



WCARS.org

April 2008

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

President's Microphone...

It is with regret that we learned of W4IYS, Scott McCabe's desire to step down as President of WCARS, but we respect his decision and are confident he will continue to be one of our strong signals in promoting amateur radio for WCARS. Thank you to Scott for your service and hard work. Stay close by. We need your experience, your support and your love of amateur radio.

With that having been said, I am pleased to be able to attempt to fill Scott's shoes. As I mentioned at the club meeting, many of you have encouraged me to assume this role for some time and I had considered it but felt my time and attention was best directed towards the Hamfest, as it is so critical to our financial position. Well...timing and good fortune has happened our way. KE4KZS-FM Thornal has agreed to serve as Hamfest Chairman and with the division of managerial planning divided between FM, Elwood-KN4ST and myself, I am very confident we can prepare for this year's Hamfest. Executing will be more of a challenge. Our membership is down significantly from previous years. As of our March meeting, our membership is 55. In 2007, it was 77. In 2004, it was 115. In prior years, WCARS has consistently enjoyed a robust membership and participation. Obviously we need to grow in order to serve our community as the volunteer radio service we promote ourselves to be. I believe we can. Did you know that there are over 700 licensed amateur radio operators in Buncombe County? But did you also notice that we are not the

"Buncombe" Amateur Radio Society? We are the WESTERN Carolina Amateur Radio Society and as such, should represent our region and the ham radio interests of those hams who live in this area. To that end, I would like each of us to be active in our efforts to promote WCARS to the hams we know or to individuals who may be interested in becoming licensed. We have to be seen and heard in order to do that. Check into the two WCARS Nets on 146.910 each week. Check into other nets using the club call, W4MOE. Show your WCARS colors with our hats, shirts and jackets. It may also be necessary that we invest in advertising and direct mail to contact some of our ham neighbors. But the most effective tool we have is our own involvement and kind invitation to someone we haven't seen or heard from in a while to come share our common interest in amateur radio and serving our community. THAT will make us viable again. THAT will make us WCARS.

Dean Blair ~ K2JB

WCARS

still needs volunteers for Field day, the July Hamfest, and the May 31st bike ride.
K2JB - Dean

March 6th Minutes...Steve - KF4TVD

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm.

Motion to accept the February club minutes as written in the Smoke Test made, seconded and carried.

KI4VIR - David presented Treasurer's report. Motion to accept Treasurer's report made, seconded and carried.

KE4KZS - F.M. presented progress report on 2008 Hamfest plans; WCARS needs volunteers; some stepped forward to accept specific assignments. KF4TVD - Steve recommended utilizing regular admission tickets as receipts for those who choose to conduct "tailgating" activities inside the "pole barn". Stubs would be retained as paid receipts for each stall; tickets deposited in drum for prize drawings with all other ticket stubs provide incentive to use inside stalls even in good weather.

KI4VLW - Randy Informed club that he was featured in a radio interview on WSKY 1230AM radio, and that recorded interview would be broadcast at 7:45am, March 7, 2008.

KF4TVD - Steve presented the night's program, "Communications Commandos", on EmComm volunteer operations.

W4IYS - Scott announced his resignation as President of the club, explained Executive committee/Nominating committee process, and nomination and acceptance by K2JB as a candidate for President.

Motion to accept Nominating committee recommendation on K2JB made, seconded and carried.

Motion to elect K2JB as new WCARS President made, seconded and carried. Vice-President, K4AVL - Frank, assumed duties of WCARS President per club By-Laws.

K2JB - Dean assumed duties of President of WCARS from Vice-President.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and carried at 8:35pm.

Traffic Handling Training Net

The aftermath of a disaster is not the time to learn how to send NTS traffic! Mark Rappaport, W2EAG is leading a traffic handling training course, the "Carolinas Training Net", which began Sunday, February 3rd at 5pm local time on 3.861MHz. The net has continued every Sunday thereafter (except Easter Sunday) and will continue until the course is completed. The course is a good refresher for experienced operators and offers a thorough introduction to those new to traffic handling. A training manual for the course is available at www.ncarrl.org. Certificates will be issued upon completion. Thanks to W2EAG for his hard work.
ARRL North Carolina Section

ARES

A meeting for Area 14 (Buncombe County) members was held on March 20th, 7-8 pm, at the Red Cross Radio Room, on Edgewood Road, Asheville. Topics of discussion included antenna installation, frequency/operating modes, needed equipment, needed training, and future meeting schedules.

Hamfest Calendar

April 6

18th Annual Down East Hamfest, Down East Hamfest Association, Lenoir Community College, 231 Highway 58 South, Kinston, NC

<http://www.downeasthamfest.org>

Talk-In: 146.085 / 146.685 (PL 88.5)

Contact: Jean DuPree, KB4OHX

212 East Capitola Avenue, Kinston, NC 28501

Phone: 252-523-2703

Email: jeanhd@embarqmail.com

April 12

North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, North Carolina State Fairgrounds Exposition Center, 1025 Blue Ridge Blvd, Raleigh, NC

<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

Talk-In: 146.04 - 146.64 (no CTCSS tone)

Contact: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

2005 Quail Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: 919-872-6555, Fax: 919-872-6555

Email: k4hf@arrl.net

April 12

FreeFest, Mid-South Amateur Radio Association, Bartlett Station Municipal Center Banquet Hall, 5868 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN
<http://maraonline.org>

Talk-In: 147.030 (no tone)

Contact: Tony Brignole, WA4KHN
PO Box 751841, Memphis, TN 38175-1841
Phone: 901-372-2738, Fax: 901-372-9268
Email: abrigno@comcast.net

April 19

Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio Association, Burke County Fairgrounds 145 Bost Road, Morganton, NC
<http://cvhamfest.com>

Talk-In: 147.150, Contact: Don Beam, KK4NI
172 Crescent Drive, Marion, NC 28752
Phone: 828-652-3102, Fax: 828-652-3102
Email: kk4ni@arrl.net

Upcoming Events

Apr 6 Down East Hamfest, Kinston -
www.downeasthamfest.org

Apr 12 Raleigh Hamfest
www.rars.org/hamfest

Apr 12 State ARES meeting, Raleigh

Apr 19 Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton
www.cvhamfest.com

May 10 Rockingham County Hamfest, Reidsville
www.rcarc.com

May 24 DurHAMfest, Durham www.dfma.org

May 25-31 Hurricane Preparedness Week

June 14 Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest -
www.w4nc.org

Jun 28-29 ARRL Field Day
From NC ARRL Section News

April Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be April 3, 2008, 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

VE Exams were conducted in March.

WCARS congratulates new licensees:

Lewis T. Dowers, KJ4CRJ
James M. Howell, KJ4CRK
Linda H. Harris, KJ4CRL

Gene A. Harrell, KJ4CRM
Dora Ann B. Harrell, KJ4CRN
Tony B. Jones, KJ4CRO
Robert E. Jones, KJ4CRP
Stephen C. Remsen, KJ4CRQ
Fred E. Strong, KJ4CRR
James M. Waddell, KJ4CRS
William C. Widenhouse, KJ4CRT
N4NH - Norm

Catch the Waves - Get ready for Field day! ARRL's Field Day is just around the corner (June 28 & 29). This year's PR theme is "Catch the Waves". Please visit our Field Day information page

<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> for all the details on Field Day rules, frequencies, forms, pins, logos and T-shirts. The complete Field Day packet can be downloaded from the site as well. If you have unanswered questions about Field Day, contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail fcinfo@arrl.org or by phone at 860-594-0236. If you want to order exhibit kits containing printed flyers about Amateur Radio, you may order these materials <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/> on the ARRL Web site. The cost of the exhibit kits ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To make sure you'll have the display material in time for Field Day, your order must be received before June 13.

North Carolina Section News

Members of the Roanoke Division:

I regret to inform you that Bill Edwards, K4BWC, Assistant Director, North Carolina, died on Thursday March 20, 2008. Bill was in his cardiologist's office scheduling a procedure for a pacemaker, when he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bodson, W4PWF
ARRL Director
Roanoke Division

Hams on Hand - When tornados swept through Georgia recently, Amateur Radio operators were on hand to assist where needed. On March 14th an EF-2 tornado touched down in downtown Atlanta at 9:38 PM (local time). The National Weather Service said the twister was 6 miles long and 200 yards wide. Downtown Atlanta was a busy place that evening; not only was there a professional basketball game, college basketball fans were in town for the SEC tournament at the Georgia Dome... ARRL Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, said "William Chandler, KG4JTK, went from house to house in the wind and the rain checking for any injuries in the homes that had sustained damage by falling trees and debris. He issued reports via radio to Barry Kanne, W4TGA, the Emergency Coordinator for neighboring DeKalb County, regarding fallen trees, billboards, power lines and other threats to public safety... ARRL Georgia Section Traffic Manager Charles Pennington, K4GK, served as Net Manager during the storms... "A local 2 meter SKYWARN net, with Greg Tillman, N4VAD, serving as NCS, provided a vital link with the staff at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah. Dr Ra Meguiar, N4RVM, a physician and senior hospital administrator, later sent a letter of appreciation in recognition of the local hams 'for staying with us through the weather and the power outage.' He said that this was his first experience in participating in a severe weather net and the 'support was invaluable,'" Swiderski said...

According to Swiderski, reports came mostly through the linked repeater system, "usually from a liaison from one of the many local nets that were going on in county after county, but there were also reports from stand-alone hams who had the misfortune of being in an affected area... "In some of the counties, this event was a true 'baptism under fire' for brand new Emergency Coordinators," Swiderski said. "I'm pleased to say that they all conducted themselves and all of the challenges admirably."

ARRL

March 6th Minutes of Executive Meeting
Executive meeting called to order by W4IYS - Scott at 6:45pm.

W4IYS - Scott tendered his resignation as club president effective at end of March regular club meeting. Club By-Laws direct that Vice President assume President's duties when position is vacated without nomination and club vote to elect a President.

Vice-President, K4AVL - Frank, declined office of president upon notification by W4IYS. Club by-laws are not specific under such circumstances. W4IYS requested the club executive committee become a nominating committee, identify a qualified candidate, and submit for vote by full club membership at March regular meeting.

K2JB - Dean accepted nomination for club President. Motion to submit K2JB for election by full membership vote made, seconded and carried.

W4IYS - Scott reported that Spivey Mountain W4MOE repeater project is set for completion. Installation includes a new repeater and optimization of the unit by KE4RQL - Randy.

K2JB - Dean related general observations on Field Day (FD) site selection. Potential FD setup sites were suggested.

W4IYS - Scott advised that club van is set for disposal. A committee is needed to determine what process will consist of as to disposition of installed radio equipment. Executive committee meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

FEMA to take over mass care role formerly held by Red Cross

Emergency management professionals learned many lessons from the chaotic response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, among them the need for a more coherent approach to providing mass care. The storm destroyed or rendered uninhabitable more than 300,000

homes, sending nearly a million people in search of shelter.

As a result of that unprecedented experience, the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency agreed last year that FEMA should have responsibility for coordinating mass care, and not the Red Cross, as had been the case. That's because FEMA could direct federal resources to meet mass care needs, while the private Red Cross could not -- a factor that added to the confusion in the aftermath of Katrina...

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office raises concerns about the new arrangement, however. While GAO supports FEMA's role as the primary agency for providing mass care, it questions whether it has the staff and resources to do so adequately. Additionally, neither FEMA nor the Red Cross nor other volunteer organizations are sufficiently prepared to support the elderly or people with disabilities during a disaster, auditors found...

Under the National Response Framework, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, an umbrella organization for 49 volunteer agencies, is supposed to coordinate with FEMA. But that group has only two employees, GAO found, noting the staff had doubled since Katrina...

Marko Bourne, director of policy and program analysis at FEMA, said in a recent interview that the agency has been working with states to identify gaps in planning and preparedness by systematically analyzing issues across 17 major categories, including holes in mass care planning...

"It was the first time we went to the states and sat down and said 'Look, say there's going to be X event, in this case a hurricane, what is your local capacity to evacuate every major city on your coastline? Where would you put them? How are you going to feed them? What are you going to do with debris? What's your shelter plan? What are you doing? And then, let's take a look at those things that we collectively agree are the gaps, and let's see how we can fill them,'" Bourne said...

GAO acknowledged that FEMA has made progress with the gap analysis program, but said the agency had to do more, especially to address the needs of the disabled. FEMA "has generally not coordinated with disability experts as required by the [2006 Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act]." GAO specifically chastised FEMA for not coordinating efforts with the National Council on Disability, a federal agency that addresses disability issues. Such coordination is required by law (from an article by Katherine McIntire Peters kpeters@govexec.com March 7, 2008)

What is an **Emergency Net**?

The purpose of any net is to provide a means for orderly communications within a group of stations. An "emergency" net is a group of stations that provide communications to one or more served agencies, or to the general public, in an emergency. An emergency net may be formal or informal, depending on the number of participants and the volume of messages.

Directed Nets:

In a directed net: a "net control station" (NCS) organizes and controls all activity. One station wishing to call or send a message to another station must first receive permission from the NCS. This is done so messages of a higher priority will be handled first and that all messages will be handled in an orderly fashion.

Open Nets (informal):

In an open net, the NCS is optional. Stations may call each other directly. When a NCS is used at all, he usually exerts minimal control over the net. The NCS may step in when the message volume increases or to solve problems and to keep the net running smoothly.

K4BNP - Tommy

Smoke Test Editor... Members please send any material of interest for inclusion in the newsletter to KF4TVD@ARRL.NET 73 KF4TVD-Steve

THE SMOKE TEST

The Official Publication of the
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
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W4MOE/146.910 - /PL 91.5 Spivey Mountain/Asheville

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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.