

HAM CHATTER



Volume 42 Issue 7

An Official BARC, W4AMC, Publication

July 2008

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June 13 VE Session Results



Marie White, KJ4EUS

DOUBLE PRESSURE!

It's enough pressure to pass the FCC exam for the Amateur Radio license but when you have to pass before you can get your driver's license, that's double pressure!

B. Marie White, Gaston, NC, successfully passed the Technician Class exam at the BARC VE Session on June 13. She received her new call sign, KJ4EUS from the FCC on June 17. Beatrice is 17. Her Dad is Frank, KB4DJT and Mom is Bea, KC4NAW. Marie is pictured proudly holding her brand new CSCE at the end of the VE session. Frank said that he surprise her with her new call sign and she was tickled.

The VE's were acting VE Liaison Bob Moore, N4USB, Murray Merner, K4MHM, and Dave Langley, W4YDY.

The next regular VE session is August 15.

Results of Special BARC VE session on Field Day June 28

There were six successful candidates at a special VE session on Field Day afternoon. Members of the North Carolina Canine Emergency Response Team had instruction from Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, and Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, for the Technician license. Five of the members came to the VE session and all passed with almost perfect scores. One did ace the test. Now they are waiting for their new call signs. The five soon to be Technician Class licensees are Terry Wollard, Washington, Ronald Marriner, Washington, Thomas Lester, Bath, John T. Smith, Winterville and Benny Davis, Chocowinity.



Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX

Also, Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, passed Element 4 to upgrade to the Amateur Extra Class. Congratulations to all.

The VE's were acting VE Liaison Bob Moore, N4USB, Richard Cox, K4CRD, Terry Monday, K4ZYD, Susan Langley-Jones, WA4AKB, Raleigh, and Dave Langley, W4YDY.

BARC thanks Terry Monday, K4ZYD, for the use of his office for the exams.

Next Meeting July 8

The Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club will have its next meeting on Tuesday, July 8 at 7:30 PM at VFW Post Home 7032 on 1108 Mumford Road in Greenville. The program will be "Emergency Preparedness" by Mike Langley, KD4MTT. All members, families and guests are invited to attend.

The next board meeting will be July 29 at 7:30 PM at 631-B Dickinson Avenue - entrance at back of the building. All members invited.

GPS Winner, KD4YIM

The winner of the Garmin Nuvi 650 GPS device was Scott Langley, KD4YIM, Grimesland. His ticket was drawn about 6 PM on June 28 at the BARC Field Day. In the picture below, Dave Pulver, KG4CZV, right, is presenting the unit to Scott at the Field Day event.



President's Corner, Terry Monday, K4ZYD

Field Day 2008

Field Day 2008 is over and what a great field day it was. I had a great time and hope that everyone else did to.

I would like to thank all the people who put many, many hours of hard work, preparation and planning into field day even before the first tent was put up or the first radio unpacked. And their work paid off. Tents were unpacked, antennas erected, radios setup, and networks in-

stalled well before our 2:00 start time. And a great meal was prepared and on the table Saturday night.

We also had a special event this year, a VE session. We have five new hams pass their technician exam, and one club member upgrade to Extra. The five new hams were a result of months of work by Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX, with the NC CERT (search and rescue team). Nothing is more rewarding than to help someone get their first license.

And who upgraded to Extra, Ted.

And six meters opened up at the last minute.

And special thanks go out to Mayor Dunn who spent several hours at the site.

Hope to see everyone at Field Day 2009.

*Terry Monday,
K4ZYD*



Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn makes a contact on 6 meters. Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, control operator and Richard Cox, K4CRD, logger.

Next VE Session

The next Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club VE session will be held on **June 13**. 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 ORIGINAL and COPIES of your Amateur Radio license and / or CSCE if upgrading.

NC ARES Internet

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



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**Happy
Birthday**

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

2 KC4YIP Jay Edwards
12 KG4CZW Bonnie Pulver
13 K4SKI Charlie Wells
24 WA4MOK Bernie Nobles
29 KI4LMY Joel Muhaluk
29 W4YDY David Langley

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

Well Wishes

Thoughts and Prayers go out to the following:

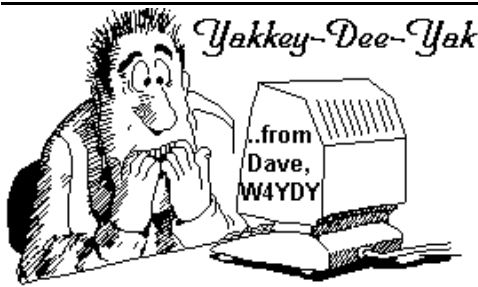
Gail, wife of Mac Manning, **KD4AFL**

Charlie Wells, **K4SKI**

Please inform Bob Moore, N4USB, n4usb@embarqmail.com of any changes.



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Looks like everyone that went out to the BARC Field Day had a good time. It was hot (99 degrees max) but everyone got through it okay. Many cases of water was consumed.

There was a special VE session

held Saturday afternoon and for us VE's, we got a chance to cool off for a couple of hours. Had a very good session with 5 new hams and an Amateur Extra upgrade. Congratulations Ted, KI4PWX.

Saturday, six meters was dead, dead, dead! Not a single signal was heard. But Sunday morning, it was wide open. Bernie, WA4MOK, was logging and I was operating the radio. We worked over 50 stations in less than an hour. I was working them so fast at one time, Bernie had to take a break with his writing hand! With the noise on the radio and from other radios nearby, sometimes it was hard for us to make out some station call signs but ei-

ther Bernie or I would get it the first time.

While six meters was open, **Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn** came by for a while to observe the Field Day operation. She sat down and made a contact on six meters with a station in Pennsylvania. (Picture on page 2). She seem impressed with the BARC operation. The six meter band went dead again after a while but it was soon time to tear down.

There are a few pictures on the next page and hopefully in the next couple of weeks, I will get many more pictures on w4amc.com and also a video if all goes well. That may take a little longer. - W4YDY

A Summer of E-Skip

Tired of the lousy conditions on the HF bands? Come join the crowd on the "Magic Band." Each summer regardless of where the sunspot cycle is, sporadic E -- or E-skip -- blooms on 6 meters and sometime even on the bands above that. What often appears to be a dead band jumps to life with signals -- some relatively close, only hundreds of miles away -- but some representing worldwide DX on 6 meters.

Skipping Around on 6 Meters

This year is no different. After a slow start, the 6 meter band came into its own in May and has been open in some direction from almost every location in the US almost every day. Sporadic E peaks around the summer solstice, on or around June 21, with a minor peak around the winter solstice, on or around December 21.

Each summer season has unique characteristics that are not predictable, but make the band so fascinating to follow. This year, the emphasis has been on paths to the west and northwest, extending much further east and south than normal. According to VHF expert and conductor of QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, there have been several strong openings from Hawaii to the mainland that have included many areas other than the West Coast. Stations in the Mid-Atlantic, the Southeast and the Midwest have had good shots at KH6 in both May and June.

Zimmerman said that summer has brought a nice surprise: "The highlight of this season has been repeated openings to

Japan that have mostly bypassed the West Coast and settled in the Southwest, the Southeast (especially Florida) and the Midwest; Japanese stations have even been heard, but not worked, on the East Coast. The latter is a very rare occurrence indeed."

Calling conditions to the Caribbean "outstanding," Zimmerman said that stations in that part of the world have been working the US and Canada, as well as many stations in Europe. "Ted Jimenez, HI3TEJ, in the Dominican Republic has even worked Japan, a tough path even on 10 meters. Inside the US, stations up to 1500 miles away have been easy to get, and there have been lots of openings where the West Coast and the Pacific Northwest worked the East Coast and the Southeast."

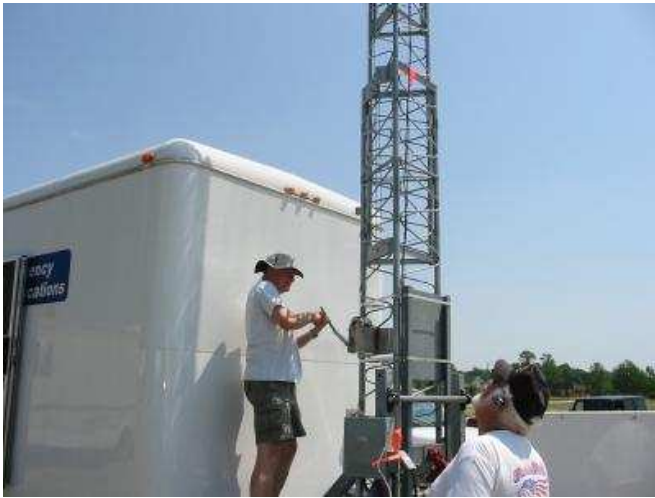
2 Meters is Hopping (or Skipping), Too!

Six meter operators should be alert for very short E-skip that indicates a rare increase in the maximum usable frequency (MUF) to a point where 2 meter E-skip -- or very, very rarely 222 MHz E-skip -- is possible. Zimmerman said there have been several 2 meter sporadic E openings and one 222 MHz E-skip opening this summer: "On May 29-30, 2 meter contacts were reported from Maine to Ohio, south to the Mid-Atlantic, to the Northeast, to South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana in the south and Michigan, Western Tennessee and Southern Illinois to the West. The longest was 1477 miles from Maine (David Olean, K1WHS) to Louisiana (William Kemp, K5EMP)."

After small 2 meter E-skip openings on June 3-4 from the Northeast to the Midwest, Zimmerman said the bands blew wide open during the ARRL VHF QSO Party on June 15 with a report of two 222 MHz contacts: John Butrovich, W5UWB (EL17), of Orange Grove, Texas, to Vince Pavkovich, N0VZJ (EN35), of Big Lake, Minnesota; and Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ (EM96), of Charlotte, North Carolina, to David Rush, W5DDR (EM84), McAlister, New Mexico. "This extremely rare event has happened less than half a dozen times in the last 60 years," Zimmerman said. "Two meter E skip was everywhere: Texas; all over the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic; New Mexico to West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee; Colorado to Florida, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas; Idaho, Oregon and Washington to the Midwest; Wyoming to Illinois, and Nevada to Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota."

Zimmerman said that conditions are likely to continue to be very good until the middle of July when the E-skip traditionally begins to wind down. "Most areas of the country have not had good conditions to Europe, so that may still be something to look forward to," he said. "Two DXpeditions to rare Caribbean countries are coming up later in June -- to San Andres (HK0) and to St Barts (FJ). If you have an HF/VHF radio that covers 6 meters, put up a dipole or try your 80 meter antenna -- it should work on 6 meters as well -- and have some fun. You never know what you may work next." *via ARRL*

BARC 2008 ARRL Field Day - June 28/29



Paul, **KS4YF**, cranking the tower up.



Ready to go!



Andrew, 8, grandson of **W4YDY**, making a contact with a YL in Canada!



John, **N8MPX**, working satellites.



Families enjoy dinner time. Everything was good!




Dave, **KV4CN**, working 20 meters.
More pictures on w4amc.com soon!

Be Careful on 10 Meters

With recent band openings beginning on 10 meters, ARRL has received word that a number of US amateurs have been heard using SSB below 28.300. "We urge everyone to remember that 28.000 to 28.300 MHz is reserved for RTTY and data, including CW," said ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. "Phone is permitted from 28.300 to 28.500 for Novice and Technician class licensees with a maximum power of 200 W. Phone and image are allowed from 28.300 up to 29.700 for General, Advanced and Extra class license holders." Skolaut manages the Official Observer and Intruder Watch programs. - *More at the ARRL Letter Online, 6/6/08*

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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: barc@w4amc.com (no spaces)

For Sale: MFJ -976 legal limit 1500 watt fully balanced antenna tuner has a wide continuous matching range from 12 to 2000 ohms and a frequency range from 1.8 MHz through 30 MHz. It is designed to match a 50 ohm transmitter or transceiver output to virtually any antenna. Cross needle meter, 4 separate 500 pF variable air capacitors in two gangs, roller inductor with silver plated contacts and heavy duty 1:1 current balun. Priced at \$500 new. For sale at \$120. Call: Murray, K4MHM, 757-3429

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BARC Meeting Minutes - June 2008

Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
 June 10, 2008

Call to Order: President Terry Monday, K4ZYD at 1930 hours. There were 30 members and visitors present and are listed in the roll book. A quorum was present.

Minutes: Minutes of the Member Meeting of 13 May 2008 were approved as published in the June Ham Chatter.

Treasure's Report: Richard Cox, K4CRD, gave the report. Further information is available to members upon request.

Health and Welfare: Steve Rawls, K4SER, passed away. Former BARC member, Hugh Lindsey, N4WHT, passed away. William Phelps father of member Vashti Forrest, KA4DGS died June 8.

Volunteer Examiners: Next session will be Friday, 13 June at St. Peters School library at 1830. Bob Moore, N4USB, will be coordinating for Tom Parsons, W4TEP. There will a VE session on 28 June around 1430 in Terry Monday's office for the Bell Arthur Branch of NC CERT and any others. There will be a need for VEs since this is Field Day.

State ARES: Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, reported that he; Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX; Dave Pulver, KG4CZV and Tod LeMoine, KG4CCX, attended the Hurricane Exposition at Elizabeth City on 31 May and helped with the Amateur Radio display. This past Saturday there was work done at Eastern Branch in Kinston. Bob Moore finished the cabinets and the 2 M and 440 beams are to be put up.

Pitt County ARES: Doug Ferris, K4ROK, pointed out that 6 of those who attended the Statewide Emergency Meeting in Ra-

leigh were from Pitt County. The ARES trailer will be ready for Field Day – Dave Pulver, Paul Fletcher, KS4YF, Mike Langley, WD4MTT, and Doug are all approved to drive Pitt County vehicles and therefore can pull the ARES trailer, drive the sheriff's Communication Command Center vehicle and do preventive maintenance on the Command Center. The hydraulic leak on the tower lift on the ARES trailer has been repaired. There is a need for a switch to protect the battery from discharging. Paul reported that the ECU RENCI (Renaissance Computing Institute) van has been involved in outreach in schools in Manteo and Kitty Hawk. The van is in need of electrical work.
Equipment: Mike Langley reported that he had purchased items recommended at the critique of last year's Field Day.
Old Business: Ted reported that the Bell Arthur Branch of NC CERT has 8 members preparing to take the Technician test on 28 June.

Raffle tickets and money are to be handed in prior to the drawing at supper time on 28 June at Field Day.

50/50 Drawing Winner: Murray Merner, K4MHM, won.

Program: Murray, Field Day Coordinator, reviewed the point and bonus point structure of Field Day. Each of the Team Leaders spoke about what their team did and what manpower needs they had. It was finalized that we will be running 4 radios plus the "free" ones. A couple of people volunteered to help with the GOTA station.

Adjourn: Terry Monday adjourned the meeting at 2120 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Murray Merner, K4MHM

BARC Board Minutes - June 2008

Brightleaf Amateur Radio club
Board Meeting Minutes
 June 24, 2008

Call to Order: President Terry Monday, K4ZYD, brought the meeting to order at 19:30 hours.

Board Members Present: Bob Moore, N4USB (First Vice-President); Ted Bertrand, KI4PWX (Second Vice-President); Dave Pulver, KG4CZV (Trustee) John Prokop, N8MPX (Trustee); and Murray Merner, K4MHM (Secretary).

Others in Attendance: Dave Langley, W4YDY; Pat Williams, KG4NSC; John McCoy, K4KBB; and Taylor Millar, W4WTM.

Minutes: The minutes of 27 May 2008 were approved as written in the June Ham Chatter.

Secretary's Report: No Report

Treasurer's Report: No Report

Health and Welfare: No Report

Programs: Ted reported: Mike Langley, KD4MTT, will do a presentation of emergency preparedness. Murray will conduct a critique of the Field Day.

Equipment Report: No Report

Old Business: None

Ham Chatter: Dave Langley reported that due to the Field Day, the deadline will be Sunday, 29 June at noon.

New Business: No further information on the Pitt County Repeater Association.

Field Day: John Sprouse, N4VJJ, Beaufort County ARES EC and John Pack, Beaufort County Emergency Management Coordinator are expected to visit the BARC Field Day. Ted reported

(Continued on page 7)

BARC Board Minutes continued

(Continued from page 6)

that eight members of the local branch of the NC CERT are planning to take the test 14:30 at Terry's office. The test will be open to others wishing to take a test. Pat announced that he and Dave Pulver will be on Channel 7 news in the morning – Pat on Thursday and Dave on Friday. Terry has requested a proclamation of the Greenville City Council. Terry will mow the site Wednesday night. Dave Pulver mentioned that he brought the tables last year and Richard Campbell, KG4SNE, brought the chairs.

Announcements: Dave Pulver reported that Tim Nelson's, WA4TMN, house fire will keep him out of the house 4 to 5 weeks more. It started as a result of repairs being made to the house.

Adjournment: by Terry Monday at 20:00 hours

Respectfully Submitted,

Murray Merner, K4M7M

Morse Code Returning to MARS Toolbox

After more than a dozen years, Morse code will soon be returning to Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) nets. In the mid-1990s, the Department of Defense (DoD) did away with CW operation across the board -- including MARS nets -- as automatic systems such as the Internet, SATCOM, cell phones and e-mail became available and the payroll cost of manual operators escalated. Army MARS launched a limited test of CW nets in four Midwestern states in late 2007. During a DoD interoperability test this past March, a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) station used it to communicate with Fort Huachuca. In announcing the return of CW to MARS nets, Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors cited an emergency where CW was sorely missed: "I remember the [1998] Northeast Ice Storm shortly after I became [Navy-Marine Corps MARS] Chief and the unnecessarily lengthy effort by all of southern New England to receive one voice EEI [Essential Elements of Information Report] from a northern New England member whose antenna was covered in ice and lying on the ground. It took

more than an hour when CW could have handled it in a few minutes. As more and more of our members enter MARS with no Morse code experience, I am afraid that we will soon lose that skill set if we don't do something." Army MARS Chief Carter said the imminent return of CW will not replace modes such as WinLink, Pactor 3 and MT63. "Our CW nets will focus on maintenance of skills and will necessarily be limited by the shortage of available frequencies and trained members," he said. "But if members want to add CW to their skills, the nets will be available for training." - *via ARRL Letter Online 6/6/08*

Steve Rawls, K4SER, SK

Steve Rawls, K4SER, of Williamston, passed away June 7th. He was the trustee of the Williamston 145.41 repeater and was a radio engineer of the NC Highway Patrol. The funeral service was June 10th at the Walker Funeral Home in Williamston. The Brightleaf ARC extends its condolences his family.

Father of Vashti Forrest, KA4DGS, passes

The father of BARC member Vashti Forrest, KA4DGS, passed away June 8 in Plymouth, NC. Mr. William H. Phelps of Plymouth, NC, was 87, and a life long resident of the area.

Tom, N4GVK, also a BARC member, and Vashti, KA4DGS, live in Greensboro.

The Brightleaf ARC extends its condolences to Vashti and her family.

New Extra Class License Manual Now Shipping

The "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1352#top>> and "ARRL's Extra Q&A" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1379>> are your tickets to every privilege granted to Amateur Radio operators.

Everything you need to know to pass the 50 question Extra class exam is right at your fingertips -- both books contain the latest Extra class question pool and answer key. With 741 questions included in the question pool -- valid from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012 -- reading the "ARRL's Extra Q&A" is the best way to review for the exam with confidence. - *more at ARRL Letter Online 6/13/08*

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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 2000 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 Ahoskie 145.13, Buxton 145.15, Columbia 146.835 & 443.30, Elizabeth City 146.655, Greenville, 145.35, Hertford 147.33, Williamston 145.41 & 444.25
- ◆ 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

- ◆ 3.571 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

Pitt County Repeater Association

<http://www.pcra.us/>

BARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jul 8. **Regular Meeting**
 Jul 12/13 IARU HF World Championship
 Jul 19. Cary Swapfest
 Jul 29. **Board Meeting**
 Jul 31. **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 Aug 12. **Regular Meeting**
 Aug 15. BARC VE Session 6:30
 Aug 26. Board Meeting

Aug 28. **Ham Chatter Deadline**
 Aug 30/31 Shelby Hamfest in Dallas, NC!
 Sep 9. **Regular Meeting**
 Sep 20/21 VA Beach Hamfest
 Sep 27/28 CQ WW RTTY Contest
 Sep 30. **Board Meeting**
 Oct 7 **Regular Meeting**
 Nov 16. JARSfest Benson

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



July 2008
 Next Meeting
 July 8

To:



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