



WCARS.org
October 2009

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

President's Microphone...

The Blue Ridge ARC and WCARS manned the special event station at the WNC Fair. Each club thanks each amateur who operated or visited the station during the fair. Thanks to those members who participated by working the Mt. Pisgah special event station number thirteen during the Blue Ridge Bonanza. The October meeting is important for the club to introduce nominations for office positions that will become vacant this coming year. All members should be present to make their nominations and recommendations. Hope to see everyone at the next club meeting.
73 Dean ~ k2jb

HR 2160 Gains Three More Cosponsors



On September 10, three more Congressmen -- Geoff Davis (KY), Bill Posey (FL) and Michael Turner (OH) -- pledged their support for [HR 2160](#), *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009*,

bringing the total number of cosponsors to 24, [including original sponsor Sheila Jackson-Lee](#) (TX). HR 2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (MO), Michael Arcuri (NY), Roscoe Bartlett (MD), John Boozman (AR), Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Bob Filner (CA1), Bart Gordon (TN), Brett Guthrie (KY), Maurice Hinchey (NY), Michael Honda (CA), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH), Zoe Lofgren (CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO), Thaddeus McCotter (MI), Charlie Melancon (LA), Dennis Moore (KS), Bennie Thompson (MS), Peter Welch (VT),

David Wu (OR) and Don Young (AK). Click [here](#) for information on how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160.
From ARRL

Club Website www.WCARS.org has been off-line for about a month. The web host is aware of the situation. No further information has been forthcoming.
N4SET

Hamfest Calendar

Sep 26 SEDCO V Conference, SEDCO (Southeastern DX & Contesting Organization, MainStay Suites Conference Center 410 Pine Mountain Road, Pigeon Forge, TN
<http://sedco.homestead.com/> Talk-In: None
Contact: Lynn Lamb, W4NL 3134 Allen Drive Maryville, TN 37803 Phone: 865-681-2279 or 865-898-7388 (cell) Email: W4NL@charter.net

3 Oct York County Amateur Radio Society (K4YTZ) Faith Assembly of God 2800 Faith Blvd Rock Hill, SC
<http://www.rockhillhamfest.com> Talk-In: 147.030 neg (no tone) Contact: Sheila Parrish, KG4CDF 2358 J P Dirt Road Edgemoor, SC 29712 Phone: 803-328-5983 Email: coy@navacore.net

17 Oct GrayHamfest Association Appalachian Fairgrounds 101 Lakeview Street Gray TN
<http://GrayHamfesttn.com> Talk-In: 145.290 (PL 103.5) Contact: Charles Stuchell, K4CWA 222 River Road Bluff City, TN 37618 Phone: 423-538-3868 Email: k4cwa@arrl.net

VE Exams

Oct 10 Sponsor: ANDERSON RADIO CLUB Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: STEPHEN J FOSTER (864) 226-2198 VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: HOPE CHURCH 3423 CLEMSON BLVD SUITE 1 ANDERSON, SC 29621

Oct 10 Sponsor: KG4LVO Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: EDWIN A FLOWERS (828) 342-5216 Email: KG4LVO@YAHOO.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: ANDREWS PUBLIC LIBRARY- CONFERENCE RM 871 MAIN ST BUSINESS US 19 AT WALNUT ST TESTING FEE \$15 ANDREWS, NC 28901

Oct 10 Sponsor: LINCOLN COUNTY VOLUNTEER COMM Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CLIFFORD H BROMMER (704) 483-7291 Email: WD4PIC@INFIONLINE.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: LIFE SAVING CREW HALL 322 N ACADEMY ST CELL PHONE: 704-634-4004 LINCOLNTON, NC 28092

Oct 22 Sponsor: CLEVELAND COUNTY AR SERVICE Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: RANDY R ROSS (704) 434-0991 Email: RROSS@LIBRTYNET.COM VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: HARVESTWORKS 891 N POST RD SHELBY, NC 28052

Greenville, South Carolina - 146.61 **First Saturday each Month**, 8:30 AM Red Cross Building - 940 Grove Road Walk-ins normally accepted Sue L. Chism, N4ENX 139 Mustang Circle Simpsonville, SC 29681-5753 864-967-0001

Asheville, North Carolina - 146.91 & 146.76 & 224.60 2:00 PM, **third Sunday, second month of quarter** Room 134, Elm Building - AB Tech Walk-ins only Steve Lanford, AG4BY 101 King St. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-645-3511 Michael Robinson, AD4XZ 99 High Point Rd. Weaverville, NC 28787 828-626-3270

Hendersonville, North Carolina - 146.64 & 442.450 Mountain Home Fire Department, Hwy 25 9:00 AM **Second Saturday of second month of quarter** Sid Hendricks, W4IOE 144 Duncan Creek Rd Fletcher, NC 28732 828-684-8130 Michael Parente, AI4GR PO Box 2577 Hendersonville, NC 28793 828-891-8970

Contact VE for Exam Dates:

Burnsville, NC - 147.375 Yancey County Public Library - Town Square Burnsville David

McCarty, W4TDM 391 E. Main Street Burnsville, NC 28714 828-675-9044 Barry McKinney Rt 2 Box 1122 Burnsville, NC 28714 828-682-9270

Columbus, NC Wayne Ackerman, W3GYK 621 Laurel Lake Drive, Unit B-104 Columbus, N C 28722-7436 828-894-5542 Rutherford County, North Carolina - 147.24 Isothermal College, **Spindale, NC** F. Bruce Tessinear, KD4OJ P. O. Box 341 Henrietta, NC 28076 828-657-5464 A. B. Brackett, AB4E 117 Toney Rd Bostic, NC 28018 828-245-6334

Special Events

Oct 3 Robbinsville, NC. Smoky Mountains Amateur Radio Team, N4GSM. Opening of Cherohala Scenic Skyway. 14.242 7.242. Certificate. SMART, PO Box 983, Robbinsville, NC 28771-0983. w4fmf@arrl.net or

www.main.nc.us/graham/smart

Oct 10, 1300Z-2000Z, Townsend, TN. Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club, W4OLB. 75th anniversary of the founding of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. 14.310 7.070. QSL. Carroll Peabody, W4PCA, 2054 Independence Dr, Maryville, TN 37803.

Operating from the Smoky Mountain Visitor Center. www.smokymountainarc.org

Oct 10, 1400Z-2200Z, Kings Mountain, NC. Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service, NA4CC. The Battle of Kings Mountain fought October 7, 1780. 14.260 7.260. Certificate. CCARS - Special Events, PO Box 864, Shelby, NC 28151. www.nps.gov/kimo or ki4rak@arrl.net

WCARS Information Net (Callsign W4MOE)

8/31/09; with K2JB as NCS; 22 check-ins
9/7/09; with K2JB as NCS; 17 check-ins
9/14/09; with K2JB as NCS; 16 check-ins
9/21/09; with N4SET as NCS; 17 check-ins

SKYWARN Training

All interested hams, and others: The NWS will conduct a SKYWARN class on 10 October from 0900 to 1200 at the Blue Ridge Mall, Hendersonville.

The classroom is in the center court in the area with the large "SHERIFF" sign. Parking in the rear will save walking. The room holds 30

(we still have room for 20 more). Duke Knief
W4DK ARES DEC NC Area 15 828-891-4359
Home 828-606-7773 Cell *If you haven't had
the course you should, as it is good
information. If you have had it, this will be a
good refresher.*

73 Dick K8SKX
EC-BCARES

Upcoming Events

Oct 3: State SET
Oct 10: Pfafftown Swapfest
Oct 17: Scouting Jamboree on the Air
Oct 17: State ARES meeting, Morganton
Oct 17: Gray, TN Hamfest

Ham Radio Toolbar

Years ago, before calculators, a long-standing joke to get a freshman engineering student out of our hair when they were bugging you is to ask them to help you mathematically find the value on pi. Off they would go, slide rule in hand not to be heard from for a long time. Nowadays, it's just a phrase to refer to busy work to keep someone busy for a while. Well, this toolbar will accomplish the same thing.

http://www.n0hr.com/Ham_Radio_Toolbar.htm

Thanks to Phil, W9IXX, who sends this with his regards. Install it, follow all the links it shows for ham radio and you WILL be busy for a while.

Dean ~ k2jb

Support for HR 2160 The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- *the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation.* See the September 2009 Smoke Test for detailed information.

N4SET

October Meeting - The next WCARS meeting will be October 1, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Simpson Auditorium, Simpson Bldg, at AB Tech. Program: To be announced.

Continuing Education Online Course Registration

- ARRL Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions



beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.

ARRL

Are Sunspots Disappearing?

NASA Science News for September 3, 2009 -

The sun is in the pits of the deepest solar minimum in nearly a century. Weeks and sometimes whole months go by without even a single tiny sunspot. Are sunspots disappearing? Experts discuss the question in today's story from Science at NASA.

FULL STORY at

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/03ep_sunspots.htm?list1302104

Check out the RSS feed at

<http://science.nasa.gov/rss.xml!>

From N4KOX - Russ

Texas Bug Catcher Antenna to Cease Operations

(Sep 3, 2009) -- After October 31, 2009, GLA Systems -- the manufacturer of the Texas Bug Catcher antennas -- will cease taking orders for new antennas; according to their Web site, all orders received before that date will be filled. "Effective November 1, only orders for items that are in stock at the time will be accepted. Effective December 31, 2009, the toll free line, 1-800-588-2841, will be discontinued." No reason was given for the closure, but on GLA's Web site, owner Henry Allen, K5BUG, said "It has been a fun 30 years, but it is time to hang it up. I would like to thank everyone who has made this experience possible."



ARRL

THE SMOKE TEST

The Official Publication of the
Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
 PO Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802
www.wcars.org
 W4MOE/146.910 - /PL 91.5 Spivey Mountain/Asheville

2008 OFFICERS

President	Dean Blair	K2JB	655-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
Vice-President	Michael Brown	KI4WCA	Unlisted	brownpiggin@gmail.com
Secretary	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wncgeneao@aol.com
Treasurer	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Dean Blair	K2JB	665-1830	k2jb@arrl.net
Executive Committee	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Trustee	Norman Harrill	N4NH	253-1192	nharrill@bellsouth.net
Quartermaster	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	elwood3@charter.net
Awards Chair	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@arrl.net
Public Information	Bob Dockery	WD4CNZ	254-0513	wd4cnz@arrl.net
Hamfest 09	Elwood Miles	KN4ST	253-4490	Elwood3@charter.net
Smoke Test Editor	Steve Emory	N4SET	658-0261	n4set@arrl.net
<small>American Radio Relay League Affiliate No. 0602 WCARS meets at 7:30 PM the first Thursday of each month at the Simpson Building at AB Technical Community College. Everyone is welcome to attend. Membership dues are \$20 per year payable in January.</small>				

Net	Freq (MHz) offset/PL	Day	12 Hr Time	NOTES
WCARS Information Net	146.910-/91.5	Monday	9:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Oasis Shrine Radio Corp. Net.	145.190	Sunday	9:00 pm	
BRARC Net	146.640/91.5	Sunday	8:00pm	
Good Morning Net	146.760	M-W-F	9:00 am	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Madison Co. Am.Rad.Com.Tm	224.660/100	Tuesday	9:00 pm	Madison Co. Emerg. Comm. Net
Buncombe Co. Emerg Mgt Net	146.910/91.5	Wednesday	9:00 pm	Directed Net, ARES / RACES
Haywood County Roundtable	147.390/94.8	Monday	8:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Volunteer Net	147.180+/136.5	Friday	9:00 pm	Info, News and Swap Net
6600 Net	145.190	Saturday	9:00 pm	Many Check-Ins - Wide Coverage
Blue Ridge Traffic Net	146.610	Nightly	9:00 pm	May be ARES / SKYWARN in bad WX
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260	Sunday	9:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540	Monday	8:00 pm	Informal, Everyone Welcome
Mount Mitchell Rag Chew Net	442.225+/107.2	Monday	9:00 pm	Directed, Everyone Welcome
SATERN Net	14.265	Daily	3:00 pm	Salvation Army Team Emergency Net
K4UUQ Morning Net	7.225	Daily	7:00 am	Rag chew
NC Morning Net	3.927	Daily	7:45 am	SSB Traffic Net
NC Evening Net	3.923	Daily	6:30 pm	SSB Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (early)	3.573	Daily	7:00 pm	CW (20-22 wpm) Traffic Net
Tarheel Emergency Net	3.923	Nightly	7:30 pm	Directed, NC Emergency Mgt/Traffic
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571	Nightly	8:00 pm	Slow CW (8-10 wpm) Traffic Net
Carolinas Net (late)	3.573	Nightly	10:00 pm	CW (15-18 wpm) Traffic Net

September 3rd Minutes...Bob - WD4CNZ

The September meeting of WCARS was called to order at 1937 hrs by Michael KI4WCA.

The group was invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

As the Minutes of the previous meeting were printed in the latest SMOKETEST, a motion was made, seconded, and voted to waive the reading of the Minutes.

The group was then asked to introduce themselves giving a name, callsign, and QTH. 30 persons were in attendance at this meeting.

Steve N4SET gave the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: The MOE Van work is almost complete but still needs painting. The group was asked for any ideas on how this could be done and who.

The repeater is still being worked on but is operating. The telephone line is not plugged in at this time. Other issues are being addressed for best operation.

Danny Rector AJ4HZ spoke about the special event station being planned for the Mountain State Fair operation. He asked for volunteers to work the booth to meet/greet folks as well as operate. A sign-up sheet of days/times was passed around for members to sign up.

The Blue Ridge Bonanza is set for Sep 19-20 at Mt. Pisgah. A request went out for volunteers to operate this event.

The group was asked to consider serving as a 2010 WCARS officer with elections coming in the near future for next year.

The group was asked to consider a date for the annual Christmas Dinner Party.

Elwood Miles presented via a computer movie the operation by the Four-Landers' Club in the 2009 VHF Contest with contestors in action as W4NH. He narrated the description of gear and operations. Paul Yeager W4SKI was seen in participating with the group at Mile High Campground in grid square EM85 near Waynesville.

David KG4WAP won the 50-50 drawing. Randy Harris won the mug door prize.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2021 hrs. Refreshments and fellowship followed.

SET

State Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to be conducted; The Tarheel Emergency Net will be active on or around 3.923MHz on October 3 from 8am to 12noon to support local SET exercises scheduled on the ARRL's national SET weekend. The regular National Traffic System (NTS) nets will be operating during the weekend on their regular schedule to provide additional support. Buncombe County ARES (BCARES) to conduct their own SET later in the month or possibly in November.

STATE ARES MEETING AGENDA

The fall ARES meeting is set for Saturday, October 17, 0930 - 1230, Health Sciences Building, Western Piedmont Community College, 1001 Burkemont Ave., Morganton. The college is off exit 103 on I-40. Parking is

available in Lot 1, near the Sam Ervin Library, Talk-in on the 147.150MHz repeater. Section EC Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, will provide an update on section ARES activities; Western Branch Assistant Section EC Paul Robinette, KD4OZI, will talk about work in the Western Branch. Central Branch Assistant Section EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, will cover NC Emergency Management's new Winlink system. Former NC Section Manager John Covington, W4CC, will present some preliminary results from the state digital study. Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, will provide an update from ARRL HQ and offer suggestions on the effective management of volunteers. An open discussion on ARES membership training requirements is planned. Lunch afterwards at a pizza buffet restaurant across from the college. There's plenty of room!
NC ARRL

Blue Ridge Bonanza 2009

The log sheets for the WCARS station at Mt. Pisgah went into the mail this afternoon (September 21st). We added a 10' canopy this year beside the van.



4+ inches of rain, heavy fog, wind and poor band conditions looks like this

I regret to say that our performance this year was MUCH below last year. On Saturday we made only three contacts all day. They were on 40M and all made between 9 and 11 am. The rest of the day we couldn't raise anyone, on 40 or 20 (we heard "The Salmon Run" on our 20M frequency, and they were making contacts, but didn't complain about US transmitting there.) But Sunday was "better". We made 32 contacts on 40M, and 11 contacts on 20M (this year we had a 20M transceiver that wasn't down on it's power + weren't bothered by contesters). But, overall, band conditions were NOT good, and I assume the other stations found the same? We could've done better if we'd used voice keyers; will try to do so next year, to "be ON more; miss fewer as they tune across our assigned

frequencies" (our ops were bad to stop transmitting and start chatting among themselves in the van, especially when repeated efforts got no responses.)



On Sunday, KG4OPM (right) works 20m while K4AVL tries his luck on 40

One of our ops suggested that in the future we should have one or more scheduled directed nets each day of the event to share with the other event stations, as called upon, with "how they're doing". This could be done on the Mt. Mitchell repeater (145.190-), which every station in our group should be able to reach via 2 meters. And could be done by someone not operating the HF stations at the time.



KI4VLW (left), KU2U (right) and N4SET discuss operational plans

Thanks to the Pisgah Inn and the USNPS for being our hosts again this year. KN4ST
KN4ST - Elwood