



WCARS.org
April 2011

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

President's Microphone

Things are starting to pick up around WNC. Read carefully all the items in this Smoketest. You might be able to help one or more of these activities.

Tommy, K4BNP seems to something "up his sleeve" all the time. Bike race, a "run" or something that he needs help with in providing communications for the sponsor.

Check into the local nets and keep up with what's going on. See you at the meeting on April 7th.

73,
Scott, W4IYS

BCARES Update

Dick Burns, K8SKX, EC, Buncombe County ARES

The audio interference at the EOC has been identified and mostly fixed. W4MOE participated in the NC QSO Party February 28th from the Buncombe Emergency Management building. Their station was an IC-706 using one or the other HF antennas mounted at EOC: a B&W all band dipole or an AlphaDelta 80/40 trap dipole.

After a short time of operating, one of the radio dispatchers in EOC came over to say they could "hear us" over their radios. The interference apparently was "readable" but low enough not to cause much issue. We determined that the interference was worst using the trap dipole, 100 watts output on both 80m and 40m and occurred at most the EOC radio positions. Reducing the power and switching to the BW dipole almost eliminated the issue.

BCARES requested that the end of the trap dipole be moved from the EOC building to a point further away, this was done by Greg K4TMD and Nathan KG4LGY. On March 23 K8SKX, KI4VLW, KJ4CRL and KG4LGY met at EOC to test the new antenna location. Moving the end of the antenna eliminated the interference on 80m (100w) completely and reduced the 40m to a low level. We further determined that the interference was created in the wireless headsets used by the dispatchers, it did not occur when they used hard-wired headsets.

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, April 7th
7 to 9 PM
Ryan's Steak House
Patton Avenue in West Asheville
We will meet in one of the large rooms.
Look for the crowd.

BCARES will hold training on the use of 2m packet, setting up your station, etc. The date has been tentatively set for April 16, probably at the Red Cross, but will confirm ASAP. Those interested should contact me by email me at <K8SKX@ARRL.NET> and let me know what equipment (radio, PC, TNC, interface) and software you intend to use, if you know. Don't worry if you don't know, as we will discuss this at the meeting.

Please note that the Spivey digi-peater, K8SKX-3, is alive and working. If you have packet, you can connect to the Hendersonville packet BBS through Spivey to BRARC. It's slow but it does work. The command is: <C HVLBBS v K8SKX-3 BRARC>.

BCARES will not have an April meeting. We will meet again in May.

We had some fun at the last BCARES meeting.

Thanks to a suggestion from Mark, KD4IMA, Carl brought up the subject of ITU Phonetics, used in voice communications. Do you know each letter from Alpha thru Zulu? Most of the folks at the meeting knew them, but we had fun with a few.

Here are the "words" to go with the "letters".....

A - Alfa; **B** - Bravo; **C** - Charlie; **D** - Delta; **E** - Echo;
F - Foxtrot; **G** - Golf; **H** - Hotel; **I** - India; **J** - Juliett;
K - Kilo; **L** - Lima; **M** - Mike; **N** - November;
O - Oscar; **P** - Papa; **Q** - Quebec; **R** - Romeo;
S - Sierra; **T** - Tango; **U** - Uniform; **V** - Victor;
W - Whiskey; **X** - X-ray; **Y** - Yankee; **Z** - Zulu

The above, and more, is available on the ARRL web site:
<<http://www.arrl.org/fsd-220-handy-operating-aid>>

Minutes—Meeting March 3, 2011

Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ

The March meeting of WCARS was called to order at 1950 hrs by Scott McCabe, W4IYS. The meeting was held at Ryan's Steakhouse on Patton Avenue in Asheville.

The meeting followed dinner with everyone meeting in the CAROLINA ROOM. Approximately 30 members and guests were in attendance. Everyone signed in on a sign up sheet for the record. Everyone introduced themselves giving their name, callsign (if any), and QTH.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were printed in the latest issue of SMOKETEST (club newsletter). No additions or changes were brought to the attention of the club Secretary.

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

President Scott encouraged everyone to read each issue of SMOKETEST carefully for club news and announcements. This means of communications will be used often to save time and insure accuracy. Carl Smith, N4AA was praised for his work in producing SMOKETEST for WCARS.

Norman Harrill, N4NH announced that new ham classes were being formed to begin March 10. Club members were asked to come to the first meeting to share their ham radio experiences to the new students. The location for the classes will be at AB Tech Community College.

Thoughts and ideas as to whether the Club should get a trailer or a van for transporting equipment, etc. were discussed. Any comments/ideas should be sent to Scott McCabe. He will collect all of the information. No decisions were made at this time.

An announcement was made that the annual Hamfest would be held Saturday, July 30, at the Haywood County Fairgrounds (same location as in previous years). Everyone was told to watch for future announcements about the Hamfest as to ticket prices, table prices, and other information yet to be confirmed.

All in this night's attendance were asked to continue to look for a better meeting location that can accommodate programs that may need/use a projector, blackboard, microphone, etc. Ryan's is OK as a fellowship/dinner location, but too small to allow for needed program space.

The APRIL 2011 meeting will be at Ryan's. This announcement was made so that everyone had a firm location for the next meeting.

E-Mail will be utilized heavily from now on for Club business/announcements/updates/etc. with locations such as Ryan's for dinner and fellowship. Limited space and restaurant noise makes this location difficult for larger groups and certain kinds of programs.

Members were asked to contact Carl Smith, N4AA if he/she wants to operate a Field Day station at Field Day. There are bands available and Carl will coordinate their assignment to prevent confusion/duplication. Field Day operations will be at the Fireman's Training Center (same location as in past years), near Erwin High School. Auxiliary power will be available via generator(s) provided by Jerry VeHaun and his crew.

New club name tags are ready at a cost of \$14 each.

Club Dues are due by 1 April to continue your membership, newsletter access, etc. Please send your dues in now.

The meeting was adjourned at 2032 with fellowship following.

FIELD DAY

Carl Smith, N4AA

Thanks to those who have already "signed up" for a band for this years Field Day activity.

I will schedule a visit to the site at least a month prior to Field Day (June 25-26) so that everyone can see what is there and setup a tentative schedule of who will be operating from on the site. With plenty of space, we can spread out and not be packed in on top of each other. Also, we want to get our antennas spaced far enough apart to minimize interference between stations.

As of this writing, the following have stated their intention to operate the bands/modes shown:

75/80 meters Marc, KG4OPM ???
Elwood, KN4ST

40 meters Carl, N4AA CW/RTTY/SSB

20 meters Aaron, N4ANE SSB/RTTY

15 meters Dean, N2JB ???

10 meters Randy, KI4VLW SSB

2 meters ???

Get On The Air Station ???

MEET/GREET ???

Saturday dinner ???

You will note there are FOUR of the above in RED. That just means I don't have anyone who has volunteered for those positions/tasks. If no one comes forward, we will NOT have those positions/tasks being available.

We WILL have fun. We WILL prove our capability to provide communications from the "field" with temporary antennas and shelters. That's what Field Day is about and we WILL do it.

We would appreciate your cooperation and help in whatever manner you can do it.

NC Section News

Bill Morine, N2COP, Section Manager

Lots of exciting news this month, but first an action item. The threat of Amateur Radio losing a large portion of the 70 cm (420-450 MHz) band is real. Federal bill HR607, the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 Act", in its present form would remove Ham Radio access to these frequencies. Many groups are opposing this provision, including the military, which shares this spectrum with us. An excellent story about the potential loss of this frequency appeared in USA Today at <www.usatoday.com/money/media/2011-03-29-hamradio29_ST_N.htm>. So far, less than 5% of North Carolina ARRL members, and only 1% of all NC Hams, have contacted their Congressional House members to ask them to oppose this bill in its present form. We've made it really easy as a two step process to send a letter to your Congressman.

Step 1: Go to <<http://www.kd4pyr.net/hamletter.htm>> and fill in your call sign. The letter will automatically put in the address of your Congressional representative along with suggested text. Print it out and sign it.

Step 2: Send your letter to ARRL's Washington, DC agent, Chwat & Co., which will hand deliver it to your Congressman's office. You have three ways to send it to Chwat:

By US Mail - Send to:

Chwat & Co., Suite 103, 625 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314

By Fax - Send to: 703-684-7594,

or you may also send your signed letter scanned as a PDF or JPG file via email to: arrl@chwatco.com

To see how the loss of the 70cm band might impact you, please visit ARRL's video on this issue at <<http://www.arrl.org/hr-607>>. Thanks for taking a few minutes to save these frequencies for our continued use.

DUKE KNIEF, W4DK,

WINS 2010 ROANOKE DIVISION SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Duke Knief, W4DK, winner of the 2010 Roanoke Division Service Award. Duke becomes the first North Carolinian to win this award since former Section Manager John Covington, W4CC, in 2005.

Duke is the 44th recipient of the annual award which is given to an exemplary operator in the four states which comprise the Roanoke Division – North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. Also known as the "Vic Clark Service Award", it is named after Vic Clark, W4KFC (SK), former Roanoke Division Director and ARRL President.

Duke was recognized for his many years of active service in ARES and as a chief proponent for the certification of ARES volunteers in the post 9/11 world. He's ARES District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for Area 15, an active DXer, contester and has served as president of QCWA Chapter 76, the Blue Ridge Chapter. Duke received his award at the Charlotte Hamfest earlier in March. Congratulations, Duke.

YOUTH – Several neat events to report. First, the Old North State Council of Boy Scouts is hosting a huge camporee at Denton Farm Park in Denton April 29 – May 1. Several Hams have succeeded in getting permission to use the national BSA callsign K2BSA that weekend.

Thousands of scouts are expected to attend the camporee, whose theme is "Rolling Into The Next 100 Years". Because of the futuristic theme, Ham Radio leaders will showcase digital modes along with traditional phone and CW. The Radio Merit Badge and Technician licensing classes will be offered. For more information, go to the NC JOTA group in Yahoo Groups.

Congratulations also to the 29 Boy scouts who earned the Radio Merit Badge at Boy Scout University in Valdese and Boiling Springs who were taught by members of the Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service. ARRL has just signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Boy Scouts of America. You can see the signing ceremony video at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izkzuD2MJ-o>

Many thanks to the countless Boy Scout Ham Radio leaders who are freely donating their time.

The other Youth story is the Youth DX Adventure being held in Costa Rica July 21 -25. Planning to attend are 11 year old General class Sam Jenkins, KI4TRG, and his dad Steve, KA8HXX, of Raleigh. Several clubs have made generous donations to the DXpedition to help Sam and Steve.

To find out more, visit Sam and Steve at the Youth Lounge at RARSfest or check out the DX Adventure's website at: <http://www.qsl.net/n6jrl>

Three Youth clubs made it on-the-air during the NC QSO Party. They were Roger Bacon Academy, KK4AMH, in Leland; Powell GT Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh; and Pitt County Community College, K4PCC. Great to see the future of our hobby active and on the air.

ARES MEETING – The annual state ARES meeting will be held Saturday, April 30th, at the state EOC in Raleigh. Agenda and times will be forthcoming.

HAMFESTS: April 16 – Catawba Valley Hamfest, Burke Co. Fairgrounds, Morganton. <<http://www.cvhamfest.com>>. Talk-In: 147.15. April 23 - RARSfest, the North Carolina State Convention, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. <<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>>. Talk-In: 146.64

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS: April 9 – the 146th General Hardee's Retreat Civil War Reenactment, 1330Z-1900Z, NC4AR, Trinity, NC. Tri-County Amateur Radio Club. 7.030 CW; 7.210 SSB; 145.290 REPEATER; 53.010 REPEATER. April 23 – the 39th Annual Raleigh Hamfest and ARRL NC State Convention, 1200Z-1930Z, N4C, Raleigh, NC. Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. 14.235 14.055 7.235 7.055.

PUBLIC SERVICE: April 2 – MS Spring Fling, Morrisville; April 9 – MS Triangle Walk, RBC Center, Raleigh; April 16-17, Coastal Carolina Air Show, Wilmington. More information: www.hampublicservice.org

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

**Southern Appalachian Radio Museum, Inc. (SARM)
Room 215, ELM Building at AB Tech Comm. College**

John Travis, W4QCF reminds us the Museum is open for visitors each Friday from 1 to 3:30 PM. This schedule will continue through the summer and fall until November/Thanksgiving.

If you haven't been to the Museum, take a Friday afternoon and stop by to see our rich history on display.

Also please remember that the Museum conducts an on the air gathering each Friday Morning at 8:30 on 75 meters (3975). Stop by, check in with Dean, WA4CNI and listen to the old timers as they remember the "Golden Days."

UMCOR Disaster Response Test

June 13, 14

Lou Dreinhofer, WB3JKQ from Friendsville, TN tells Scott the following:

"I have been asked to demonstrate a ham radio station at Lake Junaluska NC for the Methodist Church, Holston Conference, annual meeting June 13 and 14. I do volunteer work with UMCOR on disaster response and want to demonstrate how ham radio might help in this effort.

I was wondering if you could advise me of some repeaters that might be accessible from that location such as Ashville, Waynesville, or Mt. Mitchell. We would also appreciate it if some of your members could be available the air to talk to us, maybe on 6, 10 or 15 meters. I plan on having portable stations on VHF and HF.

I am also attaching a flyer for our Knoxville Hamfest which is June 11. I would appreciate if you would share this with your club members.

Lou
WB3JKQ

KNOXVILLE HAMFEST & ELECTRONICS EXPO

Saturday, June 11

Kerbela Temple
315 Mimosa Avenue
Knoxville, TN

Breakfast and Lunch Concessions

Inside - Dealers & Clubs Outside - Tailgating

Forums, Exhibits, Demonstrations
VE Radio Exams on site

Updates, Forms & Directions on the web at:
<http://www.W4BBB.Org>

Scott, W4IYS is looking for a TNC to be used for Packet. Does anyone have one available ? ? ?

Contact Scott (828-252-0583) or email him at <esmccabe@charter.net>.

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

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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	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
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	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@bellsouth.net
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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@dxdpub.com

Net Information

NET NAME	Freq(MHz) offset/PL	Day	Local time	Notes
6600	145.19	Saturday	9-PM	Many check-ins - Wide area coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic	146.61	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	224.54	Monday	8-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
Mount Mitchell Ragchew	442.225+/107.2	Monday	9-PM	Directed, Everyone welcome
Mount Pisgah 220	224.26	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.	146.19	Sunday	9-PM	
SATERN	14.265	Daily	3-PM	Salvation Army Team-Emergency
Southern Appalachian Museum	3.975	Friday	8:30-AM	Informal with NCS - WA4CNI
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
???	224.6			WB4PLA on Spivey Mtn. ???
W4YK	53.630/100	Friday	9-PM	???