



WCARS.org
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The Official Publication of
The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

President's Microphone

Many thanks to those who stepped forward to make this hamfest a successful effort. With adverse conditions afflicting so many club members at this time, your efforts are greatly appreciated. It goes to prove once again that as a team, we can get it done. W4IYS ~ Scott

WCARS 2011 Hamfest

Well, another Hamfest is behind us. Thanks to all who came out Friday and Saturday to work. We got it done in the heat. Attendance appeared to be down but the commercial vendors were well pleased with the turnout and made a profit. All of them said that they would be back next year. We did have two vendors back out at the last minute due to sickness; one is going out of business. We did pick up a new vendor from Alabama and several individual vendors that made up the difference somewhat. Many thanks to Tonya, who managed the concession stand, and with the help of others had it running like clockwork for the brisk business period. Overall the Hamfest was a success and everyone who came seemed to be pleased and enjoyed the day. The dinner Friday night was a big success with our vendors and club, and everyone enjoyed the food. Again, thanks to everyone for the great help and all of you did a wonderful job from manning the gate, concessions, setting up, and cleaning the building after the Hamfest. If it weren't for you we would not have had such a great and productive Hamfest. Randy Harris KI4VLW
Hamfest Chairman

Minutes of WCARS 21 July 2011 Meeting

The 21 July 2011 meeting of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society was called to order at 1935 hrs by Scott McCabe, club president. The group was then invited to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. Norman N4NH reported that he had honey for sale "because his bees did very well this year". Each attendee was then asked to introduce themselves giving their name, callsign, and QTH. New licensees were rewarded with hearty applause. Scott reported that Carl Smith N4AA had had a heart attack and was recovering well and should be released from the hospital tomorrow (22 July) to go home. We all wish Carl a speedy recovery. The schedule for upcoming meetings was announced as follows: August 4, September 15, October 6. A Health & Welfare report of other members were given as updates of certain members. Scott announced receiving a letter announcing a meeting for August 16 re: One Second After (a book by W. R. Forstchen) at the Mitchell County Historic Courthouse. Scott announced a concern of his and wanted to make everyone aware to take safety concerns always seriously when erecting/taking down antennas as well as work in any capacity with ham radio on field days or other events as well as at the home QTH.

Norman N4NH announced that he would attend a meeting at the FCC office regarding various items for and within ham radio. He will report the proceedings at a later WCARS meeting.

A call for volunteers for Hamfest set up on July 29 and to work July 30 was made. A reminder of the Friday evening dinner for vendors and volunteers would be held. Folks were asked to bring covered dishes ("with food") and the Club would provide the meat. 1800 hrs is the time set for the vendor's Dinner.

A summary of Hamfest vendors expected to come was given along with the forums known to be held.

VE testing will be given at 1300 hrs on Hamfest day.

The group was reminded that the September meeting is the time to nominate new officers for 2012 with the vote to be held at the October meeting.

A new lock will be put on the storage unit so members will have better access/security for supplies, etc.

Scott stated that after this meeting, he will no longer be able to fully function as club president for the next thirty days or so, however he wishes to stay in the loop so please call with WCARS concerns at any time and if he is not able to handle it at that moment he will say so (due to wife's health concerns and upcoming medical operations). He is not stepping down as president as that will put the job on Carl who is also not well. So lets all just limp along and get the job done.

Steve N4SET, Club Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report for the period 9 June-20 July.

A call for any new business was made. None was presented.

There being no further business for the Club, the meeting was adjourned at 1835 hrs with an invitation to join for fellowship and refreshments.

-Submitted by Bob Dockery WD4CNZ

Blue Ridge Breakaway

The second annual bike ride throughout Haywood County is scheduled for August 20th. The ride consists of four different routes available to test riders of varying ability. The Rabbit run is for intermediate riders. The Panther run is a 40-mile ride for intermediate riders with more skills. The Trout is a metric century ride for advanced riders. The Hawk, a 105-mile ride throughout Haywood County, is not for the faint of heart. Full ride information is available at

<http://www.blueridgebreakaway.com>

Last year, with only a 2 week notice, the Haywood County Amateur Radio Club (HCARC), <http://wnchamradio.org>, was able to plan, implement and conduct operations under adverse conditions to provide essential/emergency communications for this event. HCARC operations were so noticeable and impressive, this year the Haywood County EOC plans to provide some level of logistical support to HCARC for the event.

The HCARC needs workers for this years ride. Voice radio communications (and other modes) will be in operation, and workers are needed for each ride segment. Volunteers should have equipment beyond basic HT capability. Much of the area is remote; cell-phone operation will be questionable. This will be particularly important since personal SAG assistance for the event is prohibited. Volunteers should contact Al Sanders WD4A, 828-926-8244h, if no answer call 828-400-6715c. The HCARC holds a net each Monday evening at 2000, 147.390 + (94.8). All are invited to join them.

Robert Rodgers, KC4TVO, receives KB4C award.

Robert Rodgers, KC4TVO, of Bakersville, NC was awarded the Miriam Smith. KB4C, memorial award for outstanding contributions to amateur radio emergency and public service communications in Western North Carolina at the Western Carolina Hamfest on July 30th, 2011.

Robert and his team pitched to the Blue Ridge Regional Hospital (BRRH) a few years ago.

Explained what ARES was and what it could do for them in emergency communications support. The hospital was so impressed with their presentation and asked the cost to install a system for them. The BRRH foundation proceeded to fund the entire project 100%.

Mitchell County EOC has a dedicated computer system with Paclink installed, and VHF/UIHF/HF antennas.

MARC operates a full time (24/7) emergency RMS packet station with Internet connectivity through the courtesy of the Mountain Area Information Net (MAIN).

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 deeply about her license and commitment to emergency and public service communications.

She was ARES Emergency Coordinator/RACES Radio Officer for Buncombe County in the 1970's.

After her passing, it was decided to establish an award in her honor to recognize an amateur radio operator each year that has demonstrated a commitment to emergency and public service communications through the ARES/RACES program. This is the seventeenth award.

Congratulations Bob. 73

Tommy K4BNP, DEC Area 14, Asheville, NC

New Net Manager - Please welcome Don Negus, N0SU, as the new manager of the Carolinas Net. This CW National Traffic System (NTS) Net, which has both early and late editions, has served as the flagship net for NTS traffic for both North and South Carolina for decades. Don replaces long time Net Manager Will Harper, K4IWW. Our thanks to Will for many fine years of dedicated service and our best wishes to Don. Take time to check into the CN either at 7 PM or 10 PM local time on 3573 KHz. More info at: <http://www.ncarrl.org/nets/index.html>
NC Section News

Youth Accomplishments - Those who say kids aren't in the hobby aren't keeping up with what some of our younger North Carolina operators are doing. 11-year-old Christopher Tate, KJ4UJB, is the youngest ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO) in North Carolina, and possibly the U.S. See his great interview at:

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=180752>. Raleigh brother and sister Sam Jenkins, KI4TRG, and Grace Jenkins, KJ4KWG, just returned from the Youth DXpedition in Costa Rica, and 9-year-old Eric Hasson, KJ4DLJ, of Gastonia just upgraded to Extra class. Congratulations to these fine young ambassadors to our hobby.

NC Section News

WCARS Hamfest 2011 Prize Winners

Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Pre-Registration prize, Wouxon dual band HT, by Maurice Williams KB4YWN, Asheville, NC

2nd Place, Yaesu FT7900 dual band mobile, Tonya Martin Non-Ham, Hardy, VA

Grand Prize, Yaesu 857D HF, Mark Cantrell, Asheville, NC.

Fireman's Fund

All members or others interested should attend this month's meeting August 4th, at the West Asheville Library, 942 Haywood Rd. One matter for discussion is the club's involvement in club/individual contributions to a fund for the family of Asheville Firefighter Cpt. Jeffrey Bowen.

WCARS meetings

WCARS will meet at 1930 hrs, at the West Asheville Library, 942 Haywood Rd, on August 4th, September 15th, and October 6th. Later meetings will be announced when confirmed.

<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>				
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Partial WNC Net Schedule

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	9:00pm	
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