



WCARS.org  
December 2010

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

### President's Microphone

This is the only time of the year we get together socially without a microphone in our hands, a time to really enjoy each other so please bring some food and let's enjoy the fellowship. Life is too short to fly through it and not slow down long enough to enjoy a meal together have a happy and blessed thanksgiving.

Scott, W4IYS

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### Where do we go from here?

Well, there are many places we could go. You are a member of WCARS, so ... where do we go from here?

The Constitution and By Laws need a serious review. We know there are some things in there that really should be changed, aren't there?

We had no Field Day activity in 2010. That was a first in untold decades. We have always had Field Day some where, and some how. That has to change for 2011.

There has been a lot of conversation about the MOE van and something to replace it. A trailer, or some other shelter that could be used. Used for what? What do we want it for? Will it be used more than twice a year? If not, why not? If it will not be used more than that, why spend the money, and have the worry about where to keep it and who's going to keep it under control.

Lots of clubs/groups have vehicles/van/trailers and some of them even make use of them some-time, somewhere. If there is a genuine need and justification for such a "vehicle" let's get on with doing something about it. If there is no need/justification, let's get on without one.

You're a member of WCARS. Where do we go from here? Attend the meetings and speak up.

**NO BUSINESS MEETING FOR DECEMBER**  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**DECEMBER 5TH.**  
**A SPECIAL PAGE IS INCLUDED**  
**WITH DETAILS AND A MAP.**

### BCARES

What is BCARES ?

Well, BCARES stands for

BUNCOMBE  
COUNTY  
AMATEUR  
RADIO  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICE

When we have an emergency in this area that takes out communications capabilities for Public Service agencies (such as Fire/Rescue/Law Enforcement/American Red Cross) Amateur Radio **MAY** be called upon to "fill in the void."

This is the area where Amateur Radio shines. We are the "auxiliary" or backup for those agencies when normal facilities fail to work. This has been shown to work, time and time again, over many decades. It works as well - perhaps better - than it ever has simply because we have better resources ourselves, in the form of equipment, but more than that, in experience. We practice and evaluate that practice, then we practice again and evaluate again, until we get it right. The agencies we serve are well aware of who we are and what we are capable of, if and when they need us.

However, we can't rest on our history. We need to continue to learn, practice and be prepared for whatever comes our way.

Are you part of the BCARES group? Listen on the 91 repeater at 9-PM on Wednesday evenings or better yet, check in and learn even more.

## Minutes of Meeting, November 4, 2010

From Dreny Blackmon, KJ4TED

President Scott McCabe, W4IYS called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the previous meeting were published in the SmokeTest and therefore do not have to be, nor will they be, read at the meeting. All members should have received Smoketest. If you have not, please contact Carl Smith, N4AA.

Dick Burns, K8SKX relayed the frequencies to listen to daily for news of the storm currently passing through Haiti. Mentioned were WH4NHC 14.325 MHz, plus 40m on 7268 and 75m on 3950.

Dick reviewed plans for BCARES support of the Shutin Trail Race on Saturday. He noted that the weather didn't sound as though it was going to be ideal but he had been told the race would be run as scheduled regardless. Four miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway (including a section needed for the race) has been closed since last Monday for repairs of a landslide which happened last spring. As a result there will be no 'leapfrogging' of club personnel this year to cover each successive comm/water station along the route. Volunteer radio operators and water station personnel will meet at 10:45 a.m. at the junction of 151 and the parkway for a forest service escort to their posts. One more volunteer is required for the Big Ridge station. Frequencies to be used are 146.76 Pisgah, 146.91, 146.64 and 147.105 Bearwallow. The net will be active at 9:45 a.m. for approximately 5 hours. Dick, has participated in this Shutin Trail event since the 1980s and told the story of how he worked on the communications team in those early days.

Steve Emory, N4SET presented the Treasurer's report, a copy of which is on file and available to any member who wants details. It was reported that WCARS has official 501c(3) status and that we have an official IRS statement to that effect. Steve will send Scott a copy of same for retention. As a result, we can legally purchase from CISCO using that status.

Dick asked everyone to send any material they have or can think of for Smoketest to Carl and there was a big round of well deserved applause for Carl for the wonderful job he does with the newsletter.

The website is being taken care of by Dean Blair K2JB however currently he is not able to connect to the site with his PC so few changes have been made recently.

We were reminded that the Christmas party will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring your friends and neighbors, and 2 covered dishes, please.

### Other Business:

Scott has been forwarded some information about trailers and welcomes any other information or comments about trailers so we can eventually make a decision about what trailer to buy, etc. Criteria for the trailer was discussed – for instance, the weight should not exceed that which can be pulled by a vehicle such as a Ford Ranger pickup truck (which several club members own) which means it should probably not be over 1500-2000 lbs. Other aspects considered important are "surge brakes" if we buy a trailer with tandem wheels.

Dick proposed we have a written list of objectives in place before we look for a particular trailer for the club. Much discussion ensued about what the real purpose of the trailer should be before we spec. out the type of trailer to look for.

Two possible main purposes were mentioned – club events (i.e. Field Day) and emergency ops needs.

Whether or not to provide a way to carry the crank-up tower may be the critical defining factor since it is up to 20 feet

long even retracted. Carl questioned whether we would ever need to carry the tower at all. According to Dick, the tower would not be needed or used for emergencies since most emergency work is on low band (HF), 40 and 75m, and NVIS antennas (full size or small dipoles at up to 14 foot at center max, 10 feet off the ground) for VHF 2m and up and/or a portable repeater with a vertical antenna to 30 foot height might be used but not the tower we currently own.

Other questions raised were:

- Enclosed or open trailer, covered or uncovered?
- Minimum length for carrying the tower?
- Cargo doors for tower mount?
- Enclosed ops position?
- Size to haul gear and tent?
- Need for cooking facilities?
- Bathroom facilities?
- How many operators need to be accommodated?
- Tow vehicle ranges and fuel type?

In addition, Dean talked about whether we need it to be self-contained with room to move inside for ops events at any time of the year, or contesting and to promote the use of amateur radio, etc. Dick asked if there was a way to take the tower only when needed (i.e. not permanently mounted). The towers condition was briefly discussed. It is aluminum and in good shape. Length of retracted tower could be up to 20 feet.

All the above may be important considerations depending on the ultimate 'purpose' decision.

Deryn KJ4TED suggested that a proper presentation format (with PowerPoint slides) be used so we can look at all the criteria as a cohesive group, discussing each in turn rather than in a free-for-all manner.

Scott proposed the discussion be continued at the meeting of 2011 in January, and requested everyone think about what the purpose and criteria should be for that meeting. If club members have any strong opinions about whether we should NOT pursue buying a trailer at all, please let Scott know.

Club elections: The slate of candidates is as follows:

- President – Scott McCabe, W4IYS
- Vice President – Carl Smith, N4AA
- Secretary – Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ and  
Deryn Blackmon, KJ4TED (split responsibility)
- Treasurer – Steve Emory, N4SET
- Quartermaster – Deryn Blackmon, KJ4TED

All candidates are standing for election, most are returning officers. Motion to approve the slate as published by the nominating committee was made by Dean, seconded by Carl. Passed (traditional lone dissention John Whitton KU2U). Motion to accept the slate by acclamation proposed by Dick, seconded by Carl. Passed (traditional lone dissention John).

Program: Dean then continued the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of his presentation about his "Tiger Cruise" tour of the aircraft carrier, USS D.W. Eisenhower with a review of the ordinance/ordinance storage area and the departure of the on-board air fleet for the Norfolk base. Thanks to Dean for his work in taking all the pictures and bringing this adventure of his to life for us all.

Draw results:

Chris Pedersen, K4KZB won the 50/50 ticket draw. Deryn Blackmon, KJ4TED won the sign-in draw and received the last club mug.

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m., at which time refreshments (soda, coffee and Roger Grindstaff's (KI4FPC) always generous donation of doughnuts) were served in the lobby, per usual.

## WCARS/VEC EXAM Schedule

**ASHEVILLE** (AB-TECH, ROOM 134, ELM BLDG)  
9:00 AM on the THIRD SATURDAY of:  
JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER,  
VE TEAM LEADER: BOB HELTON, KS4FX  
Phone: 828-712-5916

2:00 PM on the THIRD SUNDAY of:  
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: STEVE LANKFORD, AG4BY  
Phone: 828-768-2141

**BURNSVILLE** - YANCY COUNTY LIBRARY  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: DAVID McCARTY, W4TDM  
Phone: 828-657-1044

**COLUMBUS**  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: WAYNE ACKERMAN, W3GY  
Phone: 828-894-5542

**HENDERSONVILLE** - MOUNTAIN HOME FIRE STN  
9:00 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of:  
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: SID HENDRICKS, W4IOE  
Phone: 828-684-8130

**LEICESTER** - LEICESTER FIRE DEPT  
9:00 AM on the SECOND SATURDAY of:  
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: LARRY YORK, K4MU  
Phone: 828-683-1400

**MARION**  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: HARRIET FULLBRIGHT, K4ICU  
Phone: 828-291-7521

**RUTHERFORDTON** - ISOTHERMAL COLLEGE  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: BRUCE TESSINEER, AD4OJ  
Phone: 828-657-5464

**WAYNESVILLE**  
CONTACT VE TEAM LEADER  
VE TEAM LEADER: AL SANDERS, WD4A  
Phone: 828-926-8244

**WEAVERVILLE** - REEMS CREEK FD  
9:00 AM on the FIRST SATURDAY of:  
APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER, DECEMBER  
VE TEAM LEADER: HARLEY BULLMAN, AJ4PI  
Phone: 828-645-0889

## **91 REPEATER WORK**

*On Sunday, November 21, a work crew assembled on Spivey Mountain. Dean Blair said this would probably be our last/best chance to get the antenna work done before the snow flies. Here's Dean's report:*

**We have re-installed the permanent DB-224 4-bay folded dipole antenna on the Spivey Mountain tower. It is at the 90 ft level and extends beyond the top of the tower as the antenna is 24 ft tall.**

**The antenna mount broke last spring and required a new, more substantial mount to carry the weight and the wind load of the antenna. The previous mount was for a much smaller antenna and failed over the winter.**

**The new mounts were built by Mark, KG4OPM, are very robust and will support the DB-224 for a long, long time.**

**It has been a challenge to get the antenna back up on the tower with weather, manpower, and safety equipment being the limiting factors. We are now prepared for the winter and expect excellent service life from the repeater and antenna.**

**As time permits, we will relocate the spare antenna back on the tower and continue work on the back-up repeater in the building. Maybe even figure out how to turn that loud-mouth ID down. :)**

**Many, many thanks to those who worked on getting the antenna back on the tower:**

**Randy, KI4VLW; Norm, N4NH; ark, KG4OPM; Lee, KB4QDQ; Jeff, KJ4TEI; Randy, KJ4SJT; Rick, (I'll have to find out his call).**



**That's Dean on the right but not sure who is on the left in this photo.**

**Norman (N4NH) does Betty know where you were on that Sunday morning????**

*At least he picked a sunny day with no lightning to contend with.*



***SMOKE TEST***  
 Official publication of the  
**Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**

PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802

www.wcars.org

**W4MOE**

Repeater 146.91 - PL-91.5  
 Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

**2010 OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Scott McCabe</b>	<b>W4IYS</b>	<b>252-0583</b>	<b>esmccabe@charter.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Carl Smith</b>	<b>N4AA / KB4C</b>	<b>683-4251</b>	<b>n4aa@dxpub.com</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bob Dockery</b>	<b>WD4CNZ</b>	<b>254-0513</b>	<b>wncgeneao@aol.com</b>
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<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Dean Blair</b>	<b>K2JB</b>	<b>665-1830</b>	<b>k2jb@arrl.net</b>
	<b>Elwood Miles</b>	<b>KN4ST</b>	<b>253-4490</b>	<b>elwood3@charter.net</b>
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<b>Hamfest Chairman - 2010</b>	<b>Randy Harris</b>	<b>KI4VLW</b>	<b>298-6685</b>	<b>rtsp71@aol.com</b>
<b>Smoke Test Editor</b>	<b>Carl Smith</b>	<b>N4AA</b>	<b>683-4251</b>	<b>n4aa@dxpub.com</b>

**HF/VHF/UHF Net Information**

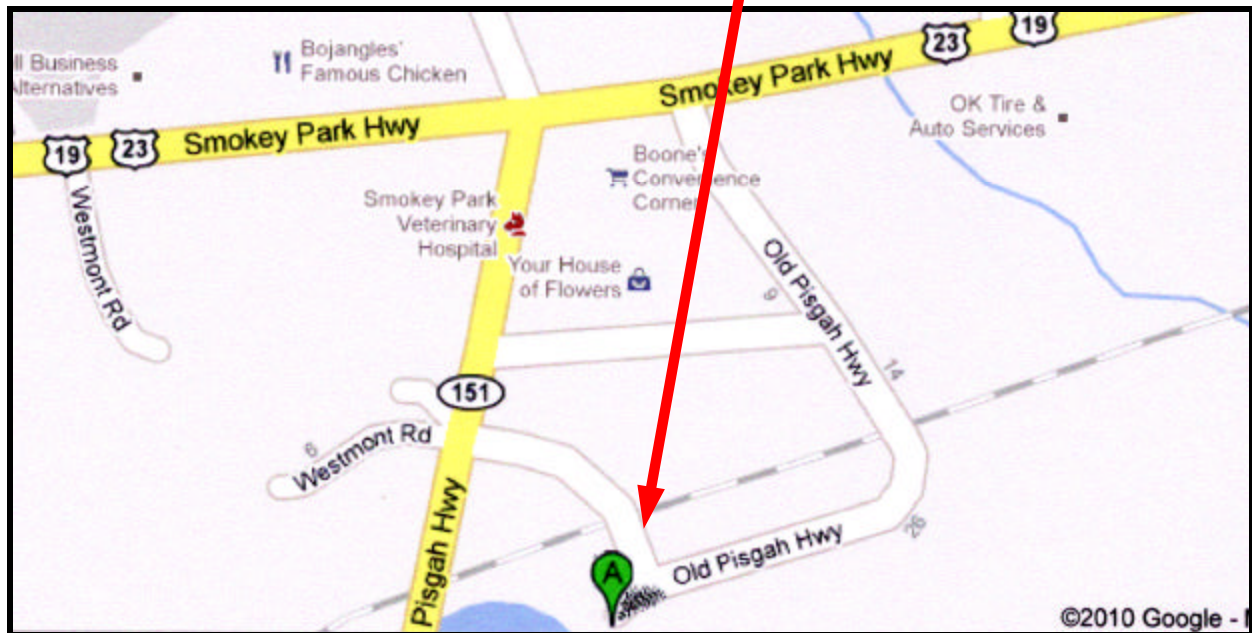
<b>NET NAME</b>	<b>Freq(MHz) offset PL</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Local time</b>	<b>Notes</b>
6600	145.190 +	Saturday	9-PM	Many check-ins - Wide area coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic	146.610 -	Nightly	9-PM	ARES/Skywarn in bad weather
BRARC	146.640 - 91.5	Sunday	9-PM	
Buncombe Cty Emerg. Mgt.	146.910 - 91.5	Wednesday	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
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	7.225	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 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 Emergency 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	???

# ***WCARS 2010 Christmas Party*** ***December 4th - 6-PM***

## ***HOMINY MASONIC LODGE***

**The Hominy Masonic Lodge is located at 50 Old Pisgah Highway in Candler.**

**Take 19-23 to Candler.  
Turn left at the traffic light in Candler at Boones Corner (NC 151).  
Go 75 yards and turn left just before the bridge.  
Come to the bottom of the hill.  
Cross the railroad tracks and you are looking directly at the lodge,  
Labeled "A" on the map below.**



**Meat and cornbread will be provided.**

**You are requested to bring **TWO** covered dishes,  
*containing food.***