



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

### President's Microphone

A new year is starting. We made progress in some areas in 2010 and it's time now to continue to move forward to make WCARS better.

Bring your ideas to the club meeting and let your voice be heard.

*I came across the following and thought I would share it with the membership. It has appeared on the internet and has been view by many:*

*"The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"*

*I replied, I had a drug problem when I was young; I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.*

*I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed by parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.*

*I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.*

*Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.*

*God bless the parents who drugged us."*

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 6th - 7:30 PM**  
**Simpson Building Auditorium**  
**at AB Community College**  
**PROGRAM: Dan Henderson, N1ND**  
**ARRL Headquarters**

**MORRISTOWN (TN) HAMFEST**  
**Saturday, January 1, 2011**

*Eugene Rogers, KE4KHB of the Lakeway ARC asked that this information be passed along to our members...*

*"We will greatly appreciate it if you will announce that the Morristown HAMfest is definitely on Saturday, January 1, 2011.*

*We will greatly appreciate you mentioning the Morristown HAMfest, Saturday, January 1, 2011, over all of your repeaters and communication nets. Some very good vendors and attendance was lost during the past year and we all are going all out to get the vendors back and raise attendance. It is hard since the HAMfest is on Saturday, January 1 and that time of the year, as you know, is cold and weather is not predictable.*

*All that needs to be said is:*

**Morristown HAMfest**  
**Saturday, January 1, 2011**  
**Yes, on January 1, Saturday.**

*Go to the Lakeway Amateur Radio Club Internet site at <<http://www.lakewayarc.org>> and click on HAMfest in the menu on the left."*

#### **Directions are:**

*Take I-81 south or north to Exit 8 onto Hwy 25E, turn left (south) toward White Pine, go less then one half (1/2) mile and turn right. WSCC Expo Center will be on your left in less than one half (1/2) mile.*

*Info about WSCC Expo Center can be found at their web site: <<http://www.ws.edu/expo>> The Expo Center does have overnight RV parking and hook up.*

*Anyone with any questions should e-mail both Eugene Rogers KE4KHB <[zher1@juno.com](mailto:zher1@juno.com)> and Ed Bradley W4VGI <[w4vgi@juno.com](mailto:w4vgi@juno.com)>.*

**As there was no business meeting in December there are no minutes to be published this month.**



### **ARES News**

**The following was issued on Christmas Day by Bill Morine, N2COP, NC Section Manager:**

“NOTE: Tom Brown, N4TAB, the North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) sent the following message shortly after 6 PM local time Saturday evening to all Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) county Emergency Coordinators (ECs). While no widespread ARES activation is expected, operators are advised to monitor their local or regional SKYWARN and ARES repeaters, and the Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) on 3923 KHz in case the storm gets worse. Further email updates will be sent if justified.”

**(This was followed by a message from Tom Brown, N4TAB, NC Sections Emergency Coordinator)**

“All NC counties NC are under Winter Storm warnings. Every county is expected to receive snow.

Very hazardous driving conditions are expected through Monday. There is no anticipated infrastructure damage and a wide ARES activation is not expected.

Counties that employ ARES in shelters may receive requests for support.

At least one Central Branch county is on standby to support a county EOC on Sunday.

NCEM Branch RCCs are operating on standby, with personnel monitoring from their home offices.

A formal declaration of a State of Emergency will probably be issued tonight.

NC ARES personnel are participating in NCEM statewide conference calls and monitoring Web EOC.

While there is no expectation of activation, please remain vigilant and informed and in-touch with your served agencies. If an activation occurs in your jurisdiction, please inform your DEC and/or ASEC of the nature and scope of the activation and your plans and anticipated needs.

If you don't have a current list of your NC ARES leadership colleagues and contact info, log-in to the nc-ares.org database and make a spreadsheet.

Similarly, go to <[www.ncarrl.org/ares](http://www.ncarrl.org/ares)> and record information about your surrounding jurisdictions and contact information.

This is a good time to review your ICS-204, ICS-205 and ICS-216 forms for accuracy. Be sure that everyone in your jurisdiction has a current copy.

Merry Christmas and stay safe.”

*(While the above may seem to be “a day late” it is published here to show that our state level organization is working all the time, even during the holidays.*

*Did you listen for any “problems” that might have brought on an alert in your area?)*

**BCARES MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
Thursday, JANUARY 20TH, 7- PM  
RED CROSS CLASS ROOM**

### **NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS**

*Bill Morine, N2COP*

#### **FIELD DAY RESULTS** – Congratulations to the 69

clubs and individuals who submitted Field Day logs from the Tar Heel state. The overall score total winner was the combined location of the Orange County and Durham FM radio clubs. They ran a 10AB configuration and scored 13,445 points. Close behind running 8A was RARS, the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, as W4DW with 12,802. Other notable performers were the Cary Amateur Radio Society (CARS) as K4M with 8,852 points running 2A, and the NC Contesters running 3A under NR3X with 9,638 points. Thanks to all who participated. You can see more results in the December issue of QST and on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/news/2010-arrl-field-day-results-now-online> where you can download the results in a spreadsheet format and sort data. Start planning now for FD 2011, which will be June 25-26, 2011.

**WELCOME NEW CLUB** – A hearty hello to the Haywood County Amateur Radio Club, which became an ARRL affiliated club on November 11th, and has 31 members. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Haywood EOC in Waynesville, about 25 miles west of Asheville. The club's website is <http://wnchamradio.org> There are now 63 ARRL affiliated clubs in North Carolina.

**ANTENNA LAW SETBACK** – Cleveland County commissioners voted for an ordinance which challenges the intent of the 2007 North Carolina state antenna law. The good news: no height restrictions are in the ordinance and Amateur Radio antennas are now allowed in all zoning districts. The bad news: many antennas can now possibly be defined as a “tower” and subject to a \$200. permit fee. The state law contains the phrase “reasonable accommodation” which is not defined. This is the first municipal ordinance in North Carolina since the state antenna law went into effect and which could require many common antennas, especially guyed verticals, to have a permit. Cleveland County Hams and ARRL are assessing options in addressing this issue. If your city or county is looking to enact an antenna ordinance, please take advantage of ARRL's extensive resources and experience in this arena.

**IS YOUR C.W. RUSTY?** – There's an old joke among musicians: Q: How do you get to Carnegie Hall? A: Practice, practice, practice. The upcoming winter months are the perfect time to enjoy a warm beverage and practice your CW skills. And in the Carolinas, there's no better way to watch your skills improve than to check into the Carolinas Slow Net (CSN) held every night at 8:00 PM local time on 3571 KHz. This friendly net welcomes newcomers and will really help your speed to improve.

All you need to know can be found at CSN's website at: <http://my.att.net/p/pwp-csn>

*Continued on the next page*

## RETREAT TO MOVE FORWARD

On January 22nd, the ten ARRL North Carolina section officers will meet in Raleigh for a retreat to discuss the state of the section, and how to make it better. All areas will be examined – NTS, ARES, SKYWARN, state and municipal legislation, public relations, hamfests, affiliated club relations, the section website, the observer program, status of repeaters, and review of field appointments just to name a few of the topics. On this last subject, beginning in 2011, all field appointments will be on an annual basis with renewals where justified. We have many talented and dedicated ARRL field appointees in North Carolina. Some have expressed interest in stepping down after years of service, and, frankly, there are a few who may have circumstances impacting their ability to fulfill their duties. The section officers will review each appointment carefully and will look to construct the best teams to keep the ARRL North Carolina section running smoothly in 2011 and beyond. If you have a particular issue you'd like to make sure gets on the section retreat agenda, please drop an email to the head of the respective area below at their callsign at arrl.net.

**NC QSO PARTY** – Start preparing for the 2011 NC QSO Party, Sunday, February 28th, 12 Noon to 10 PM local time. Let's get all 100 counties on the air for the rest of the world to hear. Details at <http://www.w4nc.com/2011ncqsoparty.html> Thanks to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club for organizing and sponsoring this event.

### SPECIAL NOTICE TO THOSE HAMS OVER AGE 70 ½

My day job for the past 18 years has been a financial planner, so I was glad to read that Congress extended provisions which permit people over age 70 ½ to make tax free contributions from their IRAs to charities. This is a wonderful and very tax efficient way to be philanthropic. The receiving entity has to be an IRS recognized non-profit organization, such as ARRL and possibly your local club if it is incorporated. Before you do anything, consult your tax preparer or financial adviser to see if this method of giving is in your best interest. The custodian for your IRA arranges for payment and you can donate up to \$100,000., but smaller contributions are welcomed too. You can also read the article ARRL released this week at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/renewed-ira-provision-on-charitable-giving-makes-it-easy-to-support-arrl>

### NCVEC Releases New General Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new General class (Element 3) question pool on Tuesday, December 7. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will become effective for all General class examinations administered on or after July 1, 2011; it will remain valid until June 30, 2015. The current General question pool that became effective July 1, 2007 will expire June 30, 2011. The new General pool contains 457 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 3 examination.

The current Technician class question pool that was effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current Amateur Extra class pool that was effective July 1, 2008 is valid until June 30, 2012.

## 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

# SMOKE TEST

Official publication of the

## Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802

[www.wcars.org](http://www.wcars.org)

### W4MOE

Repeater 146.91 - PL-91.5

(located on Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC)

2011 OFFICERS				
President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
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Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arri.net
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Trustee - W4MOE	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
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Hamfest Chairman - 2011	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dxpub.com

HF/VHF/UHF Net Information				
NET NAME	Freq(MHz) 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
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	???