



WCARS.org
January 2012

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

President's Microphone

Russ Oder - N4KOX suffered a slight stroke on January 5th, all indications are that Russ has not suffered any long term damage, with only some numbness in his cheeks. Keep him in your prayers and thoughts for a quick recovery.

Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2012

The January 5, 2012, meeting of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society (WCARS) was called to order at 1930 hrs. at the West Asheville Public Library meeting room by Scott McCabe, W4IYS, Club President.

Scott then invited everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Scott then invited each attendee to introduce themselves giving a name, call sign (if any), and QTH.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Steve N4SET.

Tickets were sold prior to the meeting for the "50-50" drawing with half of the proceeds going into the club treasury and half serving as a door prize.

**Meeting for February is on the 9th
W. Asheville Library
7:30 PM**

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTE

**Club meetings are subject to the
following:**

**Should Buncombe County offices close
due to inclement weather, the library will
close. If that happens, our meeting will be
canceled.**

BCARES

Carl - N4AA, has taken over the Emergency Coordinator position for BCARES, the first meeting will be held at **Buncombe County EOC, January 19 at 7 PM** WCARS members who would like to participate in BCARES are encouraged to attend.

See map on last page for directions, if the gate is closed push the intercom button and inform the person who answers that you are there for the radio meeting.

Remember to check into the Wednesday evening net on "91" at 9-PM and also, if possible, check into the Tar Heel Net on 3923 at 7:30 each evening.

Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2012

Scott reported that Russell Oder N4KOX has had a stroke and is now recovering.

Carl Smith, N4AA reported he is the new Emergency Coordinator for Buncombe County. Registration forms for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service were distributed for anyone interested in being a part of this activity. Forms currently on hand are somewhat dated and needed to be updated with current information.

A January 19 meeting at the EOC is to show the station location and equipment supporting emergency operations. Carl announced that a 30ft. tower will be erected sometime in the Spring with the hiring of a professional company to construct the base and mount the tower to be located at the Red Cross Building to support emergency communications.

Dean Blair K2JB was asked to give an overview of local nets with days/times and purpose. A net listing is included in each issue of SMOKETEST (club newsletter).

A question was asked if anyone was interested in APRS. It was reported that a group (outside of WCARS) is wanting to set up an APRS unit on Bearwallow Mountain. Stay tuned for further developments.

Bill N4OOC reported that Buddy is now teaching in Korea.

RFI radiating from the installation of BPL (Broadband over Power Line) in Madison county is being investigated by Ed Hare from ARRL Headquarters. Information has now revealed the company installing this equipment has gone bankrupt and any service by them on the French Broad EMC system will be stopped by the end of January 2012.

Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2012

The meeting was adjourned at 2240 with the drawing of the 50-50 cash prize--won by Norma, and the door prize (a mug) was won by Tom Leeder.

An invitation for refreshments and fellowship followed.

SUBMITTED BY BOB DOCKERY,
WCARS SECRETARY

WCARS / VEC Exam Schedule

Asheville - AB-TECH, Rm 134, Elm Bldg

**9:00 AM on the THIRD SATURDAY of:
January, April, July and October**

VE Team Leader: Bob Helton - KS4FX
Phone: 828-712-5916

**2:00 PM on the THIRD SUNDAY of:
February, May, August and November**

VE Team Leader: Steve Lankford - AG4BY
Phone: 828-768-2141

Burnsville - Yancey County Library

Contact:

VE Team Leader: David McCarty - W4TDM
Phone: 828-657-1044

Marion

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Harriet Fullbright - K4ICU
Phone: 828-291-7521

Rutherfordton - Isothermal College

Contact:

VE Team Leader: Bruce Tessineer - AD4OJ
Phone: 828-657-5464

Waynesville

Contact:

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 and December

VE Team Leader: Harley Bullman - AJ4PI

Phone: 828-645-0889

For other locations contact:

Norman Harrill

N4NH@arrl.net / 828-253-1192

Technician Licensing Class

TECHNICIAN Licensing Class
begins February 14

This is the entry level licensing with no code requirements with only basic math skills needed.

Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday evening until exam night at the end of the class.

**6 - 9 PM at AB Tech,
Victoria Road, Asheville
Elm Building, Room 314**

For information & registration contact:

Norman Harrill
N4NH@arrl.net
828-253-1192

WCARS Hamfest 2012

This years Hamfest will be Saturday July 28 again at the Haywood County Fairgrounds in Waynesville. We will set up for the early vendors Friday July 27 starting at 12 noon.

Also, Friday night starting around 6pm WCARS will have our dinner for our vendors. Club members bring 2 covered dishes and the club will provide the chicken. Doors will open Saturday morning around 8am and parking is free. Ticket prices will be the same \$5 for early purchase and \$7 at the gate.

News / Updates from the Community

For those who have been involved in Amateur Radio for a couple of decades you likely know about the magazine titled "73". The website, Internet Achieve has all past issues for the 43 years it was published available online at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/73-magazine>

A new TV series on ABC called the Last Man Standing will feature Tim Allen as a HAM radio operator named Mike Baxter with the fictions call sign: KA0XTT. The show will air Tuesday nights at 8 PM EST; John Amodeo - NN6JA the show's producer has admitted while Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the beginning episodes it does have an important role in the show and of the show's main character. The show that will establish Allen's character as HAM will air on January 10th @ 8 PM EST.

News / Updates from the Community

More information is available at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/em-ham-radio-in-hollywood-em-comedian-tim-allen-stars-as-radio-amateur-on-new-tv-show>

The 53.63 and 442.225 N4YR repeaters are off the air until owner Mr. Johnson is able to recover from a motorcycle accident. Mr. Johnson has relayed it will be springtime before the repeaters are operational again.

WCARS Information Net, hosted by Dean - K2JB meets every Monday night on 146.91 MHz(-) - 91.5 Hz PL tone.

The Information Net begins at 9:00 PM (21:00 HRS), using the club call sign W4MOE, tune in and call in!

There was some discussion about comments made by presidential candidate Mitt Romney about his views on Amateur Radio. The original comments were made in 2005 and have recently been brought to back into focus on the Internet.

For anyone who wants to find out more Steve - N4SET has found a website they can visit:

<http://kf4lmt.wordpress.com/2012/01/04/mitt-romney-disses-amateur-radio-the-rest-of-the-story/>

News / Updates from the Community

WCARS memberships are now due please check out www.wcars.org to get the membership form for 2012.

If you have news about a Ham event, operator, equipment review, etc, and you would like to share with the club please send an email to kk4brd@gmail.com

Looking for ...

AD8J is looking to buy or lease some property to put up a tower for a remote station. A half acre, or larger, in the northern part of Buncombe county would be preferred but he is open to other areas also. Height is not real important as long as it's not right against the side of a mountain. A fairly clear shot to the northeast (Europe) would be nice. The important thing is to have access to a broadband Internet connection. If you know of such a location, John can be contacted at 828-424-7145 or johngetz24@gmail.com

New Editor for Smoke Test

I hope everyone has had a great Christmas, New Year and holiday season. With the new year comes new changes to the club. Back in October I volunteered to take over Smoke Test from Carl - N4AA, beginning in 2012.

I'd like to thank all members for their support in helping me take over Smoke Test.

In the issues ahead I look forward to adding your contributions, reports, QSL's, or anything else you might submit to help make Smoke Test an interesting newsletter that the readership looks forward to each month.

Paul - KK4BRD



Notable Keys

W1ZE - Irving Vermilya; "the first licensed radio amateur in the United States of America", he is the co-founder of OOTC (Old Old Timers Club) and the club's first president in 1948. He was the operator at the original Marconi wireless station on Cape Cod at South Wellfleet, MA. His original spark call was "VN".

There is an interesting article about "VN" in the February 1917 QST which can be found here:

<http://earlyradiohistory.us/1917verm.htm>

The ARRL Letter

Materials in the ARRL Letter are taken from The ARRL Letter online, full credit is given to The ARRL Letter and the American Radio Relay League, as per republication guidelines require.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

On the Air: New Rules for 60 Meters Have Yet to Take Effect - 12/15/2011 Issue

Last month, the FCC released a *Report & Order (R&O)* detailing new rules for the 5 MHz (60 meters) Amateur Radio band. These rules have not been published in the *Federal Register*. **In order to be official, the rules must be published in the *Federal Register* and will take effect 30 days after the publication date.** Any radio amateur who is operating under the new rules before this time *is in violation of the current rules*. The official date for these new rules will be announced on the ARRL website as soon as the information is available.



The ARRL Letter

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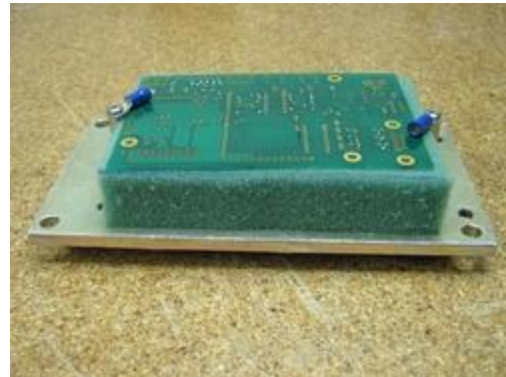
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

Hints and Kinks: Foam PCB Holder—12/15/2011 Issue

Paul Jacobs, W2IOG, of Naples, New York, sent us this idea for assembling small PC boards. Contact Paul via e-mail (phjacobs@gmail.com) for more information.

Here's a simple fixture that makes assembling small PC boards a snap. A scrap piece of 1/4 inch aluminum sheet forms a base for the fixture. Mount two 1-inch standoffs about 1/2 inch farther apart than the longest dimension of the PC board to be assembled. Now cut a piece of 1 inch thick soft foam packing material to slightly larger than the size of the board so that it fits snugly between the standoffs. Mount two crimp type insulated wire terminals to the standoffs; keep the screws slightly loose.

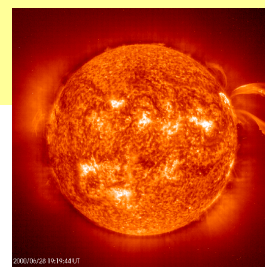
To use the fixture, insert several components into the board, turn both the board and the fixture vertical, press the component side of the board to the foam and return both to the horizontal position. Press down on the board to compress the foam and rotate the two wire terminals to hold the board in place. The weight of the fixture keeps the board in place and the pressure of the foam holds the components firmly to the surface of the board. Soldering them in place is easy.



The W2IOG PCB holder in action, keeping components in place for soldering.

The weight of the fixture keeps the board in place and the pressure of the foam holds the components firmly to the surface of the board. Soldering them in place is easy.

Solar Weather



NOAA Solar Forecasts

Sunspot Number: 90

Updated at: 2012 Jan 08 2200 UTC

Spotless Days

Flare	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Class M	05%	05%
Class X	01%	01%

Current Stretch: 0 days
 2012 total: 0 days (0%)
 2011 total: 2 days (<1%)
 2010 total: 51 days (14%)
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)
 Since 2004: 821 days
 Typical Solar Min: 486 days
 Updated 08 Jan 2012

Geomagnetic Storms

Mid-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	05%	05%
Minor	01%	05%
Severe	01%	01%

Interplanetary Magnetic Field

B_{total} : 4.1 nT B_z : 2.6 nT south

High-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	15%	15%
Minor	05%	05%
Severe	01%	01%

The Radio Sun

10.7 cm flux: **136 sfu**

HF Conditions	Day	Night
80 m - 40 m	Fair	Good
30 m - 20 m	Good	Good
17 m - 15 m	Good	Good
12 m - 10 m	Fair	Poor
VHF Conditions	Day	Night
Aurora	Band Closed	Band Closed
6 m EsEU	Band Closed	Band Closed
4 m EsEU	Band Closed	Band Closed
2 m EsEU	Band Closed	Band Closed
2 m EsNA	Band Closed	Band Closed
EME Deg	Moderate	

SMOKETEST

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Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802

www.wcars.org

W 4 M O E

Repeater: 146.91 (PL-91.5)

Spivey Mountain, Asheville, NC

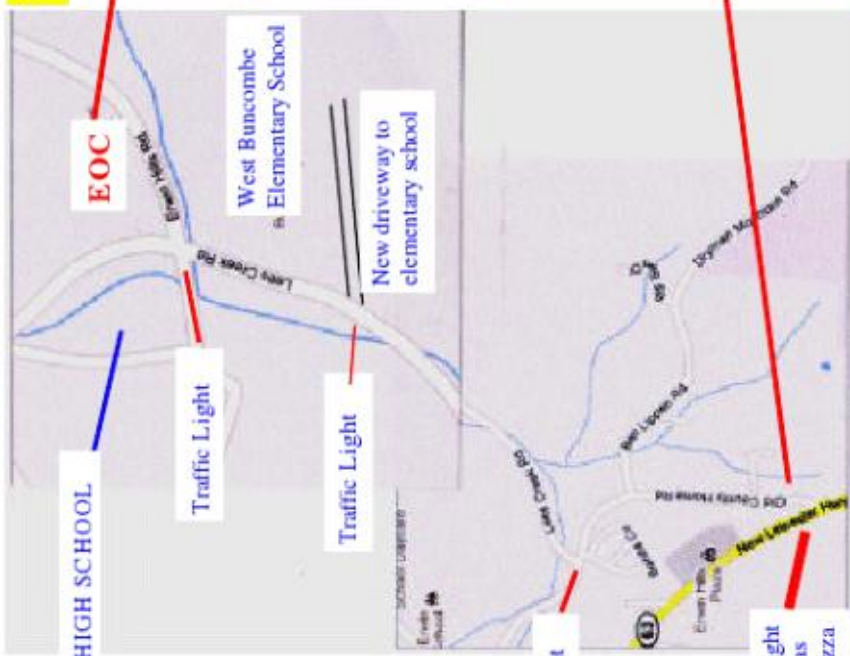
2012 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice President	Russ Oder	N4KOX	683-4251	oderr@bellsouth.net
Secretary, Awards Chairman & Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Executive Committee	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@bellsouth.net
Trustee - W4MOE	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster & Webmaster	Lee Johnson	KB4QDQ	242-1630	leejohnsonster@gmail.com
Hamfest Chairman - 2012	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
Smoke Test Editor	Paul Tilley	KK4BRD	712-0477	kk4brd@gmail.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	
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	???
Traders Net	147.05 - 91.5	Tuesday	9-PM	
Skywarn	145.27 - 91.5	As Needed		
SC Hearts / NC Hears / SW VA Net	444.250 - 91.5	Daily	8-PM	
NC Hears	444.250 - 91.5	Daily	9:30 PM	

Talk-in on 146.91 (PL-91.5) if needed



The map shows Erwin Hills Road running north-south. Key locations marked include Erwin High School to the north, Erwin Middle School to the south, and West Buncombe Elementary School to the east. A 'New driveway to elementary school' is also indicated. A yellow line representing Highway 63 runs east-west, intersecting Erwin Hills Road. A red line indicates the location of the meeting at the intersection of Erwin Hills Road and Highway 63. Other callouts include 'Traffic Light' at several intersections and 'EOC' near the top of the road.

164 Erwin Hills Road, Asheville, NC 28806

The EOC is a LARGE brick/rock building on the left inside a chain link fence with a roll-back gate across the driveway.

**Buncombe County
ARES Meeting
Thursday, January 19th
7 to 9 PM**

**In West Asheville
Turn onto NC Highway 63
(New Leicester Highway)
Please watch your odometer.**

This intersection is roughly 2 miles from PATTON AVENUE (Ingles supermarket at that intersection)

ERWIN HIGH SCHOOL

EOC

West Buncombe Elementary School

New driveway to elementary school

Traffic Light

Traffic Light

Traffic Light

Traffic Light

**Traffic Light
Exxon Gas
Papa's Pizza**