

# THE WIRELESS

Published Monthly by the Iredell County Amateur Radio Society

## NEW TRUSTEE

### Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 7pm on March 10th. It will be at Mitchell College Technology and Workforce Development Center Room 205, 701 West Front Street, Statesville.

### March Program

Howard W1HO will present a program "The Last Voice from Kuwait", which describes 9K2DZ's (Kuwait Amateur Radio Operator) contribution to Desert Storm, from Kuwait.

### April Program

The April Program will be a video by KE0OG on Radio Frequency Generation and Safety.

(the Wireless is 6 pages this month, be sure and read to the end)

### Johnny KC4KQC

At the February Regular Meeting, we voted in Johnny KC4KQC as Trustee. Congratulations, Johnny.

### What you should do if...

If you are listening to the Repeater and hear something that you don't think is right, for instance the repeater is transmitting noise constantly, or someone is misusing the repeater and won't stop, what do you do? Well, now that we have a new Trustee, it is a good time to review the procedures so that you, the Trustee and the control operators know what to do.

First, if it is someone misusing our repeater, try and get a call sign. If you can talk to them, you might try and tactfully ask them to stop the misuse. If they continue or you think that the repeater is malfunctioning, contact the Trustee first. If you cannot contact the Trustee, contact one of the control operators. If you still cannot contact anyone, contact the Secretary, he/she has an emergency process for turning off the repeater. Also, send an email to the President to let him know what happened.

The contact information is in the Directory. If you do not have one, contact the Directory Committee Chairman for one. The contact names are:

**Trustee:** Johnny KC4KQC

**Control Operator:** Don W4DON

**Secretary:** Buzz KD3QO

**Directory Committee Chairman:** Buzz KD3QO



## March Birthdays

### Janet Perry W4RNS:

Ben and I were CB buffs for many years and it was a nice way to communicate locally with others who were CB enthusiasts. I was "Pocahontas" and Ben was "Sue" or "Fluffy" or something like that. Just kidding. He was "Wild turkey". CB was fun, but small potatoes compared to Ham Radio.

When we moved to Lake Norman we became interested in Ham Radio because it makes it possible to legally talk across the globe and we like that. We realized that we could be connected to the world around us and have a lot of fun doing it but more than that, we may really need to be in touch in emergencies. We like the idea of Ham Operators being Public Service volunteers in these emergencies. I hope we never get completely cut off from regular communications but if we do, Ham Radio will still be there.

### Buzz Borries KD3QO:

I had two opportunities to get my license early. One in the 1960's when I was introduced to Amateur Radio by one of my college classmates who took me down to the college "Ham Shack" so that I could "phone home" on a telephone patch. Then in 1974/75 while getting my masters in EE, I again met up with a couple of Hams and was taking classes that would have made any of the exams a snap, I would only have needed to practice the code. But in both cases I didn't feel I got much incentive from the Hams at that time, and I put it off. In 1989, in Maryland (a "3" call) I finally took the plunge and in just a

(Continued on page 3)



## Net Control Operators

You never know when you may be called upon to run a net. Every Amateur should be able to run a net. Don W4DON, the Net Control Manager, has written scripts for both the Wednesday night 2 meter, and the Saturday night 75 meter nets. If you have never called a net, you should try it for practice, in the event that you may be called upon in an emergency to handle one.

For all of us, here are a few things from the ARRL ARES E-Letter of Jan 2016, passed on from Howard W1HO, that are pertinent:

### *Tips for Beginning Net Control Operators*

Here in northwest Ohio, we have acquired many new hams and encourage them to operate as net control station (NCS) for various routine nets to gain them experience, providing us with a pool of competent net controllers in the event of an emergency/disaster. Here are some of the basic tips we convey to our novice net control stations for a smoothly running net:

- Get a glass of water or something to drink.
- Make yourself comfortable. Sit in a good location with plenty of room on a desk or table to write.
- Have a good writing instrument and a back-up along with an extra piece of paper in case you need to jot down notes.
- Take your time; go at your own pace. Remember, you are in control of the net and the frequency.
- Don't worry about making mistakes; there are no mistakes to be made.
- To handle the crowd that is trying to check in, you will develop your own way.
- Stop stations from checking in ("Let's hold it for a minute") until you are caught up.

few months went from Novice to Advanced. I bought a Kenwood TS440s, put an antenna outside the apartment window and was "on the air".

In 2012, while visiting my daughter and brother in the mid-west, I dropped by a Ham Club and they challenged me to get my Extra. Their VE team offered to convene just for me if necessary. Four weeks later I took and passed my Extra Class exam.

I should have done it sooner!



### New Members:

**Bernie Lukas W4EDX**

**Joe Spears AF1E**

- Weak stations and stations who give their call signs too fast, are always a problem -- skip them at first. Go back later for repeats.
- Write your log as you see fit. You are the one that has to read it.
- Headphones are a good idea -- they help you focus on what you are hearing and help keep you from getting distracted.

As I mentioned before, there are no mistakes, only experience. When you've finished the net that is what you will have. -- *Steve Bellner, W8TER, Maumee, Ohio*

## National $\pi$ Day

Howard Hecht W1HO

National  $\pi$  Day is celebrated around the world on March 14.

The Greek letter  $\pi$  (pi) is the mathematical symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159.  $\pi$  is one of the most universally used and recognized mathematic constants, and is extremely useful when solving geometry problems involving circles.

When  $\pi$  is rounded to two decimal places, it is 3.14, which is the reason for the March 14 celebration date (3/14).

However, when  $\pi$  is rounded to 4 decimal places, it is 3.1416, making this year a once in a lifetime event, as this year  $\pi$  day is on March 14, 2016, or 3/14/16!

## The Last Voice from Kuwait

Howard Hecht W1HO

Ham radio's part in the removal of Saddam Hussein after he had attacked and taken control of Kuwait, is a story which should not be allowed to be forgotten. This is a story that you should bring your family and friends to see. Ham radio really shines!

Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, just over 25 years ago. This was the war (Desert Storm) that introduced Army Gen. Norman H. Schwarzkopf, (aka Stormin' Norman) commander of U.S. Central Command, to the American public, as well as the world.

Communications with Kuwaiti citizens was cut off, and a ham, Abdul Jabbar Al Marafie, 9K2DZ, whose patriotism and bravery cannot be overstated, went on the air, with great, and fatal, consequences to him and his family if caught.

Using AMTOR on APLINK, the predecessor to Winlink, he made contact with Frank Moore, WA1URA, in Fort Wayne, IN, as well as other hams around the world. When Moore realized the value of this ham radio source to the U.S. effort to expel Hussein, he contacted the State Department, and the story that evolved is one of phenomenal bravery, suspense, and eventual success.

The importance of keeping 9K2DZ's identity secret was a paramount consideration, for the reasons noted above. A scheme which allowed the information to be passed on not only to the State Department, but also to media so that relatives and friends of Kuwaitis could be informed without publicly identifying the source, was devised, and regular reports of conditions in Kuwait as well as information of value to the military were processed.



9K2DZ in his shack after Kuwaiti hostilities ended

Frank, WA1URA, who became a Silent Key about 4 years ago, was a friend and fellow ham club member of mine from CT. In CT, he was general manager of AM radio station WELI in New Haven. He moved to Fort Wayne to become GM of WANE-TV.

When the hostilities were over, Frank produced a TV documentary entitled “The Last Voice from Kuwait” telling the story of Abdul's bravery and contribution to having his country freed from Iraqi rule. But the story is remarkable.

## February Auction

The February Meeting we held an Auction of ICARS Idle Equipment. The following items were sold:

Description	Orig. Cost	Reserve
Filter, Bandpass, 40m for FD (HomeBrew - Receive Only)	\$10.00	\$2.00
Filter, Bandpass, 20m for FD (HomeBrew - Receive Only)	\$10.00	\$2.00
PALSTAR ZM30 Digital antenna bridge (Donated)	Donated	\$50.00
PALSTAR DL2K 2500 watt dummy load w/wattmeter (Donated)	Donated	\$50.00

The remaining items are going to be put up for sale at the Charlotte Hamfest on March 11th/12th:

## Events in Radio

- ★ **4 March 1921:** The first Presidential inauguration is broadcast from Washington, D.C., by KDKA.
- ★ **10 March 1922** – In the United States, [Variety magazine](#) prints as its front-page headline "Radio Sweeping Country - 1,000,000 Sets in Use"
- ★ **13 March 1923** – Production of the first radio set incorporating a loudspeaker. All previously produced sets had required the use of headphones.

## Charlotte Hamfest

### Dates - Times - Location

- **Friday: March 11th, 2016 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM.**
- **Saturday: March 12th, 2016 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.**
- **Location: Cabarrus Arena & Events Center**
- **Address: 4551 Old Airport Rd. 4571 Hwy 49 North, Concord, NC 28025**
- **Minutes from I85, Concord Mills Mall and Charlotte Motor Speedway.**



# RARSfest 2016



**“The Raleigh Hamfest”**  
**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**8 AM to 3 PM**  
**Jim Graham Building**  
**State Fairgrounds**  
 1025 Blue Ridge Rd  
 Raleigh, NC 27607

**Tickets: \$10**  
 \$8 advance  
 age 16 and under free  
**order online at:** [www.rars.org/rarsfest](http://www.rars.org/rarsfest)

**146.64**  
 (no tone)

**Hamfest**  
**Huge Electronic Flea Market & ARRL NC Section Convention**  
 sponsored by the  
**Raleigh Amateur Radio Society**



Wide aisles, plenty of room for drive-in loading and unloading. Vendors tell us that the RARSfest is one of the friendliest, best organized hamfests they attend.

**RARSfest 2016:**  
**Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>!**



- ◆ Hamfest Prizes all day, Grand Prize Drawing at 2 PM
- ◆ New Equipment Dealers (all major brands)
- ◆ VE License Testing - 9 AM Sharp!
- ◆ Forums and Meetings
- ◆ QSL Card Field Checking available
- ◆ Youth-Operated HF/VHF Station
- ◆ Hands-on construction project
- ◆ Also at the Fairgrounds: see [www.ncstatefair.org](http://www.ncstatefair.org) for other Fairgrounds activity movie theater, shopping, NC Museum of Art nearby
- ◆ Free NC Fairgrounds Flea Market huge general-merchandise Flea Market on the grounds
- ◆ Free Parking
- ◆ Friday Night Supper for Vendors

**Contest and activity details at:**  
[www.rars.org/rarsfest](http://www.rars.org/rarsfest)

◆ **100,000 square feet of air-conditioned indoor space!**  
Sorry, the Fairgrounds does not permit outdoor sales/tailgating

◆ **Drive-in load/unload**  
Friday 12 noon to 10PM, Saturday 6 to 7:30AM

Fairgrounds regulations prohibit weapons, pornographic material and pets in the Jim Graham Building. No food or drink may be sold or donated by attendees in the hamfest building at any time.  
**NO SMOKING** ◆ Service Animals Only



2 meter net every Weds @ 9:00pm Local 146.685 -600 77Hz tone

75 meter net every Sat @ 8:30pm Local 3.972Mhz USB

2 meter ARES Training net every Mon @ 7:30pm Local 146.685 -600 77 Hz tone