



WCARS.org
December 2009

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

President's Microphone...

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Shut-In Ridge Run November 7th. This event provided a public demonstration of the amateur radio service communications skills. The December meeting, as always, is moved to Saturday, December 5th, at the Candler Masonic Lodge, 6:00PM. Please be there (with covered dish (with food inside)). Hope to see everyone soon.
73 Dean ~ k2jb

BCARES SET

On October 31st, Buncombe County ARES conducted a local Simulated Emergency Test (SET). The exercise included test message handling, tactical communications, repeater/simplex, on/off net operations, and other activities to determine what would work and what wouldn't. One measure of the success of the exercise included formal message handling. Returned messages were compared to the originals after being passed through up to five relay stations, on VHF, 220, and HF frequencies by repeater or simplex operation. NTS (ARRL radiogram) formats were used for the messages. Net Control stations maintained message logging and tracking of station participation/location. The results exceeded our expectations. Station operators relayed messages seamlessly, on frequencies/modes selected by the operators themselves, and returned verbatim every time.

Thanks to the BCARES members who participated in this years exercise and for your interest in local ARES activity.
K8SKX - Dick - BCARES EC

WCARS Information Net (Callsign W4MOE)

11/2/09; K2JB as NCS; 12 check-ins
11/9/09; K2JB as NCS; 22 check-ins
11/16/09; N4SET as NCS; 18 check-ins
11/23/09; K2JB as NCS; 16 check-ins

NCVEC to Release New Technician Question Pool to Public in January 2010

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010... The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

SB SPCL ARL ARLX012 From ARRL

ARRL Roanoke Division Election...

Roanoke Division Vice Director Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, decided not to seek another term. South Carolina Section Manager Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, of Aiken, and former West Virginia Section Manager Hal Turley, W8HC, of Huntington, were both nominated to succeed her. Boehner won the election with 1692 votes; Turley received 1496 votes. Boehner, first licensed in 1969, holds an Amateur Extra class license. He is a physician specializing in women's healthcare. Boehner has served four terms as the ARRL South Carolina Section Manager. "My original plan [when I was first elected Section Manager] for the South Carolina Section was to expand participation in and unify the ARRL Field Organization in the Section," he said in his position statement. "At this time, we have active participation in all of the major cabinet positions and more than 100 active appointees..."
From ARRL

SKYWARN Recognition Day

The 11th Annual Special Event will take place **Saturday, December 5, 2009**. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24-hour event...
If you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Just submit a list of the station(s) you worked to Submit a list of the NWS stations you worked with a self-addressed stamped envelope to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2009 your year to do so!
From ARRL

WCARS current events

Randy KI4VLW, the 2010 Hamfest Chair, has already put the wheels in motion for this year's hamfest. The SERA Journal will feature a ½ page advertisement and application form for anyone wishing to register in advance of this year's event. Randy is also coordinating a membership drive centered on non-member hams in our WNC area, especially Buncombe County.
N4SET

Hamfest Calendar

2 Jan 19th Annual Morristown Hamfest, Lakeway Amateur Radio Club, Smoky Mountain Expo Center, 1615 Pavilion Drive, White Pine, TN <http://www.lakewayarc.org/> Talk-In: 147.030+ Contact: June McClary, AI4SO 2105 Tobes Creek Road Cosby, TN 37722 Phone: 865-322-0683 Email: june.ai4so@gmail.com

VE Exams

Dec 5 Sponsor: MARA CLUBHOUSE 146.985 Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: LARRY S WITHROW (828)652-4195 Email: AF4HX@CHARTER.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: MCDOWELL ARA CLUBHOUSE EAST COURT STREET ACROSS STREET FROM COURTHOUSE REGISTER AT 8:30 AM MARION, NC 28752
Dec 12 Sponsor: KG4LVO Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: EDWIN A FLOWERS (828)342-5216 Email: KG4LVO@YAHOO.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: ANDREWS PUBLIC LIBRARY- CONFERENCE RM 871 MAIN ST BUSINESS US 19 AT WALNUT ST TESTING FEE \$15 ANDREWS, NC 28901
Dec 12- 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 Pat York N4NWT, 168 Martin Branch Rd, Leicester, NC 28748 828-683-1400

VE Exams (Cont'd)

Greenville, South Carolina - 146.61 **First Saturday each Month, 8:30 AM** Red Cross Building - 940 Grove Road Walk-ins normally accepted Sue L. Chism, N4ENX 139 Mustang Circle Simpsonville, SC 29681-5753 864-967-0001

Asheville, North Carolina - 146.91 & 146.76 & 224.60 2:00 PM, **third Sunday, second month of quarter** Room 134, Elm Building - AB Tech Walk-ins only Steve Lanford, AG4BY 101 King St. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-645-3511

Michael Robinson, AD4XZ 99 High Point Rd. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-626-3270

Hendersonville, North Carolina - 146.64 & 442.450 Mountain Home Fire Department, Hwy 25 9:00 AM **Second Saturday of second month of quarter** Sid Hendricks, W4IOE 144 Duncan Creek Rd Fletcher, NC 28732 828-684-8130 Michael Parente, AI4GR PO Box 2577

Hendersonville, NC 28793 828-891-8970

Contact VE for Exam Dates:

Burnsville, NC - 147.375 Yancey County Public Library - Town Square Burnsville David McCarty, W4TDM 391 E. Main Street Burnsville, NC 28714 828-675-9044 Barry McKinney Rt 2 Box 1122 Burnsville, NC 28714 828-682-9270

Columbus, NC Wayne Ackerman, W3GYK 621 Laurel Lake Drive, Unit B-104 Columbus, N C 28722-7436 828-894-5542 Rutherford County, North Carolina - 147.24 Isothermal College, **Spindale, NC** F. Bruce Tessinear, KD4OJ P. O. Box 341 Henrietta, NC 28076 828-657-5464 A. B. Brackett, AB4E 117 Toney Rd Bostic, NC 28018 828-245-6334

Tarheel Net moved to 160m

The Tarheel Emergency Net has been struggling. Net Manager Mark Cantrell, KD4IMA, has announced that effective immediately the net will be moving to 160m. Mark reports "our plan is to start at 1.943, then if we find the frequency in use, move up by 10 kHz increments - 1.953, 1.963, 1.973, 1.983, 1.993. The Tarheel Net will leave a station behind on 3.923MHz at net time to move any potential check-ins who aren't aware of the change.

From NC ARRLSection News

A new UHF repeater is available for use in the WNC area. It is located on the WCQS transmitting tower at about 6100 feet. The frequency is 444.875 (+ Offset, 131.8 Hz tone). It appears to have excellent coverage. In addition to the coverage, another great feature is it is linked into the IRLP network. This lets you talk through linked repeaters all over the world by entering a few digits through your radio's touch-tone pad. To learn more about how to use IRLP and the do's and don'ts, visit www.k4rcc.com and click on the IRLP link.

The owner of the repeater is Russ Crisp, K4RCC. I work with Russ in the IT department at WCU. Give it a try! I'll be monitoring while at home so give me call if you can get in.

73 - Al, WD4A

From KF4PYX via KI4VLW

N4NC is now the callsign for the Cary Amateur Radio Club (CARC), PO Box 53, Cary, NC 27512.

Some of you may remember the callsign as that of Bob Herman, at one time a resident of WNC. A description of Bob's adult activities can be found at the CARC web page: <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/n4nc.html>.

A few weeks ago, someone mentioned Bob and his callsign on one of the evening nets, and inquired as to whatever happened to Bob, and that he became a silent key. The above link provides a good review of Bob and his radio interests and activities.

N4SET

More Cosponsors for HR 2160

Two more Congressional Representatives -- Andre Carson (D-IN-7), and C.W. Bill Young (R-FL-10) -- pledged their support for HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, bringing the total number of cosponsors to 31. From ARRL Letter 11-5-09

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ARRL members can have the ARES® E-Letter sent to them each month. Just sign up at:

www.arrl.org/ares-letter.

You must be logged into the ARRL Web site to access this link.

Special Events

Dec 1-Dec 16, 1800Z-0400Z

Sevierville, TN Sevier County Emergency Radio Service, W4W. Sevier County Emergency Radio Christmas QSO Party. 28.350 14.260 7.250 3.840 QSL. QSL direct to amateur operating the W4W special event station.

N4JTQ@live.com or

www.freewebs.com/arestadio/index.htm

Dec 7 0000Z-2359Z Wilmington, NC. Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club, NI4BK. Pearl Harbor Day from Battleship North Carolina. 14.255 14.030 7.255 7.030. QSL. Azalea Coast ARC, PO Box 4044, Wilmington, NC 28406. Will be using restored original WWII equipment for CW operations. www.ac4rc.org

ARRL Continuing Education Online Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 27, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 8, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons

and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit the Continuing Education Program page or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator.

ARRL



Is this the new OSHA warning soon to be required at all operating stations?

WCARS Christmas Dinner

Is set for Saturday, December 5th, 2009, at the Candler Masonic Lodge, 6:00 PM. The regular club meeting will not be held in December. A map of the location is available on the last page of this newsletter.

January Meeting - The next WCARS meeting will be January 7, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

November 5th Minutes...Bob - WD4CNZ

The November 5, 2009 meeting of WCARS was called to order at 7:31pm by President Dean Blair K2JB.

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

Each attendee was then asked to introduce themselves giving name, callsign, and QTH.

As the Minutes of last month's meeting were printed in SMOKETEST, a motion to wave the reading of the Minutes was received, seconded, and voted to wave.

The Treasurer, Steve Emory N4SET, read the treasurer's report, which was received with thanks.

Dean reported that the WCARS web page is back up and available.

Dean announced a reminder of the Shut-In Race to be held Nov 7 with WCARS members posted at water stops providing communications. He reported that the 146.91 club repeater would be used with 146.105 as backup.

Dean announced the annual Christmas Party would be held Dec 5 at the Masonic Lodge in Candler. Talk-in will use the club repeater (146.91).

Dean announced that membership dues are due in January with the \$20 as the cost and is the same as last year.

Dean showed WA4NUO's "presentation" from the Internet about Ralph Robert's duty in Vietnam. In honor of Veteran's Day, members had been asked to bring a picture of themselves in uniform. Veterans were asked to stand and be recognized and received an ovation from the group.

A presentation of information about the Cash Gregg Award was made by Carl Smith N4AA on the history of the award. Nominations for this year's award were collected by secret ballot.

Nominations for WCARS club officers were announced for 2010 as follows:

President: SCOTT McKAY

Vice-President: CARL SMITH

Secretary: BOB DOCKERY

Treasurer: STEVE EMORY

No other nominations were received and this slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

A discussion about SMOKETEST followed with Carl Smith volunteering to edit SMOKETEST, put it online, and also send printed copies to those members requesting a printed copy.

The PROGRAM for this meeting was presented by Michael KI4WCA. He explained in detail the use/advantages/disadvantages/needed information about the different kinds of storage batteries. He included information about battery life preservation needs, life expectancy, and safety concerns.

The 50-50 prize was drawn and awarded to Linda KJ4CRL.

The door prize was drawn and awarded to Steve N4SET.

Dean concluded by asking everyone to help Randy call hams in the area and invite them to join WCARS in 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm. Refreshments and fellowship followed.

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 Mountain/Asheville

2009 OFFICERS

President	Dean Blair	K2JB	655-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
Vice-President	Michael Brown	KI4WCA	Unlisted	brownpiggin@gmail.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
Executive Committee	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@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
Hamfest 09	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	Elwood3@charter.net
Smoke Test Editor	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@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	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910-/91.5	Monday	9:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190	Sunday	9:00 pm	
BRARC Net	146.640/91.5	Sunday	8:00pm	
Good Morning Net	146.760	M-W-F	9:00 am	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Co. Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660/100	Tuesday	9:00 pm	Madison Co. Emerg. Comm. Net
Buncombe Co. Emerg Mgt Net	146.910/91.5	Wednesday	9:00 pm	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Haywood County Roundtable	147.390/94.8	Monday	8:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Volunteer Net	147.180+/136.5	Friday	9:00 pm	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190	Saturday	9:00 pm	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610	Nightly	9:00 pm	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260	Sunday	9:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540	Monday	8:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell Rag Chew Net	442.225+/107.2	Monday	9:00 pm	Directed, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm	Salvation Army Team Emergency Net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00 am	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45 am	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	6:30 pm	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	7:00 pm	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	7:30 pm	Directed, NC Emergency Mgt/Traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	8:00 pm	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	10:00 pm	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net

Special Recognition from a ham

On November 10, 2009, Wayland Bradley - K4WS, sent the following e-letter to K2JB:
Hi Dean:

I have been aiming to contact you for some time about the future status of the hamfest. I always come with my wife and bring our son and his family and take the grandkids to the Indian Reservation. We always have gotten accommodations at the Super 8 in recent years.

My wife was a very sick lady when we first came to the Waynesville site together. She had lost a major portion of her colon and it was boiling hot and she was just downright sick. I asked her, after checking in to an empty motel which scared her, to go find the hamfest and "get lost" in daylight the day before and we could not have the same problem Saturday morning! We did and she wasn't too happy. We were actually staying in the Junaluska main drag at the "rocking chair" sign motel on the way to Cherokee.

I pulled up in the parking lot and told her I was going to try to buy tickets. She was hungry also. Your contact people were out and about and the one elderly gentleman, I haven't seen for some time now, told me sure that I could go in and buy tickets and even see the stuff already set up. I was told by my wife not to stay long. I didn't and as I headed to the car, the gentleman asked me if we weren't going to stay for supper? I asked what supper. He explained, and I commented that we didn't know about it and had no covered dish. He smiled and said bring one next year. When I told my wife I had good news for her, she said I bet. We haven't stopped coming to this wonderful fellowship AND great little hamfest since!

I sold what little I had on Friday before supper and there was a problem with tables and you probably remember me "giving", in the end, my table to an obnoxious old codger staying with a friend up in the condos or whatever is above the fairgrounds. My wife helped you with the food work at times if you remember, black headed lady, glasses, etc. Her name is Regena and not a ham. She and I only went to

this one fest every year for a few years now, BECAUSE of the FELLOWSHIP and LOCATION. We slept in Saturday morning and headed back across the mountain to Hot Springs to our favorite diner on the way home. BUT my wife told me that she heard you or others say that this would probably be the last one held there as the fairgrounds had been sold and that the rent was going to be outrageous. I hope that something can be worked out. I have been to the previous locations of the "Asheville" hamfest, and no recollection, but in fairness, it is a reflection. No hamfest in Asheville proper, Leicester, or wherever could ever touch this beautiful serenity of the Waynesville site.

I am just letting you guys know how much we Tennessee 'ns have enjoyed it there, and that we would not be interested in another site as we see Asheville, and most surrounding areas just like you. There is beauty, just like in my hometown here, Greeneville, TN, across the mountain, but not that "vacation" getaway setting of your most recent hamfest site-Waynesville.

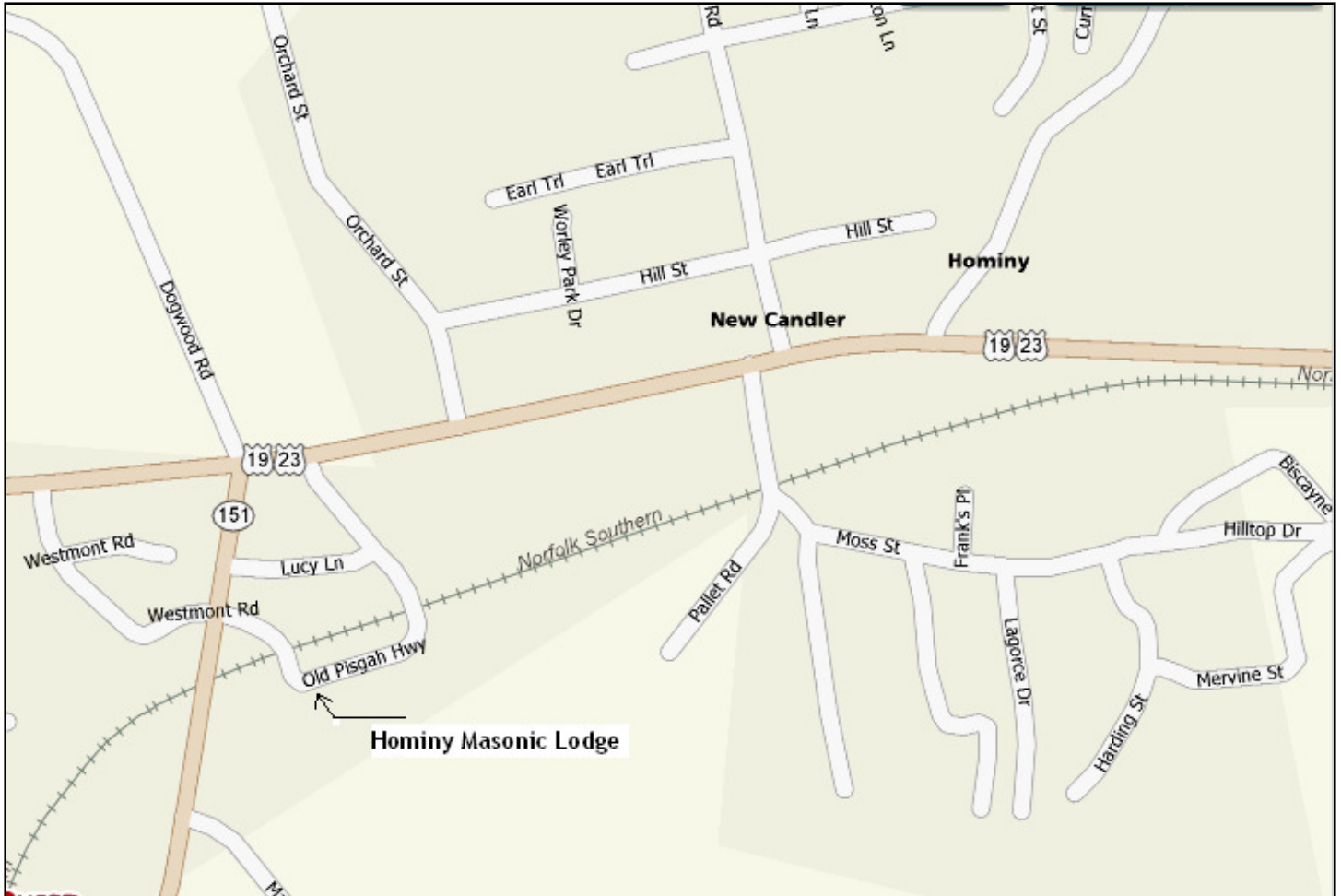
We pray that you can work something out and continue to stay in that area, but if not, thanks for all the memories!

Pardon any spelling errors, grammatical problems but my glasses broke last night! Ha! Getting ready to go get that fixed!

73 and God bless all of you guys and gals in your future decision-making, and I realize as all do that the economy is definitely a factor. Thanks, and we surely will all miss that homemade cornbread and chili! Ha!
Wayland Bradley - K4WS

WCARS enjoyed a successful and prosperous hamfest this year; such positive feedback should encourage us to strive for an even better event this year!
N4SET

Hominy Masonic Lodge # 491, just off the Pisgah Highway, Candler, NC



Nov-19th BCARES Meeting

The Buncombe County ARES group met on November 19th in the new EOC on Erwin Hills Road, in the section designated for ARES use by the Emergency Management Director, Jerry Ve Haun - WA4GTT. The group familiarized themselves with the layout, location of equipment, routing of cables, features of the area in addition to radio capabilities, etc. Already available for use are HF, VHF, 220 and UHF radios, each with separate power supply.

WA4GTT was able to obtain 100% funding for the antennas now installed. Dave Anderson - K4SV provided all the LMR400 coax, premium grade connectors, and the labor to make all the connections.

Greg - KI4TMD, coordinated the physical installation the antennas, routing of the cables, and other activities connected with bringing the facility up to its current condition (ready for ARES use).

The EOC location comes with generator backup power, internet, Field Station electrical hookups, and other amenities to facilitate essential communications.

The ARES group appreciates the hard work of everyone involved with this effort. The contributions of all those mentioned here cannot be overstated.

K8SKX - Dick Burns, Buncombe County EC