

The Official Organ

The Official Newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
March 2014 Edition

Jars Meeting this Thursday

Our monthly meeting is this coming Thursday March 20th. There is no better way to start spring than attending the JARS meeting. Our very own, "Chef Boy – R – Tommy" will be serving some of his world famous lasagna with the fixings. You need to let Tommy know either at n4cbi@yahoo.com or 919-669-4371 how many you plan to bring so he can make sure everybody gets enough to eat. Cost for the dinner is \$7.00 per person. Please try to bring exact change or face the wrath of Dianne!

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Secretary's Report:

2/20/14 JARS Meeting

Tommy fed us pizza! Next month will be lasagna. Contact Tommy either at, n4cbi@yahoo.com, or 919-669-4731 to RSVP for dinner. (Please contact a week in advance.)

February was our radio equipment auction! This event was presided over by our President, Robbie, and his able assistant, Elizabeth.

There were several tables of Goodies to bid on. While many were lucky bidders...Lannie, Robbie, Billy. By far, the evening belonged to Billy. He needed a wheelbarrow to carry all of his loot to the car. Congratulations

to ALL!

We did not cover Old Biz/New Biz. No reports from the Treasurer, Net Whip, or even the coveted LOM.

Quote From AK4H:

When I was younger, I would spend endless hours at night in the ham shack. The XYL would wonder when I was coming to bed. Now she wants to know when I am going back in the ham shack?

Lost and Found (more lost than found):

Lost are the LOM report for this month as well as the Net report for this month. If anybody has seen either, send them to the editor so I can forward them to the rest of the club.

Greetings From Kansas City:

Well I finally dusted off the old Yaesu FT-817nd and using a combination of luck and bungee cords have a G5RV-mini wire antenna (10m & 20m) strung out in the apartment.

This past weekend I was hitting Alaska, Venezuela, France and the Netherlands fairly easily on 10 meters via PSK at a measly 5 watts. Even hit a station in Miami, Florida via SSB voice. I've finally figured out how to properly tune the 817 to use digital modes and am now on 10 meters just about every afternoon from 6-8pm CST.

I know some of the JARS members out there are into PSK so let them know I'm out there and to give me a hollar when they see "CQ CQ CQ de KK4MHI KK4MHI KK4MHI pse k" in their waterfall.

I'm testing again next month

to get General so I can keep on transmitting at night on a different band when 10 meters closes down. Also want to see if I can check-in to some of the HF nets over there from here as well, if just to get BJ going on a long rant/roll.

I tried testing at the 2012 JARSfest but someone decided to bring their crying baby into the test area and it threw me off and I missed it by a single question. Oh well.

David "Mac" McLemore
KK4MHI

Ham Humor:

Three brothers ages 92, 94, and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. He puts his foot in and pauses.

He yells down the stairs and says "Was I getting in or out?"

The 94 year old yells back

"I don't know. I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs and pauses. Then he yells, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old HAM is sitting in front of his HF rig and listening to his brothers. He shakes his head, picks up the mic and says "I sure hope I never get that forgetful."

He knocks on wood for good measure.

He then yells into the mic, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see.... who's at the door. "OVER"

ARRL News:

Regulatory: FCC Cites Ham's "History of Compliance" in Reducing Fine for Unlicensed Broadcasting

The FCC has cited the otherwise clean record of an Amateur Radio licensee in deciding to reduce his fine for "willfully and repeatedly" violating the

Communications Act and FCC rules. Brian R. Ragan, KF6EGI, of Suisun City, California, was found liable for operating an unlicensed FM broadcasting station for 6 months and for failing to allow FCC personnel to inspect his station. In a [Forfeiture Order](#) released March 10, the FCC fined Ragan \$13,600 -- a \$3400 reduction of the \$17,000 the Commission initially proposed to levy in the case, which dates back to 2012. In deciding to reduce Ragan's fine, the FCC said it took into account Ragan's "history of compliance as an Amateur licensee."

Prior to this violation, Mr. Ragan had no violations of the [Communications] Act or the [FCC] rules as an Amateur Radio operator," the FCC said in the *Forfeiture Order*, "and, therefore, consistent with the [forfeiture] adjustment factors, we find that reduction of the forfeiture based on Mr. Ragan's history of compliance is warranted

and reduce the forfeiture by \$3400."

As precedent the Commission cited the case of Amateur Extra class licensee Joaquim Barbosa, N2KBJ, of Elizabeth, New Jersey. In a July 2012 *Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL)*, the FCC found Barbosa liable for operating an unlicensed transmitter that interfered with a government communication system, and for not allowing an FCC inspection. The FCC [reduced](#) its initial \$20,000 levy to \$16,000, citing Barbosa's "overall history of compliance with the laws, including the Commission's rules."

As required by the *NAL*, Ragan submitted a statement that he is now in full compliance with the Communications Act and no longer engaged in unauthorized operation on 104.9 MHz. Ragan also said he is willing to allow FCC personnel to inspect for verification.

Regulatory: FCC Cites New Jersey CB Shop for Marketing Unauthorized RF Devices

The FCC has issued a [Citation](#) to a New Jersey Citizens Band radio shop for marketing unauthorized RF devices to consumers in violation of the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 2 rules. The *Citation* to Thomas Wilson, doing business as [Redman CB Stop](#), in Absecon, New Jersey, was issued March 5.

"Redman CB Stop should take immediate steps to discontinue the marketing of unauthorized radio frequency devices, and to avoid any recurrence of the misconduct described herein," the FCC *Citation* directed.

Last October an agent from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's Philadelphia office browsed the website of the online retailer of CB and Amateur Radio gear. The

agent "observed for sale 16 makes and models of non-certified RF power amplifiers" capable of operation on both the 11 meter Citizens Band and the 10 meter ham band. The FCC said such devices may not be offered for sale prior to FCC certification. In addition, FCC rules prohibit marketing or selling external RF amplifiers capable of amplification between 26 MHz and 28 MHz.

The FCC gave Redman CB Stop 30 days to respond to the *Citation*. The Commission said it will use "all relevant material information before it," including information the retailer may disclose, to determine what, if any, enforcement action may be necessary "to ensure your compliance with the Communications Act and the Commission's rules."

Public Service: Amateur Radio Played Role in Missing Airliner Response

Following the mysterious disappearance on March 8 of the Malaysian Airline Boeing 777-200ER jetliner with 239 passengers aboard, the airline's Emergency Management Centre (EMC) at Kuala Lumpur Airport provided hotel accommodations for passengers' next of kin. Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society ([MARTS](#)) President Mohd Aris Bernawi, 9M2IR, said his organization was asked to provide a link between the airport and the hotel.

MARTS quickly set up a station, led by Zanirul Akhmal Zanirun, 9M2PRO, with Azizi Samsuri, 9W2ZZE, as the airline's team leader. The Negeri Sembilan Amateur Radio Club ([NESRAC](#)) provided volunteers for the station at

the EMC. MARTS set up a cross-band VHF/UHF link to avoid any unnecessary interference to and from public service communications, and later added an HF link.

During the callout, 11 Amateur Radio volunteers were at the EMC, and 23 volunteers were at the hotel. 9M2IR, who oversaw the entire process, said MARTS - - an IARU member-society -- was pleased to be able provide the communication link as the search for flight MH370 continues. -- *Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee*

Public Service: ARES Group Joins Forces with Delaware State Police

The Delaware State Police are teaming up with the Sussex County (Delaware) Amateur Radio Emergency Service to ensure reliable back-up communication, should primary law

enforcement communication systems fail.

"Delaware must always be aware of the threats of hurricanes, nor'easters, severe snow, and other disasters," Delaware State Police Sussex County Operations Officer Maj Robert Hawkins said in a *Cape Gazette* [article](#).

"Thankfully, we don't get hit often, but when we do, communication is absolutely essential, and having Amateur Radio operators available to fill in gaps will be a real asset."

When back-up communication is needed, the Delaware State Police will designate locations for ARES stations to set up. ARES members then will handle any necessary traffic within this network. The initial program will be limited to Sussex County, but it may be expanded to include Delaware's other two counties -- Kent and New Castle.

Sussex County covers approximately the lower half of Delaware. Bill Duveneck, KB3KYH, is the Sussex County ARES Emergency Coordinator. -- *Cape Gazette via John Bigley, N7UR, Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire*

Public Service: 2014 Preparedness Summit to Highlight Importance of Amateur Radio

The annual [Preparedness Summit](#), the largest public health preparedness conference in the US, will take place April 1-4 in Atlanta, with some 2000 preparedness professionals expected to attend the multidisciplinary event. This year, the Preparedness Summit is highlighting the importance of Amateur Radio, and special event station N4P will operate from the Exhibit Hall. N4P will be on the air from 1700 until 2330 UTC on Wednesday, April 2, and from 1500 until 2030 UTC on Thursday, April 3.

Stations contacting N4P will receive a special QSL card.

On VHF and UHF, N4P will monitor the 146.88 W4BTI repeater, the 442.875 MHz K4RFL repeater, and the D-STAR 440.6875 B-Node operating as KK4OIO. On HF SSB, look for N4P on 28.365 MHz, 21.365 MHz, 14.265 MHz, and 7.265 MHz. N4P also will be on EchoLink.

Education: Foundation for Amateur Radio Invites Scholarship Applications

The Foundation for Amateur Radio ([FAR](#)) is accepting [applications](#) from Amateur Radio operators for scholarships for the 2014-2015 school year. The application deadline is April 15. Some scholarships give preference to radio amateurs from California, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

FAR, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, manages 52 scholarships worth a total of \$72,100.

There are no age restrictions for any of the scholarships, and applicants do not have to attend a four-year institution. All applicants must be full-time students.

Availability of these scholarship awards may offer an incentive to students considering getting a license or already studying for the test to take action before April 15.

FAR's scholarship program is one of the largest for Amateur Radio licensees in the US. FAR's purpose is to further Amateur Radio in all of its various facets. FAR sponsors training, seminars, and other events in support of Amateur Radio. -- *Dave Prestel, [W8AJR](#), Chairman FAR Scholarship Committee*

Feature: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

As the US edged ever closer to entering World War II, more restrictions were placed on hams. They were still allowed to operate, but

only to make contacts within the country -- no DX!

There was strong evidence of subversive activities and clandestine radio stations in America. The FCC ordered all radio licensees, both commercial operators and hams, to furnish a full set of fingerprints, a passport-type photo, and proof of US citizenship by October 15, 1940.

It was necessary for the FCC to ramp up its monitoring activities, and the September 1940 issue of *QST* put out a call for amateurs to fill 500 new positions as FCC monitoring operators. Those 500 positions were quickly filled, almost entirely by hams. FCC's well-known Radio Intelligence Division was thus supervised and staffed mainly by hams, under the direction of George Sterling, W3DF.

The Navy Communications Reserve and the Army stepped up their recruitment of amateurs to enlist as radio operators and

repairmen, and hams again responded in great numbers. In addition, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration recruited hams to serve as radio instructors. During this period, ARRL inaugurated its code proficiency program, with more than 900 hams submitting W1AW copy of the first certificate run.

Our nation was still in the phase of "positive neutrality," but there were many efforts in which US hams helped the war effort before we entered the fray. One of those efforts was the Civilian Technical Corps, which maintained and operated British radars, then operating in the upper HF and lower VHF range. One of those early radars was quite important -- Britain's [Chain Home](#) radar system, an early warning system to detect incoming German bombers early enough to scramble fighters to meet the enemy at altitude over the English Channel. Chain Home

operated at 22 to 25 MHz. Although that frequency range presented problems, it could be built and put into service quickly, using existing technology and equipment.

Sets of three or four 360-foot towers were built at various locations on the English Channel's coast to support the very large wire antenna arrays. Some of those towers still exist, now supporting commercial antennas.

Next week: I'll tell the tale of a war effort that I became very familiar with by working with some of the hams who developed and put the Proximity Fuze into action. -- *Thanks to Al Brogdon, W1AB*

Upcoming Hamfests:

04/19/2014 | [Roanoke Division Convention \(Raleigh Hamfest\)](#)

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur

Radio Society

Website: <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>

Johnston County A.R.E.S.



Johnston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a group of dedicated amateur radio operators that volunteer their time and equipment for use in times of disaster whether natural or man-made. Any licensed operator is eligible to participate. Johnston County A.R.E.S. has an training net the 4th Thursday of each month at 7PM on the AK4H 147.270+ repeater. This net is open to all amateurs and all are encouraged to

participate in these nets as a lot of the information covered is something that you can use in your own particular situation. If you are interested in joining Johnston County ARES or the Emergency Coordinator for Johnston County at KD4UJC@centurylink.net, or (919)934-9623 or on the air.

That does it for another edition of the JARS *Official Organ*. Hope to see everybody at the meeting.

JARS Officers 2014

Pres.	Robbie	KD4WIY
V.Pres.	Billy	KG4ZKG
Sec.	Renee	KK4QQM
Treas.	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Mike	KD4UJC
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Editor Mike KD4UJC

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