

The “Official Organ”

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

October 2019 edition



JARS Meeting this Thursday:

Our regular monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday, October 17th. It will be held at Grandson’s Buffet in Smithfield. Get there around 6pm to eat and the meeting will start at 7pm.

In this month’s “Official Organ”:

Life on the Farm

From the President

Secretary’s Report

CERT Comments

Ham Humor

ARRL News

VE Testing

Life on the Farm: We have put on our travellin’ shoes and done some traveling. We went to

Virginia last month to visit my brother and to go to the NASCAR race in Richmond. We had passes to the driver’s meeting. Velda decided that she wanted to get their autographs as they were going to the meeting. The line was three deep all along the barrier, but she still wanted the autographs. Me having long arms, I stood at the rear and extended those long arms and she ended up with a bunch of autographs. It was a good, fairly clean race. We got out of there way earlier than we usually do.

At the end of September, we went to Myrtle Beach to celebrate our 30th anniversary. I can’t believe that she has put up with me for that long. We had a leisurely vacation. We stayed in the Sea Glass Tower at the end of the Grand Strand. We were on the 17th floor with a nice view of the beach, boardwalk and the Grand Strand. There was a little pancake house across the street that we had breakfast at. Saturday night, we got tickets to the Alabama Theater. They put on a show that gave tribute to Buddy Holly, The Big Bopper, and Richie Valenz. The performers dressed and looked just like the originals. When we got there, it looked like they emptied out every old folks’ home in the states. However, once the show got started, it looked like they slipped some amphetamines in the jello at those old folks’ homes. Everybody was singing and dancing to the music. I am surprised that some old person didn’t break a hip or have a heart attack.

It has been extremely hot here at the farm and then one day, the temps dropped like they saw a trooper with radar. Last evening, we had

strong showers and hail. Sometime after we went to bed, we lost commercial power and the generator kicked in as I heard it running when "John" called out to me to come visit him in the middle of the night.

Recently, an orange and white cat showed up at the farm so we named him pumpkin. Since we already have two house cats, he is a yard cat, which makes three yard cats.

Thad is it from Life on the Farm. 73 from Mike(KD4MC) aka C3PO, Velda(K4VJC), Remmington(Hairy Hound), Tabitha(Krazy Kat), Midnight(Tom Kitty), Sandy(dog and a half long and half a dog high), and Fluff(Little Ball of Fur).

From the President: Our next regular club meeting will be:

Thursday, October 17, 6:30 pm

Grandsons Buffet

1273 (North) Brightleaf Blvd.

Smithfield NC 27577

Directly in front of Wal-Mart

We usually gather between 6:00-6:30 pm for dinner and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Be sure to tell the cashier you are with the JARS Club.

Visitors with an interest in Ham Radio are always welcome.

President's Message:

Scott Wilkinson KJ4TUC

JARS President

I would like to say CONGRATULATIONS to the graduates of the CERT-TEAM Basic Training class, held on October 11,12,13. These JARS members have learned a wide range of topics and now have the skills and certification necessary to help Public Safety and Emergency Management in an emergency. There are many CERT Teams throughout the state and nation that concentrate on specific needs in their area. These can be; Mass Casualty Management, Helping with First Aid, Search & Rescue, Water Rescue, clean up after a disaster, and many other specialties. As we are radio club, here at the JOHNSTON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY our CERT-TEAM will primarily focus on Communications. With JARSCOM we have the ability to go anywhere in the state to help with emergency communications needs. The graduates of this class will be getting together within the next couple of weeks to organize the Team and plan for future service to our community.

Thank You to the Benson NC Fire Department for allowing JARS to use your building and facilities, and Thank You to North Carolina Emergency Management for providing this training, and Thank You to Instructors Jay Royster and Samantha Royster from the Apex CERT Team.

JARS-CERT Team Members:

Bill Blomgren KK4QDZ

Mike Callam KD4MC

Velda Callam K4VJC

Paul Dunn KD4BJD

Stephen Fowler KJ4QNW

Richard Futrell N4AED

Mark Gibson N4MQU

Lannie Godwin KK4QEF

Kenn Kubacki NE4Y

Ryan Leathers N4RL

Billy Newton KJ4ZKG

Walter Wenzel KA2RGI

Scott Wilkinson KJ4TUC

Doug Williams KS4TI

Wendy Williams ---

Dianne Young KE4VNX



For anyone that missed this first class, and wants to become a member of JARS-CERT, there are many opportunities to take CERT BASIC TRAINING at several locations throughout the State of NC. Here is a link to the NC Emergency Management web site so you can sign up:

<https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/courseSearch.do>

Type in CERT in the title search block.

After you complete CERT Basic Training you are eligible to join the JARS-CERT-TEAM by presenting copies of your certificates to the JARS-CERT Captain/Coordinator.

Reminder to Committee Chairpersons:

If your committee has not had the opportunity to have a meeting before now, please have a meeting at your earliest convenience, and plan

to make a report at the next Board of Director's meeting and the next stated JARS Club meeting in November. The works of what these committees do now will determine the future of our club. The purpose of these committees is so that all members will have input into the business of the club.

Reminder of Upcoming Events

November

Jars-Fest, our annual Ham Fest is Sunday, November 17

All JARS members mark your calendar for November 17 for JARS-FEST at the American Legion Complex in Benson NC. It takes a lot of JARS members to put on this event. Your Help Is Needed! to make Jars-Fest a success. There are many positions to fill. Contact Mike Callam KD4MC for an assignment:

jarsmember@centurylink.com / also there is a JARS-FEST flyer posted on the jars.net website.

December

Christmas Party: Location/date TBA

January

Winter Field Day

Ryan Avery's farm near Angier

February

All Committee progress reports due

March

April

May

JARS Picnic

June

Summer Field Day

July

August

Election of Officers for 2020-2021

EMERGENCY PREPARATION:

It's October. Fall is here and Winter will soon be approaching. Now is the time to get prepared. Be sure to listen to the PREP NET every Tuesday night at 9:pm on the 147.27 repeater, hosted by Doug Williams KS4TI. Doug is our resident expert on emergency preparation and the PREP NET is designed to give us tips on how to survive in all types of emergencies. They discuss everything from a short power outage all the way up to a major catastrophic event. So, if you have questions on what supplies you need to stock up on, use of generators, food preparation and storage without electricity, how to take cover during severe weather, personal protection/self defense, and what to do when the lights go out, tune in on Tuesday nights.

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 JARSCOM, Jars Fest, working in the Emergency Operations Center alongside 911 dispatchers, or anytime you are representing the JARS Club. A uniformed appearance shows a high level of professionalism when in public view.

Magnetic car decals:

Magnetic car decals with the JARS logo will present a professional image at Ham Radio events or community events, and will identify your car as a JARS member on official business if assisting public safety or emergency management.

If you would like to place an order, contact Mike Callam KD4MC

The HamBadgers

Custom badges with JARS logo

http://hambadger.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=75_77

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from JARS Monthly Meeting September 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Scott Wilkinson, KJ4TUC at 7pm.

Prayer was led by Billy Newton KJ4ZKG

Introductions were made.

There was no educational program

**Upcoming events: Mule Days in Benson, NC
September 26-29, 2019**

September: JARSCOMM will be in the repair shop for the next two weeks and unavailable for Mule Days.

October: C.E.R.T. Training Class will be October 11,12,13 at the Benson Fire Department

November: JARSFest Sunday November 17 at the American Legion Complex in Benson, NC

Old or unfinished business: Former President Mike Callam, KD4MC, presented a recap of major accomplishments for his term as president.

Secretary's reports: minutes were posted in the newsletter

Treasurer's Report: Paul Dunn, KD4BJD passed out a breakdown of last year's expenses, which are usually the same every year.

Net Manager's report: Stephen Fowler, KJ4QNW reported that all nets are being called.

Membership Chairperson: New members voted in were: Travis Russel KN4WJL, Craig Bensch, KC2FDS, Richard Futrell, N4AED.

Repeater Report: Van Lee stated that they are trying to set up a meeting with the repeater owners.

Mike Callam, KD4MC, said that Danny Hampton was at the September SWARC meeting and stated the following: the work on the tower is ongoing. The TV stations have made the frequency changes but they are operating on the old antennae. They are in the process of swapping out the antennae to new ones. This should be accomplished by the end of the year. During this time, Danny hopes to have all the repeater(s) issues resolved. The 147.270 repeater and antenna will be replaced and moved to the same cabinet as the 145.210 repeater at 1200 feet. Also, the 146.880 will be repaired. Until the 146.880 is repaired, Skywarn will be operating on the 145.210.

JARSFest: Mike, KD4MC reported that there will be a JARSFest committee meeting on Thursday, September 26th at the Grill on the Hill in Benson at 7pm.

Liaison to C.E.R.T.: Scott, KJ4TUC, said that the class is scheduled for Oct. 11,12,13 at the Fire Station in Benson.

Public Information Officer: Mike Callam, KD4MC, said that he would like for the members to contribute more for the newsletter. He has created a YouTube channel "Johnston Amateur Radio Society" and will be posting our educational programs there.

New Business:

Scott Wilkinson, KJ4TUC, reported that we had a little problem at our las meeting with Grandsons booking two groups in the same room at the same time. He personally talked with the General Manager and we have reached an understanding and he assured him that this will not happen again. We have this room reserved on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except December). The room is reserved for 6:00pm. So, if you get there early, they might not be able to seat you before 6:00. If anyone has a suggestion for another restaurant they would like to try, just let Scott know by sending him an email.

We have had an offer from Richard Futrell, N4AED to take over as the Webmaster of our website.

Richard has also offered to set up a link to accept dues payments by credit card. Technical issues will be worked out within the next few weeks and se should have something to tell the next meeting.

Dianne Young, KE4VNX, sent \$50.00 to the Shriner's Hospital in memory of Tommy Rich, N4CBI.

Sick or distressed members and Friends: Linda Massengil, BJ Jenkins, NC4BJ, Merrick Buffalo, KE4VKY.

VE Test Session on Monday night at the Red Cross in Smithfield.

LOM: was awarded Bill Blomgren, KK4QDZ

Other Awards or Presentations: Scott, KJ4TUC, awarded gold colored name badges to the past presidents and current officers.

President's Remarks: Scott said that he is looking forward to representing the JARS Organization this new term.

Meeting was closed at 8:10 pm by president Scott Wilkinson, KJ4TUC.

Minutes from JARS Board Meeting October 10, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Scott Wilkinson, KJ4TUC at 655 pm

Scott thanked everyone for being there. He wants a flag at our regular meetings. Mike said that he would make sure that a flag was at the regular meeting next week.

C.E.R.T. Class will be this Friday at 6pm. Team leaders will be need to be determined for the C.E.R.T after the class.

Doug, KS4TI, said that he would be providing lunch for the class.

JARSFest Chairman- Mike, KD4MC, said that we have already had one meeting and another one will take place on Thursday, October 24th and more than likely, there will be at least one more prior to JARSFest. There will two tables at JARSFest for JARS members to put their equipment that they want to sell. We still need two members that will dedicate to cooking for JARSFest.

Newsletter/media/PIO- Mike encourage everyone to send in something to put into the

newsletter. Mike is trying to keep the Facebook page up to date. We have a YouTube channel dedicated to JARS "Johnston Amateur Radio Society", get in touch with Mike if you want to add something to the channel.

Scott has ideas regarding C.E.R.T. being publicized. Mike will write up an article for publication in local newspapers.

Stephen, KJ4QNW, said that he is still looking for a permanent net control for Saturday.

Bylaws Committee- Lannie, KK4QEF, had nothing to report. Scott has suggestions for the Bylaws and will get with the committee about them.

Membership- Dianne, KE4VNX, has no ideas on how to recruit new members. She carries applications for people interested in joining JARS.

Mark, N4MQU, mentioned that there are 16 scout troops in the area that we may be able to help get their radio and communications badges.

Doug, KS4TI, has reported that there has been some malicious interference during the nets. The best thing to do is ignore the person causing the interference.

JARSComm update-the vehicle is have the wiring system overhauled. When it is finished, all the lights will be working and the interior lights will come on when the switch is turned on. Paul suggested making a \$500 donation to the person that is doing the electrical work as a show of appreciation.

Doug, KS4TI, suggested having applications for JARES at JARSFest with a \$5.00 discount on

membership if they fill it out and turn it in at JARSFest.

Meeting adjourned at 752 pm.

Submitted by Velda Callam, K4VJC

Secretary

Special JARS Board meeting held Sunday October 13th, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1pm by President Scott Wilkinson for the limited purpose of discussing CERT.

As president, Scott is proposing that we form a CERT-TEAM to be registered with North Carolina Emergency Management and operate under the supervision of the JARS Organization.

Motion was made by Mike Callam and seconded by Walter Wenzel. A vote was taken and it was approved by the board members present.

This motion now having been approved by the Board of Directors will now be presented to the general club membership on the next stated meeting.

The purpose of this session of the Board of Directors having been accomplished, the meeting is now adjourned.

Meeting closed at 104 pm

Submitted by Velda Callam, K4VJC, Secretary

CERT Comments: JARS CERT Training Weekend

In the old days I remember the state ham radio emergency coordinator says we are here for communications. The role of amateur radio seems to be changing when it comes to serving during an emergency.

This weekend was interesting. Several Members in Johnston Amateur Radio Society trained for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) <https://nc-cert.com/>. The President of JARS Scott Wilkinson is working hard to keep members up to date and relevant in times of emergencies.

I have never been interested in serving a role in medical situations but I now have had basic training. It is not only medical but we were trained in evacuation and how to conduct searches. The courses are taught throughout the year and if you get an opportunity be sure to get involved. As the instructor said if you don't want to do medical there will be something for you to do.

Mark Gibson, N4MQU

I have spent most of my adult life working in the medical field as a nurse, paramedic and retired firefighter. I have made up a couple of safety jump kits that I keep in my vehicles. I thought that they were pretty well stocked. After taking the CERT class this past weekend, I found out that they weren't as complete as I thought.

In addition to that, I learned A LOT about small search and rescue, hazardous materials and much more. I am very surprised that there

aren't more CERT teams in the state. They are free labor to the communities, counties and the state that could free up resources for more serious duties. I am hoping that we can convince Johnston County what a valuable resource that they have available to them.

Ham Humor: YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....

1. YOUR WIFE SAID, "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA".
2. YOUR WIFE SAID, "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!
3. YOUR WIFE SAID, "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID "HAM FEST"!
4. YOUR WIFE SAID, "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, "LOG BOOK"!
5. YOUR WIFE SAID, "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT?", AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, "IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"
6. YOUR WIFE SAID, "TURN ON THE FAN", AND YOU SHOUGHT SHE SAID, "CHANGE THE BANDS". kc9rxc

You might be hard of hearing too!!

You know you're a ham if:

You ID every ten minutes during a regular converstation. kc9rxc

Amateur Radio Code of Conduct:

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through

which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

FCC Proposes Fining New York Radio Amateur \$17,000 for Alleged Deliberate Interference

Harold Guretzky, K6DPZ, of Richmond Hill, New York, is facing a \$17,000 FCC fine for allegedly causing intentional interference on a local repeater and preventing other radio amateurs from using it. The FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)) on October 3.

"Given his history as a repeat offender, this violation warrants a



significant penalty," the FCC said in the *NAL*.

The *NAL* recounted numerous complaints alleging that Guretzky was deliberately interfering with a repeater in Glen Oaks, New York. In June of 2017, the FCC issued a *Warning Letter* to Guretzky, advising him of the nature of the allegations against him and directing him to stop using the repeater going forward. Nonetheless, additional complaints were filed. In April 2018, agents from the FCC New York Enforcement Bureau office drove to Richmond Hill to investigate and to advise him in writing that he was prohibited from using the local repeater.

After the FCC received further complaints, an Enforcement Bureau agent monitored the VHF repeater's input and output frequencies and, after observing deliberate interference to other stations, used direction-finding techniques to identify the source of the transmission as Guretzky's station.

"The agent monitored and recorded the transmissions emanating from Guretzky's station for several hours that afternoon and heard him interfering with the local repeater," the *NAL* said. "Later, the agent heard Guretzky making threatening comments toward other amateur operators." The following month, FCC Regional Director David Dombrowski spoke with Guretzky by telephone, noting the continued

complaints and cautioning him against using the repeater.

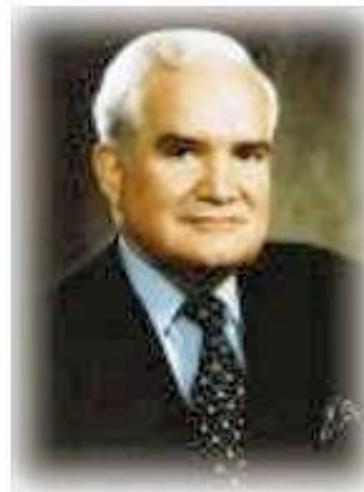
In the *NAL*, the FCC said Guretzky demonstrated "a deliberate disregard for the Commission's authority and the very spirit of the Amateur Radio Service by continuing to interfere with the local repeater" despite having been warned. Read [more](#).

ARRL Public Relations Committee Invites Nominations for Bill Leonard Award

The ARRL Public Relations Committee is seeking ARRL members' assistance in recognizing print, radio, and television/multimedia news stories

that have best showcased Amateur Radio this year.

Nominations are open for the 2019 [Bill Leonard Award](#), which honors professional journalists or journalistic teams whose outstanding coverage



highlights the enjoyment, importance, and public service value of the Amateur Service. The award honors its namesake, the late CBS News President Bill Leonard, W2SKE (SK), who was an avid radio amateur and advocate.

Awards are presented in each of three categories -- print/digital, audio, and visual. Nominations are judged by members of the ARRL Public Relations Committee, and the ARRL Board of Directors will make the final decision on award recipients at its January 2020 meeting. The award winner in each category, either an individual or a group, will receive an engraved plaque, and a \$250 contribution will

be made in each winning entry's name to the charitable organization of their choice.

To be considered:

- Nominees must be professional journalists or professional journalistic teams in print, electronic media, or multimedia.
- A nominee's work must have appeared between December 1, 2018 and November 29, 2019, in English in a commercially published book, recognized general-circulation (non-trade) daily or weekly newspaper, general or special interest magazine (except publications predominantly about Amateur Radio), commercial or public radio or television broadcast (including services delivered via cable), a website operated by a generally-recognized journalistic organization (e.g., newspaper, magazine, broadcast station, or network), or multimedia format intended for and readily accessible to the general public within the US.
- The scope of the work nominated may be a single story or series.
- Stories must be truthful, clear, and accurate, reflecting high journalistic standards.
- Submission may be by the author of the work or on his or her behalf by another individual who believes the work merits the award.

Entries must be received at ARRL Headquarters, c/o Communications Manager, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, by 5 PM on November 29, 2019.

For more information, [contact](#) ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN

(telephone 860-594-0328). Visit the [award web page](#) for award rules. Scroll down the page for a link to a downloadable nomination form.



US Coast Guard Airs Proposal to End MF Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) Broadcasts

The US Coast Guard is seeking comments on a [proposal](#) that it may stop broadcasting medium-frequency (MF) Navigational Telex ([NAVTEX](#)). The service says it first will ensure that the information contained in NAVTEX broadcasts is available via International Maritime Organization-recognized satellite services. Interested parties may submit comments [online](#) by November 12. The proposal is docket USCG-2019-0702. Comments should include the docket number, specific section of the



document to which each comment applies, and a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. Comments may be anonymous.

"Current MF NAVTEX equipment is in dire need of replacement. The equipment is antiquated, and essential replacement parts are difficult to find and expensive, placing overall operation of MF NATEX at risk," the Coast Guard said. "Any approved GMDSS satellite terminal will be able to receive this information."

NAVTEX is an international automated service for radio delivery of navigational and meteorological warnings and forecasts, as well as urgent maritime safety information. It provides a low-cost means of broadcasting this information to ships out to approximately 100 nautical miles offshore. NAVTEX is part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) which has been incorporated into the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) treaty, to which the US is a party. The US Coast Guard operates the system nationwide.

System coverage is reasonably continuous in the east, west, and Gulf coasts of the US, as well as the area around Kodiak, Alaska; Guam, and Puerto Rico. The US has no coverage in the Great Lakes, although coverage of much of the Lakes is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard. The US Coast Guard originally only installed NAVTEX at sites where Morse code messages had been previously transmitted, and some coverage gaps exist.

"We believe the transition from terrestrial broadcast to satellite will provide for more reliable delivery of NAVTEX information and allow better, more cost-effective products in the future," the Coast Guard said.

Hawaii Contest Station and Winlink Leveraged for 2019 Simulated Emergency Test

ARES volunteers in Hawaii took the opportunity of the 2019 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 6 (UTC) to test [Winlink](#) radio messaging to the US mainland, using the [KH6YY](#) (KH6J) contest station on O'ahu. One of the premier contest stations in the middle of the Pacific

Ocean, KH6YY offers a commanding propagation path over an expanse of saltwater.

"You have to start with digital modes somewhere," ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, said.



A

A view from above: The KH6YY (KH6J) contest station.

group of radio amateurs has developed a robust Winlink system in the Hawaiian Islands to help support communication in a natural disaster. The Amateur Radio email system is well known for its role in emergency and disaster relief communications, providing the ability for users to exchange email with attachments, photos, position reporting, weather, and information bulletins.

KH6YY sports eight antennas, most on 90-foot towers, and nine operator positions. For the SET, the station was configured to receive traffic on 7,100 kHz (dial frequency) in PACTOR, WINMOR, ARDOP, and VARA modes. The four-element 40-meter beam was aimed at Hilo. Simulating an internet outage, the setup was used to pass received traffic to a second 20-meter gateway on 14,100.5 kHz and forwarded to a mainland gateway with internet access.

Incoming message traffic on 40 meters would be automatically forwarded to the mainland on 20 meters. Most of the traffic went to gateways in Mexico and Texas for forwarding to the internet. One user reported receiving email

confirmation that a message was received within minutes. Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to Stacy Holbrook, KH6OWL*

Ohio Sheriff Observes and Participates in ARES Simulated Emergency Test

One public official in Ohio not only observed the ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) this month but participated in it with Greene County ARES ([GCARES](#)). Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS ("Greene County Sheriff"), checked in when the Resource Net Control, Bob Baker, N8ADO, called for volunteers. Although the suggested scenario called for only using simplex, GCARES employed the Xenia Amateur Radio Weather Net (XWARN) repeater to reach out for as many volunteers as possible. Volunteers then switched to a simplex tactical net to communicate with the GCARES Command Center.



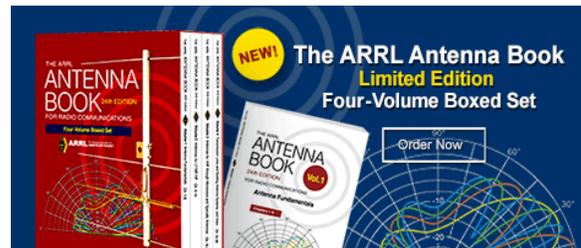
Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS.

Before the SET, Fischer let Greene County ARES Emergency Coordinator Henry Ruminski, W8HJR, know that he planned to participate in the SET to determine how well his handheld radio would perform in an emergency situation.

While he found it okay for getting into the resource net, it was less than adequate for effective simplex operation.

Sheriff Fischer had an intense introduction to ham radio in the spring of 2017 when the Dayton Hamvention® moved to Xenia, and his department dealt with traffic control and other issues created by the influx of more than 25,000 visitors. At the urging of several hams, Fischer subsequently got his license, and his wife became relicensed. Fischer has since upgraded to General.

Ruminski said the SET was "relatively successful." Signals could have been better from some locations, but most stations were able to communicate with command, he said. Lessons learned will be used to improve future emergency communication plans.



FCC Dismisses Three Petitions for Rule Making Filed by Radio Amateurs

The FCC has dismissed petitions for rule making filed in 2018 by three radio amateurs. All of the petitions were put on public notice earlier this year and comments invited.

Edward C. Borghi, KB2E, of Farmington, New York, and Jeffrey Bail, NT1K, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, submitted very similar petitions seeking changes in how the FCC grants Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. Borghi's *Petition* ([RM-11834](#)), would have prohibited vanity applicants from requesting call signs not designated for the applicant's geographical region, with some exceptions. He complained

that applicants had to compete with "out-of-area people for the few 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 or catchy 2 × 3 call signs available in their area of residence."

Bail's *Petition* ([RM-11835](#)) asked the FCC to give residential preference in competing applications to applicants whose listed FCC address is within the same district/region as the applied call sign. He cited limited availability and increased demand for 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs. The FCC dismissed both petitions in [a single letter](#).

"When the Commission established the vanity call sign system in 1995, it rejected a proposal to restrict vanity call sign applicants to call signs



designated for the region in which the applicant resides," the FCC wrote, because it would restrict a given applicant's choice of vanity call signs to 10% or less of those otherwise assignable.

The FCC concluded that no need exists to require vanity call signs to correspond to a licensee's mailing address, "given that call signs do not automatically change when a licensee moves, and a licensee's mailing address is not necessarily the location from which he or she is transmitting." The FCC said it rejected similar proposals in the past for the same reasons.

The FCC also [turned away](#) a *Petition* ([RM-11833](#)) from Jerry Oxendine, K4KWH, of Gastonia,

North Carolina, who asked the FCC to clarify that states and localities should have no authority to regulate Amateur Radio with respect to enacting "distracted driving" statutes. Oxendine argued that such statutes violate FCC rules on scope and operation of equipment by licensees; violate the intent of the FCC and Congress with respect to Amateur Radio's role in disasters, and hinder emergency operations using mobile equipment.

In denying the request, the FCC took issue with Oxendine's assertion that the strong federal interest in promoting Amateur Radio communication should preempt distracted driving laws.

"Laws that prohibit talking on handheld communications devices while driving do not preclude or unreasonably obstruct mobile use of handheld two-way radios," the FCC said in denying Oxendine's petition. "These laws apply to the use of handheld devices while driving. A driver can comply with these laws by using a hands-free attachment or by parking the vehicle prior to using a handheld device, both of which are contemplated by our rules regarding two-way radios."

The FCC said, "The record before us does not demonstrate that state and local laws that prohibit talking on handheld devices while driving stand as an obstacle to amateur communications or actually conflict with federal law in any way." Read [more](#).

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Celebrates Centennial of ARRL Affiliation

Members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club ([MRAC](#)) on September 28 celebrated the radio club's 100th anniversary of ARRL affiliation during the 2019 ARRL Central Division Convention, held September 27 - 28. The convention, held during the HRO Superfest, was hosted by Ham Radio Outlet at its Milwaukee location.

MRAC was formed in January 1917. In 1919, after World War I, ARRL introduced the concept of having local radio clubs officially affiliate with ARRL to formalize a network for relaying message traffic from coast to coast. MRAC was granted ARRL affiliation on December 5, 1919, as one of a group of 10 clubs. In 1970, MRAC was recognized as the only one of that first group of clubs that was still active, making it the oldest ARRL-affiliated club.



ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX (left), presented a plaque to MRAC Club President David Schank, KA9WXN, on behalf of the ARRL Central Division.

MRAC sponsored the first-ever ARRL Central Division Convention in 1928, and it organized an ARRL National Convention in 1948. The club produced a [video](#) in 2017 that recounts its rich history.

MRAC today has a full calendar of annual activities that include regular club meetings featuring speakers and presentations covering a variety of topics. The club participates in ARRL Field Day each June, conducts regular license exam sessions, and holds an annual swapfest. A group of club members are currently developing an Amateur Satellite station and related resources, which they plan to use to support a local school as part of an educational outreach program. Club members are also

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers, supporting public service communication for events throughout the region and during emergencies.

Anna Brummer, N2FER, Feted on her 105th Birthday

When she turned 80, Anna Brummer, N2FER, of Fort Edward, New York, predicted she would live to be 100. On September 27, she topped her own forecast by 5 years, as she celebrated her birthday at the Fort Hudson Nursing Center, surrounded by family and friends. The only thing she wanted was a drink of Scotch whiskey,



and the nursing home obliged, along with a slice of cake. Unit Manager Donna Hopkins [told Post Star](#) newspaper reporter Gretta Hochsprung that she didn't attempt to put 105 candles on Brummer's cake

because it would have been a fire hazard.

Brummer told Hochsprung that the secret to longevity is being nice to people.

"Keeps you young when everything's going smooth," she told the reporter.

Anna Brummer was a latecomer to Amateur Radio. In 1984, her son Richard, K2JQ (ex-K2REB), got his mom and his dad, Edwin, interested in Amateur Radio, and Anna obtained her Technician license when she was 69 years old. Edwin Brummer, who died in 1996, was N2FEQ, and held a Tech Plus ticket. They were married for 56 years.

No official records are kept, but Anna Brummer is among a small circle of centenarian radio amateurs in the US and may be the oldest woman holding a license. Read [more](#).

Lynyrd Skynyrd Founding Member Larry Junstrom, K4EB, SK

Southern Rocker Larry "LJ" Junstrom, K4EB, died on October 6. He was reported to be 70. Junstrom was a founding member and bassist of Lynyrd Skynyrd, although he left the group before it recorded its first album. He's better known as a member of another Southern Rock band, 38 Special, with which he performed from 1977 until retiring in 2014.



"The Big Man on the Big Bass has left us," a statement on the 38 Special website said. "He rocked arenas all over the world and succeeded in living his dream. He was truly one of a kind, a congenial traveling companion and a great friend to all with a humorous slant on life that always kept our spirits high -- a kind man with a big heart for everyone who crossed his path."

Licensed in 1962 as WN2LKF, later becoming WA4LKF, he was a regular attendee of Orlando HamCation. Junstrom was inactive in Amateur Radio during his busy years on the road but picked up the hobby again in 1990 and became an avid DXer with 347 entities in mixed DXCC. He was a frequent check-in to the Musicians'

Net on 40 meters.

After retiring, Junstrom worked in real estate in north central Florida.

VE Testing:

Our next Free Five County Volunteer Exam Will be Saturday November 2. We will start at 10:00 AM. The exam is held at the Thanksgiving Fire Department 2375 Thanksgiving Road, Selma, NC

27576. Please register by calling Mark Gibson at (919) 628-0096.

Thank you
Mark Gibson

Johnston County ARRL VE Team:

The Johnston County ARRL VE Team holds a test session on the fourth Monday of each month, (with the exception of May and December). Testing is held at the American Red Cross, Located at 805-A S. 3rd Street in Smithfield. The cost is \$15.00. You will also need a valid photo ID. For more information, Contact Mike Calla, KD4MC, at 919-628-9927 or by email at mcallam@centurylink.net.

That does it for another edition of the “*Official Organ*”. I hope to see everyone Thursday at the meeting.

73 de Mike Callam-KD4MC

President- Scott Wilkinson, KJ4TUC

V.P.- Billy Newton, KJ4ZKG

Secretary- Velda Callam, K4VJC

Treasurer- Paul Dunn, KD4BJC

Membership- Dianne Young,
KE4VNX

Net Whip- Stephen Fowler, KJ4QNW

Media/Newsletter/PIO- Mike
Callam, KD4MC

Parliamentarian-Mark Gibson,
N4MQU

Members at Large- Mike Callam,
KD4MC & Bill Blomgren, KK4QDZ

Ham of the Year: Van Lee, KM4TC



© Ron Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/437614