



WCARS.org
September 2011

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

President's Microphone

As most of you know I am very busy at home with my health care activity. I am still available and expect to be able to attend the September meeting.

Please remember that we are to nominate a slate of officers for the next year at this meeting. Please give this matter serious thought so we can have another great year for WCARS.

Hopefully, few, if any, of you were affected by Hurricane Irene. It has had a heavy impact on the coastal regions of our state and it appears that there will be significant damage to the beaches. Even though it was only rated at a Category One storm, the winds and storm surge were much worse than you would expect from a Category One event.

Take note of Dick Burns column in this issue of Smoketest. We don't think about these things until/unless they directly affect us, and that is perhaps not the way to look at it.

Plan ahead and you will be better prepared to cope with whatever comes.

I look forward to seeing a large turnout for our special guest DAN HENDERSON, N1ND from ARRL Headquarters who will present the program for the meeting on September 15th. He is always well prepared and capable of answering any questions you might have related to the ARRL.

73,

Scott, W4IYS

Meeting for ... SEPTEMBER
W. Asheville Library
Haywood Road-W. Asheville
7:30 PM Thursday, Sept. 15th

Program for September 15th

Dan Henderson, N1ND
from
ARRL Headquarters

Commentary from Carl Smith, N4AA

As much as I have enjoyed being involved in WCARS the past two years, I must withdraw from further activities.

By now you have heard of my heart attack on July 19th. This is just the latest of my health issues and I have to start listening to my doctors, and my wife, and stop being involved in more things than I can handle.

Doing Smoketest again, after many years of being away, has been fun, but it presented another deadline that had to be met. I know there are others within WCARS that can handle the publication of Smoketest... it's been done before, by several others, and can be again.

It is not my intention to be totally absent from WCARS, but I just can't be there as much as it requires of a Club Officer.

Thanks to everyone who helped by providing material for Smoketest. Without that input it would only be a single sheet of paper telling you where the next meeting would be held and when.

Good Luck, God Bless and 73,

Carl Smith, N4AA

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING

By Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ

The August 4, 2011 meeting of WCARS was called to order by Steve Emory N4SET at 1935 hrs.

Minutes of the July meeting were published in the club newsletter SMOKETEST July 2011.

Scott McCabe, WCARS President, could not attend due to caregiver duties needed at home. Also, Carl Smith, N4AA is recovering from a heart attack on July 19th.

The group was then invited to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A recap/update about the Hamfest was given by Steve regarding expenses and profit made for the event showing a net profit of \$3,444.86.

A special applause commendation was given by the group to Randy KI4VLW for his work in organizing and operations of the Hamfest 2011.

The Treasurer's Report was then given by Steve N4SET, Club Treasurer.

Everyone was encouraged to sign the roster going around the room.

Attendees were encouraged to donate as much money as possible to the Fireman's Memorial Fund in memory of Captain Bowen, a firefighter who lost his life fighting a fire recently. A motion was made and seconded for the Club to match the contributions from members for this fund.

An amendment to that motion was made, seconded, and moved that the total donation be kept to \$300. The amended motion passed by show of hands.

Steve relayed an email message that a young person in Rutherfordton area passed his license exam at age 9.

Norman Harrill N4NH attended the VEC conference in Virginia and reported to the group:

(1) He told the group about the FCC recalling TV channels 36-51 to make room for broadband needs. This move will require some TV stations to change their channel and we were to be alert for changes.

(2) He told of VEC reports regarding license elements taken/ passed and WCARS ranks third by the FCC.

(3) He told about a pending petition to the FCC to allow non-licensed persons to administer license exams. He asked everyone to alert the FCC that we object to that petition.

(4) He also told of another petition that persons whose license had expired be grand-fathered when getting a new license. He asked everyone to object to this petition also.

(5) He talked about a RF Safety requirement being added.

(6) He advised that each member gather their FRN (Federal Registration Number), password, and any other needed information and put it on the back of their license so when you renew the information is readily available.

Dean Blair K2JB gave the Program for the evening by showing a 1959 Bell Lab video: "Similarities in Wave Behavior". The video explained how waves travel through a medium and what matching and SWR "appear" in making radio waves.

Steve N4SET said that the Haywood Co. made a proposal to the Club regarding the use of the Haywood Co. Fairgrounds for next year's hamfest. The proposal as in the form of a reduced fee (10% discount). The facility is due to get air conditioning by next year. The Club needed to send in the use fee to reserve the facility for next year.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted that WCARS use the Haywood Co. Fairgrounds for next year's hamfest. The date

would be as follows: Setup = July 27, 2012

Hamfest = July 28, 2012. The use of the WNC Ag Center presented many problems and it was felt that the Haywood facility would serve the Club best.

The 50-50 drawing was made and awarded. Won by Randy KI4VLW.

A motion to adjourn was received, seconded, and voted. The meeting closed at 2100 hrs.

All were invited for refreshments and fellowship following the meeting.

HAMFEST 2012

Randy Harris, KI4VLW

The Haywood County fairgrounds has received our application and the deposit for the 2012 Hamfest and has it posted on their website events calendar. The WCARS 2012 Hamfest will be held July 28, 2012 with setup on Friday, July 27th.

Irene – some questions for you

Dick Burns, K8SKX—EC BCARES

By time you read this Irene hopefully will be minor memory for us. I hope also this is true for the many people along the Eastern seaboard who are or have been in her sights. But while she is still fresh in our minds I have some questions for us ALL.

When did you start preparing for the possibility that Irene would affect us in WNC? When you first heard about Irene? Or did you have a basic plan already prepared that just needed adjusting for current predictions and conditions? Situation planning, such as for bad weather, should occur when bad weather is not in the forecast. It is best done when you have time to think about all the likely scenarios and their potential effect on you, your family, and your property. Remember, hurricane season comes every year. So do snowstorms and severe thunderstorms.

When did you check out your radio gear? Was it far enough in advance to make repairs so you could effectively communicate during the potential storm? Do you still remember how to use the various software/digital programs you might need to assist others? For example, can you still use packet, RTTY, Winlink, PSK31, or other digital modes that you might be asked to help with?

Did you stay up to date with current conditions and predictions? Did you know which frequencies are/were being used for emergency communications?

And finally, how did you help others once you knew your family was safe and no longer in danger? Remember, one of our responsibilities as licensed amateurs is for service to others. Helping often is as simple as LISTENING to ongoing emergency communication nets and being ready and willing to help if requested. This means monitoring until the Net Control asks for check ins or soliciting assistance. But if you check in, you must stay until the NCS excuses you. Checking in and then not being there if/when the NCS calls you wastes valuable time and helps no one.

Think about these questions and your answers. Were you ready? If so, congratulations. If not, as I suspect many of us (me included) were not totally ready, why not get started preparing for the next time.

Note there will be a BCARES meeting in September, but the date is not set yet. It will be announced via the BCARES net and emails.

SMOKETEST

Official publication of the

Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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www.wcars.org

W 4 M O E

Repeater: 146.91 (PL-91.5)
Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

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Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com

HF/VHF/UHF Net Information

NET NAME	Freq offset / PL	Day	Local time	Notes
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
Franklin, NC - Winesprings Bald	147.240 + / 151.4	Daily	9-PM	KU4ES Echo Link
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	7.228	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 Mitchell Sunrise Net	442.225 + 107.2	Thursday	9-AM	Informal - 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 Emerg. 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	???