



WCARS.org  
May 2013

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

### President's Microphone

As requested here is the prayer list we talked about at the last meeting Norman Harrill, Donnie Grandstaff Keith and Doris Galyean Jack and Norma Grafiing, Tommy Queen and family, Lewis McCracken family, Gerald Morgan, and Connie Duncan, hope I got them all please let me know of any ham and/or family member in need of or wishes prayer and we will add to the list.

Thanks,

Scott

**Meeting for June is on the 6th  
AB-Tech—Sycamore Bldg Room  
201 at 7:30 PM**

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTE**

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

**Should Buncombe County schools close  
due to inclement weather our meeting will  
be canceled.**

**See map at back page.**

### Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2013

The May 2, 2013, regular monthly meeting of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society (WCARS) was called to order at 1932hrs by Scott McCabe W4IYS, President.

(Due to renovations to the Simpson Building on the AB Tech campus, the meeting was held in the Sycamore Building as announced in the last issue of SMOKETEST).

Scott asked each attendee to introduce themselves giving their name, callsign (if any), and QTH.

Scott announced that several WCARS members are ill and asked everyone to hold them in their prayers.

The MEALS ON WHEELS event is set for May 11, starting 0830 at Carrier Park. Contact person: Steve N4SET, (828) 658-0261--call between 5:00-7:00pm (as he works).

The Treasurer's Report was given by Steve N4SET, Club Treasurer. The report was received with thanks.

## Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2013

A sign-in sheet was passed around prior to the meeting for each person to sign to record attendance.

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

Steve reported that the update survey for the WCARS repeater has been completed for SERA.

A question is still open as to whether the Shut-In Trail Event will be held this year. Status unknown as this time.

Kevin Kemp KK4LMP reported about plans for the Mountain State Fair Special Event/ Demonstration Station as N4F. Volunteers are needed to bring their equipment and to setup and operate/take down. The event is set for September 5-15 (Monday-Thursday 3-4pm). Donations are asked to help with expenses. Contact person: KK4LMP@arrl.net tel: (828) 713-6304. Location for this station will be around the "blacksmith area" of the fair.

A Club Liaison is needed from WCARS to work with other clubs and groups. Contact Kevin ASAP to help with this job.

Field Day-June 29-30. A coordinator is needed for this event. Contact Scott W4IYS as soon as possible before the June meeting.

Hamfest: Volunteers are needed to help in any capacity. Contact Jeff KJ4TEI (828) 275-3297.

Set up is set for 26 July starting at 1000hrs and take down set for 27 July starting at 1600hrs. This event supports WCARS expenses for repeater operation on 146.91 and is VERY IMPORTANT for this purpose.

## Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2013

Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) (amateur radio for Scouting) is set for the third weekend in October.

For more information: Harry KC4EZN (828) 667-5679 email: hcfrick@aol.com

The WCARS repeater tower needs a work day! The tower needs some scraping (rust/ loose paint) and painting plus a "rat patrol" to rid the unit of rodents/debris from them. Listen/watch for further announcements for a date/time.

The door prize was drawn and awarded. the 50-50 prize was drawn and awarded.

There being no further business, a motion was received and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2041 with refreshments and fellowship following.

SUBMITTED BY BOB DOCKERY  
WD4CNZ, WCARS Secretary

## BC-ARES Meeting for May 16, 2013

There will be an important BCARES meeting at EOC on May 16th, this meeting is open to non ARES members and non-members are encourage to participate.

A new multistate / regional weather watch network will be discussed and the proper reporting techniques to use when reporting weather events via radio.

Meeting will be held at the EOC classroom at 7 PM.

## 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: 828-684-0249

**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**

## From the Editor

The rains over the last few days has done some damage from flooding and landslides here eastern Buncombe, there was unfortunately one fatality in a landslide involving the railroad. It is with these storms that brings up the need for better reporting by spotters to give advanced warning to those downstream of flooding waterways or in the path of a storm. I recorded 7.55 inches of rain for this latest storm where stations west of my location recorded as little as 3 inches.

There will be an ARES meeting on May 16th to discuss this issue, I invite all WCARS members to attend you do not need to be a member of ARES to participate.

While looking up the Solar weather for this issue I came across an interesting video:

Check out: <http://spaceweather.com/images2013/04may13/ipad/limbflare.m4v?PHPSESSID=8u6jrjc59aaloaeuvda89fihf1>

You may have to tell your web browser to open / play the movie.

Reminder that the WCARS Information Net is Monday @ 9 PM, 146.910 (91.5 PL) all licensed operators are welcomed to join in.

BCARES Net is held every Wednesday @ 9 PM also on 146.910 (91.5 PL), you do not need to be a member of ARES to participate in the net.

If you have something you would like to send to Smoke test please send it to [kk4brd@gmail.com](mailto:kk4brd@gmail.com).

Paul - KK4BRD

## Silent Key

### Lewis McCracken - WA4MTY

"WWII Veteran"

Clyde, Lewis Randal McCracken, age 93, passed away Friday, April 26, 2013 at MedWest-Haywood.

He was the son of the late Howell Decatur McCracken and Eva Medford McCracken Chambers. After Lewis's father's death, his mother married Jarvis Chambers. He was a 1938 graduate of Clyde High School. Lewis was a U. S. Navy Veteran, serving on



destroyers the entire length of WWII and received a presidential citation. He retired from Champion Papers with 38 years of service and was a member of First Baptist Church of Clyde. Lewis was also a member of Clyde Masonic Lodge and a Mason for over 60 years. Lewis served as the last chairman of the Selective Service Board. He raised registered Beagles and was a member of the Western Carolina Beagle Club. He was a charter member of the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society and an extra class operator with the call letters, WA4MTY. He enjoyed camping with his wife.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy Mease McCracken, one daughter Janet McCracken Hassler of Charlotte; one son, Alan Kent McCracken of Asheville; and one grandson, Kyle Randal Hassler of Tampa, FL.

The graveside service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, 2013 at Garrett-Hillcrest Memorial Park. Reverend Dr. David T. Phillips will officiate followed by military honors. The family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Wells Funeral Home of Waynesville prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Clyde, P.O. Box 356, Clyde, NC 28721.

## Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is quickly approaching, this year Steve - N4SET is handling the communications logistics .

If you are able to help out or interested in becoming involved in public service events, Meals on Wheels is an excellent fun event in which to get started.

Contact Steve at: n4set.wnc@gmail.com or call at home 828-658-0261 between 1700 – 1900 (5 PM - 7 PM), if email is not an option.

Please no calls after 7 PM.

## WCARS HamFest 2013

WCARS Hamfest will be on July 27,2013; Jeff - KJ4TEI is the HamFest chairman this year and needs the help and support of the club to make the HamFest successful.

As discussed in the last meeting the profits from the HamFest go towards the operating costs of the club repeater. If there is no HamFest, WCARS can not support the cost of running the repeater. It doesn't take long to setup if everyone chips in and helps out, many hands make for light work.

Help is also required during the HamFest to run various things and to insure a smooth and fun HamFest for all.

Show your support of the club by coming out and helping. A sign up form is enclosed on the last page.

## Friday Mornings

Norman - N4NH is having informal gatherings Friday mornings at 10 AM in the Food Court of Biltmore Square Mall, all are welcomed to attend.

## JOTA

Plans are being made for JOTA this year, but nothing firm has been set. If you would like to participate this year contact Scott and let him know. Harry - KC4EZN has sent new updated information on JOTA that can be found here:

<http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>

## NC QSO Party Results

Expedition / In State / SSB

1st place: AD8J - John

2nd place: K2JB - Dean & W4PH - Howard

Club / In State / SSB

1st place: NC4AR

2nd place: W4CQ

3rd place: W4MOE

Thanks goes to all who participated; AD8J- John, K2JB - Dean, W4PH - Howard, KI4VLW - Randy & KJ4CRL - Linda, KK4BRE - Ginny, KK4BRF - Reid and KK4BRD - Paul

## Regional Hamfests

TN State Convention Hamfest &  
Electronics Convention

When: June 8, 2013  
Where: Kerbela Temple  
315 Mimosa Avenue  
Knoxville, TN

Talk-in: 147.300 (PL 100)

Shelby Hamfest

When: August 31, 2013  
Where: Cleveland County Fairgrounds  
1751 East Marion Street  
Shelby, NC

Talk-in: 146.880 (-), (no PL)

## Upcoming Events

Meals on Wheels, Fletcher Flyer, Field  
Day, WCARS HamFest, Hot Doggett,  
JOTA, Shut-in Ridge Race

## BCARES Activity



Dick - K8SKX monitoring 1 of the 2 packet stations setup to use Winlink.

BCARES participated in the Quake on the Blue Ridge - Aftershock drill on April 27th.

Our objective was to setup communication via packet from Asheville Red Cross to Mitchell County EOC.

I am pleased to say we were able to establish communications.

Both Dick - K8SKX and myself were on scene within 30 min of being called into activation, and had a communication link setup within an hour.

Carl - N4AA provided the Red Cross packet station with key information via radio. We were able to test the redundancy of the packet network by first connecting to BCARES's CMS node and then to the Hendersonville CMS node.

It was good practice and something we should be doing more of.

by Paul - KK4BRD



## 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>

### Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Scheduled for May 11

05/01/2013

In celebration of the 63rd anniversary of Armed Forces Day ([AFD](#)), the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test. Although Armed Forces Day is traditionally celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 18 in 2013 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 11 to prevent conflict with the [Dayton Hamvention](#)®, scheduled for May 17-19.

The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice and Morse code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to stations making contact with the military stations.

Military-to-amateur crossband operations will take place on the dates and time in UTC on the frequencies [listed](#) for the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps and Coast Guard MARS stations. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB); some stations will use CW to provide the opportunity to check in by Morse code. Depending on propagation and staffing, some stations may not operate the entire period. Participating military stations will transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes. The annual Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via digital modes, including RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK-31, MFSK and MT63 from certain stations.

Check the [MARS Armed Forces Crossband Test website](#) for schedules and frequencies of participating military stations, including a list of stations that will be transmitting the annual Secretary of Defense message. Instructions on how to copy and submit the message are also included.



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### Hurricane Watch Net Seeks New Members for Net Control Stations

05/02/2013

With the 2013 hurricane season approaching, the National Hurricane Center ([NHC](#)) in Miami and the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. In preparation for the upcoming season, the HWN is currently seeking new members who can serve as net control stations.

The HWN provides on-the-ground, real-time weather data from Amateur Radio operators who volunteer their time to monitor their calibrated home weather stations. The stations report that data to the HWN, who in turn reports it to [WX4NHC](#), the Amateur Radio station at the NHC. “The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators -- our members -- who serve as our net control stations,” HWN Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, told the ARRL. “HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN’s mission during net activations. The net sessions can be long and, at times, very stressful.”

The HWN primarily operates on 14.325 MHz, but Graves said that given the current solar activity, the HWN is looking for new members who can help with net control station duties on the low end of the 40 meter phone band. “If 20 meters goes away, we lose the ability to effectively communicate with our reporting stations or the NHC,” he said. “By expanding our operation to 40 meters, we can easily change over when propagation changes.”

Graves told the ARRL that the HWN is especially looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico, the Gulf Coast, the East Coast and South Texas. “As we head into the 2013 hurricane season, we’re looking for qualified amateurs who are located anywhere within North America or the Caribbean,” he said. “We are also looking for bilingual hams. We recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us if they aren’t fluent in English, so we’re also interested in hearing from hams who are fluent in both Spanish and English. When we’re working storms that are either affecting or threatening areas where Spanish is the language of choice, we always try to have one or more bilingual HWN members on hand to help with reporting.”





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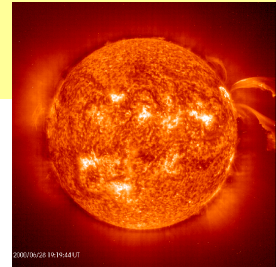
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter>

### Hurricane Watch Net Seeks New Members for Net Control Stations

While HWN membership is required to serve as a net control station, radio amateurs do not need to be an HWN member in order to participate as an HWN reporting station that provides observed or measured weather reports, or relay assistance as required by HWN net control. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit the [Membership Information page](#) on the [HWN website](#).

The Hurricane Watch Net is activated either at the request of the National Hurricane Center and/or when an Atlantic basin hurricane is within 300 miles of landfall. Although hurricanes can happen any time of the year, hurricane season for the Atlantic and Caribbean runs from June 1-November 30, and usually peaks anywhere from late August through September. The Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30.

# Solar Weather



NOAA Solar Forecasts

**Sunspot Number: 162**

Updated at: 2013 May 5

**Spotless Days**

Flare	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Class M	45%	45%
Class X	05%	05%

Current Stretch: 0 days  
 2013 total: 0 days (0%)  
 2012 total: 0 days (0%)  
 2011 total: 2 days (<1%)  
 2010 total: 51 days (14%)  
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)

Geomagnetic Storms

Since 2004: 821 days  
 Typical Solar Min: 486 days  
 Updated 5 May 2013

Mid-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	10%	10%
Minor	01%	01%
Severe	01%	01%

**Interplanetary Magnetic Field**

$B_{total}$ : 6.2 nT       $B_z$ : 2.3 nT south

High-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
Active	15%	15%
Minor	25%	20%
Severe	20%	10%

**The Radio Sun**

10.7 cm flux: 137sfu

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	
6 m EsEU	50 MHz ES	
4 m EsEU	Band Closed	
2 m EsEU	Band Closed	
2 m EsNA	Band Closed	
EME Deg	Fair	

# ***SMOKETEST***

*Official publication of the*

## **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**

### **2013 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>Norman Harrill</b>	<b>N4NH</b>	<b>253-1192</b>	<b>nharrill@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>Secretary, Awards Chairman &amp; Public Information</b>	<b>Bob Dockery</b>	<b>WD4CNZ</b>	<b>254-0513</b>	<b>wd4cnz@charter.net</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Steve Emory</b>	<b>N4SET</b>	<b>658-0261</b>	<b>n4set@arrl.net</b>
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Randy Harris</b>	<b>KI4VLW</b>	<b>298-6685</b>	<b>rtsp71@aol.com</b>
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Dean Blair</b>	<b>K2JB</b>	<b>423-3082</b>	<b>k2jb@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Linda Harris</b>	<b>KJ4CRL</b>	<b>298-6685</b>	<b>rtsp71@aol.com</b>
<b>Trustee - W4MOE</b>	<b>Norman Harrill</b>	<b>N4NH</b>	<b>253-1192</b>	<b>nharrill@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>Quartermaster &amp; Webmaster</b>	<b>Lee Johnson</b>	<b>KB4QDQ</b>	<b>242-1630</b>	<b>leejohnsonster@gmail.com</b>
<b>Hamfest Chairman - 2013</b>	<b>Jeff Weller</b>	<b>KJ4TEI</b>	<b>683-5271</b>	<b>weller_j@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>Smoke Test Editor</b>	<b>Paul Tilley</b>	<b>KK4BRD</b>	<b>669-8311</b>	<b>kk4brd@gmail.com</b>

HF/VHF/UHF Net Information				
<u>NET NAME</u>	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	
K4MFD Greenville - 440	444.200 + 173.8			Located on Bald Mtn. N. of Asheville
K4MFD Greenville - 6 Meter	53.400			Located on Bald Mtn. N. of Asheville Linked to N2GE 224.660 & KI4DNY 224.600 fulltime

<b>Regional Repeater List</b>		
<b>Frequency / offset / PL</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
145.190 -	Mt. Mitchell	
146.520 Simplex	National Calling Frequency	
146.910 - 91.5	WCARS	
146.640 - 91.5	Hendersonville	IRLP
146.610 -	Greenville, SC	
147.105 + 91.5	Hendersonville	
145.270 - 91.5	Hendersonville	
145.370 - 91.5	Greenville, SC	
147.390 + 94.8	Waynesville	
147.315 + 123	Spartanburg	
147.060 + 123	Greenville, TN	
145.410 - 127.3	Greenville, TN	
145.390 - 186.2	Greenville, TN	
146.760 -	Mt. Pisgah	
146.880 -	Shelby	
147.135 +	Brevard	
147.285 +	Tryon	
145.330 -	Tryon	
146.790 -	Anderson, SC	
146.240 +	Franklin	Connected to 151.4 Pickens, SC
442.225 + 107.2	Mt. Mitchell	
442.450 +	Hendersonville	
442.850 +	Brevard	
444.875 + 131.8	Waynesville	IRLP
224.520 - 91.5	Mt. Spivey	
224.600 - 94.8	Asheville	
224.240 -	Hendersonville	
224.960 -	Hendersonville	
224.540 -	Mt. Mitchell	
224.260 -	Mt. Pisgah	
224.200 -	Shelby	
224.460 -	Shelby	
224.360 -	Marshall	
224.660 - 100	Madison County	
53.630 - 100	Mt. Mitchell	
53.130 - 100	Hendersonville	
53.410 - 131.8	Greenville, SC	

# WCARS HamFest Volunteer Sign-up

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Days you can volunteer on:  Friday  Saturday

Hours you volunteer:  All Day  All Day

Morning  Morning

Afternoon  Afternoon

Evening  Evening

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print and bring to June meeting or email Jeff at [weller\\_j@bellsouth.net](mailto:weller_j@bellsouth.net) with the information on this form.