



WCARS.org
December 2007

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

President's Microphone...Scott - W4IYS

All members are invited to the annual Christmas dinner. This is the perfect opportunity for each club member to get to know their fellow "hams" in more than the usual settings, club meetings, hamfests and the like. Hope to see you there, and at the next club meeting. 73



ARRL Continuing Education Courses begin Friday, December 7.

Technician License Course ([EC-010](#)); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 ([EC-001](#)); Radio Frequency Interference ([EC-006](#)); Antenna Design and Construction ([EC-009](#)); Analog Electronics ([EC-012](#)), and Digital Electronics ([EC-013](#)). To learn more, visit the [CCE Course Listing page](#) or [contact](#) the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

EINSTEIN ON RADIO

"I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." Attributed to Albert Einstein

...**Members** are reminded to keep their membership information (e-mail, mailing address, etc.) and dues payment current. Names are removed from the mailing list when dues are in arrears at the end of the second month. Editor

November 1st Minutes Karen - KG4OUP

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. The pledge to the flag was given. Introductions were made. 33+ and 1 guest were in attendance. Nominations for officers for 2008 were read and accepted. The following will lead WCARS in 2008: President: Scott McCabe, Vice President: Frank Florianz, Secretary: Steve Emory, Treasurer: David Wilson. Best of luck to all of you in 2008. See Smoke Test for a list of all other officers. Norm - N4NH reported the date of the next test session. Chet - KE4VXC took the vote for Ham of the Year. You will find out who it is at the Christmas party. The Christmas party will be held December 8th at the usual location in Weaverville. Time will be 6:00 pm. Scott - W4IYS asked for e-mail updates and let him know if you are getting e-mails from him. The executive committee voted for a professional to come check out the repeater and do needed repairs. John - W4QCF presented the program from the PBS program "Our State" called "In Tune", shown on broadcast in October. And Tommy - K4BNP demonstrated Morse Code, and answered questions. The 50/50 was won by: Steve Emory - KF4TVD, Tommy Queen - K4BNP and Michael Brown - KI4WCA. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES

No two disasters are the same. Each major incident presents has its own unique problems...and solutions. There is something to be learned from every incident...no matter how large or small. One axiom that remains constant is that experience and training are paramount. It is also true that leaders in every discipline must be able "to think outside the box."

The recent conflagration in Southern California is no exception. We heard numerous reports that amateur radio operators in Southern California were ready and eager to respond. The media reports were very alarming and ARES@ leaders in Arizona and Nevada offered to send operators. WRRL decided not to place its TYPE I ARCT (based in San Francisco) on stand-by.

But unlike Katrina and her ugly sisters, Rita and Wilma, the commercial and public safety communications infrastructure remained intact. There was no identified need for welfare (W) or any other precedence message traffic on behalf of the general public. And, as far as we know, there was no need for amateur radio auxiliary communications by any "served agency." Therefore, no official request for amateur emcomm was issued by Incident Commanders. We received one report that some uninvited hams were told to "get out and go home" by one law enforcement agency.

We are aware however, that quite a few hams volunteered and were utilized in other aspects of the disaster relief effort. No doubt they used amateur radio for their own communications. We have not heard a single report of any third party message traffic (either TACTICAL or FORMAL), actually being handled for an agency or the general public. At Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego (the largest evacuation center), three major cellular telephone providers brought in COWS units (cellular on wheels), and provided cell phone service on loan for brief calls from evacuees to loved ones, etc. Also, since this is mostly a very affluent area, most evacuees

brought their own cell phones (and chargers) with them.

Since 2001, billions of dollars has been spent on improving public safety communications in the United States alone. Most of the public safety communications systems in San Diego County have power backup (propane generators into battery banks) that can keep the sites running for several weeks if the power goes out. Most of the cell sites have the same capability.

Over the past few years, the American Red Cross has developed its own non-amateur radio field communication system (at tremendous expense) and has recruited and trained its own push-button communications specialists.

Will amateur radio emcomm be needed in the future? Absolutely. But "served agencies" that have been so highly courted by many in the past, will have less and less need for auxiliary communications. And even if they do, they will be reluctant to allow amateur radio operators to handle any crucial traffic. In fact, a state official in a major state recently said: "We will never allow hams to handle any of our official traffic. But we will use them to fuel generators, make copies or coffee, and watch the parking lot." Many agencies view hams as nothing more than a bunch of "wannabe's" wearing a belt full of handie-talkies. Sadly, they are often correct.

Many of those who have bought into the "served agency" notion like to think that they are important. While they may be tolerated, any real importance will diminish in the future. This may be a bitter pill for some of our readers to swallow, but FCC Part 97.1 makes no mention of "served agencies." But it does however state that service to the public and emergency communications as the number one basis and purpose of the amateur service.

Sadly, very few hams care about providing H & W traffic on behalf of the general public. But this "client group" should be our first priority. And soon it may be our only client group.

In the final analysis, as we have always said: "A message is a message is a message." All amateur radio emcomm operators and stations should be ready and capable of originating, relaying and delivering tactical and/or formal (RADIOGRAMS) record message traffic, of any precedence whether it is welfare (W), routine (R), priority (P), or emergency (EMERGENCY), and be ready and available to serve both government and private agencies, as well as, the general public. EM (EmComm) Monthly 11-07

Dear WCARS Family:

I thank you for letting me serve as your secretary for the last 3 years. It has been a pleasure and a lot of fun interacting with you. I have enjoyed getting to know each and everyone of you! I must say it was a hard decision to give up my "job", but with the price of gas and Kenneth starting school the Fall of 2008 it was a choice I had to make. As many of you know Ken - KEVVMB and I live out in Henderson County, but we do enjoy coming to the meetings. Best of luck to the new officers for 2008 and to WCARS.

Fondly your Secretary,
Karen A. Smith - KG4OUP

Hamfest Calendar

Dec 1 Gastonia, NC, Gastonia Area ARC, Gastonia Farmers Market, 410 E Long Ave, 8 am - noon, Swapfest. *Ti*: 146.805. *Adm*: \$5. Paul Williams, K4PJW, 703 McAdenville Rd, Lowell, NC 28098-1621; 704-200-0450, fax 704-810-3149; arrrl@k4pjw.net; www.gaarc.com

Jan 5, 8 AM-3 PM. *Spr*: Lakeway ARC. Smoky Mountains Expo Center, 1615 Pavilion Dr. 17th Annual Morristown Hamfest, VE sessions, handicapped accessible. *Ti*: 147.03. *Adm*: \$6. Tables: \$15. Henry McClary, AG4QG, 2105 Tobes Creek Rd, Cosby, TN 37722; 423-487-0332; qsl@hughes.net; www.lakewayarc.org.

Special Events Calendar

Dec 1, 1300Z-2100Z, Blount County, TN. Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club, W4OLB. Celebrating 60 years as a radio club. SSB 20 and 40 meters. QSL. Carroll Peabody, W4PCA, 2054 Independence Dr, Maryville, TN 37803. w4pca@juno.com www.smokymountainarc.org

Dec 1-Dec 2, 1500Z-2100Z, Chesapeake, VA. Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service, W4CAR. Revolutionary War Battle of Great Bridge Virginia, December 9, 1775. 146.820 21.375 14.275 7.275. Certificate. CARS, PO Box 6867, Chesapeake, VA 23323-6867. Times are daily. w4car@yahoo.com

Dec 1-Dec 9, 1500Z-2000Z, Baltimore, MD. W3HEM/W3GR Historical Electronics Museum ARC, W2W. Usage of electronics during Pearl Harbor. 14.271 14.071 7.271 7.071. Certificate. Historical Electronics Museum, PO Box 1693 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. US hams please submit \$1.00 with an 8-1/2 x 11 SASE to help defray costs. www.qsl.net/w3hem

Dec 7, 1500Z-2230Z, Baton Rouge, LA. USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club, W5KID. Pearl Harbor Day. SSB 14.250 to 14.320 CW 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS Kidd Museum, 305 South River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm

Dec 7, 1800Z-2200Z, Interlachen, FL. USS Essex CVS-9 the oldest and the boldest, WA2SEI. Remembering Pearl Harbor and its survivors. 14.250 50.145. QSL. Raymond Czyzewski, 224 Louise Ave, Interlachen, FL 32148. wa2sei@yahoo.com or www.qrz.com/wa2sei

Dec 7-Dec 9, 0700Z-2359Z, San Angelo, TX. AB5BG, AB5BG. Pearl Harbor A Day That Will Live In Infamy. 28.360 21.220 14.260 7.235. Certificate. Donald R. Goff, 1210 Ardmore, San Angelo, TX 76905.

EMERGENCY & DISASTER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT WCU...

On November 15 a small group of section ARES leaders attended the Emergency and Disaster Leadership Summit at Western Carolina University...

State Emergency Management Director Douglas Hoell mentioned that we are not as well prepared for disasters as our grandparents. Today's citizens are not as self-reliant. We have a greater reliance on imported food and "just in time" inventory practices mean a small disruption in infrastructure can have a big impact. Local governments and individual citizens must be able to take care of themselves now more than ever. With a growing population and limited resources, the government won't be able to provide much help for 3 days to a week. Every citizen should have a family emergency plan and an emergency kit with critical items that would get them through at least 3 days, and two weeks would be better. There were many comments made during the summit about the "professionalization" of emergency management. It was agreed that emergency managers need better training and should pursue professional certifications. It was an echo of what we've been hearing about the increased training requirements for radio amateurs involved in providing emergency communications. If you wait until the next disaster, it will be too late for you to learn the skills you need to be effective. Commercial telecommunications providers are under growing pressure to provide greater resiliency and quicker recovery after a disaster. That means our window of usefulness is shrinking. We have to be on the scene quickly with trained operators who have practiced so much that the skills they need during the emergency are second nature.

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB
n4ib@arrl.org

Yogi Berrassisms - Ham Style

When Asked What The Time Was, Yogi Berra Replied "You Mean Right Now?"

Hams Reply "You Mean Right Here Or UTC?"
Never answer an anonymous QSL
You can hear a lot by listening

VE Exams December 8th

Leicester, North Carolina - 146.835 & 224.66 (Asheville Area), Leicester VFD Hwy 63 9.3 Mi N of Hwy 19 & 23 (Patton Ave - Asheville), 9:00 AM, Walk-ins only, [Larry E. York, K4MU](#) 168 Martin Branch Rd, Leicester, NC 28748, 828-683-1400, [Pat York, N4NWT](#) 168 Martin Branch Rd, Leicester, NC 28748 828-683-1400

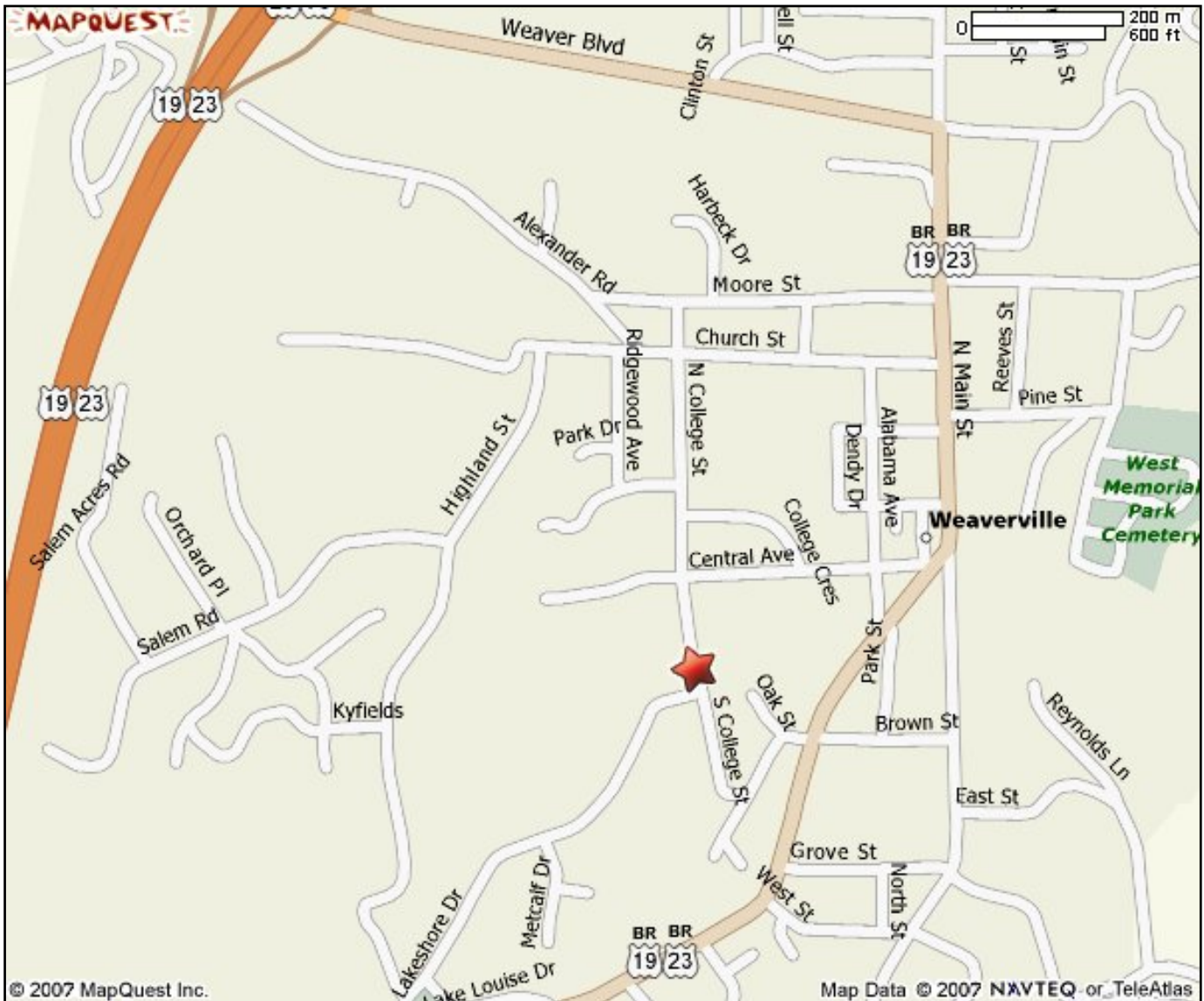
VE Exam session held November 18th

KI4MPQ - Glen, upgraded and now is an extra class licensee with the new call sign AJ4DF. David in Weaverville became a Technician with the call sign KJ4AOK. WCARS congratulates these amateurs on their accomplishments.

Top ten reasons for Field Day:

10. "I love the smell of fried power supplies in the morning."
9. Watching the FD chairman trying unsuccessfully to shoot an arrow tied to the 80-meter dipole through the top of a fir tree.
8. Seeing dignified QCWA members running around in silly T-shirts.
7. Mine field training in the cow pasture.
6. The barbecue. "CQ Food Day, CQ Food Day..."
5. Watching the FD chairman trying unsuccessfully to cook the birds he shot with the arrow while trying to raise the 80 meter dipole.
4. The eternal race between your fingers on the keyer paddles and the no-code mosquito hovering above them.
3. Seeing the FD chairman's tent fly up in the air, and wishing you had tied the 80-meter dipole to it as it flies over the fir tree.
2. Watching K9DOG lift his leg and improve your grounding system.
1. Learning from the FD chairman the correct procedure for using a Transmatch to tune a shunt fed fir tree.

WCARS Christmas dinner: December 8, 2007, 5:30 PM



The dinner will be held at the Blackmer Masonic Lodge in Weaverville (same as last year). It is at the “star” on the above map: 17 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.

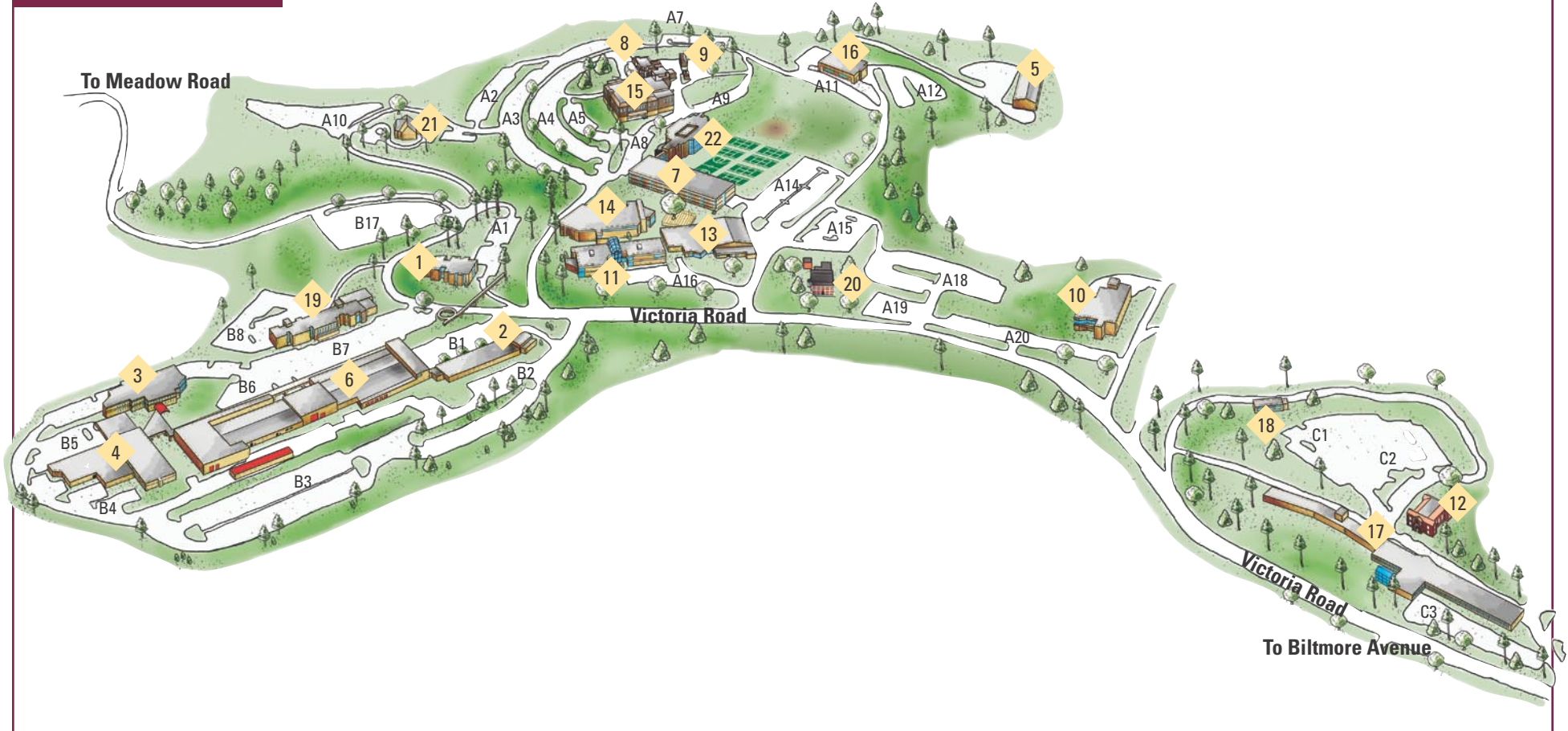
Next Meeting

The annual WCARS Christmas party is celebrated in lieu of the December regular club meeting. The next meeting will be January 3rd, 2008, in the Ferguson Auditorium, Laurel Building, AB Tech campus. AB Tech is performing a re-designation of building names and the Laurel Building will become the Ferguson Building, but by either name is indicated on the attached map. Program for January to be announced.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College



Asheville Campus



- 1 - Thomas W. Simpson Administration Building
- 2 - Azalea Building
- 3 - Balsam Computer Technology Center
- 4 - Birch Building
- 5 - Chestnut Building
- 6 - Dogwood Building
- 7 - Elm Building

- 8 - Fernihurst
- 9 - Fernihurst Annex A & B
- 10 - Hemlock Building
- 11 - Holly Learning Resources Center
- 12 - Ivy Building
- 13 - J. Herbert Coman Student Activity Center
- 14 - Laurel Building

- 15 - Magnolia Building
- 16 - Maple Building
- 17 - The Pines
- 18 - Poplar Building
- 19 - Rhododendron Building
- 20 - Smith-McDowell House Museum
- 21 - Sunnicrest
- 22 - Sycamore Building

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.

I. 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

II. LICENSE AND OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

CLASS OF CURRENT LICENSE (CHECK ONE)
___TECH ___ GENERAL ___ADVANCED ___ EXTRA
YEAR OBTAINED _____ YEAR FIRST LICENSED _____
PREVIOUS CALLS HELD: _____
EMPLOYER: _____ WORK PHONE: _____
OCCUPATION: _____

III. 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

IV. 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

THE SMOKE TEST

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Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
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 W4MOE/146.910 - /PL 91.5 Spivey Mountain/Asheville

2007 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice-President	John Davis	AI4HY	232-0023	docjbd@aol.com
Secretary	Karen Smith	KG4OUP	890-5103	kg4oup@arrl.net
Treasurer	Karl Krauss	K4PCY	674-8480	kraussmail@bellsouth.net
Executive Committee	Ken Smith	KE4VMB	890-5103	ke4vmb@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	olblu@charter.net
Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Awards Chair	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@arrl.net
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@arrl.net
Field Day 07 Chair	Chet Allen	KE4VXC	258-3954	olblu@charter.net
Hamfest Chair 2007	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
Smoketest Editor	Steve Emory	KF4TVD	658-0261	kf4tvd@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 per year payable in January.

Net	Freq (MHz) offset / PL	Day	12 Hr Time	24 Hr Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Monday	9:00 pm	2100	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190 -	Sunday	9:00 pm	2100	
BRARC Net	146.640 - / 91.5	Sunday	8:00pm	2000	
Good Morning Net	146.760 -	M-W-F	9:00 am	0900	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Co. Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660 - / 100	Tuesday	9:00 pm	2100	Madison Co. Emerg. Comm. Net
Buncombe Co. Emerg Mgt Net	146.910 - / 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 pm	2100	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Volunteer Net	147.180 + / 136.5	Friday	9:00 pm	2100	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190 -	Saturday	9:00 pm	2100	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610 -	Nightly	9:00 pm	2100	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 -	Sunday	9:00 pm	2100	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 -	Monday	8:00 pm	2000	Informal, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm Z	1500 Z	Salvation Army Team Emerg. Radio net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00 am	0700	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45 am	0745	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	6:30 pm	1830	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	7:00 pm	1900	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	7:30 pm	1930	Directed Net, NC Emerg. Mgt / traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	8:00 pm	2000	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	10:00 pm	2200	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net