



WCARS.org
August 2008

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

President's Microphone...

Thanks to everyone who turned out to help setup/shutdown, and to perform the various duties involved in presenting a successful Hamfest. Special thanks goes to each who chose to attend our yearly get together, in spite of the weather and current travel expense just to get to us. Thanks to our vendors, whose participation makes the fest possible; we hope their experience was such that they look forward to returning next year. Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.
73 Dean - k2jb

KB4C Award

This award honors an area amateur that is active in serving the community through amateur radio.

The award is named in honor of A-1 operator 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 communications than many of the "hams" in the area.

This year's award was presented at the WCARS Hamfest on July 26th. For outstanding contributions to emergency and public service communications in Western North Carolina, This year's recipient is W4IYS, Scott McCabe. Congratulations Scott, and thanks for your interest and involvement in the ARES/RACES program for this area

Tommy Queen K4BNP, DEC Area 14

July 3rd Minutes...Steve - KF4TVD

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge to the flag recited.

Motion to accept June Treasurer's report as published in Smoke Test made, seconded and carried.

KI4VIR - Presented Treasurers report, \$3952.13 in savings, \$2312.30 in checking.

K2JB - Two outstanding requests, for club communications for the Blue Ridge Bike Relay after Labor Day, and the Blue Ridge 40 mile event September 27-28. Club Hamfest is the fundraiser event of the year.

KE4KZS - Hamfest volunteers are needed to work in the concession stand.

N4NH - Buncombe County Emergency Management Director, Jerry Ve Haun (WA4GTT) was introduced, and provided the evening program, the new Buncombe County EOC.

50/50 won by WD4IJT - Jack.

Door prize won by KG4RPY - Doris.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and carried at 8:36 pm.

ARES The Buncombe County ARES group met on July 17th, at the Red Cross Center. The ARES group has received permission to install a weather head in the wall of the operations area designated as the Net control point, to allow connection to exterior antennas during emergency operations. A decision has still not been made as to what antennas will be approved for installation outside. Topics of discussion included a critique of the Meals on

Wheels Ride (and the Hot Doggett ride in Madison County, although not directly a Buncombe County ARES event, but in Area 14 nevertheless). Also discussed was the connection between the local ARES group and WCARS club. The next Buncombe County meeting is scheduled for September 18th. Each member is encouraged to become actively involved. New members are welcome.

Upcoming Events

August 9: Cape Fear Swapfest, Fayetteville
August 30-31: Shelby Hamfest, Dallas
October 11: Pfafftown Hamfest
October 12: Maysville Hamfest
October 18: State ARES Meeting, Morganton

Hamfest Calendar

2 Aug Roanoke Valley ARC, William Byrd High School, 2902 Washington Avenue, Vinton, VA, <http://www.w4ca.com>, Talk-In: 146.985- (PL 107.2), Contact: Phil Roark, K4WFO, 405 Yorkshire Street, Salem, VA 24153, Phone: 540-387-4487, Fax: 540-387-4487, Email: k4wfo@arrrl.net

9 Aug 10th Annual CFARS Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, Methodist University (Reeves Auditorium), 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC <http://www.k4mn-cfars.org> Talk-In: 146.910 (PL 100), Contact: David Cowart, KR4OE, 637 East Raynor Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28311, Phone: 910-237-9097, Email: kr4oe@arrrl.net

16 Aug 2nd Annual TARC Tailgate Party, Trident Amateur Radio Club, Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 19, 1310 South Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, SC, <http://www.tridenthams.org>, Talk-In: 147.150+ (No PL), Contact: Dennis R. Zabawa, KG4RUL, 307 Pine Cone Court Ladson, SC 29456-3128, Phone: 843-572-4053 (after noon only), Email: kg4rul@comcast.net

23 Aug Short Mountain Repeater Club, Gladeville Community Center, 95 McCreary Road, Gladeville, TN. <http://www.shortmountain.org>, Talk-In: 146.910- (no tone), Contact: Roger Songer, W4GKP, 207 Church Street, Eagleville, TN

37060, Phone: 615-542-6309, Email: w4gkp@yahoo.com

30-31 Aug 2008 Shelby Hamfest, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Biggerstaff Park, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Highway, Dallas, NC, <http://www.shelbyhamfest.com>, Talk-In: 146.880 (-600), Contact: Robbie Hamrick, WA4RH, PO Box 1408, Ellenboro, NC 28040 Phone: 828-453-9121, Fax: 828-453-9121 Email: wa4rh@bellsouth.net

Special Events August 2008

Aug 2-Aug 3, 1200Z-2000Z, Groton, CT. Submarine Base Amateur Radio Club, N9N. 50th anniversary of USS Nautilus's trip to North Pole, 1958. 14.343 14.243 7.279. QSL. Don Keith, N4KC, 40 Red Stick Rd, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124. n4kc@bellsouth.net
Aug 9, 1300Z-2200Z, Oil Springs, ON, Canada. Lambton County Radio Club, VA3OIL. 150th anniversary of the 1st commercial oil well in North America. 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. KB1SF, 3560 Pine Grove #488, Port Huron, MI 48060. US, QSL to address listed. Canadians QSL VA3KSF, 377 Bentinck St, PO Box 33, Corunna, ON N0N 1G0 Canada. www.ve3sar.org

Aug 14-Aug 17, 1400Z-0000Z, Window Rock, AZ. Navajo Amateur Radio Club, N7C. The Navajo Code Talkers. 14.265 7.265. QSL. Herb Goodluck, N7HG, PO Box 3611, Window Rock, AZ 86516. Times are daily. n7hg@citlink.net

Aug 16-Aug 17, 1500Z-2100Z, Offutt AFB, NE. Strategic Air Command Memorial Amateur Radio Club, K0GRL. Air Force Week, Offutt air show, and Gen Lemay's call sign. 14.247 7.247. QSL. SACMARC, PO Box 1292, Bellevue, NE 68005-1292. www.sacmarc.org

Aug 23-Aug 24, 50TH West Virginia State ARRL Convention and ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, Jackson's Mill, Weston, WV For Convention Updates, Watch the WV State Amateur Radio Council Website: <http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>, For Questions Contact: Patrick Shea N8MIN, 27 Jackson St, Weston WV 26452, pshea @ citynet.net, (304) 269-3468

ARRL VE Exam Schedule

Aug 6 Cleveland ARC, 10:00 AM, RONDAL D AKERS, (423)472-8312, Email:

W8BF@CHARTER.NET, VEC: ARRL/VEC, Cleveland Amateur Radio Club, 560 Johnson Blvd SE, PRE-NOTIFICATION APPRECIATED! Cleveland, TN 37311 (Walk-ins allowed)
Aug 9 KG4LVO, Time: 10:00AM, Edwin A. Flowers, (828)321-2136, Email: KG4LVO@YAHOO.COM, VEC: ARRL/VEC, Andrews Public Library Conference Rm, 871 Main St, Business US19 at Walnut St, Testing Fee \$14, Andrews, NC 28901 (Walk-ins allowed)

Aug 9 Mountain Home, NC, Fire Department, Hwy 25, 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

Aug 9 Roane County ARC, 9:00 AM Contact: Keith V. Dalton, (931)261-4599, Email: WV4G@ARRL.NET, VEC: ARRL/VEC, Roane County Rescue Squat, 2735 Roane State Highway, Harriman, TN 37748 (Walk-ins allowed)

Aug 9 University of TN ARC, 1:00 PM Contact: Bobbie E. Williams, (865)983-0055, Email: BOBBIE@USIT.NET, VEC: ARRL/VEC, 1128 E Weisgarber Rd, CALL TO CONFIRM!, CELL: 865-254-3067, Knoxville, TN 37909 (Walk-ins allowed)

Aug 16, WCARS-VEC, 8:00 AM Contact: Stephen C. Shaffer, (864)862-3549, Email: AF4RN@BELLSOUTH.NET, VEC: Western Carolinas ARS VEC, Red Cross Bldg, 940 Grove Rd, Greenville, SC 29605 Arrive 8:15 AM for paperwork (Walk-ins allowed)

Aug 17, 2:00 PM, Asheville, NC, Room 134, Elm Building - AB Tech, 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, Walk-ins only

Contact VE for exam dates, Yancey County Public Library - Town Square Burnsville, NC, 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 (Walk-ins only)

Contact VE for exam dates, Columbus, NC, Wayne Ackerman, W3GYK, 621 Laurel Lake Drive, Unit B-104, Columbus, NC 28722-7436, 828-894-5542

Contact VE for exam dates, Rutherford County, NC, 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



ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration (Jul 17, 2008)

-- Registration remains open through **Sunday, August 3, 2008** for these online course sessions beginning on **Friday, August 15, 2008**: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 ([EC-002](#)); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 ([EC-003R2](#)); Antenna Modeling ([EC-004](#)); HF Digital Communications ([EC-005](#)); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater ([EC-008](#)), and Radio Frequency Propagation ([EC-011](#)). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the Continuing Education [course listing page](#) or [contact](#) the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

WCARS-VE Exams were conducted in late June and into July. License Class Codes are: T=Technician, G=General, E=Extra.

Asheville, NC 07-20-08:

KJ4FHM Paris, Brandon, Asheville, NC, T
KJ4FHN Hubbard, Charles, Asheville, NC, T
Barnwell, SC 07-19-08:

KJ4EGK Shuler Jr, Marion, Orangeburg, SC, G
Germantown, TN 07-19-08:

KJ4ANX Sweeney, Jeremy, Bartlett, TN, G
Greenville, SC, 07-20-08:

KJ4EGP Gann, George, Easley, SC, G
KI4DOS Robinson, Gary, Travelers Rest, SC, E
KJ4MGW Woodruff, Margery, Boiling Springs, SC, T

Newberry, SC, 07-14-08:

KJ4FEN Towner, Kadcrick, NEWBERRY, SC; T
N4ZYE Ballew, Edward, Asheville, NC, T
KJ4FEO Miller, Joseph, Morganton, NC; T
Louisville, KY 07-20-08:

N9RMV Batman, Kevin, Marengo, IN, G
KJ4FGX Smith, Matthew, Louisville, KY, T
KJ4FGY Vestal, Alexander, Louisville, KY, T
KD4EWT Simmons Jr, Lex, Louisville, KY, G
KD4DYE Kasey IV, Thomas, Louisville, KY, G
KJ4FHK Moseley, Justin, Memphis, TN; T



US Government Recalls RadioShack Power Supplies

On July 2, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and RadioShack, announced a [voluntary recall](#) of

13.8 V dc power supplies. The CPSC said that consumers should stop using these power supplies immediately, as the "power supplies are wired incorrectly, posing electrocution and fire hazards." Manufactured in China, The recall involves RadioShack 13.8 V DC Power Supplies, catalog numbers 22-507 and 22-508 with date codes from 08A04 through 01A08. Date code format is MMYY where MM is the month and YY is the year. The catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply. Power supplies with a green dot on the product and the product's packaging have already been repaired and are not included in the recall. The CPSC recommends that consumers unplug any recalled power

supply immediately; take it to any RadioShack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled power supplies will be mailed a notice. For additional information, contact RadioShack at 800-843-7422 anytime, or to visit the firm's [Web site](#). No injuries have been reported in conjunction with the power supplies that were sold in RadioShack stores nationwide from October 2004-January 2008 for between \$50 and \$85.



E-mails Asking for Personal Information Are Not from ARRL (Jul 14, 2008) -- We have

received several reports from ARRL members with [arrrl.net](#) e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "[phishing](#)" and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of [arrrl.net](#) users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.



ARRL Presence at [HAM RADIO 2008](#)

The 33rd International Exhibition for Radio Amateurs in Friedrichshafen, Germany, was held June 27-29. Billed as Europe's biggest hamfest, focused this year on the radio amateur satellite program and included many programs and activities for youth. 17,000 visitors from over 30 countries attended the event. The fourth annual Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference ([GAREC](#)) preceded the event. A US ARRL team attended. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who attended the event, has posted a [blog](#) recapping the event.



Notes from NC Section ARES
Meeting May 3, 2008, at State EOC,
Raleigh, by Bob DeWitt, K4RLD

1. Simulated Emergency Test...

Changes are coming. Emphasis to be more on regional rather than section exercise.

2. National NTS exercise is being planned and should be held later this year

3. Broadband Over Power Lines issue has lost steam. Too expensive for power companies to implement. ARRL won lawsuit against the FCC. If "broadband" isn't dead, it's certainly in intensive care.

4. Special license plate fees... Many of you will remember that Joe W1FAI mentioned at the January AREA 13 meeting that organizations that have special license plates receive \$10.00 each time that those plates are renewed. There are nearly 3,400 amateur radio plates issued each year so we are talking about \$34,000 each year that could be used for the public service aspects of Amateur Radio. According to Tim (N4IB) the Section Manager, we will have to form some type of corporation or foundation before we can proceed. I'm not sure that there has been any progress on this subject.

5. State ARES Objectives For 2008:

- Increase membership
- Fill vacant positions
- All ARES members trained in ICS courses (IS-800 is now being required in many areas)
- Implement statewide digital communications
- Implement Training Officer position
- Increase activity on the Tarheel Emergency Net
- Obtain a list of relief operators that are self contained

6. The Western Branch was singled out for both their training efforts and the monthly EC reports.

7. State Digital Plan was discussed... Orders have been placed for a PTC II for the Eastern Branch Office, the State EOC, and the Western Branch Office. No one seemed satisfied with the progress on this issue. And,

there were a number of questions as to just who is on the committee and what is being done.

8. ICS-213 message form... This is a message form that has been developed. It is a form that has space at the top for the outgoing message, and a place at the bottom for the response coming back to the sender as well as other information. It was observed that there was no message number or a "check" count. The question was, if a large volume of traffic has been sent out, when a reply is received, how can it be determined to which message the reply should be attached. This will be reviewed and an improved version placed on the NC ARES webpage (www.ncarrl.org/ares).

9. There was discussion about "incoming" health and welfare traffic during an emergency. It seemed to be the consensus that the local EC should be the one to decide when the resources are available to handle "incoming" traffic of that sort.

10. Bernie asked that the ECs and DECAs do more to promote SKYWARN around the state. And, if the local SKYWARN effort is under the control of ARES, that each activation should be listed under Emergency Operations on the monthly EC report.

11. Paul KD4OZI the Western Branch ASEC asked about having these meetings in the Western Branch from time to time. Bernie said that he understands that it is a hardship on Western Branch counties to attend because of the distances involved and is considering have a second meeting later in the year that would be held in the Western Branch.

12. Bernie made a point of lauding Cleveland County for the aggressive manner in which they have initiated Cleveland County ARES and SKYWARN. June W4LPL, Ben KM4C, and Cleveland County EC Susan K4ZXN attended the meeting. They were the only county represented from AREA 13 and the Western Branch.

August Meeting - The next WCARS meeting will be August 7, 2008, 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.



The annual **WCARS Hamfest**, was held on July 26th, in Lake Junaluska as usual, at the Haywood County Fairgrounds. Thanks to our vendors, and each one who attended; we

were happy to host our event for you. Thanks also to those members who gave their personal interest, time and often their own financial contribution to making this Hamfest great for everyone.

Several prizes were awarded, most notably the pre-registration prize to Eleanor Maxwell, WD4AWH (A Woman Ham), who won the pre-registration prize, a 2-meter HT. A non-ham, who's studying for a license, Ken Greene in Lenoir won the 2-meter/440 mobile rig. Now there's an incentive to get a ham license. The grand prize, an HF rig, went to KG4OPM, Marc Hunnekens, of Weaverville.

World Passport

On May 14, 2008, Cameron Hasson's world just got a lot bigger.

After attending classes at the Gaston County Police Community room, studying and testing along with his father Eric, and mother Beverly, 6-year old Cameron earned his license.

The final exam had 35 multiple-choice questions; to pass, the examinee must get 26 right. Technician Cameron KJ4EDF, and his mother Beverly KJ4EDE, along with General class Eric KJ4DLJ, can now communicate by ham radio between each other and other hams throughout the world.

Joe Hullender, an instructor with the Gaston Area Amateur Radio Club, calls Cameron a bona fide "ham". Studying in the same class, they all earned their licenses together.

Original article in Charlotte Observer, June 1, 2008, Submitted by KC4PNF - Walt

For Sale: Ed Ballew, N4ZYE has a Brute 2-30 Mhz Solid State Amp for Sale. 5Watts SSB in / 250 Watts out. Great for QRP rigs.

GeoMagnetic Trigger discovered by NASA Satellites - July 24th, 2008, from expedition radio - Bonnie VR2/KQ6XA

THEMIS Satellites Discover What Triggers Eruptions of the Northern Lights
07.24.08 - Laura Layton, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

What causes the shimmering, ethereal Northern Lights to suddenly brighten and dance in a spectacular burst of colorful light and rapid movement? To find out, NASA launched a fleet of five satellites called THEMIS, the Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms. Researchers have discovered that an explosion of magnetic energy a third of the way to the moon powers substorms, sudden brightenings and rapid movements of the aurora borealis, called the Northern Lights.

The culprit turns out to be magnetic reconnection, a common process that occurs throughout the universe when stressed magnetic field lines suddenly "snap" to a new shape, like a rubber band that's been stretched too far.

Substorms produce dynamic changes in the auroral displays seen near Earth's northern and southern magnetic poles, causing a burst of light and movement in the Northern and Southern Lights. These changes transform auroral displays into auroral eruptions.

"As they capture and store energy from the solar wind, the Earth's magnetic field lines stretch far out into space. Magnetic reconnection releases the energy stored within these stretched magnetic field lines, flinging charged particles back toward the Earth's atmosphere," said David Sibeck, THEMIS project scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "They create halos of shimmering aurora circling the northern and southern poles."

For more, go to:

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/themis/main/index.html

Edited from article submitted by N4KOX - Russ

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

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Hamfest 08	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 Monday Night 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
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net (Time is UTC)
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 Net, NC Emerg. 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