



WCARS.org
February 2009

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

President's Microphone...

Club and Net activity seems to wane during the dark days of winter, and this year is no exception. Let's all get a jump on the spring thaw and endeavor to become more active now and even when outdoor activities vie for our attention and draw us further from the mic/key/keyboard or whatever our mode of communication. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

73 Dean ~ k2jb

Upcoming Events

Mar 14-15: Roanoke Division Convention, Charlotte

Apr 11: NC Section Convention, Raleigh

Apr 18: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton

May 9: Rockingham County Swapfest, Reidsville

May 23: DurHAMfest, Bahama

TEN Schedule

Dean K2JB has reported that the Tarheel Emergency Net (TEN), which moved to 1.945MHz at 7:30pm EST, on every night except Monday, met with little success. The net has returned to its original time and frequency.

N4SET

Hams Assist NC Inaugural Parade

Tom Brown, N4TAB (Wake County ARES), Bill Cole, KG4CXY (Carolina Helping Hams) and over 20 Raleigh area Hams helped coordinate Gov. Beverly Perdue's inaugural parade on Jan 10...

The group provided communications for the 2005 Inaugural Parade, but never had such an important role in coordinating the event. Hams assisted with the parade registration table and managed the entire staging area, including 3 large parking lots and a 50-bus remote parking lot... A key responsibility was to ensure the parade floats, bands and vehicles lined up in the right order... As the parade began, there were 67 groups and over 2,200 participants whose spacing was maintained between the vehicles and bands. Tom reported "it was a good exercise for the amateur community and we got lots of practice dealing with the unexpected. It's unusual for hams to not only provide communications, but also play a key role in the leadership of such an important event." Bill said "One of the reasons the hams were so adept was due to past experience with public service events. Carolina Helping Hams has provided communications and event coordination support for over 120 events in the last decade. That experience has created a truly talented ham radio team that can deal with just about any contingency." Wake County ARES is on the front-line in providing backup communications support for Wake County Emergency Management and North Carolina Emergency Management. In a note to N4TAB and KG4CXY, Christy Agner from Governor Purdue's staff wrote "I cannot thank the Ham Operators enough for such a job well done with the parade management..." From NC ARRL

January 8th Minutes...Bob - WD4CNZ

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Dean Blair, WCARS President.

The group was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Introduction of all present then followed with each saying their name, callsign, and home QTH.

A request for someone to fill the role of Secretary was asked by the President as presently there is no secretary...no one volunteered...these Minutes were kept just for this meeting by Bob Dockery - WD4CNZ.

The President announced that annual dues were now due.

An invitation from the Asheville Tourists (baseball team) was announced as a special offer of a box seat at the games plus a meal for \$22.

Regarding the MOVAN: Elwood Miles reported that there were problems reinstalling the steering gear and pump and this was still being worked on.

Antennas were tested on the MOVAN and some were found good and some were found bad and all are still in the process of being checked.

Surplus gear list has been posted online for sale.

K2JB announced that they were trying to find someone to do the bodywork and paint for the MOVAN and has contacted local community colleges for the possibility that such work could be done as a "project".

Joint ownership with DERA needs to be reviewed and resolved as this was a problem.

The repeater is working but outlying areas show some cannot get into it. Still some problems and work to be done.

Norman Harrill N4NH reported that new ham classes are to start 10 February with new lesson plans that have been developed due to the use of a new book. He asked that everyone pass the word everywhere to announce these classes and the need to spread the word in schools so as to attract "younger students".

To work with sight-impaired students, exams are now available on CD/DVD. For blind students, Braille tests are now available for each class from Tech to Extra.

Norman then presented a certificate to Tom Leeder for his work and named him an official VE.

K2JB asked all present to try a new mode in their amateur radio activity. The program: NIKOLA TESLA--His Life, Accomplishments, and Challenges was presented by Michael Brown. The program was very informative and everyone enjoyed this program.

K2JB promoted the membership to SERA.

Monthly drawings for the 1/2 and 1/2 and hat/cup were done.

Motion was asked and received to adjourn at 8:43pm.

All present were then invited to enjoy pastries

Emergency Nets

The Henderson county ARES net is working on the coordination of their net at 2030 hrs Wednesday nights, on 146.640 - PL 91.5, just prior to the Buncombe County Emergency Management net now conducted each Wednesday night on 146.910, PL 91.5. Regular check-ins to these nets and all amateurs are encouraged to participate. The objective is to generate more interest and participation in both nets, and to further the efficient exchange of meaningful emergency response/management information among Area 14 and Area 15 neighbors. K4BNP - Tommy provided this information on the January 28th net meeting, and will provide further information as this story develops.

N4SET

ARRL Board of Directors

The Annual Meeting on January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut, included Board consideration and action on a number of organizational and regulatory issues. Election of the Executive Committee, committee appointments and awards were also on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

ARRL Board action included:

Membership and Deployed Active Duty

Military: The Board voted unanimously to amend Bylaw 5, stating that the Executive Vice President is authorized to maintain ARRL membership privileges without charge for the duration of a member's active military deployment outside the ARRL operating territory as described in Bylaw 30, with or without the delivery of QST at the member's option.

Amateur Radio and Driving: The Board noted that local municipalities, as well as state legislatures, have made laws or are considering laws that apply to drivers who use cellular telephones while driving. Recognizing that this sort of legislation often inadvertently prohibits -- or can be construed to prohibit -- Amateur Radio mobile communications, the Board instructed the Executive Committee to develop a policy statement and recommend language that protects the ability of licensed radio amateurs to prudently conduct mobile amateur communications.

Scouting: The Board voted to offer assistance to the Boy Scouts of America and their 2010 National Scout Jamboree. By representing Amateur Radio and participating with K2BSA at the Jamboree in conjunction with the Boy Scouts, the ARRL plans to build on the success of past National Jamborees where thousands of youth learned about the value and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. Teaching the Radio merit badge program, license classes and VE exam sessions have been parts of the quadrennial event that attracts more than 40,000 Scouts and leaders.

From ARRL Bulletin 9 ARLB009

Amateur Radio Enforcement Role

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service." Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value." From ARRL Bulletin 8 ARLB008

FOR SALE: Tempo 1 10-80m rig. \$120.00.
Call Ed - N4ZYE (828) 484-9195

Decline in BPL Customers

In data released this month, the FCC reports that as of December 21, 2007, there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months.

Broadband over Power Line (BPL) utilization apparently declined during the period, in sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers.

According to the FCC figures, the category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later. It is not known how many of these are "Power Line" and how many are "Other."

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference, yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees."

From ARRL 1-19-09

FCC DTV Help Request Update...



UNC-TV has asked for radio amateurs to staff a phone bank to answer questions from viewers about the DTV transition. On

Wednesday evening

February 11th, UNC-TV will be broadcasting a call-in show related to Digital Television Over-The-Air (OTA) reception. The show airs from 8 PM to 9 PM. On previous call-in shows about the digital transition UNC-TV has received at

least 800 calls. The number of calls is increasing as we approach analog shutoff. UNC-TV will have a 40-phone bank and requests the assistance of radio amateurs to answer phones and provide information for viewers. They would also like the assistance of hams for a three day period beginning the first day of analog shutoff, February 18th and continuing through the 19th and 20th. UNC-TV will have three shifts per day so you can choose the times you want to volunteer and assist with this effort. UNC-TV will provide three informational briefing and orientation sessions related to the analog shutoff / DTV transition for Amateur Radio operators and some UNC-TV staff. The briefing includes a tour of their facility and an overview of their operation. The 45-minute briefing sessions will take place on February 11 and at 10 AM, 2 PM and 6:30 PM. The briefing session will prepare you to answer phones for the call-in show on the evening of February 11, and for answering the phone banks for the three-day period immediately after the analog shutoff. For more information on this interesting opportunity, contact Wayne Estabrooks, KJ4GDW, at westabrooks@unctv.org.
From NC ARRL

NOTE: Recent legislative action to extend the DTV mandatory switch was apparently halted on 1/28/09, ensuring the change on February 18th.

Hamfest Calendar

7 Feb 2009 South Carolina State Convention (Charleston Hamfest & Computer Show), Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Exchange Park Fairgrounds, 9850 Highway 78, Ladson, SC <http://www.wa4usn.org> Talk-In: 145.250 (PL 103.5) - linked repeater system, Contact: Jenny M. Myers, WA4NGV, 2630 Dellwood Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405 Phone: 843-747-2324 Email: brycemyers@aol.com
28 Feb Dalton Hamfest #27, Dalton ARC, North Georgia Fairgrounds, 501 Legion Drive, Dalton, GA <http://www.w4drc.com> Talk-In: 145.230(-) no tone, Contact: Harold Jones, N4BD, PO Box 211, Rocky Face, GA 30740, Phone: 706-673-2291, Email: n4bd@windstream.net

Amateur Radio Classes

How would you like to help in an emergency such as floods, fires, earthquakes or hurricanes? Would you like to volunteer your skills to public events like walks, races and other events in the community? With an amateur radio license, you can chat with people from around the world in the comfort of your home.

Amateur radio classes will be taught at AB Tech in the Elm Building, Room 300, beginning February 10, 2009, at 6:00pm. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class textbook will be the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 1st edition. Books will be available at the class for \$25.00.

Western Carolina Amateurs will teach the course that will help you with the operating procedures and electrical principles. At the end of the course, there will be a license exam. Usually within 24 hours of successful completion of the exam, you can be the proud owner of your very own amateur callsign, one of only approximately 650,000 in our country. Come join the fun. For additional information please call:

Norman Harrill N4NH 828-253-1192
nharrill@bellsouth.net 7 Skylyn Ct, Asheville, NC 28806

Acting FCC Chairman

On Thursday, January 22, President Barack Obama named current FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps as Acting Chairman of the Commission. Copps will serve as Acting Chairman until a new Commissioner/Chairman is confirmed.

"I am honored to be designated as Acting Chairman of the FCC," Copps said in a statement released by the FCC. "I thank President Obama for his confidence in me and for this opportunity to serve. I know that I have a truly gifted and terrific team to work with. I pledge every effort I am capable of to help steer the Commission through its current transition to new leadership."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Copps on his appointment. "Whenever we have sought a

meeting with him or his staff, his door has always been open to us," he said.
From ARRL Bulletin 6 ARLB006

VE Exams

07-Feb 8:30 AM Red Cross Building - 940 Grove Road, Greenville, SC Walk-ins normally accepted Contact: Sue L. Chism, N4ENX 139 Mustang Circle, Simpsonville, SC 29681-5753 864-967-0001

07-Feb Sponsor: LINCOLN COUNTY VOLUNTEER COMM, Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CLIFFORD H BROMMER (704)483-7291 Email:

WD4PIC@INFIONLINE.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: LIFE SAVING CREW HALL 322 N ACADEMY ST CELL PHONE: 704-634-4004 LINCOLNTON, NC 28092

07-Feb, 07 Mar 2009 Sponsor: NORTH GEORGIA TRI STATE ARC Time: 9:00AM (No walk-ins) Contact: ROBERT F OCHS (706)745-4477 Email: K4NB@TDS.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: CALL FOR LOCATION BLAIRSVILLE, GA 30512

07-Feb, 07 Mar Sponsor: UNIVERSITY OF TN ARC Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: BOBBIE E WILLIAMS (865)983-0055 Email: BOBBIE@USIT.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: WALKINS ALLOWED UNTIL START OF TESTING SESSION 1128 E WEISGARBER RD CALL TO CONFIRM! CELL: 865-254-3067 KNOXVILLE, TN 37909

14 Feb Sponsor: WCARS Hendersonville, North Carolina - 146.64 & 442.450 Mountain Home Fire Department, Hwy 25 9:00 AM Sid Hendricks, W4IOE 144 Duncan Creek Rd Fletcher, NC 28732 828-684-8130 Michael Parente, AI4GR PO Box 2577 Hendersonville, NC 28793 828-891-8970 (NOTE: WCARS VE fee now \$10.00)

14-Feb Sponsor: KG4LVO Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: EDWIN A FLOWERS (828)321-2136 Email: KG4LVO@YAHOO.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: ANDREWS PUBLIC LIBRARY-CONFERENCE RM 871 MAIN ST BUSINESS US 19 AT WALNUT ST TESTING FEE \$14 ANDREWS, NC 28901

15-Feb Sponsor: WCARS, 2:00 PM, Room 134, Elm Building - AB Tech, Asheville, NC Walk-ins only Contact: Steve Lanford, AG4BY 101 King St. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-645-3511 Michael Robinson, AD4XZ 99 High Point Rd. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-626-3270

21-Feb Sponsor: SEVIER COUNTY ERS Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: RICHARD M SAWAYA (865) 429-2422 Email: N4JTQ@GMAIL.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: SEVIER COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD BUILDING 1165 DOLLY PARTON PKWY HWY 411 SEVIERVILLE, TN 37862

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

WCARS Membership 2009

As the new WCARS Treasurer, and the current newsletter editor, I am combining the membership and newsletter database. This should help prevent any confusion about dues/membership status and whether the newsletter subscription list is accurate. Club members should be aware of certain realities in maintaining our records: Dues should be addressed directly to the treasurer, whether in person, or by mail (to the club PO box). Cash is acceptable, and a handwritten receipt is available upon request, although I would propose a slight modification to the bottom portion of the membership form be adopted to provide an accurate written receipt to the member upon

presentation of the application. This would allow a quicker, easier, and more certain record to the member of their status, with the application itself retained by the Treasurer for member/financial verification. Our by-laws specify that membership, to be continuous, must be renewed by March 31st; otherwise the member is dropped from membership status, and from the mailing list. As of 1/28/09, the following members (by callsign only), are listed as renewing/new members:

AC4JK, AI4XQ, AJ4KJ, K2JB, K4AVL, K4BNP, K4GMG, K4ML, K4SQ, KB4IP, KC4PNF, KD4OKU, KD4UWQ, KE4SM, KF4MRH, KF4NVX, KF4PYX, KF4VRQ, KG4RPY, KI4FPC, KI4NXN, KI4NXO, KI4OFL, KI4TMD, KI4VIR, KI4VLW, KI4VXE, KI4WCA, KJ4CRL, KJ4GYX, KJ4HZ, KN4ST, N4AA, N4DWM, N4KOX, N4NH, N4SET, N4ZTP, NC4N, NC4R, W4QCF, WA4BVW, WA4NUO, WA4QCO, WB4AAM, WD4IJT



All last years members, who have not yet renewed, will remain current and on the newsletter distribution list until March 31st. Upon renewal or new membership, each member will be added to the database and appear on any future lists as above. If anyone is aware of any error, or believe they or someone else should be included, please let me know by whatever means is convenient.

Thanks to everyone for their support in the past, and I look forward to working for everyone in my new capacity this year.
73 N4SET - Steve

February Meeting - The next WCARS meeting will be February 5, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

WCARS Information Net (Callsign W4MOE) 1/26/09; with K2JB as NCS; 14 check-ins

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
Vice-President	Michael Brown	KI4WCA		brownpiggin@gmail.com
Secretary				
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
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