

# The Official Organ

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

Volume 34 Number 8 August 2013

## JARS Meeting this Thursday

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday evening, August, 15<sup>th</sup> at the Panther Branch Community Building at 10900 Ten-Ten Road in Garner. That is just off NC 50 south of Garner. Supper this month will consist of Tommy's world famous spaghetti and fixin's. Be sure to let Tommy know at [N4CBI@yahoo.com](mailto:N4CBI@yahoo.com) how many will be in your party so he can prepare enough for everybody to eat. The cost is \$7.00 per person and please try to have exact change.

### In this Months Organ

Special Guest at JARS meeting  
Net Report  
LOM Report  
ARRL News  
NC Section News  
ARES Information  
Upcoming Hamfests  
Classifieds  
And anything else

## Special Guest at JARS Meeting

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, WRAL meteorologist, Mike Moss will be our guest speaker at this month's meeting. He will be speaking to us about hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe weather and the role of Amateur Radio in regards to the weather. Let us make a good impression on Mike Moss by giving him our undivided attention while he is speaking.

## LOM Report

Well, well well. It is I, KK4BVU The Great and Powerful LID. The LID has been treated with little to no respect and I have been forced to use a scientific calculator to keep track of the points. Right now, it is a tight race, but I am sure someone will break away from the field and become the clear "winner" in the end. Or, perhaps I will hold onto the LID for another month so that I can continue to abuse my powers. I'm not going to reveal

any names, but there are several call signs missing from this edition of the LID. I expect to correct this. The Great and Powerful LID has spoken!

KK4BVU The LID.

### **North Carolina Section News**

FIRST OF THE 13 COLONIES – North Carolina finished first in the 2013 13 Colonies Special Event. Over 82,000 contacts were made during this annual event held the first week in July. The NC team logged 9,000 of those QSOs with six North Carolina stations operating under the special K2J call sign. NC team member Nate Moreschi, N4YDU, won the Paul Copeland Top Operator award in the low power category with 4,500 QSOs. The NC team consisted of Marc Sullivan-W4MPS, Jack Ritter-W0UCE, Nate Morsechi - N4YDU, Wes Quinn-K4WES, Dwyane Ayers-N4MIO, and Marty Young-W4MY.

WA90TP IS 2013 MIRIAM SMITH RECIPIENT – At the Waynesville Hamfest on

July 27th, the Roanoke Division's Miriam Smith Award was given to Dave Houser, WA90TP, Mitchell Co. ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC). This award is named in honor of Miriam Smith, KB4C, former Buncombe County ARES EC who unexpectedly became a silent key in July 1995. It was decided to begin an award in her name to honor an area amateur within the 16 western counties of North Carolina who are active in their commitment to ARES emergency and public service communications. The Miriam Smith Award is one of only two awards given by ARRL's Roanoke Division.

HAM RADIO BALLOON LAUNCH HELPS FIRST LIBRARY IN SPACE - Members of the Triangle Amateur Television Association (TATV) participated in a stratospheric balloon launch July 10th meant to make the Durham County Public Library the first "library in space." In addition to the Amateur TV and APRS ham radio gear, the balloon also carried aloft

hundreds of cards imprinted with the library's "FLIS" ("First Library in Space") logo, which were meant to be given away to participants in the library's system's summer reading program. The launch took place at Durham Bulls Athletic Park at the start of a Durham Bulls baseball game. The ATV equipment was intended to provide real-time images sent from the TV transmitter aboard the balloon to the stadium's Jumbotron, but technical issues at the park prevented that from happening. Ham radio operators who participated included Mark Freeze, WD4KSE; Rodney Radford, AK4CH; Michael North, KK4EIB; and Woody Woodward, K3VSA." TATV ([www.qsl.net/tri-atv](http://www.qsl.net/tri-atv)) operates a fast-scan NTSC television repeater, callsign NC4TV, which transmits on cable channel 57 (421.25 MHz), located at TV Hill in Durham. TATV launched a second balloon on July 27th from the North Durham branch library in support of FLIS, and plans future launches using APRS and ATV.

VOICE OF AMERICA GOES DIGITAL – With so many nations cutting back analog shortwave broadcasts to deliver programming over the internet, many assumed that Voice of America and its one remaining transmitter site between Greenville and little Washington were following the same trend. In the past year, however, VOA has been experimenting with digital modes from the Edward R. Murrow Transmitting Center, also known as Site B, the last of three VOA sites near Greenville. Called "VOA Radiogram", the program is trying BPSK31, BPSK63, QPSK31, MFSK16, MFSK32 and Olivia digital modes. Reception of digital transmissions in North Carolina is challenging due to the proximity of the transmitters on higher frequencies and the direction of antennas, but many Hams on the east coast are having fun trying to decode messages. For more information go to <http://voaradiogram.net>

QST SOON TO BE AVAILABLE ON ANDROID – the rise in popularity of Android mobile operating system has prompted ARRL to develop an Android version of QST. Its release is expected this autumn, and will join the Apple iPhone version already available.

IMPROVE YOUR CODE – Over five years have passed since the code requirement ended for licensing, yet CW is more popular than ever. For those looking to improve their CW skills, there is no better training tool than the daily Carolinas Slow Net (CSN). Serving both North and South Carolina, the net meets nightly at 8:00 PM local on 3.571 MHz. The speed averages 5-8 WPM, but the Net Control Station will slow down for newcomers. This is a traffic net that is part of the National Traffic System (NTS) so learning to handle messages also increases speed. Because CW net procedural signals (prosigns) are used, it's best to download a list of

prosigns and “QN” signs used in traffic handling at <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%2520Service/fsd218.pdf> CSN is also looking for some Net Control Stations (NCS) to help out. To find out more about CSN, go to its webpage at: [http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/g/r\\_g\\_burns](http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/g/r_g_burns)

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS – None known for August, however, N4F will be operating for 10 days September 6th -15th at the NC Mountain State Fair at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Fletcher. N4F organizer, The Road Show Amateur Radio Club, is looking for volunteers. If you can help, please contact Bill Van Nuys, N4OOC, at [n4ooc@arrl.net](mailto:n4ooc@arrl.net)

PUBLIC SERVICE – Aug 10, Hillsborough, 2013 Bike Fest. Details at: [http://www.rars.org/public-service/ps\\_signup.php](http://www.rars.org/public-service/ps_signup.php), Aug 14, Concord, Carolina Cycling Time Trial Association, Lowe's Speedway.

Details at  
www.ridemaps.com, Aug 17,  
Lake Junaluska, Blue Ridge  
Breakaway bike  
race. To volunteer contact Al,  
WD4A, at  
[asanders@technologysaleslc.com](mailto:asanders@technologysaleslc.com)  
[m](#)

SILENT KEYS – We regret to  
report the passing of the  
following Hams:  
KG4GOY, Luther Brown, of  
Wilmington; K4ENL, Dave  
Bamford, of Raleigh;  
KF4ZT, Rev. Scott Turner, of  
Hamlet; and W4EHF, Bill Finch,  
of  
Greenville.

BILL FINCH – Anyone who lives  
to age 101 deserves recognition,  
but  
Bill Finch, W4EHF, was more  
than just a Ham who had passed  
the century  
mark. He was still active on the  
North Carolina Morning Net as  
recently as this month. Because  
of his many years of service to  
Amateur Radio, to the National  
Traffic System (NTS) and to the  
communities in which he lived,  
Gov. Beverly Purdue bestowed  
the Order  
of the Long Leaf Pine, North  
Carolina's highest civilian honor,  
on  
Bill in 2012. He was also a

committed athlete. He tried to  
run a mile  
each day, and was hoping to  
attend Senior Olympics to  
compete in the  
one mile race. Sports Illustrated  
featured Bill when he was 96 as  
a  
national badminton champion.  
Bill became licensed in 1935,  
one year  
after the creation of the Federal  
Communications Commission.  
The  
section extends our condolences  
to Bill's family and his son, Bill  
Jr., AI4TN.

### **Ham Humor**

### **DX MOVIES BY AC6V**

[Pileup On The Orient Express](#)  
[Gone With The Wind -- A Yagi](#)  
[Story](#)

[Dxpedition To Skull Island By](#)  
[K1NG/KØNG](#)

[Butch Cassidy And The Sundance](#)  
[Lid](#)

[First BLØOD](#)  
[The Maltese Falklands](#)  
[To Live and Let Diode -- ØØ73](#)  
[CasaBlanker](#)  
[Citizen Band](#)  
[Key Largo](#)

[HamaLot -- The Old DXer is at it](#)  
[again](#)

Silence Of The Hams - Starring Rachel Squelch  
Contact - Starring AL1IEN  
Zulu -- The Ultimate PileUp!!  
Fifth Element -- Story about a 4 element yagi starring Bruce Willis  
Custer's Last QSO -- He left the Sabers, Gatling Guns & HT's at the Fort!!!

ZULU Dawn -- Durnford didn't do well either!!  
ZULU Dawn -- GrayLine Prequel

M1SH MASH -- With RF Burns Gone With The Windom -- The Sequel  
Nightmare On Elmer Street -- With JA1SON

VERTICAL!! Directed By Alfred Switchbox  
Name is James, Call is BØND -- Agent ØØ73

N8CPA writes: "I love the smell of generator exhaust in the morning--It smells like Field Day!  
[ 7:00AM June 28, 1997]"

## **NET REPORT**

Even though I pound the keys and push the pencil, I still cannot check in enough times to be the monthly winner (maybe

try harder next month?). Each month it gets harder and harder to be the champ. There always seems to be a battle among the top 6 contenders each month. All it takes is for you to be there another 3 or 4 nights to be the best for the month. No prizes. Just bragging rights. You didn't expect money did you? Of course not.

The winner is no other than.....?????

He checked in 17 times. The winner is ????

O.K. I'll tell you. Later on.

We had the large total 434 check ins. Very nice indeed. Can we try for 450 next month? That's only 16 more. You CAN do it.

Alright you win. the winner is Steven KJ4QNW - two months in a row. Who is going to knock him off his high perch? Will it be KK4BVU, KT4JR, K4MWE, WA2YBM or a Johnny come lately? It's all up to you.

On an up beat note, I'm only missing two reports and that is very good considering other months. Please try to send them in within 2-3 days. It is very difficult to do 3-4-or five report a week or longer after the end of the month.

Congratulation to the Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

NCS's. Thanks gang. You're good!

That's all 'til next month.

Jack WA2YBM Net Whip

## Johnston County ARES



Johnston County is at a key location in North Carolina as it has two major interstates that intersect in it, I-40 and I-95. It also has a liquid fuel tank farm and a natural gas tank farm located in it. Johnston County also serves at a stopping point for I-40 and U.S.70 in the event of a major coastal evacuation.

For twenty years Johnston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service was essentially non-existent. However, since the first of the year it has gone from non-existent to a team of more than 15 active members and is growing each month. Also,

Johnston Amateur Radio Society and Johnston County ARES recently had a surplus ambulance donated to them to convert into a communications vehicle.

Many of the team members have already completed the basic ICS courses and some have even taken some of the advanced courses offered by the State of North Carolina. At the Emergency Operations Center for Johnston County, located in Smithfield ARES has a dual band radio capable of being used as a cross band repeater, a dual band radio used for simplex use as well as an HF radio with tuner that can be used for both voice and digital purposes. These radios are checked at least once a month to ensure that there will be no problems with them should the need arise that they are needed.

Johnston County ARES has gone from zero meetings to meeting at least once a month in addition to training exercises. We also have a website, [www.johnstoncountyares.com](http://www.johnstoncountyares.com), a Facebook page, Johnston County A.R.E.S. and a twitter page, @JohnstonCoARES. They also now have an ARES net once a month on the AK4H, 147.27+

repeater at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Johnston County ARES leadership is comprised of:  
Mike Callam KD4UJC- EC  
Scott Lewis KJ4BPV-AEC  
Bob German KB4RGC -Technical Advisor  
Pam Lewis KK4JCZ-Secretary  
Doug Eubanks K1DUG-Social Media.

## ARRL NEWS

### *Ham Radio in Space: AO-7 "Zombie" Satellite Again Enjoying Its Time in the Sun*

*It's baaaaack!* Launched November 15, 1974 as the second AMSAT Phase 2 ham satellite, [AO-7](#) may be the zombie of the Amateur Radio satellite world, having returned from the dead more than a decade ago, then periodically re-emerging. Next year, it will be 40 years old, ancient in satellite years. After its batteries succumbed to old age, AO-7 went silent in 1981, only to spring back to life in 2002, although some believe it may have resurrected itself as much as a year earlier. AMSAT

describes the Mode A/B bird as "semi-operational" and "almost certainly" running solely from its solar panels. The ham satellite organization theorizes that AO-7's batteries shorted when they failed, but the short circuit subsequently opened, allowing the satellite to return to life. This means AO-7 only works when it's receiving direct sunlight and shuts down when in eclipse. Since the satellite became undead, terrestrial users have enjoyed numerous contacts via AO-7.

"AO-7 is alive and doing okay," satellite observer Frank Griffin, K4FEG, reported this week. "This season's eclipse cycle has ended." Griffin explained that the eclipse period, during which AO-7 falls silent, lasts about 9 weeks, from mid-spring to mid-summer. According to its [operating plan](#), AO-7 switches to Mode B (70 centimeters up/2 meters down) at 0000 UTC.

"The satellite has started its mode switches, but it has not quite settled back down yet," Griffin told ARRL. For example, he said, AO-7 was in Mode A at 1230 UTC on August 5, but had been reported in Mode B earlier. He suspects that even though the satellite is now in sunlight, its orientation to the sun may still



affect electrical power onboard the satellite "until it gets a little further into the full illumination." This, in turn, could degrade the transponder performance.

AO-7 has beacons on 29.502 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode A) and 145.972 MHz (used in conjunction with Mode B and Mode C -- low power Mode B). The 435.100 MHz beacon has an intermittent problem, switching between 400 mW and 10 mW.

Potential AO-7 users are advised that due to changes in Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Service rules, the legality of transmitting to AO-7 on its Mode B uplink is questionable, since that frequency no longer falls within an Amateur Satellite Service allocation. §97.207(c)(2) and §97.209(b)(2) of the FCC rules authorize space station and earth station operation only in the 435-438 MHz segment, and it's unclear whether a 1974 FCC waiver might still cover operation on the original Mode B uplink frequency. -- *Thanks to Frank Griffin, K4FEG; AMSAT News Service; AMSAT*

## ***Ham Radio in Space: ARISS Logs Several***

## **Successful Ham Radio Contacts with ISS Crew**

The International Space Station crew has been answering a lot of questions lately -- all as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) educational outreach. [European Space Agency](#) astronaut Luca Parmitano, KF5KDP, of Italy, was at the helm of NA1SS aboard the ISS for a successful contact July 30 with students at the Italian Bilingual School in New South Wales, Australia. The contact via VK4KHZ lasted just under 10 minutes. After English, Italian is the most widely spoken language in Australia, with more than 500,000 speakers there using the language on a daily basis.

Parmitano continued his roll of successful ham radio contacts with Earth on August 1, when he was interviewed by budding pilots and aircraft enthusiasts attending the Experimental Aircraft Association's [AirVenture](#) air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Contact was established between NA1SS and AH6NM in Hawaii, with audio telebridged to the AirVenture site.

(Telebridges make contacts possible when the ISS is not in a favorable orbit for a direct contact.)

Welcoming some 500,000 AirVenture visitors each year and with a student membership of more than 20,000, the Experimental Aircraft Association ([EEA](#)) "is a gateway to aerospace for many young people," the association says. "The young people present for the contact with the space station were very diverse and reflect the range of people who are active in our organization." That included some 125 young women and their mentors who are part of [WomenSoar](#), a program to promote aerospace opportunities for women. Also on hand were groups from aviation high schools in Florida and California.

Parmitano's colleague in space, NASA Astronaut Christopher Cassidy, KF5KDR, concluded yet another successful contact August 3 with students attending [Space Jam 7](#) at the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum, Rantoul, Illinois. The contact was between NA1SS and LU8YY, with audio telebridged to the museum.

Space Jam 7 is a Scouting activity aimed at completing the

requirements of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) merit badges well as promoting the skills required by aspiring astronauts. The event included a ham radio licensing class. Space Jam 7 was attended by some 2000 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and leaders from 20 states.

The ISS crew also enjoyed a successful contact August 6 with students attending the Escuela Provincial de Educación Técnica No. 2 (Provincial School of Technical Education No. 2) in General Pico la Pampa, Argentina. The contact was between NA1SS and LU8YY, with audio telebridged to the school. In addition the crew spoke August 7 with youngsters at Ecole Primaire Pasteur (Pasteur Elementary School), Fleurance, France, via an audio telebridge with LU1CGB. *Read [more](#). -- ARISS, AMSAT News Service*

## **FCC: President Nominates O'Rielly to Vacant Republican FCC Seat**

President Barack Obama has nominated Republican Mike O'Rielly to fill a vacant seat on the Federal Communications Commission.

Telecommunications industry insider and Democrat Tom Wheeler, the White House nominee to succeed Julius Genachowski as the Commission's chairman, this week received the approval of the Senate Commerce Committee. Senate Republicans would prefer pairing Wheeler's and O'Rielly's nominations before they go before the full Senate for confirmation, something that won't happen until after Congress returns from its August recess.

O'Rielly, a New Yorker who is on the staff of Texas Republican Senator John Cornyn, would fill one of two vacant Commission seats -- the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2014, that had been held by Robert M. McDowell, who resigned. Because of resignations, the five-member FCC is down to one Republican and two Democratic members, including acting chairwoman Mignon Clyburn, who said she is "excited about working with Mike on the many important issues facing the Commission." -- *News reports; FCC; The White House*

## ***Your League: ARRL Introduces Centennial Membership Certificate***

ARRL membership certificates commemorating the League's 100th anniversary in 2014 now are available. Members logged onto the League's [website](#) can generate their own certificates or cards [online](#) for printing. "We want each ARRL member to know that he or she is a part of next year's big ARRL Centennial," says Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF. The certificate maker also produces a replacement membership card. The ARRL thanks past [McGan Award](#) winner Angel Luis Santana, WP3GW, for suggesting the 2014 ARRL Centennial Membership Certificate, which was designed by ARRL Graphic Artist Diane Szlachetka.

## ***Safety First! Harness Saves Canadian Ham After Fall from Tower***

An unidentified ham in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, avoided serious injury or worse after falling July 16 from a ham radio tower he was disassembling. The man, whom media reports called "a certified tower expert" fell backward

from the tower and became trapped about 35 feet in the air. The *Edmonton Journal* quoted District Fire Chief Lorne Corbett.

"He had on the proper harness, that's what saved him," Corbett said. "He also had his legs entangled in the tower itself."

When the rescue team showed up, the man was upside down, and firefighters went up the tower to stabilize him and orient him upright. Firefighters got the man down using a bucket on a fire ladder. Although bruised, he was able to walk to the ambulance.

The ARRL offers [antenna and tower safety tips](#) on its website. Universal Radio also has posted a list of [general recommendations](#) for installing outdoor antennas. -- *The Edmonton Journal*; *The Edmonton Sun*

## Solar Update

Propagation Predictor Tad "Sol Man" Cook, K7RA, in Seattle, reports: Solar indicators barely moved this week, with average daily sunspot numbers up 5.8 points to 85.4, and average daily solar flux down 2.4 points to 107.3. Predicted solar flux for the next week is also unchanged, with the predicted average for

Thursday August 8 through Wednesday August 14 at 107.9, hardly different from 107.3 this past week.

Solar flux is predicted at 110 on August 8-11, 105 on August 12-14, 110 and 115 on August 15-16, 110 on August 17-18, 105 on August 19-24, 110 on August 25-28, 115 on August 29, 105 on August 30 through September 2, 110 on September 3-4, and 115 on September 5-12.

Predicted planetary A index is 8, 12, 18 and 10 on August 8-11, 5 on August 12-13, then 12 and 8 on August 14-15, 5 on August 16-20, then 10, 15 and 10 on August 21-23, 5 on August 24-30, then 12, 17, 8, 5 and 8 on August 31 through September 4, 5 on September 5-9, and 8 on September 10-11.

Friday's bulletin will respond to a flood of e-mail concerning our Sun's shifting magnetic polarity, and will update the latest daily forecast for solar flux and A index.

## Upcoming HamFests

### 08/31/2013 | North Carolina Section Convention (Shelby Hamfest)

**Location:** Shelby, NC

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Shelby Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>

## JARS Classifieds

I've ordered some stylish, custom printed high-quality window stickers to enable all JARS members to display their club pride and boost community awareness of JARS. These stickers are 4" by 6" and cost \$5 each. Quantities are limited, so those interested should act quickly.

**(SEE ATTACHED PIC)**

These stickers are scheduled to arrive at my door next week, on the 15th. Assuming they arrive on time, I will bring them to next week's JARS meeting and make them available to anyone who wants one, or a few.

If possible, would you place it in a prominent spot in the newsletter to ensure

everyone sees it?

Thanks!

Steve / N4SMB

cell: 910 - 379 - 3525



If anyone needs help programming the following radios, I have the software and hardware and will be willing to program them to your specifications:

Anytone AT-5888UV

TYT TH-UV F9

Baofeng UV-5RC

Yaesu FT-7900

Wouxun KG-UV2D Wouxun KG-UV3X

Wouxun KG-UV6

Wouxun KG-UV920P

Wouxun KG-UV920R

Wouxun KG-UVA1

[jarsmember@centurylink.net](mailto:jarsmember@centurylink.net)

The JARS Classified section is where you can list radios and radio related items. You can also list anything amateur radio related you might be looking for also.

Submit your ads to:

[jarsmember@centurylink.net](mailto:jarsmember@centurylink.net)

**At an** upcoming presentation on International HF broadcasting here are 2 pictures – My psychedelic curtain antenna and the second pix is the same antenna in normal daylight. Mind you this thing has a gain of 26 dB (after feedline loss you still have net 20 dB left over to play with) and is electrically slewable by 60 degrees.



Bob German, KB4RGC

## JARS Officers 2013

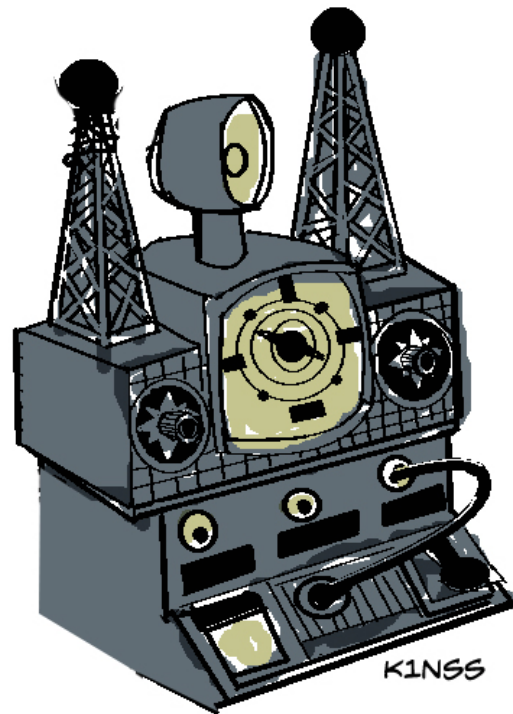
Pres.	Robbie	KD4WIY
VP	Billy	KJ4ZKJ
Sec.	Peggy	KJ4OPH
Treas.	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Mike	KD4UJC
Net Whip	Jack	WA2YBM

Photog	Jack	WA2YBM
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Editor	Mike	KD4UJC
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Ham of the Year	
Billy Massengill	WB4EBG

Johnston Amateur Radio Society,  
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That does it for another  
edition of the JARS  
*Official Organ.*

Hope to see everyone at  
the meeting Thursday  
night.

73 de KD4UJC