



WCARS.org
January 2013

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

BC-ARES

from Carl Smith, N4AA

It has been difficult for me the past three weeks or so. I spent the entire week of Christmas in the Pulmonary unit at Mission Hospital being treated for pneumonia. They finally released me late on Saturday December 29th to make room for more patients. After coming home I discovered there were reactions between some of the drugs. I believe we have finally resolved those “reactions” and I’m making progress to recovery, although I’m told it could take another 4-6 weeks.

In view of all of the above I have not been able to do much. I had wanted to have a meeting in January, but will postpone that until February.

There has been some progress on the WINLINK system for Mission Hospital. I was told last week that the purchase of the equipment had been approved. With my being unavailable and Dick Burns out of town until March 1, I have asked Dwight Danner, W4DCD to fill in for me in the meeting(s) with Mission personnel so the project can move forward. Dwight is familiar with the personnel at Mission, he also knows the WINLINK system, he is a MARS member and he works at the Buncombe County EOC. Dwight will keep me informed on the project at Mission as it develops.

**Meeting for February is on the 7th
AB-Tech—Simpson Bldg
7:30 PM**

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTE

**Club meetings are subject to the
following:**

**Should Buncombe County schools close
due to inclement weather our meeting will
be canceled.**

Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2013

The January 10, 2013, regular monthly meeting of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society was called to order by Scott McCabe W4IYS, Club President, at 1935 hrs. He welcomed all in attendance.

Scott asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

He then asked everyone to introduce themselves giving a name, callsign (if any), and QTH.

(Chances for a 50-50 drawing were sold prior to the meeting with 1/2 of the proceeds serving as a door prize and 1/2 going into the club treasury)

BC-ARES

I continue to operate TWO packet stations at my home in Leicester. N4AA-4 is available as a temporary Mail-Box on 145.710. The second station, also on 145.710 is configured as an RMS Node, N4AA-10. Anyone who has a packet station can connect to these stations and I encourage using them. Both stations are set to send a BEACON signal periodically. If you cannot connect directly to my station (s), you can digi-peat thru the nodes on Spivey which Dick Burns got up and running before he left town. Those nodes are NN4BC-1 (also BUNC1) on 145.710, and the second one is NN4BC-2 (Also BUNC2) on 145.630. The 145.630 will allow you to connect to the Henderson County BBS (BRARC, HVLBBS). Feel free to use these nodes and stations as much as you like. The more they are used, the more you will learn about how the system will work if/when we need it in an emergency. If you can't connect or need help in doing something with Packet, call me. I may not have an answer, but I will get an answer.

A packet station and a 2M voice station will be installed at the Red Cross as soon as we get enough good weather for installing a couple of antennas outside the building. Antennas and coax are available now and whatever else might be needed for that installation will be acquired as the need is determined.

Check-in's to the Wednesday evening net at 9-PM have been down and perhaps it is due to the Flu epidemic. I encourage you to check in as often as possible. I have not been able to be there, mostly due to my throat/voice not functioning well.

Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2013

Norman Harrill N4NH recognized Jerry VeHaun WA4GTT, Buncombe County Emergency Coordinator, as special guest and speaker for the meeting program.

Jerry explained how ham radio has supported and reinforced various emergency preparedness teams for Buncombe County and western North Carolina plus facilities and services for any emergency need/event.

He also explained how HAZMAT and SMAT capabilities, Search and Rescue operations, and new school system emergency plans are in place in light of recent events in the nation.

He further talked about HAMWATCH and encouraged EVERY licensed ham to participate in HAMWATCH when needed and when the net is called. He entertained questions/comments.

Norman Harrill N4NH is the leader of HAMWATCH in this area and interested persons are asked to contact him for any information NHARRILL@bellsouth.net.

Norman stated that the Shelby Hamfest will be back in Shelby for 2013.

It was announced that Ralph Roberts will present the February meeting program.

Norman presented certificates for completing the code class to four club members.

Scott asked for the Treasurer's Report. The report was present for the period of Nov 15, 2012 -Jan 15, 1013 (no meeting in December as we celebrated the Christmas Party). Steve reported the checking account balance of \$1,516.94, Savings account balance of \$13,056.23, total liquid assets \$14,573.17.

BC-ARES

With the recent rain, and high water in some places, I also urge you to monitor the situation in your particular area. We were not called upon for this weather situation, but it could happen anytime and we could be needed. I did check with Jerry VeHaun when I observed Turkey Creek below my house overflowing its banks and flooding the adjacent farm land. We were not needed for this event, but I offered to serve if needed.

Dick Burns, K8SKX told me he had received a letter from the Meals on Wheels. This year's event is planned for Saturday May 11 so it will not conflict with several other events. Logistically the ride will be basically the same as last year. They are however eliminating the 100 mile ride and will make the 30(?) mile ride more challenging and I think make changes to the ride up Ox Creek. There is plenty of time and the bottom line - BCARES is in the loop again this year to provide communications.

Thanks for your interest and participation. Let's hope everyone can survive this flu season and be able to help.

73,
Carl, N4AA

Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2013

Steve described an equipment insurance plan through ARRL and invited input anytime for all club equipment and repeater coverage. No discussion was offered from the floor.

An announcement was made that if THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, there would NOT be a WCARS Club meeting on that day.

Ron K4ML talked about the possibility of the Haywood County ARClub running the concession stand at the next HAMFEST and volunteered the Club for this task. A decision will be made in the future about this offer.

The door prize ticket was drawn and the prize awarded. Ron KR4ML won the door prize of a Club Cap.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2026 hours with refreshments and fellowship following.

Submitted by Bob Dockery WD4CNZ, Secretary

Silent Keys

KD4JGX - Clyde Reese became a silent key on December 30, 2012. He is the uncle of KI4KPQ
- Ben Baldwin's wife.

Clyde's obituary can be seen at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizen-times/obituary.aspx?pid=162066517#fbLoggedOut>

KJB4KIO - Dorothy Peek became a silent key on January 12, 2013, she was a member of
WCARS, MARS and Haywood County Radio Club,

Dorothy's obituary can be seen at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/citizen-times/obituary.aspx?pid=162066517#fbLoggedOut>

VHF Contesting

Dear NC ARRL Members & All NC Hams:

45% of all North Carolina Hams hold Technician Class licenses. Many of them own only VHF and UHF equipment, and don't use their gear for contesting or to practice improvement of their operating skills. Two upcoming contests have amended their rules so Technicians can fully participate. Please encourage all Technicians to take advantage of these two events.

The first is this weekend, the January ARRL VHF Contest. The ARRL has added a new "FM Only" category to ARRL VHF contests, starting with the January VHF Contest, which begins this Saturday, January 19. The contest starts at 1900 UTC (2:00 PM local) and runs until Sunday night at 0359 UTC (10:59 PM EST). You'll find lots of "weak signal" VHF operators working hard to work your station on FM. No special gear, no big expense -- you can operate in this contest and possibly win a certificate using just the radios you already own. It's also a perfect opportunity for ARES, SKYWARN and CERT teams to test their ability to communicate without using a repeater, just as you might have to in an actual emergency. Want to have even more fun? Drive or hike to a local hilltop and you can exercise your deployment capabilities -- it's like "Field Day In the Cold!" You'll find lots of VHF operators hoping to work YOU! Try transmitting a "CQ Contest" on the following frequencies: 146.550 MHz simplex; 146.580 MHz simplex; also 52.525 MHz (6 meters); 223.5 MHz (1.25 meters); and 446.0 MHz (70 cm band). Remember under the new rules, you're limited to 100 watts or less, but that means you'll be on equal footing with a lot of small stations. A gain antenna (like a beam or Yagi) can really help, and a high location is a big plus, too. You'll need to know your Maidenhead "grid square" as that is part of the exchange of reports with other stations. Find your grid square by using this calculator: <http://www.qrz.com/gridfinder> Contest rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>

And our own North Carolina QSO Party has included 6 and 2 meters for the first time. It will be Sunday, February 24th for 10 hours straight, starting at 10:00 AM local time (1500 UTC) and ending 8:00 PM (0100 UTC Feb. 25). This is the once-a-year chance to try to put all 100 North Carolina counties on the air, and this year Technicians can help on 6 and 2 meters. Details about the NC QSO Party, sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS), can be found at www.ncqsoparty.org

Recent licensing trends show that North Carolina Technician Class licensees are upgrading to General and Amateur Extra licenses, but many still need encouragement and Elmering. Let's all get out and enjoy some winter fun on VHF and UHF with ARRL's January VHF Contest and the NC QSO Party.

73,
Bill Morine N2COP

Old Radios at the Museum

Submitted by Scott - W4IYS

Here are some photos of recent radios for the Radio Museum at AB-Tech:



Atwater Kent Radio

RCA Radiola AR



Photographs by Mike Cozza, the donator of the radios

WCARS / VEC Exam Schedule

Asheville - AB-TECH, Rm 134, Elm Bldg

**9:00 AM on the THIRD SATURDAY of:
January, April, July and October**

VE Team Leader: Bob Helton - KS4FX
Phone: 828-684-0249

**2:00 PM on the THIRD SUNDAY of:
February, May, August and November**

VE Team Leader: Steve Lankford - AG4BY
Phone: 828-768-2141

Burnsville - Yancey County Library

Contact:

VE Team Leader: David McCarty - W4TDM
Phone: 828-657-1044

Marion

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Harriet Fullbright - K4ICU
Phone: 828-291-7521

Rutherfordton - Isothermal College

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Bruce Tessineer - AD4OJ
Phone: 828-657-5464

Waynesville

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Al Sanders - WD4A
Phone: 828-926-8244

Weaverville - Reems Creek FD

9:00 AM on the First Saturday of:
April, July, October and December

VE Team Leader: Harley Bullman - AJ4PI
Phone: 828-645-0889

**For other locations contact:
Norman Harrill
N4NH@arrl.net / 828-253-1192**

From the Editor

The club has moved back to AB Tech now, and it is just a better place for the meetings, lots of parking and easy to get too and for club members not living in Asheville it is a lot more central for everyone. I think it is a good move, and if the attendance at the last meeting is any indication with 40+ people in attendance it is good for the club.

Norman has a wide variety of presentations lined up for the meetings so come out and see who the guest speakers will be.

Work has been very busy, which is part of the reason why the newsletter is late this month. Also means I've not had a lot of time to work on radio projects. You got to make hay while there is hay to be made.

Net attendance has been down, in part it could be because of the flu and people being busy. If you can spare a few minutes on Monday and Wednesday nights at nine take a moment and check in to the net. It lets others know how you are doing especially if you have not been to a meeting in some time.

The packet nodes are up and running if you want to try out packet, there are several packet machines in Buncombe County you can connect to.

If you have something you would like to send to Smoketest please send it to kk4brd@gmail.com.

Paul - KK4BRD

Regional Hamfests

2013 Charlotte Hamfest

When: March 8, 2013

Where: Cabarrus Arena & Event Center

4571 Hwy 49 North

Concord, NC

Talk-in: 146.655 (-), no tone / 146.94 (-), 118.8 Hz tone



The ARRL Letter

Materials in the ARRL Letter are taken from The ARRL Letter online, full credit is given to The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League, as per republication guidelines require.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

Amateur Radio in Space: NASA Now Accepting Applications for Hosting a Real-Time Conversation with ISS Crewmembers

NASA is now accepting proposals from US schools, museums, science centers and community youth organizations -- individually or working together -- to host an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL](#)) contact between May 1, 2013 and November 1, 2013. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, NASA is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. Radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length. ARISS contacts are supported by the program's US partners -- the ARRL and [AMSAT](#) -- and their member volunteers, as well as other international space agencies and Amateur Radio partners. Proposals are due January 28, 2013.

Interested parties can visit the [ARRL website](#) or the [NASA Teaching From Space website](#) for information about proposal requirements and how to submit a proposal, as well as links to audio and videos of archived contacts. Five information sessions are also available for groups who are considering submitting an ARISS proposal. Access to the Internet and a telephone line are required to connect to a session. Information on how to sign up for these sessions is available on the ARRL and NASA websites.



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ARRL Executive Committee Approves Resource Grants for Five Schools

01/07/2013

In December, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP), awarding equipment and resources valued at nearly \$7000 to five schools. Two types of grants are awarded: ETP Grants and Progress Grants.

ETP School Station Grants

Grants for school radio stations are awarded to schools that provide a plan to use Amateur Radio as part of an enrichment program and/or as part of in classroom learning. The following schools recently received ETP equipment and resource grants at a total estimated cost of \$6000:

Taft Middle School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Teachers at this school have a two-fold interest: Providing a high altitude ballooning program and participating in an ARISS contact with astronauts aboard the International Space Station. The school has the support of a local Amateur Radio club. Based on the evidence of the support provided by the local ham radio community, commitment of the school administration and the strength of the plan as outlined in the grant application, the school will receive a basic VHF station to get its program going and support its high altitude balloon tracking efforts.

Roosevelt Junior High School, Roosevelt, Utah: This school requested equipment to support a school club with an emphasis on satellites and the goal of an ARISS contact. The lead teacher on the grant application is licensed and a graduate of the TI program.

Mill Springs Academy, Alpharetta, Georgia: The Amateur Radio program at this special education school focuses on student licensure, applying for an ARISS contact and participating in School Club Roundup. The program, as outlined in the grant application, anticipates extensive outside help from the local ham community.



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Progress Grants

The purpose of the ETP Progress Grant is to offer modest resource support to teachers who are currently using Amateur Radio as an instructional tool in their classrooms and who need additional resources for specific purposes. The following schools received equipment and resource Progress Grants at a total estimated cost of \$700:

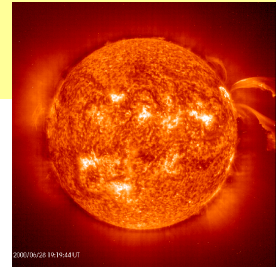
Curtis A. Strange Elementary School, Kenosha, Wisconsin: The application requested support to start a STEM program base on the Sea Perch ROV platform, carrying the remote sensor package suite being developed for a future ETP Teachers Institute 2 Remote Sensing program. This school wants to build a remote sensing component that includes all of the pillars of the ETP: basic electronics, microcontroller programming and the science of radio. The school will receive one Sea Perch and the associated electronics cards, with a condition that one of the teachers involved in this program attend a TI session this summer as part of the training on how to use the resources in the classroom.

Delcastle Technical High School, Wilmington, Delaware: The applicant, a TI graduate who teaches electronics, requested 15 of the 5 Building Blocks circuit boards used in the TI to instruct the science of radio content. The students will populate these circuit boards as part of the soldering instruction they receive, then use the populated boards to support the science of radio instruction unit that mirrors what is taught during the TI.

A central goal of the ETP is to develop a foundation of wireless technology literacy among America's teachers and students. It employs Amateur Radio to explore radio science and electronics and provide hands-on activities that engage students' minds and imaginations, opening doorways into math, science and technology curriculum topics, as well as other core curriculum areas such as geography and language arts.

More than 500 schools and 600 teachers across the country have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI). Applications for equipment and resource grants are accepted twice each year; application deadlines are May 1 and November 1.

Solar Weather



NOAA Solar Forecasts

Updated at: 2013 Jan 17

Sunspot Number: 82

Spotless Days

Flare	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Class M	40%	40%
Class X	05%	05%

Current Stretch: 0 days
 2013 total: 0 days (0%)
 2012 total: 0 days (0%)
 2011 total: 2 days (<1%)
 2010 total: 51 days (14%)
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)
 Since 2004: 821 days
 Typical Solar Min: 486 days
 Updated 17 Jan 2013

Geomagnetic Storms

Mid-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	35%	25%
Minor	05%	05%
Severe	01%	01%

Interplanetary Magnetic Field

B_{total} : 4.5 nT B_z : 4.0 nT south

High-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	15%	15%
Minor	30%	30%
Severe	45%	30%

The Radio Sun

10.7 cm flux: 112 sfu

HF Conditions	Day	Night
80 m - 40 m	Poor	Fair
30 m - 20 m	Good	Good
17 m - 15 m	Good	Good
12 m - 10 m	Fair	Poor
VHF Conditions	Day	Night
Aurora	Mid Latitude Aurora	
6 m EsEU	Band Closed	
4 m EsEU	Band Closed	
2 m EsEU	Band Closed	
2 m EsNA	Band Closed	
EME Deg	Fair	

SMOKETEST

Official publication of the

Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802

www.wcars.org

W 4 M O E

Repeater: 146.91 (PL-91.5)

Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

2012 OFFICERS

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HF/VHF/UHF Net Information				
<u>NET NAME</u>	Freq offset / PL	Day	Local time	Notes
6600	145.190 -	Saturday	9-PM	Many check-ins-Wide area coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic	146.610 -	Nightly	9-PM	ARES/Skywarn in bad weather
BRARC	146.640 - 91.5	Sunday	9-PM	
Buncombe Cty Emerg. Mgt.	146.910 - 91.5	Wednesday	9-PM	Directed net, ARES/RACES
Carolinas Net - Early	3.573	Daily	7-PM	CW Traffic
Carolinas Net - Late	3.573	Daily	10-PM	CW - 15-18 WPM Traffic
Carolinas Net - Slow	3.571	Daily	8-PM	Slow CW - 8 to 10 WPM Traffic
Franklin, NC - Winesprings Bald	147.240 + / 151.4	Daily	9-PM	
Good Morning	146.760 -	M-W-F	9-AM	Informal, Everyone welcome
Haywood County Roundtable	147.390 + 94.8	Monday	8-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
K4UUQ Morning	7.228	Daily	7-AM	Ragchew
Madison Cty-AmRadComTeam	224.660 100	Tuesday	9-PM	Madison County Emergency Comm
Mount Mitchell 220	224.540	Monday	8-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
Mount Mitchell Ragchew	442.225 + 107.2	Monday	9-PM	Directed, Everyone welcome
Mount Mitchell Sunrise Net	442.225 + 107.2	Thursday	9-AM	Informal - Everyone welcome
Mount Pisgah 220	224.260	Sunday	9-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
NC Evening Traffic	3.923	Daily	6:30-PM	SSB
NC Morning Traffic	3.927	Daily	7:45-AM	SSB
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp.	145.190 +	Sunday	9-PM	
SATERN	14.265	Daily	3-PM	Salvation Army Team-Emergency
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Daily	7:30-PM	Directed, NC Emerg. Mgt - Traffic
Volunteer	147.180 + 136.5	Friday	9-PM	Info, News and Swap
WCARS Information	146.910 - 91.5	Monday	9-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
???	224.600			WB4PLA on Spivey Mtn. ???
W4YK	53.630 - 100	Friday	9-PM	???
Traders Net	147.05 - 91.5	Tuesday	9-PM	
Skywarn	145.27 - 91.5	As Needed		
SC Hearts / NC Hears / SW VA Net	444.250 - 91.5	Daily	8-PM	
NC Hears	444.250 - 91.5	Daily	9:30 PM	
K4MFD Greenville - 440	444.200 + 173.8			Located on Bald Mtn. N. of Asheville
K4MFD Greenville - 6 Meter	53.400			Located on Bald Mtn. N. of Asheville Linked to N2GE 224.660 & KI4DNY 224.600 fulltime
Blue Ridge Weather Watch	145.190 -	T-T	9-PM	Directed net, Skywarn, everyone welcomed

Regional Repeater List		
Frequency / offset / PL	Location	Notes
145.190 -	Mt. Mitchell	
146.520 Simplex	National Calling Frequency	
146.910 - 91.5	WCARS	
146.640 - 91.5	Hendersonville	IRLP
146.610 -	Greenville, SC	
147.105 + 91.5	Hendersonville	
145.270 - 91.5	Hendersonville	
145.370 - 91.5	Greenville, SC	
147.390 + 94.8	Waynesville	
147.315 + 123	Spartanburg	
147.060 + 123	Greenville, TN	
145.410 - 127.3	Greenville, TN	
145.390 - 186.2	Greenville, TN	
146.760 -	Mt. Pisgah	
146.880 -	Shelby	
147.135 +	Brevard	
147.285 +	Tryon	
145.330 -	Tryon	
146.790 -	Anderson, SC	
146.240 +	Franklin	Connected to 151.4 Pickens, SC
442.225 + 107.2	Mt. Mitchell	
442.450 +	Hendersonville	
442.850 +	Brevard	
444.875 + 131.8	Waynesville	IRLP
224.520 - 91.5	Mt. Spivey	
224.600 - 94.8	Asheville	
224.240 -	Hendersonville	
224.960 -	Hendersonville	
224.540 -	Mt. Mitchell	
224.260 -	Mt. Pisgah	
224.200 -	Shelby	
224.460 -	Shelby	
224.360 -	Marshall	
224.660 - 100	Madison County	
53.630 - 100	Mt. Mitchell	
53.130 - 100	Hendersonville	
53.410 - 131.8	Greenville, SC	