

DECEMBER 2006

The Official Publication of

The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc

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

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/7/257/2422/01jan2006/1800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E619189.pdf>

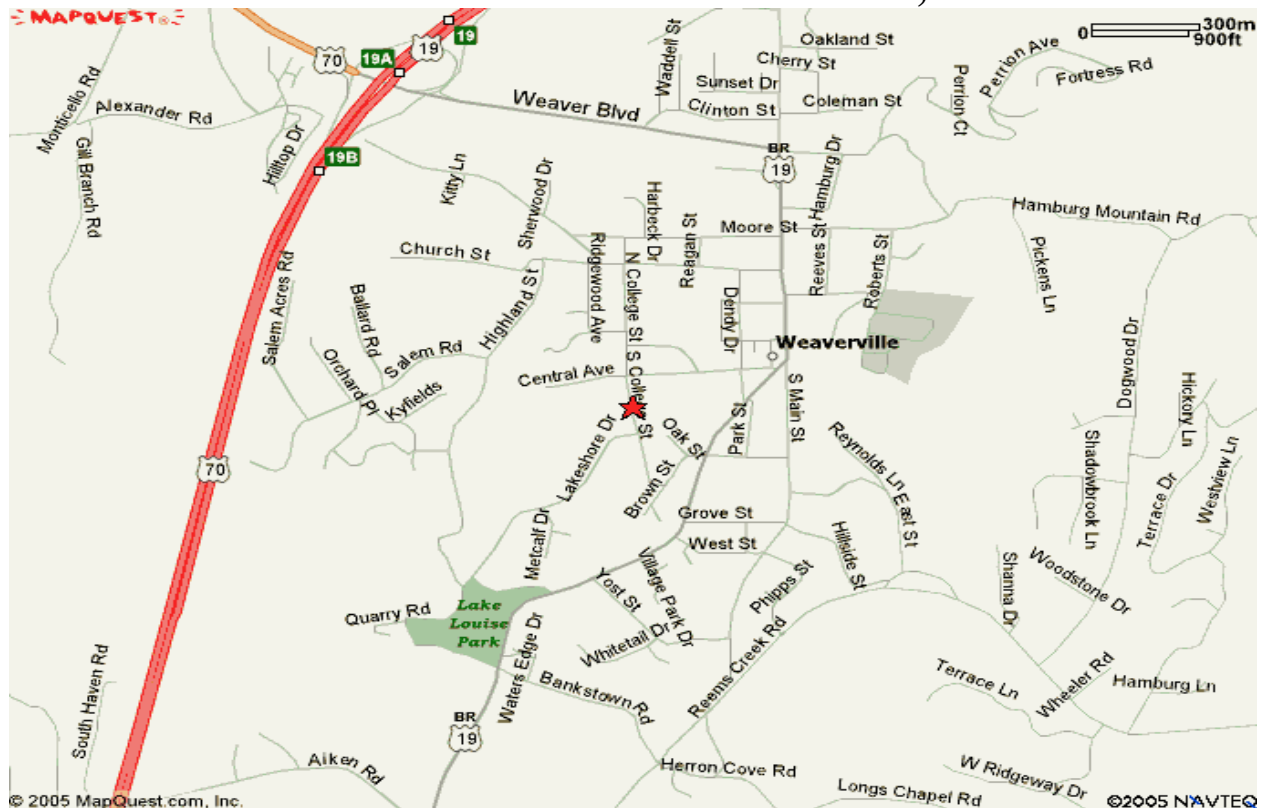
The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the Federal Register and the Erratum -- take effect Friday, Dec 15, 12:01am est. (from ARRLBulletin 028, 11/29/06)

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 Try it...have some fun, don't worry about mistakes, I'm not going to...'skx

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 Mtn/AVL

2007 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice-Pres	John Davis	AI4HY	253-4490	docjdb@aol.com
Secretary	Karen Smith	KG4OUP	890-5103	KG4OUP@arrl.net
Treasurer	Karl Krauss	K4PCY	674-8480	kraussmail@bellsouth.net
Exec. Ctm	Ken Smith	KE4VMB	890-5103	KE4VMB@arrl.net
Exec. Ctm	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	olblu@charter.net
Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	normalharrill@att.net
Quarter Master	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Awards Chair	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	WD4CNZ@arrl.net
Public Info	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	WD4CNZ@arrl.net
Field Day 06 Chair	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	olblu@charter.net
Hamfest Chair 2006	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	K2JB@arrl.net
Smoketest Ed.	Dick Burns	K8SKX		K8SKX@arrl.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.

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

12/9 ARRL 10m Contest

12/31 ARRL Straight Key Night

Contest info: www.arrl.org/contests

WCARS

PO Box 1488

Asheville, NC 28802-1488