



WCARS.org

May 2009

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

President's Microphone...

During last months club meeting, members present agreed to replace the repeater antenna on Spivey Mountain, even after determining that a replacement would cost more than originally anticipated. On Saturday, April 18th, members assembled and effected the installation of the antenna itself, only to find out that a necessary connector was missing from the kit. Another trip up the tower will be necessary (tentatively scheduled for May 2nd, depending upon the weather conditions) to complete the installation. Thanks to all who helped with the job up to now. A date will be announced for additional work on this long time project if not completed on the 2nd. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

73 Dean - k2jb

Upcoming Events

May 9: Rockingham County Swapfest, Reidsville

May 9: Area 1&2 ARES Meeting, Plymouth

May 23: DurHAMfest, Bahama

June 13: Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest

June 23-24: State Emergency Management Drill

June 27 & 28: ARRL Field Day

July 25: Western Carolina Hamfest, Waynesville

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

NC ARES...

Members are being asked to participate in a state emergency management drill on Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24. The drill will involve a large earthquake in the Buncombe County area and the resulting damage will affect structures and communications facilities that are not "earthquake resistant" with a special emphasis on cellphone facilities/towers. The focus of this exercise is on communications and interoperability and the scenario depicts massive communications infrastructure failure from damage and circuit overload. NC Emergency Management expects Amateur Radio to play a key role in this exercise. We'll have more detail later, but we know we will need operators in Buncombe and the surrounding counties, at the NCEM warehouse in Badin, at the western branch EOC in Conover and at the state EOC in Raleigh. Please contact your local EC with your availability for this exercise.

NC ARRL / Submissions by WD4CNZ Bob - N4KOX Russ

Meals on Wheels Ride needs operators to work rest/rescue stations along the bicycle route on May 30th. Contact K4BNP - Tommy, to volunteer your services. This is a fun event while also offering valuable training for EmComm deployment as an ARES/RACES member (if you aren't a member, please consider it).

N4SET

April 2nd Minutes...Bob - WD4CNZ

The meeting was called to order at 1931 hrs with a welcome by Dean Blair K2JB, WCARS President.

The group was then asked to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by each attendee giving their name, callsign (if any), and QTH. New hams were recognized with applause.

Two notarized copies of the lien release for the MOE VAN from DERA giving clear ownership to WCARS were given to Steve N4SET to follow up on title work. This action will make WCARS the sole owner and will save money on van insurance.

50-50 tickets were made available; The winning ticket for the evening to be announced at the end of the meeting.

The sign-in sheet was distributed to record all those present for records of attendance plus the door prize.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Steve N4SET.

The Hamfest in Greenville, SC on May 2nd was announced.

A report was made on the repeater antenna. The cost of a replacement has proven to be more than originally thought. Advantages of getting a best replacement were presented for service, reliability, and performance.

A Motion was made and seconded to purchase the best system for the repeater. The Motion carried by vote.

Elwood Miles was recognized as Hamfest Chairman for 2009. Dean advised the group of increased fees in all areas from the Haywood County Fairgrounds for the use of the site for the WCARS Hamfest.

Discussion was made to think about changes that would match facility needs, i.e.: cost effective, access, availability of tables, covered space (from rain), etc. Suggestions were made about the possibility of changing the site to see if facilities plus location attractions would make a difference in attendance.

Initial thinking about Field Day was presented to consider parking and avoiding "porta-potty" expense.

Possible options and sites were suggested for the event. Everyone was asked to be on the lookout for possible sites.

Tommy Queen K4BNP announced the May 30 Meals On Wheels Bike Ride and needing about 15 operators at rest stops and sag wagons to support this event.

Tommy Queen also announced the statewide ARES drill to be held on June 23 as "Earthquake In North Carolina". Emergency management throughout the state will be involved and hams are needed. The event will include "cell phones are down" scenario and hams are asked to participate.

Michael Brown KI4WCA gave the program explaining antenna types, tuners, feed lines, RF grounds, best heights, radials, location, materials, and material sources. He recommended the ARRL Antenna Handbook as the best reference work.

Keith Galyeon KF4MRH won the door prize. Mike Slaski (a new ham) won the 50-50 drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2153 with refreshments and fellowship following.

Hamfest Calendar

May 9, Mountain City, TN

Swapfest, Johnson County Amateur Radio Club, Tennessee Army National Guard Building, 1923 South Shady Street (Hwy 421), Mountain City, TN

Talk-In: 145.470 & 146.610 (both PL 103.5)
Contact: Frank Liberstein, W4FRL 153 Quail Run Road, Trade, TN 37691 Phone: 423-727-0333 Email: qquailrun@embarqmail.com

13 Jun, Knoxville, TN

Tennessee State Convention (Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Exposition), Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville, Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa Street, Knoxville, TN
<http://www.w4bbb.org> Talk-In: 147.30, 224.50 & 444.575 Contact: David Bower, K4PZT 512 Elkmont Road, Knoxville, TN 37922 Phone: 865-363-7388 Fax: 865-690-8360 Email: d.bower@ieee.org

VE Exams

May 9, Hendersonville, NC

146.64 & 442.450, Mountain Home Fire Department, Hwy 25, 9:00 AM, Sid Hendricks, W4IOE, 144 Duncan Creek Rd, Fletcher, NC 28732 828-684-8130, Michael Parente, AI4GR, PO Box 2577, Hendersonville, NC 28793 828-891-8970

May 17, Asheville, NC - 146.91 & 146.76 & 224.60, 2:00 PM, Room 134, Elm Building - AB Tech, Walk-ins only, Steve Lanford, AG4BY 101 King St. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-645-3511, Michael Robinson, AD4XZ 99 High Point Rd. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-626-3270

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

WCARS Information Net (Callsign W4MOE)

3/30/09; with K2JB as NCS; 13 check-ins
4/6/09; with K2JB as NCS; 17 check-ins
4/13/09 with K2JB as NCS; 23 check-ins
4/20/09; with N4SET as NCS; 20 check-ins
4/27/09; with K2JB as NCS, 16 check-ins

WCARS Membership 2009

As of 4/29/09, the following members (by callsign only), are listed as renewing/new members:

AC4JK, AI4XQ, AI4ZB, AJ4KJ, AJ4PI, K2JB, K4AVL, K4BNP, K4GMG, K4ML, K4PCY, K4SQ, K8SKX, KB4IP, KC4AKQ, KC4PNF, KD4IMA, KD4OKU, KD4UWQ, KE4SM, KF4FLK, KF4MRH, KF4NVX, KF4PYX, KF4VRQ, KG4KHH, KG4LQX, KG4OPM, KG4RPY, KG4WAP, KI4FPC, KI4JSR, KI4NXN, KI4NXO, KI4NXS, KI4NXU, KI4OFL, KI4TMD, KI4VIR, KI4VLW, KI4VXE, KI4WCA, KI4WJK, KJ4CRL, KJ4DET, KJ4GYX, KJ4HZ, KJ4JOJ, KJ4KEU, KJ4KEZ, KJ4KFA, KJ4KWW, KN4ST, KR4L, KS4FX, N1ND, N1OAJ, N4AA, N4DWM, N4KOX, N4NH, N4SET, N4ZTP, N4ZYE, NC4N, NC4R, W4IYS, W4QCF, WA4BVW, WA4MTY, WA4NUO, WA4QCO, WB4AAM, WD4CNZ, WD4IJT.

Upon renewal or new membership, each member will be added to the database and appear on any future lists as above, and placed on the newsletter distribution list. If anyone is aware of any errors in the membership list, please let me know by whatever means is convenient. Thank you.
73 N4SET - Steve

Low sunspot cycle fascinates scientists...

There's no reason to panic, say scientists for those worried about a strangely long trend of missing sunspots. Don't expect the sun to change its spots overnight...

Sunspots are dark areas on the sun's surface caused by intense magnetic activity. They indicate a natural sort of churning caused by the rotation of plasma inside the sun. And they are often associated with things like solar flares, mass ejections and other phenomenon indicating increased solar activity...

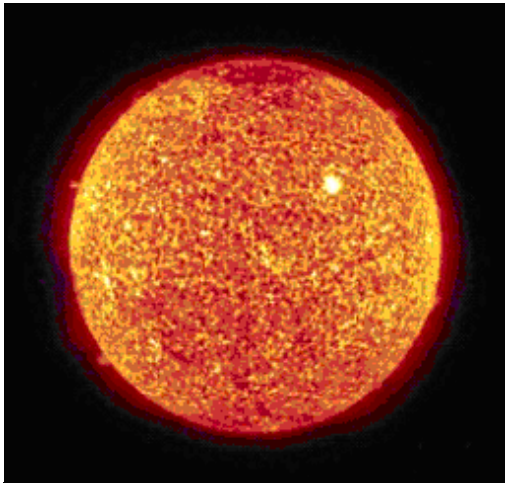


Photo: This image provided by NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory shows a sunspot, upper right, last year. The low number of sunspots over the past few years is the fourth longest such trend since the mid-1600s NASA.

Since 2004, the sun has been in a prolonged period of low sunspot activity, which has led some to fear that the phenomenon could lead to global cooling, a new ice age, the

death of the sun or even to the end of the world predicted by the Mayan calendar. But the reality is that the phenomenon is part of a natural 11-year repeating sunspot cycle that fluctuates from intense activity to no activity and back again about every six years. And while it's interesting that the low number of sunspots over the past few years is the fourth longest such trend since the mid-1600s, it's by no means any reason to panic, said Geoff Reeves, a space scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory...

For the full text of this article, go to <http://www.santafenewmexican.com/HealthandScience/A-quiet-sun>

WD4IJT - Jack

Your Christmas wish list may include



The Tokyo Flash Morse Code Watch... Hailed as being the only Morse Code (CW) Watch in the world (a not unsurprising claim come to think of it), and very hard to come by outside of Tokyo, it's about as different and dotty as it gets.

The watch has three modes for telling the time, two of them somewhat impenetrable and one of them straight forward. As its name suggests, the principal way it announces the time is by beeping out the hours and minutes in Morse Code through an in-built speaker. In the very likely event that you didn't quite catch all the dit dit dah dahing in your panic to decipher them, you'll be relieved to know that you can see the time displayed in red LEDs on the watch face. This of course is also in Morse Code, and as it's quite probable that your code breaking skills are a tad on the rusty side, you'll still have absolutely no idea of what the time is. In long meetings and during boring conversations this is quite useful, because knowing how long you've had to put up with the tedium is always rather depressing...

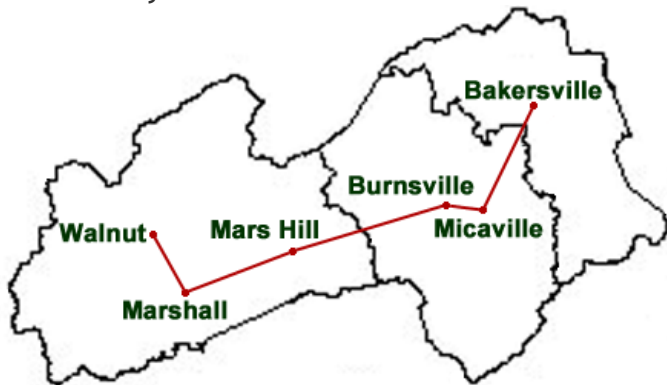
To view more information on this stocking stuffer, go to

<http://www.iwantoneofthose.com/gadgets-gizmos/hot-watches/tokyo-flash-watch/index.html>

KN4ST - Elwood

FBEMC Broadband for Business

Through a partnership with the Education & Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas Inc., French Broad EMC is now able to offer broadband Internet to businesses, school systems and other large organizations located within our Western North Carolina [service area](#) and near [our fiber optic backbone](#). At this time the service is *only* provided for organizations/businesses requiring a minimum of 3Mbit of bandwidth. The service is *not* available for individual home users. The connectivity is provided via our fiber optic backbone which spans through the main towns located in Madison, Mitchell and Yancey Counties.



The existence of our fiber optic backbone and our partnership with ERC Broadband allows us to offer considerable Internet bandwidth (up to an OC-3) at an affordable rate.



To learn more about our services click on the link below for more information.
<http://www.frenchbroademc.com/bbservices.asp>

N4SET

Carroll "Curly" Carman, W4ZCZ

is giving up ham radio after more than 60 years due to health problems. He and his wife Ruth are moving to Salisbury, NC, to be closer to their son and the VA hospital. Curly has been one of the principal members of the Franklin ARC since the '70s, was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge in '44 and wounded a second time in '45.

Curly wants to sell all his ham equipment, and some non-ham related items. In addition, he has several boxes of "stuff"- diodes, caps, coils, pots, knobs, meters, you name it. These will be handed out as his items are sold. I'm offering these items to those who I normally email with club related info, plus some others. What doesn't sell this way will be listed on eBay or www.qrz.com.

Curly says that everything worked the last time he used it, which in some cases could have been 20 years ago. So, everything is sold AS-IS.

Sale prices don't include shipping or insurance. Cash or check is OK. If you absolutely insist, I can probably also take PayPal. Local pickup can be arranged and I might even meet you halfway if you're within a reasonable drive distance and if you're buying a big ticket item. Contact me by cell at 828-421-4586, if you are interested in anything (PDF format List attached).

WB4GUD - Howard Estes

ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service

Now Receiving EarthLink Messages (Apr 21, 2009) -- Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, reports that as of Tuesday, April 21, EarthLink has stopped blocking mail to arrl.net addresses. Earlier this week, the ARRL discovered that EarthLink was blocking e-mail traffic routed to its subscribers (with earthlink.net, peoplepc.net or netcom.com addresses) via the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service (@arrl.net addresses), resulting in valid e-mail traffic bound for an ARRL member's EarthLink e-mail account to "bounce back." More than 1700 ARRL members were affected. ARRL apologizes for any inconvenience this situation may have caused.
ARRL



Photo from W4WWQ shows Sharp Top Mountain on the BR parkway at 221 deg from Apple Orchard Mountain. Roanoke's Poor Mtn is near center.

Appalachian Trail (AT) Golden Packet

PURPOSE: To field enough amateur radio emergency communications teams on mountain peaks in the Eastern USA to be able to communicate packets and APRS messages from end-to-end of the Appalachian Trail. Normally considered a 2000 mile hike, the RF path is on the order of only 1200 miles and we hope to do this in only 14 hops.

WHEN: Hopefully in the afternoon of Sunday 26 July to coincide with the ending of the Biennial Appalachian Trail Festival July 17 - 24, 2009 at Castleton State College, Rutland, VT. Also, the weekend before, (18/19th) is the CQ World Wide VHF Contest, and the Scouts On-Target exercise. Those two opportunities are great pre-cursors for checking out The Golden Packet digipeater sites a week in advance as well as Field Day on June the 27/28th. For the 26th July Event, we are considering:

0800 to 1100 Station set up
1100 to 1200 Station and checkouts
1200 to 1300 Golden packet attempts from both ends
1300 to 1400 Station-to-station messaging
1400 to 1500 All other AT hikers and stations
1500 to 1600 Any other APRS or packet stations
1600 to 2000 Tear down and go home

VOLUNTEERS: We need lots of volunteers for the 15 or so stations along the route, not just stations, but hikers, PR people and other demo stations. See all the details for each site in the links below. It would be nice to get an amateur radio table at the AT Festival to recruit some hikers into amateur radio. Showing them what we can do with our HT's should have some interest to a few of them. Most day hikers are really into GPS, so why not APRS too? To sign up as a volunteer, please contact wb4apr@amsat.org or better, see the individuals and team leaders for each team on each of the station web pages beginning at <http://www.aprs.org/at-golden-packet.html>.
From N4K0X

Even if you aren't interested in this event, please go to this website just to appreciate the work that has gone into the project, and the time spent on developing the web pages anyway.
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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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