



WCARS.org  
July 2011

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

**President's Microphone**

I'm sorry I had to be absent from Field Day. I was there to begin with, but when I got the phone call from home I had no choice ... I had to leave. I wasn't able to return, but I knew things were in good hands.

I'm told that a good crowd showed up for dinner Saturday evening. Thanks to Roger, KI4FPC for doing the hard work for that event.

Carl, N4AA says we did well on Field Day and there didn't seem to be any problems with equipment, power ... just the weather Sunday.

We thank Jerry VeHaun and his folks, John Wilson and Max King, for getting the busses and that BIG generator on site for our use.

Hope to see most of you at the delayed meeting this month on the 21st...

73,  
Scott, W4IYS

**Club Meeting Program ? ? ?**

*Carl Smith, N4AA*

With half of the year still to come, I would really like to hear from the folks who attend the monthly meetings.

We've been "tossed and turned" for the early half of the year, meeting here and there. But now we have a place to meet where we can use a projector and present audio/video material.

SO, what do you want me to do ? ? I can get programs from the League - they have a ton of material. OR, I can create some of my own. I just need to know what you would be interested in seeing. Of course I can't please everyone at every meeting, but at least I could provide something that might interest most of the audience.

How about it? These meetings are for your enjoyment and benefit, in addition to the fellowship. Tell me what you would like, or I'll try some of my own ideas.

Email or the phone work just fine... OK ? ? ?

**Meeting for ... JULY**  
**W. ASHEVILLE LIBRARY**  
**HAYWOOD ROAD - W. ASHEVILLE**  
**7:30 PM - Thursday - July 21st**

**ARES Meeting will be held**  
**Tuesday, July 19th at 7-PM in the**  
**classroom at the Red Cross**  
**building off Merrimon Avenue**

**Open or Shut ?**

*Dick Burns, K8SKX*

What kind of amateur radio operator are you? Are you "open" or "shut"? Are you willing to try new operating modes or do you just stick with the old tried and true and familiar? Does it matter? Are you open to new ideas or ways of communicating or do you shut out change no matter how small that might be? Given the dynamic nature of our hobby, amateur radio change can come at us fast and furious. Because it may be "difficult to understand" we are tempted to forget the new and go on with the old. Our minds are "shut" to change.

I have always thought of myself as being open, but am I really? No I don't work satellites, VHF scatter modes, ATV (fast or slow), MT63, APRS or...you can add at least several dozen other modes here. But, yes I am open to change: I use a keyer instead of a straight key, I have an automatic antenna tuner, dabbled with digital modes (as in 5 or 10 contacts), use 2m packet, and use a computer logging program (but only after it is first recorded on paper). However, doubt is creeping in: Am I really open and does it matter?

*Continued on page three*

### Minutes of June 9th meeting

Roger Grindstaff, KI4FPC

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President, Scott, W4IYS. He then invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Steve, N4SET provided the Treasurers Report, which was accepted.

Dick, K8SKX gave an update on ARES activities with the next meeting scheduled for June 16th at the Red Cross class room. The program will be on Packet.

Carl, N4AA provided an update on plans for Field Day.

Randy, KI4VLW again asked for volunteers to held with the Hamfest. Setup will begin around 9:30 Friday morning, July 29th. The traditional Friday evening dinner will be held again and all are asked to bring TWO covered dishes. We offer dinner to all of the Hamfest workers as well as all the vendors who have come in to setup on Friday.

Dean, K2JB had a short program on what he felt WCARS should be doing to promote Amateur Radio. He also provided the President with information on possible "trailers" the club might consider.

Those present agreed to continue to meet at the West Asheville Library for the foreseeable future. Meeting dates may have to be "adjusted" due to the Library not allow scheduling too far in advance. Every effort will be made to keep the meeting dates as close as possible to the first Thursday of the month.

Meeting adjourned with coffee/drinks & pastries being available during the time of fellowship.

### FIELD DAY

Carl Smith, N4AA

I am pleased to say that Field Day 2011 was a success.

With the outstanding cooperation of Jerry VeHaun, WA4GTT, the Buncombe County Director of Emergency Services, we were able to have two very comfortable vehicles from which to operate. One was used for 40 & 20 meters and the other for 10 meters and the GOTA station. He also provided the "large" generator which provided all the power we could possible need, including the air conditioning in the large bus. A huge THANK YOU to Jerry VeHaun.

I haven't completed all the paperwork yet, but here are the highlights:

- Five stations were operated on the HF bands.
- One station was operated on 6 meters.
- TWO stations operated CW (40 & 20).
- We had 32 people sign our attendance sheet.

Some of the visitors who stopped by just happened to see the "banner" at the gate and came in. Some were Amateurs, some were not, but all were welcome, of course.

I want to personally welcome John, AD8J, a newcomer to the area and a new club member, who provided excellent CW operation on both 40 and 20 meters... THANK YOU JOHN!!

Operation began at the usual 2PM time on Saturday and we shut down at Noon on Sunday. This was a few hours early, but I felt it was necessary with the forecast of storms moving into the area at that time. In fact, as I was pulling out of the gate, it began to rain. Thanks to all the operators for their cooperation in making the shutdown a quick and SAFE one.

Here are a few statistics I have compiled, and I'll have a complete report at the club meeting.

## WCARS 2011 Field Day Report

BAND	MODE	QSO'S	POINTS	OPERATORS
80	SSB	15	15	KN4ST
40	CW	500	1,000	AD8J, N4AA
40	SSB	12	12	N4ANE
20	CW	266	532	AD8J
20	SSB	61	61	N4ANE
15	SSB	119	119	K2JB, W4PH, WD0VDK
10	SSB	51	51	KI4VLW
6	SSB	28	28	??

QSO	Points	1,052	1,818
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Total QSO Points	1,818
Power Multiplier X 2	3,636

<b>BONUS POINTS:</b>	500	100% Emergency Power
	100	Media Publicity
	100	Set-Up in Public Place
	100	Information Booth
	100	Site Visit-served agency
	20	Youth Element
	50	Log Submission by Email

**TOTAL SCORE: 4,606**

## Open or Shut ?

Dick Burns, K8SKX

(Continued from page one)

Yesterday I called a ham in Michigan because I was having trouble making a new (to me) program work on 2m packet. The ham had a post about having similar problems and I thought I could get some insight from him. It turns out he too is in ARES and developing the Emcomm resources for his county. We talked about my problem and then about other programs/modes they are using for communications and their benefits. Some were programs I've heard about but dismissed because I thought the "old" ways worked as well and so didn't investigate them further.

But, for what I heard, I may be wrong. For example a digital mode that works over a repeater simultaneously with voice communications (or I think that's what I heard, have to investigate further). This would be great for *emergency use*.

The take home message here is simply this: be open to the new, be willing to try something new, be versatile. Remember, our goal is to get the message through, by whatever means possible. Methods that worked in the past may still work in the present and future but may not be as effective or efficient as "new" methods in meeting the needs of our served agencies. We need to be "open" to these possibilities.

## ARRL, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE UPDATE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

From ARRL Letter, June 23, 2011

The National Weather Service (NWS) has updated its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ARRL. The updated MoU serves "as a framework within which volunteers of the ARRL may coordinate their services, facilities and equipment with the NWS in support of nationwide, state and local early weather warning and emergency communications function." In May, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed on behalf of the ARRL, and in June, NWS Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services' Director Dave Caldwell signed on behalf of the NWS. The ARRL and the NWS have had a formal working arrangement since 1986.

Read more here:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-national-weather-service-update-em-memorandum-of-understanding-em>.

## Blue Ridge Bonanza Special Event VA & NC

This event is sponsored by:

The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club (W4CA) and  
The Forsythe Amateur Radio Club (W4NC)

This event will happen on September 27th and September 28th from 13:00 to 21:00. We will have 13 stations spread along the BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY from Mile Post 0 through Mile Post 408.

The object is to work as many of these stations as possible during the weekend. If you work any Blue Ridge Bonanza station and send us a SASE you will receive a Blue Ridge Bonanza QSL card. If you work 7 or more stations you will receive a Blue Ridge Bonanza certificate. If you work all 13 stations you will receive a special clean sweep certificate.

The list of stations follows:

Mile	Post Name	40M	20M	Sponsor Club
0	Rockfish Gap	7.225	14.225	Valley ARC
45.6	Buena Vista	7.230	14.230	Covington ARC
61.6	Natural Bridge	7.235	14.235	Lexington ARC
76.5	Apple Orchard	7.240	14.240	Roan Val ARC
84	Peaks of Otter	7.245	14.245	Roan Val ARC
100	Mill Mountain	7.250	14.250	Roan Val ARC
176	Mabry Mill	7.255	14.255	Franklin Cty ARC
188.8	Ground Hog Mt	7.265	14.260	Roan Val ARC
199.5	Fancy Gap	7.270	14.265	Roan Val ARC
213	B/R Music Ctr	7.275	14.270	Briar Patch ARC
217.5	Cumberland Knob	7.280	14.275	Forsythe ARC
317.4	Linville Falls	7.285	14.280	Forsythe ARC
408.6	Mount Pisgah	7.290	14.285	W. C. ARS

All Virginia Stations will be using the call W4CA.

All North Carolina stations will be using the Call W4NC.

Submit a list of stations contacted including Call Sign, Mile Post, Location Name, Date, Time, Frequency and Signal Report and an SASE to :

AB4YZ, Ray Crampton  
1670 Catawba Road  
Troutville, VA 24175

*The above information was sent to Scott, W4IYS. In asking, I was unable to find anyone who remembered participating in this activity.*

*If someone has worked this event before, or wants to participate this year, PLEASE contact:*

Scott Fisher AK4DV, Roanoke Valley ARC, President  
email <ak4dv@yahoo.com> or phone at (540) 598-5175.

**AS THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE UNDER  
THE AUSPICES OF WCARS, SCOTT NEEDS TO  
BE INFORMED IF ANYONE IS GOING TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT.**

# 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

### 2011 OFFICERS

President	Scott McCabe	W4IYS	252-0583	esmccabe@charter.net
Vice President	Carl Smith	N4AA	683-4251	n4aa@dpub.com
Secretary (shared)	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@bellsouth.net
Trustee - W4MOE	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Deryn Blackmon	KJ4TED	654-9894	derynb@charter.net
Awards Chairman	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@charter.net
Hamfest Chairman - 2011	Randy Harris	KI4VLW	298-6685	rtsp71@aol.com
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	7.225	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 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	???