

NEWSLETTER



Charlotte Regional Skywarn Making Visits

Charlotte Regional Skywarn is making visits within the 15 county coverage area of CRS.

So far a visit has been made to the ICARS club up in Iredell Co. and a rather large crowd came out to hear about the reorganized group with new leadership.

The next meeting will be February 17 @ 7PM, Concord Fire Station #7 on International Dr NW. This will be an introductory session to let folks know who we are and what we have planned. If you are available, please come out and check us out! I'll also be engaging in supper prior to the meeting at R&R BBQ just off of Poplar Tent Road on Pitt School Rd. I should be there about 5:45 and hope to break some bread with everyone.

We will also be at the Charlotte HamFest March 7 & 8 2014. Swing by our flea market spot to meet and greet all your favorite PSG members and CRS members! Fun will be had by all!



W4BFB The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society WILL once again be hosting, along with tons of help from other local clubs, The Charlotte HamFest! The dates are Friday March 7th and Saturday March 8th 2014.

Members of MARS will be visiting area Ham clubs looking for help and selling Tickets for the HamFest. Please visit our site www.w4bfb.org for more club info and links to the Charlotte Hamfest! This will be a good event. I have heard some of the line up to be a Booth by Ten Tec, and several forums from some DXpedition stations....one being Wake Atoll! You can even order your ticket online!

Restaurant Review



DALLAS BUFFET

You've all heard it announced each month about the Dallas Buffet. Well here is a picture of the group that was there in January. We took up 3-8' tables and had a ball! Every month on the Second Saturday, Dallas Masonic Lodge on College st. offers a Buffet Breakfast for \$6.00. All proceeds go to provide scholarships to local Gaston county youth. The Buffet consists of Bacon, Sausage, Livermush, Eggs, Biscuits, Grits, Gravy, and usually a couple of different flavors of Pancakes. This is always a good breakfast and a gathering spot for PSG participants. Second Saturday Each Month!

Charlotte Ham Fest 2014

Welcome to the 2014 Charlotte Hamfest

www.w4bfb.org

New Dates & Times:

Friday, March 7th, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 8th, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Talk in Provided by [C.A.R.S.](#)

Talk-In, 146.655 (-), No Tone
backup on 146.94 (-), (118.8Hz)

March 7 - 8, 2014

ADMISSION TICKETS:

[\\$7 ADVANCE using USPS](#)

[\\$8 ADVANCE using PayPal](#)

\$10 AT THE DOOR

12 AND UNDER FREE

FREE PARKING

Same Location: [Cabarrus Arena & Events Center](#)

Minutes from I85, [Concord Mills Mall](#) and [Charlotte Motor Speedway](#).

4571 Hwy 49 North, Concord, NC 28025

GPS: Lat: 35.387740 Lon: -80.501110

Dealer Area Information

- 80 commercial booths w/MAJOR manufacturers
 - [View the Dealer Exhibitor Booth Locations](#)
 - Get the [Dealer Package](#) for ordering your Booth.
Activities & Information
-

HF Digital Modes - Exploring JT65

JT65 is one of those Odd but fun digital modes, and there are plenty of contacts out there to be made! The way I describe the sound of JT65 is the sound of “Chimes” almost like the ice cream truck is coming down the street! JT65 traffic can be found on all of the HF bands. The equipment needed to start using this mode is the same as PSK31:

Windows PC
HF radio
Sound Card interface (Like Rig Blaster or Signalink)
Free software like Ham Radio Deluxe and JT65-HF

JT65 is low power, weak signal mode. My setup that has been working well is: HRD used to key the transmitter, while JT65-HF modulates the radio to send the signals, and decodes the signals received. Just like PSK31 low power is key, no more than 30 watts, but typical is 10 watts. You’ll want to keep an eye on the ALC and adjust the TX of your soundcard interface down till you have no ALC showing.

There is too much information on JT65 to go into within this newsletter so here is a few great website to get more familiar with this mode.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujsFbZ9RLho>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbt2vXjTyss>

Submitted by:

Chris Gay

NI_ICRG

Local Nets

Daily Nets:

8:00 PM PSGnet	145.230 tone 118.8
8:00 PM PETN	145.350
9:00 PM CLTMetro 2 meter Emergency Net	146.940 tone 118.8
9:00 PM Blue Ridge Emergency Net (GSP)	146.610 tone
9:30 PM Central Carolina Traffic Net (Wilkesboro)	146.820 tone 94.8

Mondays:

8:30 PM Shelby ARES Net	146.880
9:00 PM Cleveland Co Simplex Net (1st Monday of the month)	147.505

Tuesdays:

7:00 PM Catawba Co RACES	145.170 tone 88.5
7:30 PM Gaston Co. Amateur Radio Society	147.120 tone 100
8:30 PM Triad SKYWARN® Net	147.255 tone 82.5

Wednesdays:

7:30 PM Mecklenburg ARES Net	146.940 tone 118.8
8:30 PM Rowan Emergency Net	145.410 tone 136.5
9:00 PM GAARC Amateur Radio Operators Net (ARES)	146.805 tone 100
9:00 PM ICARS Net W4SNC	146.685 tone 77
9:00 PM Prayer Net	145.350

Thursdays:

7:00 PM Gaston ARES	147.120 tone 100
7:30 PM Lincoln RACES	147.015 tone 141.3
8:00 PM Boone NC	147.360 tone 103.5

Fridays:

8:00 PM GRITS net	147.150
8:30 PM Shelby ARES	146.880

Saturdays:

8:30 PM Dixie Radio Pirates Net	145.410 tone 136.5
9:00 PM 6600 Net	145.190

Sundays:

8:30 PM Mecklenburg Simplex Net	147.505
9:00 PM Caldwell Amateur Radio Emergency Services Net (CARES)	147.330 tone 141.3
9:00 PM Prayer Net	145.350

Net Totals

Month of January 2014

January 2014

Traffic	0
Announcements	83
Check ins	854
Minutes	1061
Nets	31

Charlotte Regional SKYWARN®

January 2014

WX Reports	37
Check In's	26
Minutes	209

Charlotte Regional Skywarn held 2 nets during January, one Severe Wx activated net and one Informal net due to the Winter Weather. Thank you all for monitoring and checking in with us. Please continue to Check in each night with the Piedmont Spotter Group for training and with Charlotte Regional Skywarn during WX events.

We did receive Kudos from the GSP EC on the way we operate our Skywarn Nets. Remember Skywarn Trained Spotters ARE "The Boots on the Ground"! Thanks again for making this a great group!

How to make a weather report

Making a weather report isn't too difficult, but one that is often done incorrectly, at least based on what the NWS in Greer has requested. We'll take your report anyway you'll give it to us, but it makes the process run smoother if you follow a few steps.

You should be already familiar with what is reportable severe criteria, and only report weather that meets this threshold. As always, if you are unsure, make the report and let the net control station know that you are not sure if it meets criteria.

Identify your station by amateur call sign to the Net Control Station. Once Acknowledged and advised to proceed with your report:

- 1. What are you reporting.**
Some examples: I have quarter size hail, or I have a measured snowfall amount of 1.5 inches.
- 2. Where are you located.**
The NWS in Greer, SC wants to pinpoint your location as best they can. The way they would like this information is: County, State, Closest City, Current Street & the Closest cross street. Some Examples: Mecklenburg Co NC, Charlotte, Walk St & Don't Walk St or Gaston Co NC, I85 S @ Mile Marker 17
- 3. Important Comments.**
This is a very vague section, as it's use may or not be needed depending on the report being filed.

- 4. Stay on the frequency if safe to do so.** At times the NWS may ask for more information from Net Control on a report that has been made, and the Net Control Station may need to get further information from you.

So lets look at a few examples of some reports and how they look to the NWS when we forward the reports.

Here is a snow report. A Snow Report isn't an Emergency, and is reported to the NWS to track total snow accumulation for an event.

K9DOG to Net Control
<Acknowledgement> Net Control, I have a Snow fall Report to make
<Acknowledgement> I have a measured snowfall of 1.5 inches of snow, I am located in Gaston Co near Gastonia on Main Ave near W Franklin Blvd. I took this measurement 5 mins ago <Acknowledgement>

Here is what it looks like to NWS

M1.5 INCHES Snowfall @
XX:XX // Gaston Co NC, Gastonia at Main Ave & W Franklin Blvd // Ham Radio

Lets break it down **What are you reporting** "M" for measured 1.5 Inches of snowfall and when you took the measurement. **Where are you Located** They are in Gaston County NC near Gastonia on Main Ave, nearest cross street is W Franklin Blvd. The end tells the NWS we received this report VIA Ham Radio

Here is a Severe Wx Report: Notice that this report would be considered

"Emergency or Priority Traffic" so they are letting net control know up front that is a possible funnel cloud. This is useful if many reports are coming in, and we can prioritize and get them first.

K9DOG to Net Control,
Emergency, I have a funnel cloud to report<Acknowledgement> I am located in York Co SC near Clover. I am on Ridge Rd, closest cross street is Main St. I have a rotating funnel cloud moving North North east. I've been following for 10 mins and have just gotten to a radio.

<Acknowledgement from NCO>

Rotating Funnel Cloud // York Co SC, Clover, near Ridge Rd & Main St // Moving NNE, and has been observed for 10 mins // Ham Radio

What are you reporting Rotating Funnel Cloud. **Where are you located.** In York County SC near Clover at Ridge Rd near Main St. **Important Comments** It's moving NNE and I have been following it for 10 mins. This would be a great example of where the NWS may have further questions to ask, esp since you have been observing for 10 mins. **REMEMBER, we are STORM SPOTTERS, NOT STORM CHASERS. Never put yourself in harms way.**

All this may seem like a lot, but when you break it down, we really need to know what you are reporting and where you are.

Chris Gay

Charlotte Regional Skywarn

District Coordinator

North Carolina QSO Party February 23, 2014

Sponsored by the Raleigh
Amateur Radio Society

2014 Rules are now posted
-- see the Rules page for
full details.

Highlights: Digital modes!
EMCOMM challenge, and
new bonus counties. NC
QSO Party on Facebook!

That's right, the QSO Party
now has a Facebook page.
We'd love to see pictures or
accounts of your 2013
operation and 2014 plans.
[Check us out here.](#)

Quick Start Guide

See the [Rules page](#) for full
details.

Stations in NC contact as
many other stations as
possible.

Stations outside NC contact
as many NC stations as
possible.

Work out-of-state contacts
one time per band and
mode. Work in-state
contacts once per county,
band and mode.

Club, Expedition and
Mobile operations are
allowed (and encouraged!).
There is a separate class
for QRP; all stations must
use low power (<150W).

NCQP Mailing List

For the latest updates on
the contest, as well as
discussions of upcoming
operations, go to [http://
groups.yahoo.com/group/
ncqsoparty](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncqsoparty). You may also
join via email. Just send a
message to [ncqsoparty-
subscribe@yahoogroups.co
m](mailto:ncqsoparty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to be added to the list.

Logging Software

Most current logging
software has at least a
generic "QSO Party" mode.
Check out our list of
logging programs we know
support NCQP. Also, in
order to facilitate log
checking, please use the
NC County Abbreviations
list in your logs. Most
counties use the first three
letters of the county name,
but there are some which
overlap.

NCQP Memorabilia

Would you like to have a
year long remembrance of
the great time you had in
the North Carolina QSO
Party? Take a look at this
page for some cool
memorabilia: [http://
www.cafepress.com/ncqp](http://www.cafepress.com/ncqp)

(all info extracted from the
NC QSO Party info site.

www.rars.org/

Calendar

Skywarn Spotter Training

Spring of 2014!!!

Currently working on gathering dates
and locations at time of distribution.

Listen for Announcements SOON!

March 7 & 8

CHARLOTTE HAMFEST!

Cabarrus Arena and Event Center

Talk in: 146.655

MORE TO COME

Contacts

Twitter:

[@piedmontspotter](https://twitter.com/piedmontspotter)

Facebook:

[Piedmont Spotter Group](#)

Website:

www.piedmontspottergroup.com