

The “Official Organ”

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

February 2018 Edition

JARS Meeting this Thursday:

Our monthly JARS meeting is this coming Thursday, February 15th at Pleasant Grove Community Center 15805 Hwy 210, Angier, NC 27501. We will be having spaghetti and all the fixin’s for supper. You need to let Tommy know by Tuesday how many you will be bringing to eat. Tommy’s email is n4cbi42@gmail.com. The cost is \$7.00 per person and please bring exact change or face the wrath of Dianne (KE4VNX).

Our VP, Stan Disbrow has a presentation planned on the history of the handheld (HT).

In this month’s Official Organ:

Presidential Comments

Life on the Farm

LOM Award Update

NC Section News

Ham Humor

ARRL News

Johnston County ARRL VE Team

Presidential Comments:

Welcome to February

We got our first month of 2018 out of the way. I got to call two snow nets and now we have some quiet warmer weather. I spoke with BJ NC4BJ earlier today Feb 7, he had to have a detached retina repaired and some other medical test are going on. Let’s hope he has a rapid recovery and can join us back on the air. The JARS Grid Chase is up and running so if you want to participate let me know. I appreciate everybody’s help and participation this year.

73’s de n4mqu president@jars.net

Life on the Farm:

Life on the farm has been pretty good this past month. I am making much progress on my ability to walk and get out and about. The “little hairy hound” loves the fact that I can walk again. Me and him take long walks around the farm. He likes to go out in the fields and walk and so do I.

I have been expanding my digital ham radio capabilities. I can now do DStar, DMR, DMR+, System Fusion and P25. I ordered a “Nano-Spot” back in December that does all digital modes, When I get more comfortable with it I will give a more detailed review.

I did manage to find a Motorola HT that does not require a computer or expensive software to program. It is the Motorola XTS 5000 and it can be programmed using the keypad on the radio. It has 16 zones with 16

channels in each zone. It came with the latest firmware, a brand-new battery and a brand new Imprerss charger. It out performs any other HT that I have ever owned.

That does it for this month's edition of "Life on the Farm"
73 from Mike(KD4MC), Velda(K4VJC), Remmington (Hairy Hound), and Tabitha(Krazy Kat).

LOM Award Update:

As I am writing this edition of the Official Organ, I am in Virginia. My brother and I are in the process of creating a new LOM award. It will be presented at the meeting. In the making of the award, we discovered a few things. One is that you do not use a dremmel tool to file your fingernails. The other is that you do not use a circular saw to trim your fingernails with either. Other than that, I believe that you will be happy with the new LOM award.

NC Section News:

Posted: February 3, 2018

ARRL NC Section Newsletter

January 2018

Greetings from Karl W4CHX, your ARRL NC Section Manager!

ARRL HUDSON DIVISION DIRECTOR PROMOTES AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT BEFORE

SENATE COMMITTEE – ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB,

testified Thursday (January 25) before a session of the Senate Committee

on Commerce, Science and Transportation regarding Amateur Radio's

readiness to respond in an emergency. The session, "This is not a

Drill: An Examination of Emergency Alert Systems," was called in the

wake of an incoming missile warning erroneously released in Hawaii

earlier this month. Lisenco said Amateur Radio played a role not only

in responding to the warning but in disseminating word that the missile

alert had been issued by mistake. ... Lisenco took the opportunity to

address how private land-use regulations can preclude Amateur Radio

disaster response capabilities. ... For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-hudson-division-director-promotes-amateur-radio-parity-act-before-senate-committee>

(source: ARRL website)

ARRL CEO TOM GALLAGHER, NY2RF, TO RETIRE – ARRL's chief executive

officer for the past 2 years, Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, announced his

retirement as CEO, as the ARRL Board of Directors prepares to meet

January 19-20. He will step down on March 2. For further information,

see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-ceo-tom-gallagher-ny2rf-to-retire>

(source: ARRL website)

BOARD RE-ELECTS RICK RODERICK, K5UR, AS ARRL PRESIDENT; BARRY SHELLEY,

N1VXY, IS CEO-ELECT – Incumbent ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR,

has been re-elected by the League's Board of Directors for a second

term. The Board convened for its Annual Meeting January 19-20.

President Roderick, the League's 16th President, received 9 votes,

while the only other nominee, New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI,

received 6 votes. Current ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley,

N1VXY, was elected as Chief Executive Officer, to replace Tom Gallagher,

NY2RF, who announced his retirement on January 18 after 2 years at ARRL

Headquarters. Gallagher will step down on March 2. Shelley will serve

until the Board selects a new CEO and is expected to serve in an

advisory role to assist with the transition beyond that. The Board will

create a CEO Search Committee. Shelley was unopposed as ARRL Board

Secretary. For further information, including the results of other

Board elections, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/board-re-elects-rick-roderick-k5ur-as-arrrl-president-barry-shelley-n1vxy-is-ceo-elect>

(source: ARRL website)

ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGREES TO REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR

DIRECTORS – For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrrl-board-of-directors-agrees-to-review-of-conduct-code-for-directors>

(source: ARRL website)

ARRL BOARD MEETING MINUTES POSTED – The minutes of the 2018 ARRL

Annual Board of Directors Meeting held January 19-20, 2018, are now

available on the ARRL website. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrrl-board-meeting-minutes-posted> (source:

ARRL website)

Z60A FIELDING THREE STATIONS TO HANDLE HUGE PILEUPS FOR NEW DXCC #1

(ENDING 2/18) – Three Z60A stations are up and running with DL3DXX,

DL5CW, DJ5IW, IK0FVC, and VE7NY handling operating duties. The special

activation to mark the addition of the Republic of Kosovo to the DXCC

List has reached 50,000 contacts and counting. ... – Thanks to

Martti Laine, OH2BH. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/z60a-fielding-three-stations-to-handle-huge-pileups-for-new-dxcc-1>

(sources: OH2BH, ARRL website)

BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION TEAM HAS
ARRIVED AND WILL SOON BEGIN OPERATIONS

– For further information, see

<http://www.bouvetdx.org/news-and-updates/>
(source: Bouvet Island
DXpedition website)

VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO ASSIST IN 2018
BOSTON MARATHON (DEADLINE, 2/7) –

Opportunities for Amateur Radio and non-
amateur volunteers are available

for the 122nd running of the Boston Marathon
on Monday, April 16,

sponsored by the Boston Athletic Association
(BAA). ... – Thanks to

Matthew Forman, K6MCF, and Rob Macedo,
KD1CY, of the Boston Marathon

Amateur Radio Communications Committee.
For further information, see

[http://www.arrl.org/news/volunteers-invited-
to-assist-in-2018-boston-marathon](http://www.arrl.org/news/volunteers-invited-to-assist-in-2018-boston-marathon)

(sources: K6MCF, KD1CY, ARRL website)

SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP WINTER/SPRING
TERM IS FEBRUARY 12-16 (2/12-16) –

The winter/spring term of the twice-yearly
School Club Roundup (SCR)

takes place Monday through Friday, February
12-16. The objective is for

school radio clubs at the elementary, middle,
high school, and college

levels to exchange information in a competitive
context. Non-school

clubs and individuals are encouraged to
participate. For further

information, see

[http://www.arrl.org/news/school-club-
roundup-winter-spring-term-is-february-12-16](http://www.arrl.org/news/school-club-roundup-winter-spring-term-is-february-12-16)

(source: ARRL website)

USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR JUNE 13-
17 IN CALIFORNIA, WITH TRAINING

DAYS IN NORTH CAROLINA BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 17 – The 18th USA

Championships of Amateur Radio Direction
Finding (ARDF) will take place

June 13-17 near Truckee, California, some 30
miles southwest of Reno,

Nevada. ... Training Days in February. Nine
days of ARDF training

sessions will take place beginning on February
17 in the Raleigh, North

Carolina, area, with former Ukrainian ARDF
team member Illia Ivanko as

the primary instructor. Now living in the US, he
was a medal winner at

the 2017 IARU Region 2 ARDF championships
with the best five times in

both classic events. The training sessions will
be held in the Triangle

area near Raleigh-Durham Airport. The
Backwoods Orienteering Klub is

sponsoring the event. Contact event organizer
Joseph Huberman, K5JGH

for more information. – Thanks to ARRL ARDF
Coordinator Joe Moell,

K0OV. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/usa-ardf-championships-set-for-june-13-17-in-california>

(sources: KOOV, ARRL website)

NOAA SEEKS COMMENTS ON DISCONTINUING WWV-WVH NORTH ATLANTIC AND NORTH PACIFIC MARINE STORM WARNINGS (DEADLINE, 2/23) – NOAA is once again

considering ending North Atlantic and North Pacific Marine storm warning

announcements at minutes 8, 9, and 10 of each hour on WWV, and minutes

48, 49, 50, and 51 of WWVH. ... – Thanks to Matt Deutch, NORGT. For

further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/noaa-seeks-comments-on-discontinuing-wwv-wwvh-north-atlantic-and-north-pacific-marine-storm-warnings-1>

(sources: NORGT, ARRL website)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR HamSCI WORKSHOP AIMED AT HAMS AND SPACE

SCIENCE/WEATHER RESEARCHERS (2/23-24) – Registration now is open for a

2-day HamSCI — the Amateur Radio citizen science initiative —

workshop February 23-24 at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in

Newark. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/registration-now-open-for-hams-ci-workshop-aimed-at-hams-and-space-science-weather-researchers>

(source: ARRL website)

NC QSO PARTY 2018 (2/25) – The NC QSO Party 2018 will held on Sunday,

February 25, 2018, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST. For further

information, see <http://ncqsoparty.org/> (source: NC QSO Party website)

ARRL INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR SIX AWARDS (DEADLINES, 3/15 – 4/30) –

ARRL invites nominations for awards that recognize educational and

technological pursuits in Amateur Radio. Nominations are also open for

the League's premier award to honor a young licensee – the Hiram

Percy Maxim Award. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-invites-nominations-for-six-awards>

(source: ARRL website)

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR PHILIP J. MCGAN MEMORIAL SILVER ANTENNA AWARD

(DEADLINE, 5/19) – Nominations are open for ARRL's annual Philip J.

McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, which recognizes and honors the

efforts of individuals who create greater awareness and understanding

the services and benefits that Amateur Radio provides to the general

public. The deadline to submit a nomination is May 19, 2018. For

further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/nominations-sought-for-philip-j-mcgan-memorial-silver-antenna-award>

(source: ARRL website)

NCVEC QUESTION POOL COMMITTEE RELEASES ERRATA TO NEW TECHNICIAN QUESTION

POOL – For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ncvec-question-pool-committee-releases-errata-to-new-technician-question-pool>

(source: ARRL website)

GRID CHASERS: MAKE SURE TQSL INCLUDES YOUR GRID SQUARE – For further

information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/grid-chasers-make-sure-tqsl-includes-your-grid-square>

(source: ARRL website)

AMENDMENT TO ARRL DXCC RULES WILL EXPAND DXCC LIST – For further

information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amendment-to-arrl-dxcc-rules-will-expand-dxcc-list>

(source: ARRL website)

PUERTO RICO, US VIRGIN ISLAND AMATEURS ARE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN

AWARD WINNERS – The ARRL Board of Directors has conferred the 2018

International Humanitarian Award jointly on the Amateur Radio population

of Puerto Rico – served by ARRL Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF –

and the radio amateurs of the US Virgin Islands, served by ARRL Section

Manager Fred Kleber, K9VV. Radio amateurs in Puerto Rico and in the US

Virgin Islands aided in relief and recovery after a punishing hurricane

season in the Caribbean. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/puerto-rico-us-virgin-island-amateurs-are-international-humanitarian-award-winners>

(source: ARRL website)

DOMINICA POST-DISASTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT CITES AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE

AFTER MARIA – A post-hurricane disaster needs assessment published

this past fall by the Government of Dominica points up the significance

of Amateur Radio's role in the relief and recovery effort on the tiny

Caribbean island nation in the wake of Hurricane Maria last September.

It also calls for expanding the pool of radio amateurs on the island who

could help in future disasters. ... – Thanks to Brian Machesney,

K1LI. For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/dominica-post-disaster-needs-assessment-cites-amateur-radio-s-role-after-maria>

(sources: K1LI, ARRL website)

WORK PROGRESSING TO INCORPORATE CQ MAGAZINE'S WAZ AWARD PROGRAM INTO

LoTW – Beta testing for bringing CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ)

award program into ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system continues

to move forward, officials from CQ and ARRL have assured. For further

information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/work-progressing-to-incorporate-cq-magazine-s-waz-award-program-into-lotw>

(source: ARRL website)

ARRL COMMENTS ON TECHNOLOGICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL SPECTRUM POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS – For further information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-comments-on-technological-advisory-council-spectrum-policy-recommendations>

(source: ARRL website)

ARRL SUGGESTS FCC MAY NEED TO INTERVENE TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE ANTENNA

RIGHTS – Commenting in response to an FCC Public Notice (DA 17-1180)

released last month, ARRL addressed the extent of Amateur Radio's

response to recent hurricane disasters and efforts needed to expand the

use of Amateur Radio services when it comes to planning, testing, and

providing emergency communication. ... ARRL raised three areas where

action by the FCC could ensure and enhance the ability of radio amateurs

to provide emergency communication, including the current Amateur Radio

Parity Act of 2017 (S. 1534), now in the US Senate. For further

information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-suggests-fcc-may-need-to-intervene-to-ensure-effective-antenna-rights>

(source: ARRL website)

LICENSE CLASSES –

Wilkesboro (NC): Technician license class, February 5 to April 9, 2018,

sponsored by Foothills Amateur Radio Club, contact Dave Ritter ND4MR by

phone at (336) 838-6124 or by email at nd4mr at junodotcom for further

information.

Gastonia (NC): Technician license class, February 10, 2018, sponsored by

Greater Gaston Amateur Radio Society, contact Tony Jones N4ATJ by phone

at (704) 827-2138 or by email at n4atj at twcdotcom for further

information.

Asheville (NC): Technician license class, beginning February 13, 2018,

sponsored by Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, contact Norman

Harrill N4NH by phone at (828) 253-1192 for further information (this

class is not listed on the ARRL website)

Kannapolis (NC): General/Amateur Extra license class, February 20 to

March 6, 2018, sponsored by Cabarrus Amateur Radio Society, contact Dave

Whiteley W4DPW by phone at (704) 786-7441 or (704) 918-8146, or by email

at hospiceforcars at windstream dot net for further information (this

class is not listed on the ARRL website).

Raleigh (NC): Technician license class, March 3 to April 7, 2018,

sponsored by Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, contact Carl Davis W8WZ by

phone at (773) 949-5243 or by email at w8wz at aol dot com for further

information.

Goldsboro (NC): Technician license class, March 8 to April 7, 2018,

sponsored by Neuse River Basin Amateur Radio Assn, contact Wilson Hines

AA5AZ by phone at (919) 394-4346 or by email at wilsonhines at gmail dot

com for further information.

To find upcoming classes, go to

www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-class Please note that a

license class sponsored by your club or organization will not be listed

on the ARRL website unless you register your class. ARRL Registered

Instructors may list upcoming classes on the ARRL website. For further

information, see <http://www.arrl.org/License-instructor-registration>

Also, please let me know if your club is sponsoring a license class.

Thanks! (sources: ARRL website, N4HF, W4DPW)

MEDIA HITS AND REPORTS – The following media hits and reports are

included in this month's newsletter:

For information and news on the Puerto Rico – Caribbean Recovery 2017,

see <http://www.arrl.org/puerto-rico-caribbean-recovery-2017> (source:

ARRL website)

The following report (edited) was received from Ralph Wallio, WORPK:

“630m operations in ARRL Roanoke Division and nationwide. You folks

may be interested in how 630m Amateur Radio operation in the U.S. is

growing since our new Ham band was approved and numerous Hams have

received UTC approval to operate starting mid-October 2017. Our latest

weekly 01Jan18 ARRL 630m WAS list of stations participating in QSOs is

attached [unable to include list in the Newsletter]. As of this morning [1/2], we have 82 active 630m stations participating in QSOs in 34 states with these 6 stations in our ARRL Roanoke Division: North Carolina (N1DAY David Day of Hendersonville, KC4SIT Ernest Hollingsworth of Flat Rock, N4PY Carl Moreschi of Louisburg); South Carolina (K4LY Doug Allen of Inman); and, Virginia (WA1ZMS Brian Justin of Forest, W4IQ Randall Nealy of Blacksburg). ... Updated 630m WAS lists and maps are available via <http://njdtechnologies.net/north-american-630-meter-operator-list/> Many of these 630m stations and several others participate in WSPR transmitting, receiving, and reporting. ... WSJT-X Digital Mode JT9 is favored for brief 630m QSOs with other digital modes being tested for keyboard-to-keyboard rag-chewing performance via MF propagation. CW is often used for both brief and extended QSOs. John Langridge KB5NJD maintains daily discussions of 630m activity via <http://njdtechnologies.net/category/630-meters/> The longstanding 600m Research Group (active since 2006) discussion board archive back to Jan13 is available via http://w7ekb.com/pipermail/600mrg_w7ekb.com/ I

have been involved with (what is now called) 630m since 2006. After 61 years of Ham Radio at age 75, 630m is another very interesting facet of our jewel of a hobby. – TNX es 73 de Ralph Wallio WORPK.” Thanks to Ralph Wallio, WORPK of Greenville, for providing this informative report! (source: WORPK)

The following reports on Winter Field Day (edited) were received from Dave Price K4KDP and Wilson Hines AA5AZ: “The Neuse River Basin Amateur Radio Association held a Winter Field Day event at the historic Goldsborough Battlefield location next to the Neuse River near Goldsboro. Stations included 160, 80, 40, and 20 meters. They used the barn on site as a base station for visitors to enter and receive information about the exhibit. An added event was to gather around a fire started in an old brick fireplace to enjoy stew and cobbles while planning for the evening/ night shift schedule and welcoming myself and some other guests. Even though this club is less than a year old, they worked well together to organize a nice event that attracted county employees and several local business people. Dave, K4KDP ...”

“We ran a 60 (outside, non-insulated) station and had amazing support

from the Wayne County Emergency Services who provided generators and

even portable crank-up towers. ... Wilson Hines, AA5AZ ...” Thanks

to Dave Price, K4KDP ARRL NC Section Youth Coordinator – Scouting, and

Wilson Hines, AA5AZ, President, Neuse River Basin Amateur Radio

Association, for providing these reports! (sources: K4KDP, AA5AZ)

The following report was received from Tom Land, KA4HKK: “Winter

Field Day 2018. Members of LARC [Lenoir Amateur Radio Club] and their

friends operated Winter Field Day at the home of K4HRM. It was a dreary

weekend and the bands were in poor shape. We ended up talking to each

other more than making contacts. But fun was had by all and compliments

to the chef and helpers! 73 de KA4HKK.”

Thanks to Tom Land, KA4HKK,

Emergency Coordinator (Caldwell County), for providing this report!

The following report was received from Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE:

“Winter Field Day 2018. 14 members of Onslow Amateur Radio Club

participated in WFD over the weekend. We worked 20 meter, 40 meter, and

PSK31. Our newest member Sage worked throughout the night.” Thanks

to Janice Hopkins, KJ4JPE, an ARRL-trained Public Information Officer,

for providing this information! (source: KJ4JPE)

NTS SECTION TRAFFIC REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2017 –

QNI (total check-ins): 2,554; Total messages passed: 786.

Activity Reports (SARs), total number: KB4RGC 426, KW9EMG 329, K4IWW

273, AA3N 271, KC4PGN 232, W4DNA 232, WK4WC 190, WC9CW 166, WB4ZIQ 131,

KJ4JPE 120, W4EDN 46, W4EAT 43, KN4AAG 36, KE4AHC 35, W3HL 11, KI4UDZ 0,

W4TTO 0.

Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR), total number: KW9EMG 350, WC9CW 200,

KJ4JPE 165, W4DNA 150, WK4WC 140, K4IWW 130, KB4RGC 130, KI4UDZ 117,

KE4AHC 110, AA3N 100, WB4ZIQ 100, KN4AAG 71, W4TTO 0.

Thanks to all stations for participating in NC Section traffic

activities; and, to Dave Roy, W4DNA, Section Traffic Manager, for

providing this information! (source: W4DNA)

SILENT KEYS – With deep regret, the passing of the following amateur

radio operators is reported: Gilbert Herman ("Gil") Hoellerich,

WB0KTZ (SK) of Raleigh; and, Paul Eugene ("Gene") Scarborough Jr, W4YBQ

(SK) of Burlington. 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 – No Special Event Stations have been posted

for the NC Section on the ARRL website through April 2018. 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! (source:

ARRL website)

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS –

March 9-10: Charlotte Hamfest/ARRL North Carolina Section Convention,

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Concord, NC,

<https://charlottehamfest.org/>

March 31: 44th Annual RARSfest/ARRL North Carolina State Convention,

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, <http://www.rarsfest.org/>

April 21: 20th Annual Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio

Association, Morganton, NC, <http://cvhamfest.com>

May 12: 13th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest, Rockingham County

Amateur Radio Club, Reidsville, NC, <http://n4iv.org>

July 7: 33rd Annual 2018 Firecracker Hamfest, Rowan Amateur Radio

Society, Salisbury, NC, <http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest/>

July 21: Mid-Summer Swapfest, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC,

<http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>

July 28: WCARS Hamfest, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society,

Waynesville, NC, <http://wcars.org>

August 11: 20th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio

Society, Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org>

August 31 – September 2: 62nd Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL Roanoke

Division Convention, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC,

<http://shelbyhamfest.org>

It is not too early to apply for ARRL-affiliation of your club's

upcoming hamfest! For more information, see

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events>
(source: ARRL website)

QUA* – Happy New Year! On Saturday, January 6th, I attended the

Winston-Salem FirstFest, which is sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio

Club. It was fun to renew friendships and meet new colleagues. Thanks

to the club members for their hospitality and for putting on a great

hamfest!

On Saturday, January 27th, Tom Brown, N4TAB and I drove to Charlotte to

attend the annual winter training event for Mecklenburg ARES/NC AUXCOMM.

Cliff Greene WB4NCQ, Emergency Coordinator (Mecklenburg County)

organized the event, which featured “hands on” training with

emergency power supplies, including solar panels. The event was

educational and well attended. Thereafter, we drove to Troutman to

visit the Winter Field Day site of the Iredell County Amateur Radio

Society (ICARS). Their field day site was located at the Lowe’s Home

Improvement store; the tents and antennas were very visible to the store

patrons. We were impressed by the interactions between ICARS and the

local public safety personnel, which allowed use of two emergency

shelters by the amateur radio operators. Tom N4TAB and I enjoyed

visiting these events and interacting with everyone! Thanks to all

participants for taking the time to focus on emergency preparedness and

relationships in your communities.

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! 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)

*QUA is an international Q signal (prosign) meaning, “Have you news of

_____?” In the absence of a question mark, QUA means, “I have news

of _____.”

ARRL North Carolina Section

Section Manager: Karl F Bowman, W4CHX

w4chx@arrl.org

Ham Radio Humor:



Discovered their hang out.

ARRL News:

ARRL Hudson Division Director Promotes Amateur Radio Parity Act Before Senate Committee

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, [testified](#) on January 25 before a session of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation regarding Amateur Radio's readiness to respond in an emergency. The session, "This is not a

Drill: An Examination of Emergency Alert Systems," was called in the wake of an incoming missile warning erroneously released in Hawaii in January. Lisenco said Amateur Radio played a role not only in responding to the warning but in disseminating word that the missile alert had been issued by mistake.

Lisenco said the Hawaii Radio Amateur Civil



Emergency Service (RACES) activated on UHF and via a VHF inter-island repeater network, and amateur stations monitored the alert and cancellation activity, which came less than 1 day after RACES had completed an Amateur Radio communication exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In his written testimony, Lisenco recounted that the situation after the missile warning in Hawaii was chaotic.

"The phone lines into the State EOC were soon overwhelmed and congested, and the website was overwhelmed with public inquiries," he said. Lisenco said that in such situations, Amateur Radio volunteers are typically present at state or county EOCs and at the State Warning Point, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. He pointed out

that the cancellation of the false warning circulated on various information outlets 13 minutes after the missile warning went out.

"That was picked up and relayed through the Amateur Radio networks," he told the Committee in written testimony. "The cell phone alert system could not be used for the cancellation notice until prior FEMA approval was obtained. Once that was obtained, the cancellation alert went out to the cell phone network after 38 minutes from the initial alert."

"Many people had received the warning first on their cell phones through the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, but a cancellation on that same system was substantially delayed," Lisenco said. "The result was that Amateur Radio networks disseminated validated cancellation information long before the cellular networks were able to do so."

Lisenco took the opportunity to address how private land-use regulations can preclude Amateur Radio disaster response capabilities.

"There is no substitute for the ready availability of a residential Amateur Radio station in daily operation from a licensee's residence," he said. "The licensee cannot be expected to have the ability to communicate into or from a disaster site unless he or she has a station with an effective outdoor antenna capable of operation on multiple frequency bands at once, which is ready to be pressed into service from the licensee's residence at a moment's notice."



Lisenco reminded the panel members that the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 is now pending before the

Committee. "We are in desperate need of this legislation, and without it, the volunteer emergency communications services provided by Amateur Radio will be precluded. We urge the Committee in the strongest terms to please approve and send this legislation forward without delay," Lisenco said.

Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker, a cosponsor with Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal, of the Amateur Radio Parity Act, attended the hearing. Responding to a question from Wicker at the hearing, Lisenco pointed out that an early US Coast Guard warning cancellation notice was relayed to Amateur Radio networks and disseminated quickly, while the State Warning Point waited to obtain FEMA authorization to rescind the warning via cellular phones. As a result, Amateur Radio networks were able to disseminate validated cancellation information long before the cellular networks could. Wicker issued a [statement](#) noting Lisenco's testimony and posted a video clip of his exchange with Lisenco

ARRL Comments on Technological Advisory

Council Spectrum Policy Recommendations

In [comments](#) to the FCC on a series of Technological Advisory Council (TAC) spectrum management policy recommendations, ARRL said that while some of the Council's recommendations are valid, it would be "highly inappropriate" to generalize about applying them broadly in all radio services. The comments, filed on January 31, were in response to a December 1, 2017, *Public Notice* in ET Docket No. 17-340. ARRL took the opportunity to strongly urge the FCC to reinstate a 2016 TAC noise floor study, which, ARRL asserted, was apparently terminated before it even got started.

"Indeed, it is difficult to imagine how the



Commission can now...suggest the adoption of specific spectrum management principles, incorporating such concepts as receiver immunity, HCTs [harm claim thresholds], and interference temperature determinations without having...a firm grasp on ambient noise levels in basic RF environments and geographical areas," the League told the FCC.

ARRL reiterated its encouragement for the FCC to incorporate receiver performance specifications into US spectrum policy on a broader basis. "ARRL accepts...that increased spectrum user density is the inevitable result of new wireless services," the League said. "Given that this intensification of the use of the radio spectrum will necessitate new overlays of dissimilar radio services...in increasingly shared spectrum, it is necessary to depart from the traditional regulatory model that the Commission has utilized for spectrum allocations."

That model, ARRL said, has, almost without exception, placed limits only on transmitters, while the inability of some receivers to reject out-of-band signals "constrains new allocations in adjacent bands." This calls for what ARRL called "a 'holistic' approach to transmitter and receiver performance."

"Requiring better performance from receivers or RF-susceptible devices is a valid, reasonable, and long overdue requirement," ARRL said, "but the major goal of doing so should be to prevent instances of interference, not solely to allow the overlay of otherwise incompatible sharing partners in deployed spectrum to the detriment of incumbents."

ARRL argued, however, that the Amateur Service should not be subject to receiver immunity standards, because licensees employ a wide range of propagation, emissions, bandwidths, power levels, receivers, and antennas, making any receiver performance standards arbitrary, and compromising the Service's experimental nature. They

are also able to differentiate between interference from nearby spurious or out-of-band signals and that caused by receiver deficiencies.

"Receiver immunity is not an intra-service issue in the Amateur Service," ARRL said. "The issue...is, rather, protection from spurious and out-of-band emissions from other services."

ARRL said that while the TAC's allocation principles include over-generalizations, the Council is "very much on the right track" with such concepts as receiver immunity standards for certain radio services and, especially, for consumer electronics "and the initiation of necessary and urgent programs, such as interference-hunting teams, to supplement the Commission's meager enforcement resources." ARRL said it looks forward to working with the FCC in developing an interference-tracking corps. ARRL also supported the creation of a public database of past radio-related enforcement activities. What little FCC enforcement *is* necessary in the Amateur Service must be timely and visible, ARRL said.

But, ARRL returned to its assertion that a knowledge database regarding ambient noise levels in certain environments must be in place before adopting any next-generation spectrum management techniques.

"No system of spectrum management incorporating [harm claim thresholds] and receiver immunity levels can be accurately implemented" without the noise study data, ARRL said. Read [more](#).



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Nominations Sought for Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award

Nominations are open for ARRL's annual Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, which recognizes and honors the efforts of individuals who create greater awareness and understanding of the services and benefits that Amateur Radio provides to the general public. The deadline to submit a nomination is May 19, 2018.



Every day, Public Information Coordinators, Public Information Officers, and other public relations volunteers strive to keep

Amateur Radio visible in their communities by publicizing and promoting special events to the media, by maintaining good relations with local news outlets, creating content for social media, as well as many other valuable activities. These efforts benefit us all.

The award is named for journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ (SK), the first chairman of ARRL's Public Relations Committee, who helped reinvigorate the League's commitment to public relations. Unfortunately, McGan never got to see how well his efforts paid off. To honor him, his friends in the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association joined with the ARRL Board of Directors to pay a lasting tribute to the important contributions he made on behalf of Amateur Radio.

The McGan Award will go to the radio amateur who has demonstrated success in Amateur Radio public relations and who best exemplifies McGan's volunteer spirit. Activities for which the McGan Award is presented include efforts specifically directed at focusing the media's and the general public's attention on the value of Amateur Radio. This may include traditional methods, such as generating media coverage of a specific event, or non-traditional methods, such as hosting a radio show or being an active public speaker.

A



candidate's work must fit the definition of public relations, i.e., getting a message out to people. (public service is about providing a service.) The McGan Award recognizes the promotion of Amateur Radio to the non-amateur community, not for work within a club or organization

that primarily benefits the Amateur Radio community.

The award is given only to an individual, who must be a full ARRL member in good standing at the time of nomination. The nominee must not be compensated for any public relations work involving Amateur Radio (including payment for articles) and may not be a current officer, Director, Vice Director, paid staff member, or a member of the current selection committee.

The specific [criteria for nomination](#) and [the nomination form](#) (in PDF format) are posted on the ARRL website, or e-mail [Dave Isgur](#) at ARRL Headquarters and ask for a McGan Award entry form. Read [more](#).

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Appointed ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, of Fremont, California, has been appointed Pacific Division Vice Director, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has announced. The appointment came upon the recommendation of Director Jim



Tiemstra, K6JAT, who succeeded longtime Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, upon Vallio's election as ARRL Second Vice President.

McIntyre, who has served as ARRL Technical Coordinator for the East Bay Section, says on her QRZ.com profile that she's been interested in radio since she was about 5 years old. She got her Technician license in the late 1970s while a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After letting her license expire, she re-licensed and obtained her Amateur Extra-class license.

She is also licensed in Japan, her second home, as J11ZZ. She is president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association and is currently a senior software engineer at Apple.

Anticipated New Building Won't Be Ready for Hamvention 2018, but Flea Market Could Expand

Due to circumstances beyond their control, [Hamvention](#)® 2018 organizers are reluctantly walking back an earlier announcement that a new building would be available for this year's event at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.



"Despite all of the best efforts and intentions by Greene County, the Greene County Agricultural Society, and Hamvention, we have learned the

anticipated new building will not be constructed in time for Hamvention 2018," Hamvention General Chair Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, said. "The prefab sections bid on and architecturally required are currently backlogged. We expect construction to be delayed until after our show and the Greene County Fair." Cramer said construction should be completed this year in time for Hamvention 2019. "We regret this; however, it is well out of our control," Cramer said.

On the plus side, he continued, Hamvention 2018 will have more room for inside exhibits, with the addition of the vacated Furniture Building, and the Flea Market may gain new space as well.

"After consultation with professionals, we are in the process of solving the mud issue in the Flea Market area," Cramer said. "We anticipate work to start as soon as weather allows. We are rearranging the soccer field parking to eliminate use of the low areas where we had problems last year."



A

revised exit plan and additional off-site parking are also in the works, along with easy-to-use maps to help visitors navigate. Parking and shuttles will be free. Talk-in also has new equipment and a taller tower to extend its reach.

"There are many new ideas we are working on to make your stay with us more enjoyable," Cramer added. "Keep

watching our [website](#) for updates." --
*Thanks to Hamvention General Chair
Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ*

Work Progressing to Incorporate CQ Magazine's WAZ Award Program into LoTW

Beta testing for bringing CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ) award program into ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) system continues to move forward, officials from CQ and ARRL assured this week.



Some problems in the implementation were discovered by testers and have since been corrected; the documentation has also been improved by feedback from the testers. In parallel, the LoTW server has been executing a background task that creates and populates a WAZ account for each LoTW user.

Beta testing will continue until this background task completes. When all WAZ accounts have populated, LoTW-WAZ will be made available to everyone.

"The goal is for Amateur Radio operators to be able to directly submit

LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit," ARRL and CQ said in a joint statement. "Standard LoTW credit fees and separate CQ award fees will apply."

Logbook of The World is ARRL's electronic confirmation system for Amateur Radio contacts. It provides a confirmation when both stations in a contact submit their logs to the system and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has supported the CQ WPX Award program since 2012.

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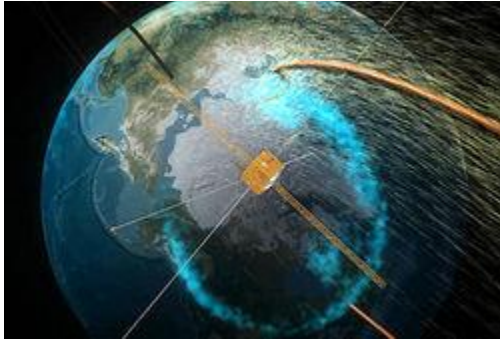
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Canadian Radio Amateur Finds Resurrected NASA Satellite

When he's not on ham radio, Scott Tilley, VA7LF, an amateur astronomer, hunts spy satellites. Using an S-band radio from his home in Roberts Creek, British Columbia, Tilley routinely scans the skies for radio signals from classified objects orbiting Earth, according to a [recent article](#) on [Spaceweather.com](#). Earlier this month, he saw the signature of IMAGE (Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration), a NASA spacecraft believed to have died in December 2005. The [discovery](#) has delighted space scientists.



Artist's conception of IMAGE over the North Pole.

"The long gone and nearly forgotten IMAGE spacecraft has come back to life and been detected by an amateur astronomer," said Mission Manager Richard J. Burley at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), which confirmed that what Tilley spotted is, indeed, IMAGE. Amateur observer Paul Marsh, M0EYT, in the UK, provided the first independent confirmation of the IMAGE signal.

NASA [said](#) on January 29 that observations from five sites were consistent with the RF characteristics expected of IMAGE.

But just to make certain beyond a shadow of a doubt, scientists at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab collected telemetry from the satellite that identified the spacecraft as IMAGE. A NASA team has been able to read some basic housekeeping data from the spacecraft and will continue to analyze data from the spacecraft to learn more about its condition. This will require adapting old software and information databases to more modern systems.

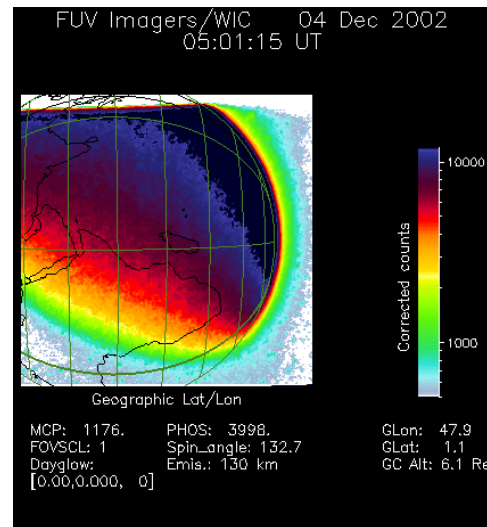


IMAGE tracks a 2002 eclipse that was visible from a narrow corridor in southern Africa, the Indian Ocean, and southern Australia.

After the spacecraft went silent, an unsuccessful 2007 effort was made to track IMAGE in the hope that a "long shadow encounter" would drain the battery enough to cause IMAGE to reset its control hardware. When that effort failed, the mission was declared to have ended. Space scientists now theorize that an even longer eclipse -- or other event -- did reset the system and bring the transmitter back to life.

Launched in 2000 on a mission to monitor space weather, IMAGE mapped plasma patterns around Earth, keeping tabs on the planet's magnetosphere as it responded to solar activity; on-board ultraviolet cameras shot [images](#) of Earth's auroras. "It had capabilities that no other spacecraft could match -- before or since," said Patricia Reiff, a member of the original IMAGE science team at Rice University.

Reiff said UC Berkeley still has a ground station that was used for real-time

tracking and control and is scrambling to find the old software to see if they can get the spacecraft to respond.

"[IMAGE's] global-scale auroral imager would be fantastic for nowcasting space weather," Reiff said. "Fingers crossed!" -
- Thanks to Alex Schwarz, VE7DXW;
Spaceweather.com; NASA

In Brief...

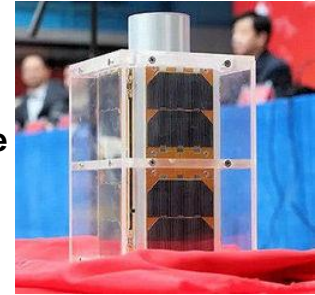


AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, has declared that

[Fox-1D \(AO-92\)](#) is now open for general Amateur Radio use. That word followed an announcement from AMSAT Vice President-Engineering Jerry Buxton, N0JY, that AO-92 had been commissioned and formally turned over to AMSAT Operations. Initially, the U/v FM transponder will be open continuously for 1 week. After that, operation will be shared among the U/v FM transponder, L-Band downshifter, Virginia Tech Camera, and the University of Iowa's High-Energy Radiation CubeSat Instrument (HERCI). AMSAT News Service, AMSAT-BB, AMSAT's Twitter account (@AMSAT), the AMSAT-NA Facebook group, and the [AMSAT website](#) will report any updates. AO-92 was launched from India on January 12. Testing has shown that both the U/v FM transponder and L-Band Downshifter are working well. The Virginia Tech camera [has returned photos](#) of Earth, and data from HERCI has been successfully downlinked.

Read [more](#). -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

China's "Zhou Enlai" CubeSat, launched on January 19, is the country's first to involve primary and middle school students.



Named in honor of the first Premier of the People's Republic of China, Zhou Enlai, the CubeSat was developed in Huai'an Youth Comprehensive Development Base in Jiangsu Province. The 2 kg, 2U CubeSat carries an Amateur Radio FM transponder and has SSTV capability, in addition to a high-definition optical camera. An SSTV beacon will post date, time, temperature, and location information on an SSTV frame. The launch was the 100th orbital launch attempt from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The Amateur Radio transponder has a downlink at 436.950 MHz, and an uplink at 145.930 MHz. Telemetry will be 9.6 k BPSK on 437.350 MHz. Read [more](#).



The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) APRS packet system is currently not working. This is

due to an as-yet unidentified anomaly involving the radio serving the system on board the ISS. A similar problem has occurred in the past, and steps taken to resolve the problem have proven to be only temporary. "The system may return

to service as it has in the past, or it may have finally failed completely," ARISS said in a statement. "ARISS sees the delivery of the interoperable radio system as the true solution to securing our ARISS packet operation." The target for delivery and installation of the replacement system is this coming fall. In the meantime, ARISS said it's continuing to investigate the problem and attempting to fix it.

Johnston County ARRL VE Team:

The Johnston County ARRL VE Team will be hosting our next test session on Monday, February 26th at the American Red Cross located at 805-A S. 3rd Street in Smithfield. The session starts at 7pm and the cost is \$15.00. If you are currently licensed, you will need to bring a copy of your current license. If you are not yet licensed, you will need to go the FCC ULS web site and obtain an FRN number. Also, you will need a valid ID of any kind.

More information can be obtained by calling Michael Callam at 919-934-9623 or by email at: mcallam@centurylink.net.

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That's it for this month.

73 de KD4MC.