

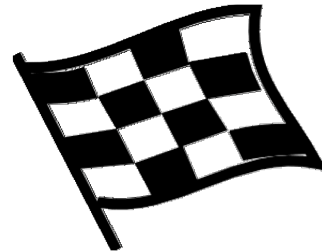
RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MAY, 2006

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 2, AT 6:30 PM AT DOOKZ SPORTS GRILL, 3800 E. 96th STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN



RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 3, 2006, MEETING – Some of the usual items were again discussed, movement of the junk from the ham shack at Thomson to the storage area; the field day stuff must be moved from Bultman's barn before June; and shirts. The shirts moved a step closer to reality. A Jerzees shirt will be selected (Jerzees provided the shirts we purchased several years ago). A custom shirt provider was identified who can provide shirts for a final cost of approximately \$19.95 each. The color and style, selected from the Jerzees web site (<http://www.jerzees.com>) will be discussed at the next meeting. Field Day was discussed. Tom Chance, K9XV, has volunteered his place as a possible site, as has Mike Koss, W9SU. The Club has a chance to purchase a 1000' roll of coax with characteristics similar to Belden 9913 for about \$85. Members present voted to buy it. There have been no offers from anyone willing to host EchoLink for the repeater. Garland Borden is still investigating the possibility of providing the EchoLink connection from within Thomson.

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS – Well its spring, the Dayton HamVention is just a few weeks away. Start planning your antenna projects and station upgrades NOW. At the last meeting we went over a couple different Field Day sites. Mike's place looks like it could work. We could operate from the repeater building, his club station, or a tent. The antenna could be put up on any of the towers. Some of the "W9IMS" club members might be interested in operating with us. We talked to Mike and he is OK with the idea. We will need to move the FD stuff from Bultman's to Mike's before FD and this was already in the plans.

We are entering the beginning of the 6 meter season so checkout 6 for openings. For that matter all the VHF/UHF bands are getting better with the spring and summer conditions. HF, well we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, but checkout 10, 12 and 15 meters with the spring enhancements providing the best of band openings. –K9RU

THE INDIANA QSO PARTY -- The Annual IN QSO Party is Saturday May 6, noon to midnight EDT, 1600-0400Z. Activity is increasing with over entries last year. The goal is to get ever county in the state on the air during the QSO party, so if you have a HF mobile we would like to encourage you to go mobile and put a few counties on the air. We would like to show that Indiana is not a black hole for ham radio activity, so if can get on for 30 minutes from your home station. Check out the INQP at:

www.hdxcc.org/inqp. You will find the rules along with county abbreviation, logging software, county map and other information related to the QSO party.

RCA ARC AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION – Once again this year, the Club will have informal get-togethers at the Hamvention. At 1300 EDT both Friday and Saturday, in the permanent seats behind the Cushcraft Antenna display, the northwest corner of the hockey arena, grab some food and joins us lunch.

On Friday evening, at about 5:30 PM, join us for dinner at the New Peking Chinese Restaurant, 5611 North Dixie Drive. Dixie is just west of I-75. The restaurant is just south of Needmore Road on the west side of Dixie.

On Saturday evening, following the close of the Hamvention, a get-together is planned at Old Hickory Bar-B-Que, 4029 N. Main St. in Dayton. As you head east from Hara Arena towards I-75 on Turner Rd., you will cross Main St. about half way between the arena and I-75. It runs diagonally northwest to southeast. If you're driving east on Turner, turn right (southeast) on Main St. The restaurant is less than a mile south of Turner on the west side of the street.

The Club 2 meter frequency will be 144.430 MHz simplex. –K9RU

RIDE THE BUS TO DAYTON – The Indianapolis Radio Club is chartering a bus to the Dayton HamVention again this year. They did this last year and everyone had a great time. The bus will leave Indianapolis, Saturday, May 20th at 6 AM and will return at 7 PM. The bus will drop you at the door of Hara Arena, return later so you can drop off and purchases or other stuff, then pick you up at the Hamvention at 4PM. Bus tickets are \$20 in advance no refunds. It goes rain or shine. If you are planning to go to the Hamvention Saturday you can't beat this deal!

A stop will be made for breakfast on the way over and a stop for dinner on the return trip.

Here are the details:

Cost: \$20.00 per person, roundtrip, paid in advance. **No Refunds and no last minute passengers. Hamvention admission not included!**

Bus capacity: The bus is a STAR of America 44 passenger commercial vehicle, with Bathroom and comfortable seating. Seats are still available.

General Times schedule: Departs Indy area 6AM, Saturday morning 20th May, 2006. Return trip arrives Indy area 7PM APPROX! If you are interested contact Judy, AA9GW: aa9gw@juno.com

IRCC TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT -- Spring is here and it's time for all Indiana amateur radio clubs and organizations to consider one of their own as a nominee for the 2006 IRCC Technical Excellence Award.

For the past five years the Indiana Radio Club Council has selected one Hoosier Amateur Radio Operator to receive this prestigious award during the July Indianapolis Hamfest at Camp Sertoma.

To nominate someone send a detailed explanation of how this person uses their technical abilities to help their club, community or other amateur radio operators. This award is for the unsung heros that continue to give of their time, talents and technical expertise to make a difference in amateur radio. Please be as detailed as possible when writing the candidates qualifications.

Entries will be judged on technical ability, hours of contribution, individual or organization served and extent of contribution (s).

Include an e-mail address for both the honoree and submitting author so we may notify all individuals.

Past years winners include Mike Koss, W9SU, Chuck Crist, W9IH, Neil Rapp WB9VPG, Bill Akin K9YDO, and Dr. Gary Stouder, K9SG.

Deadline for entries is Midnight Friday June 9, 2006. E-mail your entry to: w8ish@arrl.net or jparker@iquest.net The Technical Excellence Award will be presented July 8th at the Indianapolis Hamfest.

Our committee looks forward to hearing from you -- Jack Parker, W8ISH, IRCC Vice-Chairman

SPECIAL INVITE -- IF you would like to hear a great presentation on HAM RADIO to the Extreme EDGE of our planet; don't miss this meeting. You're invited to hear Dr. Gary Stouder, K9SG present one of this years outstanding Ham radio programs: "The Peter One DXpedition"

Gary was a member of the Peter One DXpedition and has some great stories as well as photos to share at our next **Indianapolis Radio Club** meeting.

What to expect: Great refreshments, Good conversation..... and "FUN." Bring a guest or ham friend....share this with your own HAM clubs.

When: May 12th (FRI) 2006, 7:00PM

Where: The Indianapolis Training Center, 2820 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis ,IN. There is a map on our website (main page) <http://www.IndyRadioClub.org> --W9IH

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

May 2	RCA ARC May meeting
May 12	Indianapolis Radio Club meeting
May 19-21	Dayton Hamvention
June 24-25	ARRL Field Day
July 8	Indy Hamfest. Camp Sertoma

SUPPORT STILL NEEDED FOR HOUSE RESOLUTION 230

The ongoing BPL battles in Manassas, Virginia, and Briarcliff Manor, New York, underscore the need for better FCC rules to protect radiocommunication systems from BPL interference. House Resolution 230 (H Res 230), introduced by Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, calls on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from BPL, particularly with regard to public safety radio systems.

"Members of Congress need to hear constituents' concerns about BPL interference while they are in their home districts this week and next," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed this week. "Rep Ross has been joined by six co-sponsors, but more support is needed to move this legislation along."

H Res 230 recently received a boost when the March issue of NPSTC Spectrum, the newsletter of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, carried an article, "Ham Radio and Public Safety Ask for FCC Reevaluation of Broadband over Power

Lines." The article notes "significantly high levels of potential interference in the VHF low band 30 to 50 MHz range" in several test locations.

A sample letter <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/filings/hres230/HRes230-SampleLtr.doc> is available for ARRL members to use as a starting point in contacting their congressional representatives. ARRL members logging onto the Members-Only portion of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/> will see contact information for their Member of Congress. Alternatively, visit <http://www.house.gov/>.

When writing, please send a copy of your letter to ARRL's Government Relations firm: Chwat & Company Inc, ATTN: Eric Heis, KI4NFC, 625 Slaters Ln--Suite 103 Alexandria, VA 22314; Fax 703-684-7594; eric.heis@chwatco.com. —ARRL Letter

"MAGIC TRICK" FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, shone the spotlight on Amateur Radio during the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) 54th California. Spencer reports some 15,000 teachers stopped by the ARRL booth, and most picked up a brochure.

"I talked with probably 300 educators specifically about ARRL-related programs such as the Teachers Institutes, 'The Big Project' and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS)," he said.

After he'd demonstrated what happens when you drop a magnet through a length of non-ferrous metal pipe, one teacher returned the next day with his wife "so I could show her the 'magic trick,'" said Spencer.

The magic trick demonstrates two fundamentals Spencer uses when teaching electronics and electricity: (1) Moving magnetic fields cause electrons to move, and (2) Moving electrons create magnetic fields. "When the magnet falls through a non-ferrous metal pipe, the moving magnetic field causes the electrons in the conductor to move," Spencer explains. "Those moving electrons in turn create an opposing magnetic field that prevents the magnet from falling right through, giving it a 'slow motion' effect."

Spencer says the magnet moves more slowly in a copper pipe than in an aluminum pipe because copper is a better conductor. It falls straight through a PVC pipe because PVC is an insulator. "All of electronics and radio boils down to how we manipulate these two fundamental principles," he concluded. —ARRL Letter

FCC WARNS RADIO AMATEURS TO SETTLE PERSONAL DIFFERENCES OFF THE AIR

The FCC has advised four Texas licensees to take an "ongoing dispute" off the Amateur Radio bands or face enforcement action. Special Counsel in the FCC Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth sent essentially identical warning letters February 28 to Luis A Caraballo, N7PLC, and Sharon E. Millhouse, KC5PRX--both of Floresville, and to Thomas O. Caldwell, WD5GXH, and Gary Sheets, WD5FWP--both of San Antonio. Hollingsworth said the dispute has "led to allegations of slander and deliberate interference" on the ham bands.

"The Commission is not concerned with the merits, or lack thereof, of any dispute between you or of how you settle such disputes," Hollingsworth wrote, "but any use of amateur frequencies to carry on the dispute is contrary to Section 97.1 of the rules and will

lead to enforcement action against the licenses of each of you."

Hollingsworth told ARRL that the personal squabble among the four radio amateurs has been going on for several years, eventually spilling over onto 2 meters. FCC efforts to resolve the dispute have been unsuccessful, he said, adding, "it's degrading the Amateur Service."

Sanctions could include license revocation or suspension as well as fines of up to \$10,000, Hollingsworth warned. "We may also consider proceedings to restrict or remove the voice privileges of your licenses," he added, noting "this is the last warning you will receive before enforcement action is initiated."

Hollingsworth this week said he'd heard back from all but one of the individuals who received his letters, but only one reply was in writing. In a handwritten note, Sheets pledged to amend his attitude and practices. Hollingsworth said he's awaiting written responses from the other three recipients. --ARRL Letter

ARRL VEC ANNOUNCES VANITY CALL SIGN LICENSE RENEWAL PROGRAM

The ARRL VEC now can process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members will pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be processed at no cost for ARRL members. In addition, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, points out that trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

"2006 is an appropriate year for the ARRL VEC to implement this service, since the licenses of the many radio amateurs who obtained their vanity call signs as a result of the FCC program that went into effect in 1996 will expire this year," Somma said. The first of those licenses are due to expire in June.

"As the FCC has already noted, licensees who want to keep their vanity call signs must pay the regulatory fee, currently \$21.90 for the 10-year license term, when renewing their licenses," Somma noted. "Licensees who don't want to pay the mandatory regulatory fee to retain a vanity call sign may request a sequentially issued call sign at the time of renewal."

The FCC has proposed to reduce the vanity call sign regulatory fee to \$20.10 for the 10-year license term. The new fee, if adopted, would go into effect in August or September.

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 <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

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

Somma says the ARRL's new license renewal/modification Web pages contain complete information on license-filing procedures, including step-by-step instructions on how to renew or update a license using the FCC's ULS site and a schedule of fees.

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

FCC AFFIRMS \$21,000 IN FINES LEVIED ON MAINE RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has affirmed a total of \$21,000 in fines it proposed last year to levy on Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine. The FCC's Forfeiture Order (NoF), released March 29, comes nearly 10 months after a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the case. The FCC has alleged that Baxter violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules.

"The noted violations of the rules involve interference with the ongoing communications of other Amateur Radio stations, failure to exercise station control, transmission of communications in which Baxter had a pecuniary interest, and transmission of communications that constituted impermissible broadcasting," the FCC said. The NoF reiterates specific allegations outlined in the NAL last June.

The FCC also has concluded that Baxter "apparently willfully and repeatedly" failed to file required information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive. In two warning notices in 2004, FCC Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth directed Baxter to provide information on how K1MAN was controlled and the identity of the station's control operator.

"The Boston [FCC] Office found that Mr. Baxter's statements that '[n]o correction actions are necessary' and '[n]o changes are needed with regard to station control' failed to comply with the Bureau's demand for station information, the FCC said in the NoF.

Replying to the June 2005 NAL, Baxter denied any liability for the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution and requested "all documentation regarding the alleged apparent liability" and "a trial like hearing before the full Commission." Baxter did not submit "any substantive responses" to the alleged violations recited in the NAL, the Commission said.

The FCC denied Baxter's request for a hearing. According to the Communications Act, the FCC said, providing a hearing is at the Commission's discretion, and a hearing is "not normally utilized when only monetary forfeiture matters are involved."

Its procedures, the FCC noted, do not deprive Baxter of his right to due process, because the Communications Act provides that any forfeitures issued in accordance with its procedures are "ultimately subject to a trial de novo in federal district court" should Baxter not pay the fine beforehand. A licensee's decision to forego presentation of arguments and evidence in response to an NAL "does not create a right to a hearing," the Commission contended in the NoF.

The FCC further noted that the fifth and sixth amendments to the US Constitution "address the rights of defendants in criminal cases" and said Baxter's reliance on those amendments to support his hearing request "is misplaced."

"Baxter received notice regarding the legal and factual bases for the apparent violations and proposed forfeiture and has been afforded an opportunity to respond 'why no such forfeiture penalty should be imposed,'" the FCC said. According to the NoF, Baxter, while denying any liability, "has chosen not to present any specific exculpatory arguments or evidence in response to the violations set forth in the NAL."

Baxter has 30 days from the release of the order to pay the \$21,000 or appeal. If the forfeiture is not paid within that time, the FCC can refer the case to the US Department of Justice for collection. A copy of the NoF is on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-663A1.pdf.

Baxter's Amateur Radio license expired last October 17, but according to the FCC, he has continuing operating authority since he filed a timely renewal. His renewal application remains under review based on complaints filed and on FCC correspondence regarding the operation of his station. The forfeiture action is separate. --ARRL Letter

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HAM IF...

- you buy electrical black tape in ten packs.
- you've stripped wire with your teeth.
- you've told your son that, "One day, all this will be yours", and he doesn't respond.
- you'd rather help a buddy put up a new tower than mow the lawn.
- you've grabbed the wrong end of a soldering iron.
- you start giving out RST reports when you are on the telephone.
- the propagation forecast means far more to you than the local weather forecast.
- the microphone or visual aids at a meeting don't work and you rush up to the front to fix it.
- you tell the XYL, when she notices a new rig in the shack, "why that has been there for years."
- at night, when you pray, it starts off something like: CQ CQ CQ GOD DE (your callsign).
- you ever had to patch your roof after an antenna project.
- Ham radio magazines comprise more than 50% of your bathroom library.
- you ever put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car, just so you could watch her on APRS.
- you and the XYL took a cruise so you could visit the radio room.
- you ever tapped out HI in Morse on your car horn to another ham.
- you ever had an antenna fall down.
- your teenager refuses to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.
- you know the Latitude and Longitude of your home QTH.
- you go into the local Radio Shack store and the clerk asks you where something is.

-- Reprinted from *The Feedline*, Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club, Madison, WI

SHORTS

FCC STATISTICS SUGGEST MINUSCULE MARKET SHARE FOR BPL: The latest FCC statistics on the status of high-speed Internet services indicate a minuscule market share for broadband over power line (BPL). The FCC Wireline Competition Bureau report, "High-Speed Services for Internet Access: Status as of June 30, 2005," puts at 4872 the number of business and residential "Power Line and Other" connections that deliver at speeds greater than 200 kbps in at least one direction. The total number of high-speed lines for all technologies is 42,866,469--the vast majority DSL, cable and traditional wireline connections. This puts the share for "Power Line and Other" at a bit more than 0.01 percent

of the total. The number of residential BPL "advanced services" lines--greater than 200 kbps in both directions--is 3916 out of 34,259,411, the FCC report indicates. Although some data have been withheld as proprietary, the FCC report indicates there are 18 "Power Line and Other" high-speed providers nationwide. Facilities-based broadband providers must report the number of high-speed connections in service to the FCC twice a year. --ARRL Letter

THE *RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER* IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, AND JIM KEETH. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. THE RCAARC INFORMATION PHONE NUMBER IS (317) 587-3059. EMAIL TO **WebMaster@w9rca.org**. Check our web site at **<http://www.w9rca.org>**