

# The "Official Organ"

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

February 2019 edition

## JARS Meeting This Thursday:

Our regular scheduled JARS is this coming Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at Grandsons Buffet located at 273 N Brightleaf Blvd, Smithfield, NC 27577. The meeting will start at 7pm. Get there early if you wish to eat.

In this month's Official Organ:

Presidents report

Vice Presidents Report

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Johnston County ARRL VE Team.

## Presidents Report:

Since I am still recovering and recuperating from my surgery, and according to the Constitution and Bylaws, our Vice President- Scott Wilkinson (KJ4TUC) will be presiding over the meeting this month. Please give Scott the same (or better) support that you give me when I am presiding over the meetings. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, I will be back in March.

Mike Callam-President.

## Vice Presidents Report:

**From your Vice-President Scott Wilkinson KJ4TUC**

**Educational Program:** In keeping with the theme of Emergency Preparedness and assisting Public Safety, our guest speaker at our February 21 meeting will be **Greg Hauser** from the **NC Dept of Public Safety/Emergency Management**. Mr. Houser is the Communications Interoperability Coordinator who oversees Public Safety and Emergency Communications throughout the State of North Carolina. He will be explaining to us the statewide system of emergency communications and discuss how we can fit in as Ham Radio operators.

**JARSCOMM: Saturday, March 2** has been designated as an official work day for JARSCOMM. We plan to meet at Mule City Feed in Benson about 9:00 AM. The plan is to install PL259 connectors and install several radios, and other electronic equipment. Anyone with experience and talent of installing radios is requested to help and we want a professional looking job. Please bring your electrician's tools, soldering iron, and anything else you think you might need. This vehicle is a retired ambulance that has been converted into a communications command post. If anyone affiliated with EMS that has experience in the operation of, or familiar with the complex electrical wiring of this type of vehicle, your help is also needed.

If you can volunteer to help on that day it will be much appreciated. If it is raining or other bad weather, the work day will be rescheduled for March 16.

**JARS Picnic:** Has been set for Saturday, May 11, from 12-5 PM, at the Maple Shelter at White Deer Park in Garner. We have plenty of hotdogs and hamburgers left over from JarsFest so all we will need is all the other good stuff to go with it. This is a family event (kids welcome), so bring some games for the kids and the musicians can bring their musical instruments.

**JARS Logo Shirts: (T-Shirts and Golf Shirts)**

If anyone still wants to order a shirt, contact Paulette Disbrow KM4RMW, or come to the next club meeting. These are really nice shirts. It will identify you as a JARS member. Nice to wear at any Ham Radio event, if deployed on JARSCOMM, JarsFest, or anytime you are representing the JARS Club.

**> All officers and committee chairpersons are requested to write something for the monthly newsletter.**

Just a short paragraph that tells what your office has been involved with this past month and plans for next month, and any other thing that might be of interest to JARS members. Any other member is also invited to submit something they think would be of interest to JARS members. All you have to do is email it to Mike and he will put it in the newsletter. Mike needs to receive it by the second Friday of the month so it can go out that weekend.

**Summer Field Day:** Summer Field Day will be held on the last weekend of June. (June 22-23).

**UPCOMING AREA HAM FEST:**

Charlotte Ham Fest, in Concord NC  
Saturday, March 9, 2019  
[www.charlottehamfest.org](http://www.charlottehamfest.org)

Raleigh RARS Ham Fest  
NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC  
Saturday, April 20, 2019

[www.rarsfest.org](http://www.rarsfest.org)

JARSCOMM will be on display at RARSFEST.

Scott Wilkins, KJ4TUC-Vice President.

**Secretary Report:**

**Minutes from JARS January 2019 Monthly Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Mike Callam.

Welcome and introductions were made.

Vice President-Scott Wilkinson asked the club how did we like having our meetings at Grandson's and would like to continue having our monthly meetings at Grandson's. Scott made the following motion:

**That the JARS club continue to have our regular club meetings on the third Thursday of each month at Grandsons Buffet, on Brightleaf Blvd. in Smithfield, as long as the food and quality of service continues to be good, and/or until the end of the current officers term of office that will end in September of 2019. At such time the newly elected officers and members may make a recommendation for a change of venue to hold our meetings, in accordance with Article Six of the Constitution and Bylaws.**

This motion will be voted on at our February meeting by members present at that meeting.

Presidential Picnic is in May and we need to decide where we are going to have it and do, we want it catered or cook out.

A suggestion was made by President Mike Callam to have it at the back up repeater site.

Secretary Report-Velda Callam reported that there were no minutes from our December meeting as that was our Christmas dinner and

that the minutes from the January board meeting were in the newsletter.

Treasurers Report- Paul Dunn was not present to make a report

Repeater Report- Van Lee reported that the repeater was still working. Also, that the elevator on the tower was still broken and no work could be done until it was fixed.

Membership Report- Four new members were voted in, Billy Newotn-KJ4ZKG and his wife, Linda, Walter Wenzel-KA2RGI and his wife Carol, Peter Eggiman-KJ4MDY and wife, and Patty Page-KN4Pyn were voted in as members.

Net Whip- Stephen Fowler reported that all nets were being called.

Presidents Report- Mike reported that he was having surgery on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Duke Regional Area Hospital and will be out of commission for at least a month and that Vice President-Scott Wilkinson will be presiding over the JARS meetings until his return.

Dianne Young announced that JARS movie night will be on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be seeing Mule at the Smithfield Cinemas. The movie starts at 350pm and we will be going out to eat afterward.

Constitution and Bylaws- Ryan Leathers presented the following proposed changes to our Constitution and Bylaws:

Proposed changes to JARS Constitution and Bylaws

## **ARTICLE TWO – Officers**

**2:** Only Members having attained the age of 18 years or more and have been a JARS member

for at least one full year shall be eligible to hold an elected office. All offices will be elected for a term of 1 year. The offices of President and Vice President will be limited to a maximum of 5 consecutive terms in the same office. There will be no other limit as to the number of times a member may be re-elected to the same office. The Media and Newsletter Director may hold another elected office simultaneously.

### **Proposed change:**

**2:** Only Members having attained the age of 18 years or more and have been a JARS member for at least one full year shall be eligible to hold an elected office. In the event that there are not enough eligible candidates willing to serve then the one-year membership requirement may be waived if the majority of the members present at time of election vote to do so. All offices will be elected for a term of 1 year. The offices of President and Vice President will be limited to a maximum of 5 consecutive terms in the same office. There will be no other limit as to the number of times a member may be re-elected to the same office. The Media and Newsletter Director may hold another elected office simultaneously.

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### **Note:**

At our last election we had a vacancy for the position of Parliamentarian. At this time the club members present voted to temporarily amend the bylaws so that we could find a candidate willing to serve. This proposed change fixes the problem so it doesn't happen in the future.

## ARTICLE THREE – Duties of Officers

**3:** The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of the proceedings at all meetings of JARS and all sessions of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep a roll of the members present, conduct and report on all JARS correspondence, and transmit a monthly report to the ARRL Section Communications Manager. The Secretary will...

### Proposed change:

**3:** The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of the proceedings at all meetings of JARS and all sessions of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep a roll of the members present, conduct and report on all JARS correspondence, and submit reports to ARRL when necessary. The Secretary will...

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These proposed changes will be distributed to all members, included in the monthly newsletter and be voted upon by the members present at our regular February monthly meeting.

Old Business- there was no old business to discuss.

New Business- March 1, 2019 is the day that we will work on JARSComm installing radios and antenna connectors. And if that date is rained out, we will reschedule for the third Saturday in March.

LOM Award- Van presented the LOM to Stephen Fowler.

Program- Mike Callam did a presentation on the Introduction to Digital FM Radio.

Meeting was adjourned at 820 pm.

Submitted by Velda Callam- Secretary

### February 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:

Meeting was called to order at 700 pm by Vice President Scott Wilkinson-KJ4TUC.

Vice President- As we know, President Mike Callam KD4MC recently had surgery and is at home recuperating. Per ARTICLE THREE # 2OF THE jars CONSTITUTION AND Bylaws, "The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the Presidents absence".

Discussed that in order to have a quorum at a board meeting, five board members need to be present,

Since we did not have a quorum, this was a business meeting.

JARS Presidential Picnic will be held at White Deer Park on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. We need to decide do we want it to be catered, pot luck or have hamburgers and hot dogs cooked at the site. JARSComm will also be on display at the Presidential Picnic.

All officers and committee chairpersons are requested to write something for the monthly newsletter.

Just a short paragraph that tells what your office has been involved with this past month, and any other thing that might be of interest to the JARS members.

All you have to do is email it to Mike and he will put it in the newsletter. Mike needs to receive it by the second Friday of the month so it can go out over that weekend.

JARSComm work day is set for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> with Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> as a rain day. This will take place at Mule City Feeds in Benson. JARSComm will be at field day, which will be at the same location as last year.

Possibly take JARSComm to a business parking lot and let people come and look at the radios for those that are interested in amateur radio and JARS.

Stephen Fowler- KJ4QNW will look into getting a location in Benson to set up JARSComm. JARS Logo- since we now have shirts with the logo on them, the possibility of getting magnetic signs with logo to put on our vehicles. Membership- Dianne Young-KE4VNX Dianne received a thank you card for the donation that JARS made in honor of Page Jenkins, KM4GDR.

Respectfully submitted by Velda Callam (K4VJC), Secretary.

### **Membership Report:**

Last meeting, we welcomed four new members to JARS. They are Walter Wenzel and Coral Wenzel, Patty Page, Billy Newton and Wanda Newton, Peter Eggimann.

This meeting there is one application which is Robbie Keen and family, his call is km4jla.

The JARS also got a thank you for our donation in memory of Page Partin in the amount of \$50.00 to JCAPL.

Dianne Young (KE4VNX).

### **Net Whip Report:**

All nets are being covered. However, I could use some more net controllers. If you are interested, get in touch with Stephen Fowler at:

[Kj4qnw@gmail.com](mailto:Kj4qnw@gmail.com)

Stephen Fowler (KJ4QNW) Net Whip.

### **Life on the Farm:**

It has been a pretty interesting past month here on the farm. I must admit that I think mother nature is bipolar and off her meds once again. She can't seem to make up her mind if it is going to be cold or warm. At least, we don't have snow or ice to deal with, (yet). Maybe this coming month will be better weather wise.

I had to stop physical therapy (S & M) on my shoulder so that I could have stomach surgery. When I started therapy for my shoulder, I set a goal that I had to meet before my most recent surgery. That was to be able to get both arms out to my side since that was how they had to be for the stomach surgery.

The stomach surgery was supposed to be a relatively simple surgery. They were supposed to go in and wrap part of my stomach around my esophagus and recreate the valve between my stomach and esophagus to reduce the size of my stomach and reduce the amount of acid.

However, when he got in there, he found a great big hiatal hernia hiding behind my esophagus that he had to repair first. Anyway, I had to stay two nights in the hospital and they sent me home. Now, my diet consists of cream of wheat, chicken noodle soup, jello, pudding and popsicles. On the good side, I have lost almost 10 pounds since the surgery.

Velda is doing a great job of helping me with my recovery and she is not letting me do anything except what the doctor says.

We have had our hands full around here with the animals. Sandy is not able to figure out why she can't jump on my stomach for now.

We are in the process of getting an estimate for this year's home improvement project. We are going to convert a conventional bath tub into a walk-in shower since it is getting difficult for me to get in and out of the tub to take a shower. I also ordered me a new scanner (Uniden SDS200) and an outdoors scanner antenna. Unfortunately, neither one is expected to arrive before next Friday. So now I am like a kid at Christmas waiting for them to arrive.

That is, it for this month's Life on the Farm

73 from Mike(KD4MC), Velda(K4VJC), Remmington(Hairy Hound), Tabitha(Krazy Kat),

Midnight(Tom Kitty) & Sandy(Dog and a half long, half a dog high and two dogs hyper).

### Ham Radio Humor:

ONE LINERS

From Here, There, and Everywhere  
599 Ain't No Zip Code -- Anon

Observation the morning after the contest:

"A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history -- with the possible exceptions of tequila or a borrowed Vibroplex key." --K0HB

UR 59 - Now what was ur call again? -- N6KI

Parasitic Element: A person who takes lists for DX-stations. Bruce Talkington -- N4ZEZ

Heard on 80 Meters -- "The name here is George. That's George, Echo, Oscar, Radio, George, Echo." -- Via G8IZZ.

Q. Why did the chicken wire cross the road?  
A. To make a ground plane, of course -- AC6V

Big Gun: QRP is for sissies!  
Little Gun: Yeah and Goliath sed that too! -- AC6V

CQ CQ DX - No QSLs - Just QSOs (Guaranteed Pileup Getter) - AC6V

### ARRL News:

## Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, to Oversee Volunteer Monitors Development and Implementation

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will oversee the development and

implementation phases of ARRL's new Volunteer Monitors (VM) program, which will replace the Official Observers (OO) program. Hollingsworth, who once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC, has stepped down as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. The development phase of the program is already under way.

"I am grateful for the Atlantic Division ARRL



members supporting me, but I think I can better serve the Atlantic Division and all ARRL divisions by working in the Volunteer Monitors program," Hollingsworth said in his resignation letter. A new Atlantic Division Vice Director will be appointed.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said that Hollingsworth was the ideal person to lead ARRL's efforts in the development and implementation of this joint program with the FCC.

"I support Riley's decision to concentrate his efforts on this very valuable project on behalf of the ARRL," Roderick said.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors last July, the Volunteer

Monitors will work in cooperation with the FCC. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines. The program, which aims to re-energize Amateur Radio enforcement efforts, was proposed by the FCC following the closure of several FCC regional offices and reductions in field staff.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program -- development, solicitation and training, and implementation. The development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining ARRL's and the FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, drafting a Volunteer Manager job description, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

The solicitation and training phase will involve identifying the geographical locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications, and screening applicants. Current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs). The ARRL Board has expressed its appreciation to the OOs for their dedicated volunteer service over the years.

Implementation will involve having the volunteers provide field reports, and ARRL staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information gathered meets FCC requirements.

Continuing education will be provided to the volunteers as part of the program.

Hollingsworth has committed to ensure training adequacy for new VMs, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement action, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that it will take 9 - 12 months before the first Volunteer Monitors begin filing reports.

## US Amateur Radio Population Grows Slightly in 2018

The US Amateur Radio population once again grew by about 1%, based upon 2017 and 2018 year-end FCC database statistics provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A. The 755,430 total licensees represent nearly 7,300 more license holders than those that were in the database at the end of 2017. Nearly 51% of the Amateur Radio population in the US -- 384,145 -- hold a Technician license. Generals are second with 175,949, and Amateur Extras number 147,369. Advanced and Novice licensee populations continue to decline, with 39,607 Advanced and 8,360 Novices, as the FCC no longer issues Advanced or Novice licenses. A more significant statistic is 31,576 *new* FCC licenses last year, although that's 620 fewer than came aboard in 2017.



"New amateur licenses granted by FCC are down 2% over last year," noted ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, "but this is the fifth year in a row the total has been greater than 31,000. I predict that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year as well, and I'm optimistic this trend will continue."

Upgrades also are down slightly, compared to last year -- 9,456 in 2018 versus 9,576 in 2017, she added. "For the fifth year in a row, we have conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year -- an important milestone for the ARRL VEC," Somma recounted. "Our program continues to provide outstanding service to the ARRL, its members, and the entire Amateur Radio community."

ARRL VEC filed a total 30,393 license application forms last year, compared to 31,014 in 2017. That includes new, upgrade, modification, renewal, and club station filings. At 7,035 in 2018, the number of exam sessions conducted by ARRL VEC marginally trailed the 7,075 held in 2017. ARRL VEC served 34,493 exam applicants in 2018, compared to 35,352 in 2017. Exam elements administered by ARRL decreased from

47,152 last year to 45,817 this year, Somma said. Nearly 1,800 new Volunteer Examiners (VEs) have been added to the ARRL VEC program.

## FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio-Related Petition for Rule Making

The FCC has invited public comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11826](#)) from an Ohio radio amateur seeking to amend the Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during an emergency net, drill, or activation. ARRL member Robert A. Dukish, KK8DX, filed the petition in December, and the FCC put it on public notice this week. Dukish seeks a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules, which requires an amateur station to transmit its "assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

He noted that during



emergency networks, requiring participating stations -- often portable -- to use their assigned call signs during each transmission could prove

"burdensome and can hinder the flow of emergency traffic on the channel."

Specifically, he is suggesting that a simple approach would be to permit the net control station or other designated participant to announce from a single point the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.

Dukish suggested amending Section 97.119(a) to add, "except during a local emergency network activation or drill," and providing that in such situations, a net control or designations station would be "authorized to announce all participating stations' assigned call signs at no more than 10-minute intervals while the net is in progress." The amendment would provide that participating stations "be within a 50-mile distance of the identifying station, and each individual station must self-identify by transmitting its assigned call sign at least once per hour." CW transmission could be no faster than 25 WPM if sent automatically to satisfy the suggested amendment.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing Service ([ECFS](#)).

## US Navy Explores Amateur Radio as a Training Adjunct

The US Navy's Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division ([NAWCWD](#)) has adopted Amateur Radio training as a possible new approach to basic RF and electronics instruction. More than

20 NAWCWD employees took part in a week-long class in Point Mugu, California, in December. The class, which culminated in an examination session for the



Technician licensed, offered NAWCWD employees a novel approach to teaching radio propagation, said Brian Hill, KF4CAM, the lead for electromagnetic maneuver warfare experimentation in the NAWCWD Avionics, Sensors and E\*Warfare Department. Hill, who got his license while he was still in high school, is also the department's "innovation ambassador."

"I looked at the breakdown of current new hires and saw that many had degrees in computer science and thought that their classwork might not have covered things like RF propagation," Hill said. Rather than have employees sit through hours of *PowerPoint* briefings, Hill thought that a licensing course might be a more dynamic, hands-on approach to convey the basics -- and cover areas such as directional antennas, signal propagation, and modulation that are necessary for their work.

Initially, Hill had 10 class slots funded, but then Target Design Engineering Branch Head Ian Mann, KI6YVO, got

wind of the class, saw its potential, and helped get funding to expand participation. Mann, a General-class licensee and a ham for nearly 10 years, said he's been able to apply knowledge learned in the class to his NAWCWD work.

Target Systems Division Head Milton Gabaldon, also saw merit in the approach. He sat in on the classes, took the exam, and he's now KM6YPA. For him, it's about connecting the dots.



**Some of the 23 students who recently passed Amateur Radio exams at the NAWCWD hold their Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE).**

"It's about introducing people to electronics, to start understanding what RF is all about ...so when we talk about it in the test and evaluation world, [students] know what we're talking about," Gabaldon said. "They get a better view than 'I just do software.' Now they see 'My software controls this piece, which sends out RF jamming signals that protect the warfighter.' That's the most important takeaway."

In all, 23 employees who took the Technician exam passed, and several

also successfully tested at for General and Amateur Extra licenses. Hill hopes to offer more hands-on classes in the future, and he's planning a Fox Hunt for the near future, as additional hands-on training. -- *Thanks to NAWCWD and Public Affairs Officer Kimberly Brown; some information from [C4ISRNET](#)*

## WWV 100th Anniversary Special Event Operation in the Planning Stages

It's a celebratory year for the WWV stations. The fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget -- once signed -- will include full funding for the stations, which also mark their 100th year this fall. The [WWV Centennial Committee](#) has a tentative agreement with the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) to mount a special event station this fall adjacent to the [WWV](#) site in Colorado to



mark the 100th anniversary of the time and frequency standard station, the world's oldest continuously operating radio station. A memorandum of understanding is in the works.

Dave Swartz, W0DAS, of the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club ([NCARC](#)) heads the committee, which is developing plans for an NCARC special event from September 28 through October 2, with a NIST centennial observance tentatively set for October 1.

The NIST budget for WWV, WWVH, and WWVB will remain level for FY 2019. With the funding suspense over, Swartz told ARRL, "our committee is moving forward."

Swartz and committee members Darren Kalmbach, KC0ZIE, and Kevin Utter, N7GES, met on February 8 with WWV/WWVB/WWVH Station Manager John Lowe, WWV Electronics Technician Glenn Nelson, and WWV Chief Engineer Matt Deutch, N0RGT.



**The WWV Building near Fort Collins, Colorado. [Photo courtesy of NIST]**

"This was the first meeting for the committee and the first to include NIST upper management," said Swartz, who called the meeting "very productive." Swartz said NIST management is "on board" with the celebration, and Deutch plans to attend Hamvention May 17 - 19 to promote the centennial event.

Although the US government cannot fund any Amateur Radio special event expenses, the club members will be allowed to use a 15-acre parcel on WWV property, Swartz explained on the WWV Centennial website. "The operating site lies outside the security fence and simplifies logistics," he said.

Swartz hopes that other clubs in Colorado will be able to pitch in to make the WWV Centennial a success.

## Es'hail-2 (QO-100) Opened for Amateur Radio Use

The Es-hail-2 narrowband transponder went live a couple of days early and now is open for Amateur Radio. Thursday, February 14, was Teleport Inauguration Day in Qatar, celebrating the opening of the new Es'hailSat teleport and the "official" opening of Es'hail-2, which carries the first geostationary Amateur Radio payload, a German P4A package. Es'hail-2 launched last November from Cape Canaveral. The two Amateur



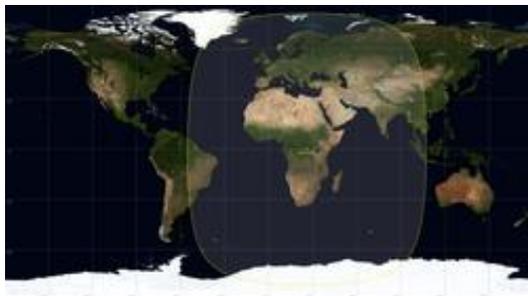
Radio transponders onboard what's now known as Qatar OSCAR 100 (QO-100) became available on February 12 for general operation by stations within QO-100's footprint. Emceeding the opening ceremony was Qatar's former Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiya, A71AU, who chairs the Qatar Amateur Radio Society (QARS) and is a satellite patron.

A delegation from Germany -- AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS; Achim Vollhardt, DH2VA, and Thomas Kleffel, DG5NGI, of the P4A team -- went to Qatar to set up and commission

the ground segment of P4A, which includes a club station that will operate under the auspices of QARS as A71A.

An AMSAT-DL ground station at the Bochum Observatory in Germany has been set up for QO-100, and operation via the satellite will be carried out using the call sign DL50AMSAT, recognizing AMSAT's 50th anniversary.

The satellite transponder offers a 250-kHz passband for modes such as SSB, FreeDV, CW, RTTY, and other modes, plus an 8-MHz wideband downlink for digital amateur TV (DATV) modes. Downlink frequencies are at 10 GHz. The uplink frequency is at 2.4 GHz.



The approximate footprint of Es'hail-2.

Stations located outside of the QO-100 footprint or lacking 10 GHz receive capability can monitor the proceeding using online WebSDR resources. In cooperation with AMSAT-DL, the British Amateur Television Club (BATC) will operate a WebSDR for the narrowband segment, and a spectrum viewer for the wideband (DATV) segment. The satellite is in geostationary orbit at 25.9° E. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service via AMSAT-DL

## ARISS Plans Do-Over of Slow-Scan TV

## Transmissions over February 15 - 17 Weekend

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) is planning another popular slow-scan television (SSTV) event, in the wake of an SSTV experiment last weekend during which signals were reported to have been weak. Even so, more than 5,500 images were submitted. Transmissions are scheduled to begin on Friday, February 15, at 0845 UTC and run through Sunday, February 17, at 1725 UTC.

"The



ARISS team wanted to give the community another opportunity to download the SSTV images we developed for you, given the weak-signal situation that occurred last weekend," said ARISS-International President Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Bauer clarified that the same 12 images transmitted last weekend will be used for this weekend's experiment.

Bauer said it's not entirely clear what caused the low-signal issue last weekend. "We believe it may have been either a loose feed-line cable or an antenna switch that did not fully engage," he said. "Once the crew reset the system and checked the cabling and

switches, the radio system started to perform nominally."

ARISS-Russia team member Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, worked with flight controllers to schedule ISS crew time to configure the JVC Kenwood radio to support SSTV operations, which take place from the Service Module. SSTV images will be transmitted on 145.80 MHz using SSTV mode PD120. These can be received using equipment as simple as a 2-meter handheld radio, a scanner that covers that band, or even an online WebSDR receiver. Copying the images is as simple as connecting the receiver's audio output to the audio input of a computer running free software such as [MMSSTV](#).

## Microsoft Compatibility Official Steers Enterprise Users Away from Internet Explorer

Microsoft, which transitioned to its new browser, Edge, several years ago, is now advising enterprise users to avoid its legacy browser, Internet Explorer (IE). Microsoft Worldwide Lead for Application Compatibility Chris Jackson said that IE isn't really a browser but a "compatibility solution" to deal with legacy sites. Microsoft no longer supports IE with new web standards, which is at the core of the problem.

In [a new blog post](#), Jackson said that, for some



organizations, using Internet Explorer as the default for all situations "is the 'easy button,' because, well, most of your sites were designed for Internet Explorer." Jackson said this sort of thinking "seems like a deliberate decision to take on some 'technical debt,'" as he put it.

It's complicated. Jackson explained that as the IE standards mode supported more and more standards, "we decided not to just update the mode we called standards mode, because, when we did, we risked breaking applications written for an older interpretation of the standards. So, with Internet Explorer 8, we added IE8 standards, but also kept IE7 standards."

Jackson said companies' "habit" of paying for extended support for legacy software "needs to stop in the case of IE." He suggests using IE only selectively for internal sites that require it, pointing to tools that help customers make the transition and limit the use of IE to only where it's needed.

"Internet Explorer is a compatibility solution," Jackson concluded.

## In Brief...



The 2019 [ARRL International DX Contest](#) weekends are just ahead. The CW event is February

16 - 17, while the phone (SSB) weekend is 2 weeks later, on March 2 - 3. Even if you or your station are not competitive, DX-oriented operating events such as these offer the possibility of putting some new DXCC entities into the log, upping your operating skills, or just getting a feel for how well your station and antennas fare on busy bands. US and Canadian operators work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. DX stations work as many US and Canadian stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible. US and Canadian stations send a signal report and the state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and the power output. On CW, many stations will send "cut numbers" -- abbreviations that can confuse contesting newcomers. For example, the letter A = 1, N = 9, and T = 0. So, log "5NN ATT" as "599 100 W." Also listen for "1K" or "K" to indicate 1,000 W.

**The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) packet system is back on the air with new equipment.**



The replacement gear arrived last November and had been awaiting unpacking and installation. ARISS hardware team members on the ground were able to locate a functional duplicate of the old ISS packet TNC module that had been in operation for 17 years and had become intermittent. Crew members installed the new module on February 2; the RF gear remains the same. The ISS packet system, located in the ISS *Columbus* module, went down in July 2017, but it unexpectedly came back to life the following summer. The packet system operates on 145.825 MHz. ARISS is an official back-up system for astronauts to talk with Mission Control in the unlikely failure of the station's primary communication systems. In 2017, hams relayed nearly 89,000 packet messages via the ISS; response to its recent return has been enthusiastic, ARISS said. [Contribute](#) to the all-new radio system set to launch this year via the ARISS website. For more information, contact ARISS-International Chair [Frank Bauer, KA3HDO](#), or ARISS ARRL Delegate [Rosalie White, K1STO](#). -- *Thanks to ARISS*



**Several new ARRL Foundation Board members**

**joined the table at the Foundation's Annual Meeting on January 29.** ARRL Foundation Board members elected by the ARRL Board of Directors at its January 18 - 19 Annual Meeting include Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, for a 3-year term; Northwestern Division Director Mike

Ritz, W7VO, for a 2-year term; Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, for a 1-year term, and Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, for a 3-year term. Past West Gulf Division Director Dr. David Woolweaver, K5RAV, who stepped down from the ARRL Board in January, was elected to remain on the ARRL Foundation Board for another 3-year term and will serve as president. Others on the ARRL Foundation Board are Tim Duffy, K3LR; Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF; Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and David Norris, K5UZ. Milesosky was elected Vice President; Rick Niswander, K7GM, was re-elected as Treasurer, and Lauren Clarke, KB1YDD, was re-elected as Secretary. Woolweaver appointed Fenstermaker to chair the Scholarship Committee with Abernethy, Duffy, Norris, Ritz, and Tiemstra as members. Milesosky was tapped to again head the Proposals Committee, with Norton and Woolweaver as members. Woolweaver will chair the Audit and Financial Committee, with Milesosky and Niswander as members.

**Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) this fall.**



The DCC will be held September 20 - 22 at the Marriott Detroit Metro Airport Hotel. Papers will also be published in the *Conference Proceedings*. Authors do not need to attend the conference to have their papers included in the *Proceedings*. The submission deadline is August 5. [Submit](#) papers via email or

postal mail to Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Papers will be published exactly as submitted, and authors will retain all rights.

## The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Another week with no sunspots. As of February 13, it's been 3 weeks since any sunspots were observed -- on January 30. February 7 - 13 saw average daily solar flux decline from 71.1 to 70.4. Geomagnetic indices were lower, with average daily planetary A index declining from 11.6 to 8.1, and average mid-latitude A index going from 8 to 6.1. Lower geomagnetic activity is generally good for HF propagation.

Predicted solar flux over the next 45 days is 70 on February 14 - 20; 72 on February 21 - 25; 71 on February 26 - March 9; 70 and 71 on March 10 - 11; 72 on March 12 - 24, and 71 on March 25 - 30.



Predicted planetary A index is 12 and 8 on February 14 - 15; 5 on February 16 - 18; 12, 20, 12, and 8 on February 19 - 22; 5 on February 23 - 26; 12, 15, 15, and 10 on February 27 - March 2; 5 on March 3 - 4; 8, 5, 8, 10, 8, and 5 on March 5 - 10; 8 on March 11 - 12; 5 on March 13 - 17; 12, 20, 12, and 8 on

March 18 - 21; 5 on March 22 - 25; 12 on March 26; 15 on March 27 - 28, and 10 and 5 on March 29 - 30.

The prediction of solar flux always at 70 or higher over the next 45 days is a positive sign for HF propagation, plus the spring equinox returns on March 20, indicating gradually improving HF propagation.

Sunspot numbers for February 7 through 13, 2019 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 0. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 70.2, 71.8, 70.3, 70, 69.9, 70.2, and 70.4, with a mean of 70.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 9, 10, 6, 9, 6, and 13, with a mean of 8.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 7, 6, 4, 7, 5, and 11, with a mean of 6.1.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) K9LA's Propagation Page.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. [Monthly charts](#) offer propagation projections between the US and a dozen DX locations.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

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## Just Ahead in Radiosport

- February 16 -- AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party
- February 16 -- SARL Youth Day Sprint (Phone)
- February 16 -- Feld Hell Sprint

- **February 16 - 17 -- [ARRL International DX Contest \(CW\)](#)**
- February 16 - 17 -- Russian PSK World Wide Contest
- February 18 -- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
- February 20 -- AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening (CW)

See the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more information. For in-depth reporting on Amateur Radio contesting, subscribe to [The ARRL Contest Update](#) via your ARRL member profile email preferences.

### Johnston County ARRL VE Team:



We had our regular scheduled VE session last month. We had six people show up to either get their license or upgrade. All walked out with what they came for. So, it was a successful session.

Se also did a special session for the SWARC on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Three people tested for their tech license. Two passed the test.

If you know of a group that wants to take the test to either get their tech license or upgrade, get in touch with me at the email address listed below.

The Johnston County ARRL VE Team will be hosting an amateur radio examination session on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The test

session will be held at the American Red Cross, located at 805-A S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Smithfield, NC. Testing starts at 7:00 PM. If you are coming for an upgrade, you will need \$15.00, a valid photo ID and a copy of your license that we can send to ARRL. If you know someone that is coming for their technician class test, they will need \$15.00, a valid photo ID and encourage them to go to:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home> and register for an FRN. That way, they do not have to disclose their SSN. For more information, contact Mike Callam (KD4MC) at [mcallam@centurylink.net](mailto:mcallam@centurylink.net).



#### JARS Officers

Pres	Mike Callam	KD4MC
V.P.	Scott Wilkinson	KJ4TUC
Sec.	Velda Callam	K4VJC
Treas.	Paul Dunn	KD4BJD
Membership	Dianne Young	KE4VNX
Net Whip	Stephen Fowler	KJ4QNW
Media/Newsletter	Mike Callam	KD4MC
Parliamentarian	Ryan Leathers	N4RL

#### Members at Large:

Stan Disbrow WA2KQY

Doug Williams KS4TI

Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 302

Benson, NC 27504

That does it for another edition of the ***“Official Organ”***.

I look forward to attending next month’s meeting.

73 de Mike KD4MC