

The “*Official Organ*”

The official newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society

October 2018 edition

Meeting this Thursday;

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday, October 18th, at Bernie’s Southern Gourmet Buffett, located at 10365 US Hwy 70 W, Clayton, NC 27520. We usually start eating between 6:00 and 6:30 pm. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Don’t forget that dues are due. You will be able to pay Dianne, KE4VNX, at the meeting. Dues are \$30.00 for individual and \$35.00 for family. The Officers/Board meeting that was scheduled for this past Thursday, has been rescheduled for this coming Tuesday, October 16th at the Grill on the Hill, which is located at 3405 NC-242, Benson, NC 27504, which is near the intersection of NC 242 and Interstate 40. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm. The minutes of this meeting will be sent out as a separate attachment before the meeting on Thursday.

Life on the Farm:

In the past month we have had two hurricanes, Florence and Michael which is ironic since my name is Michael. The one before Michael was Leslie, which is also the name of my oldest niece. I told her that if she had done her job as a lesser hurricane, her old(er) uncle would not have had to come ashore and show her how as hurricane was supposed to be.

Velda had surgery on her left elbow and wrist last Friday. She is recovering nicely from that. She still has to wear a sling until she sees the doctor this coming week. I injured my left shoulder about six weeks ago and went to see the doctor. He gave me a steroid injection and said that if that did not work, he would have to operate. As soon as Velda is healed from her latest surgeries, I will tell him to sharpen the knife for me. We have to have at least one of us with all four limbs operational. We have acquired two new animals at our home. Last winter, we acquired a kitten for Velda’s sister that spends its days here and just sleeps at her sister’s house. This summer, she wanted a dog so we got her a rescue puppy that is a mix dachshund and some other small dog that spends all day here and sleeps at her sister’s house. Every morning, both animals wake up and give her a fit to come to our house because they feel that this is their home. The cats name is Midnight and the dog’s name is Sandy.

That does it for “Life on the Farm”.

73 from Mike (KD4MC), Velda (K4VJC), Remington (Hairy Hound), Tabitha (Krazy Kat), Midnight (Tom Cat) and Sandy (Dog and a half long and half a dog high).

Presidential Comments:

We are getting off to a good start in my second round as JARS president. I have an excellent vice president, Scott, KJ4TUC. We

are working together as a well-oiled machine. We both have some great ideas and goals for JARS. We both want JARS to get more involved in community activities and become more visible to the community. Some of these ideas will be discussed at the meeting next week. I like the idea of having an officers/board meeting prior to the regular meeting. I feel that this will make the regular meeting go a lot smoother. These meetings are always open for members to attend. However, if you have an idea, recommendation or complaint that you want brought up at the officers/board meeting, let one of us know prior to the meeting. The minutes of this meeting will usually be in the "*Official Organ*", as I plan to have them the week prior to the regular meeting. On the event that we have to reschedule the meeting due to weather, the minutes will be sent out prior to the regular meeting. I belong to other clubs that do it this way, and it makes the meeting go a lot smoother and the membership is always aware of what is going on in the organization.

73 de Mike (KD4MC), your president.

Comments from our Vice President:

From your Vice-President Scott Wilkinson
KJ4TUC

There has been some discussion among some of the members of wanting to change the location of our club meetings. President Callam and myself have been investigating several other possibilities. Efforts were made to see that the meetings are held in

Johnston County, handicapped accessible and convenient to the majority of the members. These ideas will be shared with the membership at the next club meeting.

Anyone with experience and talent of putting PL-259 connectors on coax cable, and experience and talent of installing radios and other electronic equipment in vehicles, your help is needed. Contact Paul Dunn and let him know when you would be available to volunteer to help with JarsComm. (our big yellow truck, Communications Command Post). This vehicle is a work in progress and our goal is to have it recognized as an official Communications Emergency Response Vehicle by Johnston County Emergency Management in the near future.

JarsComm will also be featured at Mule Days in Benson. JARS members have been asked to help with traffic control during the parade. All you will need to bring is your walkie-talkie. Contact Paul Dunn if you can volunteer to help that day.

There was a discussion at our last club meeting about the possibility of creating an official JARS Logo to be embroidered on shirts, patches, and used on decals and stickers. By wearing an official looking uniformed shirt with an embroidered logo or patch would present a professional image at public events, Jars Fest, anytime we are deployed on JarsComm, and working in the Emergency Operations Center alongside public safety. If you have a shirt with a logo on it from another organization you

belong to, wear it to the club meeting so we can get some ideas. Anyone with any ideas, bring drawings or examples to the next meeting on October 18 for discussion.

Planning is underway for our annual JarsFest Ham Fest November 18. This is our club's major fund raiser to pay all our other expenses throughout the year. Sign up if you can help in any way. More details at the club meeting October 18. This event draws in people from all over three states and some further. There is expected to be a large display of Ham and electronic equipment for sale. This is known as the Biggest little Ham event in Eastern North Carolina. This is also a chance to meet in person some of those people you have only talked to on the radio. As it has been said: "Ham Fest are a chance to meet old friends for the first time".

The topic for our educational program at the October 18 club meeting will be Emergency Preparedness – Getting Ready for Winter. Our two resident experts Doug Williams and Ryan Leathers will provide information and instruction on how we can get ready to survive a winter storm. All other members are encouraged to participate by sharing your experiences especially if you were directly impacted by Hurricane Florence in eastern North Carolina. Find out from each other what worked, what didn't work, and how to prepare for the next event. I would especially like to hear from our Public Safety professionals and know what items you had in your "go-kit".

Topics that will be discussed are:

- > What to do when the power goes out at your house,
- > Long term food storage and food preparation when there is no electric power, and how to prepare and eat an MRE,
- > Use and safety of generators,
- > Being confined to your house for 3 days after a snow or ice storm,
- > List of supplies to buy before winter (extra toilet paper, water, etc.),
- > Survival tips for being out driving in your car during a snow or ice storm (example: go bag, water, food snacks, etc., and driving advice),

> ... and any other ideas you might have.

Things that I do personally every November are:

- > Safety inspection and routine maintenance on all vehicles so they will be reliable and dependable throughout the winter,
- > Check generator,
- > Have non-perishable food (MREs, etc.) on hand,
- > Check first-aid supplies,
- > Routine maintenance check for house furnace,
- > Clean up yard and remove any hazards from yard,

As most of our members strive to help others during an emergency, we have to know how to take care of ourselves first, so let's try to learn from each other on October 18.

For weekly tips and updates on emergency preparedness listen to the Prep Net every Tuesday night at 9:00 PM on 147.270

A good resource: on the web or app on your phone is: ReadyNC.org

Things everyone should have in the trunk of their car:

These are items that are standard equipment in most police cars:

1. If the trunk of your car is big enough get a small **footlocker** or plastic box to carry items.
2. Extra **Flashlight** or lantern with extra batteries.
3. **24-inch pry bar**, can be used to bend back sheet metal or leverage to lift heavy objects or prying open door jams.
4. **Shovel and Broom**, a small shovel can be purchased at any Army Surplus store.
5. **Axe or hatchet**, you never know when you may need to remove a tree limb from the roadway.
6. **Flares** or battery-operated blinking lights to warn traffic of lane changes ahead.
7. **Fire Extinguisher**, Seeing the unthinkable, you are driving down the road and you witness a wreck, and people are trapped in a burning vehicle. *I actually witnessed this. Myself and several other bystanders had fire extinguishers.*
8. **Plastic bags** (X-2 each), various sizes, from food storage bags to large trash bags.
9. **Duct tape**, has a thousand different uses.
10. **Jumper Cables** and/or **Jumpstart battery pack**. *I've used mine a*

hundred times helping out stranded motorist.

11. **Maps**, (local and state), even though a lot of people now a days have GPS, everyone still needs to know how to read a map and use a compass. www.mapshop.com
12. **Tool box**, have a basic tool box or bag with small hand tools. (Pliers, Wrench, Screwdrivers, in various sizes, & a hammer, tape measure, plastic wire ties, electrical tape)
13. **Hand sanitizer, and 1 gallon of water, and paper towels** for cleaning.
14. **Work Gloves** – protect against glass and sheet metal cuts.
15. **Safety Traffic Vest**, yellow or orange traffic vest
16. **First Aid Kit, get** one and fill it with more than just the standard you would buy at the store. It's best to make your own based on what you think you may need and your level of training. In addition, have a **blood born pathogen kit** containing: rubber gloves, face mask, safety glasses, protective plastic sheets, disposable apron to protect clothing, and plastic bag to dispose of contaminated items.
17. **Blanket**, can be used for keeping warm, treating first aid patients, or using as a sanitation barrier.
18. **Cooler – special for Summer hot weather**, In the Summer carry a small ice filled cooler with small water bottles. It's refreshing to have a cold drink and nice to give one to a friend in need on a hot summer day.
19. **Spot light / flood light** – for searching a large area or field.
20. **Cell Phone, and/or 2-way radio**
21. **Extra cash money & one credit card.**

22. **Change of clothes and personal items**, in case you unexpectedly have to spend the night away from home or your clothing becomes soiled and needs changing.
23. **Food, snacks, MRE, and drinking water.**

Check all lights, engine fluids, tires, etc., to make sure the vehicle is in good working order.

Policy: Never go home with less than 1/2 tank of gas, and at any time never let your vehicle get below 1/4 tank of gas.

Secretary Report:

Minutes from JARS September meeting

Meeting called to order by Mike KD4MC - JARS President

Opening prayer was led by John Paul, AB4PP

Opening Remarks- Mike thanked Mark Gibson, N4MQU, for leading JARS for the past year

Mike stated that in the past several years many good recommendations and changes were made and passed, but not documented. Mike plans to keep written note of the changes and have them amended in the constitution and bylaws as needed.

Reading of the Minutes- Velda, K4VJC, read the minutes from the August minutes. The minutes were read and approved.

Vice President's Report-Scott reported that he, Mark Gibson (N4MQU), Velda Callam (K4VJC) and Mike Callam (KD4MC) took JARSCOM to a mass casualty exercise in Edgecombe County. There were several ham radio operators there. The exercise was for graduating paramedics. A ham radio operator was assigned to a group of students, to the makeshift hospital and the command post. It was a very interesting and educational experience.

Net Reports- Stephen (KJ4QNW) stated that all nets are being covered. However, he could use some more net controls and some substitute net controls. Get in touch with Stephen if you are interested.

Treasurer's Report- Paul stated that our balance will be greatly reduced as JARSfest draws near.

Repeater Report- Van (KM4TC) stated that the Auburn Repeater Corporation is trying to get together to get an update on getting the 147.270 relocated and new antennas.

Membership Report- Dianne (KE4VNX) presented an application from Robert, "Bob" Jones (KN4MRV) for membership. Bob was accepted into the JARS.

Media/Newsletter Report- Mike (KD4MC) has been granted access to the calendar on the JARS website, jars.net. He will be posting JARS meetings other than our regular meetings. He also said that he would very much like to get more contributions from the members. Items that can be sent in

are reviews of any new/used equipment that you get, pictures of your equipment, towers, vehicle installations and any rare DX contacts you make.

Respectfully submitted Velda Callam
(K4VJC)

New Business:

Auxcomm-Scott Lewis, the Johnston County EC worked long shifts at the Johnston County EOC during Hurricane Florence. He also stated that at the EOC some antennas need to be replaced and cables run for the radio room. Scott also mentioned that he appointed Ryan (N4RL) as assistant EC for Johnston County.

Meeting Location- since the quality of the food at Bernie's has been going downhill, we may need to look at other locations. Returning to Panther Branch was brought up. Also, Ryan (N4RL) is going to look at possibly getting his church to allow us to hold our meetings there. Also, the possibility of going to Grandsons in Smithfield.

A JARSCom committee was formed to help Paul organize installation of radios and anything else that we could do to help Paul out.

It was brought up about the older, heavy particle board tables that we have been using for JARSFest. It was decided that we could replace them with lighter, plastic tables.

A constitution and bylaws committee was formed to handle any updates or amendments to the constitution and bylaws and present them to the club

Mike (KD4MC) is going to set up a JARSFest committee meeting for next Thursday, September 27th. As soon as he secures a location, he will send out an email.

Board Meetings- Mike would like to have a monthly board/officers meeting one week prior to our regular meeting. This is an open meeting meaning that all are invited to attend. If you have something that you want brought up at the meeting, get in touch with one of the board/officers prior to the meeting. The minutes of this meeting will be included in the newsletter.

Mike brought up the idea of having one member in charge of sending cards/flowers, or making a donation on behalf of the club in the event of illness or death of a member. It was decided that there would be a limit of \$100.00. Dianne (KE4VNX) was appointed to be in charge. If anyone knows of a death or illness, please let Dianne know by email as soon as you find out. The list was limited to members, spouses, children, parents and grandparents and former members if they left the club in good standing.

We need to be thinking about where we want to hold our JARS Christmas dinner. Tommy has agreed to cook for us.

Mule Days was postponed due to safety factors resulting from Hurricane Fran. Mule Days parade will be on Saturday, October 27th. JARS has agreed to help with the parade. This will be discussed in further detail at the October meeting.

Tommy (N4CBI) told us that Emily's (K4WZG) mother was very bad off and approaching the end.

DUES-Dianne (KE4VNX) reminded us that dues are due through the end of December.

JARS Logo- Scott (KJ4TUC) presented some ideas for logos to put on shirts like what Mike (KD4MC) had on. Paul said that he could possibly get patches made for us.

LOM- Mark (N4MQU) awarded the LOM to Stan (WA2KQY).

The program was presented by Marshall Sherrard (KE4ZNR) about public safety communications and scanners.

The meeting was adjourned at 850 pm

Respectfully submitted by Velda Callam (K4VJC).

JARS Movie Night:

Movie night is Sunday Oct.21, at the Smithfield Cinemas at 175 South Equity Dr Smithfield NC 27577. We have two we can go to the first is Goosebumps 2 start time is 4:35 it is PG. The other is Venom start time 4:20 rated PG13. Let me know which one you would like to see. Can go to Smithfield Cinemas to see trailers. Let Dianne (KE4VNX) know your preference as soon as possible. Her email is ke4vnx@yahoo.com.

Ham Radio Humor:



ARRL News:

Amateur Radio Assets Active as Category 4 Hurricane Michael Makes Landfall

An array of Amateur Radio public service assets was active as Hurricane Michael -- now a tropical storm -- made landfall near Mexico Beach on the Florida Panhandle on October 10, with devastating 155 MPH winds. The storm is believed to be the first Category 4 or stronger hurricane to hit the Florida Panhandle, and the National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned of life-threatening storm surge as well as hurricane-force winds and heavy rainfall.



The

Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) activated on October 10 and closed operations the following day.

[WX4NHC](#), the Amateur Radio at the National Hurricane Center, was active to receive observed weather information and data via Amateur Radio to aid forecasters.

The [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) activated on October 10 to support communication with the National Hurricane Center.

The Southern Territory Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network ([SATERN](#)) stood down on October 11. SATERN was requested to provide Amateur Radio operators for Pensacola, Panama City, Tallahassee, and Tampa, as well as some local units in Georgia, and at Divisional Headquarters in Atlanta.

The ARRL North Florida and West Central Florida sections assisted SATERN with additional operators in Pensacola, Panama City, Tallahassee, and Tampa. North Florida Section ARES was at Level 1 (full) activation.

Miller Norton, W4EMN, the Communications Watch Officer at the

Duval County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Jacksonville, Florida, was monitoring [SARnet](#) -- a UHF-linked repeater network in Florida -- when he heard an urgent call for help that needed to be sent to the State EOC in Tallahassee. All other forms of communication were out, and Norton was able to relay the message to via Amateur Radio. He also passed along messages and requests from the Jackson County EOC to the American Red Cross. Norton said officials in Tallahassee and Jackson County were both incredibly grateful for the way the SARnet system functioned during the weather emergency.

Jackson County Emergency Coordinator Ricky Whittington, KD4AST, is deployed to the county EOC in Marianna.

"We took a direct hit by the center of the storm at 140 MPH," he told Clay

County ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator and Public Information Officer Scott Roberts, KK4ECR. "[The] county maintenance building across the road from the EOC was picked up and slammed into the north side and over the roof of the EOC just prior to the eye passing over."

The incident took out the HF antenna, which has since been restored.



Whittington said the internet failed, as did cell service for a while. Hams have been passing material and resource orders to the State EOC via HF and SARnet. Whitting reported "total devastation of Bay, Jackson, and Gulf counties," with loss of electrical power and water service, in addition to damage in Franklin, Holmes, and Leon counties. "[The] *only* mode of communications after the eye came across was ham radio, until we got minimal cell service a few hours ago," he reported.

The ARRL Emergency Response Team has been coordinating with Field Organization leadership in ARRL Sections affected by the storm, as well as with WX4NHC, the HWN, VoIP Hurricane Net, Department of Homeland Security SHARES, and US Army MARS.

FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 Overhauls Marking Requirements for Short Rural Towers

Thanks to ARRL efforts on Capitol Hill, language in the [2018 Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) Reauthorization Act](#), just signed by President Donald Trump, resolves the issue of problematic or preclusive rules affecting some rural Amateur Radio towers. The previous FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016 had instructed the FAA to enact tower-marking requirements, similar to those in some state statutes, aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of



meteorological evaluation towers (METs). These towers are typically between 50 and 200 feet and set up in rural areas, often on short notice. In the wake of fatal crop-dusting aircraft collisions with METs, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) had recommended that states institute laws, sometimes called "crop-duster" statutes, requiring marking and registration of METs. While some state crop-duster laws exempted ham radio towers, federal regulations dating to the 1996 FAA Reauthorization Act did not, and ARRL had expressed its concerns since.

"There is no evidence whatsoever that even one Amateur Radio antenna below 200 feet has ever been involved in an aviation accident," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said. "To impose painting and lighting requirements on Amateur Radio antennas between 50 and 200 feet tall would preclude many, if not most, of the exurban, rural, and, in some cases, suburban Amateur Radio antennas that are and will be sited outside

incorporated towns and cities. This would ironically defeat the entire reason such antenna facilities are sited in those environments: because rural and exurban areas are where such antennas are permitted and the few areas where antennas are not precluded entirely by private land use regulations."

Prior to 2017, per long-established FAA regulations, unless such short radio towers were located within the glide slope of airports or heliports, they were not required to be painted or lighted.

After attempting to address the issue through the FAA, ARRL's legislative team met with staff members of Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and other lawmakers and their staffs associated with the congressional committees of jurisdiction. Senator Inhofe -- himself a pilot -- was of the view that the 2016 legislation was excessive and that exemptions should exist for both broadcast and Amateur Radio antennas and support structures. "We worked with our close allies at the National Association of Broadcasters



(NAB), [who were] afraid that this legislation would have a large adverse effect on short broadcast towers," Imlay recounted. "We also worked with the

Association of American Railroads, which has hundreds of short towers along rail lines in rural areas that would have been affected."

Imlay said Section 576 of the large 2018 FAA reauthorization now requires that the only towers less than 200 feet tall that have to be painted and lighted are meteorological aids and those within the glide slope of an airport or heliport. The remainder of such towers in rural or agricultural areas lower than 200 feet need to only be included in an FAA-maintained database, which will be updated by the owners of such towers.

Imlay credited members of the ARRL Legislative Advocacy team, as well as Senator Inhofe and ARRL's broadcast and land mobile association partners for getting the language revised in the new, 5-year Reauthorization Act. "We consider this a big success for Amateur Radio," Imlay said, "and it would not have been possible but for the visibility that has been achieved for ARRL through our active Capitol Hill advocacy for the Amateur Radio Parity Act."

A promotional advertisement for Radio City featuring ICOM HF radios. The ad is set against a green and black background. It lists three models: IC-718 for \$615.95, IC-7100 for \$916.95, and IC-7200 for \$889.95. The Radio City logo is in the top left. At the bottom, it says "Offer good while supplies last.*" and provides contact information: "2663 County Road I, Mounds View, MN 55112 (763) 786-4476 Toll Free 1-800-426-2891 sales@radioinc.com L-10-11-2018".

US Ham-Astronaut, Russian Cosmonaut Safe in Wake of *Soyuz* Launch Failure

A Russian *Soyuz* spacecraft crew launch to the International Space Station (ISS) suffered a booster failure that resulted in an emergency flight abort shortly after lift-off from



Kazakhstan on October 11, but the crew is safe. On board the *Soyuz* MS-10 were US Astronaut Nick Hague, KG5TMV, and Russian Cosmonaut Aleksey

Ovchinin. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine promised "a thorough investigation."

"Shortly after launch, there was an anomaly with the booster and the launch ascent was aborted, resulting in a ballistic landing of the spacecraft," Bridenstine said. "Search-and-rescue teams were deployed to the landing site. Hague and Ovchinin are out of the capsule and are reported to be in good condition." The pair has since been transported to the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City. This was Hague's first launch and Ovchinin's second.

Early this month, NASA issued a statement regarding the late-August discovery of a 2-millimeter hole in the wall of the *Soyuz* capsule that is now docked to the ISS. The resulting air pressure leak has since been repaired. There is no indication the launch failure

and the mystery hole in the last *Soyuz* launched are connected.

Roscosmos said the hole was not drilled by accident, and posited that it may have been drilled by a technician on the ground. Roscosmos Director General Dmitry Rogozin earlier had ruled out a manufacturing defect.



"[This] indicates that this is an isolated issue which does not categorically affect future production," the NASA statement said. "This conclusion does not necessarily mean the hole was created intentionally or with mal-intent."

NASA and Roscosmos launched an investigation, and a November spacewalk was planned to gather more information.

In the wake of the *Soyuz* failure, operations to transport ISS crew members have been suspended. The current ISS crew of cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev and astronauts Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, and Alexander Gerst, KF5ONO, is scheduled to return to Earth in December.

International Space Station Crew Member Fires Up NA1SS to Seek Random Contacts

"Hello, America. This is the International Space Station. Who's out there?"

And with that "CQ" of sorts on 145.800 MHz, NASA astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, M.D., spent some time at the helm of NA1SS on October 6 making casual, random contacts -- something that's fairly rare these days. The ISS was on a pass that took the spacecraft up along the east coast of the US at the time. In response to a question, Auñón-Chancellor, who has been on station since June, told one caller that she's been floating the entire time she's been in space.



Serena Auñón-Chancellor, KG5TMT, at work on the ISS.
[NASA photo]

awesome," she said.

Scott Chapman, K4KDR, of Montpelier, Virginia, edited a [clip of downlink chatter](#) by the 42-year-old flight surgeon and flight engineer.

"During most passes of the ISS where I'm working with the packet digipeater on 145.825, I also monitor 145.800 just in case there is any activity on that frequency," Chapman said in a post to AMSAT-BB. "For the first time in my personal experience, today one of the astronauts was randomly calling to see if anybody was listening. Of course, I tried to reply on 145.800 simplex, but there are a number of possible uplinks, and none of them were programmed into my radio. They are now! It was a real thrill and, like so much of this hobby, a learning opportunity."

Auñón-Chancellor is aboard the ISS as part of the Expedition 56/57 crew and is scheduled to return to Earth in December.

The Amateur Radio FM voice frequencies for stations in ITU Regions 2 and 3 are 145.800 MHz down and 144.490 MHz up. For stations in Region 1, the uplink frequency is 145.200 MHz

MARS to Support Defense Department Radio Communication Readiness Exercise

Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) members will support a Department of Defense HF radio communication exercise on October 24 - 26. The readiness exercise will test the ability to communicate via voice and military

standard communication protocols, simulating the loss of conventional communication systems.

MARS



members will interface with the Amateur Radio community to collect information at the county level regarding publicly available information. At 0001 UTC on October 24, Amateur Radio operators are asked to monitor 60-meter channel 1 (5,330.5 kHz, USB) for a high-power broadcast of updated information regarding this exercise and how the Amateur Radio community can participate.

During the exercise, MARS members will communicate with Amateur Radio operators on all five 60-meter channels, as well as on other Amateur Radio bands.

[Contact](#) MARS for more information regarding this exercise. As a simulation, this exercise will not affect any public or private communications or infrastructure. The exercise will end at 2359 UTC on October 26.

Additionally, MARS members will participate in the HF automatic link establishment (ALE) on-the-air exercise taking place on October 12 - 22.



Climber Dies in Amateur Radio Tower Collapse

A young Tennessee father of five is dead after the Amateur Radio tower on which he was working collapsed due to a guy anchor letting go. Thirty-year-old Ken Waddell was killed on September 29 while attempting to erect a 70-foot Rohn 25G tower on the property of Dale Darling, W9WBA, in Cookeville, Tennessee. A professional tower climber, Waddell handled the tower job on a freelance basis, rather than for his employer.



Kenneth Waddell.

According to media accounts, Waddell and Darling checked the new guy anchors in advance of putting up the tower. Waddell was getting ready to attach a second set of guys at 70 feet when a guy at the 40-foot level let go, taking him to the ground on the section

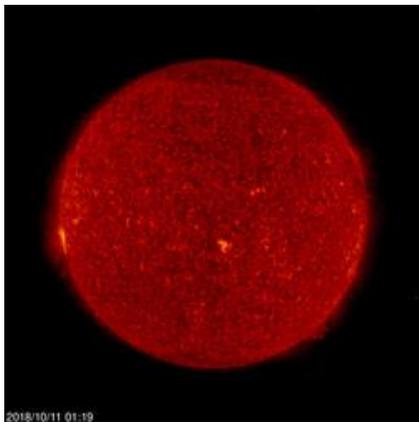
where he was attached. He was the only person on the tower when it fell, and died at the scene.

Waddell was the sole financial provider for his family, and a [GoFundMe campaign](#) has been established. The [Tower Family Foundation](#) and the [Hubble Foundation](#) have also reached out to assist Waddell's widow, Cadie, and their five children. Both the Tower Family Foundation and the Hubble Foundation are dedicated in part to providing financial assistance and support to the families of tower workers injured or killed in tower-climbing mishaps.

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Last week, we reported a return of sunspot activity on September 29, after a 16-day absence, but the new activity lasted only 6 days. The average daily sunspot number declined from 9.6 to 1.6, while the average daily solar flux rose slightly from 68.4 to 68.9. The average planetary A index increased from 7.7 to 14.1, while the mid-latitude A index jumped from 6.1 to 10.3.

Predicted solar flux is 72 on October 11 - 17; 71 on October 18; and 69 on October 19 - November 24.



The predicted planetary A index is 12, 8, 5, 12, and 8 on October 11 - 15; 5 on October 16 - 17; 10, 25, 14, 8, and 12 on October 18 - 22; 8 on October 23 - 25; 10 on October 26; 5 on October 27 - November 2; 22 and 35 on November 3 - 4; 15 on November 5 - 6; 10, 8, 5, 10, and 8 on November 7 - 11; 5 on November 12 - 13; 10, 25, 14, 8, and 12 on November 14 - 18; 8 on November 19 - 21; 10 on November 22, and 5 on November 23 - 24.

Conditions will probably continue at somewhat marginal levels because of weak solar activity. It is widely believed that Cycle 24 should reach solar minimum in 2020. The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) has the [latest projections](#).

Sunspot numbers for October 4 - 10 were 11, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 1.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 67.2, 68.7, 68.6, 69.5, 68.8, 69.5, and 69.8, with a mean of 68.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 9, 6, 24, 21, 17, and 18, with a mean of 14.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 8, 5, 13, 16, 14, and 12, with a mean of 10.3.

Johnston County ARRL VE Team:

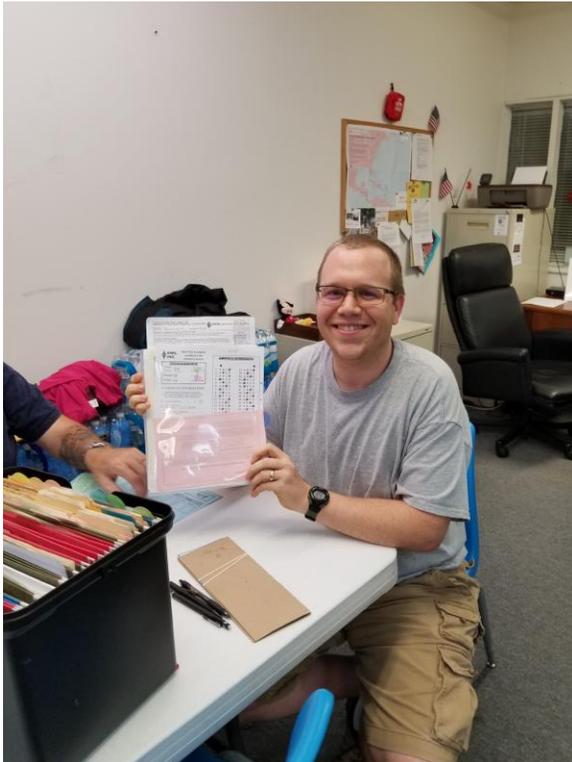


The Johnston County ARRL VE Team will be hosting an amateur radio examination session on Monday, October 22nd. The test session will be held at the American Red Cross, located at 805-A S. 3rd Street in

Smithfield, NC. Testing starts at 7:00 PM. If you are coming for an upgrade, you will need \$15.00, a valid photo ID and a copy of your license that we can send to ARRL. If you know someone that is coming for their technician class test, they will need \$15.00, a valid photo ID and encourage them to go to:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home> and register for an FRN. That way, they do not have to disclose their SSN. For more information, contact Mike Callam (KD4MC) at mcallam@centurylink.net.

At our September session, Joseph LeGasse of Raeford had only studied for his technician license and walked out with his extra class CSCE. He is our first Trifecta winner.



JARS Officers

Pres	Mike Callam	KD4MC
V.P.	Scott Wilkinson	KJ4TUC
Sec.	Velda Callam	K4VJC
Treas.	Paul Dunn	KD4BJD
Membership	Dianne Young	KE4VNX
Net Whip	Stephen Fowler	KJ4QNW
Media/Newsletter	Mike Callam	KD4MC
Parliamentarian	Ryan Leathers	N4RL

Members at Large:

Stan Disbrow WA2KQY

Doug Williams KS4TI

Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 302

Benson, NC 27504



That does it for another edition of the "Official Organ". I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

73 de Mike (KD4MC).