

The Official Organ

The Official Newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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JARS Meeting this Thursday

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday evening, September 19th at the Panther Branch Community Building at 10900 Ten-Ten Road in Garner. That is just off NC 50 south of Garner. Supper this month will be potluck so make sure you fix something that you would be proud to serve your mother. Even though we are doing potluck this month, remember that you need to bring a crisp \$1 bill to help toward the building rent.

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And anything else I can think of.

Happy 38th Birthday JARS

The Johnston Amateur Radio Society was formed with twelve members in September 1975. Of those twelve, eight were licensed. WA4XIT (AK4H) was elected the first JARS President.

JARS have come quite a ways since those days. Membership has grown. We are getting ready for JARSfest 2013 and the club is getting involved in more community activities.

This Month's Program

Our program this month will be Basic Skywarn Spotter Training to be conducted by Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, the Skywarn Coordinator for Central Carolina Skywarn. This program should be appropriate after the program we had last month by Mike Moss of WRAL.

Election of Officers for 2014

At this month's meeting we will be presented with a slate of candidates for JARS leadership

for 2014. Even though we are voting on officers this month, the changing if the guard will not take place until January of 2014. This allows our current leaders to get us through JARSFest.

LOM Report

This is KK4BVU "The Great and Powerful LID" Thy lack of respect for the LID has not gone unnoticed. The LID is not amused. My iron plunger is getting itchy and will fall upon the noggin' of a deserving JARS member shortly. Not to show all of my cards, but I do have two people in particular in mind at this point. I hope that KB4RZ shows because we may need to implement the Kangaroo Court. Yes, it has come down to this. I may break some rules, but the LID makes the rules. It may take several flushes and some Drains, but with the help of my trusty iron plunger I am confident that the LD will go to a deserving recipient. I had hoped to add a new name to the back of the butt gasket, but based on current events it appears that we will be having a "Once and Future LID". But you never do know. Some knucklehead could go above and beyond and score some big points. Looking forward to seeing everyone. I know it is Pot

Luck, but I hereby grant immunity to any JARS member that grills cheeseburgers. Don't forget the chips. And none of these girly flavored chips. I want straight potato chips. No burgers, no immunity. Van, you may want to get your son to fire up his tailgating grill. I would strongly recommend it.

The LID has spoken.

KK4BVU

JARSFest 2013 Update

Our application has been submitted to ARRL so we may be an ARRL Sanctioned event. The flyer has been submitted to SERA and the request for the mailing labels has been sent to the ARRL. Everything is starting to fall into place. Remember that JARSFest 2013 is Sunday, November 17th. We start setting up at around 230 am that morning. I know that is early but it is only one day out of 365 and we need all the help we can get to make it a success.

JARS Net Report For August

Again this month ten reports were not sent in. Even missing ten, we still had 441 logins for an average of 21 a net. Just think, 10

reports at an average of 21 each, we could have had 651 total check ins for the month. It takes less than 5 minutes to send them in. Last month, I got one report 37 days late. Please fellows, send them in that night.

We had four individuals who tied for first place and two for second. I'm just wondering if we would have had a clear winner if all reports were sent in. If someone feels shorted, it is not the Net Whips fault. The EXL report agrees with the paper count.

I am looking forward to a more complete report.

Jack, WA2YBM

Smartphone APRS

There are many Amateur Radio applications out there that are capable of operating on the average smart phone. I have recently discovered an older application called APRS.

What is APRS

The APRS system was invented and introduced by Bob Bruninga, an amateur radio operator (WB4APR).

Officially, APRS is the abbreviation for **A**utomatic **P**osition **R**eporting **S**ystem.

Some feel APRS should be the abbreviation for **A**utomatic **P**acket **R**eporting **S**ystem. Originally the system only reported positional information. However, in recent years, APRS has become more than a standard for reporting the simple location of an object. It is now used for reporting weather, locations of objects that have no actual APRS systems aboard, like starting locations for races, check points for those races, etc.

Basically, an APRS system requires a location sensor (GPS, but sometimes just a person with a map), a Packet radio transmission system on one end and a packet radio receiver and a computer on the other end of the system.

The first system collects its current location and encodes it in a standardized format as a string of text and transmits that information as a beacon. The transmission is NOT directed at any one station but rather beamed out for all listening stations to hear and interpret.

A second system receives the information using APRS software and then decodes the packet and, typically, places an icon on a map showing the transmitting station's location.

There are a couple of ways to get involved in APRS, one is to go out and buy an APRS ready radio. Kenwood and Yaesu have some pretty neat, compact handhelds and Kenwood has a couple of mobile rigs that are available. However, most people

do not have the money to invest in another radio or just want to try APRS before purchasing an APRS radio. That is where the APRS app for smartphone comes in handy. There are many free APRS available for your smart phone, but remember this, you get what you pay for. The free apps are a great introduction into APRS but you are extremely limited in what you can do with them. I decided to go with "Open APRS". This is a full function APRS program that allows you to do everything with your smart phone that you can do with a full- fledged APRS radio. The cost is around \$3.00 and is well worth the money. You have to have a valid call sign and register with them. On the maps page, under settings you will need to activate the various features to get the full use of the program.

One very important thing to remember is that when you are done using the app, turn off all the features or you will run you battery down.

I use my iPhone APRS when I am mobile and am plugged into a car charger.

If you are going to use your smart phone as an APRS station, go to the Settings on your phone,

click on the OpenAPRS app. There you will enter your call sign and your SSID will be 5 as that is the recommended Station ID for smart phones.

There is an internet website that is a great place to see who is operating APRS in your area. It is: <http://aprs.fi/>

Mike KD4UJC

Ham Humor:

An elderly ham driver was going down the interstate when suddenly his 2 meter rig crackled his call...Answering...he heard a fellow ham's urgent warning....."Hey Elmer, just heard on the news that there's a car going down I-40 the wrong way, please be careful"!! Elmer replied,"Well I'll declare, it's not just one..... there's hundreds of them'!!!!!!!!!!

ARRL News

Public Service:
**SATERN, Red Cross
Volunteers Activate for
Morgan Incident Fire**

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ([RACES](#)) went on standby alert and the Red Cross and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) were reported to have been called out earlier this week in the wake of the so-called [Morgan Incident Fire](#), in chaparral southeast of Clayton, California. The blaze, on the eastern flank of the north peak of Mount Diablo, put at least four Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club ([MDARC](#)) repeaters off the air September 8.

"MDARC and SATERN work hand in hand on most activities from training and license courses to call outs," MDARC President Jim Siemons, AF6PU, said. "We have a memorandum of understanding between SATERN and MDARC for use of the W6CX repeater system during emergencies. That repeater system was directly threatened by the fire. For 24 hours W6CX repeaters were only taking emergency and priority traffic."

Repeaters taken down include the K6MDD D-STAR repeater, the W6UUU MotoTRBO repeater, the recently relocated W6CX APRS digipeater and the W6CX ATV repeater. Siemons says the condition of the equipment is

unknown. The W6CX APRS digipeater was moved to the north peak of Mount Diablo after [vandals toppled](#) the communications tower on Rocky Ridge. "MDARC seems to have gone from the proverbial frying pan into the fire," Siemons said this week. The fire, under tinder dry conditions, grew rapidly and raced to the mountaintop.

"In an amazing testament of the bravery and tactical skill of hundreds of firefighters, a minimum amount of damage was sustained to the five communications towers on North Peak," Siemons reported. "The worst [damage] was to what is referred to as the 'Amateur Radio tower.'" Mains power provided via Pacific Gas and Electric to Mount Diablo is down, and those with generators are operating via that mode." He said no one is predicting when power will be restored; approximately 25 power poles were consumed in the fire. By September 12, the fire was considered 80 percent contained. So far it has claimed some 3200 acres.

*Public Service: MARS
Transpacific Emergency*

Communication Exercise Overcomes Obstacles

Everything about the MARS "Pacific Endeavor-13" exercise was simulated, except the power failure in "Pacifica," the fictitious disaster-battered Asian nation that a small band of amateurs was seeking to assist. The Pentagon and US Pacific Command set up the drill as a test of Amateur Radio emergency support in Asia in the aftermath of Japan's tsunami catastrophe. MARS, military stations and amateurs collaborated. The blackout occurred at the outset of the US Department of Defense globe-spanning exercise August 25-26. A star of the show was PSK31, which performed well, even in the otherwise grim propagation that prevailed during PE-13.

"We had stations monitoring in the Continental US, Hawaii, Japan, Germany, and Afghanistan," said Army MARS Program Officer Paul English, WD8DBY. "There was only intermittent reception in Germany and the US on PSK, but we had a solid connection between Nepal and Afghanistan." Power was restored in Nepal about two and a half hours into the exercise, enabling "marginal

voice communications" from Nepal to Afghanistan and Germany. He said Hawaii could hear, but not talk to, Nepal. Propagation sufficient to support voice modes lasted just a few minutes.

At 9N1AA in Nepal, the *real* "Pacifica," two operators forged ahead on battery power, running just 25 W. But a stroke of the other kind of luck provided a low-power digital link to an amateur in Afghanistan. Tim McFadden, KB2RLB/T6TM, a retired Army communicator now helping train Afghan troops as a contractor, had joined Army MARS less than a month before the exercise. McFadden, who spent 21 years in uniform, went for his ham license after watching a fellow soldier work a pileup with only 100 W while they were deployed in Turkey during the 1991 Iraq War. He used a homebrew delta loop and a G5RV installed as an inverted V for his Yaesu FT-897D.

Although the operation lasted less than three hours, a great deal more time went into preparations. Sanjeeb Panday, 9N1SP, had been getting ready for months, using emergency protocols recommended by the International Amateur Radio

Union ([IARU](#)). His partner in Kathmandu, Satish Khrishna Kharel, 9N1AA, provided the station and did most of the operating.

To avoid unwanted alarm, participants avoided the type of language typical of an emergency. Instead, all communication used terms from the game of cricket. In preparatory exercises, traffic was disrupted by hams seeking to contact Nepal, a "rare one" for many hams. Resorting to abbreviated call signs and dependence upon digital modes during the exercise alleviated this problem, although DX hunters did show up during a brief period of voice transmission.

A preliminary count showed 60 stations took part. Participants, including MARS stations in the US and Japan, used their amateur call signs. "We were able to submit a number of spot info reports to the Pacific Command and responded to a number of information requests in a timely manner," English said.

Events: NASA Invites Ham Radio Community

to Say "HI" to Juno Spacecraft

NASA's Juno spacecraft will fly past Earth on October 9 to receive a gravity assist, putting it on course for Jupiter. To celebrate, the Juno mission is inviting Amateur Radio operators around the world to say "HI" to Juno in a coordinated Morse code message. If enough operators participate, Juno's "Waves" radio and plasma wave experiment should be able to detect the message. The [Say "HI" to Juno](#) web page will be updated with additional information as the event approaches. All transmissions will take place on 10 meters, with the precise (suggested) frequency determined by the last letter of your call sign (see Juno Flyby Frequency Table, below).

Sponsors say Juno will have a better chance of detecting signals from many operators if the transmissions are spread out across the spectrum. The Juno Waves instrument is a broadband receiver, and the detector being used for this event has a passband that's 1 MHz wide.

While the Waves instrument is sensitive to radio signals in all amateur bands below 40 MHz,

sponsors chose 10 meters, because experience with the University of Iowa instruments on the Galileo and Cassini Earth flybys showed significant ionospheric shielding at lower frequencies. Sponsors actually are hoping for poor band conditions on October 9, so an appreciable fraction of the radiated energy can escape the ionosphere into space.

Indicators on the [Say "HI" to Juno](#) web page will instruct participants when to transmit and when to stop transmitting. Each will have a timer to indicate how long until you switch from one mode to the other mode. Stations should transmit a legal station identification as the FCC or non-US regulators require. Participants should consider their stations to be operating as attended beacon stations and should avoid transmitting on top of ongoing communications.

Stations with directional antennas should check the web site for information on what headings to use during the event. Visit the [Say "HI" to Juno](#) web page for full details and to obtain the latest information. The activity begins October 9 at about 18:01 UTC and continue until about 20:41 UTC. Operators

taking part should make sure their computer clocks are synchronized to network time prior to the event. The web page will indicate when you start or stop transmitting (key down/key up).

Last Letter of Your Call Sign	Frequency to Use (MHz)
A	28.001
B	28.019
C	28.037
D	28.055
E	28.073
F	28.091
G	28.109
H	28.127
I	28.145
J	28.163
K	28.181
L	28.199
M	28.217
N	28.234
O	28.252
P	28.270
Q	28.288
R	28.306
S	28.324
T	28.342
U	28.360
V	28.378
W	28.396
X	28.414
Y	28.432
Z	28.45

Participants can receive a QSL card for contacting Juno. [E-mail](#) your call sign and mailing address. Additional information is available at [NASA's Juno](#) website and the [Mission Juno](#) website. -- NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; thanks to John Andrews, ACØXY

Upcoming Hamfests:

10/13/2013 | Maysville Hamfest

Location: Maysville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Maysville Hamfest Association

NC Section News

TRIBUTE TO TAR HEEL HAM JOURNALISTS

– From the state with a rich history of journalists such as Edward R. Murrow and Charles Kuralt of CBS, Vermont Royster of the Wall Street Journal, David Brinkley of NBC, Charlie Rose of CBS and PBS, Whitey Bulger biographer and Boston Herald columnist Howie Carr, and dozens more, we honor four of our own whose reporting on Amateur Radio related issues and topics have national and international audiences. The August issue of the North Carolina pays tribute to Bob Grove, Carl Smith, Gary Pearce and George Huffman.

GOODBYE TO MONITORING

TIMES - Straddling the Cherokee and Clay county

line in far southwestern North Carolina just a shade north of Georgia

lies Brasstown, which has been home for 33 years to Judy and Bob Grove,

W8JHD, publishers of Monitoring Times. This December will be the monthly

magazine's last issue. Over the past three decades, MT has covered

shortwave and broadcast listening, scanning, military, maritime, and

aviation monitoring, equipment reviews, clandestine stations, public

safety monitoring and, of course, Amateur Radio. You'll be able to find both archived and current issues at

www.monitoringtimes.com

Fellow North Carolina Ham journalist Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, has a splendid

interview with Bob on his Ham Radio Now website as Episode 89 at

www.arvideonews.com/hrn/HRN_Episode_0089.html

Many thanks Bob and Judy for a superb run, and enjoy a very well earned retirement.

HAM RADIO NOW – From the mountains of North Carolina we turn to the Piedmont and the Raleigh

suburb of Cary, where Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, produces and edits his webcasts of Ham Radio Now. Gary's has a true journalistic background. He has worked for years in major market television and radio, and for advertising agencies. Seeing a void in quality video about Amateur Radio, Gary began Amateur Radio Video News (ARVN) which produces DVDs on a variety of Ham topics. From there he's been a guest on Twit TV's Ham Nation, and has filled in as a guest host for regular host Bob Heil. Wanting to concentrate on one theme at a time instead of a weekly format, Gary created Ham Radio Now, which has released almost one hundred episodes on all facets of Ham Radio. For the past 20 years Gary has been an ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO) and has served as a member of ARRL's national Public Relations Committee. He was 1994 recipient of ARRL's Philip McGan Award as best Amateur Radio PIO in America. Gary's websites

are www.arvideonews.com and hamradionow.tv He's another contributor we can be proud to hail from the Tar Heel state.

HAM NATION REGULAR -

Rounding out our review of four North Carolina Ham journalists is newcomer George Huffman, KG4MXA, of Salisbury. George was profiled in the July section newsletter as a budding regular contributor to Ham Nation. Since our last report, George has appeared in three more episodes of Ham Nation showing how to build a homebrew 6 meter Yagi. You can catch Ham Nation on demand at twit.tv/hn. The live broadcast every Wednesday at 9:00 PM Eastern is fun because the bloopers haven't been edited out yet. Look for George and his fellow members of the Rowan Amateur Radio Society in episodes 109, 110 and 111. We're sure he'll be appearing in many more episodes ahead.

These are just four of the many Tar Heels who frequently write and

comment about Ham Radio around the globe. We acknowledge and thank all Ham journalists who call North Carolina home.

APRS ON THE AT – On July 20th, Dave Simmons, K4KWL, and Glenn Crissman, N4AZR, climbed 6,300 ft. Roan Mt. in northern Mitchell County on the North Carolina-Tennessee border as one of 15 stations in the Appalachian Trail Golden Packet event (<http://www.aprs.org/at-golden-packet.html>) For the past five years, Hams gather on the peaks of mountains along the Appalachian Trail (the “AT”) to try to make a continuous relay of 2,185 miles from Maine to Georgia using APRS and other voice and digital modes on VHF and UHF. Roan Mt. was the only North Carolina peak activated this year. Dave and Glenn put up an omnidirectional vertical on a 36 ft. fiberglass pole. They were able to hit Charlotte D-Star repeaters and confirmed their signal was being digipeated

to the internet on www.aprs.fi You can read their report in detail at www.aprs.org/hamtrails/Roan/Roan-2013-report.txt

NEW PUBLIC SERVICE NET AND YAHOO GROUP – Many thanks to John Snellen, AI4RT, for alerting the Ham Radio community about public service opportunities in North Carolina through the creation of a new Yahoo Group at groups.yahoo.com/group/hpsnc and the Ham Public Service Net every Wednesday night at 7:30 PM on the Carolinas 440 Link System and simultaneously on IRLP reflector 9210. Please give back to your community through public service participation.

SILENT KEYS – We regret to report the passing of Ronald Sherwood, KO4XC, of Clayton, and Lee Hunt, K4WLH, of Wilson.

REMINDER ABOUT CALLING FREQUENCIES – Several North Carolina Hams have recently complained that lengthy QSOs are taking place on designated calling frequencies, such as

146.52 MHz, 50.125 MHz, and 29.600 MHz.

Please remember that once you have made contact on a calling frequency, please QSY to a non-calling frequency.

Johnston County ARES



Johnston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is comprised of amateur radio operators in Johnston and surrounding counties who volunteer their time and equipment to be used in times of disaster, whether natural or man made. We are communications *"when all else fails"* We provide auxiliary communications to the Emergency Operations Center, shelters and various other locations throughout Johnston County. The only requirement to join ARES is that you must be a licensed amateur radio operator. Membership in any club or organization is not required.

Johnston County ARES meets the second Monday of each month at

the American Red Cross office at 805-A South Third Street in Smithfield.

We have a website, www.johnstoncountyares.com, a Facebook page, Johnston County A.R.E.S. and a twitter page, @JohnstonCoARES. In addition to that, we also have a yahoo user group.

We also now have an ARES net once a month on the AK4H, 147.27+repeater at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of each month with a lesson presented during the net. Everyone is encouraged to check in on the net.

For more information on Johnston County ARES, please feel free to contact me at:

KD4UJC@centurylink.net or by phone at 919-934-9623.

JARS Classifieds

If anyone needs help programming the following radios, I have the software and hardware and will be willing to program them to your specifications:

Anytone AT-5888UV

TYT TH-UV F9

Baofeng UV-5RC

Yaesu FT-7900

Wouxun KG-UV2D

Wouxun KG-UV3X

Wouxun KG-UV6

Wouxun KG-UV920P

Wouxun KG-UV920R

Wouxun KG-UVA1

Contact me at

jarsmember@centurylink.net

Also, I am looking for a Kenwood TM-700 or Kenwood TM-710. If you have either one of these radios and are interested in selling them, contact me at jarsmember@centurylink.net

The Benson Fire Department is selling raffle tickets for a fully customized EZGO golf cart for \$20.00. All proceeds go to the fire department for needed equipment. If you are interested in buying a ticket, see Stephen Fowler, KJ4QNW after the meeting Thursday.

JARS Nets

Nightly ragchew net at 830 pm

Prep Net Tuesday 900 pm

Traders net Wednesday 900 pm

ARES Net 4th Thursday 700pm

JARS Officers 2013

Pres.	Robbie	KD4WIY
V.Pres	Billy	KJ4ZKJ
Secretary	Peggy	KJ4OPH
Treasurer	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Mike	KD4UJC
Net Whip	Jack	WA2YBM

Photog	Jack	WA2YBM
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Editor	Mike	KD4UJC
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Ham of the Year		
Billy Massengill		WB4EBG

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KD4UJC

Hope to see y'all at the meeting
Thursday.