday, **January 8th**.

The Kids Day rules are simple. From 1800 to 2400 U-T-C on January 8th and again on June 17th, you welcome some local kids to your QTH or

go out to where they are with your portable gear. Then you call CQ Kids Day and make contact with whomever responds. And here's the important part: You then let the youngsters at both ends of the QSO talk with one another while you keep legal control over your station.

A suggested contact exchange is each child's name, age, location and favorite color, but there is no hard or fast rule. In recent years many kids we have listened in on have brought up their favorite music group or a movie that they have seen. Its really up to them.

REPEATER UPDATE CONTINUED !!

(Continued from Page 1)

Gene Fulbright (KC4FM) as the clubs new Club trustee. At the December meeting, the club voted to move the repeater to the tower of Steve Cardwell as Steve has offered placement of the Club's entire repeater system on his 200ft tower and in

his building at no charge to the club. The tower is 200ft as stated earlier with a nice building with a generator backup. The club also agreed to pursue the fire service building as a back-up plan for the future as it's the clubs goal to have it's

own building secured for many years to come. At our January meeting we will be finalizing the moving arrangements.

If you have any question please feel free to contact Greg at ki4gzd@hotmail.com

HOUSE AND SENATE SET DIGITAL TV CHANGEOVER DATE

The House of Representatives has backed a plan to require television broadcasters to switch to all-digital transmissions by Dec. 31, 2008, three months earlier than they would have to under provisions of a Senate bill. House lawmakers have also voted to set aside \$830 million to help millions of Americans with older, analog TV sets pay for converter boxes so they'll continue to get service in the digital era. Differences in both bills will have to be worked out by House and Senate negotiators. About 21 million households rely on free, over-the-air TV and will need the converter to keep receiving their television service after the switch to all-digital. Cable and satellite customers would not be affected. (Published reports)

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: WHEN TO CONTACT THE ISS

If you are out looking for a contact with the ham radio crew on the International Space Station, PDORKC has some advice for you on when best to try. According to Cor, there are several good times that will afford you the best chance to make a voice contact on 2 meter FM. These do include some periods during the astronaut crews' normal work from 19:30 until 22:00 UTC. Also, try 12:00 to 1500 UTC. That's when Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR might operate while having a meal break. He's usually off eating for about an hour during that two hour period. And last, don't forget to listen in over the weekends. That's when the crew has fewer duties and you might have a good chance for a contact from 7:00 until 23:00 UTC. All voice contacts use a downlink frequency of 145.80 MHz narrowband FM. Your transmit frequency to the ISS varies depending where in the world that you live. More information regarding the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station and how it operates is on-line at www.rac.ca/ariss (PDORKC)

Wednesday Night Net Schedule

January

- 4 Greg (KI4GZD)
- 11 Sybil (KF4RHH)
- 18 Clyde (WA4OBC)
- 25 Jim (WA4HWP)

February

- 1 Ray (KA4KRZ)
- 8 Charlie (AF4BA)
- 15 Charlie (AD4TY)
- 22 Uncle Willie (WA4RVD)

March

- 1 Greg (KI4GZD)
- 8 Sybil (KF4RHH)
- 15 Clyde (WA4OBC)
- 22 Jim (WA4HWP)
- 29 Chris (KD4VWV)

April

- 5 Ray (KA4KRZ)
- 12 Charlie (AF4BA)
- 19 Charlie (AD4TY)
- 26 Uncle Willie (WA4RVD)

Local Nets, Times, and local frequencies

Daily: WPARC Good Morning Net 9 AM 147.150 +	147.360(+) Boone	Hendersonville 147.285(+)
Monday: 10 Meter Grit Net 8 PM 28.377	145.370(-) N. Wilkesboro	Hickory 146.850(-)
Tuesday: 40 Meter Grit Net 8 PM 7.250	146.820(-) Wilkesboro	Lenoir 147.195(+)
Marion ARS 8:30 PM 146.985 -	145.350(-) Charlotte (Skywarn)	Marion 146.985(-) 118.8
Shelby ARC 8:30 PM 147.345+	147.105(+) Hendersonville	Shelby 146.880
Wednesday: WPARC VHF Net 9 PM 147.150+	442.300(+) Morganton Walker Top (Weather Radio)	Shelby 147.345(+)
Friday: Grit Net 8 PM 147.150+	Asheville 146.910(-) 141.3	Spruce Pine 146.895 (+)
Saturday: 6600 Net (Mt. Mitchell) 9 PM 145.190-	Bakersville 145.310(-)	Tri-States/Brevard 147.030(+)
Sunday: Alexander County ARES/RACES 9 PM 441.625	Brevard 147.135(+)	Asheville 444.900
Caldwell CARES Net 8:30 PM 147.330+	Bristol, TN 146.760(-)	Bakersville 442.750
	Brumley Mt., TN 146.610-	Brevard 442.850

Local Repeaters

56.630(-) 100Hz Mount Mitchell	Burnsville 147.375+	Bristol, TN 444.5
53.390(-) 100Hz West Jefferson	Charlotte 145.35(-)	Burnsville 443.650
147.150(+) WPARC Morganton High Peak	Crowder's Mt. 145.45(-)	Charlotte 445.675
145.210(-) 94.8 Morganton High Peak	Forest City 147.24(+) 123	Forest City 444.4
146.745(-) Morganton Walker Top	Gastonia 146.805(-)	Hendersonville 442.45
147.330(+) 141.3 Lenoir Hibriten Mtn.	Green Knob 146.955(-) 127.3	Hickory 444.000
145.190(-) Mount Mitchell	Green Mountain 145.430(-)	
	Hendersonville 145.27(-)	

If you have additions and/or corrections please send to Greg (ki4gzd@hotmail.com) so he can keep the list up to date.

January Meeting

Our **January meeting will be a work session meeting to tie up the loose ends on the repeater move.**

Also, look for a few new programs in 2006 including ARES, Kit Building EchoLink and more.

WWW.WPARC.COM

WESTERN PIEDMONT
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB

The WPARC Newsletter
2161 Millstone Drive
Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: 828-475-4181
E-mail: ki4gzd@hotmail.com

Club Meeting **January 9th**
Come Join Us to start out **2006** right!

BRING A FRIEND or PROSPECT!!

This is the perfect opportunity to invite
a friend a prospect or anybody to our
club meetings to see what ham radio
is all about.

HTTP://WWW.WPARC.COM

Upcoming events:

RTTY Contest

January 7-8

Kids Day

January 8

Club Meeting

January 9

Marion VE Test Session

January 1

January VHF Contest

January 21-23

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