



OCTOBER 2007

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

www.wcars.org

President's Microphone...Scott - W4IYS
Club bylaws require that nominations and officer elections be completed by the November club meeting. This requires final nominations to be submitted at the October club meeting. No candidate may be nominated without prior consent from the candidate. Anyone interested in this years elections are especially encouraged to attend the next two regular club meetings. Autumn also provides a great opportunity for all hams to participate in the annual SET at the local level. I urge each ARES member to become involved in this years SET exercise, and anyone not a current ARES member is encouraged to join. Hope to see you at the next club meeting. 73

September 6th Minutes...Karen -
KG4OUP

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.
The pledge to the flag was given.
Introductions were made. 34 were in attendance.

John - AI4HY reported several outgoing officers. Nominations are being taken now.
Scott - W4IYS asked for thoughts regarding the van and other options.

Chet - KE4VXC asked for volunteers to call the club net. It is the CLUBS Net - help run it.

Bill - N4OOC reported on the Special Event Station at Grove Park Inn.

Norm - N4NH gave the program. The Volunteer Examiner Program.

Bill - N4OOC won the door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

The Radio Amateur's Code

The radio amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasures of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others.

These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, wrote the "Amateur's Code" original in 1928

Submitted by KE4VXC - Chet

Statewide SET

Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, is working on plans for a statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET). He's looking for some good ideas on test scenarios, especially if we can integrate our statewide test with local ARES efforts. Share your ideas with Bernie at wa4mok@arrl.net.
ARRL News Summary August 14, 2007

See Simulated Emergency Test (SET) elsewhere in this issue.

Vanity Call Sign Fees Reduced

On September 17th, the FCC reduced the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission cut the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. This is the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program - from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50.

The FCC anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications during the next fiscal year, expecting to collect about \$172,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign, and also upon renewing a vanity call sign. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year. Call signs issued prior to 1996 are not considered vanity call signs, even if the holder was able to request a specific call sign.

ARRL Letter August 7, 2007

Hamfest Calendar

October 13

Oak Ridge ARC, Fraternal Order of the Eagles Bldg., 1650 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 8 AM - 3 PM, TI: 146.88, 146.97 Adm: \$5 Tables: \$10

Contact: Tom Muncy, AG4SF, 142 Manhattan Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, 865-482-4123
ag4sf@arrl.net

www.discoveret.org/orarc/main_page.html

October 20

Gray Hamfest Association, Appalachian Fairgrounds, 100 Lakeview Drive, Gray, TN 8 AM - 2 PM, TI: 145.11, 146.70. Adm: \$6 Tables: \$10 Contact: Ken Fleener, KI4BZK, 215 Arch St, Bristol, TN 37620, 423-341-1552, fax 423-764-1922

fleenorkii@aol.com

www.grayhamfest.com

October 27

Chattanooga ARC, Chattanooga Convention Center, 1100 Carter St, Chattanooga, TN 8 AM - 4 PM, TI: 146.79. Adm: \$7 Tables \$20 Contact Tom Cash, K4ZQX, Box 23121, Chattanooga, TN 37422, 423-875-8269, fax 423-877-7817

K4zqx@arrl.net

www.w4am.org

Special Events

October 6

1400Z-2000Z, Robbinsville, NC. Smoky Mountains Amateur Radio Team, N4GSM. Anniversary of the opening of the Cherahala Skyway. 14.248 7.248. Certificate. SMART, PO Box 983, Robbinsville, NC 28771.

main.nc.us/graham/smart

October 20

1300Z-1730Z, Randleman, NC. Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, NC4AR. 19th annual NASCAR Day Festival. 14.270 7.268. Certificate. NC4AR, PO Box 747, Trinity, NC 27370.

Oct 20-21

Scouting Jamboree On The Air
Read details on the JOTA page

October 22 - November 2

0000Z-2359Z, Davie County Amateur Radio Club, Mocksville, NC KI4ORW. This event celebrates the birth of Daniel Boone. 14.275 14.035 14.080 7.175. QSL. John Dwiggin, PO Box 970, Cooleemee, NC 27014

<http://www.ki4orw.org/ki4orw/danielboone.htm>

US Congress Considers Emergency Communications, Interference Issues

In January, Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-Arkansas), introduced HR 462, the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." It calls on the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL technology and report its findings back to Congress. It has

been referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

In June, Senator Mark Pryor (D-Arkansas) introduced S1629, "The Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007." This bill is currently pending in the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

The ARRL Board of Directors voted in July to support HR 2743, "The Military Affiliate Radio System Emergency Communications Act of 2007." This bill would permit the continued use by the MARS and SHARES programs of frequency-stabilized Amateur Radio equipment that meets FCC Part 97 technical standards. Otherwise, volunteers in these programs might be prevented from using their regular station equipment.

ARES E-Letter August 15, 2007

Continuing education

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: remains open through Sunday, October 7, 2007 for these online courses beginning on Friday October 19, 2007: 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). To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator cce@arrl.org

ARRL Letter September 21, 2007

Happy Birthday...An extraordinary Ham
Harry Mills, K4HU, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, celebrated his 100th birthday September 19. Regulation was conducted by the Department of Commerce with Herbert Hoover as the Secretary in 1922, when Mills was first licensed, as there was no FCC. Mills joined the League February 1, 1936, more than 71 years ago. He is also a member of QCWA. Still active, Mills can be heard weekly checking into the AM net on 3810 kHz,

as well as the Chapter 76 QCWA SSB net on Saturday mornings on 3930 kHz.
NC ARRL & WCARS

ALERT: October 4, 2007 at 8:00pm...

The Southern Appalachian Radio Museum in Asheville, NC will be featured on UNC public television's "Our State" program on Thursday, October 4 at 8:00pm. You'll see Tommy Queen, K4BNP, demonstrate Morse code on an old "clicker". Dave Anderson, K4SV, will talk about DX and ham radio and you'll get a short video tour of the museum! If you're interested in visiting, the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum is located on the campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. It is open Friday's from 1-3pm, but tours can be arranged at other times. For more information see www.saradiomuseum.org.

QSONet

What is QSONet (most of the time referred to as CQ100, the virtual radio you use)? QSONet is not ham radio.

It is virtual Ham radio that can be used by any licensed Ham regardless of class. It looks like Ham radio, works like Ham radio, acts like Ham radio, uses the same rules as Ham radio, and you have to be a licensed Ham to operate it.

This was set up to bring virtual Ham radio to Hams in assisted living and or housing areas that don't allow antennas and to allow Ham radio contacts when band conditions are not favorable. Modes of operation are Voice and CW. It is all computers with no RF and no Antenna. All you need is:

1. Computer with audio card
2. Internet connection (dial-up, DSL, cable)
3. Microphone
4. Speakers

You will need a copy of your Ham license in jpeg format. The web site is <http://www.qsonet.com>. There is a free down loadable program and a 90-day free trial. After that it is \$32 per year.
Submitted by KE4VXC - Chet

Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

October 6-7

The ARRL SET tests nationwide emergency communications by amateur operators, and identifies strengths and weaknesses of involved groups. Tests involve Emergency Coordinators (EC), District Emergency Coordinators (DEC), Section Emergency Coordinators (SEC) and Net Managers (NM). Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other public service oriented groups. SET exercises give communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within a community while interacting with NTS nets. Although the main SET weekend this year is October 6 - 7, local and section-wide exercises may be held throughout the fall season, anytime from September through December.

To participate in this year's emergency test, contact your local EC (Area 14 EC is K4BNP - Tommy Queen) to find out the details, or contact the ARRL Section Manager (N4IB - Tim Slay, contact information in QST page 16) for assistance. Or check the ARRL Web page; Start at <http://www.arrl.org/sections>. From there, you'll find links to ARRL section home pages with names and contact information for your Section Leaders including the Section Emergency Coordinator and Section Traffic Manager. Whether a new licensee or experienced radio operator, the SET is a great opportunity to learn and practice traffic handling, net control and emergency communications procedures.

ARRL Web - 2007 Simulated Emergency Test

WNC Repeater List Update

The repeater listed for Waynesville, NC, 147.390, did not include a PL tone since one is not usually necessary. However, occasionally the repeater requires a 94.8hz input to activate it. Pencil this in on your list, program the tone into your radio, and whether or not the tone is in use, you can access this repeater anytime.

W4SKI - Paul

WCARS Information Net Control Station Schedule

17 Sept 07	Steve	KF4TVD
24 Sept 07	Elwood	KN4ST
01 Oct 07	John	AI4HY
08 Oct 07	Dean	K2JB
15 Oct 07	Walden	KG4LQX
22 Oct 07	Chet	KE4VXC
29 Oct 07	Steve	KF4TVD
05 Nov 07	Elwood	KN4ST
12 Nov 07	John	AI4HY
19 Nov 07	Dean	K2JB
26 Nov 07	Walden	KG4LQX
03 Dec 07	Chet	KE4VXC
10 Dec 07	Steve	KF4TVD
17 Dec 07	Elwood	KN4ST
24 Dec 07	John	AI4HY
31 Dec 07	Dean	K2JB

If the net has not started by 9:05 pm, the backup should go ahead and start it. I will try to be the main back up.
KE4VXC - Chet 73

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

October Meeting

The next WCARS meeting will be October 4, 2007, 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech.
Program: To be announced.



What's this? Read The Buzzard's Roost story elsewhere in this issue.



What is JOTA?

Each year more than 400,000 Scouts and Guides converge on the airwaves for their annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA).

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio.

Licensed amateurs operate stations, and many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations. But the majority participates in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs.

JOTA is held the third weekend in October of each year. JOTA begins on Saturday at 0000 hours local time (Midnight) to Sunday at 2400 hours local time (Midnight). Some activity may begin on Friday and run into Monday to take advantage of long distance (DX) time differences.

Radio amateurs should be willing to help local Scouts participate in JOTA. The radio operator may suggest that the Scouts visit his/her station or that the operator bring equipment to a local campsite. Often, JOTA stations are set up in unusual locations, maybe on a boat or mountaintop.

Station operators should be in accord with their national licensing regulations. For a review of control operator rules consult the ARRL website.

Stations should call "CQ Jamboree," or answer stations calling the same.

World Scout Frequencies		
Band	SSB (phone)	CW (Morse code)
80 meters	3.740 / 3.940 MHz	3.590 MHz
40 meters	7.270 MHz	7.030 MHz
20 meters	14.290 MHz	14.070 MHz
17 meters	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15 meters	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12 meters	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10 meters	28.390 MHz	28.190 MHz

Any authorized frequency may be used, but utilizing the agreed World Scout Frequencies may bring better results. Use frequencies close to those listed to avoid congestion. The idea is to contact stations during the weekend, but is not a contest.



The World Scout Bureau operates with the call sign **HB9S**. The Bureau's Geneva, Switzerland office station is regularly on the air during Scout nets and JOTA weekends.

Other stations of possible contact are:

K2BSA -- Boy Scouts of America National Office, Dallas TX

JA1YSS -- Boy Scouts of Nippon National Office, Tokyo Japan

PA6JAM -- Scouting Nederland National Station, Sassenheim Netherlands

5Z4KSA -- The Kenya Scouts Assoc. Paxtu Station, Nyeri Kenya

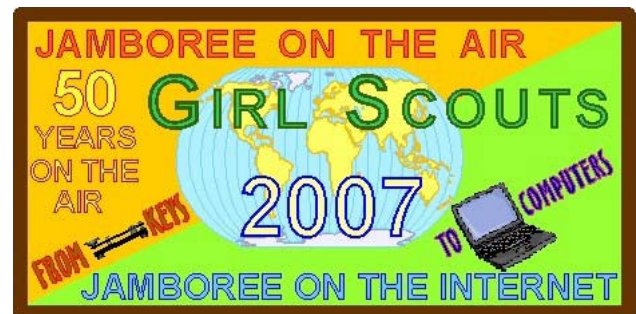
VK1BP -- The Scout Assn. of Australia National Station, Canberra Australia

GB2GP -- The Scout Assn., Gilwell Park, London UK

XE1ASM -- Boy Scouts of Mexico

DU1BSP -- Boy Scouts of Philippines

TF3JAM -- Scouts of Iceland



All Amateurs are encouraged to participate in this years Scouting JOTA.

ARRL, KF4TVD - Steve

The Buzzard's Roost Bout
Or
Who's wearing the Emperor's New Clothes?



Somewhere in a dark room, or maybe a dark alley, a challenge was issued. Two contestants squared off on alternate Saturday nights, each courting spectators to

this inexplicable behavior to cast their fondness for one or the other. No votes could be cast in person; each participant made their preference known by a strange method, something called RF.

Amidst implications of repeater sabotage (sometimes the 145.190 machine on Mt. Mitchell had a quick timeout), to rumors of outright influence peddling/buying, a conclusion was finally reached.



KF4ZCC wearing the yellow "crown"

paraded amidst the admiring throngs and into the splendid temple erected just to commemorate his historic accomplishment.



KE4VXC wearing the "wreath"

KF4ZCC - Mike "Antony" was ultimately declared the champion. For his heroic efforts, **KF4ZCC**

The defeated paid homage to **KF4ZCC**. In a noble fashion, **KE4VXC** - "Cheticus" signified the occasion and displayed his admiration

for the victor. All who were present were spared any public display of affection and embarrassing predicaments that could have arose.



KF4TLA accepting the Yaesu 2800

KF4TLA - Mike, an adoring onlooker stepped forward to announce his pleasure with the festivities, and was rewarded

by a generous gesture from the contestants. That gesture was a Yaesu FT-2800M radio.



The Buzzard's Roost sponsors and coordinates the yearly fundraiser to help offset costs to maintain the Mt. Mitchell ham repeater (145.190) owned by **WA4BVW** - Ken and **N4DWU** - Irene, and maintained by **KE4RQL** - Randy. \$1.00 tickets purchased by anyone interested are held until the Saturday Hamfest day in Shelby, and a drawing determines the winner. Special Thanks also goes to the following for their contribution:

- KF4BWG** - Norm, Head Buzzard
- KF4EIM** - Ken, Asst. Head Buzzard
- KE4VXC** - Chet, Net Control
- KF4ZCC** - Mike, Net Control



Congratulations to this year's winner, **KF4TLA** - Mike.

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@arrrl.net
Smoke Test Editor	Steve Emory	KF4TVD	658-0261	kf4tvd@arrrl.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