

## *The Official Organ*

The official newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
April 2014 edition

### **Jars Meeting This Thursday**

Eating starts around 6pm and the meeting will start around 7pm. Talk in will be available on 147.270 if needed. Dinner will consist of hamburgers and hot dogs and all the fixings. You need to let Tommy, N4CBI know how many of which you want. Let him know at [n4cbi@yahoo.com](mailto:n4cbi@yahoo.com). Cost is \$7 per person and please bring exact change.

### **In this month's Organ**

Secretary Report  
Net Report  
Carolina 440 Group gets a new repeater  
RARSFest  
Upcoming Hamfests  
Ham Humor  
ARRL News  
And anything else that is important

### **Secretary's Report:**

3/20/14

Our meeting was presided over by Mike Callam-KD4UJC.

Dinner: Tommy served lasagna and salad. Next month...hamburgers and hotdogs. Remember to RSVP Tommy at [N4CBI@yahoo.com](mailto:N4CBI@yahoo.com) or 919-669-4271. Thanks Tommy!

Treasurer report: Paul Dunn said that JARS has \$16,100.00 in the bank.

Bill's Repeater Report: "It's there and it's working".

Net Report: Unavailable (Jack was not in attendance).

Remember to get your reports in to Jack, WA2YBM, on time.

LOM Report: van passed the Lid on to Wally, NC1NC.

Newest Member: We voted in KK4MWU,(a.k.a.: Doug III), from Clayton as our newest member. Congratulations!

JARS Communications Vehicle: Van gave us an update on the latest 'Communications-pimping-out' of the former ambulance. Paul showed us one of the four telescopic, 6m-20m radial antennae that will also be going on the trucks 'RF Deck'.

50/50: Miss Jenna picked Van as the lucky winner. \$23.00!

### **Announcements:**

Next month's meeting will have a program on A.R.E.S.

RARSFest will be 4/19/2014 in the Jim Graham Building at the NC State Fairgrounds. The JARS Communications Vehicle will be there.

5/3/2014, will be the Smithfield Ham & Yam festival. The JARS Communications Vehicle will be there.

The Jars meeting in May, will be 5/22/2014. Mays' meeting will have th annual appearance of Ole Sparky!

### **Net Report:**

The month of March was not a good one for the number of check ins. We hit an all time LOW, only 197. Ouch! I only had 12 reports, missing 19 reports. Why? I don't know. I came home from rehab on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was two full weeks of asking for reports, but only a couple of replies. A big thank you to our very consistent NCS's, N8CJB and NC4JJ plus KK4BVU .NC1NC was also a frequent contributor. Thank you very much for your contributions. As of today (the 8<sup>th</sup>) only two reports have been received. Let's make April a much better month. With such a small number of check ins, there will be no check in Champ of the month. Sorry fellows and girls.

Jack, WA2YBM Net Whip.

### **Carolina 440 UHF Linked System Gets A New Repeater:**

The Carolina 440 UHF Linked System is currently beta testing a new Yaesu DR-1 multi-mode repeater at their Cary site on 444.775+ P1 100Hz. This repeater is capable of doing analog, digital and much more.

### **RARSFest:**

RARSFest is coming up on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Jim Graham Building at the NC State Fairgrounds. The doors open a 8am. The JARS Communications Vehicle will be on display there. Any JARS members wishing to spend some time at the vehicle, contact Michael Callam, KD4UJC and let him know when you will be available.

Also at RARSFest all the ham equipment of the late Byron King, K4NGJ-SK will be up for sale. I was told that no reasonable price will be refused.

### **Upcoming Hamfests:**

05/03/2014 | 24th Annual Down East Hamfest  
Location: Kinston, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Down East Hamfest Association  
Website: <http://www.downeasthamfest.org>

05/10/2014 | 10th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest  
Location: Reidsville, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.rcarc.com>

05/17/2014 | FreeGate 2014  
Location: Greensboro, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: RFMD Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://kd4rf.org>

05/24/2014 | DurHamFest  
Location: Bahama, NC  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Durham FM Association  
Website: <http://dfma.org>

### **Ham Humor:**

A HAM NAMED ELMER LIVED WITH HIS XYL NAMED SUE. WHILE AT THE QTH ONE NIGHT, SUE SUDDENLY WENT QRT. (DIED).

ELMER PICKED UP THE PHONE, AND CALLED 911 AND REPORTED THAT HIS WIFE HAD JUST DIED AND COULD SOMEONE COME OVER TO PICK HER UP. THE OPERATOR ASKED FOR HIS ADDRESS AND ELMER SAID HE LIVED ON THE END OF EUCALYPTUS LANE... THE 911 OPERATOR ASKED HIM TO

SPELL THAT.

THERE WAS A LONG PAUSE ON THE END OF THE LINE AND THEN ELMER SAID.....  
"HOW ABOUT I JUST DRAG HER OVER TO OAK STREET AND YOU MEET ME THERE"!!

#### **ARRL News:**

#### **Public Service: Amateur Radio-Developed Software Assisting in Search for Missing Airliner**

US Navy personnel helping to look for missing Malaysia Air Flight MH370 have used the signal-processing and analysis package Spectrum Laboratory by Wolf Buescher, DL4YHF, to analyze recently detected 37.5 kHz "pings" that may be from the missing plane's "black box." Some Spectrum Laboratory screen shots as seen aboard the Australian defense vessel Ocean Shield were shown on TV in Australia and in the UK. The US Navy personnel are guests aboard the Australian ship. VLF experimenter Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, said the software is the same package Amateur Radio experimenters used recently to detect transatlantic signals on 29 kHz.

"Wolf's package is first-rate software, and I know that there have been other professional uses, but this was quite an interesting one!" Ziegler said.

The software began as a simple DOS-based FFT program, but it is now a specialized audio analyzer, filter, frequency converter, hum filter, data logger, and more. It's available for download from DL4YHF's Amateur Radio Software site.

Buescher said he was skeptical about the initial "ping" detection by a Chinese search vessel, but later called the spectrogram taken by the US team aboard Ocean Shield "convincing." He said

a screenshot from Australian TV clearly shows the "bip-bip-bip" ultrasonic bursts or pings, "just as they should look," he said, rather than a "just a wobbly carrier that comes and goes."

"In slow-CW terms, it would be an 'outstanding signal.'" Buescher said. "Now keeping fingers crossed that the ["black box"] batteries last a bit longer than specified. The experts say the pinger's battery usually degrades slowly, instead of going QRT abruptly."

At mid-week, searchers had detected additional, more promising pings that appeared to conform to the pattern of those expected from an aircraft black box.

#### **Technology: WWV's 25 MHZ Signal Back on the Air**

WWV silenced its 25 MHZ signal in 1977, but it's back on the air "for old times' sake" -- on an "experimental basis." Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch, N0RGT, the lead electrical engineer at WWV.

It all came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented the loss of the 25 MHZ signal in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by subsequently putting the signal back on the air on April 4 for about 3-1/2 hours. A listener in Scotland posted a reception report of the WWV 25 MHZ signal on YouTube. WWV ran another 25 MHZ test starting on April 7. Initially it was only to stay up for 24 hours or so, but Deutch told ARRL that WWV will remain

on the air probably for the rest of the week. "So hopefully a few more people will hear it," he said.

Lewis said he'd told Deutch last week that 10 meter propagation has been very good at this point in Cycle 24, and he uses the various WWV frequencies as propagation beacons every day. "He responded that 'for old times' sake,' they'd put the signal back on the air for a while. I assumed, of course, that he was kidding, and so I didn't check. Matt wasn't kidding!"

NIST said the 25 MHz broadcast consists of the normal WWV signal heard on all other WWV frequencies, at the same level of accuracy. The transmitter in Fort Collins, Colorado, can deliver 2500 W into its "broadband monopole" antenna, although Deutch told ARRL that he is running it at 1200 W. WWV has invited listeners' comments and signal reports.

### **Your League: ARRL Releases First Repeater Directory App for Android Devices**

ARRL has introduced its first Android app for locating Amateur Radio repeater frequencies in the US and Canada -- The ARRL Repeater Directory®...Powered by Travel Plus™. Android phone and mobile device users can download the app at no cost from Google Play™ (an Apple iOS version is coming soon). The free app provides limited access to The ARRL Repeater Directory database. Users may purchase a subscription to the complete database of 23,000 repeaters, but the full version of the app is included in the price of The ARRL Repeater Directory print editions.

"You're probably more likely to have your smartphone at your fingertips when searching for a repeater while traveling," ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, pointed out. "The app can quickly locate you and deliver a list of nearby repeaters to tune in."

Inderbitzen says users can browse the entire database by city and state too, even while offline.

he app's database contains the current list of frequencies included with the 2014-2015 hard copy editions of The ARRL Repeater Directory and in the TravelPlus for Repeaters software. "ARRL assembles this data each year from frequency coordinators recognized by the National Frequency Coordinator's Council and carefully vetted submissions from individual repeater owners," said ARRL Publication Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, who edits the directory. The database includes repeaters from 28 MHz to 1240 MHz, and includes ATV, D-Star, APCO-25, Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), EchoLink, and IRLP machines.

The ARRL Repeater Directory app can search for frequencies by city and state, or by current location, if you've enabled location services on your device. Selecting a listing reveals detailed information on the repeater and its features. Users can filter searches to see only repeaters that match certain attributes, and mapping is integrated.

Users may purchase an activation code from ARRL for 12 months of access to the full version for \$9.95. The hard copy 2014-2015 Repeater Directory, also available from ARRL or from an ARRL publications dealer, includes an activation code for access to the full version of The ARRL Repeater Directory app. The pocket-sized edition is \$12.95, and the desktop edition is \$17.95 -- both including the app (plus shipping). The activation code permits single users to activate the full version of the app for 12 months on up to three devices.

ARRL produced the app with DHF Systems, the developer of ARRL's Travel Plus for Repeaters™ software.

### ARRL Centennial Station Giveaway!

The ARRL has announced a "Centennial Station Giveaway" as part of its National Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19, 2014. Sponsored by the ARRL and R&L Electronics, the first-prize winner will receive a Grand Prize voucher worth up to \$5000 of equipment -- radio, antenna, and accessories -- redeemable for products sold by R&L Electronics. A second-prize winner will receive a \$2500 prize voucher for products sold by FlexRadio Systems, also co-sponsored by ARRL.

All paid convention registrants will be entered in the prize drawings (door prizes). Winners will be drawn from among eligible registrants at the end of the convention on Saturday, July 19, 2014. The winner does not need to be present during the drawings.

Three-day convention tickets are \$75 and include an all-day training workshop and lunch on Thursday. Two-day tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door), good for admission on Friday and Saturday. Everyone who attends the convention must register.

### On the Air: The ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB is Sunday, April 20!

The Rookie Roundup returns to SSB on Sunday, April 20. The event gets underway at 1800 UTC and continues through 2359 UTC. In the Rookie Roundup, a "Rookie" is any radio amateur licensed within the current calendar year or in the previous two calendar years, regardless of license class. Operators exchange the call sign of the station they're working plus their own call sign, first name, two-digit number of the year

first licensed, and state, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or "DX."

The goal of Rookie Roundup is to encourage newly licensed operators in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are encouraged to participate and help new operators -- either on the air or in person.

This is a terrific opportunity for new operators to get on the air and gain contesting skills. Old Timers may want to consider opening up their stations to rookies and serving as contesting mentors. The more operators on the air, the more fun the Roundup will be for everyone. Review the rules before the event, and get familiar with logging and log submission processes too.

Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read "HF Contesting - Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions."

The next Rookie Roundup is the RTTY event on August 17.

### Awards: Nominations Open for Amateur Radio Newslite Young Ham of the Year

Nominations are being accepted for the 2014 Amateur Radio Newslite "Young Ham of the Year Award" (YHOTY) Created in 1986, the award recognizes the achievements of a radio amateur aged 19 or younger for his or her accomplishments in service to the nation, the community, or the advancement of the state of the art through Amateur Radio.

Nominees must reside in the US or its possessions, or in Canada. Details, rules, and a nominating form (in MS Word format) are available on the ARNewsline website. All nominating forms and support documentation become the property of Amateur Radio Newsline and cannot be returned. Nominations must be postmarked or electronically filed by May 30, 2014. -- Thanks to ARNewsline.



### **Johnston County A.R.E.S.**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Welcome to the Johnston County Amateur Radio Emergency Services page!

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (or ARES) provides emergency communications during disasters and other crises. The

Johnston County ARES chapter provides services to Johnston County, North Carolina. Johnston County ARES is comprised of FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators from Johnston and surrounding counties.

Any FCC licensed Amateur Radio operator possessing a Technician Class License or above may apply for membership.

Anyone interested in Johnston County A.R.E.S. please feel free to contact Michael Callam, Johnston County A.R.E.S. E.C. at:

JoCoARES@centurylink.net, by  
phone:(919)934-9623-H, (919)628-9927-C,  
or on the air either on 147.270+ or the  
Carolina 440 system repeaters with a pl of  
100.0.

Johnston County A.R.E.S. currently holds  
meetings on the second Monday of each  
month at 7pm at the American Red Cross  
office in Smithfield at 805-A S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

We hold an informational/training net on the  
fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm. This  
month, our net will be on 147.270+. Starting  
in May, our net will be held on the Carolina  
440 UHF link system. All hams are welcomed  
and encouraged to participate in our nets.



JARS Officers 2014

Pres.	Robbie Wheeler	KD4WIY
V.P.	Billy Newton	KG4ZKG
Sec.	Renee Nichols	KK4QQM
Treas.	Paul Dunn	KD4BJD
Membership	Mike Callam	KD4UJC
Net	Jack Donnelly	WA2YBM

Editor Mike Callam            KD4UJC

*Ham of the Year            Doug KS4TI*

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That does it for another edition of the JARS  
*Official Organ*. Hope to see y'all at the  
meeting.

73 de KD4UJC

