



WCARS.org  
April 2013

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

### President's Microphone

We are helping Dean at Carrier Park this Saturday (April 13) please come out and help if you can.

Thanks

Scott

### Upcoming Events

Carrier Park Demo, Meals on Wheels, Fletcher Flyer, Field Day, WCARS Ham-Fest, Hot Doggett, Shut-in Ridge Race

**Meeting for May is on the 2nd AB-Tech—Sycamore Bldg auditorium at 7:30 PM**

### INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTE

**Club meetings are subject to the following:**

**Should Buncombe County schools close due to inclement weather our meeting will be canceled.**

**See map at back page.**

### Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society was called to order at 1932 hours by Scott McCabe W4IYS, Club President.

He invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

He then asked everyone to introduce themselves giving a name, callsign (if any), and QTH.

Tickets for the 50-50 drawing were sold prior to the meeting. Half of the proceeds going into the club treasury and half serving as the winning ticket prize.

A sign-in sheet was passed around for everyone to sign showing their name, call, QTH, and to indicate membership in ARRL, ARES, WCARS, etc.

Norman N4NH introduced Ms. Cathy Balken, of ATT&T, as the evening's program speaker who gave a presentation about the evolution of the telephone, email, and web browsing to today's mobile devices and date exchange. She also gave information about "tomorrow's tech" that is being developed. Members can go to the following web address and see the presentation:

## Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2013

<[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cf7IL\\_@Z38](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cf7IL_@Z38)>

Topics for the next monthly meeting will be Field Day and Hamfest Planning

A get-well card for Tommy Queen was passed around for everyone to sign and send their wishes for his speedy recovery.

SPECIAL NOTE: The MAY MEETING will be in the SYCAMORE BUILDING of AB Tech (due to renovations being planned for the Simpson Building where we have been meeting).

SPECIAL NOTE: The JULY meeting will be on the SECOND THURSDAY (July 11) at 1930 hrs. (due to AB Tech's break between Spring and Summer terms and will be closed the previous week).

Bill Van Nyes reported (via Scott) that the QSL card policy for WCARS is reinstated and will be the same as last year for members using the club call to send a QSL.

APRIL 13 (a Saturday): the WCARS Van will be at Carrier Park down next to the French Broad River to serve as a demonstration station. Volunteers are needed to operate, meet the public and answer questions.

September 10-16 are the dates for the MOUNTAIN STATE FAIR during which a demonstration amateur radio station be setup, WCARS members are invited to attend and operate.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve N4SET the report was accepted with thanks by the majority.

## Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2013

The door prize ticket was drawn and prize awarded. The 50-50 ticket was drawn and awarded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2037 hours with donuts and fellowship following.

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SUBMITTED BY BOB DOCKERY  
WD4CNZ, WCARS Secretary

## License Classes 2013

License Classes for 2013 will be starting tentatively mid to late March - early April. This is great opportunity to introduce someone you know who is interested in Amateur Radio to the hobby and get their license.

The classes are open to all and are held free of charge just pay a small fee to take the exam.

Anyone wishing to upgrade their existing license are invited to attend the testing session, don't forget to bring your ID, your existing license and enough money to cover the exam cost.

If you are licensed operator and would like to help teach a module of the class or if you need more information please contact Norman - N4NH: N4NH@arrl.net or by phone: 828-253-1192

## WCARS / VEC Exam Schedule

**Asheville** - AB-TECH, Rm 134, Elm Bldg

**9:00 AM on the THIRD SATURDAY of:  
January, April, July and October**

VE Team Leader: Bob Helton - KS4FX  
Phone: 828-684-0249

**2:00 PM on the THIRD SUNDAY of:  
February, May, August and November**

VE Team Leader: Steve Lankford - AG4BY  
Phone: 828-768-2141

**Burnsville** - Yancey County Library

Contact:

VE Team Leader: David McCarty - W4TDM  
Phone: 828-657-1044

**Marion**

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Harriet Fullbright - K4ICU  
Phone: 828-291-7521

**Rutherfordton** - Isothermal College

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Bruce Tessineer - AD4OJ  
Phone: 828-657-5464

**Waynesville**

Contact:

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 and December**

VE Team Leader: Harley Bullman - AJ4PI  
Phone: 828-645-0889

**For other locations contact:  
Norman Harrill  
N4NH@arrl.net / 828-253-1192**

## From the Editor

The Club repeater has been noisy for a few weeks, but Randy - N2GE, has taken a look at it and what ever he has done seems to have improved things. Thanks Randy for looking into it!

Norman has started hosting an informal get together Friday mornings at Biltmore Square Mall, there is more on this on the next page. If you are free and able to attend drop in and give them a visit.

The weather has jumped right into summer! I am hoping to finally deal with my antenna issues here shortly, that way when I call the WCARS net or the ARES net I will be easier to hear and hopefully will be able to hear all of you better.

And remember our first Thursday meeting has moved to a new building at A-B Tech, map is enclosed at the back of Smoke Test.

Short issue this time, which is good I need to get studying for the Extra test.

Reminder that the WCARS Information Net is Monday @ 9 PM, 146.910 (91.5 PL) all licensed operators are welcomed to join in.

BCARES Net is held every Wednesday @ 9 PM also on 146.910 (91.5 PL), you do not need to be a member of ARES to participate in the net.

BCARES also has a Packet node and digipeater that can be used by any licensed operator with a radio and TNC, the frequency is 146.710 no PL, there are several WCARS / BCARES members with packet. If you need help contact me.

If you have something you would like to send to Smoke test please send it to [kk4brd@gmail.com](mailto:kk4brd@gmail.com).

Paul - KK4BRD

## Carrier Park Demo

WCARS will be conducting an Amateur Radio Demonstration for the public on Saturday April 13th from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM at Carrier Park in West Asheville. The K2JB mobile trailer will be set up for HF and VHF operation. This will be an opportunity to introduce Amateur Radio to the public and funnel any interested persons into the upcoming licensing class beginning April 16th.

We need WCARS members to come and contribute their time and expertise to answer questions and share your ham radio experiences. I guarantee there will be curious onlookers eager to see what we are doing. If you have any old QST magazines you don't mind to part with please bring them with you. Lets teach ham radio to the next generation!

See you there.

Dean - K2JB

## Friday Mornings

Norman - N4NH is having informal gatherings Friday mornings at 10 AM in the Food Court of Biltmore Square Mall, all are welcomed to attend.

## From the Internet

Scott sent me a YouTube video link for a new Google product. If you are able to check it out see if you can spot what it is they are doing:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KhZKNZO8mQ&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KhZKNZO8mQ&feature=player_embedded)

Or search on YouTube for Gmail Tap.

Also received this link from Tonya via Scott:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01g3nXeSsPk&feature=youtu.be>

Or search on YouTube for Ham Radio Rap by Tyler Graham

## BCARES

Next meeting is Thursday April 18th at 7 PM in the EOC classroom. This is an important meeting please attend if you are able to do so.

Updates on Mission Winlink System and Disaster drill April 26-29.

## Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is quickly approaching, this year Steve - N4SET is handling the communications logistics .

If you are able to help out or interested in becoming involved in public service events, Meals on Wheels is an excellent fun event in which to get started.

Contact Steve at: [n4set.wnc@gmail.com](mailto:n4set.wnc@gmail.com) or call at home 828-658-0261 between 1700 – 1900 (5 PM - 7 PM), if email is not an option.

Please no calls after 7 PM.

## Equipment for Sale

Joe - KD8VD, has recently moved to Asheville and has a lot of equipment for sale. If you are interested you may contact him at 828-505-1963, please speak loudly and clear.

FOR SALE-FULLY-OPERATIONAL, HI-FREQ-DIGITAL, 2-METER SCANNING-AND HAM RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM; Complete (component prices per Natl Used Equip Outlets)

### Two Radios

Model TS430S HF Transceiver, Modified for full transmitting and receiving to all frequencies incl Ham, 8 Memory channels; Auto Antenna Tuner Control. Kenwood Aux Ext spkr Attached PS-430 Regulated DC Power Supply high current capability and Output is 13.8m / VDC/20Amp and add terminals –cap of add powering the associated 2-Meter Transceive in the System.

AZDEN 2m FM Transceiver, PCS-4000. 2 bank,16 Channels programmable band screening, standard freq change; 5 or 10mkHz channelspacing,25w/5w switch

### Tuner

Model 253 Automatic Antenna Coupler, capable of matching unbalanced 50 ohm Output impedance of transmitter and receivers over a frq range of 1.8 to 30 MKz. Int Stor cap for 4 Ant and 28 memory comb. Dual power range and SWR meter incorporated

### Programmable Scanner

Realistic Model PRO-58 Programmable Scanner – Ten Channel coverage of Ham, Government

VHF and UHF systems, complete with Pole antenna system

### Accessory components

TigerTronics Signalink USB Digital unit supports sound card Digital and voice modes; For the KENWOOD transceiver on all bands

DELTA-4 Lightning Surge Protected 4 position RF Coax Switch and associated Coax Cables 100-Plus ft long wire Balin fed from Coax Antenna tuner, protected against feedback inferences

## Equipment for Sale

Additional included

Solid copper wire grounding system for all elements and extensive feedback protection associated with each item along with a solid copper 8" x 8 feet copper insulator separating transmission system from operating elements

Connection of entire system to electrical system protected fully by extension cord lightning surge protected multiple plug-in manifold. Comprehensive inventory of ancillary MSB connectors, additional 30 plus feet of connector equipped supplemental COAX in three diameter options, supply of supplemental connection equipment.

Instruction Manuals for every element and component of system.



## The ARRL Letter

Materials in the ARRL Letter are taken from The ARRL Letter online, full credit is given to The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League, as per republication guidelines require.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

### FCC Seeks to Reassess RF Exposure Limits

04/04/2013

On March 27, the FCC released a First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137). The documents seek to reassess the FCC's RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC's rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. These proposed changes would affect the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) rules.

In the 201-page document, the FCC noted that “[p]eriodic review of the government’s rules and regulations to ensure they have kept pace with current knowledge and changing needs is an important characteristic of good government, and we here will advance the process of providing a comprehensive review and modification, where appropriate, of this Commission’s various rules pertaining to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for environmental reviews, specifically those reviews related to health and safety of radiofrequency (RF) emissions from radio transmitters. Our actions herein are intended to ensure that our measures are compliant with our environmental responsibilities and requirements and that the public is appropriately protected from any potential adverse effects from RF exposure as provided by our rules, while avoiding any unnecessary burden in complying with these rules.”

The document is divided into three parts: a First Report and Order (First R&O) and a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) in ET Docket No. 03-137, and a Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry) in a new docket, ET Docket No. 13-84. In the R&O, the FCC looks at several technical and semantic issues -- initiated in 2003 -- to be revised and updated; in the FNPRM, the FCC proposes to further update and revise its procedures and treat all services equally.

In the Inquiry, the FCC seeks comments to determine whether its RF exposure limits and policies need to be reassessed. “Since consideration of the limits themselves is explicitly outside of the scope of ET Docket 03-137, we propose with the Inquiry to open a new docket to consider those limits in light of more recent developments,” the FCC said. “The Inquiry is intended to open discussion on both the currency of our RF exposure limits and possible policy approaches regarding RF exposure. We look forward to developing a complete record to determine whether the current rules and policies should remain unchanged, or should be relaxed or tightened.”



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### FCC Seeks to Reassess RF Exposure Limits (continued)

According to the FCC, mitigation matters are “post-evaluation procedures to ensure exposure limits are not exceeded, such as labels, signs, barriers, enforcement and occupational issues.” In its Notice of Inquiry, the FCC included clarifications related to the application of occupational exposure limits for devices and at fixed transmitter sites. The FCC noted that it “should be helpful to licensees to codify our earlier adopted policy with regard the use of occupational/controlled limits at Amateur Radio stations.”

This policy was first established in the RF Report and Order of 1996, but it was not incorporated in the rules at that time. It allows amateur stations to be evaluated “with respect to occupational/controlled exposure limits, as long as appropriate training and information has been provided to the amateur licensee and members of his or her immediate household. Other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee’s household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits.” The FCC will codify this policy by adding a paragraph as a new sub-section in Section 1.1310 -- radiofrequency radiation exposure limits -- to its rules.

The FCC pointed out that one goal of the general exemptions from routine RF exposure evaluation proposed “is to avoid specific exemptions for particular services and ensure a consistent set of rules without exceptions.” With this in mind, the FCC is proposing to delete the special exemptions from evaluation in the Amateur Radio Service in Section 97.13(c) of its rules.

“We appreciate that Amateur Radio operators are knowledgeable about the appropriate use of their equipment, such that separation distances are likely to be maintained to ensure compliance with our exposure limits,” the FCC said. “However, since the existing amateur exemptions are based only on transmitter power and do not consider separation distance or antenna gain, exempt transmitting antennas that are unusually close to people could potentially lead to non-compliant exposure levels.” The FCC said that a separation distance of at least 24 feet would meet its proposed exemption criteria, “considering a currently exempt 50 W transmitter at VHF in accord with Section 97.13(c) and assuming an antenna gain of 6 dBd.”





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### FCC Seeks to Reassess RF Exposure Limits (continued)

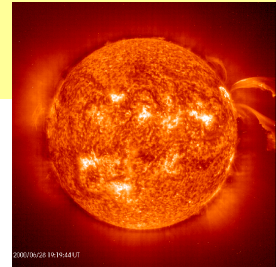
The FCC noted that existing classification of amateur exposure as occupational “is consistent with use of our proposed general exemption criteria based on general population exposure limits because awareness of exposure greater than the general population limits is required in all occupational settings, including amateur households. Application of the general exemptions proposed here to Amateur Radio installations would preclude the possibility of overexposure and require further evaluation only when necessary, giving guidance for both fixed and mobile transmitting antennas.”

The FCC invited comments on how this would affect the amateur community: “Parties that support maintaining the current exemption based on power alone are requested to explain how it provides adequate assurance that the public is protected against exposure to RF energy in excess of our limits and the extent of the burden imposed by this proposal. We encourage interested parties to comment on the relative costs and benefits of the proposed changes in this section, as well as those of alternative approaches.”

“The ARRL has an RF Safety Committee, consisting of experts in the field,” explained ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ; “The committee members, as well as Board members and staff are reviewing the lengthy document and will formulate a response.”

Comments will be accepted until 90 days after the R&O, FNPRM and Notice of Inquiry are published in the Federal Register (this can take up to six weeks after its release by the FCC). Reply comments will be accepted until 150 days after publication in the Federal Register.

# Solar Weather



NOAA Solar Forecasts

**Sunspot Number: 162**

Updated at: 2013 Apr 9

**Spotless Days**

Flare	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Class M	20%	20%
Class X	01%	01%

Current Stretch: 0 days  
 2013 total: 0 days (0%)  
 2012 total: 0 days (0%)  
 2011 total: 2 days (<1%)  
 2010 total: 51 days (14%)  
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)  
 Since 2004: 821 days  
 Typical Solar Min: 486 days  
 Updated 9 Apr 2013

Geomagnetic Storms

Mid-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	15%	10%
Minor	05%	01%
Severe	01%	01%

**Interplanetary Magnetic Field**

$B_{total}$ : 5.5 nT       $B_z$ : 1.9 nT north

High-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	15%	15%
Minor	25%	15%
Severe	20%	10%

**The Radio Sun**

10.7 cm flux: 139 sfu

HF Conditions	Day	Night
80 m - 40 m	Fair	Good
30 m - 20 m	Fair	Good
17 m - 15 m	Good	Good
12 m - 10 m	Fair	Poor
VHF Conditions	Day	Night
Aurora	Band Closed	
6 m EsEU	Band Closed	
4 m EsEU	Band Closed	
2 m EsEU	Band Closed	
2 m EsNA	Band Closed	
EME Deg	Fair	

## ***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**

#### **2013 OFFICERS**

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<b>Quartermaster &amp; Webmaster</b>	<b>Lee Johnson</b>	<b>KB4QDQ</b>	<b>242-1630</b>	<b>leejohnsonster@gmail.com</b>
<b>Hamfest Chairman - 2013</b>	<b>Jeff Weller</b>	<b>KJ4TEI</b>	<b>683-5271</b>	<b>weller_j@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>Smoke Test Editor</b>	<b>Paul Tilley</b>	<b>KK4BRD</b>	<b>669-8311</b>	<b>kk4brd@gmail.com</b>

HF/VHF/UHF Net Information				
<u>NET NAME</u>	Freq 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
Franklin, NC - Winesprings Bald	147.240 + / 151.4	Daily	9-PM	
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	7.228	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 Emerg. 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	???
Traders Net	147.05 - 91.5	Tuesday	9-PM	
Skywarn	145.27 - 91.5	As Needed		
SC Hearts / NC Hears / SW VA Net	444.250 - 91.5	Daily	8-PM	
NC Hears	444.250 - 91.5	Daily	9:30 PM	
K4MFD Greenville - 440	444.200 + 173.8			Located on Bald Mtn. N. of Asheville
K4MFD Greenville - 6 Meter	53.400			Located on Bald Mtn. N. of Asheville Linked to N2GE 224.660 & KI4DNY 224.600 fulltime

Regional Repeater List		
Frequency / offset / PL	Location	Notes
145.190 -	Mt. Mitchell	
146.520 Simplex	National Calling Frequency	
146.910 - 91.5	WCARS	
146.640 - 91.5	Hendersonville	IRLP
146.610 -	Greenville, SC	
147.105 + 91.5	Hendersonville	
145.270 - 91.5	Hendersonville	
145.370 - 91.5	Greenville, SC	
147.390 + 94.8	Waynesville	
147.315 + 123	Spartanburg	
147.060 + 123	Greenville, TN	
145.410 - 127.3	Greenville, TN	
145.390 - 186.2	Greenville, TN	
146.760 -	Mt. Pisgah	
146.880 -	Shelby	
147.135 +	Brevard	
147.285 +	Tryon	
145.330 -	Tryon	
146.790 -	Anderson, SC	
146.240 +	Franklin	Connected to 151.4 Pickens, SC
442.225 + 107.2	Mt. Mitchell	
442.450 +	Hendersonville	
442.850 +	Brevard	
444.875 + 131.8	Waynesville	IRLP
224.520 - 91.5	Mt. Spivey	
224.600 - 94.8	Asheville	
224.240 -	Hendersonville	
224.960 -	Hendersonville	
224.540 -	Mt. Mitchell	
224.260 -	Mt. Pisgah	
224.200 -	Shelby	
224.460 -	Shelby	
224.360 -	Marshall	
224.660 - 100	Madison County	
53.630 - 100	Mt. Mitchell	
53.130 - 100	Hendersonville	
53.410 - 131.8	Greenville, SC	

# Directions to for Carrier Park Demonstration



A marks where Carrier Park is.

Coming in on I-26 Exit at Amboy Road. Turn left on to Short Michigan Avenue into the Carrier Park parking lot.

Coming in from points east of Asheville, I generally get on Swannanoa River Road, go straight to Biltmore Avenue, cross Biltmore Avenue on to Meadow Road. Stay on Meadow Road until you get to Amboy Road (watch for the bridge on your left). Turn left on to Amboy Road. Turn left on to Short Michigan Avenue into the Carrier Park parking lot.

# Directions to for Sycamore Building



A marks where the Sycamore Building is.

B marks where the Simpson Building is.

Instead of pulling into the driveway for the Simpson building off Victoria Road take the road just before the driveway that will take you into the parking area for Sycamore and other buildings.

If you get lost call W4MOE for help on 146.910 PL 91.5 (Spivey - WCARS repeater). Someone will be monitoring shortly after 6 PM.