



SEPTEMBER 2007

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

www.wcars.org

President's Microphone...Scott - W4IYS

Thank you to all who helped on the Hamfest and the August 18th special event to commemorate T.R. McElroy's telegraphy world record of 1939. September is National Preparedness month, the perfect time to make whatever repairs or equipment replacements are needed. Readiness (not just radio) for winter storms that occur in these old mountains will ensure the welfare of family, friends and neighbors. If an emergency arises while you are at home or away, you are ready. Hope to see you at the next club meeting. 73

August 2nd Minutes...Karen - KG40UP

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The pledge to the flag was given. Introductions were made. 37+ in attendance. Karl - K4PCY gave the treasurer's report. Dean - K2JB reported on the Hamfest. A big "THANK YOU" to all who helped. Bill - N4OOC announced the Special Event Station on August 18th-19th to promote Morse Code and the world record held by Ted McElroy. Scott - W4IYS reported that a new committee would be formed soon to decide on what to do about the van. The Christmas party was discussed - more details in future. New Officers nominations coming up soon. Tommy - K4BNP gave the program - Emergency Communications (ARES). Door prize was won by Mike - KC6YHM. 50/50 was won by Bill - N4OOC. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Hamfest held July 28th

The 32nd Annual WCARS Hamfest was a fantastic success! Thanks to everyone who worked and supported WCARS. Prize winners were:

1st Prize - KI4KET, James Deaver
2nd Prize - W3ARS, Joseph Brosenne
Pre-Registration Prize - KC4PNF, Walt Lewis
K2JB - Dean 73

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The US Department of Homeland Security sponsors national Preparedness Month 2007. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. ARRL is one of about a thousand National Preparedness Month Coalition

Members. For more information, see www.ready.gov/. QST

**National
Preparedness
Month**

House Bill 1340

On June 29th, 2007, North Carolina Governor Michael F. Easley signed legislation requiring reasonable accommodation for amateur radio communications.

That text follows:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007
SESSION LAW 2007-147

AN ACT to recognize the value of amateur radio communications by requiring city and county ordinances regulating antennas to reasonably accommodate amateur radio communications.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 19 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 160A-383.3. Reasonable accommodation of amateur radio antennas.

A city ordinance based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations that regulates the placement, screening, or height of the antennas or support structures of amateur radio operators must reasonably accommodate amateur radio communications and must represent the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the purpose of the city. A city may not restrict antennas or antenna support structures of amateur radio operators to heights of 90 feet or lower unless the restriction is necessary to achieve a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic objective of the city."

SECTION 2. Article 18 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 153A-341.2. Reasonable accommodation of amateur radio antennas.

A county ordinance based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations that regulates the placement, screening, or height of the antennas or support structures of amateur radio operators must reasonably accommodate amateur radio communications and must represent the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the purpose of the county. A county may not restrict antennas or antenna support structures of amateur radio operators to heights of 90 feet or lower unless the restriction is necessary to achieve a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic objective of the county."

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 2007.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26th day of June 2007.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

s/ Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved 2:16 p.m. this 29th day of June, 2007

EMERGENCY SERVICES & AMATEUR RADIO

Ham Radio is a great hobby. We use it for a lot of different purposes...talking to loved ones, talking to old friends and making new ones.

We talk about everything from soup to nuts and have a good time doing it. We have all heard or being part of getting help for stranded motorist, reporting accidents with people injured to the deer hunter who had a heart attack.

There are many of these incidents on repeaters across the nation. But what if something happens on a larger scale, such as a flood, hurricane, earthquake, large forest fire, mudslide, or tornado! ARE YOU READY? "OK, that is all well and good, this does not affect me," you might say.

Power lines down, phone lines down. There are always cellular phones. When disaster strikes all local authorities are usually taxed to the limit. If they have to resort to cellular phones, so will the public. Which will, most likely, tie up all the circuits. NOW WHAT? "This still does not affect me, since I don't live on the coast. I don't have to worry about hurricanes and I don't live in any of the other disaster prone areas, except for tornado season twice a year. So what are the odds of me becoming involved? Besides, there are too many other "hams" around."

Lets' look at a "for instance." There is a knock at the door. Standing there, with a worried look on his face, is your neighbor. Don't forget, this is the same neighbor that watched you put up your tower, string wire through trees, mount shiny antennas on your house and asked, "What is all this for?" So you proudly (as you should) told him about ham radio and what "hams" do. You showed him your "ham shack", even though it did not look like a shack to him. He listened, somewhat confused but attentively, as you tuned up and down the bands and told him far you could talk.

So there he stands; you invite him in. He begins to tell you his plight. Because of the hurricane that struck the coast last night (that did not affect you), your neighbor could not contact his son and daughter-in-law and grandchild. He remembered what you said about "ham radio" and came to see if you could help. As your mind races you remembered people talking about similar situations. But what were the steps they used?

NOW WHAT? You remembered somebody passed a message one night over the local two meter net, but that was nothing like what they wanted to know. Should I tell them I'm not that kind of "ham" and give them a phone number? NO!! I'm not that kind of person. (Good!)

I heard about a liaison station. What's that? What is ARES? What is RACES? What is SKYWARN? What is NTS? What is PUBLIC SERVICE?

Check into the Buncombe County Emergency Net each Wednesday night at 9:00PM on 146.91 (PL 91.5) and we will attempt to answer these questions for you.

Tommy - K4BNP
District Emergency Coordinator Area 14

The preceding is an edited reprint from the Smoke Test.

LINKS

For those with internet capability, the following can provide in-depth information relating to Emergency Communications (**EmComm**), or just use one of many search engines, type in ARRL, ARES, EmComm, RACES, SKYWARN, etc., and start from there.

ARRL Public Service:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/pscm/sec1-ch1.html>

NC ARES:

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

NC SKYWARN:

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/skywarn/index.html>

National Traffic System (NTS):

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/>

NC NTS:

<http://www.ncarrl.org/nets/index.html>

ARRL ARES/RACES FAQ:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-ares-races.html>

ARES Field Resources Manual:

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/aresman.pdf>

NC ARES Emergency Plan:

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/ncep.pdf>

KF4TVD- Steve

EmComm

Emergency Communications

Whether from a hurricane, tornado, flood, winter storm, earthquake, tsunami, or other catastrophe from whatever origin, when an area suffers a disaster, **how often will reliable normal communication capability fail for those most in need?**

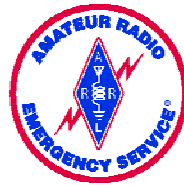
Public utility infrastructure is exposed to the weather, accidents, natural disasters, and sabotage. Disrupted electrical service also affects telephone, cell phone, public safety radio, computer networks (internet/intranet) water service/pumping stations, and any service requiring uninterrupted electricity. Some locations, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers, and a few other government facilities, may have emergency power sources in place to provide temporary service until restoration of usual services.



Power lines damaged by hurricane Katrina

But **reliable public telecommunications will always fail in an affected area when major catastrophic events occur.** This disruption will occur just as reliable communications to provide, emergency, priority, welfare and routine messages for perhaps hundreds of thousands of persons will be needed most. **What then is the role of an amateur radio operator?** The 1934 Communications Act that created the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also acknowledged the need for the “amateur” radio service to provide a pool of experts who could establish

communications during emergencies. The FCC expects assigned amateur radio spectrum usage for communications in times of need.



The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), established in 1914, incorporated the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) as part of the ARRL field organization in 1935. ARES consists of licensed amateurs who have volunteered their equipment and services for public service communications duty during emergency recovery operations. The North Carolina ARES group includes 90 Emergency Coordinators (EC), 13 District Coordinators (DEC), and over 1600 registered ARES members. Area 14 encompasses Buncombe, Madison, Haywood, Swain, Graham and Cherokee Counties.

ARES volunteers hold on-air meetings each day. The North Carolina “Tarheel Emergency Net” meets daily at 7:30pm, as it has done for 57 years. Participation in such nets provides the opportunity for operators to gain on-air experience in radio procedure.

The ARRL sponsored Field Day (FD) held in June each year, allows amateur radio operators to test their communication capabilities by deploying to a remote location, set up equipment, and communicate in less than optimum conditions, as will probably exist after disaster strikes.



The ARRL formed the National Traffic System (NTS) in 1949, which functions as a relay system developed to ensure message accuracy. Any message is received exactly as it originated, providing no margin for error. Each message is formalized and entered on a RADIOGRAM, thus becoming “traffic.” NTS messages may be sent to, or by, anyone. A licensed ham, of course, handles the transmission of the traffic. Herein lies the need for ARES members to become proficient

in handling formal traffic. Proficiency is gained by education, training, and practical application of NTS principles. The operator then becomes a valuable asset when the real emergency arises.



The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) was created to provide radio communications for civil-preparedness purposes only, during periods of local, regional or national civil emergencies. RACES is administered by local, county and state emergency management agencies, and supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States government. To participate, amateur radio licensees must register with their local EC as a RACES volunteer. In Buncombe County, membership in ARES alone also includes RACES registration. Originally designed for wartime uses, RACES now encompasses all types of emergencies. While operating in a RACES capacity, amateurs registered in the local RACES organization may not communicate with amateurs not operating in a RACES capacity.



When threatening weather approaches, trained spotters around the country are ready to provide localized information to the National Weather Service (NWS) for their area. The NWS has 122 local Weather Forecast Offices, each with a Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM), who is responsible for administering the SKYWARN program in their local area. Training is conducted at these local offices and covers:

- Basic thunderstorm development
- Storm structure
- Potential severe weather features
- What to report
- How to report
- Severe weather safety

To locate a SKYWARN class to be conducted in your area, contact your local WCM at:

<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm>

Smoke Test Editor... Members please send any material of interest for inclusion in the newsletter to me at KF4TVD@ARRL.NET ... 73 Steve - KF4TVD

Any interested amateur radio licensee, if prepared, can provide invaluable assistance from the onset of an emergency, until restoration of regular services. All that's required is a license and the desire to help. Participate in FD activity to test your ability to work remotely under primitive conditions; continue training; keep abreast of the latest procedures and policies; work with other amateurs and local officials during Simulated Emergency Tests (SET) that reflect real-life situations, and EmComm activity will become familiar and comfortable. The satisfaction of making a significant contribution to the welfare of others is immeasurable.

KF4TVD - Steve

Hamfest Calendar

September 15 - 16

Virginia Beach Hamfest, Tidewater Radio Conventions, Inc., Virginia Wesleyan College, Wesleyan Drive, Norfolk, VA

<http://www.vahamfest.com>

Talk-In: 146.97 (No tone req'd)

Contact: Lynn M. Lilla, W9DJQ

848 Stacey Place, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Phone: (757) 479-1597

Fax: (757) 479-1597) none

Email: lynn.lilla@cox.net

September 28 - 29

Ten Tec 8th Annual Hamfest, Ten Tec Inc., 1185 Dolly Parton Parkway, Sevierville, TN

Contact: Scott Robbins, W4PA

1185 Dolly Parton Parkway, Sevierville, TN

37862, Phone: (865) 453-7172, Fax: (865) 428-4483

September Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be

September 6, 2007, 7:30 p.m. in the

Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB

Tech. Program: To be announced.



A group of hams in Asheville, North Carolina have organized a Morse code contest. This non-profit corporation was specifically created to put on a series of live head-to-head Morse code contests. Hosted by the Grove Park Inn, on August 18th and 19th, this group held a special event to commemorate the still world record for telegraphy (75.2 words per minute, held by T.R. McElroy since 1939, here in Asheville.) Using the W1MCW call sign, cards and certificates are being offered for anyone wishing them upon QSL.

IMCC (International Morse Code Contests) Inc., formed in 2007, exists only to promote Morse code (CW). The organization hopes to organize and hold Morse code contests at least every other year for anyone interested in keeping one of the earliest forms of digital communication alive. These contests are designed to resemble those, which were common in the US until the early 1950s. The club call is W1MCW, and the website is www.w1mcw.org. The first contest is scheduled for August 2008, to be held in Asheville.

The contest plan is for each competitor to sit and listen with headphones having an individual volume control, and copy by hand or keyboard. Each round consists of a short warm-up message, a few seconds of silence, followed by a two or three minute contest message. Each round will be increased 5 or 10wpm, until no one can copy the code

accurately. Text for the code will be from newspaper and magazine articles, using only current punctuation. There will be at least 3 classes of competition: 18 and under Youth, Adult, and an Open or Masters class. Registration and a reception are scheduled for the first night. The contest will begin the next morning. That evening there will be a banquet and awards ceremony. The 2008 contest is open to anyone. An amateur license is not required. Anyone wanting to accept the challenge can enter and compete. Updates on the 2008 event will be posted to the W1MCW website as they occur.

W1MCW officers:

President: N4OOC - Bill Van Nuys
Vice President: AD2H - Deborah Hicks
Secretary: KI4NXM - Sam Daniel
Treasurer: K4PCY - Karl Krauss
PR Officer: K2JB - Dean Blair
Event Facilities Coordinator: KD4VBM - Mary MacGregor

Code Master



Theodore (Ted) R. McElroy was born in September 1904. By the age of 14 he was a Western Union messenger, and by 21 was winning code contests. He also started manufacturing CW keys in 1934. McElroy died in November 1963.

KF4TVD - Steve

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 Chair 2007	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
Smoke Test Editor	Steve Emory	KF4TVD	658-0261	kf4tvd@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/yr payable in January.

Local Nets	Freq (MHz) offset / PL	Day	24 Hr Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Monday	2100	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190 -	Sunday	2100	
BRARC Net	146.640 - / 91.5	Sunday	2000	
Good Morning Net	146.760 -	M-W-F	0900	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Co. Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660 - / 100	Tuesday	2100	Madison Co. Emerg. Comm. Net
Buncombe Co. Emerg Mgt Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Wednesday	2100	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Volunteer Net	147.180 + / 136.5	Friday	2100	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190 -	Saturday	2100	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610 -	Nightly	2100	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 -	Sunday	2100	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 -	Monday	2000	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	1500Z	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	0700	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	0745	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	1830	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	1900	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	1930	Directed Net, NC Emerg. Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	2000	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	2200	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net