

DECEMBER 2006  
*The Official Publication of*

## The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

[www.WCARS.org](http://www.WCARS.org)

### President's Microphone...Scott W4IYS

This is a busy time of the year for all of us. Take time to stop and think of others, renew an old maybe forgotten acquaintance, help someone out, maybe introduce someone to ham radio.

See you at the Christmas dinner.

...73 Scott W4IYS

### WCARS January Meeting

**Note:** There is **NO** regular December WCARS meeting. It is replaced by the Christmas dinner on December 9. The **NEXT** WCARS meeting will be January 4, 2007, 7:30pm in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at ABTech. Program: NVIS antennas by Scott W4IYS

### Time to renew WCARS Membership

Believe it or not another year has passed and it's time to renew your WCARS membership. A copy of the application is printed on page 3. Just fill it out and either bring it to the Christmas dinner, the next meeting on January 4 or mail it to WCARS at the return address on Smoketest. Members not renewing by March 15 will be dropped from the roles and no longer receive Smoketest. Thanks.

### WCARS Spivey Repeater Update

Work is progressing on the repeater. So far, unused antennas have been removed and a new building placed and painted. A temporary 146.91/-repeater is setup at Chet's QTH (base of Spivey) for use by all 91 nets (BC ARES / WCARS Info). There is no tone of this temporary repeater.

### FCC Corrects error in "Omnibus" R&O

The FCC has released an Erratum that corrects one error in the recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140 ...that...limited J2D emissions to (a)...bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter.

...left, ...the error would have ...(made) illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III...as well as Olivia and MT63...operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz ..., 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

The FCC Erratum revises 97.3(c)(2)...rules going into effect Dec. 15 to read: Data. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having (i) designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol, 1 as the second symbol, and D as the third symbol; (ii) emission J2D; and (iii) emissions A1C, F1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less when transmitted on an amateur service frequency below 30 MHz. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted The Erratum is available...

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-268642A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-268642A1.pdf)

The FCC ...(also) incorporated some unrelated editorial revisions in the...R&O that appeared Nov. 15 in the Federal Register,  
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E619189.pdf>

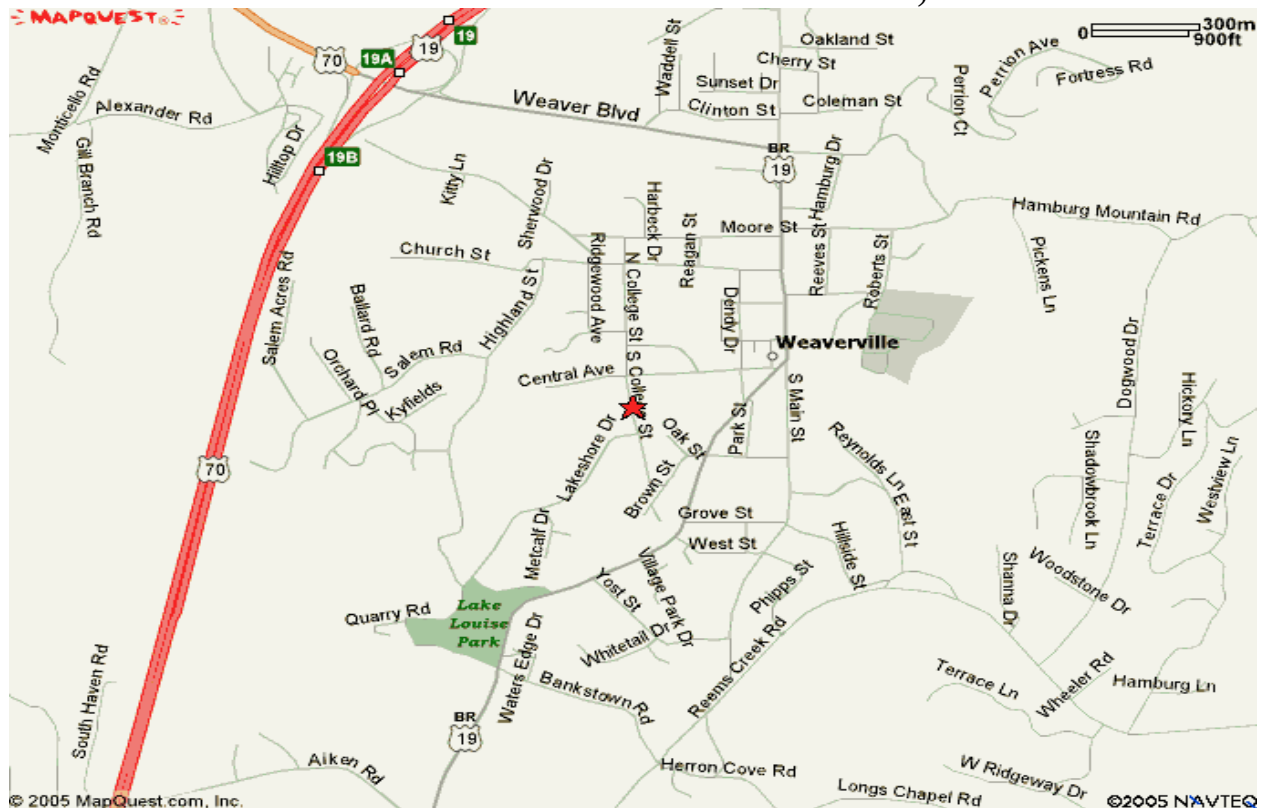
The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the Federal Register and the Erratum -- take effect Friday, Dec 15, 12:01am est. (from ARRLBulletin 028, 11/29/06)

## November minutes...John AI4HY

- Meeting called to order by the president at 7:31.
- The pledge to the flag was recited.
- Scott W4IYS then reminded the group to vote in the local elections, and a discussion of balloting methods was held.
- Members then introduced themselves, 33 were present by meeting's end.
- Scott announced that Tommy K4BNP and Dick K8SKX were presenting at the Red Cross, and that a Ten Tec HF rig had been donated for use at the Red Cross. A letter of agreement specifies club ownership of the equipment.
- The club officers nominating committee's proposed slate of new officers was then approved by vote. Scott mentioned that the officers proposed are the same as last year with the exception of John Davis, AI4HY, for vice president. Following that, the slate was voted upon and accepted unanimously.
- The treasurer's report could not be made due to the absence of the treasurer. (continued next column)

- Chet KE4VXC was called upon to preside over the vote for Ham of the Year. He had the group fill out ballots and said that the announcement would be made at the Christmas party.
- Chet KE4VXC announced that the Christmas party would be held the second Saturday in December at the Weaverville Masonic Lodge at 5:30 or 6:00 P.M. Each member is to bring 2 covered dishes.
- Chet KE4VXC announced a work party for the next 2 Saturdays, and that the county will build a new building for us if we tear down the old one. Various equipment was arranged to be brought to the site.
- Henry KF4ODC announced that a movie called "Prestige" may be of interest to members. He then conducted the quiz. (Didn't get the winner's name.)
- The door prize was won by AD2HI.
- The meeting was closed by nearly unanimous vote at 9:05. (thanks John for taking the minutes in Karen's absence)

## WCARS Christmas dinner: December 9, 5:30 PM



The dinner will be held at the Blackmer Masonic Lodge in Weaverville (same as last year). It is at the "star" in the center of the map above: South College Street, just south of Central Avenue. Each member is asked to bring 2 covered dishes (with food in them as Chet would say:) We'll gather about 5:30 and eat about 6:00pm.

# WCARS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

\_\_\_ Full \$20 \_\_\_ Family \$30 \_\_\_ Student \$5

All information is requested to assist the officers and committee chairpersons in planning activities, programs and community service communications needs. If you so request by checking the appropriate space, the information in Section 1 will also be kept confidential and your call and/or e-mail will not appear in the WCARS roster when published.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ Smoketest Via email Yes( ) No ( )

**CHECK FOR NON-PUBLICATION OF CALL** \_\_\_ OR EMAIL \_\_\_

ARRL Member? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## LICENSE AND OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

CLASS OF CURRENT LICENSE (CHECK ONE)

\_\_\_NOVICE \_\_\_TECH-NC \_\_\_TECH-PLUS \_\_\_GENERAL \_\_\_ADVANCED \_\_\_EXTRA

YEAR OBTAINED \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR FIRST LICENSED \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS CALLS HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES ( P-PORTABLE M-MOBILE F-FIXED )

\_\_\_160 \_\_\_80 \_\_\_40 \_\_\_20 \_\_\_15 \_\_\_10 \_\_\_6 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_220 \_\_\_440 \_\_\_PACKET/DIGITAL

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

I PREFER: \_\_\_CW \_\_\_FM \_\_\_OSCAR \_\_\_PACKET \_\_\_RTTY \_\_\_SSB

POWER OUTPUT: HF BANDS: \_\_\_WATTS VHF BANDS: \_\_\_WATTS

EMERGENCY POWER AVAILABLE: \_\_\_BATTERY \_\_\_GENERATOR \_\_\_SOLAR

## I AM INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING:

\_\_\_ACTIVITIES SUPPORT TEAM \_\_\_PROGRAM COMMITTEE

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE \_\_\_PUBLIC SERVICE COMM.

\_\_\_ELMER PROGRAM \_\_\_RFI / TVI PROGRAM

\_\_\_EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS \_\_\_SMOKETEST ARTICLES

\_\_\_FIELD DAY TEAM \_\_\_SPECIAL EVENTS

\_\_\_HAMFEST COMMITTEES \_\_\_VE PROGRAM

\_\_\_MEMBER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE \_\_\_MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

\_\_\_OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE DUES PAID \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: WCARS, PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802-1488**

## **Where did Percy Maxim W1AW die?**

Since it's overcast here tonight and I can't see the Leonids, I was just doing some research on one of my favorite places, the Lick Observatory on Mt Hamilton, near San Jose, California, and discovered something about Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, that I never knew.

I knew that W1AW is buried in Hagerstown, Maryland, because my sister-in-law lives there and the Rose Hill Cemetery gets lots of ham visitors. Until doing the Lick Observatory research, I had no clue why he was buried in Maryland, and not near his home in Connecticut.

Starting at the end of the story, Maxim is buried in his wife's family plot in Hagerstown. His wife was the daughter of a former governor of Maryland, Alexander T. Hamilton. Maxim died unexpectedly and had made no burial arrangements. His widow, faced with a sudden decision in the midst of grief, simply decided to bury him alongside her own relatives.

To make a very long story short...in February 1936, Maxim visited the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton. After his visit, he planned to travel by train back to Connecticut. On February 16th, shortly after his train had cleared the Royal Gorge in Colorado, Maxim fell ill. He was taken off the train and hospitalized in La Junta, Colorado, where he died the following day, February 17th.

Too bad we missed an opportunity to set up special event stations on the 70th anniversary of his passing. I think it would have been a fine tribute if we'd had stations at Mt Hamilton, La Junta, Hagerstown and Hartford. Having missed that, maybe we can plan to do this for the 75th.

Mt Hamilton? There's apparently no connection to Mrs. Maxim's family. As I recall from a plaque at the observatory, a survey team lead by a Mr. Whitney was mapping California's mountains. He invited a friend of his, a pastor named Hamilton, to accompany him one day, and Hamilton happened to be the first of the party to set foot on the summit of a mountain. The surveyor light-heartedly named the mountain after his friend and the name stuck. (Later, Mount Whitney was named after the surveyor.) Interestingly, Mt. Hamilton was originally the highest peak in its local range, but due to the construction needed to build the observatory, the mountain top was leveled off to an altitude below the neighboring peaks.

**(continued next column)**

## **( Where did..? Continued)**

Twice on Mount Hamilton, I've missed the "green flash" when everyone in the star party but me saw it. One other time, almost everyone observed a "blue flash" but all I saw was a setting sun. I wonder what W1AW saw while he was there and if he left a journal or sent a letter to his family.

...by Bascombe J. Wilson, Disaster.org

**(submitted by Bob WD4CNZ)**

## **Lithium battery packs...can explode**

**Henry KF4ODC** sent this along and may of interest to those of us using lithium battery packs in radios, cell phones etc. It's taken from the Yaesu website.

....a question was asked about opening battery packs, and about LiON packs.

...if you break the layers (of Li foil and plastic "electrolyte") they can flame out, with a jet of flame up to 5 feet lasting up to a minute or so depending on the size of the cell. (Andy 2E0LUX). Tom KC7BJE writes that this can happen (or they can explode) if they are improperly or over charged, as might happen if charging while using the radio / phone / etc. To see what he means he suggests using your cell phone while charging it. See how hot it gets after a few minutes. Then turn it off, let it cool and charge again while it's not turned on. See the difference in battery pack temperature.

Tom suggests that this same thing is happening when you use your radio (with LiON battery pack) and charge it at the same time. Many newer packs have circuits to prevent overcharging, however not all do, and they do not protect against heat build up.

## **ARRL Straight Key Night Dec 31**

Okay, so you used to know CW, can you still copy it? Have you tried? Want some fun that's not a contest? Try to ARRL Straight Key Night, where the object is to actually "talk" to some one using CW keyed by a straight key. This is in contrast to the common contest mode of simply make the required "exchange" (RST, section etc) using keyers, memory keyers, computers etc. Some hams use "old gear or vintage" and "bugs" just for added fun.

Straight key night starts December 31 at 7:00 pm EST and runs for 24 hours. For more information see [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests) Try it...have some fun, don't worry about mistakes, I'm not going to...'skx

**THE SMOKE TEST**  
**The Official Publication of the**  
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**PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802**  
**www.wcars.org**  
**W4MOE/146.910 - /pl 91.5 Spivey Mtn/AVL**

**2007 OFFICERS**

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	<a href="mailto:esmccabe@charter.net">esmccabe@charter.net</a>
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Treasurer	Karl Krauss	K4PCY	674-8480	<a href="mailto:kraussmail@bellsouth.net">kraussmail@bellsouth.net</a>
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Exec. Ctm	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	<a href="mailto:olblu@charter.net">olblu@charter.net</a>
Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	<a href="mailto:normalharrill@att.net">normalharrill@att.net</a>
Quarter Master	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	<a href="mailto:elwood3@charter.net">elwood3@charter.net</a>
Awards Chair	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	<a href="mailto:WD4CNZ@arrl.net">WD4CNZ@arrl.net</a>
Public Info	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	<a href="mailto:WD4CNZ@arrl.net">WD4CNZ@arrl.net</a>
Field Day 06 Chair	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	<a href="mailto:olblu@charter.net">olblu@charter.net</a>
Hamfest Chair 2006	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	<a href="mailto:K2JB@arrl.net">K2JB@arrl.net</a>
Smoketest Ed.	Dick Burns	K8SKX		<a href="mailto:K8SKX@arrl.net">K8SKX@arrl.net</a>

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.

**Weekly Nets of local interest**

Net	Freq(mHz) offset / PL	Day	Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Monday	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190 -	Sunday	21:00	
BRARC Net	146.640 - / 91.5	Sunday	20:00	
Good Morning Net	146.760 -	M-W-F	9:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Cty Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660 - / 100	Tuesday	21:00	Madison Cty Emerg Comm Net
Buncombe Cty Emerg Mgt Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Wednesday	21:00	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Volunteer Net	147.180 + / 136.5	Friday	21:00	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190 -	Saturday	21:00	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610 -	Nightly	21:00	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 -	Sunday	21:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 -	Monday	20:00	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	10:00	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	18:30	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	19:00	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	19:30	Directed Net, NC Emerg Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	20:00	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	22:00	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net

**Please send additions-corrections-deletions to the editor**

## **Coming Events**

12/7 **NO WCARS BUSINESS MEETING**

12/9 WCARS Christmas dinner, 5:30pm Blackmer  
Masonic Lodge, Weaverville (see map)

## **Contests**

12/1 ARRL 160m Contest – CW only

12/1 New Mexico QSO party

12/16 PSK-31 Death Match. Info at  
[www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html](http://www.mdxa1.org/deathmatch.html)

12/9 ARRL 10m Contest

12/31 ARRL Straight Key Night

Contest info: [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

**WCARS**

**PO Box 1488**

**Asheville, NC 28802-1488**