

# JEFFERSON REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE JEFFERSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. W5GAD

**May 2009**

**The next meeting will be held at the JARC Clubhouse, Wally Pontiff Playground Please see [w5gad.org](http://w5gad.org) for the latest information.**

General Meeting:  
May 28

Board Meeting:  
June 11

**Open clubhouse:  
Every Thursday 7:00pm**

ARES Coast Guard Net:  
9:00 P.M. on 146.86-  
(PL114.8)

[www.w5gad.org](http://www.w5gad.org)  
e-mail: [w5gad@arrl.net](mailto:w5gad@arrl.net);  
Phone: 504-831-1613

Send newsletter items to:  
[w5ctv@arrl.net](mailto:w5ctv@arrl.net)  
Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of  
the month



## VE Session/Field Day Coming Up

June features two events at the renovated clubhouse. The JARC VEC will host an exam session for all classes of licenses on Saturday, June 13. Test session registration begins at 9:30 A.M. Please bring a picture ID, pencils, and a copy of your license that you can leave with your application. The testing fee for 2009 is \$14.00.

### Field Day 2009 / Clubhouse Re-dedication

Albert Dupont, W5AFD has volunteered to be chairman for this year's Field Day. Plans are in the works and we will operate from the clubhouse and adjoining park area. All are invited to participate. We will also be rededicating the renovated clubhouse as the opening ceremony for this event. If you would like to participate in the rededication planning contact either Rafael, W5BAI or Josh, KD5PCR!

### Fox Hunt Results

The Fox Hunt was a great success. Paul W2XXX's team found the critter in 23 minutes. He gets to be the Fox next time. He did have about 5 figures in equipment to find Jim. Everyone else found the fox as well and returned to the club for some great home cooking.

Thanks to everyone for attending and thanks to Mike KE5VUI, for transporting the grills and coordinating the festivities with Paul, Steve, and Don after I had to leave.

### Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday takes place in May

The 2009 Louisiana Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday will take place on Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31. On these two days, shoppers can purchase specified emergency supplies free of the 4% state sales tax in preparation for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins on June 1.

During the two-day holiday, tax-free purchases are allowed for the first \$1,500 of the sales price of each of the following items: • Self-powered light sources, such as flashlights and candles, • Storm shutter devices (Materials and products manufactured, rated, and marketed specifically for the purposes of preventing window damage from storms), • Portable generators, • Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, and weather-band radios, • Tarpaulins or other flexible water-proof sheeting, • Gas or diesel fuel tanks, • Ground anchor systems, straps or tie-down kits, • Batteries, sizes AAA, AA, C, D, 6-volt, or 9-volt (Automobile batteries and boat batteries are ineligible), • Carbon monoxide detectors, • Cellular phone batteries and chargers, • "Blue Ice" (and similar re-usable cooling products), • Non-electric food storage coolers.

The 2009 Sales Tax Holiday does not extend to items or supplies purchased at airports, public lodging establishments, hotels, convenience stores, or entertainment complexes.

The Louisiana Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday is an annual event. The 2009 sales tax holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. on Sat., May 30, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

For more information, please call the Louisiana Department of Revenue Public Affairs Division at 225-219-2156 or 225-219-2158.

### HB146 Amended to excluded Amateur Radio

The Louisiana House amended HB146, regarding use of cell phones while driving, to specifically exclude Amateur Radio devices. The bill has passed the House and is now in the hands of the state Senate.

### Westside ARC Elections to take place at June Meeting

The election of WARC officers for 2009-10 will take place at the general membership meeting at Piccadilly Cafeteria near Wall Blvd. and Lapalco Blvd. on Wednesday June 10, 2009.

# ARRL Seeks Member Support for HR 2160

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 ([http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf)) - the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task -- one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9-11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expeditiously received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter ([www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc)) for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative. "Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your Congressman on the ARRL Members Only Web page ([www.arrl.org/members-only/](http://www.arrl.org/members-only/)).

Once personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:

- \* As a signed attachment to an e-mail ([arrl@chwatco.com](mailto:arrl@chwatco.com))
- \* As a signed fax to 703-684-7594
- \* As a regular letter to: John Chwat, Chwat & Co., 625 Slaters Ln, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314

If you choose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of it being the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be printed and delivered. If you draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, Henderson asked that you please remember a couple of things:

- \* Identify the bill by number & title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009
- \* Keep the letter brief and on topic -- one page at the most
- \* Ask them to consider becoming a cosponsor
- \* Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of request to a representative," said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the Bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract from the focus of asking for support for the legislation."

Should you decide not to send your letter to Chwat & Co but directly to your Representative, it is still important that you send a copy of your correspondence to Chwat & Co. This allows them to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," Henderson added.

Besides bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-02).

"We congratulate ARRL Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and his grassroots legislative action team in Kentucky for securing the support of Representative Guthrie -- the first new co-sponsor of the bill," Henderson said. "It shows that our grassroots effort can work!"

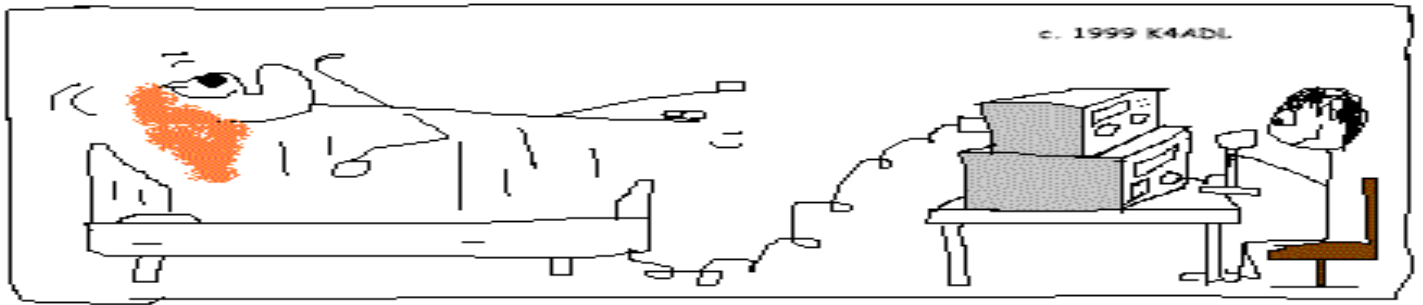
You may be asking yourself "What should I do if my Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed as a co-sponsor, send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson said. "That simple 'thank you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed."

Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to address."

When you receive a response from your Congressman, please forward a copy to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail ([reginfo@arrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrl.org)) or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

-- Courtesy ARRL



ONCE A COMMON PRACTICE FOR APARTMENT DWELLERS,  
LOADING UP THE BEDSPRINGS IS NOW CONSIDERED POLITICALLY INCORRECT.

## National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC Sets On-The-Air Station Test

The annual WX4NHC On-the-Air Station Test from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami takes place Saturday, May 30, 1300-2100 UTC. "The purpose of this annual Station Test is to test all of our radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. This is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise. New equipment and software will be tested, and we will also conduct some operator training," said WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R.

Ripoll said that WX4NHC also will be testing new computers and software, as well as conducting operator training. "NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, will be at WX4NHC, making contacts," he said. WX4NHC will be on the air on HF, VHF and UHF, plus 2 and 30 meter APRS. Suggested SSB frequencies are 3.950, 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz, +/-QRM; WX4NHC reports that they will mostly be on 14.325 MHz and will make announcements when they change frequencies.

WX4NHC also will be on the VoIP Hurricane Net 1700-1900 UTC (IRLP node 9219/ EchoLink WX-TALK Conference) and on South Florida area VHF/UHF repeaters and simplex; APRS and e-mail will also be monitored.

Stations working WX4NHC exchange call sign, signal report, location and name plus a brief weather report, such as "sunny," "rain" or "cloudy." Non-hams may submit their actual weather using the On-Line

Hurricane Report Form. QSL to WD4R and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Do not send cards to the NHC. Due to security measures, no visitors will be allowed at NHC during the test.

### Amateur Radio Club of Sabine & Gulf Coast Hurricane Net Hamfest

**Date: June 6th, 2009**

**Location: Florien Community Center, Many, Louisiana**

**Entrance Fee: \$5.00 and you get 1 free ticket to main prizes. Extra tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.**

**VE Testing**

**Talk-in: 147.280(-) no tone**

**Prizes:**

**1st - Yaesu 8800R dual band mobile**

**2nd - 2800 2 meter only**

**3rd - Switching Power Supply**

**Bring whatever you want to sell, swap or donate to the club. Tables are \$5.00 each.**

**Dinner will be served for \$4.00 each and consists of Bar-B-Que brisket, (or your choice of links or sausage), beans and potato salad. The chief will be Robert Turner KG5YK. Soft drinks and desert extra charge.**

**This will be a good way to meet some of the folks that check in on the Gulf Coast Hurricane Net.**

**Contact:**

**Cecil Harper, WD5CQG**

**294 Balleycastle Drive**

**Milam, TX 75959**

**Phone: 409-625-1565**

**Email: WD5CQG@arrl.net**

**Website: <http://www.ARCSONLINE.org>**

# FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf)) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site (<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>).

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$201,000 in fees from the program.

## **Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications**

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on "New Users Register". You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

## **ARRL Processes License Renewals, Including Vanities**

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign

Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page (<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>), while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers (<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>). There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>).

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page (<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.html>). The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms (<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>).

--Courtesy ARRL

## **KH4, MIDWAY ISLAND**

Arrangements and plans are moving along without difficulty for the scheduled operation date of October 9-19th, 2009. We would like to announce the addition of three new members, Carlos/EA1IR, Craig/K9CT and Oscar/EA1DR to the team. Carlos, Craig and Oscar come to us with DXpedition experience, and we look forward to having them as members of the team.

Numerous equipment suppliers and manufacturers are on line with their support. When you deal with these companies or individuals please take a moment and thank them for providing support to not only this DXpedition but to all DXpeditions. Currently Acom, Heil, Rig Expert, The Battle Creek Group, WX0B, Cable Experts, ELLI Print, QRZ-DX, The Daily DX, IZ2KTZ, W8AEF, and W6SZN are providing equipment or support of some type.

The team would like to thank NCDXF, The Colvin Award, Southwest Ohio DX Association, The German DX Foundation, INDEXA, The Southeastern DX Club, The Lone Star DX Association, The Danish DX Group and others for their generous donations. You may also contribute, and we will appreciate your support. Contributions can be forwarded several ways, via the <[www.midway2009.com](http://www.midway2009.com)> web site using PayPal, credit card or U.S. Mail. All contributions are noted on the web site and depending on the level of support will be noted on the DXpedition QSL.

Many of the team members will be at Dayton and look forward to seeing you. Please say hello when you see a member sporting the Blue NCDXF T shirt with the K4M call.

| June 2009                 |        |  |   |  |        |   |
|---------------------------|--------|--|---|--|--------|---|
| Sunday                    | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday  |
| 31                        | 1      | 2<br>7:00 p DDXA Meeting<br>@ JARC<br>Clubhouse<br>9:00 p SELA/Coast<br>Guard<br>Auxiliary Net | 3   | 4<br>7:00 p JARC Open<br>House<br>8:00 p WARC Net<br>146.94                                    | 5      | 6   |
| 7                         | 8      | 9<br>9:00 p SELA/Coast<br>Guard<br>Auxiliary Net   | 10<br>7:00 p WARC<br>General<br>Meeting at<br>Picadilly's on<br>Lapalco | 11<br>7:00 p JARC Open<br>House<br>7:30 p JARC Board<br>Meeting<br>8:00 p WARC Net<br>146.94   | 12     | 13<br>9:30 a VE Test<br>Session@<br>JARC<br>Clubhouse |
| 14                        | 15     | 16<br>9:00 p SELA/Coast<br>Guard<br>Auxiliary Net  | 17  | 18<br>7:00 p JARC Open<br>House<br>8:00 p WARC Net<br>146.94                                   | 19     | 20  |
| 21                        | 22     | 23<br>9:00 p SELA/Coast<br>Guard<br>Auxiliary Net  | 24  | 25<br>7:00 p JARC Open<br>House<br>7:30 p JARC General<br>Meeting<br>8:00 p WARC Net<br>146.94 | 26     | 27<br>1:00 p Field Day<br>Begins                      |
| 28<br>Field Day Continues | 29     | 30<br>9:00 p SELA/Coast<br>Guard<br>Auxiliary Net  | 1   | 2<br>7:00 p JARC Open<br>House<br>8:00 p WARC Net<br>146.94                                    | 3      | 4   |

**JEFFERSON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB • APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP • PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Ever been issued a Notice of Apparent Liability? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Membership Desired: Full (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Associate (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_ Student (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership is full membership plus \$15 for each additional up to a maximum of \$60. Attach a separate application for each family member.

Do you wish to not disclose your contact information with other members of the club? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose dues and mail to: JARC, P.O. Box 73665, Metairie, LA 70033**

# PR-101 Course Introduced at ARRL National Convention

The ARRL Public Relations Committee unveiled the new ARRL's PR-101 course (<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133>) at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention. The course -- designed to give hams a quick course in public relations activities -- was quickly snapped up by ARRL Section Managers, Public Information Coordinators (PIC) and Public Information Officers (PIO) to bring home to their home sections.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the ARRL Public Relations Committee conducted a formal survey in December 2008 that confirmed what had long been suspected: Almost half of the people acting as PIOs have no training at all; others had "some training" or "very little training." Because of the importance of public relations to the future of Amateur Radio, Pitts said that the PR Committee felt it needed to do something to raise the level of skills and training of these volunteers.

Using the skills of experts in various aspects of public relations, Pitts, assembled a team to create a basic course that will provide volunteer PIOs with the basic skills and expectations that a PIO needs to know. While remaining a basic level course, PR-101 covers everything from the basic news release to Web sites and video work.

"This course is geared toward PIOs and others interested in Public Relations," Pitts said. "While the course is voluntary, all ARRL PIOs are strongly encouraged to take the course."

Overall goals for the course are:

- \* To clarify the role of the PIO in the Field Organization.
- \* To establish a base set of expectations (job description) for a PIO to fulfill, and peer pressure to do the job well.
- \* To establish, teach and verify that course graduates have the common basic skill set needed to accomplish expectations set forth in the PIO job description.
- \* To create a pool of trained PIOs who can be confidently called upon to represent Amateur Radio in their region during breaking news events.
- \* To create a spirit of pride in being a trained and active PIO.
- \* To increase the productivity of PIOs and resultant positive media coverage.

"There is a critical need to offer public relations training that addresses the 21st century media landscape," said ARRL Public Relations Committee Chairman Bill Morine, N2COP. "Since the last revision of the ARRL PIO Handbook in the mid 1990s, domination of coverage has shifted from newspapers, magazines and broadcast stations to cable, satellite and Internet media outlets. The decentralization of media means there are many

more ways and formats from which the public can access information. The PR-101 course will point ARRL PIOs in the direction where they can best take advantage of opportunities in both traditional and emerging media."

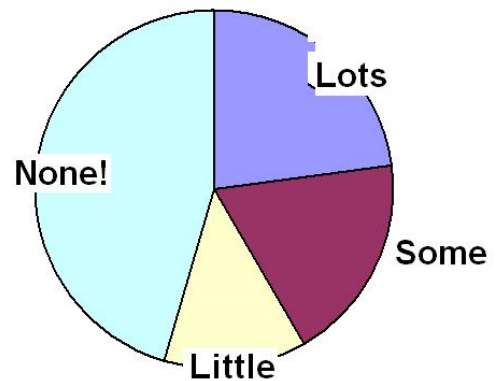
The course is available on CD-ROM. People can complete it on their own schedule; when finished, it guides them to the Web for the final exam. "Participants who successfully complete the exam will be directed to a special area where they can create, print and save a certificate of completion," Pitts said. "It also automatically notifies ARRL staff with the name and call sign of the graduating student, allowing a list to be kept of PIOs with known skills."

PR-101 course contributors include Bill Morine, N2COP; Don Carlson, KQ6FM; Walt Palmer, W4ALT; Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW; Jim McDonald, KB9LEI; Ted Randall, WB8PUM; Harold Kramer, WJ1B; Jeff Beiermann, WB0M; Brennan Price, N4QX; Pat Mullet, KC8RTW; Mike Langner, K5MGR, and Kent Sievers.

PR-101 is available on the ARRL Web site for a cost of \$19.95 (<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133>).

-- Courtesy ARRL

*A December 2008 study showed that almost 50 percent of ARRL PIOs had no public relations training, while others had little or some training.*



## JARC Board Of Directors 2009

|                      |            |        |          |
|----------------------|------------|--------|----------|
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|                      | #2: Don    | WB5QAZ | 455-4448 |
|                      | #3: Johnny | N5AZA  |          |
| 2 Year #1:           | Jim        | KB5MFP |          |
|                      | #2: Josh   | KD5PCR | 261-8963 |
|                      | #3: Bob    | AE5RN  | 393-1075 |

All phone numbers use the 504 area code.