

The Official Organ

The official newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

March 2015 Edition



JARS Meeting This Thursday

Our monthly JARS meeting is scheduled for this coming Thursday, March 19th, at the Panther Branch Community Building, located at 10900 ten – ten road, Garner, NC. Dinner will consist of “Chef-boy-r-Tommy’s” world famous spaghetti with all the fixin’s. Cost will be \$7 per person. Be sure to let Tommy know how many you are bringing so everybody gets something to eat. You can call Tommy at [919-772-6302](tel:919-772-6302) or by email at n4cbi@gmail.com.



From the Farm:

I don't know about the rest of you, but I for one am glad that the snow, ice and cold weather are gone! I believe that the weather people said that this was one of the coldest winters in a long time. I, for one will not complain about the heat this summer. We were luckier that a lot of people in that we never lost power. However, our water pipes did get cold enough that the water inside, while not freezing completely, did get to the point that it was slushy enough that water would not go through for a while. On a positive note, it is nice to see the grass starting to turn green again.

73 de KD4MC & K4VJC aka Uncle Si & Christine

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ARRL News

FCC Enforcement Bureau Field Resources Poised to Shrink

According to an internal FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) memorandum, the Bureau plans to ask the full Commission to cut two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its field agents. At the same time, the Bureau would develop a so-called "Tiger Team" of field agents as a flexible strike force it could deploy as needed. In the March 10 memorandum to Enforcement Bureau field staff -- obtained by ARRL and others -- EB Chief Travis LeBlanc and FCC Managing Director Jon Wilkins cited the need to take "a fresh look" at the Bureau's 20-year-old operating model in light of technology changes and tighter budgets. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed dismay at the proposals.

"The ARRL is concerned that there is already no sense of urgency in the FCC's enforcement activities targeting spectrum polluters, such as utilities with noisy power lines, or the few violators in our own ranks," Sumner said. "It is troubling to see recommendations for such drastic reductions in the Commission's

geographic footprint and the number of field agents at a time when the Field staff is facing ever-increasing challenges."

The EB and the Office of the Managing Director initiated an effort last fall to modernize the Bureau's field operations, the memorandum said. "This project sought to ensure that the Field's structure, operations, expenses, and equipment were properly aligned with the Commission's overall mission and resources," LeBlanc and Wilkins said. The Commission hired outside consultants to analyze the EB's current "operating model," gathering input from employees, outside experts, and internal and external stakeholders.

Under its "Phase I" field modernization scheme, the Bureau will recommend to the full Commission that it adjust the primary focus of its reduced field office complement to RF spectrum enforcement. The EB will also recommend "adjusting" the number of field agents from 63 to 33. To compensate, part of that field staff complement would include what the EB called a "Tiger Team" of agents "flexible enough to support other high-priority initiatives." Under the plan, all field agents would have to have electrical engineering backgrounds "to support the primary focus on RF spectrum enforcement." The Bureau will also propose standardizing its investigatory and sanctioning processes. Management would not be spared. Under the recommendations, the EB field organization chart would shrink from 21 to 5 director positions, and

from 10 to 3 administrative support positions.

Under the proposals, the field office would reduce its "geographic footprint," from 24 sites to 8 sites and would "pre-position" equipment in several other strategic locations.

Offices slated to stay under the plan would be New York City; Columbia, Maryland -- the site of the Bureau's HF Direction-Finding Center; Chicago; Atlanta; Miami; Dallas; Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The EB would deploy equipment in or near several other cities, initially to include Kansas City, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Seattle, San Juan, Anchorage, Honolulu, and Billings, Montana.

Part of the plan calls for the EB to establish "beneficial partnerships between the Field and other organizations that may support increasing our effectiveness."

During a March 4 US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Committee hearing on the FCC's FY2016 budget, Rep Michael Pompeo (R-KS) pressed Wilkins on whether the FCC intended to close any field offices and eliminate any personnel. Wilkins attempted to dodge offering a direct answer, and hedged on whether any cuts were planned. He also said the Bureau had not yet received a final report from the outside consultant it had worked with. US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs the subcommittee.

A copy of the memorandum was sent to National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) Local 209 President Ana Curtis. The NTEU represents many FCC staff members.

New Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund Will Power Capitol Hill Educational Campaign

Now that the ARRL's new [Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund](#) is in place, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB -- who proposed the fund -- hopes it will fuel a heightened campaign of congressional advocacy on issues important to Amateur Radio. On behalf of the members of his Division, Lisenco earlier this year presented ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, with an inaugural \$4500 Fund donation, which she matched. The primary goal of the ARRL Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund is educational, Lisenco explained.

We want to heighten Amateur Radio's visibility in Congress and to establish its brand in the minds of today's lawmakers, so we don't have to be reactive when it comes to our relationship with the federal government," Lisenco said. "It's not enough just to have a [Spectrum Defense Fund](#). We must be recognized as effective advocates for Amateur Radio in Congress."

The immediate focus of the Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund will be the recently introduced "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015," officially known as [H.R. 1301](#). US Rep [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) introduced the bill March 4 with seven Republican and five Democratic co-sponsors. Last summer Kinzinger sponsored an essentially identical piece of legislation, which died at the end of the 113th Congress.

"We're going all out for this bill,"

Lisenco said. "Last year, we got a late start and still picked up 69 co-sponsors. This time, we're starting early and have the entire congressional session to get this done. In addition to getting as many co-sponsors as we can in the US House, we'll be trying to get a companion bill going in the US Senate. But this effort will take money."

If Congress approves H.R. 1301, and it is signed by the president, the legislation would compel the FCC to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners' association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

Lisenco stressed that the Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund is not simply for this particular piece of legislation and that additional actions on the part of Congress or federal regulators could also affect Amateur Radio.

We have to have an ongoing relationship with members of Congress and their staff members," he said. "They need to know that Amateur Radio is alive and well, and flourishing in the 21st century." Lisenco pointed out that there are many more licensees today than during the 1950s and 1960s -- which some consider the Golden Age of Amateur Radio. "The Golden Age of Amateur Radio is today," he said.

"We're experimenting with cutting-edge technology, and we provide a service to the community."

But, he added, if the League does not take steps now to ensure Amateur Radio's future, "there may be no future."

The Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund [welcomes your support](#). For more information, contact [Lauren Clarke](#), KB1YDD, tel 860-594-0348. The ARRL has an [H.R. 1301 resources](#) page on its website.

League Counters Another Mimosa Move for 10 GHz Wireless Broadband Sharing

The ARRL [has told](#) several US House and Senate members that the 10 GHz band, where the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services have allocations, is not a suitable place to expand wireless broadband. Three Republican and three Democratic lawmakers [wrote](#) FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler on March 2, asking the Commission to "explore potential sharing opportunities within the 10 GHz band" to alleviate "the well-documented spectrum crunch." The primary allocation of 10.0-10.5 GHz is for federal radiolocation, with Amateur Radio secondary in the entire band and Amateur-Satellite secondary at 10.45 to 10.50 GHz. The League pointed out that plans for additional sharing are already in the works. "Based on extensive compatibility studies conducted during preparations for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15), additional sharing for an important scientific purpose is already planned," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out in a March 4 letter

to the Congress members. Sumner explained that several years of work went into an agreed-upon US proposal at WRC-15 for a primary allocation at 9.9 to 10.5 GHz for the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (active), "subject to appropriate protections for incumbent services."

Sumner said the ARRL is satisfied that the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (active) "can be accommodated in the band without causing intolerable harmful interference to the Amateur Service," while the same would not be true for wireless broadband. "Accordingly," he concluded, "the ARRL opposes the introduction of wireless broadband into the 10 GHz band."

"A request by a wireless broadband equipment manufacturer to permit broadband was considered but could not be accommodated," Sumner added. That manufacturer, Mimosa Networks, filed a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11715](#)) in 2013 that the FCC put out for comment last year, seeking the allocation of the band for what it has called "lightly licensed fixed wireless broadband use."

Mimosa's petition included a band plan for 10.0 to 10.5 GHz that would cede to Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite users just two small segments of the present allocation. The company claimed its proposal would protect the 10 GHz frequencies most often used by radio amateurs. The FCC has not acted on the *Petition*.

The ARRL told the FCC that Mimosa's Petition to permit unlicensed

wireless broadband services in the 10.0-10.5 GHz band was "fatally flawed" and should be dismissed.

Sumner noted that the FCC already has initiated a proceeding to identify spectrum above 24 GHz that can be designated for mobile wireless broadband, including additional spectrum that could be authorized on an unlicensed basis.

Democratic House members Doris Matsui and Anna Eshoo, both from California, and US Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey, joined Republican House members Brett Guthrie of Kentucky and Robert Latta of Ohio, and US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida in signing the March 2 letter to Wheeler.

"Sharing opportunities in the 10 GHz band could make more spectrum available and provide another avenue for consumers and innovators to tap into the Internet economy," the lawmakers told Wheeler. Mimosa Networks expressed support for the lawmakers' appeal in a March 3 [media release](#).

In comments to the FCC last April, the ARRL [told the FCC](#) that Mimosa's *Petition* to permit unlicensed wireless broadband services in the 10.0-10.5 GHz band was "fatally flawed" and should be dismissed. The League told the FCC that, among other things, the Mimosa *Petition* is inconsistent with a US footnote in the domestic *Table of Allocations*, and that fact alone is sufficient reason for the Commission to quash Mimosa's request.

The footnote prohibits all non-federal services in the 10-10.5 GHz band except for the Amateur and Amateur-

Satellite services and the non-federal radiolocation service. The FCC "is not at liberty to ignore" the US footnote, the League said, and is obliged on that basis alone to dismiss the *Petition*, "because it hasn't the authority to grant it."

ITU Smart Sustainable Development Model Report Touts Amateur Radio's Advantages

The use of Amateur Radio in disaster preparedness and response was among "best practices" cited in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) [Smart Sustainable Development Model Report](#) for 2015. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, is a member of the Smart Sustainable Development Model Advisory Board, which prepared the report, published in January. The IARU is an ITU sector member.

I strongly believe that telecommunications and [information and communication technologies] are critical to saving lives as well as integrating communities and countries into the global economy, particularly as we enter the post-2015 development era," ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau Director Brahima Sanou said in the preface to the report, which deemed Amateur Radio operators "well suited to respond in times of crisis."
"The resource of the Amateur Radio Service should continue to be utilized as new technologies are developed," the report said. "However, the best asset the Amateur Radio Service

brings to emergency communications transcends technology. It provides skilled people 'on the ground' who can communicate using whatever technology is available."

The report cited trained volunteers and existing allocated spectrum as Amateur Radio's primary resources. "Amateur Radio services can be used in any area with an active population of radio amateurs, and is uniquely suited to situations in which other communication networks have been disrupted," the report said, noting that Amateur Radio "involves a community-driven response to disasters."

Radio Amateurs Invited to Listen for Lambda-Sat

[Lambda-Sat](#) -- the first Greek CubeSat -- was released from the International Space Station on March 4, following its launch last summer, and its developers have invited radio amateurs around the world to listen for the Lambda-Sat signal and [file reports](#). "You can help us to track and get the data from the Lambda-Sat while [it is] flying above areas not covered by our ground stations," the Lambda-Sat team said. The 1U CubeSat transmits AX.25-protocol UI packets at 1200 bps AFSK on 437.465 MHz. The 1 W transmitter identifies as KK6DFZ.

Lambda-Sat was constructed entirely by young volunteers from Greece, who traveled to Silicon Valley to participate in this project. Members of the Lambda-Sat team contributed to the construction of the satellite system through their knowledge in robotics, electronics, software

development, and telecommunications.

"I want to motivate the youth in Greece to continue to dream," said the project's initiator, Periklis Papadopoulos, an aerospace engineering professor at San Jose State University. "My goal is to demonstrate the capabilities of young people in Greece."

Lambda-Sat carries an experiment that measures the radiation effects on graphene in a low-Earth orbit environment. It also carries an Automatic Identification System (AIS) receiver for tracking all marine vessels within its footprint around the globe, employing an Iridium Short Burst Data (SBD) modem and making use of the Iridium constellation.

An [article](#) on the Lambda-Sat project by Cyprus Amateur Radio Society (CARS) Secretary Nestor Jacovides, 5B4AHZ, has been posted on the CARS website.

Scientist-Radio Amateur Named to Receive Prestigious Award

Ajay K. Poddar, AC2KG, of Elmwood, New Jersey, has been selected by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) as the winner of the 2015 International Frequency Control Symposium [W.G. Cady Award](#). Poddar, a chief scientist at Synergy Microwave Corp and an academic, was cited for "the analysis, design, and development of a host of frequency control products exhibiting state-of-the-art performance, including the development of extremely low noise crystal oscillator circuitry." The award marks the second honor for Synergy.

Microwave scientists this year, and the third in 3 years. Synergy Chairman

Ulrich Rohde, N1UL (ex-KA2WEU), recently was named as the recipient of the IEEE's [I. I. Rabi Award](#) for 2015, and last year he won the [C.B. Sawyer Memorial Award](#).

"In the history of the IEEE, no company ever got all three possible awards in two consecutive years in this field," Rohde said.

In his current position, Poddar is responsible for the design and development of a host of frequency-generating components and signal-processing modules that hold performance records. Poddar has received more than a dozen awards for his scientific contributions and technological innovations, holds several dozen patents, and has published more than 200 scientific papers.

Poddar and Rohde will be honored at the 2015 Joint Conference of the IEEE International Frequency Control Symposium and European Frequency and Time Forum, held April 12-16 in Denver.

Southeastern Division Assistant Director Charles I. "Chuck" Baer, W4ROA, SK

Longtime ARRL Southeastern Division Assistant Director Charles I. "Chuck" Baer, W4ROA, of Sunrise, Florida, died March 7 after a lengthy illness. He was 74. An ARRL member, Baer had served three ARRL Southeastern Division directors over the years.

"Chuck and I have worked together for over 30 years with local ARRL affairs," said ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager Jeff Beals, WA4AW. "He was very active in the Broward County

Amateur Radio community."
Originally licensed KN9TVA in 1959 when he was 17, Baer worked at Allied Radio in Chicago before moving to South Florida to work for Motorola at the company's Plantation manufacturing facility.

"He led the team that produced the Amateur Radio gear for the Space Shuttle program," said Beals. "Chuck was a founding member of the Motorola Amateur Radio Club W4MOT and served as repeater trustee for many years." Baer retired from Motorola after nearly 3 decades of service.

Baer was a member of the South Florida DX Association, the Broward Amateur Radio Club, the Palmetto Amateur Radio Club, and the ARRL A-1 Operators Club. He served as an ARRL Official Observer for more than 50 years in Illinois and Florida.

NC Section News:

ARRL SOLICITING NOMINATIONS FOR 6 AWARDS (FINAL REMINDER) – The ARRL is soliciting nominations for 6 awards: the Hiram Percy Maxim Award, the key award honoring a young amateur radio operator (deadline, 3/31); the ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award (deadline, 3/15); the ARRL Microwave Development Award (deadline, 3/31); the ARRL Technical Service Award (deadline, 3/31); the ARRL Technical Innovation Award (deadline, 3/31); and, the Knight Distinguished Service Award (deadline, 4/30). For further information on these awards, including the nomination procedures, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-solicits-nominations-for-six-awards>

43rd ANNUAL RARSFEST 2015 / ARRL NC STATE CONVENTION (4/4) – The 43rd Annual RARSfest 2015 / ARRL NC State Convention, sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will be held on Saturday, April 4th, at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607. The activities will include: forums and meetings; hamfest prizes, VE testing at 9:00 AM; QSL card checking; Special Event Station; hands-on construction project; new equipment dealers; and, the flea market. For further information, see <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest/>

ARISS CONTACT PROPOSAL WINDOW FOR 2016 NOW OPEN – The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is now accepting applications from formal and informal educational institutions and organizations in the US – either individually or working together – that would like to host an amateur radio contact with an International Space Station crewmember between January 1 and June 30, 2016. The application window closes on April 15th. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-contact-proposal-window-for-2016-events-now-open>

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: 2015 CYSTIC FIBROSIS “EXTREME HIKE” (4/18) – The following request for assistance was received from Tim Slay, N4IB:

“Do you enjoy combining Ham Radio public service and hiking? The 2015 Cystic Fibrosis “Extreme Hike” will be held on April 18th.

Participants will walk a 30-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in a single day, crossing Avery, Mitchell, and Carter County (TN).

Communications with five rest stops will be provided by members of the Mayland, Watauga, and Carter County (TN) Amateur Radio Clubs. But, with as much as 10 miles of rugged trail between rest stops, and little or no cell service, communications between rest stops is a big challenge. The event team could use some hardy volunteer Hams with HTs who would be willing to hike a portion of the trail during the event to help assure the safety of the hikers. If you’re interested, contact Stephen Williams, KI4ZUI, at xantherx@frontier.com.” Thanks to Tim

Slay, N4IB, Assistant Section Manager and Affiliated Club Coordinator, for providing this information!

ARRL SEEKS MEMBER INPUT ON DRAFT HF BAND PLAN PROPOSALS –
The ARRL is asking Members to comment by April 19 on possible changes to the ARRL HF

Band Plans, which have been suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee.

For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-member-input-on-draft-hf-band-plan-proposals>

FCC SEEKS COMMENT ON RADAR SHARING SCHEMES THAT COULD DISPLACE AMATEUR

RADIO AT 76-81 GHZ – The FCC is seeking comment on issues involving expanded use of various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which

Amateur Radio shares with other services. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-comment-on-radar-sharing-schemes-that-could-displace-amateur-radio-at-76-81-ghz>

ARRL FIELD DAY 2015 PACKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE – On February 10th, it was announced that the packets for ARRL Field Day 2015 are available online. There are no rule changes for 2015. ARRL Field Day 2015 will be held on the June 27th and 28th. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-field-day-2015-field-day-packet-now-online>

FCC “PAPERLESS” AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE POLICY NOW IN EFFECT –As of February 17th, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-paperless-amateur-radio-license-policy-now-in-effect>

K1N NAVASSA ISLAND DXPEDITION 2015 COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY –
The K1N Navassa Island DXpedition 2015 has been completed successfully. K1N was QRV on February 1st and QRT on February 15th at 1130 UTC. K1N logged more than 140,00 QSOs with at least 30,000 unique call signs.

For further information, see <http://navassadx.com/> and <http://www.arrl.org/news/k1n-navassa-island-dxpedition-is-ham-radio-history>

LICENSING CLASSES –

Four Oaks (NC), Technician licensing class, March 7 to April 4, 2015, sponsored by Johnston County NC ARES, contact Mike Callam, KD4MC, phone: (919) 934-9623, email: mcallam@centurylink.net for further information. To find upcoming classes, go to

www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class Please note that a licensing class sponsored by your club or organization will not be listed on the ARRL website unless you register your class. ARRL

Registered Instructors may list upcoming classes on the ARRL website.

For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/License-instructor-registration> Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a licensing class. Thanks!

MEDIA HITS AND REPORTS – The following media hits and reports are included in this month's newsletter: On Anthony Ray ("Tony") Curtis, K3RXK (SK), see <http://www.robsonian.com/news/news/151493880/Longtime-professor-at-UNC-Pembroke-dies-following-illness> and <http://www.laurinburgexchange.com/news/news-education/151496828/Professor-remembered-as-having-passion-for-education> and

<http://www.eham.net/articles/33953>

On amateur radio operators being the original social network, see http://www.thepilot.com/news/features/ham-n-it-up-amateur-radio-operators-were-the-original/article_86f80dca-ae37-11e4-8ba6-b7544b725f46.html

Thanks to Jim Johnson, KI4TAT, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer, and Bill Morine, N2COP, Roanoke Division Vice Director for providing this media hit!

On Kenneth Westfield ("Ken") Boyd, K4DXA (SK), see <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2015-02-19> and <http://www.eham.net/articles/34072>

On the Technician licensing class offered at Wilkes Community College, see http://www.jeffersonpost.com/news/home_top-news/151390192/WCC-to-offer-amateur-radio-course-beginning-Feb.-2

Thanks to Dave Ritter, ND4MR for providing this media hit!

The following (edited) report was received from Carl Starnes, W4EAT: "Keith Andrew, KK4LGM, sent an email on December 22, 2014 of an opportunity to warm-up for the Uwharrie Fun Run that the Stanly County ARC participates in each year. Keith is a member of The Friends of Morrow Mountain and was contacted about getting volunteers for a trail race on Saturday, January 3, 2015. The race was put together by The Friends of Morrow Mountain and Go

Run Trails organizations. This event would have a 5K, 10K and a 1/2 marathon, and already had 90 runners signed up. By December 26th, Keith had 3 other club members volunteering. On December 30th (3:22 AM) Keith emailed information about aid stations we might staff. This was followed with a late evening email on December 31st suggesting places along the trails we might staff, since only 4 members had answered the call. Keith was familiar with the trails and where help might be needed rather than at aid stations. By January 2nd, Keith was down to just himself and 2 others. He issued the weather forecast with instructions to "dress appropriately". On January 3rd at 1:33, Keith sent the following: 'Hey everyone, I just got home from the Morrow Mountain Trail Race. First off, I want to thank William [Thomas] KI4JDA and James [Jarrett] KK4ZAL for coming out. Awesome job guys! After the event, I spoke to several of the organizers. They were very appreciative of our efforts and said they would love to have us back next year. I really don't see how they ran in the past without radio support. The weather was perfect. I came prepared for the worst, but only needed a light jacket. The rain held off, and it only misted here and there. Thanks again, James and William! Keith KK4LGM.' Keith was licensed in 2012. He didn't become involved in the Stanly Co ARC immediately, but he sure did a great job of organizing this event on short notice. He showed great skills and willingness to be involved and experience what Hams can do if / when needed. Thanks

Keith. Great job! Carl Starnes, W4EAT, Stanly Co ARC, Stanly Co ARES AEC Digital." Thanks to Carl Starnes, W4EAT, Official Emergency Station, for providing this report!

The following report on a Scouting event that took place in November 2014, was provided by Betty Williams, KC2BFN: "On November 22nd, 2014, two members of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association (GARA), Tom Bertolino, KB1P, and David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, participated in a "Merit Badge College" for the Old North State Council (North Carolina) of the Boy Scouts of America. As merit badge counselors, Tom and David taught a class on the Boy Scouts Radio Merit badge. Since the Radio merit badge has strong amateur radio content, it was a natural fit for them, as they are both interested in promoting radio education and perhaps gaining a few new Hams along the way! Tom and David taught an all-day class to approximately 20 Scouts covering the requirements of the Radio merit badge. During the class, the Scouts were shown an operational Ham station and given the chance to make contacts on a local repeater and 20 meter band. At first, the Scouts were hesitant to talk on the radio, but after the first contact was made, David and Tom had more volunteers to talk than time allowed. Following the class, several of the Scouts stayed afterwards and demonstrated successfully some required elements of the Radio merit badge. All of the Scouts showed interest in the class and hopefully many will continue the process of completing

the requirements for the merit badge. Tom and David have volunteered as Merit Badge Counselors so that any Scout can contact them and get assistance in completing the Radio Merit Badge. The requirements of the Radio merit badge are fairly detailed; it is not a "give-away" and requires the Scouts to have a good understanding of radio fundamentals. A Scout that completes this merit badge has an excellent chance of getting a good score on the Amateur Radio Technician exam and become a Ham!" Thanks to Betty Williams, KC2BFN, Public Information Officer, Greensboro Amateur Radio Association, for providing this report!

An email was received from Jim Johnson, KI4TAT, which included the following information: "MOCARS [Moore County Amateur Radio Society] is off to a fast start for 2015 with Winter Field Day Jan 24-25 and communications support for the Uwharrie Mountain Run February 7. More than 45 area Hams participated in the 2 events. Amateur radio looks forward to another exciting year enjoying the communications hobby and providing communications resources for local civic groups." Thanks to Jim Johnson, KI4TAT, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer, for providing this report!

ARRL North Carolina Section
Section Manager: Karl F Bowman
DVM, W4CHX

w4chx@arrl.org



During the recent winter weather events in our area, Johnston County ARES was activated to provide communications support for the Emergency Operations Center and shelters. ARES does not activate until called by the Johnston County Emergency Management. We staffed the EOC and shelters for roughly 14 hours.

The Johnston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES, is looking for any licensed amateur radio operator that is interested in helping Johnston County Emergency Management by providing auxiliary communications in times of disaster. We are utilizing leading edge technology to communicate in Johnston County. You do not have to be a resident of Johnston County to join. Johnston County ARES meets on the second Monday of each month at 7pm at the American Red Cross located at 805-A South 3rd Street in Smithfield. We also hold a training net on the Carolina 440 UHF repeater system on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm. This net is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. More information on Johnston County ARES can be found at: <http://www.johnstoncountyares.com>

or by calling Michael Callam, KD4MC at 919-934-9623.

Upcoming Hamfests:

March 28: 25th Annual Down East Hamfest, Down East Hamfest Association

Inc, Kinston, NC, email: bhighland@nc.rr.com

April 4: 43rd Annual RARSfest/North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, see <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>

April 18: 18th Annual Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio Association, Morganton, NC, see <http://cvhamfest.com>

June 13: Winston-Salem Hamfest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC, see <http://www.w4nc.com>

July 11, 2015: 30th Annual Firecracker Hamfest, Rowan Amateur Radio Society, Salisbury, NC, see <http://www.rowanars.org>

July 18: Mid-Summer SWAPFEST, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC, see <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>

July 25: WCARS Hamfest 2015, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC, see <http://wcars.org>

August 8: 17th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org/>

September 5-6: 59th Annual Shelby Hamfest/Roanoke Division Convention,

Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC, see <http://shelbyhamfest.org> It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's 2015 hamfest! For more information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events>

Ham Humor:

DX MOVIES  **BY AC6V**

Pileup On The Orient Express
Gone With The Wind -- A Yagi Story
Dxpedition To Skull Island By
K1NG/KØNG
Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Lid

First BLØOD
The Maltese Falklands
To Live and Let Diode -- ØØ73
CasaBlanker
Citizen Band
Key Largo

HamaLot -- The Old DXer is at it again
Silence Of The Hams - Starring Rachel Squelch
Contact - Starring AL1IEN
Zulu -- The Ultimate PileUp!!
Fifth Element -- Story about a 4 element yagi starring Bruce Willis
Custer's Last QSO -- He left the Sabers, Gatling Guns & HT's at the Fort!!!

ZULU Dawn -- Durnford didn't do well either!!
ZULU Dawn -- GrayLine Prequel

M1SH MASH -- With RF Burns
Gone With The Windom -- The Sequel
Nightmare On Elmer Street -- With JA1SON

VERTICAL!! Directed By Alfred Switchbox
Name is James, Call is BØND -- Agent ØØ73

N8CPA writes: "I love the smell of generator exhaust in the morning--It smells like Field Day!
[7:00AM June 28, 1997]"

Still No LID Report:

NC4BJ has been the "Keeper of the Butt Gasket" for so long that I am beginning to think that it attached to a part of his house that I will not mention here. IF he does not relinquish the title this month, we may have to form a "Lid Recovery Team" and go after it and put it back into circulation again.

Classifieds:

The following items are for sale from the estate of a silent key in Dunn,NC:

Heathkit SB220 2Kw amplifier \$700
Kenwood TS830S HF Rig \$ 325
Kenwood TS 700A 2 meter all mode \$150
Ameritron RCS-4 Antenna switch \$150

Vista Regulated Power Supply \$125
Yaesu G-800-S Rotor control & Rotor \$500

Kenwood TM-261 2 meter mobile(s) \$100 each

Kenwood TM 2550A 2 meter mobile \$100

Kenwood TR 762B 2 meter mobile \$50

Kenwood DFC 230 Freq display \$100

Kenwood SWR/Power meter \$100

Rohn 25 tower (40 feet) \$150

Hinged base plate \$50

Tower top section \$50

The tower needs to be taken down and has some antennae on it. There is a three element HF beam on top of the tower. Pictures are available upon request. For more information or if you are interested, call Mike Callam, KD4MC, at 919-934-9623 or email jarsmember@centurylink.net

JARS Officers 2015

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Newsletter Mike KD4MC

Ham of the Year Mike KD4MC

Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 302
Benson, NC 27504

That does it for this edition of the "Official Organ".

See everyone at the meeting Thursday.

73 de KD4MC