

# The Official Organ

The Official Newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.  
Volume 38, No. 11, November 2013

## JARS Meeting this Thursday

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday at Panther Branch Community Building. This is located at 10900 Ten-ten road located just off of NC 50 south of Garner. Our own Chef Tommy Rich will be cooking spaghetti for us once again after a brief break. Cost is \$7 per person. Please bring exact change. Also at this meeting we will be taking nominations for the prestigious "HAM of the Year". Each year, we vote on the one club member that has done the most for the club and the hobby during the year 2013 and present them with a plaque at the December meeting. The only ones not eligible are the current HOY, Billy Massengill, WB4EBG and last years HOY, Tommy Rich, N4CBI. So, be thinking of who you feel deserves this prestigious award and make your vote count. Also don't forget that 2014 dues are due, so bring your funds to the meeting next week.

## In this month's Official Organ

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## JARSFest 2013

Tomorrow is the big day that ALL Jarsmembers have been looking forward to all year even more than Christmas and your spouse's birthday! That's right it's JARSFest time! Our regular vendors, AC/DC Electronics, Sauder Electronics, DBJRadio & Electronics and RF Connections, along with a lot of individuals selling experienced equipment will be there. JARS members can purchase their ticket for \$6 tomorrow. Our operating frequency for JARSFest is 147.500 simplex.

This is the ***ONLY*** fundraising event that we do. In order for it to continue to be the success it has always been, all JARS members need to participate. A job list was sent out a short time ago stating what everyone was expected to do. Folks, we even have several non-members come out every year to help out to make this a success. So we as a club should do the same. The event starts at 230 am when we go in and start setting up the inside tables and chairs. Then the next rush is between 6am and 8am when the vendors start arriving. We are the only club in the area that helps the vendors unload in the morning and pack up in the evening. When I made the list, I tried my best to make sure that most of us only have a shift of a couple of hours so we can all enjoy the JARSFest, so let's all pull together and make this one another huge success!

### **LOM Report:**

It's kinda short but I haven't had much time to listen this month. If you have any lid candidates let me know. I'm either going to find somebody between now or the meeting or it's going to be a raffle that everyone gets a ticket when they pay Diane for the building fund. They just won't

know what the ticket is for until the end.

***Robbie Wheeler***

### **North Carolina Section News**

**WELCOME CLUBS** – A big hello to the Foothills Amateur Radio Club of North Wilkesboro, the newest ARRL club in the North Carolina section.

Also, renewing its charter after a period of inactivity is the Watauga Amateur Radio Club in Boone. They become respectively the 68th and 69th actively affiliated ARRL clubs in North Carolina.

### **WAKE ISLAND DXPEDITION FINALLY ARRIVES**

– The government shutdown the first two weeks of October prevented the Wake Atoll Commemorative DXpedition from arriving on its originally scheduled date because the small Pacific atoll is controlled by U.S. authorities. The group finally got the green light and will be QRV as K9W beginning this Saturday, November 2nd, and will be on the air until November 15th.

Three Carolinas DX Association

(CDXA) members are team participants:  
Lou Dietrich, N2TU, and Dick Williams, W3OA, both from Mooresville, and Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, of Lake Wylie, SC. Latest news on the DXpedition can be found at [wake2013.org](http://wake2013.org)

**MORE BALLOONS** – Western Carolina University's Physics Dept. will launch Catamount 6, another in its high altitude balloons series, this Saturday from the Jackson Co. airport about 9:30 AM. The balloon, which is tracked through APRS, is projected to reach a height of 100,000 feet before it bursts, and its payload will parachute to earth, expecting to land somewhere between Statesville and Gastonia. You can follow the balloon and its estimated two hour flight on [www.aprs.fi](http://www.aprs.fi)

**SIMULATED EMERGENCY TESTS** – Dates will be announced shortly for the SET exercises in November and December. Go to <http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/set2013.html> for the latest information.

There will be emphasis on digital modes, such as Winlink using PACTOR modems and Winmor, and for the first time peer-to-peer modes MT-63 and Olivia. (See QUA commentary below).

**PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING** – The newly created North Carolina Public Service Net will conduct two consecutive Wednesday nights of Net Control training at 7:30 PM on November 13 and 20. See details below on frequencies on the Carolinas 440 Link System.

**PUBLIC SERVICE** – For an update on Public Service opportunities in North Carolina, visit the "Ham Public Service – NC" group in Yahoo Groups at [groups.yahoo.com/groups/hpsnc](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/hpsnc), and join its weekly net heard in the Piedmont and the eastern part of the state on the Carolina 440 Link System net Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM. To find a repeater near you, visit the Carolina 440 Link System webpage at <http://www.carolina440.net> No v. 3 – City of Oaks Marathon,

Raleigh.  
Nov. 24 - Making Room For  
Turkey Ride, Raleigh. Details at  
[www.rars.org/public-  
service.php](http://www.rars.org/public-service.php)

**FROM STEM TO STEAM** – Many  
Hams have heard of the STEM  
educational  
movement (Science, Technology,  
Engineering and Math), but  
Wake  
County's Hilburn Academy  
sponsored "STEAM" night on  
October 24th,  
with the letter "A" meaning  
"Art". Demonstrating fast motion  
Amateur Radio Television (ATV)  
during STEAM night was the  
Triangle  
Amateur Television Association  
(TATA). Thanks to TATA's Mark  
Freeze,  
WD4KSE, Rodney Radford,  
AK4CH and Woody Woodward,  
K3VSA, for showing a  
different mode of Ham Radio to  
kids.

**CELEBRATING 100 EPISODES** is  
Ham Radio Now, the webcast  
produced and  
hosted by Cary's Gary Pearce,  
KN4AQ. You can catch all 100  
episodes  
at <http://arvideonews.com/hrn>  
Congratulations to Gary and his  
team -  
Jeff Wittich - AC4ZO, Cliff

Broughton – W4FT, and Cyndi –  
KD4ACW,  
Gary's supportive and long  
suffering YL, as Gary himself  
admits.

**FREQUENCY CHANGE** – The  
nightly Carolinas Net – Early  
Edition (CNE)  
has gone back from its summer  
spot on 7114 KHz to its regular  
frequency  
of 3573 KHz at 1900 local.

**SILENT KEYS** – We regret to  
report the passing of the  
following Hams:  
Nick Conigliaro – N2FWL,  
Swansboro; David Keith –  
K4TQH,  
Fuquay-Varina; Raymond  
Upchurch – W4GXT, Raleigh;  
Benton Blalock –  
WA4CHZ, Norwood; Robert  
Hedrick – KI4TTX, Oak Island;  
Jake Smit –  
AA4DC, Deep Gap; and Dr. Joe  
"Peck" Garner – WD4DMV,  
Boone.

**QUA\* – "IS THERE ANYONE  
THERE...ANYONE?"** This October  
30th marks  
the 75th anniversary of Orson  
Welles's famous radio rendition  
of the  
science fiction novel, War of the  
Worlds. Most know of the chaos  
which

ensued when Welles's production failed to insert ongoing disclaimers. (One of the reasons we say, "This is only a drill" frequently during ARES and AUXCOMM exercises.) It's still chilling dialogue even three quarters of a century later, especially after the Martians have destroyed much of earth and we hear the plaintive cry of a Ham pleading, "2X2L calling CQ. Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there... anyone?" Many times I feel like 2X2L as I drive around North Carolina and put out a call on local repeaters. With the exception of some regular nets, most repeaters are not only quiet, but I suspect not even monitored. Not only is this a shame, but also it's potentially dangerous, especially if someone needs help. What I find surprising is that designated repeaters are quiet before regularly scheduled club meetings and exam sessions. I was a guest at a club meeting and wanted to alert the group I would arrive a few

minutes late. No one came back to my calls on the machine associated with the club hosting the meeting. At a recent exam session, I'm glad I had an HT because a Ham looking to upgrade couldn't find the exam location and luckily I was monitoring. We all need to listen more, but especially before and after Ham related events in case someone has questions. Also, remember to bring your HTs to a meeting or session in case there's inquiry traffic. It seems our cell phones have replaced our mobile rigs and HTs, and we need to get back to basics for the good of all Hams.

**DIGITAL DUTY** - This autumn's section Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercises in November and December will have a new emphasis - digital modes. Like all electronic communications, EMCOMM is evolving. The nation's cell infrastructure has matured and now exceeds landlines in reliability. Hurricane Sandy

confirmed the new reality. So what role can Amateur Radio emergency communications play in this new environment? Where emergency communications remain challenging is in rural areas where cellular coverage is spotty. According to the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, 85 of North Carolina's 100 counties are considered rural, and almost 5 million, or over 50%, of the Tar Heel state's 9 million residents live in rural counties. With vast distances to cover, digital modes will increasingly complement voice communications in providing reliable and trackable communications with government agencies. I encourage all ARES and AUXCOMM operators to learn to become proficient in current and emerging digital modes, which will become the future of EMCOMM.

73 de Bill Morine  
ARRL North Carolina Section  
Manager

## Ham Humor

### **YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....**

- 1.YOUR WIFE SAID "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID ANTENNA!**
- 2. YOUR WIFE SAID "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!**
- 3. YOUR WIFE SAID "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID HAM FEST!**
- 4. YOUR WIFE SAID "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID LOG BOOK!**
- 5. YOUR WIFE SAID "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, " IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"**
- 6. YOUR WIFE SAID " TURN ON THE FAN AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID CHANGE THE BANDS.**

**kc9rxc**

**You might be hard of hearing too!!**

### **YOU KNOW YOUR A HAM IF:**

- 1. You know you're a ham if you ID every ten minutes during a regular conversation.**
- kc9rxc**

## Net Report:

Sad news this month gang. Total check-ins this month was the piddling number of 397. That's down 87 from the previous month. That's pretty pathetic for the JARS net. I am missing 4 reports this month- approximately 60 check-ins still makes the total short for the month

The deadline for reports for November is December 4th. From now on, I will not contact those who do not send them in. Each report has to be checked for call sign accuracy, reconciling paper with the Excel spread sheet and double-checking grand totals daily and monthly which have to be the same. This takes a tremendous amount of time.

At this time, I would say a huge THANK YOU to all those who send in their reports regularly. THANK YOU!

The check in champ this month is Larry K4MWE with checking in 28 times followed by Julie with 26.

Also I would like to thank a new Ham to the Jars net at 8:30 p.m. each month – Antoinette,

K4TXX. Welcome aboard.

Jack, WA2YBM Net Whip.

## ARRL News:

### *Public Service: Philippine Amateur Radio Volunteers Fill Communication Gap*

In the devastating aftermath of what some weather experts are calling the most severe typhoon (hurricane) ever, Philippine Amateur Radio volunteers are providing communication support for governmental and relief agencies as rescue and recovery operations are underway. In many cases, ham radio is the *only* communication available, as Typhoon Haiyan ("Yolanda" in the Philippines) took out the telecommunication infrastructure as well as electrical power over a wide area.

"No words to describe what my beloved Philippines is going through," Thelma Pascua, DU1IVT, posted to her Facebook page.

Hardest hit was the city of Tacloban, the capital of Leyte province. The death toll still has not been determined, but at least 2500 lost their lives, and

600,000 or more were left homeless -- some largely without food and water -- awaiting the arrival of outside assistance. Ramon Anquilan, DU1UGZ, of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association ([PARA](#)), said that amid the chaos, Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) stations on HF and VHF have been aiding authorities and residents throughout the archipelago.

He reported that some of the pressure has been lifted, now that some cellular telephone and Internet service has been restored in Tacloban. The HERO station there has been handling health-and-welfare inquiries. Ironically a curfew imposed to maintain law and order has prevented the station from staying on the air after dark.

"It appears that the NTC [National Telecommunications Commission] had an emergency meeting and decided to provide hams in the area with mobile rigs and hand-held portables," he said. "The NTC's awareness of the importance of Amateur Radio is maturing, and there are talks of our clubs training and maintaining stations NTC regional offices."

Anquilan said national and emergency response agencies have relocated the command post to the Tacloban Grandstand, while the HERO District 5 Radio Amateur Network ([RADNET](#)) station, using the call sign DU5AOK, remains on the second floor of city hall in Tacloban -- with security, food, and logistics problems now cropping up.

"We are urgently requesting assistance to sustain the DU5AOK station and ensure operations in the other hard-struck areas are established -- Samar, Panay, Cebu, Biliran, and the tourist area of Palawan," he said. The local government has been maintaining the emergency generator powering the station. Anquilan specifically mentioned a need for field-deployable systems, power generators, antenna systems, food or ration packs, and tents for the operators.

Anquilan said the NTC has employed the HERO network to handle several messages. He said the Red Cross used the Tacloban HERO station to track a relief vehicle to verify the welfare of its volunteers, who had been stopped and ransacked by storm victims impatient for aid to arrive.



As a matter of policy, the Tacloban station and others in the disaster areas were accepting only outbound traffic as priority messages, Anquilan explained. These include health-and-welfare traffic, messages from institutions and government agencies to Manila, and urgent requests for specific assistance or relief. He estimated that HERO operations will remain active for at least another week.

"As the primary telecom services are restored, there will be less reliance on the Amateur Radio service in Tacloban," Anquilan said. "This will mean a more difficult period, because the remote areas not reached yet by government and other agencies will now demand communication links." He predicted that ham radio assets will be spread thinly, resulting in gaps.

Elsewhere, the Cebuano Amateur Radio League (CARL) has established an HF station in Bantayan, at the northern tip of Cebu. The municipality was the hardest hit in Cebu, with an estimated 90 percent of structures leveled by the storm. The Chocolate Hills Amateur

Radio League ([CHARL](#)) club station DX7BC and members are standing by to monitor and relay messages between Tacloban and the principal receiving stations.

Stations scattered throughout the Philippine archipelago are receiving outgoing traffic from Tacloban and the other affected areas. Additional operators are on standby to relay traffic as necessary.

Anquilan said the news media have begun noticing ham radio but fail to understand the important role the HERO network has been playing in the wake of the disaster. "Although there's some very brief TV exposure, they are yet to adequately report on the voluntary service it provides, and the emergency communications to the agencies and community in times of disaster," he said.

Milt Camp, K6OYX/DU2OYX -- founder of [Los Médicos Voladores](#) (The Flying Doctors) - lives in the Philippines (Baguio City in Luzon) and has been assisting with emergency communication. He reported that ham radio volunteers there are using HF to handle outbound traffic on 14.277 MHz.

"We had a lot of wind even in this area 400 kilometers north of the typhoon," he reported. "I did take down my antenna for the [worst] of the wind but put back as soon as I could." He said a net on 7.095 MHz "has been on 24/7" since the typhoon.

Camp said he believed the international net on 14.277 MHz was being used to contact families in areas hit by the typhoon. "We do have medical people from this area going to the damaged area starting this weekend," he added.

### *Public Service: MARS Operators Complete "Exemplary" Simulated Disaster Response Exercise*

Radio amateurs in the Military Auxiliary Radio System ([MARS](#)) concluded an unprecedented 48-hour marathon exercise November 5 that linked the continental US, Hawaii, Japan, Europe, and Canada during a simulated breakdown of normal communication systems, including the Internet. For the first time in a nationwide test, [W1AW](#) staffers activated the Maxim Memorial Station Army MARS station AAN1ARL at ARRL Headquarters to facilitate input from the Radio Amateur Civil

Emergency Service (RACES) community.

"Well done by all," messaged Army MARS Chief Stephen Klinefelter, when the test was concluded. The exercise involved the transmission of hundreds of encrypted messages via HF radio. The traffic carried "situational awareness" information needed by a joint Department of Defense entity responsible for responding to a national crisis situation. Many operators, net control and relay station members in particular, put in long hours maintaining the seamless connection.

Joining Army MARS in providing backup communication for the US Department of Defense entity were members of the Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force MARS branches. Elements of the National Guard, FEMA, the Transportation Security Administration, and selected state authorities also participated.

During the final day of the exercise, MARS members also acted on a real-world request from DoD to be prepared to monitor International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) emergency frequencies as Typhoon Haiyan appeared poised to develop into

a category 5 storm and strike the Philippines.

MARS members were given strict time limits for providing the requested information in order to receive credit for completing their message handling. These statistics will be used to evaluate how quickly and efficiently the multi-branched network might be able to handle information requests and responses under conditions mirroring an actual catastrophe. Poor propagation, particularly in the overnight hours, added a realistic touch.

A formal after-action report from Army MARS Program Officer Paul English, WD8DBY, and Operations Chief David McGinnis, K7UXO, is still in the works, but Klinefelter saluted the overall performance.

"You have just completed the most complex and longest MARS communications exercise in recent history," he said. "I want to thank each of you for participating and devoting long hours to make this exercise a success. The dedicated efforts to maintain effective nationwide contingency communications support demonstrated by all participants were exemplary."

Discussions between ARRL Headquarters staff, US Army MARS Region 1 leadership, and English preceded the exercise. Eastern Massachusetts was chosen for the first test of full-scale collaboration between ARES and MARS, and Tim Wortley, KQ1Y, the MARS state director for Southern New England, worked out the details with Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY. Wortley said he received more than a half-dozen responses to inquiries he'd put into the system. Other tactical voice messages on amateur VHF repeaters were forwarded to MARS circuits. The ARES test was separate from the activation of the MARS station at W1AW.

*On the Air: ARRL November Sweepstakes Marks 80 Years -- Redux!*

This weekend, the 2013 [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) *phone* event will dominate the bands, continuing the 80th running of the oldest domestic ham radio contest. Sweepstakes -- also known as "Sweeps" and "SS" -- debuted in 1930, but ham radio was suspended during World War II. The action gets underway at 2100 UTC Saturday and runs

through 0259 UTC Monday. The 2013 ARRL November Sweepstakes [Operating Guide](#) provides details. An ARRL November Sweepstakes [webinar](#) by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Mike DeChristopher, N1TA, has been posted to the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation website.

An eHam article, "[An Enticement for Contest Newbies](#)" by Sweepstakes Manager Larry Hammel, K50T; Ward Silver, NØAX, and Mike Gilmer, N2MG, helps explain the intricacies of SS and offers valuable tips to newcomers. The somewhat lengthy SS exchange, which participants must copy accurately to earn points, reflects the event's origins as a traffic-handling exercise and borrows some radiogram vocabulary. It consists of a consecutive serial number (leading zeroes are *not* required); a "precedence" -- a letter representing your entry category, e.g. "A" for single ops running 100 W; your call sign; a "check" consisting of the last two numerals of the year in which you were first licensed, and your ARRL or Radio Amateurs of Canada Section. Participants work each station once for

contact points, and the score multiplier is the number of ARRL/RAC sections worked (83 total).

As [noted](#) in advance of the CW weekend, the number 80 comes into play for participants in this weekend's contest who want to enhance the fun and the challenge by setting some individual achievement goals this year -- for example, for working 80 contacts per mode, scoring 80,000 points (total), running 80 W, and even for working all ARRL sections traversed by Interstate 80 and all sections on 80° W longitude. SS operators also can earn recognition for working all of the ARRL Sections in place in 1930 -- there were 68 back then, as opposed to 83 today. New this year are an 80 years T-shirt and "Clean Sweep" coffee mug, as well as participation pins and a special certificate. Operators 80 years old or older and all participating clubs will get special recognition. [Details](#) are on the ARRL November Sweepstakes web page.

### ***On the Air: Rare, Brief 6 Meter F<sub>2</sub> Opening Makes for Plentiful DX***

Six meter operators were treated November 9 to an F<sub>2</sub> opening from approximately

1500 until 1630 UTC. "These have been very rare in Solar Cycle 24," said *QST* "The World Above 50 MHz" Editor Jon Jones, NØJK. He described the opening as "mostly single-hop F<sub>2</sub>" from the East Coast, Midwest, Gulf Coast, and to the West Coast to Central America, Northern South America and Caribbean.

Jones said the geomagnetic field was active, with a K of 4, due to what [Spaceweather.com](http://Spaceweather.com) called "a gusty stream of solar wind buffeting Earth's magnetic field, sparking auroras around both of our planet's poles." Jones said he was "late to the show" because he'd worked the night before. He didn't get into the fray until 1550 UTC after he saw all the 6 meter spots showing up.

"I turned on the radio, and FM5AN, P43A, PJ4NX, etc. were all blasting in loud here in eastern Kansas," he said. "I worked FM5AN and P43A from home using a M<sup>2</sup> loop in the attic. Jean, P43A said I was S-9. Nothing new or rare, but any F<sub>2</sub> on 6 meters in solar cycle 24 is a treat."

***Your League: Nominations Due December 31 for 2013 ARRL International Humanitarian Award***

Nominations are due December 31 for the 2013 [ARRL](http://ARRL)

[International Humanitarian Award](#). This award is conferred upon a radio amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster.

A committee appointed by the League president is now accepting nominations from Amateur Radio, governmental or other organizations that have benefited from extraordinary service rendered by an Amateur Radio operator or group. Amateur Radio is one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, thereby spreading goodwill across political boundaries.

The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes Amateur Radio's unique role in international communication and the assistance amateurs regularly provide to people in need. Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual (or individuals)

for this award, plus verifying statements from at least two people having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. These statements may be from an official of a group (for example, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, a local or state emergency management official) that benefited from the nominee's particular Amateur Radio contribution. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references.

All nominations and supporting materials for the 2013 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA. The winner of the ARRL International Humanitarian Award receives an engraved plaque and a profile in *QST* and other ARRL venues.

*Your League: HPM's "Old Betsy" is Returned to Operating Order*



"Old Betsy"

Back in the day -- prior to 1989, to be more specific -- ARRL tours were treated to a demonstration of League Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim's rotary spark-gap transmitter, "Old Betsy." The vintage transmitter, on display in the lobby of the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, sustained some damage, however, and she has remained silent for nearly 24 years. Until now.

It's always been my intention to get Old Betsy working again," W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, explained. "Seeing that next year is our Centennial, I made her functionality one of my priorities."

For Amateur Radio newcomers, a spark-gap transmitter is pretty much as it sounds. A very high voltage is applied to two electrodes sufficient to cause the electrons to bridge -- or spark across -- the gap between them.

Various circuits, and the antenna, are used to tune this broad-spectrum energy -- essentially a radio signal (think power line noise or interference from a vacuum cleaner) -- to a particular radio wavelength. An improvement on this basic concept was the *rotary* spark-gap transmitter, where a motor rapidly turns a number of electrodes (Old Betsy has four) past stationary electrodes. This helps to generate a semblance of a "note" on the Morse transmissions in that era before receivers had circuitry to make CW sound as it does today. Old Betsy is considered a non-synchronous rotary spark gap, Carcia points out, and the belt-driven rotor spins at approximately 2500 RPM. The rotating and stationary electrodes are housed within a handcrafted wooden box with an open top.

In the olden days of Amateur Radio -- the 1920s -- Maxim, known as "HPM," had Old Betsy installed in the basement of his Hartford, Connecticut, home and keyed it from his operating position on the first floor above. A spark-gap transmitter can generate a lot of noise -- both ambient and throughout the radio spectrum -- so keeping "Old Betsy" and the operator on

separate floors made good sense. The transmitter is equipped with an RF ammeter to measure the RF current flowing into the antenna, although one is no longer connected.

Carcia says Betsy once again is ready for prime time. "I've repaired Old Betsy -- and placed a protective polycarbonate shield around her as well," he says. "Old Betsy is now functional." But it will only be run *without* an antenna. The FCC banned spark transmitters in the 1930s.

### *Ham Radio in the Media: TV Show Featuring Fictional Ham Sparks Crop of Real Hams*

Fans of the ABC Television show "[Last Man Standing](#)" may be aware that its main character, "Mike Baxter" -- played by Tim Allen -- is supposed to be a radio amateur, KAØXTT. While it may come as no surprise that the sitcom's producer is a ham -- John Amodeo, NN6JA -- several radio amateurs also are on the production crew, and their number just increased, with help from the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group ([GLAARG](#)) VEC. The show's "Thanksgiving" episode, which airs Friday, November 22 (8 PM ET), will feature a scene with "Baxter" in

his basement ham shack. Amodeo said that for the first time in the series, Baxter will briefly talk on the radio. In response, viewers will hear a pileup created by using the voices of hundreds of real hams, sent in to the production company.

In the scene, the Mike Baxter character appears with his grandson "Boyd," played by Flynn Morrison. The episode was shot in mid-October. According to Amodeo, Mike heads to his basement ham shack to escape a houseful of guests waiting for Thanksgiving dinner to be served. This episode of the show is only the second to include ham radio as a story element and the first in which Tim Allen's character is shown operating his ham station.

At an exam session on November 9, the "Last Man Standing" crew added eight new Technician class hams to its crew as well as its first General upgrade.

GLAARG volunteer examiners Norm Goodkin, K6YXH; Naomi Goodkin, WB6OHW, and Rob Antonacci, AA6RA, administered the test session. Including the additional new hams, the show's behind-the-scenes crew complement now boasts 14 Technician, one General, and two Amateur Extra class operators.

In "Last Man Standing," Allen's character Mike, a pickup-driving sporting goods marketing manager, must spend more time in his female-dominated household after his wife gets a promotion at work. The couple's three daughters are not prepared for the shift to his stricter parenting style.

### *DX: South Sudan Z81X Operators Encourage DX University's "Best Practices"*



The multinational group activating Z81X from South Sudan November 15-28 will emphasize 160 and 80 meters. It also is urging DXers to be on their best behavior in the anticipated pileups. The DXpedition period includes the [CQ World Wide DX CW](#) contest, when Z81X will have as many as three single-band stations active; there will be a non-contest, low-band SSB focus during the contest weekend as well. The Z81X team departed November 13 and was scheduled to team up with Z81B and Z81D to set up their low-band antennas and start a series of



workshops for the government of South Sudan.

"At least one station should be operational by late Friday evening," the team announced this week. "Their selected low-band operating frequencies are 1826.5 KHz and 3523 KHz." The Z81X expedition will not announce its operating frequencies on other bands in advance and advises checking Internet spotting networks.

The Z81X operators also will know if you've been bad or good. They will be looking for conduct that is consistent -- or inconsistent -- with the University "Best." The DXpedition ops plan to record many segments of the operation in stereo -- with Z81X on one channel and the DX pileup on the other -- then upload selections to the DX University website to illustrate certain points.

Hosted by the [South Sudan Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications](#), the group, led by [IARU Region 1](#) President Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, also will conduct a series of workshops, with support by the [Yasme Foundation](#), aimed at establishing a sound Amateur Radio spectrum management and regulatory regime for the Republic of South Sudan. Other

operators will include Dietmar, DL3DXX; Wayne, N7NG; Olli, OHØXX; Martti, OH2BH; Pertti, OH2PM; Veijo, OH6KN, and Tevfik, TA1HZ (the team doctor), plus Massimo, Z81B (IZØEGB), and Diya, Z81D (YI1DZ).

Plans call for three generator-powered stations with amplifiers, low-band verticals and Beverage antennas; two sites may be used. Z81X team members will use their [QRZ.com](#) page to provide updates and to recognize supporters. Team updates also will appear on the DX University website.

Toward the end of the Z81X effort, the operators will try a modern twist on an old method to work as many of the "more-deserving, but DX-challenged" DXers as possible. Details will be announced.

Z81X Project Goodwill South Sudan is organized jointly by [Radio Arcala](#), [DX University](#), IARU Region 1, and Rock City Investments Co; the equipment sponsor is [Yaesu](#).

The group welcomes support from individuals, clubs and foundations. Visit the Z81X [QRZ.com](#) page. QSL via OHØXX. The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the Z81X operation

earlier this year for [DXCC](#) credit. -- Thanks to Jarmo Jaakola, OH2BN

ARES feel free to contact the ARES EC, Michael Callam KD4UJC at [KD4UJC@centurylink.net](mailto:KD4UJC@centurylink.net)

## Johnston County A.R.E.S.



Johnston County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a group of dedicated licensed amateur radio operators that volunteer their time and equipment to be used in Johnston County in the time of disaster whether natural or manmade. We are communication “*When all else fails*”. Johnston County ARES meets the second Saturday of the month at 930 am at the Red Cross office located at 805-A South Third Street in Smithfield. We also have an ARES net on 147.270+ usually on the fourth Thursday of the month starting at 7pm. However with this month having Thanksgiving fall on the fourth Thursday, our net will be on the third Thursday. All are invited to attend both the meeting and participate in the net. Anyone wanting further information on Johnston County

## JARS Nets:

Ragchew net nightly 830 pm  
Prep net Tuesday at 900pm  
Traders net Wednesday 900pm

### JARS Officers 2013

Pres.	Robbie	KD4WIY
V. Pres.	Billy	KJ4ZKG
Sec.	Peggy	KJ4OPH
Treas.	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Mike	KD4UJC
Net Whip	Jack	WA2YBM
Editor	Mike	KD4UJC

Ham of the Year:  
Billy Massengil WB4EBG

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



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That does it for another edition of the *Official Organ*. I hope to see everyone at JARSFest 2013 tomorrow and the meeting next Thursday.