



WCARS.org
January 2009

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

President's Microphone...

The yearly Christmas dinner was a time of sharing and fellowship leading up to this Holiday season. Thanks to everyone who was able to come to this year's event. We missed those of you who could not get here this year. As we enter 2009, may everyone enjoy good health, and have a prosperous and happy new year. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

73 Dean ~ k2jb

Upcoming Events

Jan-10: Winston-Salem FirstFEST
Mar-14&15: Roanoke Division Convention,
Charlotte April 11: NC Section Convention,
Raleigh

VE Exams

Jan-17 9am Room 134, Elm Building - AB Tech, 340 Victoria Rd, Asheville, NC Walk-ins only Contact: Steve Lanford, AG4BY 101 King St. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-645-3511
Contact VE for Exam Dates:
Burnsville, NC - 147.375 Yancey County Public Library - Town Square Burnsville David McCarty, W4TDM 391 E. Main Street Burnsville, NC 28714 828-675-9044 Barry McKinney Rt 2 Box 1122 Burnsville, NC 28714 828-682-9270
Columbus, NC Wayne Ackerman, W3GYK 621 Laurel Lake Drive, Unit B-104 Columbus, N C 28722-7436 828-894-5542 Rutherford County, North Carolina - 147.24 Isothermal College,
Spindale, NC F. Bruce Tessinear, KD4OJ P. O. Box 341 Henrietta, NC 28076 828-657-5464 A.

B. Brackett, AB4E 117 Toney Rd Bostic, NC 28018 828-245-6334

Greenville, SC - 146.61 8:30 AM Red Cross Building - 940 Grove Road Sue L. Chism, N4ENX 139 Mustang Circle Simpsonville, SC 29681-5753 864-967-0001

NCEN-TEN Schedule

The North Carolina Evening Net (NCEN) is still at 5:30pm EST on 3.923MHz. The net will move back to 6:30pm when conditions improve - or daylight savings time returns, whichever comes first. Since some checkins will be missed at this early hour, ARES folks who would normally check into the Tarheel Emergency Net are asked to check in to the NCEN to make sure there are enough outlets for traffic.

The Tarheel Emergency Net also moved to 1.945MHz at 7:30pm EST, on every night except Monday. Success with this has been questionable, but will continue for now. These changes are in effect until further notice. Thanks for your flexibility.
David Roy, W4DNA NC Section Traffic Manager
w4dna@nc.rr.com

January Meeting - The next WCARS meeting will be January 8, 2009, 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

W1AW 2008/2009 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:
1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)
(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095
28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160
21.390 28.590 147.555

Hamfest Calendar

Jan 3 - 18th Annual Morristown Hamfest, Lakeway Amateur Radio Club, Smoky Mountains Expo Center, 1615 Pavilion Drive White Pine, TN <http://www.lakewayarc.org>
Talk-In: 147.030+ Contact: June McClary, AI4SO 2105 Tobes Creek Road, Cosby, TN 37722 Phone: 423-487-0332 Email: ai4so@hughes.net

Jan 10 - Winston-Salem FirstFest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Summit School Parking Lot, 2100 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, NC <http://www.w4nc.com> Talk-In: 146.64 (PL 100) Contact: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO c/o Forsyth ARC, PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361 Phone: 336-245-5740 Email: firstfest09@w4nc.org

Jan 10 - Greenwood Hamfest, Greenwood Amateur Radio Society, Greenwood Civic Center, 1610 Highway 72/221 East, Greenwood, SC <http://www.w4gwd.org> Talk-In: 147.165+ (no tone) Contact: Darrell Manning, KI4BST PO Box 2404, Greenwood, SC 29646 Phone: 864-418-8969 Email: dbmanning@wctel.net Greenwood, SC Greenwood Civic Center



FCC Calls on Amateur Radio

Service to assist with Digital TV Conversion
The FCC has asked ARRL members to provide technical educational

assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television (DTV) conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009. According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the DTV conversion in their areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this, as local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not. Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations; the request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials. From ARRL

ARRL Continuing Education

Registration remains open through Sunday, January 4, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 16, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation. For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit the Continuing Education Program (<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student>).

2008 WCARS Christmas Dinner



Photo courtesy KN4ST

The annual dinner was enjoyed by all who were able to get to this year's dinner, held at the Hominy Valley Masonic Lodge. Thanks to those folks for hosting WCARS this year.



Photo courtesy KN4ST

As part of the December 6th Christmas dinner celebration, awards were made to those whose club activities warranted recognition.

Elwood Miles - KN4ST was presented the W4PDF Memorial Award. This award honors outstanding contributions to WCARS and amateur radio in WNC. As quartermaster, Elwood

has worked tirelessly to enable WCARS activities, from the hamfest, field day and numerous special events during the year.

Scott McCabe - W4IYS received the WA4OLA Outstanding Service Award for his contributions to the WCARS. Scott, Past President of WCARS, has been and remains a faithful supporter of

Amateur Radio in Western North Carolina. Scott has supported WCARS through numerous licensing classes, managed the club's affairs during his tenure as president and provided a wealth of knowledge to his peers. He has worked behind the scenes in many capacities to promote Amateur Radio in the area. Those efforts have been largely unrecognized until now. As such, he is most deserving of this award.

Dean Blair - K2JB was awarded the Gold Medal for Meritorious Service by the Disaster Emergency Response Association (DERA). This award honors the work and service as president of the club



and his promotion of amateur radio in Western North Carolina via a new web page development, as well as many new activities planned for hams in the area.

WCARS congratulates each recipient for well-deserved awards.

WD4CNZ, K2JB, N4SET

You can't **TRUST** anyone today!

During a recent trip my wife and I were on we drove around the back woods of East Texas. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale." Well I needed a break so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and see a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" I asked. "Yep," the Lab replies. Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?" "Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a W9UCW antenna on your Passat out there?" "How did you know that," I asked? The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my Ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years."

Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club. In fact I won first place in the Texas QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party? I said "let me see what I can do."

I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" "Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Technician."

From N4K0X & WD4IJT

THE SMOKE TEST				
The Official Publication of the				
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.				
PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802				
www.wcars.org				
W4MOE/146.910 - /PL 91.5 Spivey Mountain/Asheville				
2008 OFFICERS				
President	Dean Blair	K2JB	655-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
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Secretary				
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
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Awards Chair	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@arrl.net
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@arrl.net
Hamfest 09				
Smoke Test Editor	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@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 per year payable in January.				

Net	Freq (MHz) offset/PL	Day	12 Hr Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910-/91.5	Monday	9:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190	Sunday	9:00 pm	
BRARC Net	146.640/91.5	Sunday	8:00pm	
Good Morning Net	146.760	M-W-F	9:00 am	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Co. Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660/100	Tuesday	9:00 pm	Madison Co. Emerg. Comm. Net
Buncombe Co. Emerg Mgt Net	146.910/91.5	Wednesday	9:00 pm	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Haywood County Monday Night Roundtable	147.390/94.8	Monday	8:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Volunteer Net	147.180+/136.5	Friday	9:00 pm	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190	Saturday	9:00 pm	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610	Nightly	9:00 pm	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260	Sunday	9:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540	Monday	8:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net (Time is UTC)
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00 am	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45 am	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	6:30 pm	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	7:00 pm	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	7:30 pm	Directed Net, NC Emerg. Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	8:00 pm	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	10:00 pm	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net