



WCARS.org
October 2011

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

President's Microphone

No "Nominating Committee" was formed so we are now behind, far behind.

At least President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer plus a Hamfest Chairperson must be voted in at the November meeting. We also need a Quarter Master. Without the first four the club will shut down in January 2012, or the club can elect to run with just a President and Treasurer. This would require a change to the By Laws. If nothing takes place, then we close the doors. Very sad! Where we go from here is up to us. For my part, I will serve again for next year, unless someone else wants it. But remember this, I can not do it alone and some of us can't help for health reasons. I fully understand that.

Please ... lets not let WCARS go to where so many "dead" club go.

Scott, W4IYS

(Editors Note: I purposely put the above in RED so no one could miss it. This is important.

No matter how long you have been around WCARS, you can contribute something.

You may not be able to serve as an Officer. You might not be able to do the ARES exercises. But, you can do "something."

WCARS cannot exist without elected officers. There are many things WCARS could be doing. WE JUST NEED TO DO IT !!!

Do you have any idea what WCARS owns? You would be shocked to see the list, if we had a list !!!

**Meeting for ... October 6th
W. Asheville Library
7:30 PM**

BCARES supporting "Shutin" again

The "Shutin Ridge Trail Foot Race" will be held Saturday November 5 and BCARES will be providing radio communications. Last year the race start was delayed while the organizers checked the Mt. Pisgah area for snow. Trail conditions were unknown, so runner safety was a concern. For this reason having timely reports of runners and the trail was important. This is something that radio communication is perfectly suited to provide. Since radios "broadcast" instead of communicating directly with one and only one receiver, radio communication allows multiple recipients to hear the information. This means that organizers and checkpoints alike are kept "up to date," all at the same time. Try this with a cell phone!

However for radio communications to be truly effective there must be competent radio operators using the radios. This means the radio op's must be alert at all times to all communications on the radio as well as what is happening around them. They must have the ability, which comes through practice, to instantly focus on their radio even while in an "eyeball" conversation. The information received must be noted in a log-book so it is not forgotten or mis-relayed when needed. They must develop a habit of logging the information: who, what, where, & when, almost without thinking of doing it. It's possible the station to which the information was directed can't copy the originating station clearly or maybe missed part of the transmission and needs a fill, but the originating station can't repeat for some reason. An accurate timely information relay may mean the difference between a perceived crisis and a non-event.

Having an amateur radio license and a radio does not make a person a competent radio operator. Frequent practice can. This is why actively participating in simulated emergencies or drills is important. You can practice logging information every time you check into a net by keeping a list of each and every station that joins the net, including their call, name, location and any other pertinent information. To me it's like practicing first aid. You keep practicing all the while hoping you'll never have to use it in an emergency.

BCARES will need 12 volunteers to fully staff all the check points along the "Shutin Ridge Trail" on November 5. Steve, N4SET will lead the race day effort with Randy, KI4VLW assisting, while Dick, K8SKX will collect volunteers.

If you can help let me know.

Meeting Minutes for September 15, 2011

Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ

The meeting was called to order at 1931 hours by President Scott McCabe, W4IYS with an invitation to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Scott then read a card received from Mrs. Stacey Bowen thanking WCARS for the donation in honor of her late husband Fireman Bowen (who died in the performance of duty).

Scott also read a thank you note from AB Tech Community College for the WCARS donation to their electronics department.

Norman Harrill N4NH reported that preparations are to be ready for the January license classes. Norman reported that the Boy Scout Leader Harry Frick wants WCARS to set up a station for the Jamboree On The Air on October 15 and meet with scouts there. Norman asked WCARS for volunteers to set up antennas on Friday, October 14, to get ready for this event. He stated that the station would be set up INSIDE a building so weather should pose no problems. Norman also asked for members to think about teaching one day per week for six weeks at Camp Daniel Boone to train scouts and prepare them for ham radio licensing.

An announcement was made that TEN-TEC (Sevierville, TN) would be hosting a hamfest on September 23-24 and everyone was encouraged to attend.

The next WCARS meeting is set for OCTOBER 6 at 7:30 pm at the West Asheville Library.

Plans are to proceed for the annual Christmas Party with the date to be set at the next meeting along with place and time for the party.

The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate of officers for next year at the next meeting with voting to occur at the November meeting.

Mr. Dan Henderson, N1ND from ARRL (also a WCARS member) gave a presentation about Field Day 2011 with the following statistics for the event: CW 676,919, Digital 44,967, Phone 810,729 QSO's, total participants: 39,246 and total entries: 2666.

He told the group about various clubs from US and Canada with special activities in setting up stations. He showed photos from Field Day 2011 operations from various locations, situations, and operators. He encouraged everyone to enjoy the FUN in ham radio at every chance.

The door prize was won by Paul Tilley, KK4BRD and the 50-50 drawing went to Norma Graffing.

There being no further business before the group, a motion was received, seconded and voted to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050 hrs. with an invitation to join in refreshments and fellowship following.

SMOKETEST EDITOR

Carl Smith, N4AA

Last month I indicated that I would not be able to continue to function as the VP/Program Chair or Smoketest Editor. To the best of my knowledge, no one has come forward to assume these tasks.

This is an important part of WCARS and one that should not be allowed to falter and/or die.

I know there are members of WCARS who are capable of preparing Smoketest, but I will not pressure anyone to do it. One has to enjoy doing this job or it just will not get done in a manner that will reflect well on WCARS.

If there is someone who really wants to be the Smoketest Editor, contact Scott as he and the other officers will have to approve the person they feel would be able to fill the job.

As of December 15, 2011, I will no longer be able to prepare Smoketest. Thus, someone needs to be onboard to put out one for January 2012.

Where do we go now?

We have a serious situation developing with Amateur Radio in Buncombe County .

WCARS is the end result of an organization which was born way back in the 1930's. It has faltered several times over the decades since then, but has always managed to come back and survive to this day.

We are now faced with a problem that is universal... we are getting OLD !! No question about it. The internet and computer technology has sadly affected the "fascination" that attracted many of us to the wonders of ham radio.

As we get older, our family obligations and eventually our health "get in the way" and we can no longer do what we were able to do when we were younger, for ham radio or for WCARS.

So, what about it? I can't change my health and my family obligations just seem to get more complicated as I get older?

We "old folks" are not dead yet and we can make a concerted effort to attract young people to Amateur Radio. A good example is the upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air scheduled for October 15th. Scouting is not "dead" and it is a source of young people who can be introduced to the fascination of communicating with others across town, across the country and around the world. Come to the meeting on Thursday for more.

NC SECTION NEWS

Bill Morine, N2COP, Section Manager

JOTA – The 54th annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be 8 PM local Friday, October 14 through 8 PM Sunday, October 16. JOTA is officially the largest event in Scouting because it is an international event which includes Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scout alumni, leaders past and present, families, or in other words, anyone with an interest in Scouting. Over the weekend, 500,000 people are expected to get on the air worldwide. Across North Carolina, many clubs work with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and Cub Scout packs to offer badge related activities, such as the Radio Merit badge. Thanks to groups in Wilkesboro, Shelby, Forest City and Charlotte which will be among the many that will have formal programs for Scouts that weekend. Suggested HF frequencies and activities as well as full descriptions of JOTA can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota> and at <http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx> For those with D Star access, Reflector 30 will be devoted to JOTA all weekend. Even Astronaut and Scoutmaster Mike Fossum will be on the air from the International Space Station. Youth are the future of our hobby so let's show them fun and excitement.

ARES – A reminder that there will be no Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise in North Carolina on October 1st, which ARRL has as a suggested date. Many states and sections around us will conduct SETs that day, but ours will be later with a date to be announced after the new state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Raleigh opens. Many operators gained real life experience emergency communications with Hurricane Irene in late August. Preliminary reports from FEMA and North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) show much praise for ARES overall and for the Incident Command Structure (ICS) certified operators who were deployed to the Eastern Branch Regional Coordination Center (RCC) in Kinston. They provided emergency communications between the RCC and impacted areas along the coast.

PORTABLE OPERATING TIP – Whether it's Em-COMM or a DXpedition to the Outer Banks or the mountains, those who operate portable know that generators which rely on gasoline can run rough if the fuel sits in the tank for a while. Many thanks to Champ Cox, K2IUN, from Hertford for the tip on converting your generator to run on propane. It can take some tinkering to get the right amount of vacuum to feed the fuel intake, but Hams who have converted their gasoline generators to propane report not only long and reliable run times, but also more frequency stabilization with 60 Hz AC output. Good tutorial information at www.propane-generators.com

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS –

Oct. 8 – 229th Anniversary of the Battle of King's Mountain, NA4CC, Shelby. More info at www.ccarsnc.org;
Oct. 15 – Car Show & Chili Cookoff in Trinity. More info at www.nc4ar.net;
Oct. 21 – 28th annual Lexington Barbeque Festival;
Oct. 29 – 23rd annual NASCAR Days Festival, Randleman. More info at www.nc4ar.net

HAMFESTS –

Sat. Oct 8, Winston-Salem October Swapfest, 7 AM-12 Noon, Summit School Athletic Center, 2100 Reynolda Road, Winston-Salem, Talk-In 146.64 (PL 100.0);
Sun. Oct. 9, Maysville Hamfest, Rte. 17, Maysville, Talk-In 145.31 (PL 82.5)

WHAT DID YOU SAY ? ?

Oh, you didn't say anything, and that's why this space was going to be **BLANK**.

However, I thought I might mention your **NOTHING** here as a reminder that this publication would be completely **BLANK** if it weren't for the few folks who do say **SOMETHING**.

Perhaps you'll have something to say for next time ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

SMOKETEST

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Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802

www.wcars.org

W 4 M O E

Repeater: 146.91 PL-91.5

Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

2010 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	655-1830	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice President	Carl Smith	N4AA / KB4C	683-4251	n4aa@dxpub.com
Secretary	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wncgeneao@aol.com
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Trustee - W4MOE	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Awards Chairman	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wncgeneao@aol.com
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wncgeneao@aol.com
Hamfest Chairman - 2010	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dxpub.com

HF/VHF/UHF Net Information

NET NAME	Freq(MHz) offset/PL	Day	Local time	Notes
6600	145.19	Saturday	9-PM	Many check-ins - Wide area coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic	146.61	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
Franklin, NC	147.240+/151.4	Daily	9-PM	KU4ES (Need info on this one)
Haywood Cty 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	224.54	Monday	8-PM	Informal, Everyone welcome
Mount Mitchell Ragchew	442.225+/107.2	Monday	9-PM	Directed, Everyone welcome
Mount Pisgah 220	224.26	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.	146.19	Sunday	9-PM	
SATERN	14.265	Daily	3-PM	Salvation Army Team-Emergency
Southern Appalachian Museum	3.975	Friday	8:30-AM	Informal with NCS - WA4CNI
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
???	224.6			WB4PLA on Spivey Mtn. ???
W4YK	53.630/100	Friday	9-PM	???