

The Official Organ

The Official Newsletter of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society

April 2015 edition

JARS Meeting This Thursday

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday, April 16th at the Panther Branch Community Building on ten – ten road just off of NC 50 south of Garner. Dinner will be pot luck, so bring your best Sunday dish to share. Even though it is pot luck, we will still be collecting \$1.00 from everyone to help pay for the use of the building. Our program for this month will be high altitude balloon launch with aprs.

In This Month's Organ

LOM Report

News from the farm

ARRL News

NC Section News

Ham Humor

LOM Report:

I have not had time to listen to the repeater much this month. We will have to wait and see who gets the butt gasket at the meeting Thursday night.

73 de Stephen Fowler KJ4QNW

News From The Farm:

I don't know about the rest of you, but I for one, am sure glad that winter is over. Spring has sprung and the pollen is fallin'. It is nice to be able to take the little hairy hound out and not have to bundle up. Everything is turning green and the grass is starting to grow again and the trees are starting to bud. As a matter of fact, it is so nice outside, I am doing the newsletter out on the front porch. I can't speak for everyone, but I seriously doubt I will complain about the heat this summer after the cold this past winter.

73 de KD4MC & K4VJC your president and first lady

ARRL News:

ARRL to FCC: Amateurs and Vehicular Radars Can Play Nicely Together on 77-81 GHz

In [comments](#) filed on [April 6](#) in response to a February FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Reconsideration Order (NPRM&RO)* in ET Docket 15-26, the ARRL has told the Commission that it should make no change in the Amateur Radio allocation at 76-81 GHz and impose no additional regulatory constraints on Amateur or Amateur-Satellite uses of the band. The League said the FCC should proceed with authorizing short-range radar (SRR) systems for automotive applications in the band under

Part 15 rules, and that such applications are compatible with amateur operations in the band.

In its *NPRM&RO*, the FCC solicited comment on issues involving expanded use of various radar applications in the 76-81 GHz band, which Amateur Radio shares with other services. The band 77.5-78 GHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services on a primary basis, and to the Radio Astronomy and Space Research services on a secondary basis. The *NPRM&RO* was in response to a 2012 *Petition for Rulemaking* (RM-11666) by Robert Bosch LLC and to two petitions for reconsideration of a 2012 *Report and Order (R&O)* addressing vehicular radar systems in the 76-77 GHz band. ET 15-26 incorporated earlier proceedings.

In its comments, the ARRL suggested that the FCC overreached in proposing unjustifiable changes at 77-81 GHz on its own initiative.

"There is not, anywhere in the four corners of the Bosch *Petition for Rule Making* or in any comments that have been filed thus far in response to RM-11666, any suggestion that there is any incompatibility between Amateur Radio operation and automotive radars," the ARRL said. "Quite the contrary." The League said a credible, current ITU study has "definitively established" compatibility between short-range automotive radars and Amateur Radio.

The ARRL said Bosch's filing of its *Petition* followed "extensive discussions and technical evaluations between ARRL and Bosch" that making spectrum at 77-81 GHz available for automotive radars "would have no significant impact on the Amateur Radio Service." Bosch, the League pointed out, "did not propose a domestic spectrum *allocation* for vehicular radar devices and systems," just modification of the FCC Part 15 rules to permit vehicular radars at 78-81 GHz on the same basis that these radars now operate in the US at 76-77 GHz -- on a non-allocated, non-interference basis.

The ARRL said that no changes are necessary in the Amateur Radio domestic primary allocation at 77.5-78 GHz or in the secondary amateur allocation at 77-77.5 GHz or 78-81 GHz to accommodate automotive radar systems at 77-81 GHz. "Nor are any additional Part 97 rules necessary to accommodate compatible sharing of that band between radio amateurs and automotive radar systems," the League added. "Indeed, that is the position of the United States in anticipation of consideration of WRC-15 agenda item 1.18 later this year."

The League characterized as "both premature and poor spectrum management" the FCC's proposal to unilaterally permit unspecified fixed radar systems throughout the 76-81 GHz band "without the benefit of *any* completed, definitive studies relative to the compatibility of fixed radar systems with automotive radar, radioastronomy and/or Amateur Radio in this band."

Any consideration of fixed radars at 77-81 GHz, the League said, "should await the completion of conclusive, refereed compatibility studies that credibly establish compatibility with incumbent services."

World Amateur Radio Day is April 18!

On Saturday, [April 18](#), radio amateurs worldwide will take to the airwaves to celebrate [World Amateur Radio Day](#) (WARD). It was on [April 18, 1925](#), that the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded in Paris, with ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, as its first president. The primary purpose of World Amateur Radio Day is to highlight Amateur Radio and its benefits to countries and communities. The IARU said World Amateur Radio Day is an opportunity for IARU member-societies to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public and make friends with other amateurs around the world. Special event stations will be on the air over the [April 18-19](#) weekend to highlight World Amateur Radio Day and the IARU's 90th anniversary.

"Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio," the IARU said in marking World Amateur Radio Day. "Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum."

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio. [Today](#), Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with more than 3 million enthusiasts around the world, the IARU has estimated. As 2015 will also mark the 150th anniversary of the ITU, the IARU has adopted the theme, "ITU & IARU: Celebrating 150 years of Advancing the Telecommunication Art" for World Amateur Radio Day 2015.

From 25 countries in 1925, the IARU has grown to include more than 160 member-societies in three regions. IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia.

"[April 18](#) is the day for all of Amateur Radio to celebrate and tell the world about the science we can help teach, the community service we can provide, and the fun we have," the IARU said.

Amateur Radio Gear, Tools, Supplies Bound for Micronesia in Wake of Tropical Cyclone

A shipment of ham radio equipment, tools, and supplies will head from Hawaii to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) this week with John Bush, KH6DLK/V63JB. The radio gear will support communication for relief efforts as the FSM recover from Tropical Cyclone Maysak, which ravaged many of the nation's islands in late March and early April, wreaking major damage and causing some deaths. Bush plans to leave [April 10](#). Initial plans called for including an ARRL "[Ham Aid](#)" kit in the shipment, but

Bush said he's leaving that gear in Hawaii for the time being, because the building where it was to be set up no longer exists.

"While many agencies and nations are responding, it's just not enough," said ARRL Hawaii Section Manager Bob Schneider, AH6J. The Ham Aid gear had been shipped to Hawaii last fall, as the massive Puna volcanic lava flow threatened some communities on the Big Island of Hawaii. It includes both HF and VHF gear.

With a population of about 103,000, FSM is comprised of four states over 600 islands -- about 1800 miles from end to end. Typhoon Maysak struck Ulithi Atoll with 160 MPH winds, with gusts to 195 MPH -- a Category 5 storm. A major storm surge of unknown height also hit, and infrastructure on all islands, including schools, homes, and the power and telecommunication systems, suffered major damage or were destroyed altogether.

"Local communications have been heavily impacted by the storm, and some areas are still cut off and have not been heard from," Schneider told ARRL.

Two FSM hams, William Radolfetheg, V63YWR - an elementary school principal on Federai Island, part of Ulithi Atoll -- and Albert, V63YAG, were off the air since before the typhoon hit and had not been heard from until [April 6](#), when V63YWR came on the air using a depleted battery and at very low power.

The ARRL is a member of Hawaii State [VOAD](#), an organization of non-governmental organizations that provide disaster relief. Other organizations pitching in include church-affiliated groups, the Red Cross, The Salvation Army, the International Organization for Migration, USAID, and Pacific Missionary Airlines.

Bush and Schneider have been assembling an assortment of loaned and donated radio equipment, antennas, tuners, power supplies, tools, hardware, "suitcase" solar panels, and FAA-legal gel cells for "bare-bones power" to send to the stricken region. As a result, the

shipment could mean as many as a dozen extra bags; negotiations are under way with Hawaiian Airlines to reduce or waive excess luggage fees. Private donations amounting to approximately \$3000 have been received, and most of those funds will go toward fuel for the Pacific Missionary Airlines leg of the trip. Barbara Darling, AH7G/NH7FY, sponsored the 100 W portable photovoltaic system.

"This preparation to provide emergency communications has occurred in just 9 days but has the complexity of a major DX expedition," Bush said. "If everything goes well, we should be on 14.335 at 0700 UTC and possibly on 21.335 at 2100 UTC each day."

"Look for us, but please don't interrupt if vital communications are in progress," Schneider stressed. "*This is not a DXpedition!*"

ARRL Rookie Roundup Returns: SSB Event is Sunday, April 19!

The SSB version of [ARRL Rookie Roundup](#) returns on Sunday, [April 19](#). The event gets under way at 1800 UTC and continues through 2359 UTC. For the purposes of this operating event, a "Rookie" is any radio amateur licensed within the current calendar year or in the previous two calendar years, regardless of license class. Rookie Roundup events take place three times a year: SSB in April, RTTY in August, and CW in December.

The goal of Rookie Roundup is to encourage recently licensed operators in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are encouraged to participate and help new operators -- either on the air or in person. Old Timers may want to consider opening up their stations to rookies and serving as contesting mentors. The more operators on the air, the more fun the Roundup will be for everyone.

Rookies call "CQ Rookie Roundup," while veteran ops call "CQ Rookies." Exchange the call sign of the station you're working, your call

sign, your first name, the two-digit number of the year first licensed, and your state, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or DX.

Rookie Roundup participants can log the contest using contest logging software that supports the event, [paper forms](#) provided on the [Rookie Roundup web page](#) or by using the real-time [In The Log](#) website. Once the contest is over and you've calculated your score, complete the Rookie Roundup Online Score Submission [Form](#) to submit your score; no logs are necessary. Entrants *must* fill out this form to enter, and all entries are due within 72 hours (3 days) of the end of the contest.

Contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager [Matt Wilhelm](#), W1MSW, for more information.

TEN-TEC and Alpha Change Hands

Less than a year after TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers merged under the [RF Concepts](#) banner, the companies have changed hands again. RKR Designs LLC of Longmont, Colorado, announced on

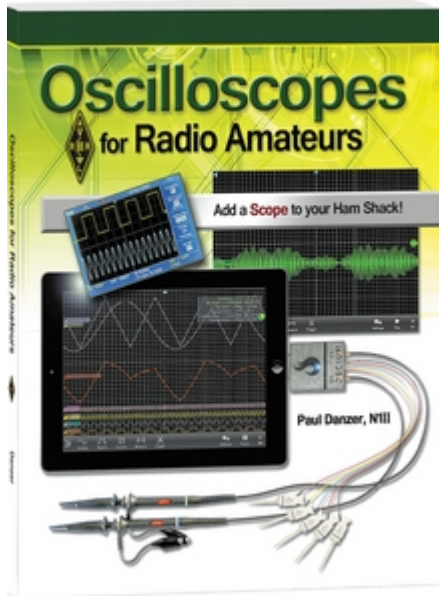


[April 2](#) that it had acquired the two brands' assets from RF Concepts. RKR said it plans to expand the product line while "continuing to service their customers."

RKR Designs principals are Ken Long, N0QO, Richard Gall, and Rich Danielson. Long, with more than 20 years in the electronics and Amateur Radio industries, will be president and CEO of the new company. Gall and Danielson of QSC Systems in Longmont have been a successful contract manufacturer for over 20 years. QSC has been building Alpha amplifiers for more than 5 years, and boards for TEN-TEC since RF Concepts bought the company last year. RKR Designs LLC is privately held, and the terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

Add a Scope to your Shack! *Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs* Now Available from ARRL

Oscilloscopes are useful tools in the world of electronics, allowing radio amateurs to "see" the signals inside their equipment. Through personal computers and today's technologies, a variety of analog, digital, or hybrid scopes is available to hams for problem solving and



testing new ideas in your workshop.

Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs

by Paul Danzer, N1II, is filled with practical information you'll need for using a 'scope. It

begins with an overview of the oscilloscope and goes on to discuss characteristics, applications, probes, controls, and input modes. If you're considering adding a 'scope to your ham shack or workbench, the book includes an explanation of scope specifications and features to help you select the one that's right for you.

Oscilloscopes for Radio Amateurs is available from the [ARRL Store](#) (ARRL Item No 0976) or your [ARRL Dealer](#) at \$22.95 retail, \$19.95 for ARRL members. For more information, contact [ARRL Publication Sales](#), 860-594-0355 or (US toll free) 888-277-5289.

WWV's 25 MHz Signal Still Going Strong After 1 Year Back on the Air

Time and frequency standard station [WWV](#) silenced its 25 MHz signal in 1977, but it returned to the air on an "experimental basis" a year ago, and it's still up and running.

Resurrecting the long-dormant standard time outlet operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was Matt Deutch, NORGT, WWV's Lead Electrical Engineer.

"We have been at 1 kW for the



The WWV campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. [NIST photo]

past year," Deutch told ARRL. "We have had a few hiccups, but nothing serious." Deutch said he was pleased to see the 25 MHz signal included in a recent *QST* article, "just like the good ol' days" (see "Measuring Frequencies at VE3GSO," in the [April 2015](#) issue of *QST*, p 37).

"Here at the site we have even been discussing giving the 25 MHz signal its own antenna again," Deutch said. "The ham in me wants to give it something more exotic than a plain ol' boring dipole. But what antenna could it be?" Deutch said he was inspired by the article "Amateur Radio Science" by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ, in the [February 2013](#) issue of *QST*, which asked hams to do more to advance and contribute to the radio art, "but the gears in my brain are still turning," Deutch said.

The return of WWV's 25 MHz outlet came about after Dean Lewis, W9WGV, lamented its loss last year in an e-mail to Deutch, who surprised him by putting the signal back on the air, initially temporarily. The 25 MHz signal not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. Deutch said the WWV 25 MHz signal still gets signal reports from across the Atlantic.



Newer Radio Amateurs Asked to Participate on Online Survey: Kentucky academic researcher Joel Shelton, N8XJ/A65BX (seen in the photo), is seeking radio amateurs licensed since [January 1, 2000](#), to take part in an online survey. The survey is part of a research project. Shelton is focusing on newer hams because, he said, "I am interested in what attracts people to take up a century-old hobby for the first time in the 21st century." Shelton asked that if you fit this category to complete his [online survey](#). He said he plans to use the survey results to prepare articles -- one for an academic journal -- about the current state of Amateur Radio and what continues to attract newcomers. [Contact](#) Shelton for more information. -- *Thanks to Joel Shelton, N8XJ, via QRZ.com*



RadioShack® have been acquired by Standard General Wireless Inc., an affiliate of Standard General LP. The acquisition followed an auction, conducted under the US Bankruptcy Code. The current plan calls for "co-branding" about 1440 of the surviving stores with cellular phone provider Sprint Corp. RadioShack once offered entry-level shortwave receivers, Citizens Band gear, a wide array of discrete components -- including transistors, resistors, and capacitors -- and, for a time, 10 and 2 meter Amateur Radio gear. RadioShack said its stores would feature "emerging technologies that enhance the

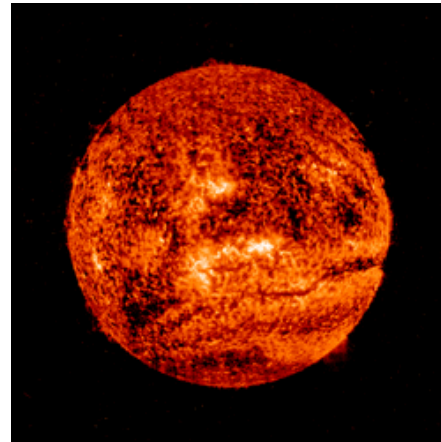
Standard General Affiliate Acquires 1743 RadioShack Stores: The inventory and the leases of 1743 retail outlets that

survived [RadioShack's](#) February bankruptcy

traditional accessories, DIY electronics and innovation for which the company is known."

The K7RA Solar Update

Solar activity continues to weaken. Average daily sunspot numbers dropped 27.8 points to 50.1 over the [April 2-8](#) period, compared to the previous 7 days. Average daily solar flux declined 17.3 points to 118.4 over the same period.



The latest prediction has solar flux at 110 on [April 9](#), 115 for [April 10-16](#), 145 for [April 17-19](#), 135 on [April 20](#), 130 for [April 21-](#)

[22](#), 125 on [April 23](#), 120 on [April 24](#), and 125 for [April 25-26](#). Solar flux drops to 115 for [April 30](#) through [May 2](#), then rises to 145 for [May 7-10](#).

The same prediction has planetary A index at 20, 15, and 8 for [April 9-11](#), 5 for [April 12-14](#), then 12, 20, and 15 for [April 15-17](#), 20 for [April 18-19](#), 12 for [April 20-21](#), 8 for [April 22-24](#), 25 on [April 25](#), and 29 for [April 26-27](#).

These predictions are revised daily, and come from forecasts from NOAA. My archives of these predictions, with index and [solar flux](#) now are available as Microsoft *Excel* spreadsheets. I hope to update these often. They show how the solar flux forecasts have been weakening over time.

At 2346 UTC on [April 8](#), Australia's IPS Radio and Space Services issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning for [April 9-10](#), due to a CME and solar wind from a coronal hole. Geomagnetic conditions may be at active levels over the 2-day period.

This weekly "Solar Update" in *The ARRL Letter* is a preview of the "Propagation Bulletin" issued each Friday. The [latest bulletin and an archive](#) of past propagation bulletins is on the ARRL website.

Look for reports from readers in Friday's bulletin. [Send](#) me *your* reports and observations. -- *Tad Cook, K7RA*

Amateur General Course:

Please Post or Circulate

Amateur Radio **General Class** License Course
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society
RARS.org

Announcement Date: April 9, 2015

A four session **General Class License Course** (Level 2) will be conducted by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. (You must have a Technician Class license (first level of licensure), in order to take the General Class exam.)

When: May 9, 16 (not 23), 30, Jun 6. The sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end around 12:30 p.m.

Where: Cary, NC. Specific location will be provided upon pre-registration.

Volunteer Instructor: Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ, has an Extra Class license and has been teaching since the 1970s and has conducted as many as 60 courses. In addition to this course, he also teaches the Technician and Amateur Extra courses.

Tuition: \$10.00

Course Text: The required manual is the current edition of: **The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual - Level 2 General, 7th Edition (ISBN: 978-0-87259-811-9)** and is available online (i.e. ARRL, Amazon, etc.).

Examination: An optional examination is scheduled for the student's convenience in the afternoon of the last session. The exam is conducted by the RARS Volunteer Examiners. There is a separate fee.

Pre-Registration: E-mail me with your **phone number** and **call sign**. A registration form and other details will be e-mailed to you.

This course is also listed on the ARRL Website at "Find a Class."

Next Course: The **Technician Class course** (4 sessions) is tentatively scheduled to start: Jul 11.

You are probably on a contact list. E-mail me if you want to be deleted from this list.

Murray Merner, K4MHM
Education Director
k4mhm@arrl.net (preferred)
919-803-7973

North Carolina Section News:

Greetings to all Hams across North Carolina from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

BREAKING NEWS! 2015 NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY RESULTS – Here are the results from the 2015 North Carolina QSO Party, see <http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=results> Congratulations to the winners; and, thanks to Marty Young, W4MY, NCQP Committee Chairman, and the NCQP Committee – Marc Sullivan, W4MPS, Logs Chairman; Paul Stroud, AA4XX, Member at Large; Andy Peterson, AA9P, "IT Guy"; Joanne Mars, AK4RJ, Clubs Manager; Dwayne Ayers, N4MIO, Awards Manager; and, Bill Turner, W4WNT, Member at Large – for making the 2015 North Carolina QSO Party such a successful event!

HR 1301 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 – The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 – known as H.R.1301 – was introduced in the US House of Representatives on March 4th. The Bill would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the [PRB-1](#) federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners' association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress. H.R. 1301 was introduced by Representative [Adam Kinzinger](#) (R-IL) and as of March 28th, it has 31 co-sponsors, including Representative David Price (D-NC-4). The Bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Representative Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. ARRL members are urged to contact their US House members and ask them to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/hr-1301>

ARRL Centennial Points Challenge and W1AW WAS Awards Application Window Open – The application window for the ARRL Centennial Points Challenge and W1AW Worked All States [awards](#) is now open! For further information, including information on the total number of QSOs, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-centennial-points-challenge-w1aw-was-awards-application-window-open>

ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology – As part of the ARRL educational outreach to schools, multiple sessions of the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, an expenses paid professional development seminar, are being offered this summer in several US locations. The Teachers Institute has provided elementary school- to university-level teachers with tools and strategies to introduce basic

electronics, the science of radio, space technology and satellite communications, as well as weather science, introduction to micro-controllers and basic robotics in their classrooms. The Teachers Institute curriculum is designed for motivated teachers, and other school staff, who want to learn more about wireless technology and bring that knowledge to their students. The 2015 Teachers Institute schedule has been posted and applications are being accepted until May 1, 2015. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology> if you know an educator that would benefit from this training, please forward this information to them.

FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15 – The deadline to apply for 2015-2016 academic year scholarships administered by the non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio has been moved to April 15th. These scholarships, sponsored by individuals and amateur radio clubs throughout the US, are available to licensed Hams worldwide. Applicants must hold a valid amateur radio license and be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at an accredited university, college, or technical school. Individual scholarships may have additional requirements. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/new-deadline-is-april-15-to-apply-for-foundation-for-amateur-radio-far-scholarships> Thanks for Jim Cross, WI3N, Maryland-DC Section Manager, for providing the reminder on this scholarship opportunity

ARISS CONTACT PROPOSAL WINDOW FOR 2016 NOW OPEN (REMINDER) – The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program is now accepting applications from formal and informal educational institutions and organizations in the US – either individually or working together – that would like to host an amateur radio contact with an International Space Station crew member between January 1 and June 30, 2016. The application window closes on April 15th. For further information,

see <http://www.arrl.org/news/ariss-contact-proposal-window-for-2016-events-now-open>

2015 CYSTIC FIBROSIS “EXTREME HIKE” (4/18) (REMINDER) – The 2015 Cystic Fibrosis “Extreme Hike” will be held on April 18th. Participants will walk a 30-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in a single day. Communications with five rest stops will be provided by members of the Mayland, Watauga, and Carter County (TN) Amateur Radio Clubs. But, with as much as 10 miles of rugged trail between rest stops, and little or no cell service, communications between rest stops is a big challenge. The event team could use some hardy volunteer Hams with HTs who would be willing to hike a portion of the trail during the event to help assure the safety of the hikers. If you’re interested, contact Stephen Williams, KI4ZUI, at xantherx@frontier.com. Thanks to Tim Slay, N4IB, Assistant Section Manager and Affiliated Club Coordinator, for providing this information!

ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals (REMINDER) – The ARRL is asking Members to [comment](#) by April 19th on possible changes to the ARRL HF [Band Plans](#), which have been suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-member-input-on-draft-hf-band-plan-proposals>

MEDIA HITS AND REPORTS – The following media hits and reports are included in this month’s newsletter:

On the Battle of Guilford Courthouse commemoration and Special Event Station N4G, see http://www.news-record.com/blogs/gotriad_extra/battle-of-guilford-courthouse-commemoration-this-weekend/article_62ba2f54-c9af-11e4-bc95-2b7e37554eab.html

On digital voice communications in amateur radio, see http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2015/march/ham_radio_digital_voice_comparison.htm#.VRlq4Cj9q20

The following report was received from Bill Schwiegeraht, N8KSG: “The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club has installed two new Yaesu DR-1x System Fusion repeaters. On 147.345 MHz (pl 103.5) is our machine located in Madison, NC, and our 146.85 MHz (pl 103.5) repeater is located between Eden and Reidsville, NC. Both repeaters are being operated in mixed mode (FM and CF4M active). The Club is planning to connect both repeaters to the internet in the future when the wires-x firmware upgrade is released by Yaesu. All amateurs are encouraged to make use of these repeaters, and any reports on performance can be sent to info@n4iv.org.” Thanks to Bill Schwiegeraht, N8KSG, President of Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, for sending this report!

The following announcement was received from Ron Rogers, WW8RR: “The Southeastern VHF Society is proud to announce the upcoming 2015 Spring Technical Conference will be held at the Space Science Center of Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky on April 24th and 25th. In addition, this conference has just been upgraded to an Operating Specialty Convention by the ARRL. Two days of various VHF-UHF-Microwave technical presentations covering weak signal work, VHF-UHF-Micro contesting, construction technique, demos, antenna testing, preamp testing, vendor displays, flea market, and a Saturday evening banquet with its history of valuable door prizes. The SVHFS website and links to the conference registration, program, and hotel info are at <http://svhfs.org/wp/>” Thanks to Ron Rogers, WW8RR, Technical Specialist, ARRL Georgia Section, for providing this report!

Attached to an email from Bill Morine, N2COP was this message from Stan White, KI4NC on Elmer Day in Wilmington on Saturday, March 21st: "The inaugural Elmer Event was a huge success. Thanks to all local Hams who attended and to CARES for sponsoring the event. Special thanks to those Hams who gave presentations on DMR, Contesting, Power Poles, soldering, and radio programming. Other Elmer events are already being planned to include antenna building and air cannon construction. We will keep you posted as we hear more from the event organizers. 73 Stan." In addition, images from Elmer Day were provided, see <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/hampesteadhams/attachments/671581758> Thanks to Bill Morine, N2COP, Vice Director, Roanoke Division and Stan White, KI4NC for providing this report; and, to the Hams from Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES), Wilmington VHF Association, Hampstead Hams, and the New Hanover and Pender County ARES group for donating their time and talents in Elmer Day – great job!

The following announcement from the Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club was forwarded by Bill Morine, N2COP: "The Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club will be going to Bald Head Island to operate from the "Old Baldy" lighthouse on April 11, 2015. This will be a fair-weather only event. Discounted round-trip ferry tickets will be available for those wishing to take the Bald Head Island Ferry. Free transportation is available on Paul's (KI4SPO) boat. We will plan on being on the island by 10:00 AM and leaving on the 4:30 PM ferry to return to the mainland. We will be operating two transmitters, a G5RV and one or two dipoles. We will have a cooler and ice. This has been a fun event the past several years..... Family and friends are invited. Please RSVP to George Fryer, ki4kk at n4gm dot org by April 6 if you want discount ferry tickets. All who plan to attend should RSVP no later than April 9 so we can set up schedules for equipment transportation and setup." Thanks to Bill Morine, N2COP, Vice Director, Roanoke

Division, and the Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club for providing this information!

The following report was received from Irv McWherter, K3IRV: "On March 27, three members of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society (CFARS), Burt Vander Clute, N4ERM, Bob Tigh, WA4WHV, and Irv McWherter, K3IRV, provided a demonstration and information on amateur radio and its importance in emergencies to the Lake Rim Home School Program, a group of about 12 mothers and 35 students. Our demonstration started out with operation of a Jacobs Ladder, which worked great to capture the students' attention. Next, we had a brief demonstration using HTs and allowed a few of the students to operate and have a short conversation, using control operators of course. Amateur Radio's support of the Cumberland County EOC and Emergency Shelters was discussed and several handouts explaining amateur radio and the location of the six emergency shelters were given to the students."

In the same email, Irv K3IRV commented, "FYI..... we are scheduled to have a booth at the Cumberland Disaster Recovery Coalition's Disaster Preparedness Expo in April, and we will have another demonstration for an 80-member home school group in September." Thanks to Irv McWherter, K3IRV, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer for providing this report!

The following report was received from Keith Stroud, KK4PLI: "As part of the NC Science Festival 2015, the Carteret County Amateur Radio Society (CCARS) will be operating portable at Fort Macon State Park on Saturday, April 25. The NC Science Festival is a multi-day celebration showcasing science and technology's impact on education, culture and finance through hands on activities, tours, experiences and exhibits. The staff at Fort Macon presented CCARS with an opportunity to participate in the NC Science Festival at the Fort itself by setting up a portable station to further educate visitors about Amateur Radio and its

capabilities. CCARS additionally has expanded the event to include an activation of Bogue Banks, NA-112 through the Islands On The Air (IOTA) at the same time. An IOTA activation was a goal of the Club for 2015 and this event presented an excellent opportunity to accomplish this goal since Fort Macon is located on Bogue Banks." Thanks to Keith Stroud, KK4PLI, President, Carteret County Amateur Radio Society, for providing this report!

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur radio operators is reported: Virginia ("Jini") May Blackstock Drye, K4LDA (SK) of Albemarle; Allen L. ("Al") Guin, Jr, W4ZQB (SK) of Charlotte; Timothy Edward ("Tim") Howland, KC4LRY (SK) of Beaufort; and, Anita Golden Kellum, KC4AQB (SK) of Raleigh. Please note it is not possible to post information about an amateur radio operator that has become a Silent Key without confirmation via a copy of an obituary or death certificate.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS –

April 19: BSA Troop 49/USS North Carolina Battleship (tentative). The following report was received from Tim O'Rourke, W4YN: "Troop 49 will be on board April 19th, if we can work out details look for us on 20 or 17M with troop call WT4IX." Thanks to Bill Morine, N2COP, Vice Director, Roanoke Division, and Tim O'Rourke, W4YN for providing this information!
April 25: NC Science Festival 2015 at Fort Macon State Park (NA-112), 1300Z-2000Z, Atlantic Beach NC. Carteret County Amateur Radio Society. 14.260 18.128 7.055 and other IOTA published frequencies as needed. For more information www.w4ymi.com or contact wk.stroud@gmail.com Additional information on this Special Event Station can be found in the Media Hits and Reports section of this Newsletter.
May 9: Inaugural Special Event Celebrating 150th Anniversary of Last Shot Fired of the Civil War, 1400Z-2000Z, KW4P, Waynesville, NC. Haywood County Amateur Radio Club. 28.440

21.340 14.340 7.240. Certificate. HCARC, PO Box 1435, Waynesville, NC 28786. More information and downloadable certificate <http://wnchamradio.org/>

July 15-17: Royal Rangers 2015 Camp-o-Rama, 1500Z-2200Z, K4R, Browns Summit, NC. Royal Rangers. 28.450 21.250 14.250 7.150. QSL. Steven R. Allen, 5691 Howell Dr, Dublin, VA 24084. Royal Rangers is a boys Ministry of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and the Assembly of God Church. royalrangers1@verizon.net Special Event Station listings in the NC Section newsletter are based on what appears on the ARRL website, see <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> Please consider listing your Special Event Station at least 60 days before the event, see <http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application> Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a Special Event Station. Thanks!

UPCOMING HAMFESTS –

April 4: 43rd Annual RARSfest/North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, see <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>
April 18: 18th Annual Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio Association, Morganton, NC, see <http://cvhamfest.com>
May 9: Rockingham County ARC Swapfest, Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, Reidsville, NC, see <http://www.n4iv.org>
May 16: FreeGate 2015, Qorvo Amateur Radio Club, Greensboro, NC, see <http://www.kd4rf.org>
June 13: Winston-Salem Hamfest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC, see <http://www.w4nc.com>

July 11, 2015: 30th Annual Firecracker Hamfest, Rowan Amateur Radio Society, Salisbury, NC, see <http://www.rowanars.org>

July 18: Mid-Summer SWAPFEST, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC, see <http://www.qsl.net/n4nc>

July 25: WCARS Hamfest 2015, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC, see <http://wcars.org>

August 8: 17th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org/>

September 5-6: 59th Annual Shelby Hamfest/Roanoke Division Convention, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC, see <http://shelbyhamfest.org>

QUA* – It has been a very busy month! On Sunday, March 1st, my wife, Gale K4GGB, and I visited the field operations site for two clubs that were participating in the NC QSO Party – the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club at the USS North Carolina (BB-55) in Wilmington and the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society at Smith Lake in Fayetteville. It was fun to visit these sites, observe their operations, and most importantly, meet with the Hams! We would have liked to visit at least one more site, but the adverse weather impacted our plans.

On Saturday, March 7th, I participated in the NC Central Branch AUXCOMM meeting, which was held at the NC State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Raleigh. This was my first visit to the new EOC, which provides facilities for the National Guard, the Division of Emergency Management, and communications support for the NC Department of Transportation and the State Highway Patrol. The Central Branch meeting included a tour of the EOC, which was impressive. Equally impressive were the presentations on the NC Communications Unit

by Frank Pleshe, N3FRP; FirstNet in NC (a nationwide public safety wireless broadband system) by Tom Brown, N4TAB and Allan Sadowski, AH6LS; and, the hands-on training with VIPER radios conducted by Tucker Sizemore of the NC State Highway Patrol. Thanks to Frank Pleshe, N3FRP, Statewide AUXCOMM ASEC and Deputy Statewide AUXCOMM Coordinator, Special Operations, for organizing the Central Branch meeting and to the presenters for providing these important updates to the participants!

On March 13th and 14th, I attended the Charlotte Hamfest / ARRL NC Section Convention, which was sponsored by the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. On Friday evening (3/13), I went to the Carolina DX Association banquet. As always, these are well-run events and it was great to see everyone! At the Hamfest, I enjoyed being involved in the awards presentation for the 2014 Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award winners David W. Anderson, K4SV and Kent V. Hufford, KQ4KK; and, visiting the National Traffic System (NTS) booth, which was organized and staffed by the NTS traffic handlers in our Section. In addition, the ARRL booth was set up to allow ARRL Members to participate in the HR 1301 letter-writing campaign. As a result, 74 letters were produced and sent to the ARRL for subsequent distribution to the appropriate Representative's office. I am pleased to announce that similar database and computer resources will be available at RARSfest (4/4), which will allow additional ARRL Members to participate in the HR 1301 letter-writing campaign.

On Thursday, March 19th, I attended the monthly meeting of the Johnston Amateur Radio Society (JARS) and made a presentation on my visits to Field Day sites in Western NC

last year. It was nice to visit with the JARS members and enjoy a great meal at their meeting!

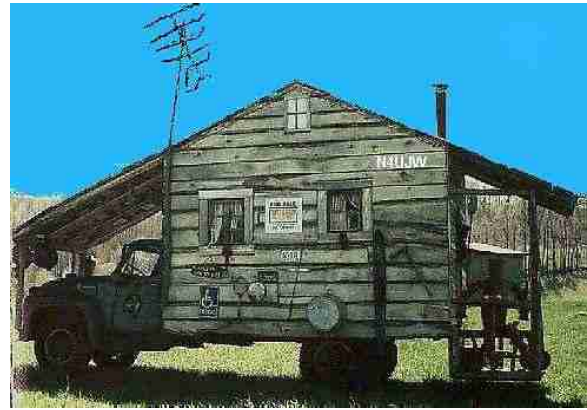
On Saturday, March 21st, I attended the quarterly meeting of the Quarter Century Wireless Association in Clayton. Gary Coffey, K4AVC of Morehead City gave an excellent presentation, "All 60 Meters Holds for You". Three individuals received certificates recognizing their 60th anniversary of amateur radio licensing: Lou Alexander, K4BYN of Raleigh, Wayne Ashworth, W4HG of Salisbury, and Robert McNeill II, W4MBD of Morehead City. In addition, Tom Lewis, N4TL of Raleigh and Ernie Wall, NC4EW of Oak Ridge received their 50-year certificates. Congratulations!

On Saturday, March 28th, I attended the 25th Annual Down East Hamfest in Kinston. I enjoyed interacting with the Hams from eastern NC and greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone involved with the Down East Hamfest to put on a great event!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to provide input on our Section. I can be reached via email at w4chx@arrl.org or via cell phone. As always, thank you for sending your emails and club newsletters – they keep me informed about your activities and programs! I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming hamfest or club meeting. Finally, thanks for everything you are doing for amateur radio and your community! 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell)

Ham Humor:

Is it OK to operate AM....after NOON?



**The new Mobile Shack ready for field day...complete with all the extras!
Take a look at my new 2 meter beam...I shore are proud of it!**

JARS Officers for 2015

Pres.	Mike	KD4MC
V.P.	Aaron	KK4KFG
Secretary	Billy	KJ4ZKG
Treasurer	Paul	KD4BJD
Membership	Dianne	KE4VNX
Net Whip	Stephen	KJ4QNW
Newsletter	Mike	KD4MC
Ham of the Year	Mike	KD4MC

Johnston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

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That does it for another edition of *The Official Organ*.

Hope to see y'all at the meeting this coming Thursday.

73 de KD4MC.

