The Official Organ

The official newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
August 2015 Edition

JARS Meeting this coming Thursday

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday, August 20th at Panther Branch Community Building. Our very own Chef – Boy – R- Tommy will be fixing lasagna with the fixin's. You need to let Tommy know how many people you will be bringing in order to make sure everybody gets enough to eat. His email address is: n4cbi42@gmail.com. Cost of dinner is $7.00. Please try to bring exact change.

We will have a guest speaker this month at our meeting. It will be the Johnston County Sheriff, Steve Bizzell

In this month's Official Organ:

Life on the Farm:

I must admit, it has been hot and hectic here on the farm. Earlier this month the AC decided to take a break from the heat. I called the repairman out and he found what he thought was the problem and applied a fix. Well, guess what? That was not the problem and he had to come back. After quite a bit of investigating and testing, it was discovered that the blower motor was worn out and getting hot and shutting down.

Also, I know many of you are as tired of hearing me complain about my back as I am of complaining. Well, at 530 AM tomorrow, I will be checking into Wake Med for back surgery. The doc said that I would probably be there for three or four days. That means that I will have to miss the meeting this month.

I guess that is about all the news from here on the farm.

73 de KD4MC/K4VJC

147.270 Repeater:

As most of us know, the 147.270 repeater has always been known as the AK4H Repeater. Well, since Bill passed away earlier this summer, there have been quite a few questions regarding the 147.270. The repeater is owned by the Auburn Repeater Corporation. It still carries the AK4H call sign. The only thing that has changed since Bills passing is that Danny Hampton, K4ITL is now the trustee of the repeater. So, when the net is called, we need to thank Danny Hampton and the Auburn Repeater

Corporation for the use of the AK4H repeater.

The Wouff – Hong and the Rettysnitch: Lost Tradition

Amateur Radio's traditional and most sacred symbols

Two gruesome instruments of excruciating torture used to enforce law, order, and decency in Amateur Radio operation.,

The **Rettysnitch** is used to enforce **decency** in Amateur Radio operating work.

In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettysnitch to the league's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettysnitch specimen from "The Old Man" himself. Cebik stated that "Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no further teeth. It was ordered to be displayed by its mate." The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch stories were retold by Rufus P. Turner, when he wrote "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts" in May 1934 *QST*. According to Cebik, "In 1930, *The ARRL Handbook* had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared. By 1947 the *Handbook* had deleted both photos." An editorial on the Wouff-Hong (without the hyphen) appeared many years later in February 1961 *QST*. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.

Do the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, answered this question well, when he asked "Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about Amateur Radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit Amateur Radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today - deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to

achieve them perfectly." He added, "May you never deserve their sting."

ARRL News:

Amateur Radio Parity Act Would Not Void "Private Contracts," ARRL General Counsel Says

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has rebutted assertions, expressed by some, that the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would represent an unlawful intrusion into "private contracts" and would invalidate architectural limitations and rules regarding the installation of ham radio antennas in residential neighborhoods. Imlay said the argument raised is that no federal legislation should alter private land-use restrictions, since these are contractual obligations. "The contractual characteristic of private land-use regulation has not existed in the United States for a great many years," he pointed out. Imlay recently expanded on the topic during a lengthy interview with *HamRadioNow* webcast host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ.

"A contract requires a meeting of the minds between the two parties," Imlay said in his interview with Pearce, which also included ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, a prime mover of the legislation. With no opportunity to negotiate, "you don't have a contractual relationship at all. Instead, what you have is a preclusion."

Rather than contracts, Imlay explained, private land-use restrictions are limitations placed on the use of land long before the buyer ever shows up, and they have become increasingly difficult to avoid. With more and more neighborhoods imposing CC&Rs, the only choice a radio amateur has, Imlay told Pearce, is to buy or not to buy a dwelling in a community that may prohibit antennas completely.

The legislation -- H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 -- calls on the FCC to apply the three-point test of the federal PRB-1 preemption policy to private land-use restrictions. Imlay said its passage would *not* mean that hams living in neighborhoods governed by CC&Rs could erect any antenna they wished. The obligation a homeowners association would have under the bill is not to prohibit but to make reasonable accommodation for some sort of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antenna, imposing the least practicable restriction to accomplish the association's aesthetic purposes, he explained.

The legal underpinning of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is well established, Imlay pointed out, and private land-use regulations must give way when they conflict with federal telecommunications policy. "It was held a long time ago by the US Supreme Court that federal communications policy trumps even private land-use regulations," Imlay told Pearce. "That's not a taking of land under the *Constitution*. It's simply a supervening authority." Imlay said that private land-use regulations that conflict with expressed federal telecommunications policy are subject to pre-emption, which would restore

private property rights to the landowner. The FCC, he explained, is not hostile to the bill, but it has indicated that it would prefer to have some guidance from Congress -- which does have the power to act -- before amending the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules.

Several years ago, the FCC established the OTARD rule that lets residents living in deed-restricted communities install over-the-air television or radio reception devices, such as a satellite dish, but it does not apply to Amateur Radio antennas. Imlay said this precedent applies to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, and that the FCC was comfortable with the guidance it got from Congress at the time with respect to OTARD.

"There is no difference in the effect on the strong interest in Amateur Radio communications, whether or not an amateur station is precluded by a zoning regulation...or by a deed restriction," Imlay said in the interview. "The effect is the same: The ham can't build a station."

"We have until the end of 2016 to get this bill passed, and we have every intention of doing that," he assured Pearce.

California ARES Volunteers Support Wildfire Response

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in Butte County, California, responded on July 29 to a Red Cross request to support communication at an evacuation shelter in Oroville during the Swedes Fire. Butte County Emergency Coordinator Scott Petersen, KE6VUS, said several ARES operators were called via a newly developed telephone tree. Volunteers used the W6SCR repeater, initially for a logistics net and later for point-to-point contacts.

Assistant EC Dale Anderson, KK6EVX, was on site in Oroville within an hour of callout at 1600 local, Peterson said, adding, "he had to travel a bit to get there." Peterson arrived on the scene at 1845 local, and the facility was staffed until 2130 local, at which time the communications section was released from service and the gear broken down and packed. Peterson said the Butte County ARES communications van was not utilized for this event. In all, seven ARES members participated in the activation.

According to Cal Fire, the Swedes Fire -- one of many in California in recent days -- burned over 400 acres, destroying two residences and 14 other structures. That fire was contained as of August 3, although fire crews remain in the area.

The Swedes Fire was among the smaller blazes that have popped up this summer on the West Coast -- most of them in California, where some 13,000 residents have been ordered to evacuate as firefighters work to contain about 20 wildfires. The largest -- the Rocky Fire north of San Francisco -- already covers more than 100,000 square miles. -- *Thanks to ARRL Sacramento Valley Section news; Cal Fire*

Fox-1A Satellite Mated to Launcher, Fox-1B Gets a Ride

AMSAT has reported that its Fox-1A CubeSat has been "mated" to the Centaur rocket in preparation for launch late next month from Vandenburg Air Force Base in California. NASA also alerted AMSAT on August 3 that the Fox-1B (RadFxSat -- Radiation Effects Satellite) CubeSat has a ride on a Delta II launcher with a NOAA spacecraft, due to go into space in late 2016. The availability arose because other CubeSats had dropped off the flight manifest.

Both satellites will go aloft as part of the NASA Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa) program, which offers free launches to educational entities and encourages science missions. AMSAT has been developing a family of CubeSats with Amateur Radio payloads that can support advanced science experiments, and it has been working with universities on scientific and educational missions that fit the ELaNa mold.

"This provides us with a way to put ham radio transponders into orbit and provides our university partners with a reliable platform for space-based research projects," AMSAT said on its "Meet the Fox Project" web page.

The Fox-1A mission hosts a Penn State student experiment involving micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) gyros. Fox-1B/RadFxSat is a joint mission by AMSAT and the Institute for Space and Defense Electronics at Vanderbilt University.

The Fox-1A satellite will include a Mode B (U/V) FM transponder with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz and capabilities similar to those of the AO-51 satellite, which went dark in late 2011. Fox-1B also will offer a Mode B FM transponder (435.250 MHz up/145.960 MHz down, pending coordination).

The first phase of the Fox series 1-Unit CubeSats will allow simple ground stations using handheld transceiver and simple dual-band antennas to make contacts. Read more. -- *Thanks to AMSAT News Service via AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY and NASA*

Chinese Amateur Radio Satellites Set to Launch in Early September

China's Amateur Satellite Group CAMSAT said this week that nine satellites carrying Amateur Radio payloads have been delivered to the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Central China. CAMSAT CEO Alan Kung, BA1DU, said they're expected to launch between September 7 and 9. All are part of the CAS-3 series of satellites. Four of the microsatellites and two of the CubeSats included in the launch have been designated as the XW-2 (Hope-2) amateur satellite system (XW-2A through XW-2F), although Kung also refers to them using their initial CAS-3A through CAS-3F nomenclature. The other three satellites -- a CubeSat, a nanosatellite, and a picosatellite -- carry the designations CAS-3G through CAS-3I, respectively. CAMSAT announced earlier this year that the launch date would be postponed from mid-July until early September.

"Each satellite of the CAS-3 series will work independently, and they are made by different organizations," Kung told ARRL.

The XW-2 series satellites are equipped with substantially identical Amateur Radio payloads -- a U/V mode linear transponder, a CW telemetry beacon and an AX.25

19.2k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry downlink, CAMSAT said in May. Each Amateur Radio complement has the same technical characteristics, but will operate on different 70-centimeter uplink and 2-meter downlink frequencies. XW-2A through XW-2F have identical quarter-wavelength deployable monopole antennas made of steel tape.
CAMSAT worked with three entities to complete the other three satellites: CAS-3G (DCBB), a 2U CubeSat being built by Shenzhen HIT Satellite Ltd of China for educational purposes; CAS-3H (LilacSat-2), a Harbin Institute of Technology of China microsatellite for science experiments and Amateur Radio, and CAS-3I (NDT-Phone Sat), a National University of Defense Technology of China picosatellite for carrying out technical experiments. CAS-3G and CAS-3I will downlink digital telemetry on amateur frequencies, while CAS-3H will carry a U/V FM transponder and APRS.

Kung said a Long March-6 rocket will carry the XW-2 and CAS-3 satellites into orbit along with 11 other satellites.

Additional ARRL Books Now Available as E-Books

ARRL has announced plans to significantly increase the availability of its publications as e-books. At the same time, the League introduced six more ARRL titles in the popular Amazon Kindle format.

"I'm very pleased that members and readers will find more and more ARRL books available in the reading format they prefer," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "This effort underscores our strategy of delivering quality content on the media platforms preferred by members -- including print and digital publishing."

Inderbitzen said Kindle devices frequently rank highest in preference among e-book readers, and Kindle apps make it possible to use the format on most mobile devices and tablets, including Android and Apple iOS devices.
"ARRL isn't new to digital publishing," ARRL Publication Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, pointed out. Ford oversees staff and contributors responsible for content creation, editing, and publishing. "In 2012, *QST* was introduced to all members in a digital format. Other books, such as technical proceedings assembled by ARRL for annual conferences, are published digitally and made available to readers on a print-on-demand basis. The newest titles available in Kindle format include Understanding Basic Electronics, ARRL's Small Antennas for Small Spaces, Get on the Air with HF Digital, Your First Amateur Radio HF Station, Radios to Go!, and the ARES Field Resource Manual. Earlier this year, ARRL released two titles in Kindle format: Propagation and Radio Science by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, and Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs by Paul Danzer, N1II.
All of these publications are also available in a print format, directly from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers.
All ARRL license manuals are available in Kindle format. The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual has been identified by Amazon as a #1 Best Seller.

"ARRL's place in digital publishing also means introducing Amateur Radio to more of the world," Inderbitzen said. "When someone searches for or buys an e-book about radio electronics, microcontrollers, or some other related interest, we want their search to lead them to Amateur Radio and ARRL."

Ford added, "As the largest publisher of Amateur Radio books, we've made great strides in developing a digital publishing competency that will ensure ARRL is an enduring source of content on the art and science of radio -- and in the format you prefer; quickly, easily, and no matter where you are."

Researchers Decode CASSIOPE Satellite Field Day Fly-Over Experiment Results

The University of Calgary's "Enhanced Polar Outflow Probe (ePOP) Radio Receiver Instrument (RRI)" on the CASSIOPE satellite was able to detect several ARRL Field Day stations on June 28. CASSIOPE (CAScade Smallsat and IOnospheric Polar Explorer) is a Canadian-designed and built satellite. The RRI listened on 80 and 40 meter segments. Virginia Tech graduate researcher Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, said that during the first 25 seconds of 7 MHz reception, he and his team aurally decoded and identified 23 stations, most in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana, before the signals "abruptly disappeared." He said very few signals were detected on 80 meters.

"This experiment was designed to simply test the feasibility of conducting HF Amateur Radio-satellite ionosphere and propagation studies," Frissell told ARRL. "These results show that this is feasible, and that it is possible to detect interesting geophysical features." The others involved in the analyzing the results were Gareth Perry of the University of Calgary; Ethan Miller, K8GU, of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab; Magdalina Moses, KM4EGE, of Virginia Tech, and *CW Skimmer* developer Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA.

The sudden disappearance of signals on 40 meters, Frissell said, suggests that CASSIOPE was passing over regions of differing ionospheric electron densities. "The plasma frequency of the ionosphere is directly proportional to the square root of the electron density," he explained. "Signals transmitted from Earth and vertically incident on the ionosphere will be reflected back to Earth at the altitude where the plasma frequency matches the transmitted frequency. A satellite flying above this layer will be shielded from the signals below." The ePOP experiment on CASSIOPE is a suite of eight instruments that study the outflow of plasma from the ionosphere into near-Earth geospace.

Frissell has documented the group's results in a presentation, "ePOP RRI Observations of Amateur Radio Transmissions."
Frissell said that at the time of the satellite's pass, the peak plasma frequency was 6.950 MHz at roughly 290 km altitude, as measured by the Millstone Hill ionosonde in Westford, Massachusetts. "If the conditions were similar to what CASSIOPE was

experiencing at its location, it would be able to hear the 7 MHz signal but not the 3.5 MHz signals," he said. "This is, in fact, what we observe."

He said the 7 MHz signals abruptly disappeared once CASSIOPE reached 42° N latitude. "We believe it is likely the satellite was above an ionospheric layer that had a plasma frequency greater than 7 MHz, thereby shielding the satellite from the ground transmissions," he said. He and his fellow researchers plan to follow up with more thorough modeling and analysis.

The researchers were able to record signals appearing within a 30 kHz band segment on 40 meters (7010-7040 kHz) in a special .wav file that requires *CW Skimmer* multi-channel CW decoding and analysis software to decipher and identify individual stations. Frissell said *CW Skimmer* detected more than 23 signals, but after the results were checked manually, it was determined that the software was unable to accurately identify some individual stations. "*CW Skimmer* automated detection had difficulty in this case because of the flutter present in the signals observed by the satellite." Frissell said. (An audio file of Field Day participant WR9Y, extracted via *CW Skimmer*, provides an idea of what the RRI actually was hearing.)

"In conclusion," Frissell said, "we believe this was a successful experiment that provides an interesting view of a possible plasma density transition region, as well as a basis for designing future HF Amateur Radio-satellite ionospheric experiments."

Nevada ARES Volunteers Activate During 911 Outage: Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) members in Nye County, Nevada, were pressed into service on July 27 when the county lost 911 capabilities on the AT&T system. Southern Nye County Emergency Coordinator Gerald Fuge, KC6ILH, reported that nine ARES members deployed to four locations to act as 911 relay points for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). ARES personnel staffed locations in Pahrump, Amargosa, and Beatty, Nevada. Another radio amateur not affiliated with ARES provided communication with two local FM broadcast stations and delivered EOC information releases from the ARES network to those stations. Nye County encompasses more than 18,100 square miles and is the third largest county in the US. ARES personnel were deployed for about 3 hours. Southern Nye County ARES members have responded to similar 911 outages in the past. -- *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR*

Updated Canadian Band Plan Released: The Radio Amateurs of Canada Band Planning Committee has released an updated band plan for all LF and HF (0-30 MHz) Amateur Radio allocations. This includes the new LF bands at 2200 and 600 meters, the 60 meter channels, and changes to reflect current best practice on other bands. The updated band plan represents the RAC Band Planning Committee's year-long review of all LF and HF allocations. RAC said the updated band plan is intended as a quick

reference guide, summarizing all bands on a single page. -- *Thanks to George Gorsline, VE3YV, RAC International Affairs Officer*

North Carolina Section News:

Posted August 5, 2015
ARRL NC Section Newsletter
July, 2015

Please accept my apology for the delay in sending out this month's Newsletter. An end-of-the-month vacation to visit family in Michigan and attend a wedding on July 25th had to be extended when it was learned that my Uncle died. Subsequently, I drove to Indiana last weekend to attend his funeral. Karl W4CHX

S 1685 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 (UPDATE) – Last month, it was announced that S 1685 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 had been introduced in the US Senate. The wording in S 1685 and HR 1301 are identical. Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS) introduced S 1685 into the US Senate. As of August 3rd, there is only 1 co-sponsor, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), who is the original co-sponsor of the Bill. For comments by Senator Wicker on the benefits of S 1685, see http://www.arrl.org/news/senate-sponsor-of-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-said-bill-promotes-regulatory-transparency-equali

HR 1301 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 (UPDATE) – As of August 3RD, HR 1301 has 94 co-sponsors, including 4 Representatives from North Carolina: David Price (D-NC-4); Walter Jones, Jr (R-NC-3); Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10); and, David Rouzer (R-NC-7).

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 PAGE ON ARRL WEBSITE – Since there is Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 legislation in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate, the ARRL has setup a combined web page to accommodate activities related to HR 1301 and S 1685, and to provide a central location for information on these identical Bills. ARRL members are urged to contact their Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and the Senate and ask them to sign on to the Bills as a co-sponsor. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-website-has-new-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-page and http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act

COLORADO TO HOST US ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS (8/27-30) – Registration is open for the 15th USA and 8th IARU Region 2 Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) championships, which will be held on August 27-30, in Elbert, CO. An optional ARDF "training camp" will take place on Monday through Wednesday, August 24-26, just before the Championships. Thanks to Joe Moell, K0OV, ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding

Coordinator, for providing this information! For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/colorado-to-host-us-amateur-radio-direction-finding-championships-in-august

NC MOUNTAIN STATE FAIR AND SPECIAL EVENT STATION, N4F (9/11-20) – The following report was received from Philip Jenkins, N4HF: "It's time (again) to come to the NC Mountain State Fair – N4F! Yes, once again, those rascally rapscallions of The Road Show ARC – and at least four other area/regional ham clubs: Lenoir ARC, Blue Ridge ARC, Haywood County ARC, and Cleveland County ARS – are spearheading a Special Event Station AND a visitor's tent to introduce ham radio to the general public at the NC Mountain State Fair, Sept 11-20, near Asheville. And we're inviting other clubs/individuals to join us in getting out the word about amateur radio. (P.S. It isn't THAT far to travel; the president of the Atlanta Radio Club has, for the past two years, driven 200 miles to help out!)

In 2013, we had a large tent for the general public with information and demonstrations, including: D-STAR; Echolink; IRLP; APRS; WinLink; MARS; an SDR receiver (paired with a Drake tube transmitter!); a MESH (Broadband- Hamnet) network with cameras linked to the internet; videos on the history and contributions of ham radio, and the facets of ham radio; and, a quite popular 2 meter GOTA station. Behind the tent, there was a smaller operations trailer where the Special Event Station contacts were made. Icom generously loaned the Road Show ARC two high-end HF rigs, a D-STAR mobile rig, and a D-STAR HT. In 2014, we dropped a couple of displays in the tent but added a kit-building/rig-repair desk to show we can and do build some of our equipment (like a kit we got from TenTec). Icom generously loaned us the same radios as the previous year for the Special Event station, but Elecraft upped the ante by letting us operate a K3/100 in the visitor's tent.

This year, we welcome ham visitors from wherever – not just western NC, or even NC – to come and visit, to help with logistics (set up, breakdown) and operating, and especially, to answer questions from our non-ham visitors and explain the demonstrations of various facets of ham radio. We had visitors in 2013 and 2014 who had been inactive, but are now on the air again; visitors who had never heard of ham radio, but are now licensed; and, visitors who had always wanted to get into ham radio, but had been putting it off or didn't know any hams, etc. Our goal for the Fair each year was to license 50 new hams. We know of at least 25 individuals who got their license, either directly or indirectly, because of the Fair in 2013, and we did even better in 2014. So we're soliciting your help and expertise to expose even more people to our great hobby.

Want to see what we did last year? Check out www.HamRadioNow.tv, episode 171. Want to read details

about what we did and how to do it in your own radio club? Check out the upcoming September 2015 QST. Want more info, or want to help out? Contact Philip Jenkins via email at n4hf@arrl.net or check out www.theroadshowarc.com" Thanks to
Philip Jenkins, N4HF, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer for providing this report! For further information on the NC Mountain State Fair, see http://www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefa

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES FOR NEW LF AND MF AMATEUR
ALLOCATIONS (8/31, 9/30) – The FCC is requesting comments on its recent proposals to authorize Amateur Radio operations on two new bands: 135.7 to 137.8 kHz (LF, 2200 meters); and, 472 to 479 kHz (MF, 630 meters). Amateur radio operations would be secondary on both
bands. Please note that comments are due by August 31, 2015. Reply comments – in other words, comments on comments filed – are due by
September 30, 2015. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-invites-comments-on-proposed-rules-for-new-lf-and-mf-amateur-allocations

ARRL COMPLAINS TO FCC ABOUT THE HOME DEPOT'S MARKETING OF RF LIGHTING
DEVICES – The ARRL has filed a complaint with the FCC, alleging that The Home Depot has been marketing illegally certain RF-ballast lighting devices in violation of FCC rules. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-complains-to-fcc-about-the-home-depot-s-marketing-of-rf-lighting-devices

FCC PROPOSES FINING GEORGIA HAM $1000 FOR FAILING TO IDENTIFY – The
FCC has proposed fining a Georgia ham $1000 for alleged failure to properly identify. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-fining-georgia-ham-1000-for-failing-to-identify

FCC SHOWS NO MERCY, SUSTAINS $22,000 FINE FOR EGREGIOUS ON-AIR BEHAVIOR
BY MICHIGAN LICENSEE – The FCC has imposed the full $22,000 fine on a Michigan licensee, which had been proposed in 2014 for causing intentional interference with other Amateur Radio communications and for failing to identify. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-shows-no-mercy-sustains-22-000-fine-for-egregious-on-air-behavior-by-michigan-licensee

ARRL FILES MORE "GROW LIGHT" BALLAST COMPLAINTS WITH FCC – The
ARRL has filed three more complaints with the FCC urging investigation and initiation of proceedings to halt marketing and retail sale of
certain RF lighting devices, i.e., "grow light" ballasts. For
further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-files-

more-grow-light-ballast-complaints-with-fcc

CENTENNIAL EVENT – During its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors approved a $10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. In addition, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan; approved a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016; began the search for a successor to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will retire next May; and, named several ARRL award recipients. For further information on these and other Board actions, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-approves-dues-hike-hf-band-plan-2016-national-parks-centennial-event

VE TESTING: SIGNATURE ON FORM 605 – The following information was sent by Bill Morine, N2COP, so that it could be included in this Newsletter. The email thread has been edited for brevity: "FYI. This issue came up in Wilmington about young Hams who aren't taught cursive and have not developed a signature. If an applicant for an exam at a VE session doesn't have a true "signature", ignore the FCC's instructions for "Do Not Print". See [the] opinion below from ARRL's counsel, Chris Imlay. ….. 73 de Bill, N2COP." Here is the email communication from Christopher Imlay, W3KD, regarding the signature on Form 605: " Bill, ….. it doesn't matter ….. whether the applicant prints his name or uses cursive writing. It is entirely a matter of personal preference, regardless of the statement on the form. I routinely print my name in lieu of a signature since mine is unreadable. ….. I will assure you that in the history of FCC forms there has never been one rejected for using a printed signature rather than cursive. ….. 73, Chris W3KD." Thanks to Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD, ARRL General Counsel; and, Bill Morine, N2COP, Roanoke Division Vice Director, for providing this information!

New VE Team In Town:

As many of you probably know, one of my goals upon getting my Extra Class License was to form a VE Team. It is not my intention to be competition for any existing teams. As it is now, there is only one chance per month in Johnston for testing. If you do not pass your test then, you can wait another month or travel a great distance to try again.

We have succeeded in forming the Johnston County ARRL VE Team. Our first session will be on Monday, September 28th, 7pm at the Four Oaks Chamber of Commerce located at 204 North Main Street in Four Oaks, NC 27524.

If you are a current ARRL certified VE and wish to help, contact Mike Callam KD4MC at mcallam@centurylink.net.

Upcoming Hamfest:

September 5-6: 59th Annual Shelby Hamfest/Roanoke Division Convention,
Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC, see http://shelbyhamfest.org
September 25-26: W4DXCC DX and Contesting Convention, SouthEastern DX
and Contesting Organization (SEDCO), Pigeon Forge, TN. This event includes Ham Radio Bootcamp (9/25), see

http://www.w4dxcc.com/index.html

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. There is no special training required to join as we will train you. Johnston County ARES meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at the American Red Cross located at 805-A South Third Street in Smithfield. We also hold a training net on the Carolina 440 UHF repeater system on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm. This net is open to all licensed amateurs. More information on Johnston County ARES can be found at http://www.johnstoncountyares.com. You can also contact Mike Callam, KD4MC, at 919-934-9623 or by email at: mcallam@centurylink.net.

Ham Humor:

A ham is driving up a steep, narrow mountain road, his antennas flopping in the breeze and flopping into the other lane. A YL is driving down the same road.
As they pass each other, the YL narrowly missed the antennas and leans out of the window and yells...PIG! The ham immediately leans out of his window and replies, "WITCH!!"

They each continue on their way, and as the man rounds the next corner, he crashes into a pig in the middle of the road.

If hams would only listen!

I immediately thought of NC4BJ when I saw this one:

THE NEW "OLD GEEZER" HAM LICENSE

A product of the FCC restructuring.
1. No testing required. The person is nominated by fellow hams.
2. No call sign needed. The old geezer can not remember it anyway.

3. No code; arthritis will hamper key use.
Can not remember the code anyway.
4. Voice communication; AM not SSB. The old geezer still has his equipment from the 40's and 50's.
5. Limited to 1 crystal controlled frequency on 80 meters.
No limit on power output.
6. Two way contacts are not needed. Just get on the air and start a monologue of complaints.
7. Hemroids, prostate, and the weather are favorite topics.
When are you an "OLD GEEZER"? Your friends [if still have some] and fellow hams will let you know.
8. The difference between an OLD FART and an OLD GEEZER?
The old geezer is a lost cause.
The old fart still has some cute old guy left in him.

Nominations & Dues:

At this months meeting, we need to form a nomination committee as we usually elect officers at our September meeting. Even though they are elected in September, they do not take over until January of the following year.

DUES: just a reminder that we start collecting dues for the following year in September.

JARS Officers 2015

President	Mike	KD4MC
Vice Pres.	Aaron	KK4KFG
Secretary	Billy	KJ4ZKG
Treasurer	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Dianne	KE4VNX
Net Whip	Stephen	KJ4QNW
Ham of the Year	Mike	KD4MC
Newsletter Editor	Mike	KD4MC

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That does it for another edition of the Official Organ. I will be back for the September meeting.

73 de KD4MC