



WCARS.org
February 2011

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

President's Microphone

I have made arrangements with Ryan's on Patton Avenue in West Asheville to use one of their meeting rooms this month.

THUS, our next meeting will be at Ryan's from 7 to 9 PM, Thursday, February 3rd.

This will be a DINNER MEETING and they will expect most of us to be having dinner.

Also, you are requested to leave a reasonable tip on the table as you leave.

Please remember Keith & Doris Galyean as well as Chris & Connie Duncan in our prayers. Send them a card... addresses are on page three of this Smoketest.

Scott

W4MOE - VAN, TRAILER ???

What are your thoughts on this ?

Do we need one ? WHY ?

What use would be made of one ?

Where could it be "stored" ?

Should it have antennas/radios ?

Tell Scott what you think....

HELP!!!

Scott got a call from Daniel Kessler, KJ4EAN, who needs some help.

He said, "I was wondering if you could help me set up my radio. I have a Yaesu VX-7R."

If anyone can help Daniel, please contact him by email at <drebeldchild@aol.com>.

(NOTE: I also have one of those radios and frankly, I can't use mine properly either. If someone can help Daniel, then contact me so I can get some help... please !!! Or, maybe I should just let my 8 year old Grandson have a go at it ??? Carl, N4AA)

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, February 3rd
7 to 9 PM
RYAN'S STEAK HOUSE
Patton Avenue in West Asheville
Due to the location, there will be
NO PROGRAM for this meeting.

Next Generation 9-1-1 System

(The following from the December 2010 DERA Newsletter)

On December 21, 2010, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced the initiation of a nationwide project to not just update, but completely renovate 9-1-1 Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) and emergency services dispatch systems. The proposed system will take advantage of new and emerging technologies to improve quality and response time, while reducing risk to first responders. For the first time, the 9-1-1 system will make use of videos and pictures from callers, as well as a multitude of other technological innovations.

KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW 9-1-1 SYSTEM

1. **Text for Help:** Many individuals, including those with disabilities, rely on texting as their primary means of communication. In some emergency situations—especially in circumstances where the sound of a voice call could further jeopardize someone's life and safety—texting may be the only way to call for help. The current method of text accommodations is "TTY," which is based on old teletype technology that is slow and frustrating both for callers and emergency center personnel. The next generation 9-1-1 will allow call centers to receive and send conventional text messages.
2. **Real Time Rapid Response:** Mobile video and pictures will provide first responders with on-the-ground information that helps them assess and address the emergency in real time. These technologies also will help the public report crime as it is happening. Next generation 9-1-1 would develop advanced multi-media capabilities of 9-1-1 call centers.

Continued on next page

9-1-1 continued

3. **Automatic Alerting:** Next generation 9-1-1 would enable emergency calls to be placed by devices in addition to human beings. Examples of such devices include environmental sensors capable of detecting fires or chemicals, highway monitors, security alarms, personal medical devices, and consumer electronics in automobiles. The commercial success of On-Star®, an automobile based system which automatically notifies company dispatchers of collisions, fires and major equipment malfunctions, may provide one model for future automatic 9-1-1 alerting.

The FCC's initiative is the first step in fulfilling a mandate in the U.S. National Broadband plan which laid out a vision for next-generation 9-1-1 that harnesses cutting edge technologies to help save lives. The concept is to build upon the success of the 9-1-1 System, which was established as the national emergency number in 1968, and is the side of public safety dispatch which the public sees. U.S. residents place more than 127-million 9-1-1 calls every year - 650,000 per day. However, the system that was designed over 40 years ago-despite numerous upgrades and innovations-has major limitations and cannot fully use existing technologies. The new design will take into account many factors, including:

- Seventy percent of 9-1-1 calls come from mobile phones. But increasingly, consumers are using their mobile phones less to make calls, and more for texting and sending pictures and videos. These new technologies have the potential to revolutionize emergency response by providing public safety officials with critical real-time, on-the-ground information.
- Today's 9-1-1 system is not equipped to take advantage of new technologies. 9-1-1 call centers lack the technical capability to receive texts, photos, videos and other data. Many 9-1-1 call centers don't have access to broadband, which makes it difficult to receive incoming data, particularly in large volume. Finally, call center operators have not been trained how to effectively communicate using these new technologies
- The technological limitations of 9-1-1 can have tragic, real-world consequences. During the 2007 Virginia Tech campus shooting, students and witnesses desperately tried to send texts to 9-1-1 that local dispatchers never received. If these messages had gone through, first responders may have arrived on the scene faster with firsthand intelligence about the life-threatening situation that was unfolding.

Modernizing 9-1-1 is one of the FCC's key public safety priorities. On December 21st, the FCC launched Notice of Inquiry (NOI) number 10-200, requesting public comment on how to transition the current system to broadband-enabled, next generation 9-1-1. This action will build on the FCC's recent order to improve 9-1-1 by beefing up location-accuracy requirements so that first responders can quickly find people who call for help on their mobile phones.

NOTE: The above was provided by Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ. Bob is the Chair, Board of Trustees of DERA International which is based in Longmont, Colorado.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 3 MEETING

Minutes by Carl Smith, N4AA

Called to order at 1930 by the Pres. Scott McCabe, W4IYS.

All were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Introduction by name, call and home location by all present.

Treasurer's report read and accepted.

Minutes of the November meeting (published in the December Smoketest) were approved.

President McCabe offered the following comments:

1. Reminder that the 2011 dues are due/payable now.
2. Christmas Party was poorly attended and asked for comments as to whether it should be changed, i.e., Catered, held in one of the local venues available for parties, etc.
3. Regarding replacement of the "MOE VAN" comments as to what, if anything, should be done to replace it. Detailed comments should be sent to Scott, W4IYS indicating your preference as to size, type, usage, etc.

Norman Harrill, N4NH discussed the upcoming licensing class set for mid-February in Room 312 of the Elm Building on the campus of AB Community College. Classes will be held on Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9 -PM, approximately.

President McCabe read a card from Chris Duncan, mostly concerning his mother, Connie Duncan, who is in a retirement home in Maryland. You are asked to send Chris and Connie a card, telling them you are thinking of them. Addresses will be at the end of these minutes.

Also, Doris & Keith Galyean are both recovering from health issues and you are encouraged to call or at least send a card wishing them well. Their address will also be at the end of these minutes.

NOTE: Addresses for the above will be on the next page.

Dean Blain, K2JB discussed WCARS sponsoring a plaque award for the NC QSO Party. The event will be held on Sunday, February 27th from noon to 10-PM. Details on the event are available on the web at: www.w4nc.com. WCARS will be putting together a station at the Buncombe County Fireman Training Center on Erwin Hills Road to participate in the event.

More information on this will be forthcoming from Dean Blair.

Dan Henderson, N1ND, a WCARS member of long standing, and currently the Regulatory Affairs Manager of ARRL Hq presented a program on Ham Radio in the 21st Century.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Tom Leeder, KR4L.

KJ4QLD won the door prize drawing.

Dean, K2JB held a drawing for a 2-Meter J-Pole antenna, won by Linda, KJ4CRL.

Meeting was adjourned at 9-PM, with coffee and donuts available for all.

The following is quoted from Chris Duncan, AD4G

Everything is more stable now with Mom. She is at a nursing home in Maryland. She is unable to walk due to shattered pelvis from assisted living abuse, but is better & safer now. Things are the same with me, still at George Washington University doing well with family.

Mom's address is:

Connie Duncan
c/o Pleasant View Nursing Home
4101 Old National Pike
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

You can reach me by:

Mail - CHRIS T DUNCAN
24612 Etchison Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
Phone - 828-273-8179
Facebook - Chris Duncan
email - cduncan@gwu.edu

Best Wishes for 2011

Chris -AD4G
Connie - KF4IQN

Keith & Doris Galyean
KEITH / DORIS GALYEAN
310 ATKINS
SKYLAND, NC 28776

THE 2011 NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

*Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361*

Time/Date: 1700UTC Feb.27 - 0300UTC Feb.28

(This is 12 noon to 10-PM EST a total of 10 hours)

OBJECT: Out of State stations work as many NC stations as you can. You may work stations once per each band/mode combination for QSO points. Work NC mobiles again as they change counties for QSO points. NC fixed stations work as many NC counties, States, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as you can. NC mobile stations work from as many NC counties to as many NC counties, States, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible.

EXCHANGE: Callsign, QTH (NC county, State, Canadian province or DXCC country) - Use of 59 or 599 is optional and will not influence your score!

Full information is located at www.w4nc.com

As Smoketest is going to print, WCARS is attempting to secure a location from which to work the NC QSO Party. This will be a mini-Field Day like event, except we will operate from indoors. It should be an interesting and fun contest and we would like to invite anyone who is interested in learning more about HF to come out and let us show you how it is done. No Experience Required! We will have more info by the WCARS Club meeting.

Dean, K2JB

WCARS/VEC EXAM Schedule

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

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

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

COLUMBUS
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER
VE TEAM LEADER: WAYNE ACKERMAN, W3GY
Phone: 828-894-5542

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

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

MARION
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER
VE TEAM LEADER: HARRIET FULLBRIGHT, K4ICU
Phone: 828-291-7521

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

WAYNESVILLE
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER
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, DECEMBER
VE TEAM LEADER: HARLEY BULLMAN, AJ4PI
Phone: 828-645-0889

NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS

from Bill Morine, N2COP—SM

NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS – January, 2011

Happy New Year! Your section officers met in Durham this past weekend to discuss direction and policy for the North Carolina section for 2011. One of the top issues was club relations. The section officers designated January as “Club Month” in which the main focus of this monthly section newsletter will be section clubs.

If you are an officer or member of one of the 63 active ARRL affiliated clubs in North Carolina, please pay special attention to this article. About 40% of information about NC clubs on the ARRL website is either wrong, outdated or has broken hyperlinks to a club’s website. Since many clubs change leadership in January with the start of a new year, now is the perfect time to update your records. A designated club officer should log into the website, then go to the club update section of the website at <<http://www.arrl.org/club-update>> You also now have the option to post pictures of club officers. If you have trouble updating your information, contact ARRL’s Clb Relations Director Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, at w3iz@arrl.org or by calling him directly at (860) 594-0230. Norm can guide you through the process on updating your club’s information on the website. Once you’ve completed the update, please send a copy of all of your updated information to the following three NC section officers: Section Manager Bill Morine at n2cop@arrl.org, Affiliated Club Coordinator Mike Lewis at wa4ke@arrl.net and Section Webmaster Susan Langley-Jones at wa4akb@arrl.net.

Having accurate club records is important for many reasons, but one of our section goals is to have a master calendar on the section website at www.ncarrl.org which will list the dates and locations of recurring club meetings across North Carolina. This could be a powerful tool in recruiting new members. Also, to contact Hams in your area, club presidents can take advantage of reports on new Hams, upgraded Hams, or new or lapsed ARRL members by completing a request form at <http://www.arrl.org/new-amateur-reports> Not only is this tool handy for recruiting new members, but can help with drawing Hams for Field Day or special events. For details, contact Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, at League at w3iz@arrl.org

HAMFEST THIS SATURDAY PLUS ONE MORE

Reminder: FirstFest is this Saturday, January 29th rescheduled from January 8th because of WX), at the Summit School, 2100 Reynolda Rd. in Winston-Salem from 7 AM to 12 Noon. Talk-In 146.64 PL 100.0, alternate 145.47 PL 100.0

Details: <http://www.w4nc.com/hamfestmemberinfo.html> Coming up February 19th, the Fairview Amateur Radio & Television Society’s Hamfest in Dobson, NC (Surry Co.) at the Dobson Fire Dept. 8 AM – 12 Noon. Talk-In 145.43. Details: Call Drew Poindexter at (336) 401-1285.

SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP

Twice a year in October and February, school kids under the guidance of Ham volunteers and teachers get on the air and discover the fun of Ham Radio in School Club Roundup (SCR). Roger Bacon Academy, a charter school in Leland (Brunswick County), has three faculty members who are licensed and plans to be on the air next month during the February 14-18 event. Roger Bacon is installing a permanent station at the school and has applied for a club call sign. Past participants in SCR have included Pitt County Community College’s station, K4PCC, from Greenville.

WELCOME NEW NET CONTROL MANAGER

Adam Lawler, WK4P, of West Jefferson is the new NCM for the North Carolina Evening Net (NCEN), which meets on 3923 KHz at 6:30 PM Local time. Thanks Adam for heading up this fun, informative traffic net.

LICENSING CLASSES

There is no listing in North Carolina for training classes. The section officers would like to maintain a calendar of Technician, General and Extra licensing classes. If your club or organization has such classes coming up in 2011, please send a listing to the Section Webmaster Susan Langley-Jones at wa4akb@arrl.net Exam sessions are still listed at <http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search>.

Editor: I find it very encouraging that we have a Section Manager who is interested enough in “US” to provide this information each month.

I certainly appreciate having some additional material to use in publishing our own newsletter.

SO.....THANK YOU BILL and keep up the good work.

Field Day ?

June 25-26

Last year we didn’t have a Field Day operation for the first time in decades.

Is anyone interested in having one this year?

I am ready and willing to put together an operation if there is enough interest.

If no interest here, perhaps others are.....
Let me hear from you,

Carl, N4AA

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

2011 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
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Secretary (shared)	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@bellsouth.net
Trustee - W4MOE	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
Awards Chairman	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Hamfest Chairman - 2011	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dxpub.com

HF/VHF/UHF	Net Information			
NET NAME	Freq(MHz) 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
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 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 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
???	224.600			WB4PLA on Spivey Mtn. ???
W4YK	53.630 - 100	Friday	9-PM	???