

The Official Organ

The Official Newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society

Volume 35 Number 8 August 2012

JARS Meeting this Thursday

That's right. It's that time of month once again. The JARS meeting is this Thursday, August 16th at the Panther Branch Community Building located on State Road Ten – Ten just off of NC 50 south of Garner. Talk-in will be available just in case someone forgot how to get there. Dinner this month will be some of "Chef-Boy-R Tommy's" world famous spaghetti with all the fixin's. You need to let Tommy know as soon as possible how many people you are bringing so he can make sure there is enough. Tommy's e-mail is n4cbi@yahoo.com Remember the cost of the meal is \$7.00. Please try to bring exact change.

Inside this month's Official Organ

Secretary's Report
LOM Report
Section News
ARRL News
Home made folded dipole antenna

Secretary's Report

Chef Tommy (N4CBI) prepared hamburger and hot dogs. Menu for Aug, meeting will be spaghetti with all the fixings,
Robbie Wheeler (KD4WIY) called the meeting to order. There will be a JARSFEST meeting Aug.4 at 8:00 am in Benson. Billy (wb4ebg) said everything been paid for after field day with \$18.00

left over. Which will go to the club for the rent on the building. Rick (KB4RZ) is our new LID. Doug (KS4TI) gave a demo on an alternate source of electricity (Taser). Richard and his wife gave a demo showing seed packs. Gave a way a seed pack and Jack won it. Adrian won the 50/50.
The meeting was dismissed.

Dianne (KE4VNX)

NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS

MORE MEDIA HITS FROM FIELD DAY

– This year, Field Day produced a bumper crop of media hits for North Carolina clubs. Here are more which surfaced after the June section newsletter: Clay County ARES was covered in the Clay County Progress and on WACF-FM; Union Co. ARS appeared in the Monroe Enquirer Journal; Blue Ridge ARC had stories in the Hendersonville Times-News and the newspaper's website www.blueridgenow.com; Stanly County ARC was in the Stanly News & Record and on the paper's website www.thesnaponline.com; Isothermal ARC appeared in the Forest City Daily Courier and its website www.thedigitalcourier.com, and the Carteret County ARS had coverage on New Bern ABC affiliate WCTI-TV featuring Skip Waters, the station's Chief Meteorologist and long time Downeast TV personality.

KEEPING THE TRADITION OF PAPER QSLs ALIVE

- In the extreme southwestern corner of our state in the little town of Horse Shoe lives Bob Green, W8JYZ. Bob runs Old QSLs Cards, a non-profit effort with two goals - to reunite old QSL cards to Hams or their heirs, and to preserve the heritage of QSL cards. He has almost 40,000 cards in his collection, some going back to the 1920s. Take a look at Bob's website at www.oldqslcards.com and browse to see the cards of family, friends and Elmers. Many of these cards are for sale for modest fees, and proceeds from their sale help to add and preserve to the collection for future generations.

DIY - Most of us know this means "Do It Yourself". In Ham Radio, we know this under terms such as "Homebrew", "Roll-Your-Own" and "Kit-Building". In the world of electronic hobbyists, DIY is a movement covering anything in the fields of computer and robotic experimentation. For many of these budding innovators, they are seeking an outlet for wireless applications for their work, and they become excited when they learn what they can do with an Amateur Radio license. The MakerFaire initiative across the U.S. has confirmed that these experimenters are kin to us, and want to be recruited into the ranks of Ham Radio. An effort is underway in the Triangle to field a team of volunteers who will be willing to staff and exhibit at the June, 2013 MakerFaire exhibition in Raleigh, and to get a commitment from area clubs to agree to welcome and Elmer prospects from the event.

ARRL has available fliers, a PowerPoint presentation and an 8 minute video on DIY as it relates to Ham Radio. The video makes a great club program. You can find all this material at <http://www.arrl.org/diy> Next to emergency communications, the theme of experimentation and innovation through DIY is the most popular topic with the general public, and is especially attractive to educators who are looking for programs to support the budding STEM initiative in schools of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

SILENT KEYS - We regret to report the passing of Ronald Zuback, WE4RON, of Cary; Scott Chandler, KD4ELB, of Aberdeen; James McRight, KB4BZ, of Raleigh; Michael Gingell, KN4BS, of Raleigh, and the former trustee of North Carolina State University's station, W4ATC, Grover "Doc" Cobb, W4YZX, of Raleigh.

LOM Report

As of press time our Lowly Lid of the Month has not submitted a Lid Report. This should make for an interesting meeting.

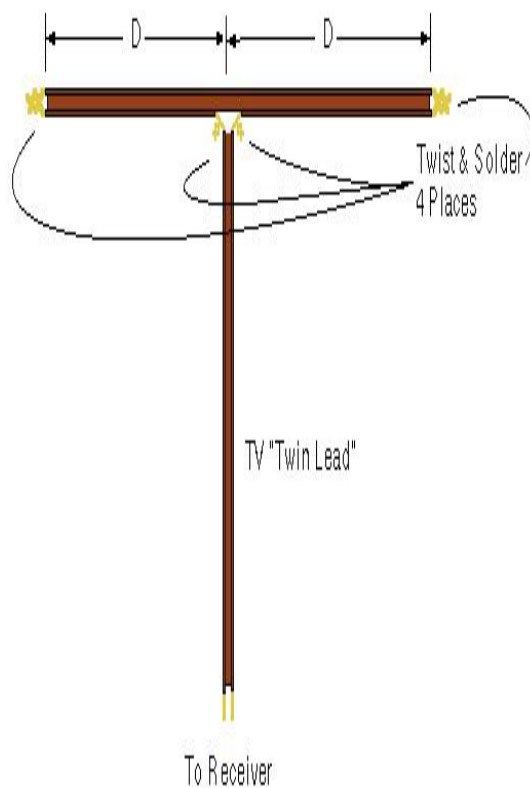
Home Made Folded Dipole

Here are the instructions and picture for a homemade folded dipole antenna using twin lead TV antenna feed line. You will need 75 to 100 feet of twin lead wire depending on your location. Cut a 32 foot length of the twin lead feed line and put the rest off to the side. On each end of the 32 foot section, strip 1/2 to 3/4 inch of

insulation from the wires and then twist the ends of the wires together at each end only and solder them together and tape them to prevent corrosion. In the middle of the 32 foot section, make a cut and strip 1/2 inch of insulation.

Now take the remaining length of feed line and strip 1/2 inch of insulation from each wire and twist and solder the wires together as shown in the diagram below.

The other end of the feed line will be connected to the lugs on the back of your manual tuner.



This is a relatively inexpensive antenna to make and with a tuner, can be tuned to just about any band you want to operate on.

Mike- KD4UJC

ARRL News

+ *On the Air:* Perseids Should Be Fun for Meteor Scatter Enthusiasts and Viewers Alike

On the night of Saturday, August 11 and well into the next day, Earth will make its annual passage through the bulk of the debris shed by a comet known as [Swift-Tuttle](#). Much of the debris is composed of dust-sized grains, but when these fragments come plunging into our atmosphere they can create a dazzling meteor display. Not only are the meteors fascinating to watch, they also leave short-lived streams of ionized gas in their wake. As hams have known for years, these meteor trails are excellent reflectors of radio waves. The Swift-Tuttle meteor showers are known as the [Perseids](#) because they appear to come from a point in the sky that lies within the constellation Perseus.

This year's Perseid meteor shower occurs when the Moon is at a waning crescent phase, which means bright moonlight won't diminish the number of visible meteors. According to [Spacedex.com](#), the lack of bright moonlight means that the fainter meteors should not be concealed from view: "It is advisable to observe the meteor shower during the predawn hours on the mornings of August 11, 12 and 13. With up to 60-100 meteors per hour predicted, observers may catch plenty of bright meteors streaking along in the light of the Moon." As an added treat, the Moon will be sweeping past Venus and Jupiter in the eastern predawn sky.

While the meteors are certainly bright, they are typically not much larger than a grain of sand; however, as they travel at immense speeds, these tiny particles put on an impressive show. Due to the way the comet's orbit is tilted, dust from the Swift-Tuttle falls on Earth's northern hemisphere. Unfortunately, this leads to extremely low visibility for those in Australia, New Zealand and portions of South America.

Amateur Radio and the Perseids

If you own a 6 or 2 meter SSB/CW transceiver, you can get in on the action, bouncing your signals off Perseid meteor trails and making quick [meteor scatter](#) contacts over hundreds of miles, and possibly even as much as 1200 miles. Meteor scatter operation is particularly easy on 6 meters where 100 W and an omnidirectional antenna will do the job. On 2 meters, a directional antenna (such as a multielement Yagi) usually yields better results.



WSJT is digital meteor scatter software by Joe Taylor, K1JT. It is available for free downloading at [K1JT's website](#).

Some meteor scatter operators prefer to use SSB, making rapid exchanges of signal reports and grid squares. In recent years, digital meteor scatter has been increasing in popularity. With the free sound-card-based [WSJT](#) software suite by Joe Taylor, K1JT, it is possible to make digital meteor scatter contacts almost any time of the day or night, not just during annual showers. Most [WSJT](#) scatter operators use a mode known as FSK441 and center their activities on calling frequencies 50.260 and 144.140 MHz. They also announce their availability by using Web sites, such as N0UK's [Ping Jockey Central](#).

Watching the Perseids

To get the most enjoyment while watching for Perseids, find a dark spot with an open sky view, bundle up thoroughly in blankets or a sleeping bag and lie back in a reclining chair. [Spacedex.com](#) recommends that once you have settled down at your observation spot, look approximately half way up the sky toward the northeast: "This way you can have the Perseids' radiant within your field of view. Looking directly up at the sky or into the radiant is not recommended since this is just the point in which they appear to come from. You are more likely to see a trail when looking slightly away from this point." Just gaze into the stars and be patient. Any light pollution will cut down on the numbers, as will the radiant's lower

altitude earlier in the night. But the brightest few meteors shine right through light pollution, and the few that happen when the radiant is low are especially long, skimming the upper atmosphere and flying far

+ *On the Air*: ITU Assigns New Prefix for Niue: E6A-E6Z



On August 3, the ITU updated its [Table of International Call Sign Series](#) to reflect a call sign change for Niue. The island will now have the entire E6 prefix block. Niue -- an island located approximately 1700 miles northeast of New Zealand -- is a self-governing island nation that has been in free association with New Zealand since 1974. Prior to the change, the island used ZK2. According to the [CIA World Factbook](#), Niue is about 1.5 times the size of Washington, DC, and has a population of almost 1300 people.

+ *FCC News*: Vanity Call Sign Fee to Increase September 4

On August 3, the FCC announced via a *Final Rule* in the *Federal Register* that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 80 cents, from to \$14.20 to \$15. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making September 4, 2012, the first day the new fee is in effect. Earlier this year, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed*

Looking northeast around midnight on August 11-13. The red dot is the Perseid radiant. Although Perseid meteors can appear in any part of the sky, all of their tails will point back to the radiant. [Image courtesy of NAS



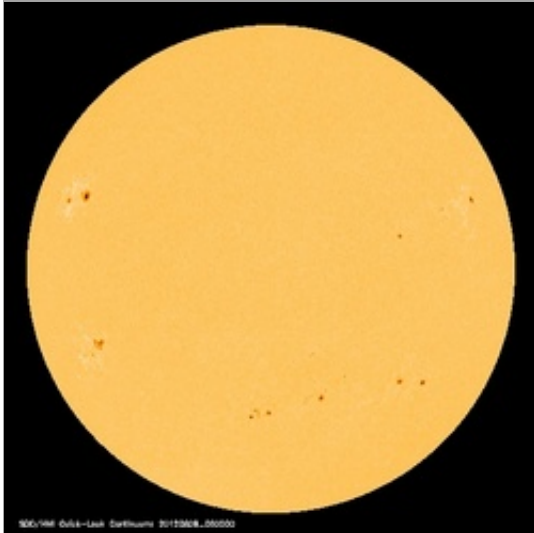
A]

across the sky.

Not all the meteors in the sky are Perseids. In addition to occasional random, sporadic meteors, the weaker [Delta Aquarid shower](#) is also active during Perseid season. The Delta Aquarids are slower, often yellower and track away from a radiant point in eastern Aquarius. Weaker still are the [Kappa Cygnids](#), identifiable by their flight direction away from Cygnus in an altogether different part of the sky.

Rulemaking and Order, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

Solar Update



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, August 9, 2012 from [NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope](#).

This [MDI](#) (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.

Tad "[Sunrise, sunset](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: The average daily sunspot numbers rose more than 20 points this week -- or about 20 percent -- to 119.4, while the average daily solar flux was up 3 points to 134.7. Geomagnetic activity was quiet, with unsettled conditions around August 2. The NOAA/USAF prediction has solar flux at 130 on August 9-10, 125 on

August 11-13, then 115, 110, 105, 90 and 95 on August 14-18, back up to 100 on August 19-20, then 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140 and 145 on August 21-28, then 140 on August 29-31. The predicted planetary A index is 10 on August 9, 5 on August 10-18, 8 on August 19-20, and 5 on August 21-23, and 8 on August 24-25, and 12 on August 26. Look for more on the ARRL website on Friday, August 10. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#)

Upcoming Hamfests

Hamfest/Convention

09/01/2012 | [Shelby Hamfest](#)

Location: Dallas, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Shelby Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://shelbyhamfest.com>

Hamfest/Convention

10/13/2012 | [Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest](#)

Location: Winston-Salem, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

Website:

<http://www.w4nc.com/events.htm>

JARS Officers for 2012

President	Robbie	KD4WIY
V.President	Billy	KG4ZKG
Secretary	Peggy	KJ4OPH
Treasurer	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Mike	KD4UJC
Net Whip	Van	KM4TC

Editor Mike KD4UJC

Ham of the Year Tommy N4CBI

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

I guess that's going to do it for another edition of the "*Official Organ*".

Remember to send in any articles, pictures, stories or anything else you want in our newsletter to:

jars_1@aol.com



© Ron Leishman * www.ClipartOf.com/442408

73 de KD4UJC