

# Ham Chatter



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May 2006

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## Meet the Member, Joel Muhaluk, KI4LMY



**Joel Muhaluk, KI4LMY, at W4UHS in Pitt County Memorial Hospital**

It took Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members eight years and a lucky break at work to get Joel Muhaluk, KI4LMY, excited about amateur radio.

Doug Ferris, K4ROK, and Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, worked on Joel for years, trying to get him to take a ham class, but Joel's work as a volunteer with the Red Oak Fire Department for 13 years and Winterville EMS for 11 years made it difficult to find the time. Then Joel, an electronic technician at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, was assigned the task of moving the hospital's radio room from the first floor to the third.

Working with the equipment sparked his interest in learning more about antennas and with that, along with listening to HF, he was hooked. He worked hard to get the radio room ready

before hurricane season.

In August, Joel got his technician's license. Last year, club members named him New Ham of the Year.

Joel has a 620t dual band mobile and a Icon 730 HF rig with a hustler antenna. He also picked up a Kenwood TM-271(2m) at his very first hamfest in Shelby thanks to the good luck of his wife Anna, who won the radio for him.

Joel and Anna live in Winterville with their dog Roxie. Joel grew up in Greenville and earned an associate's degree in electronics from Pitt Commu-

nity College.

Before working at PCMH, he was a Coeco copier man for nine years. His current job at the hospital goes well beyond copiers though and includes repairing fax machines as well as fitness equipment in addition to special projects.

Joel has passed the General written and is studying the CW part for the June test. Since he holds a Technician license now, he only uses UHF and VHF. He said he couldn't wait to get his General. - Amanda, KI4IWS

## Next Meeting

### May 9

*The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. Program by Dave Jordan, anchor for WITN-7 News at 6pm and 11pm. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.*

*The next board meeting will be May 30 at 7:30 PM at 3219 Landmark St., Suite 8B. All members invited.*

**Stainless Outdoor Grill Winner  
John McCoy, K4KBB**



**Dave LeMoine, KV4CN and Murray Merner, K4MHM, operating N4S at the Camp Bonner North Boy Scout Camporee. Several troops stopped by to see Amateur Radio demonstrating SSB, CW and PSK using the 40 and 20 meter bands. About 1000 scouts from Eastern North Carolina were camping.**

## BARC at the Farmville Dogwood Festival



BARC display at the Dogwood Festival



BARC members operating the radio station while KD4MTT sells tickets.



Git your hands outa that barrel!!



Mike Langley, KD4MTT, and Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, watch future ham drawing out the winning K4KBB ticket.

## Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **June 16**. Exams will be held at St. Peter's School on 5th Street and will start promptly at 6:30 PM. Tom Parsons, W4TEP, 355-2815. w4tep@arrl.net. Please bring the following:

- ◆ Photo ID (drivers license)
- ◆ Original Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Copy of Amateur Radio License
- ◆ Original CSCE's
- ◆ Copy of CSCE
- ◆ Test fee is \$14.00
- ◆ Proof of Tech Plus if before 3/21/87 and doing paper upgrade to General.

Be sure to bring **copies** of your Amateur Radio license and / or CSCE if upgrading.



More BARC Farmville Dogwood pictures will be at <http://www.w4amc.com>

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## Happy Birthday

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club members birthdays in **May**.

- |    |        |              |
|----|--------|--------------|
| 3  | K4KBB  | John McCoy   |
| 7  | WB4FRB | Ray Black    |
| 12 | W4HM   | Walter Honea |
| 26 | K4RJF  | Jeff Hardee  |

Please let me know of any additions or corrections. - W4YDY

## Well Wishes

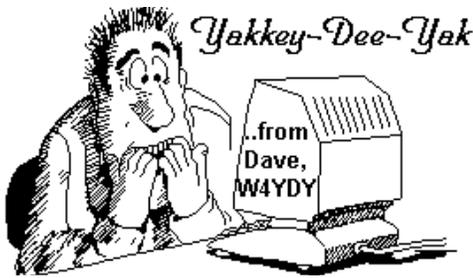
Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

Gail Manning, wife of Mac, KD4AFL



Please inform Dan Drake, KG4ISO, of any changes.

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Its been another busy month for BARC members. Many were selling tickets for the Stainless Outdoor Grill at hamfests, at the Farmville Dogwood Festival, operating stations at special events, the MS walk, a successful VE session and board members and others checking out the location for Field Day operations in June. Murray Merner, K4MHM, has already put a lot of work in the planning and organization of Field Day.

I had a good time at the Boy Scout Camporee with the operation of N4S. Dave LeMoine, KV4CN, and Murray Merner, K4MHM, were in the process of putting up the Carolina Windom antenna when I arrived. They had just got the fishing line up about 40 feet on a tree limb and were getting ready to pull the antenna up. After we got the ends tied off, the rig was hooked up to the antenna and fired up.

Several troops of scouts stopped by and some other Amateur Radio operators also stopped to chat. Many of the boys were asking a lot of questions and

some said they wanted to study for a license later. They were impressed with the stations we were hearing and sometimes communicating with. We didn't make a lot of contacts, but did talk to a few stations including Europe and Central American. One of Dave's contacts was with Cuba on PSK. The best part of the operation was talking with the boy scouts about Amateur Radio and the things they could do with it. The scout leaders were interested in using it to help the scouts earn their radio merit badge.

As I mentioned in last month's issue of *Ham Chatter*, the hard drive on my computer decided to give me a fright and fail when I had Ham Chatter 95% complete and just a few hours to finish up. I did get it going again but very slow. I did get data transferred to my new computer. I did manage to finish it on the old computer but I ended up working until about midnight getting Ham Chatter online, emails sent and transferred to our printer via email before it blew up again!

The next day, Monday, I bought a new Seagate 160 Gigabyte hard drive on sale for 40 bucks after rebates. Also on that day, the bad hard drive decided to work good and was very fast. But it decided to quit again on Tuesday. Got a new program to make an exact copy of the old 80 gigabyte drive to the new 160 gigabyte drive. Got the old drive to boot again on Wednesday and starting copying the 50 gigabytes over to the new drive.

It started about 4 PM and the hard drive being very slow, it finished up 22 hours later at 2 PM on Thursday. Then I installed the new drive in place of the bad one and the computer was flying with an additional 80 gigabytes. The old drive had been slowing down for a while and I didn't know the problem. I had checked for spyware and viruses but it was clean. It sure was an easy way to get started with a new hard drive by make an image of the old one. I did not have to load any programs or data again. The only difference I see is that the computer is faster and the boot drive size is doubled.

I'm glad it didn't cost as much as the first hard drive I bought in 1987, also a Seagate. It was a 30 megabyte drive and it cost \$15 per megabyte or \$450. If the new drive has cost \$15 per megabyte, it would have cost \$2,400,000! Now it's 25 cents per gigabyte or .025 cents per megabyte. We are all glad that prices came down as the size went up.

Even more dramatic is the cost of memory. In 1978, memory was \$300 for 16 kilobytes for the TRS-80. Last month, I bought one gigabyte for \$70. If that had been 1978 prices, it would have been \$19,660,800. I guess we would still be using the TRS-80 if prices had not come down! Now if we can figure out how they could price gasoline like that. We could buy a tank full for fifty-one cents. Fifty cents of that would be for taxes! Taxes just go up! - W4YDY

**BARC sells many tickets for the Stainless Outdoor Grill at the Raleigh Hamfest**



Nobody is immune from the hard sales pitch that Mike Langley, KD4MTT, barks out. I don't think she's buying!



Mike, KD4MTT, and John McCoy, K4KBB, take a short break from the fast pace. Wonder what's really in that cup?

## FCC warns radio amateurs to settle personal differences off the air



The FCC has advised four Texas licensees to take an "ongoing dispute" off the Amateur Radio bands or face enforcement action. Special Counsel in the FCC Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth sent essentially identical warning letters February 28 to Luis A Caraballo, N7PLC, and Sharon E. Millhouse, KC5PRX--both of Floresville, and to Thomas O. Caldwell, WD5GXH, and Gary Sheets, WD5FWP--both of San Antonio. Hollingsworth said the dispute has "led to allegations of slander and deliberate interference" on the ham bands.

"The Commission is not concerned with the merits, or lack thereof, of any dispute between you or of how you settle such disputes," Hollingsworth wrote, "but any use of amateur frequencies to carry on the dispute is contrary to Section 97.1 of the rules and will lead to enforcement action against the licenses of each of you."

Hollingsworth told ARRL that the personal squabble among the four radio amateurs has been going on for several years, eventually spilling over onto 2 meters. FCC efforts to resolve the dispute have been unsuccessful, he said, adding, "it's degrading the Amateur Service."

Sanctions could include license revocation or suspension as well as fines of up to \$10,000, Hollingsworth warned. "We may also consider proceedings to restrict or remove the voice privileges of your licenses," he added, noting "this is the last warning you will receive before enforcement action is initiated."

Hollingsworth this week said he'd heard back from all but one of the individuals who received his letters, but only one reply was in writing. In a handwritten note, Sheets pledged to amend his attitude and practices. Hollingsworth said he's awaiting written responses from the other three recipients. - *via ARRL Letter Online 4/13/06*

## House Committee Okays Telecoms Bill with BPL-Interference Study Amendment

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. After spending two days marking up (the Ross amendment is No 25) the measure, the panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.



**US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR,  
(D-AR)**

"This is a major victory for the ARRL," he exulted, noting that the amendment "received significant opposition" from utility companies. Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), proposed the amendment, and, with the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the committee agreed by voice vote to include it in the bill.

A year ago, Ross sponsored House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), which calls on the FCC to "reconsider and revise rules governing broadband over power line systems based on a comprehensive evaluation of the interference potential of those systems to public safety services and other licensed radio services." The non-binding resolution has six cosponsors.

"Hundreds of ARRL members

who wrote their congressional representatives in support of Rep Ross's H Res 230 helped to achieve this week's success with the COPE Act amendment," Sumner observed.

A more-widely reported Internet "network neutrality" amendment to the COPE Act bill was defeated. The measure will get a number next week.

A statement released by Ross's office notes that his amendment, which received unanimous committee support, "would guarantee that valuable public safety communications and Amateur Radio operators are not subject to interference." One of two radio amateurs in the US House, Ross said infrastructure-free Amateur Radio, "often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication," can maintain communication in disasters that bring more modern technology to its knees. Ham radio operators "are often the only means of communication attainable in a devastated area," Ross said.

"I believe it is imperative that the interference potential [of BPL] is thoroughly examined and comprehensively evaluated to ensure that deployment of BPL, which I do support, does not cause radio interference for Amateur Radio operators and first responders who serve our communities," Ross added.

The COPE Act BPL amendment adds a section (under Title V) to the proposed legislation that would require the FCC to study and report on the interference potential of BPL systems within 90 days of the bill's enactment. The Commission would have to submit its report to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

"This puts the House Energy and Commerce Committee on record as having concerns about BPL interference," Sumner said. "If we are vigilant in protecting it against deletion on the House floor--assuming the bill is approved by the House--the BPL language will be included in the legislation that goes on to the Senate." - *via www.arrl.org 4/26/06*

## Armed Forces Day 2006 military/amateur activities

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will cosponsor the annual military/Amateur Radio communications tests Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14 t56th Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 20, the Armed Forces Day on-the-air activities will take place earlier, to avoid conflicts with those who might be attending Dayton Hamvention, May 19-21. The annual activity features traditional military-to-amateur crossband (ie, hams transmit on amateur frequencies and receive

military stations on nearby military channels) SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense's annual Armed Forces Day message via digital modes (RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31 and MT63). "These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise," the US Armed Forces Day announcement says. QSL cards will be

provided to those making contact with military stations. Commemorative certificates will be awarded to those receiving and copying without error the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense. The tentative schedule of on-the-air events--including a list of participating stations, the Secretary of Defense's message transmission schedule and more information--is available on the US Army MARS Web site

<[http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY%20\(2006\).doc](http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/news/ARMED%20FORCES%20DAY%20(2006).doc)>. The schedule is subject to change without notice. - via ARRL Letter Online 4/28/06



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## BARC Meeting Minutes - April 2006

### BARC MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

VFW Hall, Mumford Rd.

April 11, 2006

Dave Pulver, KG4CZV Club President called the meeting to order at 1930 and welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all attending to introduce themselves with name, call sign, and town. The roster book was passed around to record attendance.. The minutes from last month was approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Richard, K4CRD, gave the Secretaries report

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Terry, K4ZYD, gave the Treasurers report.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Dan W4ISO, reported Walt, KA4WFS, not feeling well, June, KC4RBE, doing much better.

**HAM CHATTER:** Dave, W4YDY, reported the new site up and running. It is much faster than old one.

**VE SESSION:** Tom, W4TEP, reported the next VE session is April 21st at ST. Peters.

**EQUIPMENT:** Mike, KD4MTT, reported he had purchased some high qual-

ity rope, 300 feet of 1/2 inch rope for \$80 and 400 feet of 1/4 inch rope for \$40, if the club wanted it fine but if not he would keep it. The sale came about without warning and he did not have time to contact anyone. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the rope. It was carried with no discussion. Mike, KD4MTT, also stated he is in the planning stage for straightening the trailer. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** April 29 Boy Scout Spring jamboree at Camp Bonner, Dave KV4CN, has the call N4S for it. April 28-30, Dogwood Festival, Byron, K4BMH., reported we will be setting up Friday night the 27<sup>th</sup>. Who ever can please show up to assist.

**ARES:** Bernie, WA4MOK, reported the state wide ARES meeting is scheduled for April 22 and invited all to attend in Raleigh. It will be held at the SHP Training Center at 3318 Garner Rd, Building 4, classroom 6. He is also attempting to get clarification on which of the NIMS courses we are required to take. Byron, K4BMH, reported the cabinets still need to have polyurethane applied and ask for help. We will be using the trailer during the Dogwood Festival and need to finish

the cabinets and get the equipment installed. Skywarn was activated last Saturday during the severe weather but there was no activity reported.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Dave, KG4CZV, reported the raffle tickets are available and please see him for tickets.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Murray, K4MHM, has agreed to chair the field day event this year. Mike KD4MTT, has acquired permission to use either of two sites around Firetower and Arlington Blvd, it the clubs wants that location. The club has approved the purchase of QSL cards for the club calls but has never purchased. Terry, K4ZYD, to purchase.

**PROGRAM** George, W3GJD gave a presentation of events his club was involved in during the 9/11 disaster at the Pentagon. Mike KD4MTT, gave a presentation on NIMS and the possibility of using during field day for training. The programs were interesting and well received..

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business the meeting adjourned about 9:45PM

Respectfully submitted  
*Richard Cox, K4CRD*

## BARC Board Minutes - April 2006

### BARC BOARD MEETING

April 25, 2006

Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, called the meeting to order at 1930 EST. Attendees were: Dave Langley, W4YDY, Taylor Millar, W4WTM, Mike Langley, KD4MTT, Dan Drake, W4ISO, Pat Williams, KG4NSC, and Richard Cox, K4CRD.

**Secretary's Report:** Richard, K4CRD, gave the Secretary's report.

**Treasury's Report:** Dave, KG4CZV, gave the Treasurers report.

**Health & Welfare:** It was reported Walt, KA4WFS, was doing very well.

**Programs:** Taylor, W4WTM, reported on the programs for the next few months. Dave Jordan WITN-TV will present this month's program.

**Old Business:** A discussion was held on

the Dogwood Festival. Set-up will begin approximately 18:30 Friday evening the 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be setting up across the street from the firehouse, about 4 spaces. We are scheduled to have the BARC trailer and the Pitt County ARES trailer, with the operating tent set up between them. The tribander will be on the ARES tower and possibly a 40-80 meter dipole space permitting. It was noted the ARES trailer still needs finishing work on the cabinets and could possibly be completed while at the festival.

Dave, KV4CN, will be operating at Bonner North for the Boy Scout Jamboree using the call sign N4S on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> from :09:00-Noon and from 2:00-5:00. All are invited.

A discussion for the printing of the generic signs that were already approved was discussed. The message for the sign was agreed on and Mike,

KD4MTT, is to order and pickup for Field Day.

**New Business:** A discussion was held about equipment needs for the club and it was decided to present to the club the purchase of two, ICOM 706's, 2 Auto tuners and 500' of coax and connectors. This will allow the club to be more self-sufficient at events.

**Field Day:** Murray, K4MHM, presented a rough of field day operations utilizing NIMS. This will take the cooperation of all becoming involved as they are assigned to make it work. This should be a good training exercise for NIMS.

With no further business Dave, KG4CZV closed the meeting at about 2050.

*Respectfully submitted by*

**Richard Cox, K4CRD**

## Silent Key Bob Sickels, W4RGF

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club member Bob Sickels, 89, died Wednesday, April 12, 2006. Private services were held at a later date. Bob was a native of Olathe, KA and had been a resident of Greenville since 1973. He retired from IBM as Resident Manager of World Trade at RTP. He was also a member of the Coastal Carolina Emergency Net. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Virginia C. Sickels; son, Bryan F. Sickels and wife, Ronda, of Raleigh; brother, Donald W. Sickels of Arizona; and sister, Dorothy S. Russell of Kansas.

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club extends its condolences to his family.

## BARC provides MS Walk communications



On Saturday, April 8, hundreds of people came to Greenville to participate in the MS Walk on the ECU Campus. Amateur Radio provided communications for the 5 mile walking route.

BARC members participating were John McCoy, K4KBB; Murray Merner, K4MHM, Tom Parsons, W4TEP; Bonnie Pulver, KG4CZV and Dave Pulver, KG4CZW.

Phoebe Coggins of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society thanks all who participated for their time. She also indicated that they plan to have the same event again next year, and would like our participation. - *Dave Pulver, KG4CZW*

## Commercial Ad Rates

1/8 page, Business Card Size  
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**brightleaf-arc@cox.net**

Help support *Ham Chatter*. **Donations accepted!**

## NETS

### VHF

- ◆ BARC Net, Mondays, 2000 on 147.09 MHz, W4GDF Repeater.
- ◆ Pitt County Emergency Communications Net, Mondays, 2100 on 147.09 MHz. (131.8 Hz Tone)
- ◆ Kinston Amateur Radio Society Net, 1,3,4 Tuesdays, 2000 hrs. on 145.47 MHz., W4OIX repeater in Kinston.
- ◆ Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net, Every night, 2030 on 146.685 MHz.
- ◆ Wilson Amateur Radio Club Net, Monday 2030 on 146.76 MHz.
- ◆ Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, Nightly 2030 on 146.88 MHz.
- ◆ Newport WFO SKYWARN Net, Tuesday, 2100 on 145.21 MHz
- ◆ Carteret County ARS (CCARS) Emergency Net, Tuesdays, 1930 on the Newport 145.45 (-) MHz.
- ◆ Coastal Emergency Linking Net, Wednesday, 2100 ET on Williamston 145.410 & 444.250, Columbia 146.835 & 443.300, Rocky Mount 147.120, Ahoskie 146.910, Franklin, VA 147.300, Farmville 145.270
- ◆ Beaufort County Emergency Communications Net, Thursday 2000 on 147.345 MHz. Preceded by Newsmen at 1930.

### HF

- ◆ Tar Heel Emergency Communications Net on 3923 kHz Nightly 1930.

### NTS CW Nets

- ◆ 3.695 2000 hours, slow speed (5-8 wpm) Carolinas Slow Net
- ◆ 3.573 1900 hours, high speed (20 wpm)
- ◆ 3.573 2200 hours, slow speed (12-14 wpm), South Carolina/North Carolina

## NC ARES Internet

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

## Ham Chatter and BARC photos on CD

A CD is available with 103 issues of *Ham Chatter* edited by Dave Langley, W4YDY. They are from June 1997 to December 2005. They are in the PDF format and the latest Adobe Reader is included on the CD for those that do not have it installed. The menu is similar to the one on the club web page.

Also, ten years of photos and commentary for BARC Field Day operations from 1996 to 2005 is on the CD along with several special event station operations. The menus and photo pages are in the HTML format and it will use your browser.

Other features of the CD are some Amateur Radio software for CW training, PSK, RTTY, SSTV and logging. The 2005 ARRL video with Walter Cronkite narrating is also included.

Cost is \$5.00. Anyone who may be interested may email [w4amc at qsl.net](mailto:w4amc@qsl.net). Also you may contact Terry Monday, **KG4WEW**, at the BARC address.

## Ham Ads

*Ham Ads* will be run, free of charge in *Ham Chatter* for three months for each renewal. Ads must be received by the last week of the month to be included in the following issue. Send ads to: **Ham Chatter, PO Box 8387, Greenville, NC 27835, ATTN: Dave Langley** or email to: [w4amc @ qsl.net](mailto:w4amc@qsl.net) (no spaces)

**For Sale:** MQ-26SR Two Element, Six Band Hybrid Quad Antenna List \$649.95. For 6,10,12,15,17,20 Meters. More info at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tgmc/mq-26sr.html>. Sell for \$300. Also, HAM V Rotator. \$700. Walter Honea, W4HM, 940-1828 or Richard Cox, K4CRD, 524-4089 [k4crd@earthlink.net](mailto:k4crd@earthlink.net)

# *BARC*

## *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

May 9. . . . . **Regular Meeting**  
 May 27/28 . . . . . CQ WW CW WPX Contest  
 May 30. . . . . Board Meeting  
 June 3 . . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 June 13 . . . . . **Regular Meeting**  
 June 16 . . . . . BARC VE Session  
 June 24/25. . . . . **ARRL Field Day**  
 June 27 . . . . . Board Meeting  
 July 1. . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 July 8/9 . . . . . IARU HF World Championship

July 11. . . . . **Regular Meeting**  
 July 25. . . . . **Board Meeting**  
 July 29. . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**  
 Aug 8. . . . . **Regular Meeting**  
 Aug 18. . . . . BARC VE Session  
 Aug 29. . . . . **Board Meeting**  
 Sep 1. . . . . **Ham Chatter Deadline**

**Regular Meeting** - 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM  
**Board Meeting** - Last Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

BARC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
 PCEC 2 METER NET - MONDAY NIGHTS AT 9:00 PM - 147.09 W4GDF REPEATER - 131.8 Tone  
 BRIGHTLEAF AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATIONS

**W 1 V O A - W 4 A M C - W 4 U H S**



*Next Meeting  
May 9*

**May 2006**

To:



**Ham Chatter**  
 Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club  
 PO Box 8387  
 Greenville, NC 27835