



WCARS.org
October 2010

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

President's Microphone

Since I said I would chair the Nominating Committee for next years officers, I have not seen or heard a word or sound. I hope this does not mean no one cares.

It takes a lot of work to shut down a club, so I would rather get some officers and keep it going rather than pull the plug. We already have a Field Day and Hamfest Chair, so most of the work is done. We need to get this done by the end of the next meeting, so.....

Call me.... Help !!!

Email: esmccabe@charter.net

Phone: 828-252-0583 or 828-231-7216

Smoke Signals, flags, or even CW ...

But let me hear from you.

Scott, W4IYS

THANK YOU!!

On Saturday, September 11, at 10-AM, a work crew assembled at the Red Cross building off Merrimon Avenue to remove any useable items from the MOE-van. This included all antennas and the crank up tower, as well as any other items that might be used in putting together a suitable replacement – vehicle or trailer- in the foreseeable future.

I won't try to name names, but suffice to say a lot of folks showed up. We had no more than started when the rain began. Scott did a fine "Commander-in-Chief" job from under the umbrella and the task was completed with all of the material removed from the van being "stored" in the WCARS storage trailer behind the Red Cross building. Most of us were wet to the skin by the time the work was done, but it was good to know that the task had finally been completed.

More details on the "fate" of the van at the meeting

Carl, N4AA

October MEETING

The next WCARS meeting will be
October 7th at 7:30 PM
in the Simpson Building Auditorium
at AB Tech.

PROGRAM

Dean, K2JB will be presenting the program on his trip aboard the aircraft carrier Eisenhower.

BCARES

Dick Burns, K8SKX, BC-EC

The Buncombe Country ARES will be meeting on a regular basis in the foreseeable future.

The meeting will be held on the THIRD THURSDAY of each month beginning at 7-PM.

The location will USUALLY be at the Red Cross building off Merrimon Avenue. However, meetings will be scheduled at other locations and will be announced in advance. Some meetings will be held at the EOC building near Erwin High School, on Erwin Hills Drive.

Please make it a priority to check in to the Wednesday Evening net on the 91 repeater at 9-PM. Announcements will be made on the net as to the location for the Thursday meeting location.

If you are not familiar with, or do not have training in, the EMCOM courses, we will be making that training available to all who are interested. Again, checking in to the Wednesday evening net will give you information on where and when that training will take place.

MINUTES OF WCARS MEETING – 2 SEP 2010

Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ, Secretary

The September meeting of WCARS was called to order at 1930 hrs by Scott McCabe W4IYS, presiding. He invited everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves by name, callsign (if any), and QTH.

Scott read the Treasurer's Report from a copy provided by the club Treasurer (he was absent). A copy is available to any member upon request.

The main question on the agenda was what to do with the MOE Van. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to take out the radio gear, antennas, and tower and give the vehicle to Habitat or some other organization to dispose of the vehicle. Due to its age and repairs needed, the van is no longer serviceable and the cost of insurance is high.

Discussion followed that since the Club has a storage unit at the Red Cross, the work of gear removal and storage should occur there. The Red Cross is located at 1000 Edgemont Rd (just off Merrimon Avenue).

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to have the work to strip the van to occur on 11 September starting at 1000 hrs. All help would be greatly appreciated.

Once the van is empty, Scott stated that he would make various contacts to dispose of the vehicle via the best way for the Club.

Dick Burns K8SKX announced a BCARES (Buncombe Co. ARES) Meeting to be held on 16 September at 1900 hrs at the Red Cross. All ARES members are encouraged to attend.

The announcement was made that the Club repeater, 146.91– is now back up and running and everyone is encouraged to use it.

Scott announced that a Nominating Committee is needed to develop a proposed slate of officers for 2011. The proposed slate of candidates would be presented at the October meeting and voting to elect would occur at the November meeting.

Preliminary plans for the annual Christmas Party are being developed with possible dates to be made available at the October meeting.

The program was presented by Carl Smith N4AA with a U-Tube Computer video of hams in SOTA (Summits On The Air) activating radio operations on Mt. Huron (elevation 14, 500 ft) in Colorado. The show followed the group's challenges climbing the mountain, using goats for pack animals, and dealing with the harsh weather conditions at altitude. The video also described operations on other peaks previously climbed by members of the group.

Carl further followed with a personal slide show presenting his own radio history from first licensed in 1954. Further slides documented the changes in radio gear, accessories, locations, and operating achievements through the years to the present time.

The drawings of the 50-50 and door prize were made and awarded.

Everyone was reminded to keep Carl N4AA informed of any changes in their email address for future bulletins, announcements, and SMOKETEST.

The meeting concluded at 2053 hrs with refreshments and fellowship following.

NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS

Bill Morine, N2COP, NC Section Manager

JOTA – 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, and the third full weekend in October is always JOTA, or Jamboree-On-The-Air. This October 16-17 marks the 53rd year for JOTA, one of the very few Scouting events which is open to all Scouts around the globe, and encourages participation from all Scouts, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, etc. Clubs in Shelby, Wilmington, Greensboro and along the Blue Ridge plan to host Boy Scout troops by setting up Field Day like stations. The Azalea Coast ARC in Wilmington plans to teach the Radio Merit Badge in conjunction with its JOTA operation. If you know of a JOTA event in North Carolina, please list it at the NCJOTA group within Yahoo Groups. Send a listing to me too, and I'll send out a special JOTA locations announcement to the section the week before JOTA begins. To learn more about JOTA, go to www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota. JOTA is the perfect opportunity to tell young people about Amateur Radio. See my comments in the "Last Word" section below.

AMATEUR RADIO BILL GETS ANOTHER N.C. SPONSOR –

U.S. Rep. David Price (D-4th District representing Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area) is the second North Carolina Congressman to become a co-sponsor of HR2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. Rep. Price joins rep. Mike McIntyre (D-7th District representing Lumberton/Wilmington). If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations (i.e. covenants and restrictions by HOAs) -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
- Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The bill first needs to be heard by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, two of whose North Carolina members are Rep. Sue Myrick of Union, Gaston and portions of Mecklenburg counties, and Rep. G.K. Butterfield who represents much of north-eastern NC. With just a few weeks left in this session of Congress, there is not much time left to pass this bill, and if it isn't brought up for a vote now, it will have to be introduced in the next session of Congress in 2011. Many thanks to our State Government Liaison (SGL) Dr. Bob Conder, K4RLC, for explaining the importance of the legislation to Rep. David Price.

WCARS/VEC EXAM Schedule

ASHEVILLE (AB-TECH, ROOM 134, ELM BLDG)

9:00 AM on the THIRD SATURDAY of:

JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER,

VE TEAM LEADER: BOB HELTON, KS4FX

Phone: 828-712-5916

2:00 PM on the THIRD SUNDAY of:

FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER

VE TEAM LEADER: STEVE LANKFORD, AG4BY

Phone: 828-768-2141

BURNSVILLE

YANCY COUNTY LIBRARY

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER

VE TEAM LEADER: DAVID McCARTY, W4TDM

Phone: 828-657-1044

COLUMBUS

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER

VE TEAM LEADER: WAYNE ACKERMAN, W3GY

Phone: 828-894-5542

HENDERSONVILLE

MOUNTAIN HOME FIRE STATION

9:00 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of:

FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER

VE TEAM LEADER: SID HENDRICKS, W4IOE

Phone: 828-684-8130

LEICESTER

LEICESTER FIRE DEPT

9:00 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of:

MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER

VE TEAM LEADER: LARRY YORK, K4MU

Phone: 828-683-1400

MARION

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER

VE TEAM LEADER: HARRIET FULLBRIGHT, K4ICU

Phone: 828-291-7521

RUTHERFORDTON

ISOTHERMAL COLLEGE

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER

VE TEAM LEADER: BRUCE TESSINEER, AD4OJ

Phone: 828-657-5464

WAYNESVILLE

CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER

VE TEAM LEADER: AL SANDERS, WD4A

Phone: 828-926-8244

WEAVERVILLE

REEMS CREEK FD

9:00 AM on the FIRST SATURDAY of:

APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER, DECEMBER

VE TEAM LEADER: HARLEY BULLMAN, AJ4PI

Phone: 828-645-0889

The above information was reviewed/updated by Norman, N4NH.

Any information which has changed since the last publication
should be sent to Carl Smith, N4AA at : N4AA@dpub.com.

SMOKE TEST
 Official publication of the
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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www.wcars.org

W4MOE

Repeater 146.91 - PL-91.5
 Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

2010 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice President	Carl Smith	N4AA / KB4C	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com
Secretary	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wncgeneao@aol.com
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Quartermaster	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Awards Chairman	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wncgeneao@aol.com
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Hamfest Chairman - 2010	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com

HF/VHF Net Information

NET NAME	Freq(MHz) offset/PL	Day	Local time	Notes
6600	145.190	Saturday	9-PM	Many check-ins - Wide area coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic	146.610	Nightly	9-PM	ARES/Skywarn in bad weather
BRARC	146.640/-91.5	Sunday	9-PM	
Buncombe Cty Emerg. Mgt.	146.910/-91.5	Wednesday	9-PM	Directed net, ARES/RACES
Carolinas Net - Early	3.573	Daily	7-PM	CW Traffic
Carolinas Net - Late	3.573	Daily	10-PM	CW - 15-18 WPM Traffic
Carolinas Net - Slow	3.571	Daily	8-PM	Slow CW - 8 to 10 WPM Traffic
Good Morning	146.760-	M-W-F	9-AM	Informal, Everyone welcome
Haywood County Roundtable	147.390/94.8	Monday	8-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
K4UUQ Morning	7.225	Daily	7-AM	Ragchew
Madison Cty-AmRadComTeam	224.660/100	Tuesday	9-PM	Madison County Emergency Comm
Mount Mitchell 220	224.540	Monday	8-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
Mount Mitchell Ragchew	442.225+/-107.2	Monday	9-PM	Directed, Everyone welcome
Mount Pisgah 220	224.260	Sunday	9-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
NC Evening Traffic	3.923	Daily	6:30-PM	SSB
NC Morning Traffic	3.927	Daily	7:45-AM	SSB
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp.	146.190	Sunday	9-PM	
SATERN	14.265	Daily	3-PM	Salvation Army Team-Emergency
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Daily	7:30-PM	Directed, NC Emergency Mgt - Traffic
Volunteer	147.180+/-136.5	Friday	9-PM	Info, News and Swap
WCARS Information	146.910 -/91.5	Monday	9-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome