



WCARS.org
March 2009

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

President's Microphone...

Work goes on at the mountaintop. The latest diagnosis indicates that the club repeater is all right, and maybe the antennas need more attention. When the weather moderates, a workday will be set. Please remember that membership will expire if not renewed prior to April 1st. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

73 Dean ~ k2jb

Upcoming Events

Mar 1 North Carolina QSO Party
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

NCEN Schedule

The North Carolina Evening Net moved to 5:30pm a couple months ago to deal with the propagation challenges faced on 75m. On Sunday, March 8 daylight savings time returns and the NCEN will also return the net to 6:30pm. The NCEN is part of the ARRL National Traffic System and meets daily on 3.923MHz.

Emergency Nets

The Henderson county ARES net is now conducting their net at 2030 hrs Wednesday nights, on 146.640 -, PL 91.5, just prior to the Buncombe County Emergency Management net

now conducted on 146.910 -, PL 91.5. Check-in on these nets is encouraged. The objective is to generate more interest and participation in both nets. Check-in with Henderson County ARES on the Bearwallow Mountain repeater also tests the ability of distant stations to communicate with a clear reliable signal.
N4SET

NC QSO Party

The Forsythe Amateur Radio Club, W4NC, sponsors the North Carolina QSO Party. The event starts at 12 noon on Sunday, March 1 and runs to 10pm. The object is for out of State stations to work as many NC stations as possible. Stations may be worked once each per band/mode combination. NC mobiles can be worked again as they change counties. NC fixed stations work as many NC counties, states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible. NC mobile stations work from as many NC counties to as many NC counties, states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible. There is a 100W power limit for all participants. This is a fun event and gives you a chance to be at the bottom of a pile up! Go to www.w4nc.org for more details and to activate your county on their tracking map.

NC ARRL

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

February 5th Minutes...Bob - WD4CNZ

The general meeting of WCARS for 5 Feb 2009 was called to order by Michael Brown KI4WCA at 7:31pm.

The membership was asked to make the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

An introduction of attendees was made.

An appeal for a replacement for Secretary was asked and Bob Dockery WD4CNZ volunteered to serve until the next regular elections are held.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Steve Emory N4SET.

OLD BUSINESS:

The steering pump for the MOE Van is ready to be installed.

Coordination for the repair work to be done by Haywood Community College is still pending
Membership dues are due

There is a need for someone to make coffee at meetings

NEW BUSINESS:

Norman Harrill announced the next class would start on Feb 10 at AB Tech, Elm Building Room 100. A new book will be used for the class. He invited WCARS members to visit and share their experiences with the students.

New net on 442.225 on Monday evenings.

An announcement of the WNC Fair in September was made asking for interest for set up/operation. Further planning will be done at later meetings.

Field Day 2009: time to start thinking about possible sites for this activity. A leader is needed to coordinate this event.

Hamfest - ARRL sanctioning has been approved. A chairperson is needed to help plan and coordinate this event.

In lieu of a program, Mr. Brown asked each member in attendance to share the year licensed, who their elmer was, interest, plus extra personal experiences as they feel free to present.

The 50-50 drawing was held and awarded.

The drawing for sign-up sheet listing was held and a mug was awarded.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn and properly seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Refreshments were enjoyed after the meeting.

Amateur Radio Class

Amateur radio classes began on February 10th, at AB Tech in the Elm Building, Room 300, with 15 students. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class textbook is the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual 1st edition. Books were made available at the class for \$25.00.

Western Carolina Amateurs teach the course that will explain the operating procedures and electrical principles involved. At the end of the course, there will be a license exam.

Usually within 24 hours of successful completion of the exam, each examinee will

be issued their own unique amateur call sign, one of only approximately 650,000 in the USA. Instructors since the current class began include N4NH, W4FOT, W4DK, K2JB and K8SKX.

For additional information please call:
Norman Harrill N4NH 828-253-1192
nharrill@bellsouth.net 7 Skylyn Ct, Asheville, NC 28806

N4SET

FCC DTV Update...Legislative action to



extend the DTV mandatory switch was implemented in mid February, delaying the change for some analog stations until later this year.

Hamfest Calendar

14-15 Mar Roanoke Division Convention
Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Cabarrus
Arena & Event Center 4751 Highway 49 North
Concord, NC

<http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest.html> Talk-In:
145.290(-) & 146.940(-) Contact: Mary & Tom
Hunt, N4MH & KA3VVJ 16007 Wynfield Creek
Parkway Huntersville, NC 28078 Phone: 704-
948-7373 Email: hamfestinfo@w4bfb.org
Concord, NC

21 Mar Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club,
Jim Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Road,
Marietta, GA <http://www.w4bti.org> Talk-In:
146.880 - offset (PL100) Contact: Don V.
Heppe, W5LGK 1425 Ridgeway Drive Acworth,
GA 30102 Phone: 404-630-1249 Email:
W5LGK@bellsouth.net

21 Mar Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio
Society, First Methodist Church, 208 West
Lauderdale Street, Tullahoma, TN,
<http://www.qsl.net/mtars/> Talk-In: 146.700
(PL 114.8) Contact: Carol Pratt, KI4QWM PO
Box 932 Tullahoma, TN 37388 Phone: 931-455-
5619 Fax: 931-967-3344 Email:
capratt@bellsouth.net

21 Mar Charleston Area Hamfest & Computer
Show, Charleston WV Hamfest Committee,
Coonskin Armory, 1707 Coonskin Dr,
Charleston, WV <http://www.w8gk.org/> Talk-
In: 145.35 Contact: Jim Damron, N8TMW 4607
Baxter Drive, Charleston, WV 25302 Phone:
304-965-5349 Fax: 304-965-7753 Email:
n8tmw@arrl.net Charleston, WV

VE Exams

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

14-Mar, 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

21-Mar, Sponsor: GASTON COUNTY ARS Time:
9:30AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CYRUS B
ROWE (704)864-4388 VEC: ARRL/VEC Location:
MASONIC LODGE 212 S COLLEGE ST DALLAS,
NC 28034

21 Mar, AB Tech, 9:00 AM, Room 134, Elm
Building Walk-ins only CONTACT: Bob Helton,
KS4FX, 84 Hemlock St , Arden, NC 28704 828-
684-0249; Don Lovelace, W4TMT, P. O. Box
766, Spruce Pine, NC 28777 828-243-1921**345

28 Mar, Sponsor: SEVIER COUNTY ERS Time:
10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: RICHARD
M SAWAYA (865)429-2422 Email:
N4JTQRMS@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 Information Net (Callsign W4MOE)

2/2/09; with K2JB as NCS; 19 check-ins
2/9/09; with K2JB as NCS; 14 check-ins
2/16/09 with N4SET as NCS; 21 check-ins
2/23/09; with K2JB as NCS; 13 check-ins

Cell Phone Ban Bill

The North Carolina Senate Commerce Committee added language to Senate Bill S12 that would specifically exempt Amateur Radio operation from a proposed ban on cell phone use while driving in the state. NC Senator William Purcell added the language at the request of Bob Conder K4RLC, ARRL NC Section State Government Liaison (SGL). After aspects of the bill were discussed and amendments unrelated to Amateur Radio were adopted, the bill was tabled until a future date.

As currently written, the bill states that "no person shall operate a motor vehicle on a public street or highway while using a mobile telephone* or any additional technology** associated with a mobile telephone while the vehicle is in motion." The amended language includes "This term does not include two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers used by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service." The language of the amendment was supplied by the ARRL.

According to Sen. Purcell, a co-sponsor, Amateur Radio operation was never targeted by the bill, and would have been exempt anyway because it isn't covered under the definition of "mobile telephone." Conder requested the specific exemption, pointing out that Amateur Radio is not well understood by all law enforcement officers, so officers who don't recognize the difference between a ham radio and a mobile phone might cite hams operating mobile.

Media stories point out that similar bills have been proposed over the past several years, and have always been defeated or died in committee. That fate is also expected for this bill, although other states have enacted bans, and last year North Carolina banned cell phone use for drivers under the age of 18. Conder said even if this bill fails, having the Amateur Radio exemption is good because the language will likely be adopted automatically when the bill resurfaces next year.

Two others bills (SB22 and H9) that target "texting while driving" are currently working their way through the NC legislature. These

don't appear to pose any threat to mobile Amateur Radio operation. But ARRL NC SGL Bob Conder, K4RLC, will be monitoring the progress of these bills also.

From Gary Pearce KN4AQ, ARRL Public Information Officer

About to become extinct...

According to some in America:

24. Yellow Pages - replaced by online search engines and combination listing services
23. Classified Ads - replaced by online listings
22. Movie Rental Stores - replaced by Internet movie download/view options
21. Dial-up Internet Access - replaced by faster connections, DSL, cable, satellite, etc.
20. Phone Landlines - replaced by cell phone service
19. Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs - caused by over-fishing, pollution, invasive species and global warming
18. VCRs - replaced by the DVD, which will be replaced by the next superior recording media
17. Ash Trees - caused by introduction of the Asian Emerald Ash Borer
16. Ham Radio - Proliferation of the Internet and its popularity among youth has caused the decline of amateur radio. In the past five years alone, the number of people holding active ham radio licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though Morse Code is no longer a requirement.
15. The Swimming Hole - Thanks to our litigious society
14. Answering Machines - Directly tied to No 20 our list -- the decline of landlines.
13. Cameras That Use Film - replaced by digital equipment
12. Incandescent Bulbs - The Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL) is largely replacing the older, Edison-era incandescent bulb. According to USA Today, a new energy bill plans to phase out incandescent bulbs in the next four to 12 years.
11. Stand-Alone Bowling Alleys - replaced by multi-type recreation facilities
10. The Milkman - Although some milkmen still make the rounds in pockets of the U.S., they are certainly a dying breed.

9. Hand-Written Letters - replaced by e-mail, cell phones, and text messaging. So where amongst this gorge of gabble is there room for the elegant, polite hand-written letter?
8. Wild Horses - The Bureau of Land Management is seeking to reduce the total number of free-range horses to 27,000, possibly by selective euthanasia.
7. Personal Checks - Bill payment remains the last stronghold of paper-based payments -- for the time being.
6. Drive-in Theaters - From over 4000 in 1958, only 405 remain in operation.
5. Mumps & Measles - In 1964, 212,000 cases of mumps were reported in the U.S. In 2005, only 66 cases were recorded.
4. Honey Bees - 'Colony Collapse Disorder,' or CCD, has spread throughout the U.S. and Europe over the past few years, wiping out 50% to 90% of the colonies of many beekeepers -- and along with it, their livelihood.
3. News Magazines and TV News - In 2008, views diminished to just over 20 million.
2. Analog TV - Conversion to all digital broadcast is imminent.
1. The Family Farm - 5.3 million farms dotted the nation in 1950, but declined to 2.1 million by the 2003 farm census
From KN4ST - Elwood

W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters

Starting Monday, March 9, Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160-meter frequency for its CW transmissions. To accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz to reduce the possibility of interference.
SB QST ARL ARLB012

Buncombe County ARES

Greetings: Let me start by apologizing that we have not had a meeting in some time. This has been due to first gas shortage, holidays, travel and now elderly parents. I hope that we can get back on track after our good start, with a meeting March 19 at the ARC in Asheville. This is tentative, I will confirm when possible, but please mark your calendar

for it. If you have any you want discussed please let me know and I will put it on the agenda. Again I apologize for the delay in having our next meeting.

73 Dick K8SKX, EC Buncombe County,
rg_burns@bellsouth.net

Judge Rules in Favor of Amateur



In the Palmdale Antenna Support Structure Case -- On Friday, February 6, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Yaffe

issued a ruling in favor of Alec Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California, in [Zubarau's case against the City of Palmdale](#). Last year, after Zubarau received a valid building permit from the City to erect an antenna support structure, the City of Palmdale revoked Zubarau's building permit after he had erected the tower. According to Zubarau's attorney, Len Shaffer, WA6QHD, the Court's ruling invalidates the actions of the City in revoking Zubarau's permit and requires the City to allow him to replace the tower. "Zubarau's case has drawn nationwide attention and financial support from the ARRL, Amateur Radio clubs and individual Amateur Radio operators from around the country," said ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI. "Although this ruling does not directly address the City's proposed zoning ordinance amendment, based on the Court's language, it should provide considerable support for those hams attempting to negotiate a more reasonable provision allowing antenna support structures in the Palmdale City Code."

ARRL

Repeater Locator (search by state, band plan, etc)

http://www.levinecentral.com/repeaters/google_map_ping.php

<http://www.ham-shack.com/>

http://www.levinecentral.com/repeaters/google_map_ping_distance.php

N4SET

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				
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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 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
Mount Mitchell Rag Chew Net	442.225+/107.2	Monday	8:00 pm	Directed, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm	Salvation Army Team Emergency Net
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, NC Emergency 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