

# The Official Organ

The Official of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc

August 2017 edition

## JARS Meeting This Thursday:

Our monthly meeting is this Thursday at Pleasant Grove Community Center located at 15805 Hwy 210, Angier, NC 27501.

Tommy is fixing his world-famous spaghetti and meat sauce. You need to let Tommy know by this coming Tuesday how many you are bringing with you so he can make sure that he has enough for all to eat. Let him know at [n4cbi42@gmail.com](mailto:n4cbi42@gmail.com), cost is \$7 per person.

Our program this month will be presented by Doug, KS4TI. He will be teaching us how to prepare for a zombie apocalypse, earthquake, typhoon, monsoon and any other disaster that may come upon us.

## In This Month's Official Organ:

Life on the Farm

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Johnston County ARRL VE Team

NC Section News

## Life on the Farm:

Life on the farm has been pretty uneventful for the past month. I have managed to stay out of the hospital and Velda has managed to go a whole month without landing a number 16 cast iron skillet upside my head.

It has been pretty dry and hot here for the past 30 days. One day recently, it was so hot and sunny outside that the dog got a sun burn on our morning walk. The trees felt so sorry for him that they moved closer to the house so he wouldn't have to spend much time outside.

Since Velda has retired, she has given up driving (among other things). Well, she now has a new vehicle for me to drive her around in. It is a 2017 Chrysler Pacifica. It is the first van product that Chrysler has made that I actually am comfortable in and don't mind driving.

I guess that's going to do it for this month's "Life on the Farm".

73 from Mike, (KD4MC, Velda(K4VJC, Remington, (Hairy Hound) and Tabitha, (Krazy Kat).

#### **ARRL NEWS:**

ARRL Posts Amateur Radio Parity Act FAQ

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 is now in the US Senate (S. 1534). ARRL has developed and posted a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs), "The Amateur Radio Parity Act: Setting the Record Straight," to explain and to clarify what the passage of the legislation would accomplish -- as well as what it would not.

"There has been so much misinformation floating around on forums, blogs, podcasts, etc. regarding the Amateur Radio Parity Act, that we realized a listing of facts as to what the bill is and what it does was long overdue," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who chairs the ARRL Board's ad hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, prepared the FAQ on behalf of the Board of Directors and its ad hoc Legislative Advocacy Committee.

"We trust that this will address any concerns you may have had about the legislation," Lisenco said. "Let's buckle down and get this bill passed. We can only do this with your help."

Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) co-sponsored S. 1534, which was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowner's association (HOA) or subject to any private land-use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes. Senate bill S. 1534 is identical to House bill H.R. 555, which passed in January.

Hara Arena -- Hamvention's Former Home -- to be Auctioned by IRS

Hara Arena, the former home of Hamvention®, is going on the auction block, the IRS has announced. The now-beleaguered building and grounds were closed a year ago last month by the owners, the Wampler Family, which, for years, had attempted unsuccessfully to put Hara on a profitable plane. The minimum bid is \$850,000; proceeds will satisfy a tax lien. The auction comes in the wake of an Order of Sale entered in the US District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. The IRS will take bids on August 30 on the 1001 Shiloh Springs Road site, starting at 11 AM ET (bidders must be registered by 10 AM ET). An "open house" for prospective bidders will be held on August 29. According to the

announcement, "any rights, titles, claims, liens, and interest" in the buildings and land will be discharged once a sale is confirmed. The auction brochure includes several recent photos of the Hara Complex



"Hara Arena is a six-building complex that contained an ice rink, ballroom, conference hall, concerts seating, sports events, shows of unlimited venues and restaurant," the auction announcement stated, noting that the two land parcels that make up the site in the Dayton suburb of Trotwood comprise slightly more than 25 acres.

Prospective bidders must put up \$170,000 in earnest money to be eligible to take part in the auction. Payments must be by certified or cashier's check.

"No bids will be received from any person who has not presented proof that, if he or she is the successful bidder, he or she can make the deposit required by the Order," the announcement said. Sale of the real property shall be subject to confirmation by the Court.

Hara Arena served as the home of Hamvention from 1964 until 2016, before it was closed last summer. Soon after, Hamvention's sponsor, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), announced that it would be relocating the country's most popular Amateur Radio gathering to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, where Hamvention 2017 took place in May. Last November, an online auctioneer took bids on a variety of items from the former Hamvention home, many of which went to nostalgia buffs or those having some sentimental connection with the facility.

Hara Arena had been facing long-standing financial problems that included unpaid property taxes and unresolved family issues. Promised renovations never materialized for the 2016 Hamvention, which attracted more than 25,000 visitors, worth millions of dollars to the Dayton-area economy.

The Wampler family had owned and operated Hara Arena since its humble origins in the 1950s, when Wampler Ballarena -- then a dance hall and more recently an exhibit hall familiar to Hamvention visitors -- was built in what had been a family-owned orchard.

### **A Book that Helps You Prepare for the Eclipse!**

On August 21, a total solar eclipse will cause the shadow of the Moon to traverse the US from Oregon to South Carolina in just over 90 minutes. Radio amateurs are preparing to participate in one of the largest ionospheric experiments ever performed, by making radio contacts and looking for

signals throughout the eclipse. How much do you know about the ionosphere and radio wave propagation?

Order *Propagation and Radio Science*, by Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, for some insights. The book presents a comprehensive overview of radio propagation in simple, easy-to-understand terms and graphics. It explains the invisible phenomena we observe on the air and invites you to embark on the journey of radio waves from transmitter to receiver, and through the void of space. Get your copy before the eclipse!

*Propagation and Radio Science* is available from the ARRL Store or your ARRL Dealer. (ARRL Item no. 0277), ISBN: 978-1-62595-027-7, \$27.95 retail, special ARRL Member Price \$24.95). Call 860-594-0355 or, toll-free in the US, 888-277-5289. It is also available as an e-book for the Amazon Kindle.

### **ARDF Enthusiasts Compete in USA National Championships**

Fifteen US-eligible competitors took home first-place awards in the just-completed 17th US National Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) in Harrison, Ohio. The competition ran from August 3 through 6 on the 4,345-acre Miami Whitewater Forest and other nearby wooded sites, and it attracted more than 80 fans of the sport -- also known as foxtailing and radio-orienteering. This year's USA Championships were combined with the 9th ARDF Championships of International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 (IARU R2) -- the Americas. The IARU establishes rules for

ARDF competitions. The object is always to find as many of the required transmitters as possible in the shortest amount of time, and then navigate to the finish line. Competitors may use only their own direction-finding equipment, in addition to a compass and the provided map.

Classic 80- and 2-meter competitions with up to five hidden transmitters took place on separate days. Course lengths -- from start to each required transmitter and then to the finish -- ranged from 2.8 to 7.1 kilometers (1.7 to 4.4 miles), depending on age/gender category.

Two additional events took place, both on 80 meters. These included the sprint -- a shortened course with 10 transmitters and a faster transmitter cycle -- and foxoring, a combination of orienteering and foxhunting, in which participants receive maps marked with the approximate locations of a dozen very low-power transmitters to find. In all events competitors are divided into six age categories for men and five for women, with medals awarded to winners in each category. The 4 days of championship events were preceded by 3 days of informal training in other nearby parks.

According to IARU rules, US-eligible competitors must be either citizens or legal residents for at least 1 year.

Organizing and staging the championships were members of the OH-KY-IN Amateur Radio Society. Additional volunteers were members of Orienteering Cincinnati (OCIN), which also provided the event maps.

Complete results of all events in these Championships are available on the Homing In website, where there is also much more information about the growing sport of ARDF. Read more. -- Thanks to Joe Moell, K0OV, ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator.

### **Youngsters on the Air International Summer Camp Doubles Down on ARISS Contacts**

More than 80 participants from about 30 countries are wrapping up this year's Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) international summer camp -- YOTA UK 2017 -- which continues until August 12 at Gilwell Park in London, the site of Scouting headquarters in the UK. Attendees include two members of the German team who cycled all the way. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is serving as the host of YOTA UK 2017.

Those attending were fortunate to have experienced not one but two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contacts with ISS astronaut Paolo Nespoli, IZ0JPA. The first contact was video only via HamTV -- the digital Amateur Radio television system on the ISS -- and the second was audio only. A glitch in the attempted video contact led to the second attempt via more conventional means.

Astronaut Paolo Nespoli, IZ0JPA, via HamTV. [Photo courtesy of AMSAT-UK]

DATV pictures on 2395 MHz were successfully received on the ground, and campers and onlookers were able to see

Nespoli floating in the Columbus module. He could copy audio from the ground, but because of an issue with the Ericsson 2-meter transceiver on the ISS, the YOTA UK 2017 participants could not hear him.

A second, more successful, contact took place during the next orbital pass. For this session, Nespoli operated

YOTA campers have been keeping GB17YOTA on the air.

the Kenwood TM-D710 transceiver in the Russian Service Module. The young radio amateurs used the special event call sign GB4YOTA to speak with Nespoli at NA1SS, as many spectators looked on. A group of young Scouts visiting Gilwell Park were excited to witness the contact and listen in as 12 YOTA UK 2017 participants asked Nespoli questions about life on the station, many of them of a more technical nature.

Among other activities, YOTA 2017 participants have been on the HF bands from GB17YOTA. They also put together QRP CW transceiver kits that they can take home. An outing to an Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) course offered participants a challenge. All of the youngsters will have the opportunity to take the UK Foundation class Amateur Radio exam. This summer's gathering in the UK is the seventh international YOTA camp.

### **Northern California DX Club Launching Initiative to Get Newcomers on HF Bands**

The Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) has announced an initiative aimed at

getting more new Technician and General class radio amateurs active on HF. The NCDXC Elmering Project will launch in mid-September.

"Looking around the room at local club meetings makes it very clear that we are all aging," NCDXC's John Eisenberg, K6YP, said. "It is critical to the ongoing life of our hobby to recruit new blood into our ranks. We all know this, but it is difficult to organize and take effective action to start programs to introduce new people to the joys of HF operating. We can't generate new DXers until we have new HF operators."

NCDXC said its Elmering Project is aimed squarely at swelling the pool of new HF operators and getting them on HF. After some introductory classes, three curriculum tracks are offered: General License Exam Preparation, HF Operating and Station Building, and Advanced Topics. Students sign up only for the classes that interest them; instruction will be at the participant's skill level. The club said classes will cover such topics as advanced HF phone, CW, and digital mode operating skills, propagation analysis, and antennas. Some classes will be taught using PowerPoint presentations delivered to a student's computer via WebEx.

"Participants need no special software, as WebEx allows each user to see and hear the presentation and participate in the two-way audio stream," Eisenberg said. "Students may be local or on the other side of the country." Additional instruction by personal Elmers will take place at the Elmer's shack, where students will gain on-the-air

experience using the skills they've been learning.

"Our goal is to put new hams on the air on the HF bands and give them the tools to enjoy the many aspects of the HF experience," Eisenberg said. "We will strive to make each class fun. We want each participant to succeed!"

More information about each track and the classes it contains are on the NCDXC website, along with the PowerPoint presentations.

### **Hurricane Watch Net Activates for Tropical Cyclone Franklin**

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) activated on August 9 to keep an eye on then-Tropical Cyclone Franklin -- which was upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall between Tampico and Veracruz, Mexico, early on August 10.

"Reports from Mexico were few and far between," HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, reported afterward. "We did hear from hams in Campeche and Puebla. Our Spanish operators did a great job in working to find reporting stations on the Mexican 40-meter emergency nets, but we were never able to find stations on the air or else we received interference from elsewhere. During the day, 20-meter propagation was not that good, but we had members in various locations throughout the US, Caribbean, and Central America that were able to reach the affected area." After an 11-hour activation, HWN suspended operations. "We will continue working to encourage radio amateurs throughout the

Caribbean to get on the air and participate whenever a hurricane threatens their area," Graves said.

The net was monitoring 14.325.00 MHz on August 10 to gather post-storm reports.

The VoIP Hurricane Net reported that it was informally active from about 1200 UTC on August 9 until 0600 UTC on August 10. Franklin is now weakening rapidly over the mountains of Mexico. Graves also monitored the \*WX\_TALK\* Echolink conference node 7203/IRLP 9219 network and spoke with Carlos Guzman, XE2WCG, with whom he'd worked previously.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami on August 10 reported that Franklin was weakening over Mexico. Franklin was expected to produce total rainfall of 4 to 8 inches, with isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches possible. -- Thanks to Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, and Rob Macedo, KD1CY

### **Historic Project Amelia Earhart Flight Ends Successfully**

His 'round-the-world Project Amelia Earhart commemorative flight now complete, pilot and radio amateur Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, is back on his home turf in Texas. The solo circumnavigation in his single-engine plane Spirit took a little longer than 2 months.

"I did it! I did it!" Lloyd exclaimed to the crowd awaiting his arrival at Kestrel Airpark in Texas on August 4. "This was not a solo flight. This was a flight that was supported by hundreds of people," he said after landing. Lloyd logged hundreds of Amateur Radio contacts over the course of his entire

adventure, which was funded by The Classic Aircraft Aviation Museum and through other donations. He retraced the route the famous aviator never finished in 1937.

A problem with the plane's fuel system at the approximate halfway point caused Lloyd to turn back for repairs. That and some poor weather delayed his return to Texas by a few days.

At mid-week, Lloyd wrote in his blog that he was working up "all the information about my flight to both Earthrounders and the NAA [National Aeronautic Association], so that my circumnavigation becomes official."

Lloyd said on his website that he's not sure what to attempt next. "There is still Lindbergh's flight and a shot at the world speed record over the route from NYC to Paris," he mused. He acknowledged that a lot of hams he contacted are waiting for a QSL card. "Trying to fly, make contacts, and getting the info onto paper is a challenge," he said.

Lloyd landed in Oakland, California, on July 31, marking his return to the Continental US. On his final leg, he visited the Amelia Earhart Museum in Atchison, Kansas, before ending his epic flight at his home airfield, Kestrel Airpark in Texas, where the celebration awaited. Lloyd crossed the meridian that passes through Kestrel Airpark on his way to Atchison, Earhart's birthplace, at that point successfully circumnavigating the globe.

After landing in Texas, Lloyd offered his remaining supply of granola bars that had traveled with him around the globe to those crowding around Spirit.

The actual length of his 'round-the-world flight was 34,463 miles, Lloyd determined after reviewing his flight log. "If you include the hops where I had to turn back for problems and test hops after maintenance, the distance would have been over 31,000 nautical miles," he noted. "That is a long way to fly." The entire trip took 66 days, with some 200 hours in the air. -- Thanks to Brian Lloyd, WB6RQN, and Jim Linton, VK3PC.

### **In Brief...**

**RSVP for the SEQP: The Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP)** is just a couple of weeks away! This special operating event organized by the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) will study ionospheric effects caused by the August 21 total solar eclipse. During the SEQP, hams are being asked to operate on the HF bands in a manner similar to a contest or QSO party. Let the HamSCI researchers know where you plan to be and what modes you plan to operate. Visit the SEQP Pre-Registration page. Systems such as the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN), PSKReporter, and WSPRNet are good resources for the event. Participants' logs will provide the contact and spot data that researchers at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and at Virginia Tech will use to study eclipse-induced ionospheric effects. Event rules and operating procedures are available on the HamSCI website.

**NCDXF Announces \$100,000 Contribution to the 3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition:** The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) has announced a contribution of \$100,000 to the 3Y0Z Bouvet Island DXpedition

planned for January 2018. Bouvet is #2 on the ClubLog Most Wanted DXCC List. The contribution was the largest in the history of the NCDXF. "The 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island early next year is likely to be one of the most expensive DXpeditions ever attempted -- estimated at over \$740,000," NCDXF Vice President Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said in announcing the donation. "The 20 team members have already contributed just over half of this amount." In addition to substantial financial resources, the 3Y0Z DXpedition will require a considerable amount of radial wire for its vertical antennas. Team member Jim Mornar, N9TK, has been preparing the radials, putting the cut-to-length wire on spools. The radials total 24,000 feet. -- Thanks to NCDXF, The Daily DX

### **Senate Confirms Rosenworcel, Carr to Join FCC, Chairman Pai's Reconfirmation Pending:**

By voice vote, the US Senate on August 3 confirmed President Trump's nominees to fill the two empty seats on the FCC -- Democrat Jessica Rosenworcel, a former commissioner, and Brendan Carr, the FCC general counsel, a Republican. The five-member FCC now has three Republicans and two Democrats. "I congratulate Brendan and Jessica on their confirmations," said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. "As I know from working with each of them for years, they have distinguished records of public service and will be valuable assets to the FCC in the years to come. Their experience at the FCC makes them particularly well-suited to hit the ground running. I'm pleased that the FCC will once again be at full strength and look forward to collaborating to close the digital divide,



promote innovation, protect consumers, and improve the agency's operations." Pai, who was named by the president in January to succeed Democratic Chairman Tom Wheeler, must be reconfirmed by the Senate by the end of the year or step down. The other commissioners are Republican Michael O'Rielly and Democrat Mignon Clyburn.

**AMSAT Phase 4 Ground Station Team Represented at DEF CON:** Amateur Radio and AMSAT were prominently featured this year at the DEF CON Hacking Conference in Las Vegas. In addition to a license exam session were Amateur Radio demonstrations of software-defined radio, Phase 4 Ground, and GNU Radio flow graphs at WiFi Village. "The Amateur-Satellite service was of great interest," said Michelle Thompson, W5NYV, the Phase 4 Ground team leader. "At an estimated 30,000 attendees, outreach was highly successful. Participants were diverse, technical, curious, and came ready with the questions." Thompson said a lot of those on hand were radio amateurs or interested in getting a ham license. Amateur Radio was also part of the Wi-Fi Village "Capture the Flag" competition, she said. "Word on the street is that next year we [can] expect to see a lot more ham content in this exciting signal intelligence competition," Thompson said, adding that she's already looking forward to next year's conference. She noted that AMSAT Phase 4 Ground team will deliver a presentation at the GNU Radio Conference next month in San Diego, and at the AMSAT Symposium in October in Reno. -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service via Michelle Thompson, W5NYV.

## Digital FM:

While I am by no means an expert on Digital FM, I will share what limited knowledge that I have thanks to Rudy Walls, KK4TLW.

I operate the following digital modes from my ham shack here at home: Basic DMR, Extended DMR, D-Star and C4FM,(System Fusion).

What I call "Basic" DMR is what is accomplished by using a mobile/base radio or an HT. There are many radio manufacturers, so, finding a radio shouldn't be a problem. I would shy away from the Motorola brand radios because it is very expensive to purchase the license and software to program those radios. I would recommend either TYT or Connect Systems for a couple of reasons. Number 1 is the fact that they are relatively inexpensive and the software and hardware required to program them are readily available. With a basic DMR radio, you can talk all over the United States and the world.

Extended DMR requires the use of a "dongle" of some sort. There is the all popular DV4Mini available from Wireless Holding which is capable of the following digital modes: D-Star, DMR, DPMR, C4FM, P25 and NXD/DAS. The DV4 Mini must be plugged into a computer and the software downloaded. While the DV4Mini is capable of doing many different digital modes, it can only do one at a time.

Also, you can use a dongle with a raspberryPi. I personally have a DVMega with a RadpberryPi.

D-Star, another fun and exciting digital mode where you can talk to the world. This mode can also be done through the DV4Mini or a dongle with a RaspberryPi. Personally, I use a DVAP Dongle connected to a RaspberryPi. In many areas, there are D-Star repeaters that you can connect directly to and talk either local or world wide. When D-Star first became available, you had to have an ICOM radio. Recently, Kenwood has made its debut into the D-Star market with the TH-74, which is an HT capable of doing 2 meters, 220 MHz and 440 MHz in addition to D-Star.

C4FM (System Fusion) Is another digital mode that you can make contacts all over the world.

The big drawback to all these digital modes is that you have to have a radio dedicated to the mode that you wish to operate on. These radios can be purchased either from dealers, eBay or Amazon.com.

Each mode has many different reflectors or chat groups that you can connect to and talk to people from all over the world.

The one thing that all these digital modes have in common is the fact that they have to have internet access, either local or at the repeater site.

There are local DMR repeaters in the area that you can connect to. Cary, Goldsboro, Raleigh and many others. More information on DMR may be found at NCPRN.net.

C4FM, (System Fusion) is a Yaesu proprietary product meaning that you must have one of several Yaesu radios capable of operating C4FM. C4FM has many

capabilities such as, the ability to send photographs, and small files.

Some of these digital radios also incorporate digital APRS in addition to the digital mode that the radio is capable of. APRS-Automatic Position Reporting System is used by many amateur radio operators throughout the world for various reasons. Mainly, it is used for tracking amateur radio operators and reporting their position. A demonstration of this can be found by going to: <https://aprs.fi>

I have used the term “RaspberryPi” several times in this article. A RaspberryPi is nothing more than a “Pocket” PC. It is a computer that can virtually fit into a shirt pocket. Until you burn an image to an SD card, the RaspberryPi is a computer without an operating system. Once you burn the image to the SD card and insert it into the RaspberryPi, the world is yours to play with.

One of the advantages of digital FM is that, you can talk to the world without expensive HF radios, tuners or antennae. Also, you don't have to worry about propagation.

The disadvantage to digital FM is that you have to have the internet available and that can either be through your home WiFi or cell phone, but you have to have it in order for digital FM to work.

I realize that I just touched the tip of the iceberg in this article. But, hopefully, that was enough to get people interested in the wonderful world of digital FM. Hopefully, at

one of the meetings Rudy and I can give a live demonstration and you can see for yourself just how much fun this can be.

73 de KD4MC

### Ham Humor:

Copyright © 1998 by Greg Trook



"Mr. Nelson...I'm afraid you will have to leave the air for a while during this procedure."

### Johnston County ARRL VE Team:

The Johnston County ARRL VE Team offers amateur radio license exams on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm at the American Red Cross in Smithfield located at 805-A S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The cost is \$15.00. You will need a valid photo ID. IF you are already licensed, you will need proof of licensure. More information can be obtained by contacting Michael Callam, KD4MC, either

at 919-934-9623 or by email at [mcallam@centurylink.net](mailto:mcallam@centurylink.net)

### NC Section NEWS:

ARRL NC Section Newsletter

June – July 2017

Greetings from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT IS INTRODUCED IN US SENATE – The Amateur

Radio Parity Act of 2017 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12,

marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. Roger

Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) are the Senate sponsors.

The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs

living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowner's

association (HOA) or subject to any private land use regulations, the

right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes.

The Senate bill, S. 1534, is identical to H.R. 555, which passed the US

House of Representatives in January. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-is-introduced-in-us-senate>

(source: ARRL website)

ARRL PRESIDENT ISSUES CALL FOR MEMBERS TO REACH OUT TO THEIR SENATORS TO

SUPPORT S1534 – ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, is calling on

League members to urge their US Senators to support the Amateur Radio

Parity Act of 2017, S. 1534. ARRL has opened a RallyCongress page to

simplify the task. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-president-issues-call-for-members-to-reach-out-to-their-senators-to-support-s-1534>

(source: ARRL website)

REMINDER! REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS (7/31 to

8/6) – Registration is now under way for the 2017 USA and

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 championships of

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF), which will take place August 3-6

near Harrison, Ohio, northwest of Cincinnati near the Indiana state

line. Three optional training days are planned for Monday through

Wednesday, July 31-August 2 near Harrison, just prior to the

championships. If you have never experienced a full ARDF course, this

is your chance to do so in a friendly environment. Your only opponent

will be the clock. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/registration-now-open-for-usa-ardf-championships>

(source: KOOV, ARRL website)

DAVE KALTER, KB8OCP, MEMORIAL YOUTH DX ADVENTURE SET TO START ON AUGUST

3 (8/3-7) – Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure (YDXA) Team Leader

Jim Storms, AB8YK, said this year's YDXA contingent of three youths,

three parents, and two leaders will travel to Costa Rica on August 3 and

plan to be on the air that evening.

T15/<home call sign> operations

will continue until the evening of August 7.

For further information,

see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/dave-kalter-kb8ocp-memorial-youth-dx-adventure-set-to-start-on-august-3>

(sources: The Daily DX, ARRL website)

MANY SPECIAL EVENTS WILL BE ON THE AIR TO MARK THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

IN AUGUST (8/21) – For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/many-special-events-will-be-on-the-air-to-mark-the-total-solar-eclipse-in-august>

(source: ARRL website)

61st ANNUAL SHELBY HAMFEST/ARRL NC STATE CONVENTION (9/1-3) – The 61st

Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL NC State Convention, sponsored by the Shelby

Amateur Radio Club – W4NYR, will be held on Friday, Saturday, and

Sunday, September 1st to the 3rd, at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds,

1751 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150.

On Friday, the hours of

operation are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. On Saturday and Sunday, the gates

open at 7:00 AM. The inside Dealer Buildings will be open 9:00 AM –

5:00 PM on Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 8:00 AM – 1:00

PM on Sunday. Talk-In: 146.880 MHz (-), no tone, W4NYR Repeater. For

further information on the Shelby Hamfest, see

<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/> (source: Shelby Hamfest website)

REMINDER! W4DXCC DX AND CONTEST CONVENTION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

(9/22-23) – Registration now is open for the 2017 W4DXCC DX and

Contest Convention, the Southeast's largest and most popular DX and

contesting event, September 22-23, at the MainStay Suites in Pigeon

Forge, Tennessee. The convention will feature presenters speaking on DX

and contesting, equipment manufacturers – on hand to demonstrate new

products and answer questions face to face, and a banquet. This year's

event will continue the Ham Radio Bootcamp to mentor newcomers and

experienced hams alike on station and antenna construction, operating,

digital modes, DXing, and contesting. The convention website has full

details. – Thanks to Dave Anderson, K4SV. For further information,

see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/w4dxcc-dx-and-contest-convention-registration-now-open>

(source: K4SV, ARRL website)

BOY SCOUTS' JAMBOREE ON THE AIR ANNOUNCES THEME FOR 60TH ANNUAL EVENT

(10/20-22) – "60 Years Connecting Scouts" is the theme for the Boy

Scouts' 2017 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), set for October 20-22. For

further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/boy-scouts-jamboree-on-the-air-announces-theme-for-60th-annual-event>

(source: ARRL website)

#### BOUVET ISLAND 3Y0Z DXPEDITION ORGANIZERS PLANNING FOR 14 TO 16 DAYS ON

THE AIR (JANUARY, 2018) – The organizers of the January 2018 3Y0Z

DXpedition to Bouvet Island — the second most-wanted DXCC entity,

according to Club Log’s DXCC Most Wanted List — said the team

continues to refine its plans and, “depending on weather and other

factors,” hopes to be on the air for 14 to 16 days. For further

information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/bouvet-island-3y0z-dxpedition-organizers-planning-for-14-to-16-days-on-the-air>

(sources: K0IR, K4UEE, and LA6VM for the 3Y0Z team; ARRL website)

#### THIRTEEN US SCHOOLS/GROUPS MOVE CLOSER TO HOSTING ARISS CONTACTS –

Thirteen schools and organizations will move into the second phase of

the selection process to host the earthbound end of an Amateur Radio

contact with an International Space Station (ISS) crew. Moore Square

AIG/GT Magnet School in Raleigh is one of 13 schools being considered.

For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/thirteen-us-schools-groups-move-closer-to-hosting-ariss-contacts>

(source: ARRL website)

#### ARRL STILL SEEKING VINTAGE DXPEDITION LOGS FOR ARCHIVE – ARRL

continues to solicit paper logs of prominent DXpeditions that took place

predominantly in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, for inclusion in The DX

Log Archive Endowed by JA1BK. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-still-seeking-vintage-dxpedition-logs-for-archive>

(source: ARRL website)

#### BAND PLAN PROPOSED FOR EVENTUAL 472-479 KHZ USE – ARRL 630-Meter

Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, has proposed an informal band

plan for the pending 472-479 kHz band. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/band-plan-proposed-for-eventual-472-479-khz-use>

(source: ARRL website)

## GROUP SELECTED TO PURSUE DXPEDITION TO BAKER ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE

REFUGE – The Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office of the US

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has selected the Dateline DX Association

(DDXA) — the DXpedition group that activated Howland Island in 2009

and Wake Island in 1998 — to pursue a DXpedition to Baker Island.

Dates have not yet been determined. Baker and Howland Islands (KH1) are

part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM),

created by former President George W. Bush in 2009. Baker and Howland

is the fourth most-wanted DXCC entity on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted

List. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/Group%20Selected%20to%20Pursue%20DXpedition%20to%20Baker%20Island%20National%20Wildlife%20Refuge>

(source: ARRL website)

## REVISED FCC FORM 605 WILL ASK APPLICANTS "THE FELONY QUESTION" – A

revised FCC Form 605 — Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the

Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General

Mobile Radio Services — going into effect in September will ask all

applicants to indicate if they have been convicted of or pled guilty to

a felony. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/revised-fcc-form-605-will-ask-applicants-the-felony-question>

(source: ARRL website)

## CQ ANNOUNCES RULE CHANGES FOR 2017 CQ WORLD WIDE SSB AND CW EVENTS –

CQ has announced updates to its rules for the CQ World Wide SSB and CW

contests, effective this fall, and said complete rules will be published

soon. The changes clarify the definition of multioperator, single

transmitter (MS); spell out club definitions and residency requirements;

restrict ITU Region 1 stations transmitting frequencies on 40 and 160

meters; address audio recording requirements; and, impose greater

penalties for so-called "rubber clocking." ... The SSB weekend is

October 29-30. The CW weekend is November 26-27. For further

information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/cq-announces-rule-changes-for-2017-cq-world-wide-ssb-and-cw-events>

(source: ARRL website)

#### ARRL PUBLISHES ITS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

– For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-publishes-its-2016-annual-report> (source:

ARRL website)

#### ARRL CONTEST RULE CHANGES, CLARIFICATIONS REFLECT “BEST PRACTICES”

IN RADIOSPORT – Just ahead of the 2017-2018 contest season, ARRL has

announced rule changes and clarifications to League-sponsored contests.

These include an improved process for submitting logs and reporting

scores. Unless otherwise noted, these changes become effective starting

with the September VHF Contest. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-contest-rule-changes-clarifications-reflect-best-practices-in-radiosport>

(source: ARRL website)

#### ISLANDS ON THE AIR (IOTA) OFFICIALLY LAUNCHING NEW WEBSITE IN SEPTEMBER

– For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/islands-on-the-air-iota-officially-launching-new-website-in-september>

(source: ARRL website)

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur

radio operators is reported: Charles Harvey ("Duke") Harrison, K2MZ (SK)

of Mebane; William Raymond Kress III, K4FGA (SK) of Raleigh; and, Lewis

Ford Robertson, Jr, W4GKC (SK) of Raleigh. 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 –

August 21: Solar Eclipse 2017 Lexington South Carolina, 0000Z-1900Z,

N4S, Gastonia, NC. Greater Gaston Amateur Radio Society. 14.235 7.195

7.180 3.895. QSL. Robert Wells, 409 Elizabeth Street, Gastonia, NC

28054. [w7csa@yahoo.com](mailto:w7csa@yahoo.com) or [www.ggars.org](http://www.ggars.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)

During Field Day weekend, I visited eleven (11) club sites on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Friday evening, I visited the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society in Knightdale. Then, on Saturday morning, I got up early and visited the following sites in western NC, accompanied by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club in Winston-Salem; Foothills Amateur Radio Club in Moravian Falls; Watauga Amateur Radio Club in Blowing Rock; Mayland Amateur Radio Club in Bakersville; Haywood County Amateur Radio Club in Clyde; Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club in Hendersonville; and, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society in Asheville. On Sunday, we drove home and visited these clubs on the way: Lenoir Amateur Radio Club/Caldwell ARES in Lenoir; Foothills Community Workshop in Granite Falls; and, Iredell County Amateur Radio Society in Statesville. As always, It was great seeing all of the Field Day sites, meeting everyone, and learning about each club's solutions for

operating in a temporary, portable setting. I regret that I was unable to travel as far west as Cherokee County to visit Field Day sites in the area. However, this year, I was able to visit four (4) clubs in western NC that I did not visit during my trip in 2014. I wish that I could have been in two places at once! Please take a look at the HamRadioNow video on our Field Day site visits: see <https://www.hamradionow.tv/episodes/2017/7/12/hrn-334-field-day-tour>

On Saturday, July 15th, I attended the Mid-Summer SWAPFEST in Cary. The weather was clear, but hot. As always, it was great visiting with everyone!

On July 21st, the building housing one of the Field Day sites that we visited, the Foothills Community Workshop in Granite Hills, was destroyed by fire. Fortunately, no one was injured. For further information, see <http://fcwhack.com/>

Finally, in the ARRL Contest Update for July 26, 2017, I found this link

to a website with information on schematics and service information for Astron power supplies. I thought this information would be very useful, in addition to contacting the manufacturer for assistance. And, I thought you might find it useful, as well. Here is the link:

<http://www.repeater-builder.com/astron/astron-index.html>

Thanks to the

ARRL Contest Update and the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative

Facebook page for providing this information!

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! 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)

### Last, but not least:

It is that time of year again where we need to be thinking of who we want to lead us through the next year. At this month's meeting, a nominating committee will be formed. They will either round up or railroad a worthy list of candidates for each position. If you are interested in running for a position, (who am I kidding, we are JARS after all), let the nominating committee know after the meeting.

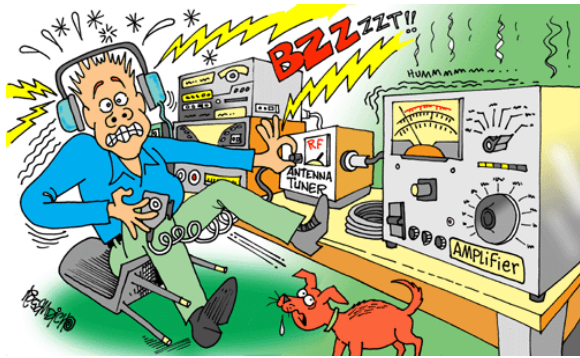
#### JARS Officials for 2017:

|                 |         |        |
|-----------------|---------|--------|
| President       | Aaron   | KK4KFG |
| V. President    | Jamey   | NC0J   |
| Secretary       | Peggy   | KJ4OPH |
| Treasurer       | Paul    | KD4BJD |
| Membership      | Dianne  | KE4VNX |
| Net Whip        | Stephen | KJ4QNW |
| Philosopher     | John    | N4RMV  |
| Editor          | Mike    | KD4MC  |
| Ham of the Year | Aaron   | KK4KFG |

**Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**

**PO Box 302**

**Benson, NC 27504**



That does it for another edition of the Official Organ. I hope that you enjoy it and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73 de Mike, KD4MC