



WCARS.org
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The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

Field Day Update

The desired site for the 2010 WCARS Field Day is in the parking lot of Walmart at the old Sayle's Bleachery on River Road in Asheville. This site was selected primarily for public exposure in hopes of introducing more people to Amateur Radio. At this writing, I am still waiting for approval from the City of Asheville Parks and Rec to hang antennas for Field Day. We will be using wire antennas strung over tree branches and we will not be allowed to set up anything in the park itself. Then it's get formal approval from Walmart to use their parking lot, I have been told "it should be no problem". All tents, RVs etc. will be set up in the parking lot. It is my plan to operate 3 stations:

Two for making "lot's of contacts" and,

One to give new or old operators a chance "get on the air" and rag chew. It will be up to the participants to decide how long they want to operate. We plan to have the customary supper gathering and probably VE testing. More details as they are made.

At this time I have had only ONE person volunteer to captain one station. We need TWO more station captains and One person to be responsible for Field Day take-down and clean up. Station captains are responsible for providing all the equipment for their station. If you want a WCARS Field Day, volunteer to help, otherwise it's wait for 2011. Let me know!

Dick K8SKX

CATAWBA VALLEY HAMFEST VE SESSION

Steve Emory, N4SET reports that on Saturday, April 17th, the WCARS VEC, N4NH coordinated the session held during the Catawba Valley Hamfest in Morganton.

The VE Team of AD2H, K4BNP, AD4FK, KG4YNN and N4SET worked from 0900 to 1330. When the session was over, 21 exams were administered. The results were nine upgraded licenses, 6 to General and 3 to Extra and 2 new Technician licenses were earned.

Congratulations to each who made the upgrade and welcome aboard to our new hams.

MAY MEETING

The next WCARS meeting will be
May 6th at 7:30 PM
in the Simpson Auditorium,
Simpson Building at AB Tech.

Summer Security

It's the season the travel for many people. And we all want to keep our homes safe and secure. So don't broadcast your plans to the world! Most of us remember to unhook our antennas, hold the mail, stop the newspaper and make our house looked "lived in." But do you remember not to talk about your plans on the local repeaters? We're not generally worried about our ham friends knowing, but what about those hundreds or thousands of scanner listeners? Most are good people, but a few are, or can be, intent and using "our stuff" to make a quick buck. And when you're talking on the repeaters you never know who's listening.

An incident a number of years ago brought home the fact that many people listen to "our repeaters." It was between Christmas and New Years and a friend was called out the help search for a missing person. Communications about this were on the Pisgah repeater. When my friend returned to the office the following week he had a number of people in his office ask about the search. These were people he had worked with for some time and had no idea they were interested in short-wave radio much less scanner listeners.

So remember, if you want your friends to know why you're not going to be on the air, tell them on a secure private system, such as telephone or email. Don't broadcast to the world when your house will be empty. You never know who might be listening.

Dick K8SKX

The April 1, 2010 meeting of WCARS was called to order by the President, Scott, McCabe, W4IYS at 1943 EDST.

Those in attendance were invited to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Members and guests were asked to introduce themselves by giving their name, QTH and callsign (if any). 24 persons were in attendance.

The minutes of the March meeting were published in the last issue of Smoketest (club newsletter). A motion was made & seconded, then approved to accept the minutes as published.

The Treasurers report was given by Steve Emory, N4SET. That report was approved as given.

The program/Old Business was a report by Dick Burns, K8SKX regarding Field Day planning. Dick stated that the proposed site is tentatively scheduled to be at the corner of the Wal-Mart shopping center parking lot on Riverside Drive (the former Sayles Bleachery site). Two stations will be used with the club call W4MOE. A third station is planned as a "demonstration" station using NN4BC (the Buncombe County ARES callsign) for operation by new operators (GOTA).

The adjoining Park could be used as a site for a picnic lunch/dinner but no tents or other structures can be setup there. Negotiations are ongoing with the Asheville Parks office as to the specifics of using that location.

Norman Harrell, N4NH reported on the latest class and testing results with more testing in the future as part of a high school senior project.

Newly licensed hams from the class will receive "FREE" WCARS membership for the remainder of the current calendar year as a present for their achievement in obtaining a license.

The MOE VAN was reported as being currently "unusable" due to worn/broken motor mounts by Scott McCabe. He reported the estimated repair cost would be approximately \$500.00. The question of whether to make repairs, or to go another direction was tabled until after Field Day to allow full consideration of the possibilities.

Dick Burns, K8SKX (Buncombe Emergency Coordinator) gave an update on The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) functions and uses for the benefit of new and old WCARS members.

The new Memo of Understanding between ARRL and the Red Cross was briefly discussed with the full details being available on the ARRL web site. The memo includes present and new requirements plus the process a radio amateur needs to complete for membership & participation in ARES/Red Cross operations.

"BCARES" was described as a cooperative project of WCARS and Buncombe Emergency Services along with the Red Cross locally & nationally.

"Meals on Wheels" was announced as an upcoming event on May 29 with WCARS providing communications for them.

An announcement from Dean Martin, WA4CNI, said QCWA and the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum have an on-the-air meeting each Friday morning at 8:30 on 3976. Everyone was invited to join them if possible.

The meeting adjourned at 2101 hours with refreshments and fellowship following.

What is this ? ? ? ?

**Do you know what PSK is?
What does it do?**

**How about RTTY?
What good is it?**

Do you know what FSK is?

How about AFSK?

**What is Packet?
What does it do?**

**What is a USB?
Is there more than one?**

NEW SECTION MANAGER

Bill Morine, N2COP of Wilmington, North Carolina is the new ARRL Section Manager. He issues his first Section Newsletter in mid-April. Some items of interest from that newsletter are quoted here.

“Former Section Manager, Tim Slay, N4IB, will serve as Ass’t Section Manager and will represent me occasionally at events where I cannot be present. However, I plan to make it to hamfests and club meetings around the state. For Field Day this year, the eastern part of the state is next in rotation for visits from the Section Manager.”

“On April 13th, the ARRL’s website at <<http://www.arrl.org>> changed from its old design to its new one. This has been a three year effort transitioning 40,000 webpages and thousands of databases. An introduction of this magnitude it never fail-safe, so there are bugs, but overall the new website will be more interactive and user friendly. Take some time and get to know it and its capabilities. If you see errors, please drop me an email and I’ll forward them to HQ. Our dedicated section webmaster, Susan Langley-Jones, WA4AKB has been revamping the section website. Look for user friendly changes coming up at <<http://www.ncarrl.org>>.”

“HURRICANE DRILL: The 2010 Atlantic hurricane season forecast calls for significantly more storms because of warmer waters and a lessening of the El Nino effect. There will be a state hurricane drill beginning at 0700 local on Tuesday, May 4 and lasting through May 5. Please monitor the Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) on 3923 KHz and its secondary frequency of 7232 KHz for details.”

HAMFESTS

May 8 - Rockingham County Swapfest
Calvary Baptist Church
Reidsville, NC
WEBSITE: <http://www.rcarc.com>
TALKIN: 146.85 (103.5)

May 29 - DurHAMfest
Little River Community Complex
Bahama, NC
WEBSITE: <http://www.dfma.org>
TALKIN: 147.225

IN CONCLUSION: With any change comes the natural thought as to how things are going to be run, especially when a new skipper takes the helm. Several people have asked me how I plan to manage the section. I like what ARRL’s founder Hiram Percy Maxim, the original W1AW, said in 1927, “Everything that ARRL undertakes must be 100% for the general good. That policy has bred loyalty and

confidence. With those two things an organization can prosper forever.” His advice is applicable 83 years after he first said it. We will argue and debate over how to structure Amateur Radio to be responsive, effective and fun in the 21st century, but we have the sense to retain those timeless values which have made Amateur Radio one of the world’s greatest hobbies and public services. Always for the greater good.”

Bill Morine, N2COP
<n2cop@arrl.org>

WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP 2010

<http://www.wrtc2010.ru/>

This event is the “Olympics of Amateur Radio” and about 50 teams from all over the world will compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze in the fields near Moscow.

It is being held in conjunction with the 2010 IARU HF World Championship Contest.

The Contest Rules:

Eligibility: All licensed amateurs worldwide.

Object: To contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

Date and Contest Period: The second full weekend of July, beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday (July 10-11, 2010). Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

The teams will be set up in tents with generators supplying the power and special new rules will allow both operators to make contacts in a modified form of SO2R (single Operator two radio) with interlocked radios—meaning only one signal at a time is permitted on the air.

Our Russian friends have laid on what sounds like a wonderful week of amateur competition for competitors and spectators alike. There will be some side-trips for visitors and of course WRTC week always provides wonderful opportunities for socializing and just “hanging out” with some of the very best amateur radio contesting operators in the world. This will be THE place to be this July, no doubt about it.

We now have 55 members of WCARS.

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

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
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Hamfest Chairman - 2010	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com

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 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