





WCARS.org
June 2012

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

### **President's Microphone**

Lots of events coming up please help where you can, meat is covered for the Field Day / Hamfest dinner/ lunch for set up Hamfest and finally Christmas. Field Day and Hamfest are the two big events we need your help and support!

Any idea on where to have Christmas dinner or back to Candler let me know.

Thanks much,

Scott

# **Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2012**

The June 14, 2012, meeting of WCARS was called to order at 1930 hours by Scott W4IYS, Club President.

He invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

He then invited each attendee to introduce themselves with name, call-sign (if any) and QTH.

Bob Dockery WD4CNZ introduced special guest Jay Wilson W0AIR, Director of the Disaster Emergency Response Association (DERA) who then introduced two visitors from India: Suri VU2MY and Bhanu VU2BL. Mr. Suri was named Amateur Of The Year at the Dayton Hamvention this year. He is the head of the National Institute of Amateur Radio in India (their equivalent to ARRL).

Meeting for July is on the 5th 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.

#### **BC-ARES**

By Carl Smith, N4AA, EC Buncombe County

No update available for June.

### **Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2012**

At Dayton, Mr. Suri was described as "the Hiram Percy Maxim" for India. Mr. Suri then made a few comments about NIAR and his work.

Paul K5PF visited from Cary (NC) and spoke about his work with DERA's founding.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve N4SET. The report was received with thanks.

Carl Smith N4AA brought the group up to date on Field Day planning and the event is on schedule. He reminded everyone that set up starts 0900 with operations beginning at 1400 hours. 6:00pm was chosen as "dinner time" at the site and asked everyone to bring two covered dishes (with food!) to share.

Plans for the WCARS Hamfest concession stand were presented by Tonja WB0VDK. The dates for the Hamfest set up on June 27 and operations set for 28 June.

Steve N4SET explained that anyone wanting/needing a copy of the Part 97 rules are available online and can be downloaded/printed to read.

#### URL:

Paul K5PF announced the operation of Special Event Station N4D from the top of Mt. Mitchell is set for Saturday, June 16. Jay Wilson explained the purpose of N4D is to demonstrate to non-hams the capabilities of amateur radio during times of emergency. Various repeaters will be accessed to see how many can be hit from the site.

The 50-50 drawing was made and won by Carl Smith N4AA.

There being no further business for the group, the meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours with refreshments and fellowship following.

Submitted by Bob Dockery WD4CNZ WCARS Secretary

# **Hot Doggett 100 - 2012**

Hot Doggett 100 will be held on July 14th. Those interested in helping out can contact Allen Stines at duckettham@gmail.com or 712-6554.

The last time I spoke with Allen he still needed folks for two places and for SAG.

If you can help out our neighbors in Madison County drop Allen an email or call and let him know you can help, he will appreciate the support.

For more information on this event visit:

http://www.hotdoggett.mhc.edu/

Paul - KK4BRD

# Field Day 2012

FIELD DAY – Saturday/Sunday, June 23-24

Buncombe County Fireman's Training Center—180 Erwin Hills Road, Asheville.

Talk-in 146.91 PL 91.5

New this year 2M simplex station if you are not able to attend Field Day see if you can hear the 2M simplex station. (no repeaters are allowed nor the National Calling Frequency)

There will be HF stations setup as well covering most bands as well as a GOTA station.

Should you wish to come help out there will be a meal at 6 PM on the 23rd, all station operators are requested to bring 1—2 covered dishes.

Show support for our hobby and club by visiting us!

#### 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

Summer is here now and many of us will be busy with summer projects and travel. If you have a radio project that you have completed or an upgrade to your existing equipment, let us know how it went.

Smoketest is your newsletter, if you need assistance, have items for trade or swap, or anything that is club or radio related let us know.

Just a reminder to WCARS members that the WCARS information net is held every Monday at 9 PM all are welcomed to call into the net.

And on Wednesday nights at 9 PM BCARES net is held, members are encouraged to call in and participate. If you are monitoring and the net is not called after a couple of minutes have passed with no one starting the net; you are encouraged to call the net and make a log of call ins. This is good practice in case there is a real emergency where the usual operators are not able to call the net.

If you have something you would like to send to Smoke Test please send it to kk4brd@gmail.com.

# **DERA 2012**

By Paul - KK4BRD

Attended the Saturday part of the DERA conference, was some interesting points made about the role of Amateur Radio in disasters. After the conference I went to Mt. Mitchell to help with the special event station, that logged several contacts.

Also at the meeting were two guest operators from India who gave a presentation on their experiences with communications during a disaster.

Overall was a good time held by those attending.

# Silent Key - W30BM

#### ALBERT "GABBY" GABINET

CANDLER - Albert "Gabby" Gabinet, 85, of Candler, N.C., died Tuesday, April 3rd, 2012 at Pisgah Manor Health Care Center in Candler. He was born October 26th, 1926 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gabinet attended Central High, Temple University Tech School and the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Coast Guard Veteran of WW II where he served as a Radioman. He retired from Anderson Nissan in Waynesville, N.C. and was an auxiliary member of the Enka-Candler Fire Department. He was also an amateur ham radio operator and many knew him by his call letters, W30BM.

He is survived by friend and neighbor, Karen Winn and husband, Chick, of Candler; and friends, Jeff, GIJoe, Glen, Charlie and Borden.

A memorial brick will be placed at Buncombe County Emergency Services Training Center in Al's Memory. Donations can be made to Enka-Candler Auxiliary Fund, PO Box 340, Candler, NC 28715.

Special thanks to Glen, Borden, Charlie and the Enka-Candler Fire Department No 10 for their support and friendship. Many thanks to Pisgah Manor for the loving care and kindness to Al. Condolences may be made at www.ashevillemortuaryservices.com

Published in in the Asheville Citizen-Times on April 18, 2012

### Hamfest 2012

Update by Randy - KI4VLW

Vendors that are confirmed to attend the Hamfest are:

AC/DC Electronics DEBCO DBJ Electronics TAW Electronics Ham World The Wireman Satellite Sam

We always need people to help both Friday (setting up) and Saturday. I need someone to be incharge of the Pole Barn to collect fees and assign spaces. Please contact Randy - KI4VLW at 828-298-6685 or e-mail rtsp71@aol.com.

WCARS will be providing a dinner Friday night those wishing to attend should bring 2 covered dishes.

A volunteer sign up sheet to help out at the Hamfest will be at the next meeting. We really need the support of the club to do this so please if you can help sign up.

WCARS Hamfest is Saturday July 28th, at the Haywood County Fairgrounds—758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville.

The gates open at 6 AM and doors open at 8 AM.

Talk-in is available on the WCARS repeater (W4MOE, 146.910 minus, 91.5 pl tone) and on HCARC repeater (N4DTR, 147.390 plus, 94.8 pl tone).

Advanced ticket price is \$5.00 At the gate ticket price is: \$7.00

Hamfest flyer is at back of Smoketest.

# **Regional Hamfests**

22nd Annual Down East Hamfest

When: June 30th

Where: Lenoir Community College 231 Highway 58 South (NC 58 / US 70 Intersection)

Kingston, NC

Talk-in: 146.085 / 146.685 (PL 82.5) Alt: 144.710 / 145.310 (PL 82.5)

Firecracker Hamfest

When: July 7th

Where: Salisbury Civic Center

315 South Martin Luther King Ave.

(behind Office Depot)

Salisbury, NC Talk-in: 145.41 (PL 136.5)

8th Annual MCARC Hamfest

When: July 21st

Where: Athens Regional Park

Decatur Pike (State Route 30)

Athens, TN

Talk-in: 147.060 / 145.150 (both PL 141.3)

Covington Georgia Hamfest

When: July 21st

Where: Newton County Radio Club

3183 Mill Street Covington, GA

Talk-in: 146.925 (PL 88.8)

Mid-Summer Swapfest

When: July 21st Where: Ritter Park

301 West Lochmere Drive

Cary, NC

Talk-in: 146.88 –0.6 (no PL)

# The Story of a 'Cool 807'

By Dean Blair - K2JB



#### The Story of a 'Cool 807'

Back in the middle ages of Amateur Radio, somewhere between Spark Gap transmitters and computer controlled cross-band satellite operation, many a ham built their own homebrew rigs. This wasn't too difficult given the basic design of a crystal CW transmitter and a simple regenerative receiver. It was also the only way most hams could afford to get on the air. There were many designs for these types of rigs most of which utilized the most commonly available surplus tubes. A crystal, a couple of diode tubes for a power supply, a simple triode tube for a final amplifier and ingenuity was about all you needed to get on the air. The most common tube of the day was an 807 triode, which was used for a final. Anywhere from 50 to 80 watts output could be obtained from this tube. There is where the story gets interesting.

The only problem was, an 807 was never designed for this much output. This meant the tube would overheat and break down after a while. If you were working an OM (old man) and his signal slowly began to grow weaker and weaker, you knew his 807 was overheating. Well, there were plenty of surplus 807s around so you kept a ready supply available to swap out. The OM would disappear off the air for a short time to replace his 807 and then return at full signal strength to say, he had gotten a 'Cool 807.' This 'off-the-air' period was also a convenient time to visit the refrigerator to obtain an adult beverage. The constant need for an occasional 'Cool 807' became synonymous with a trip to the refrigerator for a 'Cool 807' of a different variety.

Homebrew rigs are far and few between nowadays but the term has endured among older hams. So now, if you hear an OM say he needs to get a 'Cool 807,' you know what he really means. Cheers!



### 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

#### ARRL Board of Directors Approves 9 cm Band Plan

#### 06/04/2012

The ARRL Board of Directors has unanimously voted to approve the 9 cm band plan, as presented by the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee. Earlier this year, the committee **asked** radio amateurs for comments on a proposed 9 cm band plan, explaining that the purpose of these band plans is to share information about how the amateur bands are being used and to suggest compatible frequency ranges for various types of application. The committee also recognized that local conditions or needs may necessitate deviations from a band plan, and that regional frequency coordinating bodies may recommend alternatives for use in their respective regions.

The new 9 cm band plan (see below) includes the following notations:

- This band plan includes all other emission modes authorized in the 9 cm amateur band whose necessary bandwidth does not exceed the suggested bandwidths listed.
- Weak Signal Terrestrial legacy users are encouraged to move to 3400.3-3401.0 MHz, as time and resources permit.
- Broadband segments may be used for any combination of high-speed data (e.g. 802.11 protocols), Amateur Television and other high-bandwidth activities. Division into channels and/or separation of uses within these segments may be done regionally, based on need and usage.
- Per ITU RR 5.149 from WRC-07, these band segments are also used for Radio
  Astronomy. Amateur use of these frequencies should be first coordinated with the National
  Science Foundation.



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#### ARRL Field Day: W1AW Announces 2012 Field Day Bulletin Schedule

Stations active during ARRL Field Day -- June 23-24 -- are eligible to receive 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH on the West Coast). You must include an accurate copy of the message in your Field Day submission. The Field Day bulletin must be copied via Amateur Radio; it will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.

W1AW will operate on the regularly published frequencies. The special PSK31 bulletin will be transmitted on the regular W1AW digital frequencies:

- **CW frequencies**: 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.
- **Digital frequencies** (includes PSK31 and MFSK16) using 45.45-baud Baudot: 3597.5, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz.
- **Phone frequencies**: 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590 and 147.555 MHz.

The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH will transmit the 2012 W1AW Field Day message for the benefit of West Coast stations on 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975 and 21.0675 MHz, CW only. The frequencies for K6KPH Digital (RTTY, BPSK31 MFSK16 and FEC AMTOR) will be 7.095 and 14.095 MHz.

#### Getting Licensed: New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Effective July 1

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool -- released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday, July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions -- E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been removed from the new pool. The current Technician class question pool that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.

# **Solar Weather**

**NOAA Solar Forecasts** 

Updated at: 2012 June 19 2200 UTC

Flare	Flare 0-24 hr	
Class M	10%	05%
Class X	01%	01%

### Geomagnetic Storms

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

High-latitudes	0-24 hr	24-48 hr	
Active	15%	15%	
Minor	10%	10%	
Severe	05%	05%	

**Sunspot Number: 64** 

### **Spotless Days**

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 19 June 2012

### **Interplanetary Magnetic Field**

 $B_{total}$ : 6.1 nT  $B_{z}$ : 1.1 nT north

#### The Radio Sun

10.7 cm flux: 110 sfu

HF Conditions	Day	Night	
80 m - 40 m	Fair	Good	
30 m - 20 m	Good	Good	
17 m - 15 m	Fair	Fair	
12 m - 10 m	Poor	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	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

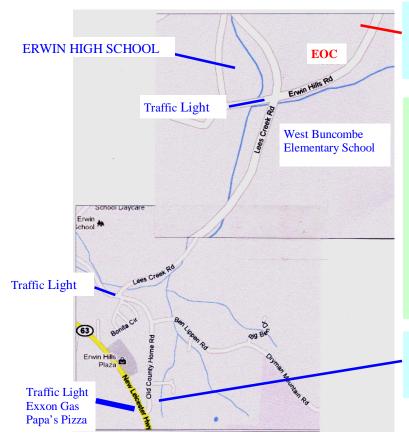
#### 2012 OFFICERS

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
Executive Committee	Linda Harris	KJ4CRL	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
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		
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	
Blue Ridge Weather Watch	145.190 -	Т-Т		Directed net, Skywarn, everyone welcomed	

Frequency / offset / PL 145.190 -	Location Mt. Mitchell	Notes
145.190 -	Mt Mitchell	
	wit. Wittenen	
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	
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	

# **Map to Field Day 2012**



## FIELD DAY SITE BUNCOMBE COUNTY FIREMAN TRAINING CENTER

On June 23rd - 24th a talk-in radio will be setup on 146.91 in case anyone misses a turn on this map.

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

# HAMFEST—Saturday July 28, 2012

Sponsored by Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society **www.wcars.org** Randy Harris, Chairman 828-298-6685

WHERE: Haywood County Fairgrounds 758 Crabtree Road, Waynesville, NC

Latitude: 35.533414 / Longitude: -82.960174

Gates open at 6:00 AM, Doors open at 8:00 AM. Advance tickets are \$5.00, Tickets at the gate are \$7.00, correct change is appreciated.

Talk-In on WCARS repeater (W4MOE, 146.910 minus, 91.5 tone, Asheville), HCARC (N4DTR, 147.390 plus, 94.8 tone, Lake Junaluska)



Free parking ~ Hourly Prizes ~ VE Testing ~ Forums ~ Reserved Inside Tables ~ Covered Flea Market Spaces ~ On-Site Camping with Electric and Water (first come basis, 12 Noon Friday July 27th through 4 PM Saturday)

Hamfest	ADVANCE ORDER FORM		WCARS 2012
Name:	Callsign	No. Tickets @ \$5.00	= \$
Address		Tables @ \$12.00	= \$
		Covered Spaces @ \$10.00	= \$

Phone Total Enclosed: = \$

Email

Please include an e-mail address so that we may confirm your order, along with an SASE for ticket delivery.

Requests received after July 16th will be held for pickup at the hamfest site on event date.

Mail to: WCARS, PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802