



WCARS.org
November 2011

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

President's Microphone

Scott McCabe, W4IYS

We had a good turnout for the Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) on October 14-15. Due to a conflict in scheduling between the scout office and Camp Daniel Boone, we didn't have as many scouts as we would have, or could have had. But it still worked out fine. We have established ourselves with the Scout folks, but we need to have more advanced planning for next year. **SO.... I WILL NEED A SCOUT JAMBOREE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2012.** Please let me know if you are interested in filling this important position. It is always scheduled in mid-October so you will have plenty of time to get it organized.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Yes, we will have one on DECEMBER 3 at the same place as last year. I'll ask Carl to put the map in the December Smoketest for anyone who doesn't remember where it is or how to get there.

The meeting on November 17th will be devoted to finalizing the details for the Christmas Party and to vote on the slate of officers that was nominated at the October meeting. If you don't remember who was nominated, here they are:

President	Scott McCabe, W4IYS
Vice President	Russ Oder, N4KOX
Secretary	Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ
Treasurer	Steve Emery, N4SET

In addition to the above, Paul, KK4BRD volunteered to take over SMOKETEST (club newsletter), and Randy, KI4VLW volunteered to again serve as Hamfest Chairman. Nominations from the floor will be accepted before voting. Two Executive Committee members will be needed and they will be voted on at this meeting.

Voting on these offices will occur at the November meeting to make it "legal."

Next Meeting will be ...
November 17th at 7:30 PM
W. Asheville Library

JOTA

I would like to take a moment to comment on JOTA, which was held on October 15th. On the previous day several WCARS members came together assisting the Boy Scouts in Asheville to participate for Jamboree On The Air. Setting up the antennas in the high winds proved to be challenging, but with persistence the antennas were raised safely without anyone getting hurt. It was good practice in dealing with weather conditions less than ideal for setting up temporary/portable antennas.

With the antennas ready, the next day many of the same members returned to set up radios and provide assistance to the Boy Scouts in the operation of the radios and making contacts. There were several interesting contacts, some from Europe, Canada, India and South America, giving a true international flavor to JOTA. In addition to the international contacts there were several contacts with in the U.S. as far away as Utah. However one of the longer contacts that I observed during JOTA was to club member N4AA, Carl who engaged in conversation with a boy scout for several minutes.

The JOTA Setup for Asheville consisted of: 10 meters, 17 meters, 40 meters and a PSK rig, giving a broad range of possible contacts. In addition to the radio's I brought a interactive CW demonstration on my laptop that drew some interest from the Boy Scouts who were able to attend.

I believe there was a total of 13 contacts for the day. The Asheville Boy Scouts did a great job as did the club members who assisted and participated. There was a merit badge event at Camp Daniel Boone that coincided with JOTA resulting in a low turnout. However, with more advanced for planning and promotion for next year JOTA will likely result in a larger turnout.

From my observations the event was successful. Everyone involved had a good time and there were moments in which the scouts that were able to participate receiving valuable hands on experience with the radios and peaking their interest in Amateur Radio.

Paul, KK4BRD

Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2011

Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ

The October 6, 2011, meeting of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society was called to order at 1930 hrs by Scott McCabe, W4IYS, President.

He invited everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Everyone was then asked to introduce themselves giving name, callsign (if any), and QTH.

The Club Treasurer, Steve N4SET, presented the Treasurer's Report. The report was received with thanks.

Russ N4KOX announced that the valve on the repeater's fuel tank was leaking and was replaced. He refilled the tank. He said that the new valve may leak as that type of valve has been a problem elsewhere on other units. He asked the Club to think about whether or not we wanted the repeater on standby or shut down to prevent loss of expensive fuel and turn it on only when needed. He said that Blossman's valve has been known for leaking badly in its design. The gas on hand was 272 gallons and he filled the tank to its maximum (500 gallons). Russ stated that the generator was only used twice last year for about 20 hours total time but has been used more in previous years depending on need. Discussion followed and more information is forthcoming so a decision will be made at the next meeting concerning use and cost. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to repay Russ for the cost of the fuel to refill the generator's fuel tank.

The upcoming Scout Jamboree On The Air is set for October 15 with set up on October 14. The station location will be the Daniel Boone Council Building, 333 West Haywood Street, in downtown Asheville.

Nominations and/or volunteers from the floor were opened for club officers for 2012. Scott, W4IYS volunteered to continue as President; Russ, N4KOX volunteered to serve as Vice President; Steve, N4SET volunteered to continue as Club Treasurer; Bob, WD4CNZ volunteered to continue as Club Secretary. Paul, KK4BRD volunteered to take over SMOKETEST (club newsletter), and Randy, KI4VLW volunteered to be the Hamfest Chair. Official voting on these offices will occur at the November meeting, with additional late nominations entertained at that meeting. Two Executive Committee members will be needed for voting at the next meeting.

WCARS will have a Christmas Party--date and location to be confirmed with a tentative date of either December 3 or 10.

Next month's general meeting will be November 3 at 1930 hrs at the West Asheville Library Meeting Room. All interested persons are invited.

The 2012 Hamfest is set for July 27 for setup and open for activities on July 28, 2012. The hamfest will be at the same location as for 2011. The Waynesville ham club is invited to join us at the Fairgrounds on Friday for dinner.

New Business:

ARES will meet October 20. Members are asked to watch for an email announcement as a reminder.

The Shut-In Trail Race is set for November 5 and needs help to cover this event.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2040 hrs with an invitation to join in refreshments and fellowship to follow.

BCARES

Time's changing, are you ready?

Sunday November 5 at 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time stops. This should signal that it's time to get ready for short days, cold temperatures, possible bad weather, wood stoves, etc. Are you prepared? Will you be prepared? But for what? As a Scoutmaster for many years the Scouts always would ask me: "Be prepared for what?" The answer was always the same... for anything and everything.

For us amateurs this means being prepared in two different, but co-mingled areas: home/family and radio. For home it includes the usual and hopefully obvious things. We need to check the condition of: furnaces/woodstoves/chimneys, fuel supplies, smoke detector batteries, vehicles, emergency food stocks, etc.

For radio amateurs our check list must include additional items. Emergency power sources must be checked out by **TESTING**, not just inspecting. Does the backup generator start? Do you have enough **FRESH** fuel? Are the needed power cords readily available? Are your batteries charged? Will they hold a charge? Do you have fresh spares such as AA alkalines? And your flashlights? You probably use your radios frequently enough to know they work and the antennas, too. BUT, will the antennas stay up with high winds and/or snow and ice loading? Have you recently checked the support lines? Are they frayed from rubbing on tree branches? Will they stay up when needed? It's obvious that without an antenna radio's don't work well! How about your spare or portable antenna, is it ready to go? You **DO KNOW** where all the parts and pieces (support lines, coax, etc) are stored don't you?etc.

Be prepared? For anything and everything !!!!!

I know, this sounds like a "broken record" (or is that a stuck CD player?). But too often our systems fail just when we need them most. Preparing for the worst or at least bad occurrences, while hoping for the best conditions, can mean the difference between being comfortable, being uncomfortable, being miserable, or being in a threatening situation. Remember, for the most part, the choice is yours.....

Don't forget that BCARES will use the Mt. Pisgah repeater 146.760 (-600) no PL, until Spivey gets repaired. Also, be ready to go simplex as needed. As a reminder, the BCARES protocol is to meet on the designated repeater at 9:00 pm, if it is not up move to the next one at 9:05 pm, then on to next at 9:10 pm, finally ending on 91 simplex 5 minutes later.

73, Dick, K8SKX

2011 ARRL Field Day Results

TOTAL CONTACTS; 150w or LESS; NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ; TOTAL SCORE; STATE

Port City ARC	K1R (+W1WQM)	6112	2	50	18,850	NH
Loudoun AR Group	K4LRG (+KJ4BRN)	6063	2	75	16,400	VA
Ozaukee RC	W9LO (+AA9W)	4863	2	40	14,908	WI
Woodbridge Wireless	W4IY	4090	2	50	13,392	VA
Boarrs RC	NG5A	3207	2	25	11,446	NTX
Lake Co ARA	N8BC	3023	2	23	10,530	OH
Cuyahoga Falls ARC	W8VPV	2423	2	23	9,198	OH
Va Beach ARC and VADXC	W4UG (+K4IX)	2426	2	60	8,948	VA
*****	KK5W (+K5AUS)	1851	2	45	7,266	STX
Hazel Park ARC	W8HP (+W8JXU)	1961	2	30	6,942	MI
Arrow/UMARC FD Team	W8UM (+W8PGW)	1580	2	43	6,684	MI
Washington Amateur Com.	WA3COM	1537	2	58	6,454	WPA
WPA RC of Tacoma	W7DK (+W7OS)	1849	2	90	6,328	WWA
Smoky Mtn RC	W4OLB	1507	2	22	6,300	TN
SPRARC-BCRC	VE3OW	2327	2	43	6,036	ON
L'Anse Creuse ARC	N8LC	2003	2	20	5,934	MI
St Petersburg ARC	W4TA	1185	2	65	5,466	WCF
York Region ARC	VE3YRA (+VE3YRK)	1537	2	66	5,302	ON
Cambridge ARC	VE3SWA	1145	2	5	4,800	ON
Western Carolina ARS	W4MOE (+NN4BC)	1053	2	42	4,708	NC
Owatonna Steele Co ARC	NØUW	1486	2	30	4,706	MN
Alexandria RC	W4HFH (+KK4CBL)	1392	2	35	4,676	VA
Schenectady ARA	K2AE (+KR1CKM)	869	2	30	4,422	ENY
20/9 Radio Club	K8TKA	940	2	25	4,200	OH
Findlay RC	W8FT	889	2	10	4,166	OH
Holland ARC	K8DAA	1077	2	15	4,058	MI
Denver RC	WØTX (+WØOUI)	1043	2	51	4,058	CO
Jessamine AWS	K4HH	776	2	47	4,002	KY
RF Hill ARC	W3AI	1090	2	25	3,974	EPA
Orange Co ARC	W2HO (+NE2Z)	1081	2	75	3,884	ENY
Kern Co Central Valley ARC	W6LIE	1024	2	46	3,698	SJV
Intercity ARC	W8WE (+W8WER)	675	2	25	3,500	OH
GCARES	K3EE	623	2	15	3,486	MDC
Littleton Radio Amateurs	KØBO	826	2	10	3,370	CO
Iredell Co ARS	W4SNC	773	2	15	3,160	NC

***We're # 20 out of 83 entries in the 5A Category,
beating out W4SNC in Iredell County, NC.***

I am pleased to offer the official results of our efforts on Field Day 2011.

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped in any way.

AND, thanks to Roger for putting together all that food we consumed.

***I want to especially thank John, AD8J, a new club member who came &
did a super job working 20 CW and helping me on 40 CW as well.
Aaron, N4ANE did a good job working 20 SSB for his first Field Day effort.***

Can we do it again in 2012 ? ?

Carl, N4AA

SIMPLEX ??

The question came up at the last BCARES meeting, when it was reported that the 91 repeater was not in service.

Yes, there are other repeaters in the area that we "might" be able to use, but there are other considerations.

Take this example..... Two stations situated within reasonable distance of each other... say 10 or 12 miles....

Each has a radio capable of at least 35-50 watts and they have omni-directional antennas with at least 3-5 db gain. They can talk direct (simplex) but one heard the other on a repeater so simply called and began a lengthy conversation.

WHY !!

No doubt because it was easier to do that than to move to a SIMPLEX frequency.

Or, perhaps it was because they weren't sure which frequencies were used for SIMPLEX.

Here's the answer. Thanks to Scott for providing the list.

You might want to cut/paste this list and keep it handy in your hamshack and/or your car.

SIMPLEX Frequencies

10 Meters	29.600#
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6 Meters	52.490	52.525#
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2 Meters	146.400*	146.415*	146.430*	146.445*	146.460*	146.475*	146.490*
	146.505*	146.520#	146.535	146.550	146.565	146.580	146.595
	147.405*	147.420*	147.435*	147.450*	147.465*	147.480*	147.495*
	147.510	147.525	147.540	147.555	147.570	147.585	

220 MHz	223.400	223.420	22.440	223.460	223.480	223.500#	223.520
	223.540	223.560	223.580	223.600	223.620	223.640	

440 MHz	445.825	445.875	445.900	445.925	445.950	445.975	446.000#
	446.025	446.050	446.075	446.100	446.125	446.150	

* = Permitted for VOICE simplex unless it would cause interference to a repeater input.
(Some of these frequencies have been "coordinated" as repeater input in some areas.)
= Designated as National Simplex Frequencies.

BCARES Net

The following is the procedure to be used on the Wednesday evening net held at 9-PM.

At 9:00 Try to access 146.910 (PL-91.5).

If the repeater is not on the air...

At 9:05 Try to access 146.760 (NO PL).

If repeater is not on the air ...

At 9:10 Try to access 147.105 (PL 91.5).

If repeater is not on the air ...

At 9:15 Go to 146.910 SIMPLEX (NO PL) and call the net.

Until 91 is back on the air

BCARES will use 76 repeater to start.

Dick Burns, K8SKX Steps Down as ARES EC

Dick became the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Buncombe County on October 18, 2008 for one year. Three years later he is stepping down.

During his tenure as EC he developed a real working cadre of active trained EMCOMM operators. Under his direction Buncombe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (BCARES) now has a working communications room at the EOC and also at the American Red Cross.

He conducted training exercises with the premise that a ham radio license and a radio does not make one an EMCOMM operator. He has also supervised many public service events in the name of ARES.

Because of Dick's leadership BCARES is a viable emergency team.

Tommy, K4BNP (DEC)

SMOKETEST

Official publication of the

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

2011 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice President	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com
Secretary (shared)	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@bellsouth.net
Trustee - W4MOE	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
Awards Chairman	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Hamfest Chairman - 2011	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com

HF/VHF/UHF Net Information

NET NAME	Freq 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
Franklin, NC - Winesprings Bald	147.240 + / 151.4	Daily	9-PM	
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	7.228	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 Mitchell Sunrise Net	442.225 + 107.2	Thursday	9-AM	Informal - 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.	145.190 +	Sunday	9-PM	
SATERN	14.265	Daily	3-PM	Salvation Army Team-Emergency
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Daily	7:30-PM	Directed, NC Emerg. 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
???	224.600			WB4PLA on Spivey Mtn. ???
W4YK	53.630 - 100	Friday	9-PM	???