



JANUARY 2007

The Official Publication of

The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

www.WCARS.org

President's Microphone...Scott W4IYS

It's a New Year. I feel 2006 was successful for WCARS. This was due in part to the hard work of some strong supporters of WCARS, several of whom received special recognition at the Christmas party. To this I say THANK YOU and ask ALL members for their support in 2007. Thanks too, to all those who helped make the Christmas dinner so good again this year. Finally, thank you for honoring me as WCARS Ham of the Year.

See you at the meeting ...73 Scott W4IYS

WCARS January Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be January 4, 2007, 7:30pm in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at ABTech. Program: NVIS antennas by Scott W4IYS

WCARS Spivey Repeater...continued

Listen to the WCARS Info Net and the Buncombe County ARES Net for the latest information on the repeater. Sometimes the nets are simplex on the 146.91 and other times duplex depending on the conditions. Until the repeater is back on the mountain we all need to help by listening for stations that need to be relayed into the net. Stations may be on either the repeater input (146.31) or on the output (146.91). Remember, this is good practice for emergency operations which may or may not have a repeater available.

WCARS Hams honored for club effort

Six WCARS Hams were honored at the Christmas dinner for their work in 2006 in behalf of WCARS. Dean K2JB and Chet KE4VXC each received a WCARS Outstanding Service award "For Many Hours of Work". Cathy (YL of K2JB) and Donna N4KPA each received a plaque of "WCARS Grateful Appreciation" for their work making the concession stand at the 2006 Hamfest such a success. Dick K8SKX was awarded the Paul Yeager President's Award for "Outstanding Service and Team Attitude". Scott W4IYS was voted the 2006 WCARS "Ham of the Year" by the WCARS membership.



(l-r) Dick K8SKX, Donna N4KPA, Chet KE4VXC, Dean K2JB, Cathy, Scott W4IYS (WD4CNZ photo)

Reminder: WCARS membership renewal time. An application is included in this Smoketest. Bring it to the next meeting on January 4 or mail it to WCARS. No Smoketest if not renewed by March 15. Thanks - editor

FCC on CW and other changes

I'm sure most of you by now have heard about this but in case you didn't...The FCC is dropping the morse code requirement for amateur licenses. This will become effective 30 days after official publication. The change will mean that current Technicians will have the same HF privileges as the Tech-Plus licensees. The new rules also make technical corrections in the previous R&O changing band allocations for phone etc. Everyone is encouraged to get and read these changes, which are available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachment/FCC-06-178A1.pdf or
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachment/FCC-06-178A1.doc or
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachment/FCC-06-178A1.txt

New ARRL Band Plans

The ARRL has modified their recommended or suggested "band plans" for the 75/80, 40 and 15 meter bands to fit the recent FCC frequency allocations. The new plans are:

75/80 METERS

3.590 RTTY/Data DX
3.570-3.600 RTTY/Data
3.790-3.800 DX Window
3.845 SSTV
3.885 AM calling frequency

40 METERS

7.040 RTTY/Data DX
7.080-7.125 RTTY/Data
7.171 SSTV
7.290 AM calling frequency

15 METERS

21.070-21.110 RTTY/Data
21.070-21.110 RTTY/Data
21.340 SSTV

Greenwood SC Hamfest

The Greenwood SC Hamfest will be held on January 13, 2007 opening at 9:00am. They will have: Vendors, forums, VE exams, flea market. Talk in: 147.165+ and 146.520. More info: W4DEW@ARRL.NET or KJ4BST@ARRL.NET
Support our neighboring hamfests....and they will support ours!

Like REALLY SLOW SPEED CW?

The low-frequency beacon of J Allen, VY1JA, near Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory, was received November 21 by German LF experimenter Hartmut Wolff. The largely overland path spanned 4370 miles. Allen said the report was a pleasant surprise. Transmitting on 137.7786 kHz using very-slow-speed CW (QRSS), the VY1JA beacon runs 140 W output to a 100-foot top loaded wire vertical. Wolff used a double K9AY loop on the receiving end, where he decoded the beacon signal using computer software designed to capture below-noise-level signals. Allen invites reception reports, especially screen captures and .wav clips, via e-mail: vy1ja@northwestel.net VY1JA currently beacons 24/7 sending "JA" at QRSS60 (**60-second dits**) on the hour and half hour, followed by an approximately two-minute ID at 6 WPM at about :24 and :54 that includes the VY1JA grid square (CP20). from: ARRL Letter (25:48) Dec 8, 06.

What's that funny sounding signal?

Check this website as posted in the November "Monitoring Times" Digital Digest column is titled "What's That Sound?" and includes just what you need. Leif Dehio seems to have recorded and posted samples of just about every digital mode active today. Now you can identify just exactly what those blurbles and bleebles are doing!

www.signals.taunus.de

(From ARRL's Contester's Rate Sheet, Dec 13, 2006, Edited by Ward Silver N0AX)

Websites of possible interest...

Here are two more URLs which just might come in handy:
--A site for downloads, freeware, shareware, etc. for hams who use Macs, Os X or higher.

www.machamradio.com

--A compilation of just about every commercial radio station -- am, fm and whatever else happens to be out there.

www.100.000watts.com

...73 Henry KF4ODC

Tell Me Please....

Is a listing of coming events helpful?
Do you want a listing of contests?

...if there's no interest I'll not print them...ed

WCARS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

___ Full \$20 ___ Family \$30 ___ Student \$5

All information is requested to assist the officers and committee chairpersons in planning activities, programs and community service communications needs. If you so request by checking the appropriate space, the information in Section 1 will also be kept confidential and your call and/or e-mail will not appear in the WCARS roster when published.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL _____ Smoketest Via email Yes() No ()

CHECK FOR NON-PUBLICATION OF CALL ___ OR EMAIL ___

ARRL Member? ___yes ___no

LICENSE AND OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

CLASS OF CURRENT LICENSE (CHECK ONE)

___NOVICE ___TECH-NC ___TECH-PLUS ___GENERAL ___ADVANCED ___EXTRA

YEAR OBTAINED _____ YEAR FIRST LICENSED _____

PREVIOUS CALLS HELD: _____

EMPLOYER: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES (P-PORTABLE M-MOBILE F-FIXED)

___160 ___80 ___40 ___20 ___15 ___10 ___6 ___2 ___220 ___440 ___PACKET/DIGITAL

OTHER: _____

I PREFER: ___CW ___FM ___OSCAR ___PACKET ___RTTY ___SSB

POWER OUTPUT: HF BANDS: ___WATTS VHF BANDS: ___WATTS

EMERGENCY POWER AVAILABLE: ___BATTERY ___GENERATOR ___SOLAR

I AM INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING:

___ACTIVITIES SUPPORT TEAM ___PROGRAM COMMITTEE

___EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE ___PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

___ELMER PROGRAM ___RFI / TVI PROGRAM

___EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ___SMOKETEST ARTICLES

___FIELD DAY TEAM ___SPECIAL EVENTS

___HAMFEST COMMITTEES ___VE PROGRAM

___MEMBER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE ___MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

___OTHER _____

DATE DUES PAID ___/___/___ AMOUNT: \$ _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

Mail to: WCARS, PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802-1488

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PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802
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2007 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice-Pres	John Davis	AI4HY	232-0023	docjdb@aol.com
Secretary	Karen Smith	KG4OUP	890-5103	KG4OUP@arrl.net
Treasurer	Karl Krauss	K4PCY	674-8480	kraussmail@bellsouth.net
Exec. Ctm	Ken Smith	KE4VMB	890-5103	KE4VMB@arrl.net
Exec. Ctm	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	olblu@charter.net
Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	normalharrill@att.net
Quarter Master	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Awards Chair	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	WD4CNZ@arrl.net
Public Info	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	WD4CNZ@arrl.net
Field Day 06 Chair	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	olblu@charter.net
Hamfest Chair 2006	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	K2JB@arrl.net
Smoketest Ed.	Dick Burns	K8SKX		K8SKX@arrl.net

American Radio Relay League Affiliate No. 0602

WCARS meets at 7:30 PM the first Thursday of each month at the Simpson Building at AB Technical Community College. Everyone is welcome to attend. Membership dues are \$20/yr payable in January.

Weekly Nets of local interest

Net	Freq(mHz) offset / PL	Day	Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Monday	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190 -	Sunday	21:00	
BRARC Net	146.640 - / 91.5	Sunday	20:00	
Good Morning Net	146.760 -	M-W-F	9:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Cty Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660 - / 100	Tuesday	21:00	Madison Cty Emerg Comm Net
Buncombe Cty Emerg Mgt Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Wednesday	21:00	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Volunteer Net	147.180 + / 136.5	Friday	21:00	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190 -	Saturday	21:00	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610 -	Nightly	21:00	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 -	Sunday	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 -	Monday	20:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	10:00	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	18:30	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	19:00	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	19:30	Directed Net, NC Emerg Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	20:00	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	22:00	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net

Please send additions-corrections-deletions to the editor

Coming Events

1/4 WCARS meeting
1/10 QCWA meeting J&S, River Ridge, 11:30
1/13 Greenwood SC Hamfest

Contests

12/31 ARRL Straight Key Night, 7:00pm EST
1/7 Kid's Day, 13:00-19:00 EST
1/13 North American QSO Party – CW
Info at www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php

Contests ...continued

1/13 Winter Field Day sponsored by Society for
Preservation of Amateur Radio info at
www.spar-hames.org/contests/winterfd/index.php
1/20 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
1/20 NA QSO Party – phone
1/27 CQ WW 160 meter Contest info at
www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html

Contest info: www.arrl.org/contests

WCARS

PO Box 1488

Asheville, NC 28802-1488