



*February 2010*

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

### **President's Microphone**

With the new year we are going to be looking at the Constitution & By-Laws of WCARS. There are a number of items that need to be addressed. Some are minor grammatical corrections and others are a bit more involved. We need all the input we can get to be able to make all the changes at one time and not have to go back and change something later.

Our next meeting is February 4th, and the weather forecasters are looking at another possible "wintry mix" as they like to call them. We don't know what it will be like, but if at all possible we will have the meeting. This process of changing the Constitution/By-laws will take more than one meeting, but we want to do it right. Please attend the next few meetings if at all possible so we can hear from you.

73, Scott, W4IYS

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### **SMOKE TEST EDITOR**

*Carl Smith, N4AA*

This will be the first issue of Smoke Test I have "created" in a very long time, although I have done this before. As I tell folks at other places where I do a newsletter, this is **NOT** my newsletter, it is **YOURS**. I really expect some of the members to provide at least something I can use from time to time in these pages. You will see...what I receive... and if I receive nothing...then perhaps that is what you want ??? I can spend some time digging up all manner of "stuff" to fill the pages, but is that what you want? I really doubt it, so please help me to provide something that you can look forward to and that you really would like to read.

Do you want a monthly newsletter or would one every other month be enough? Are you interested in technical items, a program on the history of ham radio in general or specifically here in the Asheville area, or how about HF activities (contests, etc.) ? Give me some ideas so I can better serve you.....OK??

### **FEBRUARY MEETING**

The next WCARS meeting will be  
February 4th at 7:30 PM  
at the Auditorium in the  
Simpson Building at AB Tech.

### **HAMFESTs**

There are no ARRL sanctioned Hamfests listed for February but there is the big Charlotte Hamfest March 13-14. It will be at the same location as last year: 4751 Hwy 49 North, Concord, NC - Just Minutes away from I-85, GPS: Lat: 35° 23' 13"N Long: 80° 29' 51"W. It is conveniently located in the beautiful Cabarrus Arena & Events Center, just minutes from I-85, Concord Mills Mall and LOWE'S Motor Speedway. Find all the details at the W4BFB website:

<http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest2010/hamfest.html>

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**This space was left open on purpose.**

**It could have been used for something you would like to read.**

**Items for SmokeTest may be sent to:**

**Carl Smith, N4AA by email at**

**N4AA@dxpub.com**

**or**

**Call him on the phone, if it is fairly short,**

**at 683-0709 Mon-Fri from 9 - 5**

**or 683-4251 after 5-PM**

## WCARS/VEC EXAMS

### ASHEVILLE

AB-TECH, ROOM 134, ELM BLDG,  
9:00 AM on the THIRD SATURDAY of:  
JANUARY, MARCH, APRIL, JUNE, JULY,  
SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, DECEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: BOB HELTON, KS4FX  
Phone: 828-712-5916

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2:00 PM on the THIRD SUNDAY of:  
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: STEVE LANKFORD, AG4BY  
Phone: 828-768-2141

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### BURNSVILLE

YANCY COUNTY LIBRARY  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: DAVID McCARTY, W4TDM  
Phone: 828-657-1044

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### COLUMBUS

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: WAYNE ACKERMAN, W3GYK  
Phone: 828-894-5542

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### HENDERSONVILLE

MOUNTAIN HOME FIRE STATION  
9:00 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of:  
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: SID HENDRICKS, W4IOE  
Phone: 828-684-8130

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### LEICESTER

LEICESTER FIRE DEPT  
9:00 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of:  
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: LARRY YORK, K4MU  
Phone: 828-683-1400

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### MARION

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: HARRIET FULLBRIGHT  
Phone: 828-291-7521

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### RUTHERFORDTON

ISOTHERMAL COLLEGE  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: BRUCE TESSINEER, AD4OJ  
Phone: 828-657-5464

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### WAYNESVILLE

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: AL SANDERS, WD4A  
Phone: 828-926-8244

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### WEAVERVILLE

REEMS CREEK FD  
9:00 AM on the FIRST SATURDAY of:  
APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER, DECEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: HARLEY BULLMAN, AJ4PI  
Phone: 828-645-0889

## From the ARRL Letter

**The K7RA Solar Update** (Jan 29, 2010) -- We've seen average daily sunspot numbers for this reporting week. Since last Thursday through Wednesday this week, the numbers rose more than 9 points to 28; the average solar flux slipped more than 2 points to 81.9. Geomagnetic indices were a tiny bit lower. Sunspot numbers for January 21-27 were 17, 30, 40, 32, 34, 28 and 15, with a mean of 28. The 10.7 cm flux was 82.6, 82.4, 84.6, 84.6, 81.2, 79.8 and 77.8, with a mean of 81.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 4, 4, 3, 3 and 2, with a mean of 3.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 4, 2, 3, 1 and 0, with a mean of 2.3. The predicted solar flux for January 29-31 is 76, 80 on February 1-2, 82 on February 3-5 and 88-89 for the following five days. We don't see any geomagnetic upset predicted until February 16, with the planetary A index only rising to 10, which is hardly an upset.

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**FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making to Revise and Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules Open for Comments** (Jan 28, 2010) -- Late last year, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- WT Docket 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations. Interested parties may make comments on the *NPRM* in the following ways: via the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via the FCC's Web site. Comments must be submitted by March 26, 2010; reply comments are due no later than April 12, 2010.

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### **ARRL Sends Ham Aid Equipment to**



**Haiti** (Jan 22, 2010) -- Even though the communications infrastructure in earthquake-ravaged Haiti is being rebuilt, there is still need for Amateur Radio communications. To assist in this effort, the ARRL's Ham-Aid program is providing equipment for local amateurs to use.

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**New ARRL Web Site Coming Soon!** (Jan 25, 2010) -- After more than two years of planning, designing and writing, the ARRL is anxiously awaiting the launch of the new ARRL Web site. We've been able to make the online experience easier for our members -- from the online store, to registering for a class, to finding a club -- plus we've created a new, enhanced member profile with many more options available. We've made improvements with you in mind, making sure that we've created the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible. The new Web site will be available sometime in February.



## More from The ARRL Letter



### **Air Force MARS Operators Support Haiti Earthquake Relief Efforts** (Jan 28, 2010) --

Amateur Radio operators with the US Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) have been actively supporting the Air Force's efforts to bring relief to the earthquake-stricken country of Haiti. Via the Air Force MARS Phone Patch network, USAF MARS members have been providing communications support to air crews flying equipment and supplies to the devastated nation. Numerous phone patches have been facilitated by USAF MARS members, connecting in-flight military aircraft en route to and from Haiti and elsewhere with stations on the ground back in the United States. In one instance, USAF MARS operators ran a phone patch for a transport aircraft returning from the Caribbean area with a group of foreign nationals on board. "The volunteer service our MARS operators provide is greatly appreciated by the air crews who rely on us to get the job done," said Barry Priddy, a USAF MARS phone patch operator in Chesapeake, Virginia. "Sophisticated on-board communications equipment sometimes fails, but they know we are here 24/7 to help." The USAF MARS Phone Patch net is available for worldwide official patches and has sponsored phone lines for morale patches. It is one of several MARS networks that use HF radio to relay communications worldwide, around the clock and in real time. With member stations coast-to-coast, reliable communications links can be established between military aircraft and ground stations anytime day or night. The use of multiple radio frequencies also facilitates point-to-point communications regardless of atmospheric propagation conditions. -- *Thanks to David J. Trachtenberg, N4WLL, USAF MARS Public Information Officer for Region III and Northeast Area, for the information*

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### **ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration** (Jan 27, 2010) --

Registration remains open through **Sunday, February 21, 2010**, for these online course sessions beginning on **Friday, March 5, 2010**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics

## **ARES**

*By Carl Smith, N4AA (AEC)*

We have a pretty active group of folks who are making a difference is providing emergency communications for the Red Cross, Emergency Management and others if they need it. Dick Burns, K8SKX is our Buncombe County Emergency Coordinator (EC). Tommy Queen, K4BNP is the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC). The group has organized under the banner of Buncombe County ARES (**BCARES**) and they have a special callsign—NN4BC.

Jerry VeHaun, the county Director of Emergency Management has been very helpful in providing space and equipment for BCARES to set up a CommCenter at the Buncombe County EOC, near Erwin High School. BCARES, with the assistance of the County General Services personnel (that's Greg Israel, for those who don't know it), has installed new antennas/feedlines and our equipment is stored in the room specified for our use in case of emergency. The equipment consists of a 100 watt HF radio; four VHF/UHF radios capable of operation on 2, 220 and 440. Each radio has it's own power supply and there are ample desks in the room to allow each radio position to operate with plenty of "elbow room." A successful exercise was conducted last fall from that facility, although all of the equipment was not available at that time.

In addition to the facility at the EOC, the American Red Cross has been very helpful in providing space for the installation of equipment at their headquarters off Merrimon Avenue. This site was also used in the exercise last fall and proved itself to be adequate for the Red Cross needs as well.

Dick and his "team" are conducting periodic exercises to maintain their skill in sending and receiving formal written messages in the event we are called upon to help the Red Cross or Emergency Management when called upon.

If you are not a part of this group, perhaps you will consider joining them. There's always room for more help when the call comes for help. See Dick Burns for more information.

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**Have you paid your 2010 dues?**

**To maintain your membership in WCARS and receive SmokeTest you need to be paid up by March. Steve Emory, N4SET will be glad to "take your money."**

## **SMOKE TEST**

Official publication of the

### **Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**

PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802

www.wcars.org

### **W4MOE**

**Repeater 146.91 - PL-91.5**

Located on Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

#### **2010 OFFICERS**

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#### **HF/VHF Net Information**

<b>NET NAME</b>	<b>Freq(MHz) offset/PL</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Local time</b>	<b>Notes</b>
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
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	7.225	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 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.	146.190	Sunday	9-PM	
SATERN	14.265	Daily	3-PM	Salvation Army Team-Emergency
Tarheel Emergency	3.923	Daily	7:30-PM	Directed, NC Emergency 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