



FEBRUARY 2007

The Official Publication of

The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

www.WCARS.org

President's Microphone...Scott W4IYS

Thanks to all those who showed up for the workday at the repeater site on such short notice. One day soon we'll have a new repeater up and running to serve us for both pleasure and emergencies. Remember, this is winter even if the temperatures don't always reflect it. Be sure your radio gear is ready for emergencies: check your back up power sources, HT batteries, temporary antennas and also supplies for your family.

See you at the meeting ...73 Scott W4IYS

WCARS February Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be February 1, 2007, 7:30pm in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at ABTech. Program: TBA

President Expresses Appreciation to Amateur Radio Operators

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 16, 2007 – President George W. Bush has written the ARRL to recognize the just-ended Hello Amateur Radio public relations campaign and to extend "greetings to all those celebrating 100 years of voices over the airwaves." The president said the centennial of Reginald Fessenden's landmark Christmas Eve 1906 voice broadcast "opened the door for technological advances" that improved the lives of people around the world.

"I appreciate all who work in radio, and I am grateful to the Amateur Radio operators who provide emergency communications that help make our country safer and (continued page 2 column 2)

January minutes...Karen KG4OUP

- Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.
- 39+ people in attendance.
- February meeting will be held at the regular place.
- Donation to ABTech okayed and seconded.
- Repeater committee was brought forth to report on the committee's recommendation regarding new repeater. Executive Committee voted and passed on the report. Report was brought forth by committee member Bill N4OOC. All expenditures require prior approval. Tax deductible donations are welcomed. \$475 was collected at the meeting.
- Den K2JB has "reluctantly" assumed Hamfest Chairmanship and ditto for Chet KE4VXC for Field Day.
- Bill N4OOC gave his wild hair idea for a CW contest to be set for the fall of 2007, to set the official world record. See Bill for official rules and regulations. Help is needed and all volunteers are greatly appreciated. All expenditures must be pre-approved.
- Scott W4IYS discussed NVIS and the need for operators in each county to serve this need. This could be helpful to hospitals and the Red Cross. An NVIS antenna will be going up at the Red Cross soon.
- Scott W4IYS announced new ham classes to be starting soon. Norman N4NH was allotted \$200 for the purchase of books.
- John AI4HY won the 50/50 drawing.
- Karl K4PCY won the door prize

Stop Painting?

Regarding the end of CW testing and the future of CW on the airwaves, I thought this statement from Paul W9AC was worth consideration, "An artist does not stop painting because cameras can more accurately capture an image." Nor does a fly fisherman stop fishing because there are fish in the store or a sailor scrap his sailboat because a power cruiser can go faster.

Morse will be a part of ham radio for a long time, as long as someone wants to use it. Well, as long as TWO people want to use it. The question is whether it will drift off into obscurity or stay healthy.

For inspiration, we can look to RTTY – the fastest growing contest mode of all! Who would have thought ten years ago that would be the case today? RTTY required an external gadget, cables everywhere, strange filtering, and so forth. Today, with a simple audio interface, a computer sound card, and free or cheap software, anybody can get on RTTY. Wow! Looked at the RTTY contest scores lately?

In the CW universe, high-speed Morse competition based on RUFZ and other programs is attracting some good young operators. The speeds are ridiculous - 200 wpm has been reached - and I don't expect to hear dots and dashes flying by quite that fast on 40 meters. In fact, I can't hear dots and dashes AT ALL at 200 wpm. It's like bar code! Nevertheless, there is plenty of interest to be tapped.

That's where you come in, of course. Lift that chin up and let's see if we can't actually make a compelling story out of Morse on the airwaves. I can say for sure that we won't convince a single person to take it up by loudly claiming that the hobby is all "dumbed down." When a prospective customer hears that sort of talk, the chances are pretty good that they'll just keep their money in their pocket as they walk on down the street.

Lately I've been looking at some pretty funny pictures of Novices that have all grown up into serious operators. They're sitting in front of ancient gear all lashed together and it's a wonder that they didn't all get electrocuted. What sold these kids on ham radio? It sure wasn't a bunch of old timers telling them how everything was better twenty years ago. It was pictures and stories of other people having what looked like fun and was something they could join on their own terms.

(continued page 2 column 2)

Stop Painting (continued from column 1)

Well, back to trying to find a clear frequency in between all those obsolete Morse signals! Seems like a guy can't hardly find a spot to call CQ anymore with all the signals on the band...

73, Ward N0AX (from "CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET 10 Jan 2007, Ward Silver N0AX editor)

President... (continued from page 1 column 1)

more secure," President Bush wrote. "Your good work strengthens our society and represents the American spirit."

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, conceived and developed the Hello campaign. He says that while that initiative is formally over, ARRL public information coordinators and officers will take advantage in the new year of the momentum it generated.

"As we begin launching the new Emergency Communications campaign, the friendships and goodwill developed in Hello will aid in future promotions of Amateur Radio," Pitts commented. "For 100 years, radio in its many forms has saved lives and aided in crises. We have a great legacy and a bright future."

The grand finale of the Hello campaign December 29-30 involved special event operations from W1AW, W1F at Brant Rock, Massachusetts, and GM3FVT in Scotland.

The theme of the ARRL's 2007 public relations initiative is "Ham Radio . . . Getting the Message Through for your Family and Community." It will focus on Amateur Radio's capability to provide reliable emergency communication when traditional systems fail or become overloaded.

...submitted by Bob WD4CNZ, PIO – NC ARRL SECTION

Think about this....

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." Albert Einstein

"A hobby should pass the time, not fill it."
Norman Bates, proprietor of the Bates Motel, "Psycho", 1972

...submitted by Henry KF4ODC

**Renew your WCARS membership today,
Please!**

MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT ENDS

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The rules that appeared in the Federal Register constitute their official version:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7729.pdf>

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

(continued next column)

Morse Code Ends... (continued from column 1)

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is NOT automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 – the so called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response...accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last Dec. 15. The FCC designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. ...

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse> (from ARRL Letter Vol. 26:04 January 26, 2007)

No-code: how are you going to react?

Attitudes run from: "they've dumbed down the test again", "I learned it, so should they" to "it's about time, no one uses cw anymore". The same feelings occurred before. The Ham radio exam is like the drivers test: make sure they know enough not to hurt themselves, hurt others, screw-up too bad on the air (or road) and hope they learn with experience. And that's where the "old timers" (present hams) come in. It's our job to encourage, mentor, teach, and guide the new licensees in their new hobby. If we don't who will? Some drivers just muddle along, some do stupid things, some are good safe private drivers and others are real pro's. Hams are like that too...what role will you play? Will you welcome new licensees? Guide, teach, and mentor them? Or grump, complain, criticize and feel miserable about something you can not change?

...opinion of K8SKX

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 _____ ___OTHER _____

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

RECEIVED BY: _____

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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/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 / Contests

Listings discontinued since there was no indication anyone wanted them.

WCARS

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