



WCARS.org
March 2010

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

President's Microphone

We've missed the first two meetings of the year so that puts us behind the eight ball to start with.

If you can possibly make it to the meeting next Thursday, MARCH 4th, we need to get started on making needed changes in our Constitution & By-Laws. Some of these are minor grammatical corrections, but there are some others that **MUST** be addressed before we continue.

There is a procedure for making changes but we need **YOUR** input so we can follow the process and only have to do this one time.

73,
Scott, W4IYS

QUESTION POOL

In January, the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the 2010 Technician (Element 2) Question Pool. Upon further review of the pool, members of the QPC found and corrected more than 50 minor typographical errors and clarified the questions and answers, making them easier to understand.

These adopted changes are now incorporated in a revised question pool. The errata list, as well as the revised Technician question pool, is available on the NCVEC Web site at, <http://www.ncvec.org/>.

The previously released pool dated January 4, 2010 is invalid for use. The newly revised Technician question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014.

The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

MARCH MEETING

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

FIELD DAY 2010 **June 26-27**

DO WE WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

If we are going to participate, a lot of details need to be addressed.

Are we just going to socialize?

Are we going to show the community who we are and what we can do? Publicity??

How many stations can we effectively use?

Where can we set up to operate?

There are a number of questions to be addressed and the clock is running.

HAMFEST ?

The WCARS Hamfest is getting to be an "old man" and it has survived nicely thus far. Is it to continue to age? It's a lot of work, but **ONE** person can't do it all. It will take a group effort. Randy Harris, is the 2010 Chairman. If he asks for help...please **HELP !!**

Other Events/Activities ??

Items of interest should be addressed to: Editor: Carl Smith, N4AA
Email: N4AA@dpub.com
Phone: 828-683-4251

No Later than the 25th of each month

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

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, W3GYK
Phone: 828-894-5542

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

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
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

FROM THE ARRL LETTER

Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to "Get it Right"

(Feb 24, 2010) -- After meeting with ARRL staff on February 23 -- two days before the new ARRL Web site was to launch -- ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, made the decision to delay the unveiling of the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually *use* of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration

(Feb 24, 2010) -- Registration remains open through **Sunday, March 21, 2010**, for these online course sessions beginning on **Friday, April 2, 2010**:

Emergency Communications Level 1;
Antenna Modeling;
Radio Frequency Interference;
Antenna Design and Construction;
Ham Radio (Technician) License Course;
Propagation;
Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.

Some Benefits of ARRL Membership

ARRL Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan

Insurance is available to protect you from loss or damage to your amateur station, antennas and mobile equipment by lightning, theft, accident, fire, flood, tornado, and other national disasters.

MetLife®

Auto, Home, Renters, Boaters, Fire Insurance and Banking Products

As part of a group discount program, you may be able to enjoy up to a 20% discount on various insurance programs depending on the state of your residence.

Storms: How Did You Fare?

So, how did you fare in the recent storms that affected WNC? Did you have power? Have adequate heat? Have enough fuel? Have enough food? Water? Lights? Communications? Did you help your neighbors? Unless you can answer these questions in the positive, you need to prepare for the next event. Remember that our biggest snows come in March or April and that power and communications can be lost anytime of year. So assess your experience now while it is fresh in your mind.

First and foremost is preparing for the health safety and comfort of your family. You have to assess your specific family needs and plan accordingly. Having adequate food, water and cooking supplies is easy **BUT ONLY IF YOU PLAN AHEAD**. Power requirements are family specific: some must have A/C to live while others do fine with batteries....but only if you have enough batteries and/or they are fully charged.

And then there is communications. Can you communicate your "health and safety" needs or conditions to others when the telephone is down? Thinking locally, can you reach a repeater assuming it's working? How about simplex? You may need more than just the rubber ducky antenna on the HT to do this.

And will anyone be listening? During these situations we all (me included) need to make a habit of listening even if our own conditions are not bad. I would suggest we all listen to the Spivey repeater (146.91) during these events, using simplex if the repeater is down. Any station needing to "communicate" should try to do so on the hour and "listening stations" try monitoring at that time, if not continuously. Monitoring stations should also periodically announce that they are listening.

Radio amateurs are somewhat unique in that we can communicate when normal systems fail. But to do so means being prepared both physically (radios, power, antennas) and mentally (remembering that someone might need help communicating). Prepare for future events, these aren't the last ones we will endure.

Dick, K8SKX
EC BCARES

DISASTER PREP TIPS

John Covington, W4CC

As we start a new decade, let's review some of the basics of Amateur Radio disaster preparedness. The following are tips from John Covington, W4CC, of Dallas, North Carolina.

You must make sure you're personally prepared for a disaster before you can even consider helping with Amateur Radio. If you are preoccupied with personal matters, you won't be able to help ARES®. To be ready for disaster communications, do the following: Train regularly with your local ARES® group.

Think about how you might best be able to help during a disaster. Some of us are good at installing antennas and equipment, others of us are better at operating on the air. Not everyone is suited to doing every job. Sometimes just having helping hands, spare equipment or supplies can be helpful even if you cannot operate the radios yourself.

Generators need fuel, operators need coffee, and stations need to be set up. Figure out where you best fit in. Decide how you can help out if you stay home: Can you deploy at a shelter or EOC for a few hours? Operate from home?

If you must evacuate, can you deploy from where you have evacuated to, such as a shelter?

Have all resource materials you need in printed form. Don't depend on computers, PDAs and so forth as they may not work in a disaster, require electricity and are relatively fragile.

If you use a computer regularly in your on-the-air operations, make sure you practice doing things such as calling nets and handling traffic the pencil-and-paper way once in a while. Remember, you may not be able to spare the amp-hours or the table space to run a computer.

Have an Amateur Radio "ready-kit" to supplement your personal ready kit. Some items to include:

- *Portable radio, antenna, power supply/batteries (2 sets)
- *Headset or earphones (you may be in a noisy area)
- *Any cables you could possibly need
- *Pencils and Paper
- *Clipboard (to provide a firm writing surface)
- *Radiogram forms (helpful but not absolutely required)
- *Operating aids
- *Small tools (multi-tip screwdriver, multi-tools, etc.)
- *ARES® Identification Card, if appropriate
- *Important phone numbers and frequencies
- *Map of the area
- *Flashlight
- *Poncho - very small to store, about \$2

If carried in lieu of a personal ready kit, a few other items may be helpful:

*For a short deployment, a bottle of water plus some crackers or something to eat requiring no preparation could make things much more bearable for you

*Medicine

*Toilet paper - small packets from MRE kits are very handy and don't take up much room

*Moist towelettes

Here are a few other suggestions:

*Know CPR.

*Know the location of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and how to use it.

*Know the signs/symptoms of a heart attack and stroke.

Also, be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for the sometimes overwhelming demands of a disaster or emergency environment.

Hope for the best, but expect the worst. You are at risk for witnessing horrific scenes. Protect yourself and especially young hams; participate in psychological and grief counseling, if necessary. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

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

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 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