

The Official Organ

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

December 2015 Edition



JARS Christmas Dinner

The annual JARS Christmas dinner is this coming Thursday, December 10th. It will be held at the Panther Branch Community Building located at 10900 Ten – Ten Road just off of NC 50 south of Garner. Chef Tommy will be cooking mouth-watering steaks to order and baked white and sweet potatoes. Cost will be \$15.00 per person plus the usual \$1.00 to go towards paying the rent on the building. An earlier email was sent out to let Tommy know by December 1st how you wanted your steak and your choice of baked white or sweet potato. If you have failed to do so by now, you may be able to plead your case with him at n4cbi42@gmail.com.

In this edition of the Official Organ:

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Life on the Farm:

With the Thanksgiving turkey devoured and all the 47 different things that you can do with leftover turkey, it is time to start getting ready for Christmas. The wife has the yard full of decorations. I even helped this year. I told her that I would put up the lights. So, I went to Wally World and got one of those laser light shower devices, aimed it at the house and plugged it in and I was finished. Santa even came a little early for me this year. I got an IRLP/Echolink micro node and with the help of the grumpy old lid (KB4RGC) we (he) was able to get me up and running. The wife let me see what she got me, but I can't play with it until Christmas to play with it.

A Rough Year for JARS:

2015 has been a rough year for JARS. We had three of our members become silent keys this year. Bill Lambert, AK4H, who was one of the founders of JARS and the trustee for the "Mighty 27", Robbie Spencer, N4DXA, who called our weekly trader's net and Jerry Horton, KE4QBG. Here's hoping to a better year in 2016.

DUES ARE DUE!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you haven't already paid your dues, you need to do so at the meeting next week. According to our membership person, KE4VNX, if your dues aren't paid by the end of the year, this will be your last newsletter.

LOM Report:

The LOM Report by Bob – KB4RGC
12/3/2015

Well it was a quiet couple of weeks with not much to report. First off on 11/23/15 at 0800 Eastern our president KD4MC was frantically calling me on the mighty 27 but listening on 444.875. Needless to say we did not talk much that morning. I can't really blame him too much about this since I do the same thing almost every day. I call it the curse of the dual band radio.

But I can blame our President for something else – on 11/23/15 at 1900 Eastern while setting up for the VE session he admitted he forgot his laptop at home so he had to drive back home to get it while everyone else had to wait for him to return.

While we are talking about the President let's take a look at the first lady Velda. Well, I have been in NC for over 5 years now and listen all day to ham radio every day and have NEVER heard K4VJC. What a waste of a license!! As our first Lady one would think she would be on the 27 at least two or three days a week for the evening net. Well, maybe she has something to hide.....something like a mail server hidden in the kitchen???
Hint: some US First Ladies/Presidential candidates have

private mail servers hidden at their home.

Oh, yeah I need to talk about some stuff concerning the net. Well when I think about the evening net on the 27 I always think about hearing BJ talking and talking out the gazoo. Since the repeater does not seem to have a timeout timer set to 180 seconds (maybe BJ set it to one hour) I just turn off the radio.

Actually BJ has a new habit, which is almost as bad as his endless talking. He just does not show up for the nets he is scheduled to call. He has done this several times over the past weeks often WITHOUT looking for a replacement NCO. This is VERY impolite to let all the folks waiting for the net listen to dead air until someone finally volunteers to jump in as NCO for the missing BJ.

On other occasions he is just a few minute late to start the net. This is also pretty rude to people waiting for the net.

That's it for now folks. See ya on the 27.

NC Section Report:

November, 2015

Happy holidays from Karl W4CHX,
your ARRL NC Section Manager!

HR 1301 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY
ACT OF 2015 (UPDATE) – As of
November
30th, HR 1301 has 114 co-sponsors,
including 5 Representatives from
North Carolina: David Price (D-NC-4);
Walter Jones, Jr (R-NC-3);
Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10); David

Rouzer (R-NC-7); and, Renee Elmers (R-NC-2). For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> (from the ARRL website)

S 1685 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 (UPDATE #1) – In June, S 1685

Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 was introduced in the US Senate. The wording in S 1685 and HR 1301 are identical. Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS) introduced S 1685 into the US Senate. As of November 30th, there are 3 co-sponsors: Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), the original co-sponsor of the Bill; Senator Al Franken (D-MN); and Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS). (from the ARRL website)

S 1685 AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE (UPDATE

#2) – On November 18th, the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation endorsed S 1685 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. This action means that the Bill is successfully out of committee for a vote on the floor of the full US Senate. It is not known when the full Senate vote will take place. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/amateur-radio-parity-act-passes-senate-committee-gains-cosponsors> Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), the sponsor of S 1685 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, has praised the approval of the Bill by the Senate Committee, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-senate-sponsor->

[praises-bill-s-committee-passage](#) (from the ARRL website)

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 PAGE ON ARRL WEBSITE (REMINDER) – A

combined web page has been setup by the ARRL to provide information related to HR 1301 and S 1685. ARRL members are urged to contact their Members of Congress in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate and ask them to sign on to the Bills as a co-sponsor. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act> (from the ARRL website).

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY 2015 (12/5) – The following report was

received from Virginia Enzor, NC4VA: “SKYWARN Recognition Day 2015

officially takes place on Saturday, December 5th from 0000 – 2400 UTC. Over 100 National Weather Service (NWS) offices across the nation, including the Raleigh NWS, are expected to participate in this annual event. SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the NWS

and the ARRL to celebrate the contributions that SKYWARN radio operators/spotters make to the NWS. During a 24-hour period, SKYWARN

operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world. Central Carolina SKYWARN, operating under the call sign

WX4NC, will join in the fun on Friday night (December 4th) from 7:00 PM EST to midnight and on Saturday from

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, making contacts on the WB4TQD 146.88 repeater, the K4ITL 147.105 repeater, the K4ITL 147.135 repeater, the Carolina 440 UHF Link System, IRLP, Echolink (WX3H and WX4NC), and HF (10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters SSB). Radio operators will exchange names, call signs, locations, signal reports, and a 1- or 2-word weather report. New this year is a special event certificate from the Raleigh NWS and Central Carolina SKYWARN! Instructions for obtaining a 2015 SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event Certificate from WX4NC can be found by going to <http://www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn> Additional information may be found at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net on December 1st. Hope to get you in the log! Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Emergency Coordinator Central Carolina SKYWARN”

The following report was received from Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE: “[Here is some information on] Newport SKYWARN’S program. We will be operating on December 5th from 07:00 through 19:00 [EST] at NWS Newport. They are located at 533 Roberts Rd, in Newport, just off Hwy 70. Several of the clubs will be setting up their own radios for the contest during the day. On 2 meter IRLP, we will use the K4GRW repeater with 4903 IRLP. We will be under WX4MHX for all contesting. Chief Warning Meteorologist John

Cole will be running any programs, which will include Basic Spotter training. Mr. Cole, along with Hal Austin meteorologist and Ham (NC4HA), will be giving tours of the building and answering all questions including their new Doppler Radar. 73, Janice KJ4JPE [an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer]”

The following report was received from Chris Gay, N1CRG: “The NWS office in Greer, SC will recognize their SKYWARN Spotter networks in upstate SC and the western Piedmont of NC by operating a special event station for SKYWARN Recognition Day. They will operate with the call sign, W4G, and plan to be operating on HF (80m through 10m) as well as 2m and 70cm. No set frequency at this time. They will also utilize the K9OH repeater 145.470 located on Caesars Head Mtn, which also has Echolink (K9OH-R). They plan to operate on Saturday, December 5th, starting at 7:00 AM local until later that afternoon, schedules permitting. Details on the event can be found at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio> or by visiting <http://charlotteskywarn.com/> Chris Gay, N1CRG, Emergency Coordinator, Charlotte Regional SKYWARN”

Thanks to Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, and Chris Gay, N1CRG for providing these reports! And, thanks to all participants in SKYWARN for their service to their communities!

WX4NHC WILL BE ON THE AIR FOR SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY (12/5)

- The National Hurricane Center amateur radio station, WX4NHC, will be on the air during SKYWARN Recognition Day, Saturday, December 5.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION, W1Q, WILL MARK QST CENTENNIAL (12/1-15) - The special event station, W1Q, will be operating from December 1st to the 15th to honor the 100th anniversary of QST. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/december-special-event-w1q-will-mark-qst-centennial> (from the ARRL website)

REVAMPED FCC WEBSITE EXPECT TO DEBUT ON DECEMBER 10 (12/10) - For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/revamped-fcc-website-expected-to-debut-on-december-10> (from the ARRL website)

ARRL INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR 2015 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD (DEADLINE, 12/31) - Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The ARRL 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. The deadline for submitting nominations is December 31, 2015. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl->

[invites-nominations-for-2015-international-humanitarian-award](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-invites-nominations-for-2015-international-humanitarian-award) (from the ARRL website)

THE 2016 ARRL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN (DEADLINE, 1/31) - The ARRL Foundation is currently accepting applications from eligible radio amateurs pursuing higher education. In 2016, more than 80 scholarships will be awarded with amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. One applicant will be selected for the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship, which is presented to a high school senior pursuing a degree in business, computers, medical, nursing, engineering, or science. The application window will close at 11:59 PM EST, January 31, 2016. Transcripts must be received by Thursday, February 18, 2016. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program> (from the ARRL website)

ARRL INVITING NOMINATIONS FOR SIX AWARDS (DEADLINES, MARCH - APRIL, 2016) - The ARRL is inviting nominations for six (6) awards honoring excellence in amateur radio. The awards include: 1) the Hiram Percy Maxim Award, which honors a young amateur radio operator; 2) the ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award; 3) the ARRL Microwave Development Award; 4) the ARRL Technical Service Award; 5) the ARRL Technical Innovation Award; and, the Knight Distinguished Service Award. For further information on

these awards and others, the nomination procedures, and deadlines, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/nominations-solicited-for-six-arrl-awards-2> and <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-award-nominations> (from the ARRL website)

ARRL NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR 2016 – In 2016, amateur radio will help the National Park Service (NPS) celebrate its 100th anniversary by activating NPS units, promoting the NPS, and demonstrating amateur radio to the public via National Parks On The Air 2016 (NPOTA). For information on rules, answers to frequently asked questions, activator tips, NPOTA documents, answers to basic questions from NPS employees, the Leaderboard, list of NPOTA units, merchandise, NPOTA on social media, and latest news, see <http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA> (from the ARRL website)

FALL 2015 ISSUE OF RADIO WAVES NOW AVAILABLE – The Fall 2015 issue of the Radio Waves is now available. Articles in this issue include: Using sensors to explore terraforming; STEM school and academy ARC builds repeater; Community college's DIY spirit shines for ARISS contact; Amateur radio club helps Boy Scouts earn radio merit badge; Education and Technology Program news; Getting new Hams on the air: the evolution of a licensing class; Ham radio instruction for people with

disabilities; Amateur Extra question pool being revised for 2016; Licensing statistics; and, Upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines. To read the current issue, or to access archive issues, see www.arrl.org/radio-waves Thanks to Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Services Manager, and Steve Ewald, WV1X, ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor, for providing this information!

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE APPROVES GLOBAL 60 METER ALLOCATION! – The frequencies, 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz, with a power limit of 15W EIRP, were approved for allocation on a secondary basis to the Amateur Service at the 2015 World Radiocommunications Conference in Geneva. The new band will not be available until the FCC adopts the Acts of the Conference and sets up operating rules. For now, the “5 channel plan” on 60 meters will be observed. For further information, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/world-radiocommunication-conference-approves-global-60-meter-allocation> (from the ARRL website)

PUTTING CONTESTING TO WORK FOR YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE TEAM – For information on the value of contesting for Hams involved in public service, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/putting-contesting-to-work-for-your-public-service-team> (from the ARRL website)

UPCOMING DXPEDITIONS –

Early January 2016: Antipodes Island (ZL9A), see <http://iotahunter.org/>
Thanks to Bernie McClenny, W3UR and the Weekly DX for providing this information!

January 11-26, 2016: Palmyra Atoll (K5P), see

<http://palmyra2016.org/index.html>

On island team members include Lou Dietrich, N2TU (Co-Team Leader) and Dick Williams, W3OA, both from Mooresville.

January 17-25, February 1-9, 2016 (projected dates): South Sandwich Island (VP8STI) and South Georgia Island (VP8SGI), see

<http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8/index.php> For

information on other upcoming DXpeditions, see

<http://www.cdxa.org/>, click on Coming

Events, click on DXpeditions Listed On NG3K.

MARTTI LAINE, OH2BH, ARTICLE ON WORKING DX PILEUPS NOW

AVAILABLE – An

article on working DX pileups written by renowned DXer and DXpeditioner, Martti Laine, OH2BH, is now

available. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/martti-laine-oh2bh-article-on-working-dx-pileups-now-available>

(from the ARRL website)

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

On medical preparedness and communications at the PPD

Beach2Battleship

Triathlon, see

<http://www.jems.com/articles/print/volume-40/issue-12/features/beach2battleship-triathlon-highlights-importance-of-preparedness-for-medical-response-team.html>

(via Google search)

The following email about the upcoming NC QSO Party was received from

Marty Young, W4MY: “..... [the] NC QSO Party is now looking for 2016 award sponsors. Cost is \$50 and we are looking into going back to the wood plaque in the shape of the NC state outline. The sponsor's name and/or affiliation are recognized on the plaque and on the NCQP website. Those interested should contact me by email, w4my at reagan dot com. 73 Marty / W4MY.” The NC QSO Party, sponsored by Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2016, from 1000 EST to 2000 EST. For further information, see

<http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/>

Thanks to Marty Young W4MY, NCQP Committee Chairman, for providing this information!

The following report was received from Michael Callam, KD4MC: “With generous help from John Creel – WB3GXW, owner of the Wash_DC Echolink conference server and Ronnie Casey - K4JDR, Trustee of the Raleigh NC IRLP Reflector, the Johnston Amateur Radio Society will begin the East Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Information Net on Wednesday December 9th

at 7 PM Eastern time. The net will be held on the second Wednesday of every month. Stations can connect to the net from the *Wash_DC* Echolink conference server, node# 6154 or the Raleigh NC IRLP Reflector 9210. Each month we will call upon an amateur radio operator interested in emergency service from different areas to tell what their team is doing to assist their specific location with amateur radio communications during an emergency or disaster. More information on the East Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Information Net or suggestions for future nets may be obtained by contacting either Michael Callam, KD4MC at mcallam@centurylink.net or Bob German, KB4RGC at bob@rgerman.net." Please note that the focus of the East Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Information Net is exchange of emergency preparedness information only. Thanks to Michael Callam, KD4MC, President, Johnston Amateur Radio Society and Emergency Coordinator (Johnston County), for providing this information!

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur radio operators is reported: John Franklin Anderson, KQ4UO (SK) of Winston-Salem; Jerry Wayne Horton, KE4QBG (SK) of Selma; Donald Edward Johansson, WA4UPN (SK) of Tobaccoville; and, Harold Leon Winter, Jr, WX6I (SK) of Waxhaw. 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.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –

January 9, 2016: Winston-Salem FirstFest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC, see <http://www.w4nc.com> It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's 2016 hamfest! For more information, see <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events>

The 27th Annual JARSfest 2015, sponsored by the Johnston Amateur Radio Society, was held on Sunday, November 15th in Benson. I enjoyed going to JARSfest! The weather was beautiful, the flea market and indoor vendors had many items for sale, there were many attendees, and the food was excellent! Even though most of my time was spent at the ARRL table, Bill N2COP, Roanoke Division Vice Director and I had a great time interacting with everyone. Thanks to the Johnston Amateur Radio Society for putting on another outstanding JARSfest!

Congratulations to the Red Foxes, and team member, Ro Maddox K4HRM, for winning 2 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze medals at the NC Senior Games State Finals Basketball Tournament at East Carolina University in

Greenville! For further information, see the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club newsletter, page 7, at <http://n4lnr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/LARC-11-2015C.pdf>. Ro K4HRM is the editor of their newsletter, and she does a great job with that as well!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that there are 2 new ARRL-affiliated amateur radio clubs in the NC Section: the West Stanly Middle School Radio Club of Locust; and, the North Carolina Radio Group of Cherryville. Congratulations!

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, photos, 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. Thanks for everything you are doing for amateur radio and your community. Finally, have a happy and safe holiday season! 73, Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell).

ARRL News:

US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI, Among Latest Amateur Radio Parity Act Cosponsors

US Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), is among the latest House members to sign on as an [Amateur Radio Parity](#)

[Act](#) of 2015 cosponsor. One of three radio amateurs in Congress, Walden chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, tr H.R. 1301, the House version of the legislation. As of December 2, there were 117 cosponsors in the US House and three cosponsors for S. 1685, the US Senate bill, which cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 18. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said cosponsorship by Walden, the subcommittee chair, is a highlight of the bill's progress in the House. "Rep Walden and his subcommittee staff have been very helpful all along the way," she added. President Craigie also said it's important that ARRL members continue to write, call, or e-mail their members of Congress, including those who already have become cosponsors.

"We want the members of Congress who signed on months ago to be reminded periodically that their help is important and appreciated by constituents," President Craigie said. "Keeping Capitol Hill's attention is not a one-and-done thing. Thanking our supporters is both good manners and good strategy."

Other US House members who became H.R. 1301 cosponsors in November include three from Texas and two from Wisconsin: Reps Ron Kind (D-WI), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Gene Green (D-TX), Sam Johnson (R-TX), and Vela Filemon (D-TX) The bill calls on the FCC to apply its "reasonable accommodation" standard to private land-use restrictions. It would offer Amateur Radio operators an opportunity to

negotiate with homeowners associations in subdivisions that now preclude the installation outdoor ham antennas.

[More information](#) on the Amateur Radio Parity Act is available on the ARRL website.

It's a Wrap: WRC-15 Concludes in Geneva

World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 ([WRC-15](#)) concluded its deliberations on November 27 in Geneva, as heads of delegations signed the *Final Acts* revising the *Radio Regulations* -- the international treaty governing the use of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. Some 3300 participants, representing 162 out of the International Telecommunication Union's ([ITU](#)) 193 member states, attended the 4-week conference. Another 500 or so participants, representing 130 other entities, including industry, also attended as observers. Festus Daudu of Nigeria chaired WRC-15.

A great deal has been achieved in the last 4 weeks, and the results will have a major impact on the future of the telecommunication sector in general and radiocommunications in particular," ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (ITU-R) Director François Rancy said in a closing [news release](#). WRC-15 addressed more than 40 topics related to frequency allocation and sharing.

The conference reached consensus on a new worldwide secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, with a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP). Some Region 2 countries, but not the US, will be permitted up to 25

W EIRP. With this action -- and despite conditions that are more restrictive than had been hoped at the start of the Conference -- the Amateur Service has obtained its first new global HF allocation since 1979.

The 15 kHz band at 60 meters "will maintain stable communications over various distances, especially for use when providing communications in disaster situations and for relief operations," an ITU news release said. The new band will not become available for use until the FCC addresses the WRC-15 *Final Acts* in a rule making proceeding and establishes operating parameters.

Threats by the mobile telephone/broadband industry in the vicinity of 10 GHz and 24 GHz have been averted for the time being, but are expected to be raised again at WRC-19 and/or WRC-23. The 144 and 420 MHz bands were excluded from the WRC-19 agenda item addressing short-duration (3 years) small satellites.

Agenda Item 1.12, addressing the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (10 GHz EESS), was approved at plenary with footnotes relevant to certain Middle East countries. The EESS allocation was tailored to avoid the Amateur-Satellite segment and poses no threat to terrestrial ham radio use of the band.

The International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) team at WRC-15 also focused its efforts on tweaking the agenda for WRC-19. Agenda Item 1.1 will consider 50-54 MHz harmonization in Region 1. A proposed agenda item to align the 160

meter allocation in Region 1 with the rest of the world did not make the cut.

There's a New Ham in the House!

US Rep Steve Pearce (R-NM) has become the third Amateur Radio licensee in the Congress. Pearce recently became KG5KIQ. He joins his House colleague, Rep Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI), and Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR). Pearce had reached out earlier this year to ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, and New Mexico Section Manager Ed James, KA8JMW, to find out more about ham radio.

"He said he had learned of ham radio and was interested in its utility for communicating with others wirelessly, especially at long distances on HF," Milesosky recounted. More recently the congressman alerted Milesosky and James that he would be passing through Albuquerque and wanted to meet with them to chat further about Amateur Radio. The get-together over coffee with Pearce, an aide, James, and Milesosky lasted for "a very productive hour," Milesosky said. On November 12, Pearce's aide contacted James to say that the Congressman has just arrived in Albuquerque and wanted to take the Technician license examination, if possible.

"We notified Frank Warren, AB5WJ, whose VE team regularly conducts on-demand licensing exams," Milesosky said. Three hours after our first indication that he was in town, the Congressman was taking his Technician license exam."

The FCC granted Pearce's license on November 18.

Revamped FCC Website Set to Debut

The FCC's large-scale website redesign will roll out this month. The switch to the new site is set to happen on December 10 at 0100 UTC.

"While the transition to the revamped site is expected to be completed almost instantaneously, there will be an ongoing process following this transition that will continue to involve user feedback, fixes by the FCC's Information Technology team, and content updates by policy bureaus and offices," the FCC said in a November 24 [Public Notice](#).

December ARRL Operating Events Offer the Lows and the Highs

For veteran contesters and newcomers alike, December offers two of the most popular operating events of the fall "contest season" -- The [ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#), December 4-6, and the [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#) the following weekend, December 12-13. Both contests offer an opportunity to appreciate the diversity and range of the HF bands available.

Often called "Top Band," 160 meters -- actually a medium-wave band -- is the lowest frequency band currently available for contest use. While some Top Band stalwarts will operate day and night on contest weekend, operation for this event typically takes place starting at dusk and into the nighttime hours, and it's an all-CW event. This is mainly a contest where US and Canadian stations work one another and the rest of the world, because the rules do not permit DX-to-DX contacts.

On this challenging band, it's all about your antenna and teasing desired signals out of the noise. Running 100 W into a compromise antenna of a shortened dipole or an inverted L or vertical with just a few radials, you can expect to work a number of states, if you put in some effort. High power is also an option. In times of scant sunspots, 160 can come alive with signals from other continents. From a low-noise location, it's possible to work the world with a wire vertical antenna, such as an inverted L, coupled with radials -- the more the merrier. Separate low-noise receiving antennas such as Beverages are popular on this band. Top Band operation can be addicting for its combination of challenges, rewards, and variability.

At the other end of the HF spectrum 10 meters can be a "counterpoise" to 160. Most activity will be during the daylight hours. The object is for amateurs worldwide to exchange contact information with as many stations as possible on 10 meters. The band is more likely to be open in high-sunspot years, but 10 meters can be surprising. Gain antennas for 10 can be built fairly easily, since they're relatively small (a 10 meter dipole is on the order of 16.5 feet). Building a small Yagi for 10 meters is not difficult. If 10 meters is open, signals from around the world can be quite strong, and contest contacts are fast and exciting. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest encompasses CW and SSB operation -- you can operate either one or operate both, which can be a wonderful way to avoid mode burnout. Effective use of one good 10 meter opening during an

otherwise closed-band weekend could place you among the regional score leaders.

Both of these events offer a variety of entry categories and power levels, from QRP to legal limit. -- *Thanks to The ARRL Contest Update/Brian Moran, N9ADG.*

Special Event W1Q to be Active in ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Special Event station W1Q is now on the air until December 15, to celebrate QST's 100th anniversary. The first



issue of QST was published in December 1915. W1Q will be active in the [ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#) over the December 5-6 weekend, with Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, as the operator. ARRL COO Harold Kramer, WJ1B, and volunteer operators will be on the air on various bands and modes throughout the month. This is *not* an official ARRL operation, and Kramer will handle all details, QSL cards, and LoTW entries. He will post [additional information](#) on his [QRZ.com](#) page under WJ1B. -- *Thanks to Harold Kramer, WJ1B*

Ham Radio Christmas

"The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.

The wife making cookies, the kids
making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I
was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain
was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could
get.
The bands were all empty, the
frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded
quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did
pique,
When he ended transmission with the
words,
"Old St. Nick".
I answered back quickly, I used great
dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God,
what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really
quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a
grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he
would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very
hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow
covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like
a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called
them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa,
Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop,
Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too
fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his
antenna mast!"

So into the backyard the reindeer did
drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went
kerplod!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud
knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your
stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving
the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from
the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a
strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of
his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged
brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his
shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from
what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll
bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him
smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham
jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up
his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel
dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight
for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up,
took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he
did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er
the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both
out of band!"

Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

JARS Officers for 2015

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Editor Mike KD4MC

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That does it for another edition of the JARS "*Official Organ*". I look forward to seeing everybody at the JARS Christmas Dinner next week.



73 and Merry Christmas from Mike,
KD4MC & Velda K4VJC.