



AUGUST 2006

*The Official Publication of*

## The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

[www.WCARS.org](http://www.WCARS.org)

### President's Microphone...Scott W4IYS

The 2006 WCARS Hamfest was another success, in spite of rain most the whole day. Special thanks must go to Dean K2JB who stepped up to plan-organize (and execute) the event. Extra special thanks also to Kathy (Dean's YL) for taking over the concession stand operation, which was a real hit. There are a lot more people who volunteered their time/energy and accomplished their assigned tasks. This is why the WCARS Hamfest was a success. To all of these people we say THANKS. See you at the meeting...

....73 Scott W4IYS

### WCARS August Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be August 3, 2006, 7:30pm in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at ABTech. Program: Dan N1ND on FCC Regulation activities

### K4JCR – SK July 29, 2006

William "Bill" Shope, K4JCR, became a silent key on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Bill, 81, had been licensed for more than 50 years and was an active member of WCARS during the 1980's. I remember him best as the builder of quality power supplies, which he would bring to a WCARS meeting and donate to be raffled off as a fundraiser. Many others will remember him on the Mt. Mitchell repeater (145.19-) talking to his twin brother Wayne, K4ANL, of Charlotte. [cl sk](mailto:clsk)

### JULY 6<sup>th</sup> minutes...Karen KG4OUP

- Meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.
- Introductions were made, 35 in attendance.
- Karl K4PCY gave the treasurer's report: balance \$7094.97.
- Scott W4IYS discussed the new ARES form that needs to be returned to him if you want to participate in Buncombe County ARES.
- Chet KE4VX gave the Field Day report with a BIG THANKS to one and all.
- Norman N4NH and Scott W4IYS read a letter in regards the WCARS-VEC.
- Dean K2JB reported on the Hamfest. Everything is going well and the calling has begun.
- Program was a video about Field Day Fever.
- 50/50 was won by George KG4LQX and door prize by Norman N4NH.

### W4DK received KB4C award

Duke W4DK was awarded the "KB4C Miriam Smith Memorial Award for Outstanding Service in Amateur Radio Emergency Communications and Public Service" for 2006. Duke is the Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Henderson County and recently accepted the position (also) of District 15 EC, which includes the 8 counties from Cherokee to Rutherford on the State line. Duke received the award at the ARRL/ARES forum during the WCARS Hamfest July 29.

Congratulations Duke and Thanks

(editor's note: these are published late because I was not available when the July Smoketest was published/mailed)

## **JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> minutes...Karen KG4OUP**

- Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.
- Introductions were made: 40 and 1 visitor present.
- Scott W4IYS is need of hams who operate with NVIS antennas for a coverage test.
- Karl K4PCY gave the treasurer's report.
- Ken KE4VMB gave programs on the new Field Day logging software and WINLINK- Introduction for the Baptist's Men's Assoc.
- Chet KE4VXC updated us on Field Day, no disclosure of the site was given but it is confirmed.
- Den K2JB reminded us about the Hamfest coming up July 29<sup>th</sup> and asked for volunteers to take cards and make an Excel spreadsheet.
- Henry KF4ODC gave the quiz: winner was Elwood KN4ST.
- 50/50 winner was Walt KC4PNF and door prize winner was Paul W4SKI.
- Scott W4IYS asked all to bring a covered dish to Field Day for the picnic.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.

## **WCARS Hamfest prize winners...**

Pete Surette KF4OQB (Pisgah Forest, NC) won the pre-registration HT.

Gary Tesseneer KF4PMD (Lattimore, NC) won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: an Alinco dual band mobile radio.

Herb Scott KJ4OH (Knoxville, TN) won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize: a Yaesu FT847 HF rig.

## **Need contacts for WAS, 5BWAS etc.**

This month there are a number of contests scheduled which can really help you get those contacts needed for WAS (Worked All States) etc. Some are not the "intense" contests many of us shy away from, but are supposed to be more layed back, friendly and low-powered. And there are also various state QSO parties scheduled. Check out the "Contests" listing on the back page and the websites for more information.

## **Is that band REALLY DEAD?**

"HF propagation isn't the best" is often an understatement these days. But then you hear other hams talking about openings on 15 or 10. What do they know you don't? Is it their antennas...or maybe because they have the "latest" rig with 10 times more "bells and whistles" than yours does.

No, chances are they just happen to find about openings as they happen and you don't. And one way may be to monitor, or at least check on, 24/7 beacon stations within the ham bands or other 24/7 multiple-frequency broadcast stations such as time and frequency standard stations. The Northern California DX Foundation along with the International Amateur Radio Union operates a worldwide system of beacon stations on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz. If you can hear any of these stations, chances are good your signal may reach into that area. For more information on this system check out:

[www.ncdxf.org/beacon/intro.html](http://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/intro.html)

The best known time/frequency standard stations are those of WWV (Fort Collins, CO) and WWVH (Kekaha, HI). These operate on 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, and 15.0 MHz. WWV also transmits on 20.0 MHz. And then there is CHU, a time and frequency standard station operated by the Canadian government from a site near Ottawa, Ontario. CHU transmits on 3.33, 7.335, and 14.67 MHz.

Of course if you hear a beacon, but no other signals it may be because everyone else is doing the same thing...just listening. So call CQ and see what happens. (based on "Tune in a Beacon Station", QST 7/06, pages 44-45, by W5ZK)

## **You Know You're a Ham If...**

You buy electrical black tape in ten packs.

You've stripped wire with your teeth.

You've grabbed the wrong end of a soldering iron.

You tell the XYL, when she notices a new rig in the shack, why that has been there for years.

Your Ham radio magazines comprise more than 50% of your bathroom library.

Your teenager refuses to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.

You go into the local Radio Shack store and the clerk asks you where something is.

**THE SMOKE TEST**  
The Official Publication of the  
**Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**  
**PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802**  
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**W4MOE/146.910 - /pl 91.5 Spivey Mtn/AVL**

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Historian	Connie Duncan	KF4IQN		
Public Info	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	<a href="mailto:WD4CNZ@arrl.net">WD4CNZ@arrl.net</a>
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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/yr payable in January.

**Weekly Nets of local interest**

Net	Freq(mHz) / PL	Day	Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Monday	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190 -	Sunday	21:00	
BRARC Net	146.640 - / 91.5	Sunday	20:00	
Good Morning Net	146.760 -	M-W-F	9:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Western Carolina Simplex Net	147.525	Tuesday	20:30	Informal, Everyone Welcome
“ “ “ “	147.525	M-F	8:00	
Buncombe Cty Emerg Mgt Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Wednesday	21:00	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Volunteer Net	147.180 + / 136.5	Friday	21:00	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190 -	Saturday	21:00	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610 -	Nightly	21:00	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 -	Sunday	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 -	Monday	20:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	10:00	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00	Rag chew
Local Rag Chew	28.320	Nightly	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	18:30	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	19:00	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	19:30	Directed Net, NC Emerg Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.695	Nightly	20:00	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	22:00	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net

## **Coming Events**

8/3 WCARS meeting 7:30pm Simpson Bldg  
ABTech.

8/9 QCWA #145, 11:30am J&S River Ridge

9/2-3 Shelby Hamfest Hamfest

9/7 WCARS meeting 7:30pm Simpson Bldg,  
ABTech.

## **Contests**

8/5 ARRL UHF contest

8/5-6 North American QSO Party. CW only. Info at  
[www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

8/5 Ten-Ten International Summer Phone QSO  
Party. 10 meters only.

## **Contests....continued**

8/5 National Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend. More  
info: [www.arlhs.com](http://www.arlhs.com)

8/12 Maryland-DC QSO Party

8/19 North American QSO Party. SSB only. Info at  
[www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com)

8/19 New Jersey QSO Party.

8/26 Ohio QSO Party.

8/29 Hawaii QSO Party.

8/27 Summer VHF/UHF QSO Party. 6-2-.70meters.  
Info: [www.cqc.org/contests](http://www.cqc.org/contests)

**WCARS**

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