

# The “Official Organ”

The Official Newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

January 2019 edition.

## JARS Meeting this Thursday:

Our regular scheduled monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Grandsons Buffet in Smithfield. Arrive around 630 to eat and the meeting will start at 7pm. The program this month is an introduction to digital FM radio.

### In this months “Official Organ”:

Presidential Comments

Vice Presidents Comments

Secretary’s report

Board Meeting Minutes

Life on the Farm

LOM Report

Ham Radio Humor

ARRL News

Johnston County ARRL VE Team

## Presidential Comments:

Last month was our annual JARS Christmas dinner, which was held at Becky’s Log Cabin in Smithfield. We had a good turnout. There were many door prizes and I believe that everybody had a good time.

I am scheduled for surgery in Durham on February 7<sup>th</sup> and will be incapacitated for a couple of weeks. Our Vice President, Scott Wilkinson, KJ4TUC, will be acting as president in my absence.

## Vice President’s Comments:

From your Vice-President, Scott Wilkinson  
[KJ4TUC@hotmail.com](mailto:KJ4TUC@hotmail.com)

Our next regular club meeting will be back at Grandsons Buffet, on Brightleaf Blvd. in Smithfield on January 17 at 6:30 pm.

**Grandsons Buffet,**

**1273 (North) Brightleaf Blvd., Smithfield  
NC 27577**

**(Directly in front of Wal-Mart.)**

**Educational Program:** Our own Mike Callam KD4MC will giving a presentation and instruction on: **Introduction to Digital FM Radio.**

He will explain about all the newer digital modes and it should be very interesting.

**Winter Field Day: Saturday January 26.**

Once again **Ryan Avery NC4RA** will be hosting Winter Field Day at his farm near Angier NC. All Hams from the area JARS, South Wake, & RARS are invited. Local Hams are invited to set up their radio stations and attempt to make long distance contacts. (Same rules apply as Summer Field Day like no commercial power). This is good practice for a winter season emergency. Those in attendance are asked to contribute to a pot luck dinner that will be enjoyed by all. Anyone that can sing and play musical instruments are also welcome as this is a fun family event. Let Ryan know a few days before if you plan on trailer camping overnight. For more information and directions to the Avery farm, contact: Ryan Avery NC4RA. [rwavery@charter.net](mailto:rwavery@charter.net)

**Presidential Picnic:** Our annual club picnic is usually held on a Saturday in May. If you have any suggestions for a place, things to do, and type of food, send an email to President Callam so it can be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting and we can start planning for a great family event.

**Summer Field Day:** Summer Field Day will be held on the last weekend of June. (June 22-23). Now is the time to start planning. The purpose of Summer Field Day is to practice our radio communications skills that may be needed in times of an emergency. If anyone has any suggestions on location, food, things to do, or anything

to make this event successful, send an email with your suggestions to President Callam so we can start planning.

**JARS Logo Shirts:** (T-Shirts or Golf-Shirts)

Those that placed orders for JARS Logo shirts at the November meeting received their shirts at the December Christmas Party. These are really nice shirts. If you still want to place an order contact Paulette Disbrow KM4RMW, or come to the club meeting on January 17.

**JARSCOMM:** We need to plan on a work date for a Saturday in late February or early March, after this cold weather is over. 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 Mike Callam or Paul Dunn and let them 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.

**UPCOMING AREA HAM FEST:**

FrostFest, Richmond VA, Saturday, February 2

[www.frostfest.com](http://www.frostfest.com)

Charlotte Hamfest, in Concord NC,  
Saturday, March 9

[www.charlottehamfest.org](http://www.charlottehamfest.org)

Raleigh RARS Hamfest, Raleigh NC,  
Saturday, April 20

NC State Fairgrounds, [www.rarsfest.org](http://www.rarsfest.org)

---

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

Since last month's meeting was our Christmas dinner and the only business was the LOM and Ham of the Year, no minutes were taken.

### **Board Meeting Minutes:**

#### **Minutes from January 2019 JARS Board Meeting:**

Meeting was called to order at 710pm by president Mike Callam-KD4MC

Vice President-Scott Wilkinson said that he did not currently have a program scheduled for our January meeting. Mike, KD4MC volunteered to do a program called "Introduction to Digital FM Radio" discussing the various digital modes of amateur radio through hot spots.

Scott also suggested holding our regular monthly meetings at Grandsons in Smithfield, at least during the term of the current administration.

Scott also reminded us of Winter Field Day, which will be held at Ryan Avery's (NC4RA), this year. If you plan to bring a camping trailer for overnight, you need to let Ryan know.

Scott mentioned that the JARS "Presidential Picnic" is coming up soon and said that we need to make it known where we want to have it and what kind of food we want, either catered or cooked on site. President Mike Callam said that he is going to try to get Paul Dunn to arrange for us to have the picnic at the back up repeater site in Clayton, which is also the back up 911 center for Johnston County.

Field Day is coming up soon and we need to start the organization as soon as possible.

Membership Chair- Dianne Young said that she sent a check for \$50.00 to the Johnston Animal Protection League from JARS in Memory of Page Partin, KM4GDR.

Dianne also brought up a question regarding members paying dues for more than one year at a time. That is something that she will discuss with our treasurer, Paul Dunn.

There was a question of where dues paid by mail should be sent, some are sending them to her, some to Mike Callam and some to the PO box in Benson. She said that it would be better if the dues were mailed on one place because it would be easier for the membership chair to keep up with who has paid and who has not.

President Mike Callam said that he is having surgery February 7<sup>th</sup> and will be out of commission for a couple of weeks. Vice

President Scott Wilkinson will be running the Board and regular meeting in January.

Mike also said that we need to set a day in late February or early March to install the radios in JARSComm. It has been a work in progress for several years and it time to complete the progress.

Constitution and By Laws committee: Ryan N4RL presented: ARTICLE THREE – Duties of officers:

3: The Secretary shall keep a permanent record of the proceedings at all meetings of JARS and all sessions of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep a roll of the members present, conduct and report on all JARS correspondence, and transmit a monthly report to the ARRL Section Communications Manager. The Secretary will maintain on hand, a list of all current Standing Rules adopted at JARS meetings. In the event of the absence of the President and Vice President it shall be her/his duty to open and preside over the meeting and shall appoint a member to record the minutes of the meetings. Reading, correction, and approval of the minutes shall be at the end of the regular stated business meeting, and not carried over to the next month for approval, if practical, and not an undue hardship on the secretary. The first order of business at the regular stated meeting shall be reading of the minutes from last month, or any other called meetings in between, for information/refreshers only and not for any corrections. This procedure may be modified upon the unified agreement of the President, Secretary, and approved by the

membership. The Secretary shall keep minutes of previous meetings readily available in case there is a question about something that happened at a previous meeting. An inexpensive laptop computer shall be provided for the secretary at club expense, if necessary.

**Change/replace this sentence to read:**

... and submit reports to ARRL when necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Submitted by Secretary-Velda Callam, K4VJC.

### **Life on the Farm:**

We had a quiet Christmas and New Year here on the farm. We did not even stay up to greet the new year, (not many old people do). I am recovering from my shoulder surgery and the doctor fired me and transferred me to physical therapy, which, I start next week. I have gotten to the point that it is hard for me to get in and out of my recliner and told Velda that I wanted an electric recliner that helps me get in and out and reclines with a control. She offered to go to a prison and get me an electric chair. For some reason, I don't think we are talking about the same kind of electric chair.

I have been dealing with chest pains for over 40 years, having to take nitroglycerin

and having to go to the hospital and have the cardiac work up and the whole nine yards. The doctors keep telling me that it is esophageal spasms, but that they did not know what was causing it. Recently, I had a complete GI work up, both upper and lower, (which was no fun). They determined that my stomach was producing too much acid and had worn out the valve between the stomach and esophagus and that is what was causing the spasms. I go to Duke Regional Area Hospital on February 7<sup>th</sup> and they are going to wrap part of my stomach around the esophagus and create a new valve. I will be out of commission for some time. I have to be on clear liquids for a couple of weeks, then semi clear liquids, then mush and gradually work my way back to solid foods. I am looking forward to having the surgery and the results. But, not the recovery period as far as eating goes.

73 from Mike (KD4MC/C3PO), Velda (K4VJC), Remington (Hairy Hound), Tabitha (Krazy Kat), Midnight (Tom Kitty) and Sandy (Dog and a half long, half a dog high and two dogs hyper).

#### **LOM Report:**



Hi gang,

It's been a good reign as the lid of the month. Honestly everybody has been on pretty good behavior. I have listened quite a bit this month. I've been at my desk a lot and I'm too busy to talk, during that time, but I can listen and listen I have. There is not nearly as much activity during the work day as there used to be. I miss the good old days when we were all just itching to get on the repeater and ragchew. I have managed to make a few marks on my pad, so you'll have to be at the meeting to hear all about it. See Y'all there.

73

DE KM4TC

#### **Ham Radio Humor:**

"The Die Hard DX'er!"

By: Clinton Herbert -- AB7RG.

THE DXPEDITION:

5:00 AM - Fellow DX'ers arrive. Crawl out of nice warm bed.

5:30 AM - Toss all gear into truck.

5:45 AM - Get gear out of neighbors truck, and put it in yours.

6:00 AM - Get speeding ticket while hurrying to get to the mountains.

7:15 AM - Get to "The Site", near top of mountain.

7:16 AM - Start unloading gear.

7:20 AM - Get poked in eye with 20M vertical by fellow DX'er.

7:50 AM - Arrive at hospital to get eye patched up.

8:30 AM - Get another speeding ticket while heading up to mountains.

8:45 AM - Arrive back at site. Unload antennas yourself this time.

9:45 AM - Hike up to mountain top. Pass out from exhaustion.

9:50 AM - Wake up to smelling salt, and laughter from fellow DX'ers.  
10:00 AM - Put up antennas, and set up rigs.  
10:15 AM - Fire up rig, call CQ for half an hour; no replies.  
10:46 AM - Hook up coax to rig..  
10:48 AM - Realize that finals are wasted in main rig.  
10:50 AM - Hook up back-up rig, this time with coax.  
11:00 AM - Yell CQ, rare VP8 comes back; antenna falls down...  
11:15 AM - Wake up to smelling salt, fellow DX'ers shaking heads.  
11:30 AM - Guy antennas.  
12:05 PM - See long list of QSO's made by fellow DX'ers.  
12:06 PM - Notice rare VP8 in logbook.  
12:07 PM - Beat fellow DX'er over head with logbook.  
12:09 PM - Restrained by rest of DXpedition team.  
12:30 PM - Back to rig for another attempt.  
12:35 PM - Nearby lightning strike kills receive. Notice wet pants...  
12:36 PM - Look for shelter.  
12:38 PM - Find cave!  
12:41 PM - Watch antenna get struck by lightning while hiding in cave.  
12:42 PM - Wish it was fellow DX'er's antenna, or him that was struck...  
12:45 PM - Realize you're not alone in cave...  
12:46 PM - Pick up really big rock...  
12:47 PM - Mauled by large angry bear.  
12:50 PM - Get pulled out of cave by fellow DX'ers.  
1:05 PM - Finally get talked into receiving medical treatment.  
1:30 PM - Arrive back at hospital.

1:55 PM - Receive series of painful rabies shots, and multiple stitches.  
2:30 PM - Get out of hospital and return home.  
2:35 PM - "Explain" stitches and eye patch to wife.  
3:00 PM - Realize gear is still up on mountain, with bear.  
3:01 PM - Wish fellow DX'ers were still up on mountain, with bear...  
3:03 PM - Consider taking up drinking.  
7:00 PM - Get phone call from DX'er buddies.  
7:05 PM - Agree to go on DXpedition again tomorrow..

#### **ARRL News:**

Amateur Radio Applications in Limbo as Partial Shutdown Continues

The FCC is not processing any Amateur Radio applications as the partial government shutdown approaches its fourth week. The FCC suspended "most operations" at mid-day on Thursday, January 3, although an appearance of activity continues. For radio amateurs, the shutdown means that, while the Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) continues to accept applications for all valid purposes, the FCC will not review or act upon them until the funding stalemate is resolved. This includes



Volunteer Examiner Coordinator test session batch files as well as modification, renewal, and vanity call sign applications filed by individual licensees. Amateur Radio newcomers who have passed the required examinations will have to wait until the shutdown concludes to receive a call sign and authorization to operate. License upgrades are also on hold.

"Due to a lapse in funding, the operations of the Federal Communications Commission will be limited with no system support. We regret any inconvenience," the FCC says on the ULS home page. This means very limited human intervention while the shutdown continues, and if a system breaks down, it will not be repaired until after employees are back on the payroll. At this point, 262 of 1,437 FCC employees (excepting contractors) remain on the job, as are FCC Commissioners.

The [Antideficiency Act](#) prohibits FCC and other federal employees from working until funds are available to pay them; they may not even volunteer, check their email, or attend meetings. While the law doesn't

directly affect FCC automated filing databases, some of these cannot operate without regular human intervention.



The Commission has emphasized that it will undertake any activities necessary for the protection of life and property during the funding lapse. That includes the High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) Center in Maryland, considered essential.

The FCC website remains up, and the FCC *Daily Digest* of its activity continues to be posted, but the website is not being updated, and the only items it contains are those related to spectrum auctions, activity that is funded through auction proceeds, not government funds. The Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)) will also accept posts, but filings will not be reviewed or processed until after normal operations return.

The FCC spelled out the overall impact of the funding lapse in a January 2 [Public Notice](#). Using available funds, the agency was able to maintain a business-as-usual posture until that date. The FCC released an updated [Plan for Orderly Shutdown Due to Lapse of Congressional Appropriations](#) on January 9. The resumption of normal operations will also be announced on the FCC's website.

## US Senate Confirms Geoffrey Starks and Brendan Carr to Full FCC Terms

The US Senate confirmed Geoffrey Starks and Brendan Carr to full 5-year terms as FCC commissioners on January 2, bringing the FCC to its full complement of five. Starks, who most recently served as assistant chief of the FCC Enforcement Bureau, fills the Democratic seat vacated last spring by Mignon Clyburn.



**Geoffrey Starks. [FCC photo]**

Commission. Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel is the other Democrat on the FCC.

"I congratulate Geoffrey on his Senate confirmation," FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. "During his confirmation hearing, I was excited to hear him highlight the need to expand rural broadband and the power of telemedicine. I look forward to working with him and having a fellow Kansan on the Commission."

Carr, a Republican originally nominated by President Donald Trump to fill the seat left vacant by the departure of former FCC Chairman Tom

Republican nominees have a 3 - 2 advantage on the

Wheeler, was confirmed last August and has been serving on the Commission. He has now been confirmed for a full 5-



**Brendan Carr. [FCC photo]**

Carr previously served as FCC general counsel.

"I also congratulate Brendan on his confirmation to a full term," Pai said in a statement. "Brendan has done tremendous work on a number of issues, including his leadership on wireless infrastructure modernization. He has also been a staunch advocate for rural broadband deployment, particularly for precision agriculture and advancements in telemedicine."

In addition to Pai and Carr, the other Republican on the FCC is Michael O'Rielly.



## Nominations Solicited for Six ARRL Awards

The ARRL invites nominations for awards that recognize educational and technological pursuits in Amateur Radio. Nominations are also open for ARRL's premier award to honor a young licensee -- the Hiram Percy Maxim Award.

- **The Hiram Percy Maxim Award** recognizes a radio amateur and ARRL member under age 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities. Nominations for this award need to be made through your ARRL Section Manager, who will then forward the nomination to ARRL Headquarters by March 31, 2019.



- **The ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award** honors an ARRL volunteer Amateur Radio instructor or an ARRL professional classroom teacher who uses creative instructional approaches and reflects the highest values of the Amateur Radio community. The award highlights quality of -- and commitment to -- licensing instruction. Nominations are due by March 15, 2019.
- **The ARRL Microwave Development Award** pays tribute to a radio amateur or group of radio amateurs who contribute to the development of the Amateur Radio microwave

bands. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2019.

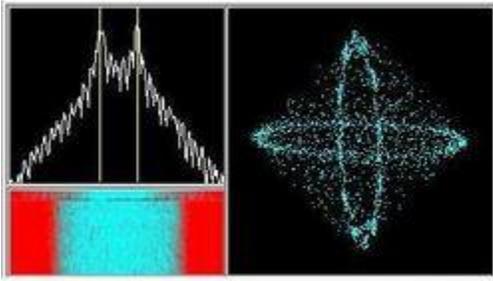
- **The ARRL Technical Service Award** recognizes a radio amateur or group of radio amateurs who provide Amateur Radio technical assistance or training to others. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2019.
- **The ARRL Technical Innovation Award** is granted to a radio amateur or group of radio amateurs who develop and apply new technical ideas or techniques in Amateur Radio. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2019.
- **The Knight Distinguished Service Award** was established to recognize exceptionally notable contributions by a Section Manager to the health and vitality of ARRL. The nomination deadline is April 30, 2019.

The ARRL Board of Directors selects recipients for these awards. Winners are typically announced following the Board's July meeting. [More information](#) about these awards is on the ARRL website, or contact [Steve Ewald, WV1X](#), telephone (860) 594-0265, at ARRL Headquarters.

#### RTTY and FT8 Successfully Coexist in 2019 ARRL RTTY Roundup

Based on informal exit polling and log-submission trends, it appears that RTTY and FT8 successfully shared spectrum during the ARRL RTTY Roundup over the January 5 - 6 weekend. The event is seeing a dramatic uptick from last year in the number of logs submitted, with more than 2,400 and

counting received by midweek, as opposed to 1,622 in the 2018 running. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, is urging everyone who participated in the 2019 RTTY Roundup to turn in a log -- no matter the number of contacts made. Logs for the 2019 RTTY Roundup are due by Sunday, January 13, at 2359 UTC, and may be [uploaded via the ARRL website](#) (or see [mailing instructions](#) for paper logs).



"The 30th

running of the ARRL RTTY Roundup is now in the books," Jahnke said. "All indications are that the event -- in both RTTY and other digital categories -- gained significant additional attention and increased popularity with the inclusion of FT8 in the digital lineup." Jahnke said digital operating experience gained through the RTTY Roundup should benefit participants in the upcoming [ARRL January VHF Contest](#) and in future VHF contests, where *WSJT-X* protocols such as JT<sub>x</sub>, MSK144, and FT8 continue to gain popularity as a means to work hard-to-reach grids beyond the usual 400-mile tropo-scatter range, and for slower activity periods.

Jahnke reminds those submitting RTTY Roundup logs to make sure they're entering in the correct category. All entries that made contacts in FT8 or PSK<sub>xx</sub> (with their multi-channel decoder technology) must enter in one of the Unlimited categories, unless they're Multioperator entries.

[Contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch with any questions.

The inclusion of FT8 for the first time in the RTTY Roundup had generated considerable pre-contest debate, but when all was said and done, many stations tended to operate one mode or the other, although some took advantage of both (and perhaps of other digital modes), judging from logs posted on the [3830scores](#) website. The RTTY Roundup came close on the heels of the inaugural [FT8 Roundup](#) over the first weekend in December, which was deemed a success (it was the first-ever contest for the winner -- only licensed for 2 years -- and for one other Top 10 finisher).

Alex



Panoiu, YO9HP, in Romania, said he was initially hesitant about the idea of mixing RTTY and FT8, but he set up for both modes anyway. "Definitely in the first hours, the rates were three times higher in RTTY compared to FT8," he said in his 3830scores comments. "But later, when less 'fresh meat' was available in RTTY and propagation became marginal, FT8 became interesting. I noticed that most of the calls worked in FT8 never appeared in my RTTY log." He logged 369 digital contacts and 639 RTTY contacts.

The WW4LL Multi-Single, High Power team made about one-third of its contacts using digital modes. J42L, operating Multi-Single, Low Power from SV2DCD, avoided RTTY altogether, logging 535 digital contacts.

FT8 co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, operating Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power used only FT8, logging 585 contacts. He noted "close to zero" inter-mode interference between RTTY and FT8 signals.

NCJ Digital Contesting Editor Ed Muns, W0YK, said he was very impressed with how the first RTTY Roundup to permit FT8 worked out.

"FT8 has significant advantages for a much larger group of contest participants who are constrained by geography, housing limitations, solar conditions, power, and noise," Muns said. "The amazing explosive growth of FT8 activity since its introduction in mid-2017 also means that there are many more participants for all of us to work in contests."

Muns said he initially didn't believe that RTTY and FT8 could coexist in the same contest. "Of course, like many things we can debate *ad infinitum*, a little bit of actual experience goes a long way to inform our [preconceived notions]," he added. "I'm very impressed with how it all worked out."

Aborted 3Y0Z Bouvet DXpedition Offers Donation Refund Options

Leaders of the [3Y0Z Bouvet Island](#) DXpedition, which was abruptly aborted in February 2018 before the team was able to land on the island, are offering several options for partial refunds to those who contributed to their venture. The turn of

events was a huge disappointment for the DX community, as well as for the DXpedition team.



"Let me take this

opportunity to thank you again for your financial support," DXpedition co-leader and Chief Financial Officer Bob Allphin, K4UEE, said in a statement. "The DXpedition team members are all extremely disappointed that we were not able to complete our mission. We were offshore Bouvet for 3 days and encountered extreme weather conditions. While fighting hurricane-force winds, one of our vessel's engines was over-stressed and a critical coupling failed. The ship's captain had no choice but to abort the DXpedition for safety reasons. It was the correct decision, but a huge disappointment after almost 3 years of planning." Allphin said all DXpedition accounts have now been settled.

"After all this, I am happy to report we have a balance in our accounts. I am able to offer you a 48% refund of your original contribution to 3Y0Z. All supporters of our DXpedition are offered the same percentage regardless of whether they are a DX foundation, DX club, individual DXer, or DXpedition team member. This is the only fair way to do this," Allphin explained. There are five refund options:

1. Refund the contribution. Allphin said refunds for individuals would be made via PayPal, but he asked those who contributed \$30 or less to forgo their refunds and donate them to the 3Y0Z team.

2. Donate any refund to the 3Y0Z team. Allphin pointed out that team members "invested considerable money, time, and effort to try to make this DXpedition a success."

3. Donate any refund to the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) in the contributor's name, to help fund future DXpeditions.

4. Donate any refund to the International DX Foundation (INDEXA) in the contributor's name, to help fund future DXpeditions.

5. The default option: For those who do not respond, the 3Y0Z team will divvy the contribution among the 3Y0Z team, NCDXF, INDEXA, and the German DX Foundation (GDXF) -- the DXpedition's largest financial supporters.



**3Y0Z team member Ralph Fedor, KO1R, looks out toward Bouvet Island last February.**

The deadline to request a refund or to select a specific beneficiary under options 1 - 4 is March 15, 2019. "It is not necessary to contact me," Allphin said. "If I do not hear from you by the deadline, I will assume the default option." Otherwise, [contact](#) Allphin via email.

Bouvet Island is currently the second-most-wanted DXCC entity, behind North Korea. The 3Y0Z DXpedition, comprised of top operators with considerable DXpedition experience, had attracted contributions from clubs and individuals around the world.

A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a sub Antarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007 - 2008.



Registration Open for HamSCI 2019 Workshop, Call for Papers Issued

The 2019 [HamSCI Workshop](#) will take place on March 22 - 23 at Case Western Reserve University ([CWRU](#)) in Cleveland, Ohio, in association with the CWRU Amateur Radio Club (W8EDU). [Registration](#) is now open, and papers are invited.



"We are

especially looking for speakers with presentations showing analysis of ionospheric observations, ideas and proposals for the design of the Personal Space Weather Station and instrumentation for the 2024 eclipse," HamSCI's Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, said. "We will also accept other presentations related to Amateur Radio and science." Email abstracts to [hamsci@hamsci.org](mailto:hamsci@hamsci.org) by February 10, 2019.

The theme for this year's conference will be "Ionospheric Effects and Sensing," including the use of Amateur Radio techniques to characterize and study ionospheric phenomena, such as traveling ionospheric disturbances, sporadic E, response to solar flares, geomagnetic storms, the 2024 total solar eclipse, and other space weather events. Discussion will include continued development of the [HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station](#) and integration of Amateur Radio into the collegiate curriculum.

Featured speakers will include well-known Amateur Radio author [Ward Silver, NOAX](#), propagation specialist [Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA](#), and Larisa Goncharenko, who will talk on Space Science for Ham Radio Operators. The workshop is hosted by CWRU in collaboration with New Jersey Institute of Technology ([NJIT](#)).

Tickets Available for Convention-Related Dinners



The 2019 Orlando Contest Dinner, sponsored by the Florida Contest Group (FCG) in conjunction with Orlando HamCation, will be held on February 8. A social hour gets under way at 5 PM, with a barbecue buffet to follow at 6:30 PM. Dinner speaker will be Andy Blank, N2NT, a CQ Contest Hall of Fame member and CQ World Wide 160 Meter Contest director. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the [FCG website](#).

Tickets for the DX Dinner, sponsored by the SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) and held in conjunction with



Hamvention, [are now on sale](#). The dinner will take place Friday, May 17, at the Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Boulevard in Dayton. A social hour will begin at 5:30 PM, and dinner will follow at 7 PM. The DXpedition of the Year® will be announced, and the Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF) will present the IOTA DXpeditioner of the Year Award during the dinner. Tickets are available via the SWODXA Events website, which includes more information. -- *Thanks to Mindi Jones, KC8CKW*



Tickets are now available for the 27th annual [Dayton Contest Dinner](#), which takes place on Saturday, May 18, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Dayton, Ohio. The North Coast Contesters sponsor the event. Featured speaker will be [Ted Rappaport, N9NB](#). The 2019 CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductees will be announced during the Dayton Contest Dinner. A social hour will begin at 5:30 PM, with dinner at 6:30 PM. Tickets for the 30th annual Dayton [Top Band Dinner](#) are also available. The speaker is [Ken Claerbout, K4ZW](#). The Top Band Dinner is Friday, May 17, at the Crown Plaza in downtown Dayton. A social hour begins at 6 PM, with dinner served at 7 PM. Both events will take place in the Presidential Ballroom. -- Thanks to Tim Duffy, K3LR



Historic Schooner that Carried Ham Radio on Arctic Expeditions Undergoing Additional Restoration

The nearly century-old schooner *Bowdoin*, built in 1921 and relaunched nearly 3 years ago, after some extensive renovation and refitting, is once again in dry dock to restore its hull. During explorer Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Expedition of 1923 and on the MacMillan-McDonald-Byrd Expedition of 1925, the sailing vessel relied on Amateur Radio operators for

communication. Built in East Boothbay, Maine, the *Bowdoin* has made more than two dozen visits to the Arctic under MacMillan's command. It was named after MacMillan's alma mater, Bowdoin College, and has become the official vessel of the state of Maine, a national historic landmark, and the [flagship](#) of the Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) Vessel Operations and Technology Program. Work on the vessel is currently under way at Boothbay Harbor.



At Wiscasset, Maine, with the schooner *Bowdoin*, ARRL sponsors check out the receiver furnished by Zenith for the 1923 Arctic Expedition. From left to right: F.H. Schnell, 1MO, Traffic Manager; K.B. Warner, 9JT, Secretary-Manager, and Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, ARRL President.

"Our goal is to maintain the boat to the highest standard, to go above and beyond in order to preserve this living piece of history," MMA Marine Operations Manager Dana Willis said in a December [media release](#). One such preservation update has been supplementing *Bowdoin's* sails with a diesel engine.

In 1923, MacMillan had turned to ARRL for help in outfitting his expedition with better wireless gear, and, as Michael Marinaro, WN1M, explained in his June 2014 *QST* article, "[Polar Exploration](#)," that help "was enthusiastically provided." ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim and the ARRL Board agreed to furnish support and recruited Donald H. Mix, 1TS, of Bristol, Connecticut, to serve as the shipboard operator. Board member M.B. West custom-designed the equipment, which was built by radio amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The transmitter operated on medium-wave frequencies with a power of 100 W and used the call sign WNP -- for "Wireless North Pole."



As

**The Bowdoin is launched from Wiscasset, Maine, for the 1923 MacMillan Arctic Expedition.**

Marinaro explained in his article, "WNP transmitted weekly 500-word press releases and listings of stations worked and heard. Once received by amateur stations, these reports were delivered to local affiliated newspapers of the North American Newspaper Alliance; from there, they were distributed syndicate-wide by telegraph."

In 1925, the *Bowdoin* headed to Greenland. "The outstanding accomplishment of the

expedition was in the sphere of radio," Marinaro wrote. "Utilizing shortwaves, the expedition was in consistent contact with the outside world throughout the journey, to the delight of the amateurs who were able to work them. The phenomenal success proved to the Navy that shortwaves were definitely superior to the long and ultra-long waves on which the fleets had been relying."

The *Bowdoin* is expected to be seaworthy again for the summer sailing season, when it will serve once again in MMA sail training courses. -- *Thanks to Maine Maritime Academy*

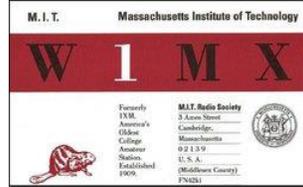
In Brief...



**The latest General-class Question Pool, effective July 1, has been released.** The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#))

Question Pool Committee has released the 2019 - 2023 FCC Element 3 General Class Question Pool into the public domain. The 2019 - 2023 General Class (Element 3) Question Pool is available in [Word](#), [ASCII text](#), and [PDF](#) versions. The new Question Pool is effective for Element 3 exams administered on or after July 1, 2019. On January 6, the Question Pool Committee also released a revised diagram Figure G7-1 ([PDF](#)) ([JPG](#)), as part of the new Element 3 Question Pool. -- *Thanks to NCVEC Question Pool Committee*

**The MIT Radio Society (W1MX) and the Department of Electrical**



**Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) are hosting a series of public lectures on "everything radio."** The lectures, presented by academics and industry professionals, will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 PM ET in Building 3, Room 270. Sessions will also be live-streamed via YouTube, courtesy of MIT Student Cable ([January 8 lecture](#)) and archived. Each self-contained talk will address a different facet of radio, ranging from modulation, propagation, and Amateur Radio, to radar, radio astronomy, space-based applications, and cellular and 5G technology. No prior experience with radio is necessary. All are welcome to attend individual lectures or the entire series. The [schedule and speakers list](#) is on the EECS Independent Activities Period (IAP) page, under the Radio Technology, History, and Applications tab (click "Expand All" to view). For more information, [contact](#) Daniel Sheen, KC1EPN.



**[Registration](#) has opened for the 70th meeting of the International DX Convention (IDX).** The gathering will take place April 12 - 14 at the Visalia

Convention Center. The convention will include Contest Academy training, seminars, keynote presentations, contest and DX forums, and dinners. DXCC QSL card checking will be available. Some three dozen exhibitors will attend. More than 700 avid DXers and contesters looking to

improve their skills and reconnect with their peers are expected to attend. -- *Thanks to John Miller, K6MM, and Rich Seifert, KE1B*

**Johnston County ARRL VE Team:**



The Johnston County ARRL VE Team will hold its next amateur radio license exam on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the American Red Cross, located at 805-A S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Smithfield. If you would like to register for the exam, contact Michael Callam, KD4MC at [mcallam@centurylink.net](mailto:mcallam@centurylink.net). The cost is \$15.00. You will need a valid photo ID. If you already have an FRN, be sure to bring that with you. If you don't have an FRN, go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/systems-utilities/universal-licensing-system> and click on new user registration. If you are currently licensed or have been licensed, bring a copy of your license with you.

