

# 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—	
Vice-President—	
Greg Branch	
Secretary—	
William Brooks	
Treasurer—	
Sybil Stephens	
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	

## Time Has Come and went and votes have been cast for your new club officers

Your new club officers were voted on at the November meeting even though some people would think it's like pulling teeth. Your new President for 2006 is Greg Branch, KI4GZD. Greg served as Vice-President in 2005. William "Lefty" Brooks was voted as Vice-President and he served as club Secretary in 2005. Bill Crutchfield was voted as Secretary and Sybil Stephens as Treasurer. We all are looking forward to the new year and all the things the Western Piedmont Amateur Radio Club hopes to accomplish.

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## Our Annual Christmas dinner !

At the November meeting the club decided on the December Christmas Dinner to fellowship and celebrate the Christmas holiday. The eating get together will be held at The Burke County Agricultural Building, (Our usual meeting place) Thursday, December 15th at 7pm. The club will be providing the meats, drinks, silverware,

etc. Bring a covered dish with food if you can, but if you can't bring anything that'll be ok, just bring yourself and your family.



# 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 Greg Branch by phone at 828-475-4181, by e-mail at [ki4gzd@hotmail.com](mailto:ki4gzd@hotmail.com) or go to [www.ki4gzd.com/ARES/register.html](http://www.ki4gzd.com/ARES/register.html)

## C L U B M E M B E R S

AA4GR, William Faulkner

KE4QNQ, Lori Faulkner

AD4TY, Charles Martin

KD4VWV, Chris Poteet

KE4DCR, Ira Smith

KF4IHR, David Wortman

K4KCW, Orville Allen Jr.

KE4PNL, Richard Mangum

KF4ILD, Terry Mangum

KK4NI, Don Beam

AE4VG, Mark Berry

KF4QFN, Gary Bennett

W4DUB, William C Richard

KE4NN, Roy Cox

W4BHS, Blake Stephens Jr.

AE4MG, Dr. Barbara Beier

NJ4K, Jerry Miller

KG4GSV, William Barr

AE4LB, Alvin Smith

KG4CDB, Paul Jordan

W4BCM, Wilford Wolfgang

AF4BA, Charles Barnhardt

KO4GZ, Charles Harding

KD4WYV, Dorothy Harding

KF4KQV, Dave Curry Jr.

KF4HFJ, Dave Curry Sr.

KU4JA, John Berry

W4TMU, Doug Winkler

KD4YTU, Gary Suddreth

NOWKU, Bruce Prince

WA4FMO, Sherry Houser

KF4RHH, Sybil Stephens

KE4RCF, Nathan Jaynes

KG4DXL, Joey Clark

KE4SZE, Ken Riddick

WB4WXU, Carroll Carter

KF4VRB, Mark Houser

WA4OBC, Clyde Shook

WOTED, Ted Summers

WA4RVD, Willie C. Harris

KI4GZD, Greg Branch

KF4TMM, Bill Crutchfield

KE4UXF, William Brooks Jr.

WA4HWP, James C. Reavis

WA4NDF, Dave H. Harris

KC4QPR, Tom Taylor

KC4FM, Gene Fulbright

K4ICU, Harriet Fulbright

KG4HJV, Robert Beam

KG4HJX, Jan Beam

**PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO ME [ki4gzd@hotmail.com](mailto:ki4gzd@hotmail.com) IF YOU HAVE ONE SO I CAN SEND THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOU VIA E-MAIL.**

## A FEW EMERGENCY STATION SETUP THOUGHTS

Let's all hope we never have to use such a station but if we ever are in need, are we ready? Walk into the average Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or club station and one is often confronted with a radio installation more suited to DX contesting or casual operating other than emergency communications. In some installations this is meant but in the case that it's not, the radio equipment is the focal point of the installation, consuming significant desk space, while at the same time, some basic "traffic handling" tools are often overlooked. Of course, this situation is to be expected as 90 percent or more of our time as radio amateurs is typically spent having fun! So, what type of radio? When selecting communications equipment for an EOC or club station, one should select equipment that offers good performance with a minimum number of "bells and whistles." In most emergencies, one places a transceiver on a particular frequency for long periods of time. Furthermore, newer radios, with complex "menu-driven" controls are difficult to master in a short pe-

riod of time. As such, operators arriving from outside the area to assist or even local operators who may use the radio only a few times a year during drills or exercises, may find it difficult to learn or "relearn" a complex menu structure.

Computers and Peripherals. The computer is an integral part of many modern communications centers, whether as part of a digital communications system or a simple administrative tool for transcribing messages and keeping radio logs. Regardless of the computer application, it is important to remember these basic rules:

1. Software should be simple so that most operators are at least minimally familiar with a particular application. This again minimizes the "learning curve" for operators arriving on-scene.
2. A computer is worthless without a printer. Be sure to have extra paper, printer cartridges and the like on-hand. A "generic" printer driver should be resident on the computer hard-drive so that any available

printer can be pressed into service for basic text printing in the event of a primary printer failure.

3. Be sure the computer has a floppy disk drive and CD-ROM drive, which permits served agency officials to prepare a document on their own laptop and then provide it to you on disk for up-load and transmission to a nearby facility.

The most important thing to remember, if you are setting up a emergency station, try to think of every possible thing because you will not be there at all times and the easier it is to operate the equipment the easier it will be to recruit volunteers when the need arises. This is just some food for thought.

Also, it's also a good time to inspect your antennas, feed lines and other equipment before it gets really cold.

Taken from NREN Training Topic. More in next months newsletter.

## ARRL-NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY IS DECEMBER 3

The seventh annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>>special event will take place Saturday, December 3, from 0000 until 2400 UTC (ie, starting Friday, December 2 in US time zones). Co-sponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL, SKYWARN Recognition Day is the Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep communities safe. During this 24-hour special event, teams of radio amateurs set up stations at local NWS offices to contact other hams across the US and around the world.

"Ham radio operators volunteering as storm spotters are an extremely valuable asset to National Weather Service operations since they are cross-trained in both communications and severe storm recognition," says SRD organizer Scott Mentzer, NOQE, the Meteorologist-In-Charge at the Goodland, Kansas, NWS office, home of WXOGLD.

Last year, 114 NWS offices participated in SRD, logging more than 15,000 QSOs during the 24-hour event, says David Floyd, N5DBZ, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Goodland. The object is for amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many

NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm. Contacts via repeaters and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes, such as EchoLink and IRLP also welcome.

Operators exchange call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of their weather, such as "sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc.

According to Floyd, in typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather, direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices provides critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. "Spotter reports of hail size, wind damage and surface-based rotation in real time greatly assist the radar warning operator, since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays," he says. The result may be a more strongly worded statement to convey greater urgency or issue a tornado warning a few minutes earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

"While NWS offices utilize the real-time reporting of severe weather events to assist in warning operations, hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of natural disasters," Floyd points out.

Floyd also cites the example of the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz.

He notes that the HWN, which organized in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, started out as an informal group of amateurs but has since developed a more formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW). HWN ham radio members and volunteers at WX4NHC work together when hurricanes threaten to provide real-time weather data and damage reports to NHC forecasters.

So far, some 75 NWS offices in the US are planning to participate along with the Prairie Storm Prediction Center in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. An official EchoLink/Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) reflector is expected to be available for use during SRD.

An 8.5 x 11-inch certificate is available in exchange for a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a list of NWS stations worked. Address requests to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Separate stations also will issue individual QSL cards. For more information, contact Matthew Mehle, KCOTER <[matthew.mehle@noaa.gov](mailto:matthew.mehle@noaa.gov)>.

**Taken from the ARRL newsletter**

## LEAGUE SAYS BPL GROUP SHOULD EMBRACE, NOT REJECT, RECENT ARRL PROPOSALS

In a Reply to Opposition filed this week, the ARRL maintains that changes it recently proposed to the FCC's Part 15 BPL rules provide a golden opportunity for the BPL industry and the FCC. The League was responding to a November 2 United Power Line Council (UPLC) Motion opposing and seeking dismissal of the ARRL's Petition for a Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, filed last month in the BPL proceeding, WT Docket 04-37. "As a general observation, it is difficult to understand the rationale for UPLC's knee-jerk response to ARRL's Petition," the League said in its Reply to Opposition. "On its face, the Petition does no more than to state a reasonable basis for a principled accommodation for all concerned with, or about, access BPL. This would include BPL operators."

The ARRL contended that the UPLC "would better serve its members by embracing the ARRL Petition, rather than rejecting it" and said its proposals represent "the last clear chance to prevent substantial interference from BPL deployments."

The League's October Petition suggested that incorporating three elements into the BPL rules the Commission adopted last year would essentially resolve all issues that the ARRL and the Amateur Service have with access BPL:

- \* Prohibiting all access BPL systems from using Amateur Radio allocations--except the five channels at 5 MHz, which the current HomePlug system architecture does not notch.

- \* Prohibiting access BPL systems from using HF bands on medium-voltage power lines.

- \* Measuring signal decay from access BPL systems using a more accurate 20 dB/decade extrapolation factor rather than the 40 dB/decade factor the cur-

rent rules support.

Calling UPLC's opposition to its proposals "short sighted," the League said the UPLC "cannot in good faith" argue that the present BPL rules are in any way sufficient to prevent or mitigate interference to Amateur Radio. "They are not sufficient, as has been demonstrated time and time again in BPL test deployments," the ARRL contended this week.

To punch up that point, the League called "pure sophistry" and "absurd and false" UPLC's claim in its Motion that BPL operators using HF on medium-voltage power lines "have been very effective in mitigating rare instances of interference to Amateur Radio users." In support of that assertion, UPLC cited a July 22, 2004, letter from Bruce Franca, then Deputy Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology, to Tom Brown, N4TAB. Franca's letter claimed that Progress Energy's BPL pilot project in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area complied with FCC rules.

Responding to Franca that same day, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, at the time noted the presence of ongoing interference and rebutted Franca's assertions. He specifically cautioned FCC to "not permit its conclusions to be erroneously represented as having given the Progress Energy trials a 'clean bill of health'"--precisely what UPLC is now attempting, he said. A copy of Sumner's letter was attached to this week's League filing.

UPLC failed to mention that interference from the Raleigh system to numerous Amateur Radio operators "persisted and was not resolved until the system was shut down," the League pointed out this week.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, thinks it's ironic that UPLC chose

that particular piece of FCC correspondence to buttress its case. "Mr Sumner rebutted Franca's letter in the Raleigh situation, and Franca never responded, despite repeated promises to do so," he said. "We are now a year and four months down the road."

In this week's filing, the League said its Petition seeks to create additional rules governing BPL that, with those already on the books, would "be sufficient to allow ARRL to withdraw its pending Petition for Reconsideration" in the proceeding. In addition, the ARRL reiterated its position that certain BPL systems mentioned in the October Petition "present manageable interference potential" that "can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis." Its proposals, the League said, provide the BPL industry and the FCC with the opportunity to create an RF environment that's not substantially degraded for licensed radio services and that permits BPL to develop "without the competitive handicap of fundamental incompatibility with licensed services" and removes any remaining regulatory uncertainty.

The ARRL concluded by urging the Commission to "proceed expeditiously to issue a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, adopt the proposed rules, and remove the obstacles to a responsible rollout of access BPL that were either created, or not resolved, by the [BPL] Report and Order."

A copy of the ARRL's Reply to Opposition is on the FCC Web site <[http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native\\_or\\_pdf=pdf&id\\_document=6518181693](http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6518181693)>

Taken from ARRL newsletter

# MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues for the Western Piedmont Amateur Radio Club are just \$18 for the year. A Family Membership is \$24.00. Associate member dues are

only \$12.00. Associate Members 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 Amateur Radio Club, 1641 N.C. Hwy. 181, Morganton, NC, 28655.



## SWAPPING, SHOPPING, and TIPS and TRICKS

From time to time we may have something to sale, something to swap, or something that we are looking for. With the use of the club newsletter we can get this out to several people. Also there may be times that we have

experimented with a radio, antenna or something and learned something that would be useful to others. In this case I thought we could have a section devoted to Swapping, Shopping, and Tips and Tricks. If this sec-

tion becomes to large for one section we can expand it as needed. Come on start sending me stuff to put in this section and lets start Swapping, Shopping, Tipping and Tricking.



## 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**

We are still trying to get everything together and if you do not see your name on our roster and you have paid your dues, please contact Greg, William or Sybil so we can get this corrected.

# Catawba Valley Hamfest

The Catawba Valley Hamfest had its first meeting on the 7th and as always they can use some help. The Catawba Valley Hamfest is a great event for our hobby. Several people have stepped down from committees and therefore they are needing several people to help with these committees. It's like

anything, it takes volunteers to make it happen and I hope some of our Ham Community will help out so we can keep our Hamfest growing. With the state of our economy that's enough of a hurdle. If you are interested in helping out please contact Greg Branch

(KI4GZD@hotmail.com) or 828-475-4181, Don Beam (KK4NI@charter.net) or Tom Land (thomasland@msn.com) or 828-728-2805. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

## Contesting and tidbits

As with any aspect of Amateur Radio each person has his own niche. One thing I love to do is contest and not necessarily for the most points but for the fun. VHF contesting is a load of fun and there are several opportunities throughout the year to participate.

The ARRL sponsors the January VHF Sweepstakes as well as one in June and September. The ARRL also sponsors all kinds of other modes and bands but in particular I enjoy these VHF contests. This year I will be going on top of Walker-Top to participate in the

January VHF Sweepstakes and those interested are welcomed to come up and check it out. The ARRL has a contest calendar at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2006> for those interested in contesting.



## Word FROM The President

This year has been filled with lots of progress and lots to look forward to. I can only hope next year we can add to this progress. I have a few goals for 2006 and those con-

sist of getting more involved with our hobby as a club, recruiting some new faces which in return will make our club stronger and more versatile, getting more involved in ARES and

with the Burke County Emergency Services. We can accomplish so much, all it takes it some volunteers and a little work.

Greg Branch

## 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. If you think someone might be interested in coming to our meetings they are more than welcome to attend. If you

know of something in particular they are interested in, just let us know, someone in the club may have the proper equipment for a demo or be able to arrange someone who does. This not only goes for guests but for club members too. If you

have something you are interested in, please let us know and I'm sure one of us can find the information and/or equipment that is needed.



### *Wednesday Night Net Schedule*

Here is the remainder of the year and January thru April.

October 26 Charlie (AF4BA)  
 November 2 Ray (KA4KRZ)  
 November 9 Charlie (AD4TY)  
 November 16 Nathan (KE4RCF)  
 November 23 Clyde (WA4OBC)  
 November 30 Jim (WA4HWP)  
 December 7 Uncle Willie (WA4RVD)  
 December 14 Charlie (AF4BA)  
 December 21 Ray (KA4KRZ)  
 December 28 Charlie (AD4TY)

#### **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)

## L o c a l N e t s , T i m e s , a n d l o c a l f r e q u e n c i e s

<b>Daily:</b> WPARC Good Morning Net 9 AM 147.150 +	147.360(+) Boone	Hendersonville 147.285(+)
<b>Monday:</b> 10 Meter Grit Net 8 PM 28.377	145.370(-) N. Wilkesboro	Hickory 146.850(-)
<b>Tuesday:</b> 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
<b>Wednesday:</b> WPARC VHF Net 9 PM 147.150+	442.300(+) Morganton Walker Top (Weather Radio)	Shelby 147.345(+)
<b>Friday:</b> Grit Net 8 PM 147.150+	Asheville 146.910(-) 141.3	Spruce Pine 146.895 (+)
<b>Saturday:</b> 6600 Net (Mt. Mitchell) 9 PM 145.190-	Bakersville 145.310(-)	Tri-States/Brevard 147.030(+)
<b>Sunday:</b> 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
	Burnsville 147.375+	Bristol, TN 444.5
<b>Local Repeaters</b>	Charlotte 145.35(-)	Burnsville 443.650
56.630(-) Mount Mitchell	Crowder's Mt. 145.45(-)	Charlotte 445.675
53.330(-) West Jefferson	Forest City 147.24(+) 123	Forest City 444.4
147.150(+) <b>WPARC</b> Morganton High Peak	Gastonia 146.805(-)	Hendersonville 442.45
145.210(-) 94.8 Morganton High Peak	Green Knob 146.955(-) 127.3	Hickory 444.000
146.745(-) Morganton Walker Top	Green Mountain 145.430(-)	If you have additions and/or cor- rections please send to Greg (ki4gzd@hotmail.com) know so we
147.330(+) 141.3Lenoir Hibriten Mtn.	Hendersonville 145.27(-)	
145.190(-) Mount Mitchell		

# December Events

**Our **December** meeting will be Monday December 12th plus we will have our annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday December 15th, come on out and enjoy the Holiday Fellowship at The Burke County Agricultural Building at 7PM for both important club events. For more info go to <http://www.wparc.com>**

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](#) December 12th at 7P.M.

[Club Christmas Dinner](#) December 15th  
[7P.M. at the usual meeting place.](#)  
[Come Join Us for some Holiday Fellowship](#)

Remember our new meeting location at The Burke County Agricultural Building located at 130 Ammons Drive off Government Drive. Someone will be monitoring the 147.150 repeater.

HTTP://WWW.WPARC.COM

*Upcoming events:*

Marion VE Test Session

**December 3rd**

Club Meeting

**December 12th**

Christmas Dinner

**December 15th**

Christmas (Please remember the reason for the season)

**December 25**

Please feel free to send some information if you have anything you want in the newsletter.

The WPARC Newsletter  
2161 Millstone Drive  
Morganton, NC 28655