

All normal JARS Operations will resume in January and our meeting will be back at Grandsons Buffet in Smithfield.

December

Christmas Party

Holt Lake BBQ & Seafood
Hwy-301 South of Smithfield at 6:pm
Thursday, December 19 at 6:00 PM

January

Guest Speaker/Program: JoCo EMS
All Committee progress reports due

January

Winter Field Day

Ryan Avery's farm near Angier

February

Final proposal from Bylaws committee due.

March

Voting on amendments to Bylaws

April

RARSFEST (Raleigh) RARS Ham Fest April 11
Skywarn refresher April 16

May

JARS Family Picnic TBA

June

Summer Field Day TBA

July

Final reports due from all committees

August

Election of Officers for 2020-2021

EMERGENCY PREPARTATION:

It's December. We can expect cold, snow and ice in January. We can expect power outages and other events that will put many of us in an uncomfortable situation including dangerous driving conditions. Check your car's tires and make sure your car is ready for the upcoming winter driving conditions. Always keep at least ½ tank of gas in your car. Check in and around your house for hazards and have tools and snow shovels ready. Go to the grocery store and get some extra toilet paper, paper towels, food, water, and other supplies. 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

Life on the Farm:

Since Velda went "Horizontal Hold" on me, life on the farm has been a little different. She saw a cardiologist and is wearing a heart monitor until December 22nd. She goes back to the

cardiologist in January to get the results and we can plan a course of action. I, on the other hand, have been having tremors in both hands. I went to see a neurologist who ordered a bunch of tests, which all came back negative. They diagnosed me with “incidental tremors” which is just their way of saying that they don’t have any ideal of what is causing them. However, they did prescribe some medication which seems to be helping. For Christmas this year, we decided against going out, because last year, the few places that were open had an outrageous wait time and we ended up at the Waffle House, and that is not how we wanted to spend Christmas. This year, I am fixing s spiral ham and the women are fixing all the other dishes. Every day, Velda and I put our pocket change in a jar in the bedroom. In either November or December. We convert it into greenbacks and that is our Christmas spending money. As per our tradition, we got all our Christmas shopping done in one day and it only took two and a half hours this year. Velda was even nice enough to let me get a new (to me) handheld this year. It is a Motorola XPR 6550 VHF radio. I can’t say what I am going to get her since she reads the “*Official Organ*” but I will say that it is not a radio, although after the first of the year I am going to replace the Chinese radio in her van with a real radio. I might have to call Al WA3JJG) in a little while because I think that one of our yard cats is pregnant and we don’t need anymore cats around here. However, if they are as pretty at the mother, I might have to bring one into the house to add to our collection.

That is, it from Life on the Farm. Merry Christmas from Mike(KD4MC) aka C3PO, Velda(K4VJC), Remmington(Hairy Hound), Tabitha(Krazy Kat), Midnight(Tom Kitty and Fluff(Little Ball of Fur).

Membership Report:

Dues are due for 2020. Dianne said that she will take Life Member dues if anyone wants to pay either cash or check.

Secretary’s Report:

Minutes from November 2019 JARS Meeting

Meeting Was called to order at 7pm by Scott Wilkinson

Our presentation was done by the NC Forestry Service on open burning.

Since the newsletter was late coming out this month, a motion was made and seconded to pass the minutes that are in the newsletter and any corrections can be made at our next regular meeting.

Announcement that there will not be a board of directors nor regular meeting in December due to the fact that we have our Christmas dinner and the only business that will be done is the presentation of the ham of the year award. The rest of the evening will be devoted to fellowship of our JARS members and guest. Normal operations will resume in January.

Christmas Party will he held on December 19th at the Holt Lake Seafood and BBQ on South Brightleaf Blvd, (301 south of Smithfield). That is the place where have our board and CERT meetings. It will be order off the menu. If a group wants to order family style, they may do so. Tip on the table. Be there around 630 pm.

Unfinished business: Nothing

Vice president’s report: February meeting Johnston County EMS will do a presentation on common first aid. He is trying to set up a Skywarn presentation either in March or April.

Secretary report: Nothing that is not in the newsletter. Velda thanked everyone for the thoughts and prayers for her during her recent episode.

Net manager report: all nets are being called. He could still use some substitute net control operators. Anyone interested, needs to get up with Stephen. He still needs a regular NCO for Saturday evening net.

Membership Report: three applications were received at JARSFest, Andrew Hyatt, WA2PIX Terry Chalk, KK4VOS and Heather Driver, KN4VIW, for family dues with Jake Partin. All members were accepted in as new JARS members.

Dianne made a motion to accept Elam Lee, grandson of Van Lee, KM4TC, as an honorary member until he reaches an age where he can get his own license and pay his own dues. Motion was seconded and approved.

JARSFest, JARSComm and CERT:

JARSFest thanked Scott for taking charge since he could not be there at his regular time. Thank you to all the members that did come out and help us. This was the smoothest operating JARSFest that he has seen in the 10 years that he has been the coordinator. According to Paul, who gave a preliminary report saying that we only made about \$890.00 this year. Ticket sales were slightly down. Inside tables were all sold. What hurt the most tailgating and the kitchen sales. They were way down. This was due to the fact that most people came, saw and left. This was because of the weather being cold and windy. The JARSFest committee will get together and discuss different alternatives. The biggest complaint was that if we had it on a Saturday, we would get a bigger turnout.

JARSComm: the wiring is now up to 2019 standards. All the lights are working and a new power invert has been installed. Compartment

lights are now working as they should. In the near future we will have two 220 MHz radios installed. We still have three public safety radios to install. There are now DC outlets at each station as well as a new outlet near the TV. The red lights are now all working. The **ONLY** time that the red lights can be used is when the county Emergency Management calls and tells us to use them to respond to a call. The public safety radios will **only** be used when the county gives us permission to do so. At such time, you will use the tactical call signs. There will be a JARSComm meeting shortly after the first of the year. As with any commercial vehicle, there is a pre use checklist and a post use checklist. These will be turned in to Paul Dunn. If there is anything major on the precheck, do not move the vehicle. Tell Paul immediately and let him make the decision as to whether or not the vehicle can be moved.

CERT Team: We have appointed our membership. It is in the newsletter. Last month, the club voted to support our CERT Team including financial support of the team. We need to start getting equipment for our members. Mike read a motion that was approved at the board meeting.

Motion

Before a regular meeting of the JARS Board of Directors

Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

November 14, 2019

In the matter of the JARS-CERT Team

At our regular monthly JARS meeting held on October 17, 2019 JARS agreed to form a JARS

CERT team and provide financial support of the JARS-CERT Team.

After researching equipment for the JARS-CERT Team, I have found what I believe to be the best prices on equipment for the JARS-CERT Team.

Green SWAT style helmets \$29.66 each, Purchase 18 for a total of \$569.82

Yellow reflectorized vest with the CERT logo \$16.24 each, purchase 18 for a total of \$292.32

Flashlight \$27.24 each. Purchase 18 for a total of 462.32

Green CERT back pack with logo and reflector strip for \$16.80 each, purchase 18 for a total of 302.40.

Total purchase would be \$1626.86.

I, Michael Callam, KD4MC, make a motion that the club purchase the above listed items for use by the JARS-CERT Team

Motion Made by Michael Callam, KD4MC

**Seconded
by: _____
_____**

Voted on by the JARS members present at our regular monthly meeting held on November 21, 2019.

**Approved: _____
Not Approved: _____**

**Secretary: _____

_____**

Velda Callam

This motion was tabled until our January meeting.

New business: Dianne asked Van how Glenn Johnson is doing. Van sent Glenn an email, but has not heard back.

Van thanked everyone for the support when his mother passed away.

Sick and distressed: Linda and Billy were able to make it to JARSFest. Van again thanked everyone for the support of the club for when his mother passed away. Van talked with BJ recently and he was short of breath and to quote BJ, he was feeling a bit "flimsy". Paulette Disbrow has been having difficulty with her left leg lately and has minimal use of her left leg. She has been getting injections to help with that. She will plan to be at the JARS Christmas dinner.

LOM Report: The LOM was awarded to Mike Callam for the outstanding job he did of putting together JARSFest without having the ability of being able to do much prior due to other emergencies.

Ham of the Year usually goes to somebody who really works hard to make the club better. Scott withdrew his name for consideration. Van and Dianne are not eligible. Ballots were collected by Van and the award will be presented at the Christmas dinner next month.

Richard Futrell presented a dual band J-Pole antenna that can be mounted on a tripod and broken down into a compact size for storage. It can be used in various applications. The cost is about \$60.00. SWR measures about 1.5 to 1.

The meeting was closed at 7:53 pm by president Scot Wilkinson.

Submitted by Velda Callam, K4VJC, Secretary.

Ham Humor:

'Twas a Ham Operator's
Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all
through the night,
We Amateurs sent messages, with the speed
of light.

The stockings were hung by the ham rigs with
care,
In hopes a new dual-bander, soon would be
there.

And Ma with her HT, and I with my set,
Had just settled down for a long Winter's net.

Here and there are the books that we need,
Books that we're crazy if we don't read.

Books equal to motherhood, and apple pie,
Like Uncle Wayne, they Never Say Die!

When out in the street there arose such a
clatter,
I sprang to the window to see what was the
matter.

When what to my wondering eyes should see,
But a plain gray van, with a license plate: "F C
C".

With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew as my heart sank, it was not St. Nick.

He knocked at the door, no chimney to help,
Said "I'm from the government, I'll have those
cookies & milk."

Now I thought to myself, "What a sticky
wicket",
With laser sharp eyes he was examining my
'ticket'.

He tested the radios, one by one,
I held my breath, and tried not to run.

Now Yaesu, now Kenwood, now Ten-Tec and
Icom,
On Comet, on Cushcraft, on Azden and Den-
Tron,

To the top of the tower, to the end of the
beam,
Now dash away, dash away, signals SO
CLEAN!!

After testing my setup, and laughing so gay,
Not "HUMBUG" said he, but "Your rigs are
OK".

Then he was away like a flash, no question or
fee,
By then, he was just like Santa Claus to me.

And..I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of
sight,
"73's TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

ARRL News:

FCC Amending Amateur Radio RF Exposure
Safety Rules

The FCC is amending its Part 97 Amateur Service
rules relating to RF exposure safety. In a [lengthy
document](#) in ET Docket 19-226 released on
December 4 and addressing a broad range of RF
safety issues, the FCC said current amateur
radio RF exposure safety limits will remain
unchanged, but that the amateur-specific
exemption from having to conduct an RF
exposure evaluation will be replaced by the

FCC's general exemption criteria. Radio amateurs have always had to comply with RF exposure limits, but certain stations have been



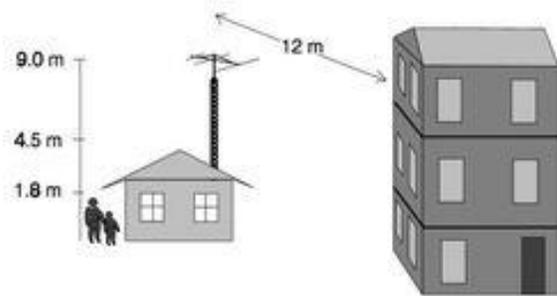
exempt from having to conduct evaluations based only upon power and frequency. The Commission indicated that, by and large, if an RF source was "categorically excluded" from routine evaluation under the old rules, it will most likely still be exempt under the new rules, which are expected to take effect in the next couple of months.

"For applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, we substitute our general exemption criteria for the specific exemption from routine evaluation based on power alone in Section 97.13(c)(1) and specify the use of occupational/controlled limits for amateurs where appropriate," the FCC said.

"The sky is not falling here," ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented. "The major aspects of the rules will not impose major new burdens on the Amateur Radio Service. As in all regulatory matters, though, the devil may be in the details, so the ARRL technical staff, legal staff, and the experts on the ARRL RF Safety Committee are carefully evaluating this FCC document."

Under the revised Section 97.13(c)(1), "In lieu of evaluation with the general

population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in Section 1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household," the amended rule says.



An FCC OET Bulletin 65 illustration of how to determine exposure distances.

"RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits. Appropriate methodologies and guidance for evaluating Amateur Radio Service operation is described in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) [Bulletin 65, Supplement B](#)," the revised rule concludes.

The FCC said it was not persuaded by ARRL's argument in its comments that the routine evaluation exemption for amateur radio stations operating below a certain power threshold should be maintained. "Amateur radio licensees operate a variety of installations of different size, power, and frequency, which can be located in close proximity to people, giving rise to various RF exposure concerns," the FCC noted.

In a meeting with FCC OET Chief Julius Knapp and senior staff in early November, ARRL asked

the FCC to make available on the internet a calculator to facilitate making the correct calculations the rules require. ARRL said that would be preferable to unofficial third-party calculators, the results from which might not be accorded the same degree of deference in local disputes. Several software programs were suggested as models.

The FCC did not single out amateur radio in drafting its latest RF exposure rules. The rules affect multiple services, and exemptions for many other services were also deleted as part of a broader policy driven by a proliferation of RF devices, some resulting in situations where gain antennas are sited much closer to people than was expected in 1996 when the rules were last revised.

ARRL Asks FCC to Dismiss Petition Seeking Declaratory Ruling on Encoded Message Rule

ARRL has asked the FCC to dismiss a *Petition for Declaratory Ruling* filed by New York University (NYU), that in ARRL's view proposes a new interpretation of the rule -- Section 97.113(a)(4) -- prohibiting "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." In its December 2 filing, ARRL said NYU's call to "clarify" the rule's meaning to prohibit



"effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over the air for true meaning," is not only vague but could weaken the prohibition against encryption.

ARRL pointed out that the FCC rule prohibiting "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning," is essentially the same as what appears in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) *Radio Regulations* applying to all countries. ARRL made clear that it continues to support rules prohibiting encrypted messages on the amateur bands, even for limited emergency communication purposes, and the ARRL Board reiterated that opposition last July.

In its comments, ARRL said that NYU's request that the FCC adopt its suggested language would introduce ambiguity and confusion in the application of a rule that's clearly understood to prohibit encrypted messages. ARRL noted that Morse code is encoded and would fall within the prohibition as proposed by NYU. "The very fact that messages sent in CW are 'encoded' by any definition of the term starkly demonstrates the problem with this proposal," ARRL said.

ARRL said that adding the word "effectively" would make the definition even more vague by including all encoded messages plus an additional set of undefined messages, the extent of which is unknown. Similarly, ARRL maintained, it is "unclear and undetermined what the petitioner may mean by 'effectively encrypted.'" Encryption is a binary proposition, ARRL pointed out, and the meaning either is hidden from all but the intended recipient(s) or it is not; a message cannot be considered "encrypted" if the means to enable non-recipients to understand the message are generally available.

"The Commission has addressed amateur use of digital signals in multiple proceedings [and] there has been no showing that the current regulatory scheme is deficient in prohibiting encrypted messages," ARRL concluded.

"Adding the modifier 'effectively' to 'encrypted' converts clear meaning into vague uncertainty," ARRL asserted. FCC rules explicitly authorize radio amateurs to use new digital techniques on the condition that the techniques be described adequately and available publicly, ARRL said, pointing to multiple filings in the FCC record from individuals who have successfully used the public descriptions to decode the digital techniques with which NYU has expressed concern.

NYU has not presented any information to demonstrate that the FCC's current rule is not being complied with by digital innovators, ARRL said, and adoption of NYU's petition would create more questions for the FCC than it would be able to answer if called upon to apply the petition's vague language in specific cases.

"We are unaware of any enforcement case in which the Commission is experiencing difficulty in understanding and applying the prohibition against encrypted messages," ARRL maintained.

What the petitioner regards as violations "augurs against its proposal to interpret in some new fashion the international and domestic prohibition," ARRL said. "For example," ARRL continued, "the petitioner asserts, without any basis in fact, that dynamic compression techniques effectively encrypt or encode communications." Such techniques are widely recognized ways to increase the efficiency of digital transmissions," ARRL noted that comments in the record clearly state that signals using dynamic compression are being decoded by third-party listeners.

"The Commission has addressed amateur use of digital signals in multiple proceedings [and] there has been no showing that the current regulatory scheme is deficient in prohibiting encrypted messages," ARRL concluded. "To the contrary, adoption of the petitioner's proposals would add confusion -- rather than clarity -- and

diverge from the international consensus on prohibiting encrypted messages while fostering vibrant experimentation with digital techniques."



A 600 W Broadband HF Amplifier Using Economically Priced LDMOS Devices

Razvan Fatu, M0HZH/YO9IRF, has designed and built a [600 W broadband HF amateur radio amplifier](#) that uses a pair of low-cost MRF300 [LDMOS](#) (laterally diffused metal-oxide semiconductor) MOSFET devices. LDMOS devices are widely used in RF power amplifiers. Fatu's model A600, now at version 1.2, was designed to demonstrate the capabilities of MRF300s as linear broadband devices in the 2 - 50 MHz range.



"The announcement of the MRF300 and MRF101 transistors by NXP in 2018 has generated quite a spark of interest in the amateur radio community, and as soon as I learned about them, I wanted to get some on my workbench," Fatu said. He has entered his project in the NXP Homebrew RF Design Challenge 2019.

"To achieve the target of 600 W output while also minimizing the level of even-number harmonics, a push-pull configuration of two transistors is used," he explains. "Luckily, the manufacturer made it easy to design the PCB layout for such a thing by offering two versions - the MRF300AN and MRF300BN -- that have mirrored pinouts." The individual transistors are specified at 330 W output and come in a TO-247 package, with the source connected to the tab. The recommended supply range is 30 - 50 V dc. "By studying the specifications, it looks like with correct broadband matching and some operational safety margin, we can get close to 600 W output at a voltage of around 45 V across a reasonably large bandwidth; the aim is to cover 1.8 to 54 MHz," Fatu said. "Main challenges when designing this amplifier are related to achieving good input and output matching over the entire frequency range as well as maintaining high and flat gain. Good linearity and a low level of harmonic products are mandatory. As the TO-247 is not a package specifically designed for high-power RF, there are some challenges with thermal design and PCB layout as well."



"This is a homebrew project, so the test setup is pretty typical of a hobbyist's test bench," Fatu said. "Most of the equipment is not of lab-grade precision, but still accurate enough for amateur radio."

The circuit uses a 4:1 transformer at the input.

He used surface-mount devices wherever possible, to minimize stray inductance, and

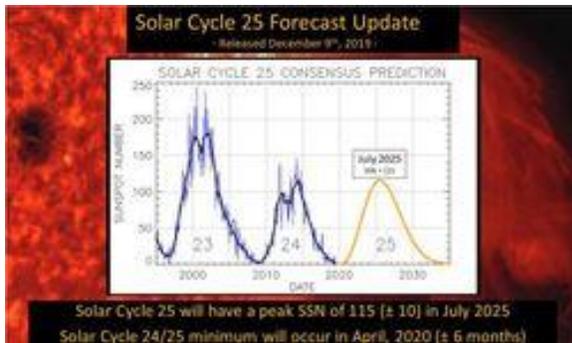
designed the circuit board power traces to be thick enough to support the high current. Traces also were sized for the right trace impedance where possible, he explained. Fatu installed an intermediary 3-millimeter-thick copper plate between the transistors and the aluminum heatsink. He used a liquid metal product called Galinstan which, he said, offers exceptional thermal and electrical conductivity and doesn't require much pressure to achieve best performance.

During testing, he found that the amplifier will put out about 580 W at 3.7 MHz and works most efficiently in the higher bands. "The highest output power I've measured was 840 W in the 10-meter band, but the wave was distorted and the harmonic levels were high," Fatu said.

He has posted a [video](#) in addition to an online article.

NOAA/NASA Panel Concludes that Solar Cycle 25 will Peak in July 2025

The NOAA/NASA-co-chaired international Solar Cycle Prediction Panel has released its [latest forecast](#) for the coming Solar Cycle 25. The panel's consensus calls for a peak in July 2025 (± 8 months), with a smoothed sunspot number of 115. The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be of average intensity and similar to Cycle 24. The panel additionally concurred that the solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April 2020 (± 6 months). If the solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar



Cycle 24 the seventh longest on record at 11.4 years. In its preliminary forecast released last April, the scientists on the panel forecast that Solar Cycle 25 would likely be weak, much like the current Cycle 24.

"Solar Cycle 25 may have a slow start, but is anticipated to peak with solar maximum occurring between 2023 and 2026, and a sunspot range of 95 to 130. This is well below the average number of sunspots," the panel said last spring, adding with "high confidence" that Cycle 25 "should break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles." The panel said the expectation that Cycle 25 would be comparable in size to Cycle 24 suggests that the steady decline in solar cycle amplitude seen from Cycle 21 through Cycle 24 has ended and that there is no indication of an approaching "Maunder-type" minimum. Cycle 24 peaked in April 2014 with an average sunspot number of 82.

The Solar Cycle Prediction Panel forecasts the number of sunspots expected for solar maximum, along with the timing of the peak and minimum solar activity levels for the cycle. It is comprised of scientists representing NOAA, NASA, the International Space Environment Services, and other US and international scientists.

Melissa Pore, KM4CZN, is 2020 Carole Perry Educator of the Year Award Recipient

Melissa Pore, KM4CZN, of Vienna, Virginia, is the 2020 recipient of the Carole Perry Educator

of the Year Award, [Orlando HamCation](#) has announced. The award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in educating and advancing youth in amateur radio, was first awarded last year to its namesake, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, in honor of her work teaching



students about ham radio. Pore is an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) Education Committee member and an ambassador for the ARISS program.

An educational professional for more than 20 years, Pore is on the staff at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia, the site of a November 2018 ARISS contact. In addition to teaching engineering and computer science, she is involved in the school's amateur radio and engineering clubs. While she was a teacher at St. Thomas More Elementary School, Pore was associated with the STMSAT-1 project. The Earth-observation CubeSat, built entirely by students at the school, was launched in 2015 but failed to transmit any images. It was the first satellite constructed by elementary schoolers.

Pore was a cofacilitator of a workshop at the 2019 Space Port Area Conference for Educators. Last year, she and her students presented during Innovation Day at National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. She is a

member of AMSAT and the NASA Goddard Amateur Radio Club. As an ambassador for the ARISS Education Team, her talks and educational outreach have showcased ARISS and the STEM activities of her students, several of whom are radio amateurs. She assisted with the Dayton Hamvention 2019 ARISS booth and helped staff the exhibit at the Space Explorers Education Conference last February in Houston, where she's set to present a workshop in 2020.

At the 2019 [Space Port Area Conference for Educators](#) at Cape Kennedy, Pore received a plaque from the ISS National Lab Space Station Explorer Program citing her "service, commitment, and desire to push the boundaries of STEM Education."

n Brief...

The theme for the



2020 Dayton Hamvention® will be "Amateur Radio, The Future." Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, invited Hamvention attendees to celebrate amateur radio's past, present, and future. "As amateur radio operators, we enjoy many modes of operating," Gerbs said. "We also enjoy challenges such as satellite communications, moonbounce, meteor scatter, and more. What truly excites me about our hobby is the diversity of these modes and the fact that, as we move to the future, we still enjoy the technologies of the past." Gerbs noted that Hamvention has long been a place to find vintage parts and gear and to see the latest technology. "The theme acknowledges the role that amateur radio has always played and will continue to play in future communication developments," Hamvention said, acknowledging the contributions of the many hams who actively work on new ideas, equipment designs, and software to improve

electronic communication. Hamvention 2020 takes place May 15 - 17 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.



Massachusetts has settled on a one-hand-on-the-wheel rule for mobiles. The Bay State's two ARRL Section Managers report they have

received confirmation that the Commonwealth's distracted driving law does not apply to two-way mobile radio operation. The new law "permits use of a federally licensed two-way radio, provided that one hand remains on the steering wheel at all times," except as provided in sections 8M, 12A, and 13B of the law. -- *Thanks to Western Massachusetts SM Ray Lajoie, KB1LRL, and ARRL Eastern Massachusetts SM Tom Walsh, K1TW*

The Boy Scouts say JOTA station participation was up in 2019. The



Scouts [report](#) that, although overall Jamboree On the Air (JOTA) 2019 participation was down slightly from 2018, "our calculations show that each station averaged an additional 13 people in attendance over 2019. This shows an aggregate increase of 24% attendance per station, even with our reported stations being down from 266 in 2018 to 201 in 2019." The Scouts reported that 13,783 individuals took part in JOTA 2019, down from 14,708 in 2018.



A year-long special event will honor Beethoven. German special event

station [DL250BTHVN](#) will be active between December 16, 2019, and December 17, 2020, to honor the 250th anniversary of the birth of famed composer Ludwig van Beethoven. The Beethoven anniversary year will take place under the auspices of Germany's Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Beethoven was born in December 1770 in Bonn, Germany, and lived there for the first 22 years of his life. The anniversary event is aimed in part at highlighting Beethoven's extensive oeuvre as a composer and to boost Bonn's reputation as a "Beethoven city." QSL via direct or by the bureau.

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



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

73 de Mike Callam-KD4MC

Merry Christmas from our home to yours.

