



[WCARS.org](http://WCARS.org)  
January 2008

*The Official Publication of*  
**The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc**

**President's Microphone... Scott - W4IYS**

The annual Christmas dinner was a success as usual. Members gathered in a spirit of fellowship, thankful for another abundant year, and grateful for the work and sacrifice of others that helps assure our continued way of life. Thanks once again to our hosts for the use of their facility... Remember, to remain current, club memberships are due in January. Hope to see you at the next club meeting. 73

**December 8th Minutes...Steve - KF4TVD**

The annual Christmas dinner was held at the Blackmer Lodge, Weaverville, NC, in lieu of the monthly meeting.

Chet - KE4VXC announced the "Ham" of the Year Award, this year going to KG4RPY - Doris, for her unending, mostly behind the scenes but much appreciated work for the club.

Scott - W4IYS announced this years Presidents Award recipient. KN4ST - Elwood was recognized for his omnipresent service to the club in many essential capacities, each effort done with enthusiasm.

the NWS during events of severe weather. It is held on the first Saturday in December each year. This was the 9th year of the event. WCARS and ARES in Western North Carolina have been closely involved with the NWS at GSP for many years and are considered "part of the team". We are invited every year to participate in the event, and I think we have participated every year since the beginning. We've had the MOE-Van with us three or four times. This year I went down to GSP alone and worked with members of the Greenville and Spartanburg SC clubs. We had 1 station on 40 meters CW, 1 station on 20 meters, 1 station on 440 doing VOIP and 1 station on 2 meters. I operated from 9:00AM until 5:00PM local time from GSP. Of course other weather station across the US were on for 24 hours. I think there were about 90 weather stations in all participating. We had 18 visitors and made 83 contacts. Again I will say the NWS at GSP considers us a part of the team. I also discussed SkyWarn activities with the EC for Greenville County and we decided to use the 147.105 repeater in Henderson County with a liaison to 146.91 for SkyWarn nets (we are unable to reach 146.91 from GSP at present). 73 Tommy K4BNP

**SKYWARN Recognition Day...**



Is sponsored by the ARRL and The National Weather Service to honor and recognize amateur radio and their efforts to assist

ARES - Amateur Radio Relay League  
GSP - Greenville-Spartanburg  
MOE - W4MOE  
CW - Continuous Wave/Morse Code  
VOIP - Voice Over Internet Protocol  
NWS - National Weather Service  
EC - Emergency Coordinator

## Christmas 2007 - Dec 8

The annual WCARS Christmas party, held at Blackmer Lodge in Weaverville, was a scene of enjoyment and fellowship by all.



Some fine cooks completed preparations, as others renewed old acquaintances, made new ones, or simply reminisced with their “ham” friends.

As part of this year’s celebration, WCARS award presentations were made to members whose contributions to club activities stand as an example of the finest in personal involvement and unselfish commitment. WCARS thanks each recipient for their contributions to the club, and congratulates them on their well-earned award.

KF4TVD - Steve 73

**Happy New Year!**



“Ham” of the Year KG4RPY - Doris

“Ham” of the Year election went to KG4RPY - Doris, in recognition of her invaluable contribution to the club during Field Day (FD), Hamfest, and virtually all other club activities.



KN4ST - Elwood proudly displays his award while being congratulated by AF4SQ - Riley

The Presidents Award for Outstanding “Ham” went to KN4ST - Elwood, to recognize his varied contributions to the success of WCARS and ever present involvement in the club activities, from tower work, Hamfest preparation, logistics, general equipment maintenance, and many other aspects of club activity to numerous to name.

## Northwest US Pounded by Storms, Floods; Hams across Region Activated

Dec 7, 2007... The wake of fierce storms have ravaged the Pacific Northwest, killing at least seven people and leading to widespread flooding and mudslides that shut down roads and highways, including Interstate 5; other infrastructure, such as telephone lines and electricity, have been obliterated.

The latest of three storms slammed into the state on Monday, December 3, hitting hardest on the Olympic Peninsula, Kitsap County and the southwestern corner of Washington State



**The town of Chehalis, Washington, almost totally submerged by water**

as well as the northwest corner of Oregon. Throughout it all, Amateur Radio operators were there to help...

In Oregon, after a visit Tuesday to Vernonia, Governor Ted Kulongoski said, "I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators. These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said the radio operators were tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected. When even state police had difficulty reaching some of their own troops, ham radio worked, setting up networks so emergency officials could communicate and relaying lists of supplies needed in stricken areas...

Amateur Radio's role in again providing communications when other systems were destroyed or overloaded was not missed by the media. Many TV, radio and newspaper items have appeared, praising the hams and

noting their service to the communities. ARRL Oregon Section Public Information Officer Steve Sanders, KE7JSS, has been responding to many media requests, including an article distributed via the Associated Press. Portland's KATU Channel 2 spotlighted the role Amateur Radio played throughout the storms...

ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Jim Pace, K7CEX, said, "The Washington and Oregon Coast and inland areas of Western Washington were struck by extreme winds (maximum gusts of over 100 MPH) and torrential rains..."



**Aerial view of flooding on Interstate 5 [Photos courtesy Jeremy King]**

Pace praised the amateurs in the Western Washington Section: "They train the way they're going to respond, and they respond the way they are trained. Some will report to duty and never see a microphone, but will make copies, log data, empty wastebaskets, direct vehicle traffic and fill sand bags -- whatever needs to be done -- and never complain once."

ARRL



## Silent Key

With deep regret WCARS records the loss of fellow amateur Charles R. Porter - KD4WVQ, Asheville, December 7, 2007.

## Buncombe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Construction is nearing completion, and the new EOC for Buncombe County should be operational by early February 2008.

K4BNP - Tommy Queen, ARRL-ARES/RACES Area 14 District Emergency Coordinator (DEC)

## Digipeater on Spivey

The digipeater installation is complete at the WCARS site on Spivey Mountain, enabling packet access to the Hendersonville Bulletin Board (BBS), etc. The station identifies every 40 minutes as K8SKX/3, operating on 145.63 MHz.

K8SKX - Dick

## Hamfest Calendar

### January 5

Tennessee (White Pine)

8AM-3PM. *Spr*: Lakeway ARC, Smoky Mountains Expo Center, 1615 Pavilion Dr. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Morristown Hamfest, VE sessions, handicapped accessible. *TI*: 147.03. *Adm*: \$6. *Tables*: \$15. Henry McClary, AG4QG, 2105 Tobes Creek Rd, Cosby, TN 37722; 423-487-0332; [qsl@hughes.net](mailto:qsl@hughes.net); [www.lakewayarc.org](http://www.lakewayarc.org).

### January 12

North Carolina (Winston-Salem)

7AM noon. *Spr*: Forsyth ARC. Summit School, 2100 Reynolds Rd. "Winston-Salem FirstFest Swapfest," just a good old-fashioned swapfest, free coffee and donuts. *TI*: 145.47 (100 Hz), 146.64 (100 Hz). *Adm*: \$5. *Tables*: Bring your own. John Kippe, NOKTY, c/o Winston-Salem Hamfest, Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361; [firstfest@w4nc.org](mailto:firstfest@w4nc.org); [www.w4nc.org](http://www.w4nc.org).

### January 12

South Carolina (Greenwood)

9 AM-3 PM. *Spr*: Greenwood ARS. Greenwood Civic Center, 1610 Highway 72/221 E. ARRL forum, VE sessions. *TI*: 147.165 (107.2) Hz. *Adm*: \$6. *Tables*: \$10. Darrell Manning, KI4BST, 719 Darlington St, Calhoun Falls, SC 29628; 864-418-8969; [ki4bst@yahoo.com](mailto:ki4bst@yahoo.com); [www.w4gwd.org](http://www.w4gwd.org).

## ARES/RACES Training



The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) site <http://www.arrl.org/cce/>,

provides links to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) courses EC-001, EC-002 and EC-003. These courses are offered on-line at monthly intervals, at a current cost of \$45 for members, or \$75 for non-members. NIMS compliant certification of IS-100, IS-200 and IS-700 may also be accomplished on-line.



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency

Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who are involved in emergency management and also to the public. All are free to those who qualify for enrollment. The starting point is <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>.

KF4TVD - Steve

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## January Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be January 3, 2008, 7:30 p.m. in the Ferguson Auditorium, Laurel Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

**Smoke Test Editor...** Members please send any material of interest for inclusion in the newsletter to [KF4TVD@ARRL.NET](mailto:KF4TVD@ARRL.NET) 73 KF4TVD-Steve

## The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:

ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections—including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.  
(NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)  
ARRL

## ARRL CCE Registration



ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration (Dec 19, 2007) -- Registration remains

open through Sunday, January 6, 2008 for these online courses beginning on Friday, January 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

## THE ACCIDENT

This ham is sitting at his desk answering a letter from his insurance company...

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block 3 of the accident reporting form. You said in your letter that I

should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley which was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools, (you will note that in block 11 of the report form that I weigh about 155 pounds.)

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say I proceeded up the side of the tower at a rather rapid rate. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my ascent up the side of the tower, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Luckily, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At the same time however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed only about 20 pounds. (I refer you again to my weight in block 11.) As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level I met the barrel coming up. Well, this accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of tools, and I was fortunate to have only 3 vertebrae cracked. I am sorry to report however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and not observing the barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind-- I let go of the rope.

*Original author unknown - probably with good reason*

73 KF4TVD

# THE SMOKE TEST

The Official Publication of the  
**Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**  
 PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802  
[www.wcars.org](http://www.wcars.org)

W4MOE/146.910 - /PL 91.5 Spivey Mountain/Asheville

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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 per year payable in January.

Net	Freq (MHz) offset / PL	Day	12 Hr Time	24 Hr Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Monday	9:00 pm	2100	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190 -	Sunday	9:00 pm	2100	
BRARC Net	146.640 - / 91.5	Sunday	8:00pm	2000	
Good Morning Net	146.760 -	M-W-F	9:00 am	0900	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Co. Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660 - / 100	Tuesday	9:00 pm	2100	Madison Co. Emerg. Comm. Net
Buncombe Co. Emerg Mgt Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 pm	2100	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Volunteer Net	147.180 + / 136.5	Friday	9:00 pm	2100	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190 -	Saturday	9:00 pm	2100	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610 -	Nightly	9:00 pm	2100	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 -	Sunday	9:00 pm	2100	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 -	Monday	8:00 pm	2000	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm Z	1500 Z	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00 am	0700	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45 am	0745	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	6:30 pm	1830	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	7:00 pm	1900	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	7:30 pm	1930	Directed Net, NC Emerg. Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	8:00 pm	2000	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	10:00 pm	2200	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net