JARS Meeting this Thursday:

Our monthly meeting is this coming Thursday, July 21st at the Panther Branch Community Building. Our program for this month will be on the "Triangle Packet Network. Our very own "Chef – Boy –R-Tommy” will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for dinner with all the fixin’s. We need to let Tommy know by this Tuesday how many of each you will want. Let Tommy know at n4cbi42@gmail.com. Cost is $7 per person and please bring exact change.

Life on the Farm:

To say that it has been hot here on the farm would be an understatement. It has been hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk. The only reason that I did not fry an egg on the sidewalk, is that I don’t have a sidewalk. We did take our little hairy hound, Remmington, to the groomer and got his summer hair cut. Now, instead of being a “Hairy Hound” he is a little “Fuzz Bucket”. He likes to ride and he really enjoys going to the groomer and getting a haircut and unlike me, he actually has hair to cut. Tabitha, our little “Krazy Kat” says it is too hot for her to want to go out. So, she is content sitting in the windows and watching what goes on outside.

73 from “The Farm”

LOM Report:

It has been an interesting month for the LOM(s). Mike got the lid just for being a messenger (now if that is not unjust, what is?) and Velda got it (for the 2nd time) for not talking on the radio.

Anyway, when we got it home, the trouble really began. I wanted the top half and Velda wanted the top half of the butt gasket since we were “co-
lids”. I am not going to say who won that battle, but my head is sore and there is an indentation on my skull that says “Lodge Cast Iron Skillet Co.”

Now for the candidates. It has been kind of hard trying to get candidates since most of the JARS members are homesteading over on the SWARC 145.210 repeater, which in itself, should be enough to get the lid for life. We have had two regular users who are not JARS members (KD4KII and KN4OO) who have gone so far out of their way to get the LOM that I think they got lost a couple of times. On one occasion there was a group of us, including Aaron (KK4KFG) talking on the repeater and the topic of “Amazing Idiots” came up and Aaron had the nerve to insinuate that Mike was an “Amazing Idiot”. On the very same night we got the LOM, during the net, Barb, KK4TLY, doubled with the lid and then said that she was unaware of the net protocol. On more than one occasion, we came up behind Lannie, KK4QEF, we did everything possible to get his attention. I called him on 147.270, 145.210, 444.875 and 146.520 and he did not answer on any frequency. I am still trying to figure if he purposefully was trying to shun the LOM’s. This past Friday, I was talking to Walter, KG4QHL, and he said he had to go, I gave my call, KD4MC, and waited, and waited, and waited and waited for Walter to give his call and never heard it.

As you can see, there are some DESERVING candidates out there. I want to give it to one deserving candidate and Velda wants to give it to another deserving candidate.

I guess you will have just have to be there to see who gets it this month.

**NC Section News:**

ARRL NC Section Newsletter
June, 2016

Greetings from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

ARRL, COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS INSTITUTE FIND COMMON GROUND ON PARITY ACT LANGUAGE (6/7, ARRL) – ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) – the national association of homeowners associations (HOAs) – have reached consensus on provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-community-associations-institute-find-common-ground-on-parity-act-language (source: ARRL)

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT SET FOR HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE MARKUP (6/23, ARRL) – The Amateur Radio Parity Act (HR 1301) is among five bills that the US House Energy and Commerce Committee has scheduled for “full committee” markup in July. For further information, including the text of the complete substitute amendment agreed upon by ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI), see http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-set-for-house-energy-and-commerce-committee-markup (source: ARRL website)
ARRL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS – The ARRL Foundation has announced the 2016 recipients of the scholarships it administers. Awards totaling $115,650 went to 78 young radio amateur scholars this year. The Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship was not awarded this year. The Outdoor Hams Scholarship ($1,000) was awarded to Alexander M. Lozada, KK4THC of Summerfield. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients! For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-foundation-announces-2016-scholarship-recipients
(source: ARRL website)

COLORADO CREATES AUXILIARY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS UNIT – A new Colorado law has created an Auxiliary Emergency Communications (AuxComm) Unit within the state’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/colorado-creates-auxiliary-emergency-communications-unit
(source: ARRL website)

BOUVET ISLAND ACTIVATION PLANNED – Three proven and experienced DXpedition leaders and a large team of operators have announced plans to activate Bouvet Island (Bouvetøya), the #2 most-wanted DXCC entity in late 2017 or early 2018. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/bouvet-island-activation-planned
(source: ARRL website)

POLISH DXER 3Z9DX REPORTED READY TO RETURN TO NORTH KOREA ON A MOMENT’S NOTICE – Following a surprise “demonstration” operation from North Korea last December, Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX of Poland, is waiting for the call that will allow him to return to the #1 most-wanted DXCC entity for another brief activation. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/polish-dxer-3z9dx-reported-ready-to-return-to-north-korea-on-a-moment-s-notice
(source: ARRL website)

ARRL NOW OFFERING NEW “RADIO AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY” PATCH PROGRAM FOR GIRL SCOUTS – The ARRL is offering a new Girl Scouts “Radio and Wireless Technology” patch program that provides opportunities for participants to learn about wireless technology, including Amateur Radio. The program encourages Girl Scouts to pursue activities where they will acquire knowledge, skills, and interest in STEM subjects and careers. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-now-offering-new-radio-and-wireless-technology-patch-program-for-girl-scouts
(source: ARRL website)

ARRL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE EXPRESS APPRECIATION, SUPPORT OF
NTS – The ARRL Programs and Services Committee will submit a motion to the ARRL Board of Directors expressing appreciation for the work and volunteer membership of the National Traffic System (NTS™). The motion thanked NTS members, congratulated them for outstanding service, and assured them of an ongoing ARRL public service communication role. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-programs-and-services-committee-expresses-appreciation-support-of-nts (source: ARRL website)

ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REMOVES NTS EASTERN AREA CHAIR, EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SECTION MANAGER – The Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors has relieved ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Joe Ames, W3JY, of his appointments in the ARRL Field Organization, including his position as Chairman of the ARRL National Traffic System™ (NTS™) Eastern Area. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-executive-committee-removes-nts-eastern-area-chair-eastern-pennsylvania-section-manager (source: ARRL website)

ARRL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE APPOINTS BUD HIPPIESLEY, W2RU, AS NTS EASTERN AREA CHAIR – The ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has appointed George W. (“Bud”) Hippisley, W2RU, as the new Eastern Area Chair for the ARRL National Traffic System™ (NTS™) for a 2-year term, effective immediately. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-programs-and-services-committee-appoints-bud-hippisley-w2ru-as-nts-eastern-area-chair (source: ARRL website)

“WARNING” NOTICES TO ARRL EMAIL USERS ARE BOGUS – For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/warning-notices-to-arrl-e-mail-users-are-bogus (source: ARRL website)

REMINDER! NET MANAGER AND NET CONTROL OPERATORS NEEDED FOR TAR HEEL EMERGENCY NET – The Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) is looking for a Net Manager and additional Net Control Stations. The THEN is the ARES HF net in the NC Section and it has been operating since 1947. The net meets nightly at 7:30 PM EST on 3.923 MHz. All individuals with ARES appointments – Assistant Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and District Emergency Coordinators – should consider participating as the Net Manager or as a Net Control Station for THEN. For further information, see http://www.ncarrl.org/nets/THEN/index.html or contact Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager, at w4chx at arrl dot com. Thanks! (source: NC ARRL website)
ARRL NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR 2016 – For information on rules, answers to frequently asked questions, activator tips and NPS documents, NPOTA documents, answers to basic questions from NPS employees, the Leaderboard, list of NPOTA units, merchandise, NPOTA on social media, and latest news, see http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA (source: ARRL website)

LICENSE CLASSES –

Raleigh (NC): General license class, October 1 to October 22, 2016, sponsored by Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, contact Murray Merner, K4MMH by phone at (919) 803-7973 or by email at k4mmh at arrl dot net for further information.

To find upcoming classes, go to www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class Please note that a license class sponsored by your club or organization will not be listed on the ARRL website unless you register your class. ARRL Registered Instructors may list upcoming classes on the ARRL website. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/License-instructor-registration

Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a license class.

Thanks! (source: ARRL website)

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur radio operators is reported: Jerry Willis ("Jerry") Henderson, W1JER (SK) of Charlotte; and, Stephen Francis ("Steve") Horne II, KB5B (SK) of Greenville. Please note it is not possible to post information about an amateur radio operator that has become a Silent Key without confirmation via a copy of an obituary or death certificate.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS –


September 1-4: 60th Annual Shelby Hamfest Special Event, 1600Z-2200Z, W4NYR, Shelby, NC. Shelby Amateur Radio Club. All HF bands, SSB and CW. QSL. SARC, PO Box 2206, Shelby, NC 28151. Times will vary daily. www.shelbyhamfest.org


Special Event Station listings in the NC Section newsletter are based on what appears on the ARRL website, see http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations Please consider listing your Special Event Station at least 60 days before the event, see http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a
Special Event Station. Thanks!
(source: ARRL website)

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –

September 2-4: 60th Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL NC State Convention, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC, http://shelbyhamfest.org

Between June 10th and 20th, I visited family in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Upon my return, I prepared for Field Day visits and made a presentation to the Cary Amateur Radio Club (6/23). It was great to visit with the CARC club members! I am looking forward to attending their Swapfest, and others, in July.

During ARRL Field Day 2016, I visited 12 club sites and 1 home station in central North Carolina. On Friday (6/24), my wife, Gale K4GGB, and I visited the Field Day site for the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society – W4DW (Apex) and the home station of Wayne Starnes, W4UV (Cary). On Saturday, I drove to Cleveland County and visited (in order) the following club sites on my return trip home: Shelby Amateur Radio Club – KM4C (Shelby); Gaston County ARES/Gaston County Amateur Radio Society/Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club – N4GAS (Gaston); Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society – W4BF (Mint Hill); Stanly County Amateur Radio Club – K4OGB (Morrow Mountain State Park); Cabarrus County Amateur Radio Society – K4WC (Concord); Rowan Amateur Radio Society – N4UH (Mt Ulla); Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – W4NC (Winston-Salem); High Point Amateur Radio Club – W4UA (Jamestown); and, Greensboro Amateur Radio Association – W4GSO (Greensboro). I arrived home (north Raleigh) around 1:20 AM Sunday morning. Whew! After a few hours of sleep, I visited the Field Day sites for the Durham FM Association/Orange County Radio Amateurs – W4EZ (Hillsborough) and the Moore County Amateur Radio Society – NC4ML (Pinehurst). According to the odometer on my car, I drove more than 800 miles during my Field Day visits! As always, it was great to see everyone during Field Day and learn about the unique approach each club had taken for setup and operations. Of course, the food was outstanding! Please accept my apology if I did not visit your Field Day site. Finally, thanks to all clubs that sent a Section Manager’s message via NTS – your communications were appreciated greatly!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to provide input on our Section. I can be reached via email at w4chx@arrl.org or via cell phone. As
always, thank you for sending your emails, photos, and club newsletters – they keep me informed about your activities and programs! I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming hamfest or club meeting. Thanks for everything you are doing for amateur radio and your community. 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell)

Product Reviews:

Hammo Can:

The “Hammo-Can” is a complete station in a plastic ammo can. There are two versions. One version has a 5amp-hour gel cell battery for $279.73 and one with a 12 amp-hour gel cell battery for $349.73. Both versions include a Jetstream 2 meter/70 centimeter 25-watt dual band mobile radio, an Led readout that displays voltage, two USB ports, and a small BNC antenna that mounts in the box. The 12 amp-hour version has a heavy-duty lighter socket for convenient power. Both have two Anderson Power Pole sockets for charging or operating another device from the same power supply.

That is the manufacturers description, now for the product review by an actual, unpaid, user, me (KD4MC).

While the concept is a good one, it does have its limitations. The first one is that the radio is only 25 watts and the antenna is a very short dual band BNC antenna. That is great if you live in an area that is surrounded by repeaters or only want to work simplex. Unfortunately, I live quite a distance from my favorite repeater, (147.270) and could not get into the repeater with the supplied antenna. Since I usually operate on the “Mighty 27” like a true JARS member, I bought another antenna (Diamond RH-205) that extends out to 47 inches and it does allow me to get into the JARS repeater.

When you charge the battery on the unit, it has to be powered on. However, the radio does not need to be on. I got the wall wart charger, which came stock with the unit and made a cigarette lighter charger and a solar panel charger using the Anderson power poles. I like to keep a handheld scanner with me and the USB adapters come in great for keeping power to the scanner and the USB ports can keep a cell phone charged also.

I got the unit with the 5amp-hour gel cell and I am able to run it for about 5 hours between charges. The solar
panel keeps it sufficiently charged for continuous use.

The unit comes with the manufacturers software for programming. RT Systems also makes programming software with a programming cable. I prefer the RT Systems software because it allows for me to copy from one radio of another manufacturer and paste to this radio.

On a scale of 1 – 10, I would give it an 8 mostly because of the antenna and low power radio requires close proximity to a repeater.

This product is sold by Quick Silver Radio and can be purchased from their website: http://www.qsradio.com/index.html

73 de KD4MC

DV-4 Mini:

**Manufacturer description:**
USB stick containing 70 cm data transceiver. Works with D-Star, DMR, Fusion, APCO25, DPMR and other digital modes, which are based on GMSK, 2FSK or 4FSK. (sample picture) antenna not included

**Actual User Review:**
This neat little unit allows you to expand the capabilities of digital radios that you already own. It is capable of operating on DStar, DMR+, Brandmeister, C4FM(System Fusion), APCO (P25) and dPMR. While the device is capable of operating on these modes, you need a radio that is also capable of operating on these modes. I have a DMR and C4FM radio so that is what I will review here.

You will have to download the software to operate the unit from: http://wirelesshold.com/modems.asp and install it on you computer and they have the software that will run on most flavors of computer.

This is what the control panel looks like. On the DMR+ there are many reflectors that you can connect to and talk to people all over the world. There is a web page: http://xreflector.net/neu3/ that
allows you to see what stations are connected to which reflectors or channels.

On the different digital modes you will find different reflectors that attract a specific group. Like specific country or a specific area of a country.

There are different nets on the various reflectors. My favorite is the world wide net on "Brandmeister + TG 91. That meets on Saturday at 12 noon eastern time and has check ins from all over the world. It is a directed net and I find it very interesting to listen to the various countries that check into this net. I have, on occasion, gone to a reflector where there appeared to be nobody talking and just tossed out my call and location and have talked all over the world.

This unit sells for $129.00 but does not come with an antenna. The antenna costs $14.35. Both can be bought from: [http://wirelesshold.com/modems.asp](http://wirelesshold.com/modems.asp).

Now, the user review. I would give it an 8 because of the ability to connect to various reflectors and talk to people all over the world and it has a lot of potential for use in a disaster. The only thing keeping it from getting a solid 10 is the fact that you have to have a separate radio to interact with the various digital modes. I guess as a prelude to the DV-4 multi band, multi mode radio that is supposed to come out later this year, this is a good way to get your feet wet.

73 de KD4MC.

**Johnston County ARES:**

Now that hurricane season is upon us and we have an almost daily threat of severe weather, the Johnston County Amateur Radio Service, ARES, is looking for licensed amateur radio operators that are interested in helping Johnston County Emergency Management by providing auxiliary communications in times of disaster. You **do not** need to be a resident of Johnston County to join. Johnston County ARES meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at the American Red Cross located at 805-A South Third Street in Smithfield. We also hold a training net on the 147.270+ repeater on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm. This net is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. If you would like to give back to the community or want more information on Johnston County ARES, it can be found at [http://www.johnstoncountyares.com](http://www.johnstoncountyares.com), or by contacting Mike, KD4MC at mcallam@centurylink.net or by phone at 919-934-9623.

**ARRL News:**

Amateur Radio Parity Act Receives Favorable House Energy and Commerce Committee Report

unanimous favorable report on July 13 from members of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill now will go to the full House for consideration. Before reporting the bill out of committee, the panel first voted to accept the amended language, "in the nature of a substitute." Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, said the substitute bill represented "a good balance" that came in the wake of months of meetings, hard work, and compromise, and he recommended the measure to his colleagues.

"The amendment guarantees that even in deed-restricted communities, Amateur Radio operators are able to use an effective outdoor antenna," Walden said. "Without an effective antenna Amateur Radio operators are severely limited, so this amendment ensures that amateurs are free to pursue their passion wherever they live."

At the same time, he continued, the measure protects the rights of those "who have chosen to live in deed-restricted communities and to set their own aesthetic and other rules."

In early June, the ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI) -- the national association of homeowners associations (HOAs) -- announced that they had reached consensus on substitute language for HR 1301 in an effort to move it through committee and to overcome objections to the companion US Senate bill, S 1685. The offices of US Representatives Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), the bill’s sponsor, Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Walden mediated and offered assistance.

"While it's rare to have two groups with opposing viewpoints walk away from legislation happy, by golly, I think we've done it here," Walden concluded. He said the substitute bill represented "the best of what our committee can do when we work together in bipartisan compromise that meets the needs of all parties involved."

In her remarks, Eshoo said she was glad that an agreement had been reached on the bill’s language, which she initially feared would violate the rights of homeowners associations. "We found a balance that works for all stakeholders," she said, calling the ARRL and CAI "the bookends of the effort."

Kinzinger called the amended bill "a good amendment that strikes the right balance."
FCC Finds a Fix for Amateur Radio Application Batch Processing Problem

It’s taken a couple of weeks, but the FCC has resolved a computer programming problem that had affected its ability to accept and process batch-filed Amateur Radio applications, resulting in a backlog for the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) and others taking advantage of automated processing. The FCC information technology staff had been attempting to fix the glitch that had affected the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system since it first cropped up on June 28. At first the problem had affected the processing of all Amateur Radio and commercial license applications, said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who alerted the FCC IT Department. By June 30, it appeared that the FCC had corrected the broader problem, but the EBF remained unable to process ARRL VEC’s automated, batch-filed applications and exam sessions. VECs that were manually logging in to upload their files were unaffected. ARRL and FCC IT staffers put their heads together to solve the problem of the blockage.

"The FCC IT staff was astutely attentive to the problem every step of the way, as they worked with our IT department to find a solution," Somma said. "We appreciate the specialized service we received."

ARRL’s IT Department and the ARRL VEC confirmed on July 14 that the problem had been fixed, the backlog of more than 1200 applications and 300 exam sessions cleared, and the flow of automated, batch-filed applications and exam sessions able to resume.

Ham Radio Outlet to Acquire Some AES Employees, Re-Open Milwaukee Location as HRO Branch

Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) has announced plans to hire an unspecified number of Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) employees when AES shuts down its four locations in late July. In addition, the current AES Headquarters store in Milwaukee will become HRO's newest location later this summer, following renovation. On July 1, AES announced that it was going out of business and ending retail operations at its Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Cleveland, and Orlando locations. With the approval of AES management, HRO senior managers visited each AES location to interview staffers in hopes of "acquiring some of the Amateur Radio retail employee talent in each of the current AES locations," an HRO news release said.

"Together with this interview process, HRO examined what it would take to perhaps acquire one or more of the AES store locations. At the time of these interviews, many opportunities were explored with current AES senior management," the release continued. "We are very excited to
announce that HRO was successful in providing offers of employment to a number of soon-to-be-former AES employees, and that to some, we have offered positions that involve HRO-sponsored and funded relocation."

HRO announced that once AES shutters its Milwaukee location at 5710 W Good Hope Road on July 28, Ham Radio Outlet will undertake an extensive remodeling project to create a new HRO Milwaukee store at the same site, which will open at the end of August.

"It is with great pleasure that we are able to continue Terry Stermans's and Phil Majerus' legacy of providing a fantastic Amateur Radio store in Milwaukee, Wisconsin," said HRO President Robert Ferrero, W6KR. "It is our immediate goal to have the largest, most well-stocked Amateur Radio retail store in North America and perhaps even the world."

A family-owned business, HRO is the world's largest Amateur Radio dealership, with locations from New England to the West Coast.

ARRL CEO, Emergency Preparedness Manager Visit FEMA Headquarters
ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K11U, recently visited Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters in Washington, DC, to further explore areas of cooperation and partnership, in line with the Memorandum of Agreement that ARRL and FEMA signed in 2014.

From left to right, FEMA Chief Technology Officer Ted Okada, K4HNL; ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K11U; FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF.

During the June 29 visit, Gallagher and Corey met with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ. FEMA Chief Technology Officer Ted Okada, K4HNL, also attended the meeting. "Administrator Fugate's detailed knowledge of Amateur Radio is impressive, and his support for the amateur community is very encouraging," Gallagher said.
afterward. He went on to say that he was most impressed by Fugate's observation that "any mode of RF that will connect across the continent is valuable; we don't have enough backups to the public switched network."

National Parks on the Air Update
July represents the halfway mark for the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program. With just under 6 months to go, slightly more than 490,000 contacts have been made from 431 of the 485 eligible NPS units, in 8250 separate activations.

There's plenty of time left to get involved! With the summer vacation season in full swing, many NPS units would enjoy seeing a new NPOTA face. You can start collecting NPOTA units any time; Activators are always looking for new stations to log. With band conditions being less than spectacular lately, NPOTA offers a way to enjoy Amateur Radio as either Chaser or Activator, with plenty of domestic QSO opportunities and portable operating adventures free for the taking. Help NPOTA reach more than 1 million QSOs in 2016!

A record 68 activations are scheduled for the week of July 13-20, including Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, and the Nez Perce National Historical Park in Idaho.

Details about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar. Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on Facebook. Follow NPOTA on Twitter (@ARRL_NPOTA).

Attendance at Dayton Hamvention® Tops 25,000 for Second Year in a Row
Given the level of enthusiasm at the 2016 running of Dayton Hamvention® in mid-May, attendance may have seemed up, but for all intents and purposes, it held steady at 25,364 visitors. That figure was down only slightly from the 25,621 attendees reported for 2015, but above the 25,000 mark for the second year in a row. For those keeping track, in 2014 the official count was 24,873 visitors, and attendance in 2013 was 24,542.

Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33,669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May. While attendance has fluctuated over the years, Hamvention has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring.

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has sponsored Hamvention since 1952. Originally called the Southwestern Ohio Hamvention, the inaugural event, held in March in downtown Dayton, attracted
600 attendees -- twice as many as had been predicted. Today it is the world’s largest Amateur Radio gathering.

DARA now is counting down the days to the next Hamvention on May 19-21, 2017. Hamvention’s new General Chairman is Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, who succeeded Jim Tiderman, N8IDS. Tiderman reported an "overall good mood" and "a positive attitude" at this year’s event and said the Hamvention staff received many upbeat comments. Hamvention’s post-show Satisfaction Survey is soliciting comments and observations from those who attended this year’s big show. -- Thanks to Henry Ruminski, W8HJR

ARRL Training Webinar, "Contesting as Training for Public Service," Set for July 24

A free ARRL Training Webinar, "Contesting as Training for Public Service," hosted by Ward Silver, N0AX, will take place on Sunday, July 24, 8 until 10 PM EDT (0000-0200 UTC on July 25). All are invited to join the audio-slide presentation online or via telephone.

"Think of contests as a ham radio fitness center," Silver said. "Public service teams are always looking for enjoyable activities to improve operator skills. Just as sports provide good physical exercise, contests are great at developing radio skills, and both are a lot of fun." Silver pointed out that contests originated as a way to hone traffic-handling skills and develop an effective station.

Registration is required. In addition, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, is seeking anecdotes from radio amateurs who have activated an emergency operations center (EOC) for a bona fide contest, such as ARRL November Sweepstakes or a state QSO party -- but not ARRL Field Day, a SET, or SKYWARN Recognition Day.

"Just a brief overview of the event, the results, the number of participants, and any interesting outcomes," Corey said, in describing what he’s looking for. Contact Corey via e-mail.

The presentation will be available via YouTube following the webinar.

New ISS Crew Increment with Two Radio Amateurs Arrives on Station

NASA astronaut Kate Rubins, KG5FYJ, astronaut Takuya Onishi, KF5LKS, of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and cosmonaut Anatoly Ivanishin of Roscosmos officially joined their Expedition 48 International Space Station (ISS) crew members on July 9, when the hatches opened between their Soyuz MS-01 and the space station. Four radio amateurs now are on board the ISS.

Expedition 48 Commander Jeff Williams, KD5TVQ, of NASA, and Flight Engineers Oleg Skripochka, RN3FU, and Alexey Ovchinin of Roscosmos greeted the newcomers. Rubins, Onishi, and cosmonaut Ivanishin replaced Expedition 47 Commander Tim Kopra, KE5UDN; Flight Engineer Tim Peake, KG5BVI/GB1SS, and Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, who returned to Earth in mid-June after a little more than 6 months in space.

Later this summer, Williams and Rubins are scheduled to install the first of two international docking
adapters, soon to launch to the ISS. The adapters will allow commercial spacecraft to dock to the station in the near future when transporting astronauts as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. Rubins, Ivanishin, and Onishi are scheduled to remain on station until late October. The trio launched early on July 7 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, traveling to the ISS onboard an upgraded Soyuz MS-01 spacecraft on its maiden voyage. Williams, Skripochka, and Ovchinin will return to Earth in September.

**In Brief...**

**Solar Car Challenge W1N Traveling Special Event Operation Set:** Special event station W1N will travel from the Texas Motor Speedway to Minneapolis between July 15 and July 24 to highlight the 2016 Solar Car Challenge®. Several teams include students and adult advisors who are radio amateurs who wanted to operate a special event station during the Solar Car Challenge. Activity will be limited on July 15-16 but will ramp up July 16-24, 0500 to 2359 UTC. W1N will be on the air with a portable operation from the Texas Motor Speedway before the vehicles set off on the road. During the on-the-road event, W1N will have a mobile station and portable stations active as the cars move north toward Minneapolis. Mobile activity will be on 20 meters, centering around 14.343 MHz. Operation from portable sites will take place on 6, 10, and 15 meters. The calendar provides the event schedule and itinerary. QSL to Steve McDermott, KF5RVR. For more information, contact Fred Varian, WD5ERD.

Special Event Stations to Mark Pope's Visit to Poland: Several special event stations are poised to mark the visit of Pope Francis to Poland. The Pope will be in Poland July 27-31 to once again take part in World Youth Days in Kraków. This is Pope Francis' first visit to Poland, where he will also make stops at the national shrine in Czestochowa to honor 1050 years of Christianity in Poland and pay respects to the victims of the former Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. World Youth Days is a biannual event initiated by Pope John Paul II, the first Polish Pope (Karol Wojtyla). Some 2 million young Catholics are expected. Special event call signs will include HF0F in Kraków, as well as HF31WYD, HF2SDM, and HF7SDM.
Ham Radio Humor:

“I get an idea, an idea so smart my head would explode if I even began to know what I was talking about.”

I can put an antenna and a microphone on a pig, and create my own ham radio.

Johnston County ARRL VE Team

The Johnston County ARRL VE Team holds amateur radio license test sessions on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Four Oaks Chamber of Commerce located at 204 N. Main Street in Four Oaks. Cost is $15.00. You will need a photo ID, $15, proof of license or CSCE. If you do not have a license, you are encouraged to go to:
http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home and register for an FRN prior to coming to take the exam. This is so you will not have to disclose your SSN. Walk ins are welcome. To register for the exam or for more information, contact Mike Callam, KD4MC, at mcallam@centurylink.net or 919-934-9623.

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Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 302
Benson, NC 27504

That does it for another edition of the “Official Organ”. See ya at the meeting Thursday.