



WCARS.org

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

President's Microphone...

Another trip up the tower to connect the new antenna has provided an increased coverage area for the Spivey WCARS transmitter. Further diagnosis and adjustment of the receive sensitivity will hopefully increase the usable coverage area for the repeater as a complete unit as intended. Thanks to all who helped with the job up to now. Remember Field Day (FD) the last weekend in June. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

73 Dean - k2jb

Upcoming Events

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

NC ARES...

A state emergency management drill is on schedule for Tuesday, June 23 and Wednesday, June 24. The drill is to simulate a large earthquake in the Buncombe County area; resulting damage will affect structures and communications facilities not "earthquake resistant", with special emphasis on cell phone facilities and 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. Operators are needed for Buncombe and surrounding counties. Contact your local EC if you are availability for this exercise.
NC ARRL



Meals on Wheels Road Ride

K4BNP - Tommy has coordinated the services for the ride, and has assembled volunteer operators to work sag vehicle/rest/rescue stations along the

bicycle route on May 30th. The event begins at 0830 at Carrier Park, on Amboy Road, in Asheville. The long route travels through Marshall, on to Weaverville, and returns to Carrier Park via Ox Creek and the Blue Ridge Parkway. This will be the second event worked by WCARS/ARES/RACES volunteers, and offers valuable experience for performing EmComm duties. Net Control will be performed on the 146.910 Spivey Repeater.
N4SET

June Meeting - The next WCARS meeting will be June 4, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

May 7th Minutes...Bob - WD4CNZ

The May 7, 2009, WCARS general meeting was called to order at 1931 hrs (7:31pm) by WCARS President Dean Blair with an invitation to join him in a Pledge of Allegiance. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves with their name, call sign, and QTH.

A motion to wave the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting was made and seconded since the Minutes were published in the last issue of SMOKETEST.

The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted with thanks.

An announcement was made that the TITLE for the MOE VAN is now completely in WCARS name. A thanks was given to DERA for making the Van facility possible.

Elwood Miles, Hamfest Chairman, reported that many of last year's vendors at that hamfest were signed up again with a new one from Alabama. Future planning for the hamfest site and setting a date will need close looks as the cost is going up. Elwood made a request for workers and job assignments, which will come up soon to run the event.

Tommy Queen K4BNP announced the Meals-On-Wheels Bike Rally event for May 30 and asked for volunteers to provide communications along the route and elsewhere needed.

Tommy also announced planning for the KB4C Memorial Award ("ham of the year") to be presented at the Hamfest.

Dean Blair announced that the antenna replacement on Spivey Mtn. was COMPLETE.

He showed pictures showing the antenna, repairs, site, and volunteers in action along with a TERRIFIED tower climber.

Operators report the new system is working well. Thanks to those those who helped on several trips to the mountain: Mark - KD4IMA, Mike - KJ4JOJ, George - KG4LQX, Randy - KI4VLW, Chris - KJ4KWW, Riley - AF4SQ, Marc - KG4OPM.

FIELD DAY 2009 site will be at A-B Tech Enka Campus, 1459 Sand Hill Road, Candler, NC. Stations will be set up for operation to demonstrate ham frequencies plus a GOTA station and PSK. Date is June 27-28.

Michael Brown gave the meeting program on TUBES showing types/power outputs/amplifier applications as well as cost considerations, availability via the Internet, alternate sources from other countries, and many considerations for selecting tubes.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2055 hrs (8:55pm).

KB4C Award

I am again asking for nominations for the KB4C award for outstanding contributions to emergency and public service communications in Western North Carolina.

This award is to honor an area amateur who is active in serving the community through amateur radio. Previous recipients of this award were: K4AIF, WD4CNZ, K7DXF, K4YYR, KF4MRH, AE4HJ, KC4QPR, N2JLE, WA4GTT, K4BNP, KF4ZDS, W4DK, AF4HX, and W4IYS.

The award is named in honor of Miriam Smith, KB4C, who became a silent key in July 1995.

She was one of those amateur radio operators

who felt more deeply about her license and commitment to emergency and public service communications than many of the "hams" in the area. She held an extra class license, received the A-1 Operators Award and was ARES Emergency Coordinator/RACES Radio officer for Buncombe County in the 1970's and was responsible for the earliest draft of the Buncombe County Emergency Response Plan. She was a person who we could rely on to do what ever was asked of them.

The award will be selected from nominations submitted from anyone in Areas 14 and 15 (The Western North Carolina counties -old

Area F). A panel named by the Area 14 DEC will name the selection.

Criteria for this award will be any active licensed amateur within areas 14 and 15 who has demonstrated a long term commitment to emergency and public service communications through the ARES/RACES. The recipient does not have to belong to any specific group. They must simply demonstrate an active commitment to the job we are asked to do. The award will be presented at the WCARS Hamfest on July 25th, 2009.

Please submit your nominations for this award to me in writing and the reason for your nomination not later than July 1st 2009
73 Tommy Queen K4BNP, DEC Area 14
k4bnp@aol.com

Hamfest Calendar

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

13 Jun, Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds (Home and Garden Building) 421 West 27th Street, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC
<http://w4nc.com> Talk-In: 146.64 (PL 100) Contact: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO PO Box 11361 Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361 Phone: 336-245-5740 Email: info@w4nc.org

VE Exams

30-May-Sponsor: LINCOLN COUNTY VOLUNTEER COMM Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CLIFFORD H BROMMER (704) 483-7291 Email: WD4PIC@INFIONLINE.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: LIFE SAVING CREW HALL 322 N ACADEMY ST CELL PHONE: 704-634-4004 LINCOLNTON, NC 28092

13-Jun-Sponsor: KG4LVO Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: EDWIN A FLOWERS (828) 342-5216 Email:

KG4LVO@YAHOO.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: ANDREWS PUBLIC LIBRARY-CONFERENCE RM 871 MAIN ST BUSINESS US 19 AT WALNUT ST TESTING FEE \$15 ANDREWS, NC 28901

18-Jun-Sponsor: CLEVELAND COUNTY AR SERVICE Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: RANDY R ROSS (704) 974-1844 Email: RROSS@LIBRTYNET.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH 1050 SAM LATTIMORE RD SHELBY, NC 28052
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)

5/4/09; with K2JB as NCS; 26 check-ins
5/11/09; with K2JB as NCS; 18 check-ins
5/18/09; with N4SET as NCS; 17 check-ins
5/25/09 with K2JB as NCS; 13 check-ins

ARRL Grassroots Legislative Action Program Solicits Member Support for HR 2160...

On April 29, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced House Bill HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. If enacted into law, HR 2160 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief... The study shall:
Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.

Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives. Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.

Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).

Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The bill does not automatically extend PRB-1 to include CC&Rs, but it takes a first big step in that direction by determining the extent that things such as CC&Rs impede the Amateur Service in performing public and emergency service communications...

"Getting HR 2160 passed is going to be a challenging process -- and every ARRL member needs to be involved," said ARRL

Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The actions this week by the Grassroots Legislative Action volunteers are just the first step in our journey into getting the bill signed into law."...

For more information on HR 2160 or the Legislation Action Program, please contact Henderson via reginfo@arrl.org. The full story of HR 2160 can be found at the ARRL website. N4SET

Section Pocket Guide Available

A pocket guide with NC section information debuted at the Raleigh Hamfest and it is now available at www.ncarrl.org. The guide was created to give everyone something to carry around in his or her glove compartment or "go kit". Let me know if you have ideas for

additional information that should be included in this document.

NC ARRL

Tarheel Net Web Page

Tarheel Net Manager Mark Cantrell, KD4IMA, and our web manager Susan Langley-Jones, WA4AKB have created a new web page for the Tarheel Emergency Net. The page has important information about our state ARES net, which is held nightly at 7:30pm local time on 3.923MHz. Check-ins are always welcome and Mark is also looking for help from folks willing to serve as a regular or backup net control operator. Contact Mark at kd4ima@arrl.net.

May NC Section News

Field Day

This year's ARRL Field Day is only weeks away, June 27 and 28! Be sure to post your site info on the Field Day locator at

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>.

23 operations are now scheduled for North Carolina. I will be visiting stations in the central portion of the state this year and look forward to seeing you. Our section public information coordinator, Bill Morine, N2COP, has applied for our proclamation from the governor and I'll send an announcement when our request has been approved.

N4IB Tim

FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign

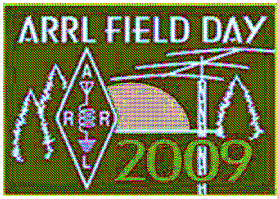
Fees for Second Consecutive Year

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Application Filing FAQ Web page, and the FCC's forms page. The links to the above-mentioned websites can be found at,

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>.

Field Day (FD) 2009



FD is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2009 will be held

June 27-28, 2009.

Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of simultaneously transmitted signals, followed by a designator indicating the nature of their individual or group participation.

4.1. (Class A) Club / non-club portable: Club or a non-club group of three or more persons set up specifically for Field Day. Such stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must not use facilities installed for permanent station use, or use any structure installed permanently for Field Day. A single licensee or trustee for the entry is responsible for the group entry. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet). To be listed as Class A, all contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of commercial power mains. Scores are based on the total number of QSO points times the power multiplier corresponding to the highest power level under which any contact was made during the Field Day period plus the bonus points. Consult the 2009 FD Rules for complete scoring rules, including multipliers and bonus points available.

The WCARS site was announced at the last club meeting. This year, the club returns to the AB Tech Enka campus.

If you are looking for another Field Day site to visit or join: Visit the Field Day Locator site at www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php where you will be able to find listings by state. Once you find an entry in your area, click on the name shown on the right and the information will pop into the information box as well as display as a "push pin" on the map screen.

(From ARRL FD 09 Rules) N4SET

Hot Doggett 100 and Devil's Fork

Metric Century Ride. July 11, 2009 is the date for the 4th Annual event. This year there are about 300 riders expected to enter. We will have the same challenging 100 mile and 100 kilometer closed loop courses as last year. Our 100 mile course covers some of the most scenic and lightly traveled roads anywhere in western North Carolina. Those of you who are seeking a challenge will find it in the 9,600 feet of ascension on that course. For a complete course description go to

<http://www.mhc.edu/hotdoggett/pages/hotdoggettcourse.html>.

For a still challenging but slightly easier ride (a mere 6,200 feet of climbing), you might want to try the 100 kilometer ride. This ride covers about 64 miles and actually goes over Devils Fork into Tennessee for a few miles. This year the Rotary Club of Madison County has partnered with the Hot Springs Health Program and the Healthy Carolinians partnerships in Western North Carolina to create the **Country Roads Ride to Health**. This event will provide training by cycling professionals in riding skills and safety for young and/or new cyclists, followed by as many loops on a traffic-free three-mile circuit as riders wish to make. Participants are invited to join in the post ride meal/celebration with riders from the 100 mile and 100 kilometer events.

Proceeds from this event will be used to fund scholarships for students of Madison County and for Rotary service projects.

Bring the family with you to beautiful Madison County, North Carolina. We look forward to seeing you on July 11, 2009.

Mary Colvin

President, Rotary Club of Madison County

The Madison County ARC Team will provide communications for this event, as was done last year. Volunteer operators are asked to contact Allen Stines, KF4ZDS, kf4zds@arrl.net. Net Control will be conducted on the 224.360 repeater. This repeater is operating now, with a temporary PL of 79.7. KF4ZDS will advise when the tone is changed.

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

President	Dean Blair	K2JB	655-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
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Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
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Hamfest 09	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	Elwood3@charter.net
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	9:00 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