

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST, 2006      MONTHLY NEWSLETTER      INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1st, AT 6:30 PM AT DOOKZ SPORTS GRILL,  
3800 E. 96<sup>th</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

## RCA ARC NEWS

**PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS** –We didn't have a July meeting because of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Lots of things have happened since our June meeting. About the first of July we were told the Club station would have to move out of Thomson because our space was needed to make offices for more managers...

**RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB STATION MOVES OUT OF THOMSON.** We have known it was going to happen and it was only a matter of time. Around the first of July we were told Thomson wanted the room occupied by our Club Station for offices. Susan Hall has worked with us to give some time to get the equipment moved and get the antennas down. We will be out by August 1st. Thomson is paying for removing the antennas and cables. We had anticipated this back in 2002 and voted to move the 756 Pro and Amp downs to Mike Koss' station. Jon Powell, KC9GUM, his son with some assistance from AF9A and K9RU took down the HF beam and other antennas we had on the building.

This does provide us with a club station which is accessible to all of our club members. We had the equipment down at his station for a year and when several of the RCA ARC hams went back to work at Thomson, we moved it back to the club station at Thomson.

We moved the repeater system control down to the repeater building. The repeater is operational and running in a basic repeater mode. We also moved a pick-up truck load of club related paper work down to the repeater building.

I would like to thank: Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Keeth AF9A, Susan Hall, Jon Powell and his son for all there help in getting this done on time.

**HISTORY OF THE CLUB STATION AT RCA** --Around 1970 several of us who were new hams at the time thought it would be nice to bring in a radio, string an antenna on the roof, and play around with ham radio during lunch break. This was at RCA, 600 N. Sherman Drive. We did some checking and found the only way we could do it was to form a club. We also discovered there had been an RCA ARC, it was inactive, but founded in 1956. This was back in the days when the RCA Activities Association encouraged clubs and employee activities.

Ten members made up the reorganized RCA ARC and we started looking for a place to setup a club station. Everyone we approached thought it was a good idea, but space was valuable. Finally with the help of George Yost, Ray Braun WB9YVL, and Ken Lockhart W9JBA we were able to get some space on the mezzanine in 1972. The Activities Association gave us enough money to purchase a Heathkit HW32 for 20 meters. We strung a dipole on the roof and we were on the air. Bob Altmanshofer, designed a KW amp for 20 meters using sweep tubes. There was no shortage of them at that time. Bob also ripped the HW32 apart and

designed a better receiver. We added a CW transmitter and a SX99 receiver for CW, replaced with a HW16. Barry George, K3BG loaned us his Heathkit SB102 to use in the shack for about a year. In 1976 we wanted to upgrade the station and we talked RCA into giving us some junk they normally destroyed as a one time thing to sell at the Indy Hamfest to buy a FT101EX, Hygain TH2 tribander and a Ham-M rotor.

In 1973 we put the 146.88 MHz repeater on the air. The 145.15 MHz repeater with RTTY was added later.

The HF station was upgraded with a Kenwood TS440 and a Heathkit SB1000 amp. With the move to 103rd and Meridian, we upgraded the antenna to the Mosley TH-53 and dipoles for 80 and 40 meters. When the 756Pro came out, the Club got one of the first for the club station. As everyone knows, I was not in favor of getting the Pro. I have since grown to love the radio!

The club has enjoyed the support of RCA and Thomson even after the Activities Association went away in 1982. We are the last surviving club left over from the old RCA company culture. We have also, over the years, enjoyed the support from many managers and non-hams. Without their help, the club could not have continued to exist.

Like everything else, we are changing and finding the club in a new phase. We are becoming an RCA retirees amateur radio association. -- Jim K9RU

**INDY HAMFEST** -- Well, they couldn't have asked for a better day for the hamfest and the turnout was great. Our Club sponsored the homebrew contest and there were two really good entries. One was a mechanical key that was a quality piece of work. The other entry was a 1.2GHz transmitter really nicely built. Both of the projects were beautiful and it would be hard to pick one over the other. Both had complete documentation. The 1.2 GHz unit got first and the key second.

We were concerned about not having enough help loading Friday night or at the hamfest manning the booth Saturday. It turned out we had sufficient help both days. It was a lot of fun Saturday working the booth, selling the bags of parts and seeing old friends. We did real well, I don't know the total, but the Saturday parts baggie sales matched the Friday night madness sale.

One of the entertaining events at the hamfest is the dumpster diving at the end of the hamfest. It just prove one man's junk is another's treasure.

Thanks to all who helped Friday and Saturday. --Jim K9RU

**REPEATER MOVE AND MERGING INTO ONE UNIT.** We have moved the repeater control system down to the repeater building at Mike Koss'. This part has the voter receivers, voter card, computer controller and the 1.2GHz link transmitter. Before we moved to north Meridian this unit and the 146.88 MHz transmitter were one system. We came up with the idea to locate the transmitter at Mike's, staying within our repeater coordination and locating the controller with the voter receiver at the Thomson Tech building, linking them on 1.2GHz. This also gave us the phone line we needed for the auto patch.

Now the trick is to combine it back into one unit, but it has been 11 years and they have migrated apart.

The first things we need to get done is to check that the computer and the controller still work. It was a rough move. We will have to re-aim the 440 MHz antennas at the remote receive sites and put up a 440 receive antenna for the voter at the repeater building.

We have a couple of options on getting the repeater back on the air with the voters and the remote receivers.

Option 1. The IF for the 1.2GHz link is around 145 MHz so we could link across the room using the repeater as it is. It could be remounted in the racks in the repeater building, but that would not be necessary. It could operate in the roll around rack setting in the middle of the aisle. (I would at least want to mount it in the rack.)

Option 2. The repeater system controller is a repeater, but the transmitter is on 1.2GHz instead of 146.88 MHz. The basic repeater that is on the air now is what we called the Koss mode were the 146.28 MHz remote receiver is connected to the 146.88 MHz transmitter with a simple controller.

I propose that we build up a GE Master II transmitter and replace the 1.2 GHz link transmitter. Replace one of the 440 MHz GE link receivers with a 146.28 MHz receiver. We have an extra one we used to use for repair and system development. We can build this repeater up with out taking to Koss mode repeater off the air.

Here are the problems:

With option 1, we back on the air quick, but we could end up with this kluge. Once we get it on the air, there would not be much incentive to do anything to it.

With option 2, time is the issue. It would take an afternoon to check out the 146.28 receiver, maybe a weekend to build and test the transmitter and we would need to order a crystal and that might take a month to get it. There has got to be some patch circuits that we will need to build. We would still need to move it out of the roll a round rack into the rack in the building and that would take a weekend by its self.

I like option 2, but we would need some help building of it. Jim, AF9A likes option 1. After we get this done and operational we will look at getting EchoLink back on. --Jim K9RU

**BROAD RIPPLE HAMFEST, SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 2006** The Broad Ripple Hamfest will be held August 5, 2004 from 7:00AM to 1:00PM. Located on the north side of Indianapolis at 7373 Westfield Blvd. It is about a mile north of Broad Ripple or about a mile south of Nora.

There are no fees. The Hamfest is tailgate only. Bring plenty of goodies to trade, sell or give away.

Joe-K9OOA & Betty-K9OOB will provide coffee & Donuts at 7AM. The PICNIC starts at 11AM with the Indianapolis Radio Club providing the hot dogs, buns, condiments and soft drinks. Rumor is that N9KZJ will be the grill master and pass out drinks. Participants are requested to bring one (1) pitch-in-dish and their own plates, cups and utensils.

Across the road is the Monon Trail, a good place for your family members to walk, roller blade or hike the trail while you enjoy the friendship of you amateur friends.

For more information contact: Joe Lobraico, K9OOA, (317) 255-3000 or e-mail: lobraico1@comcast.net.

**THERE WILL BE TWO SPECIAL EVENT OPERATIONS THIS MONTH: W9ISF** celebrating the 150th Indiana State Fair and W9IMS for the Brickyard 400.

W9IMS plans to operate August 4, 5 and 6, race weekend from 1500Z through 0300Z. There

may be ad hoc operations starting the weekend before and during the week leading up to the race weekend.

Operating frequencies: 1840, 3840, 7240, 14070 PSK31, 14240, 21340, 28340, 50140, 144.240 SSB and 146.52 simplex FM.

W9ISF will be celebrating the 150th Indiana State Fair. Expected OTA times are as follows: 12 - 13 August, 2006 and 19 - 20 August, 2006 from approximately 14:00-02:00 UTC. The station might be OTA at any time during the run of the fair (9 August through 20 August). Operating frequencies are 21.340 MHz, 14.240 MHz, 7.240 MHz, and 3.860 MHz.

Both events will be operations from Mike Koss'. Visitors are welcome as well as those interested in operating. Contact K9RU at: k9ru@arrl.net <mailto:k9ru@arrl.net> for more information.

**DICK ISELY, W9GIG, WILL BE A CANDIDATE FOR REELECTION AS CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR.** ARRL Central Division Director, Dick Isely, W9GIG announced that he will be a candidate for reelection as your Central Division Director this fall.

Dick first ran for office in 2000 and is completing his second three year term as the Central Division Director. Dick had not planned to run again and instead do some traveling and Ham Radio. The ARRL member in the Central Division persuaded him to serve another term.

Dick is a strong proponent of political lobbying for amateur radio by the ARRL. After a slow start, the ARRL is finally making progress in this area and he want to serve another three years to make sure this progress continues.

I understand our Vice Director Howard Huntington, K9KM is also running for another term.

Editor's Note: I have known Dick for over 12 years. I first met him when I was an officer in the Indiana Repeater Council and he provided a lot of encouragement and advice.

Dick is an active ham, you can find him on the air and I know does some contesting. You can call or e-mail Dick about ham radio, ARRL or local issues and you will get a reply. He is one of the directors that has introduced new ideas into the ARRL. --Jim K9RU

## HAMFESTS; EVENTS

- Aug. 5 Broadripple, 7373 Westfield Blvd., Indy
- Aug. 6 Stuben County 4-H Park, Angola, IN
- Aug 20 Tippecanoe Co. Fairgrounds, Lafayette, IN
- Aug. 26 Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN
- Sept. 24 Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds,  
Greenfield, IN
- Oct. 8 Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point, IN
- Nov. 18-19 Allen County War Memorial Coliseum,  
Fort Wayne, IN
- Nov. 25 Vanderburgh Co. 4-H Auditorium,  
Evansville, IN

## FBI'S "INFRAGARD" PROGRAM COURTS AMATEUR RADIO

Amateur Radio's value as one component in a cooperative effort to protect critical national infrastructure was the focus of an InfraGard "Communications Interoperability and Ham Radios" summit this week in New York City. An FBI program, InfraGard is dedicated to

promoting dialogue between the private sector and the federal investigative agency "concerning critical infrastructure protection issues." ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, and Affiliated Clubs/Mentor Program Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, represented League Headquarters at the gathering, which featured a range of speakers.

"This is the key to opening the door to a valuable model partnership," Hobart commented afterward. "They were very receptive. I think it was a good beginning."

Hobart says Amateur Radio came up on InfraGard's radar earlier this year and got the nonprofit organization thinking of Amateur Radio as a possible partner, ally and service provider in emergencies. New York Metro InfraGard put together the one-day session July 17 at Cisco Systems' New York office as a way to get more familiar with Amateur Radio.

"They understand that ham radio has 'been there' in terms of emergencies and disasters and is working to improve its ability to respond," Hobart said. She said New York Metro InfraGard President Joe Concannon "expressed his deep interest in Amateur Radio as a partner and a desire to learn more about our capabilities."

Keynote speaker for the day-long session was Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Famer and New York Public Television CEO William Baker, W1BKR. Jeff Pulver, WA2BOT, chairman and founder of pulvermedia.com and cofounder of Vonage, also addressed the gathering.

"This InfraGard meeting brought together a group of people who care about post-disaster communication preparedness, and a majority of the people in attendance were active members of the Amateur Radio community," Pulver observed later in a blog entry. "This was my first time in the post-VoIP era that I had a chance to talk to hams about my early experiences with VoIP and how my ham radio background has had a positive effect on the past 12 years of my life."

Pulver said the InfraGard meeting provided "a great audience to speak to, since we shared a common passion for communications and common ground on a number of topics." He said that includes the need for coordination between the ham radio community and fellow communication enthusiasts "who want to volunteer their time the next time disaster strikes."

In a presentation called "Radio Communications 101," New York City District Emergency Coordinator Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, spoke about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the League's role in emergency and public service communication and training.

Allan Manuel, an attorney in the FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Branch, indicated the Commission is willing to be more flexible in accommodating Amateur Radio during emergencies and disasters. The FCC wants to hear from the public by August 7 in response to an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding recommendations of the independent panel that reviewed Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication systems (EB Docket 06-119). Some of the wide-ranging proposals in the NPRM include possibly amending the rules to permit automatic grants of certain types of waivers or special temporary authority (STA) in declared disaster areas.

For their part, Hobart and Fusaro demonstrated the League's "Ham Aid" go kits of Amateur Radio gear that can be rapidly deployed to disaster areas where the Amateur Radio infrastructure has been lost or compromised. They also provided attendees with copies of the ARRL's Community Education Program brochures and materials.

Hobart says Concannon envisions a model in New York City that other InfraGard chapters across the country could emulate. "I think it's an opportunity for Amateur Radio to align itself with a high-profile group with key federal connections," she said. --ARRL Letter

## FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON KATRINA PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Comments are due Monday, August 7, in response to an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) regarding recommendations of the independent panel that reviewed Hurricane Katrina's impact on communication systems (EB Docket 06-119). Reply comments are due by Monday, August 21.

"The Commission, in this proceeding, is to take the lessons learned from this disaster and build upon them to promote more effective, efficient response and recovery efforts as well as heightened readiness and preparedness in the future," the FCC said.

Some of the wide-ranging proposals in the NPRM, released in June, could affect the Part 97 Amateur Service rules. The FCC asked if it should explore amending its rules to permit automatic grants of certain types of waivers or special temporary authority (STA) in declared disaster areas. After last year's devastating hurricanes, the FCC issued a handful of STAs to permit licensees lacking HF privileges to operate on HF for emergency purposes.

The NPRM further offered three specific areas for consideration: Waiver of Amateur Radio and license-exempt rules, permitting transmissions necessary to meet essential communications needs; waiver of application filing deadlines, something the FCC did last fall for amateurs living in hurricane-stricken states; and a streamlined STA process.

Interested parties may file comments and view the comments of others via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. In either case, enter "06-119" in the "Proceeding" field (without quotation marks but including the hyphen). A copy of the NPRM is on the FCC Web site [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-83A1.pdf). --ARRL Letter

## MONTENEGRO INTERNATIONAL DX FESTIVAL UNDER WAY

Radio amateurs and equipment from all over Europe and from a few countries outside the continent converged this week on Montenegro -- the newest DXCC entity -- for the Montenegro International DX Festival. The event kicked off at noon on Thursday, July 20, with a salute to Montenegrin hams, the Amateur Radio Association of Montenegro and the country's telecoms authority and military.

The three-week Amateur Radio event is aimed at putting the tiny, new Balkan nation on the DX map in a big way. Seven stations identifying as 4O3T will be on the air from various locations. Nineteen-year old Nikola Ilic, YZ6AMD, made the first 4O3T QSO to start the festival, working DF3IU.

During the formalities, Montenegro Amateur Radio Union President Veso Babic, YU6A, and event organizer Ranko Boca, YT6A, welcomed all visitors to Montenegro. Well-known DXer Martti Laine, OH2BH, discussed some of the challenges facing ham radio as well as the opportunities for further talks with Montenegrin authorities. International Amateur Radio Union representative Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, promised to help Montenegro become an IARU member-society. Babic also reminded those on hand of Amateur Radio's valuable emergency communication effort following an earthquake in 1979.

Nearly four dozen operators from more than 10 countries are expected to serve as 4O3T

operators during the DX Festival, which continues until August 13. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, and his wife Linda, KA1ZD, will join the event in progress.

Look for 4O3NT on or about these frequencies: CW: 1826.5, 3522, 7022, 10,106, 14,022, 18,072, 21,022, 24,892 and 28,022 kHz; SSB: 3795, 7055, 14,190, 18,145, 21,290, 24,945 and 28,490 kHz; RTTY: 7035, 10,135, 14,085, 18,105, 21,085 and 28,085 kHz; 6 meters, CW/SSB: 50,106 kHz. An online searchable log will be available on the SRACG Web site <<http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/log-book-search.html>>.

Yaesu, SteppIR, Acom and the Northern California DX Foundation have supplied equipment for the event.

Festival organizers have set the ambitious goal of 200,000 contacts for the event, which will use all HF bands. DX Festival activities also will include several basic courses on ham radio operating and CEPT license examinations aimed at new and less-experienced radio amateurs.

There's still room for more operators, especially during the second and third weeks of the event. Contact Ranko Boca, YT6A [yt6a@cg.yu](mailto:yt6a@cg.yu), with a copy to Martti Laine, OH2BH [oh2bh@sral.fi](mailto:oh2bh@sral.fi). QSL via YT6A.

The United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member on June 28, automatically making Montenegro the 336th current DXCC entity. Montenegro declared its independence on June 3 following a national referendum May 21.

There are fewer than 100 native radio amateurs in Montenegro. The International Telecommunication Union has not yet assigned a distinctive call sign block to the new country, although current Montenegrin radio amateurs have been using their YU/YT/YZ/4O-prefix call signs. --ARRL Letter

## **CATHY FERRY, NC8F, IS 2006 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR**

For the third year in a row, a young woman has been named to receive the 2006 Amateur Radio Newsline™ Young Ham of the Year Award (YHOTY) <<http://www.yhoty.org/>>. She's Cathy Ferry, NC8F -- an 18-year-old from Silver Lake, Ohio.

"Cathy was selected based on her long-term commitment to Amateur Radio, her work in public service and in promoting the hobby/service to others," the Newsline announcement said.

The daughter of Bruce Ferry, AK8B, and the late Joan Ferry, Cathy was first at age 10 and received her Extra class license at 13. Currently an ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator, she has been involved in numerous public service events since age 12. For the past two years she's served as a net control station for the Roadrunner Akron Marathon. An ARRL member, Cathy is secretary of the Summit County Red Cross Amateur Radio Club.

For the past two years been the editor of the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club newsletter. In 2004 the publication received an honorable mention in the ARRL Ohio Section Newsletter Contest. She has also overseen ticket sales for her club's annual hamfest. Additionally, she assists in teaching the club's Technician class licensing course. Cathy has promoted Amateur Radio at Cuyahoga Falls High School while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average.

In addition to her interest in Amateur Radio, Cathy is an accomplished musician who plays bassoon. She currently is with the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, which recently performed a series of concerts in Australia. This fall, Cathy is planning to major in music at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

The 2006 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented August 19, 2006, at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama. As the 2006 YHOTY Award winner, Cathy will receive -- courtesy of Vertex-Standard -- an expense-paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, along with a gift of Yaesu ham radio equipment. CQ magazine will treat her to an expense-paid week at Spacecamp Huntsville, and will present her with a variety of CQ products. She'll receive a commemorative plaque, underwritten by Dave Bell, W6AQ.

The Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award goes annually to a radio amateur age 18 or younger who has provided outstanding service to the nation and community or helped improve the state of the art in Amateur Radio communication. --ARRL Letter

## **AMSAT TO SUPPORT HPSDR**

AMSAT will immediately initiate support for The High Performance Software Defined Radio (HPSDR) project, an independent team that is dedicated to bringing high performance software defined radio devices within the reach of amateurs in terms of access to the hardware and software and at manageable prices.

This is a rare opportunity for AMSAT to easily join a major technological development and have a positive impact on both that development and AMSAT's own primary interests. The High Performance Software Defined Radio (HPSDR) project is a completely open source software (GNU Public License) and open hardware design. It has an extremely capable group of core designers, many of whom are also key AMSAT design team members, supported by a cast of hundreds.

To learn more, see [http://hpsdr.org/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://hpsdr.org/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page) The goal for AMSAT is to dramatically improve the development schedule and quality of our Eagle ground station and spacecraft transponders, both SDX and wideband digital. AMSAT will benefit on related projects as well, such as the P3E SDX transponder development.

AMSAT will support HPSDR with a modest amount of financial, personnel and other resources. Financial resources will be under AMSAT control and will be used to support activities such as joint HPSDR and Eagle design meetings. AMSAT's Engineering team will submit a 2007 budget for the AMSAT Board's approval at the annual meeting in October. The modest resources that are needed in 2006 can be provided by the Eagle team project. --AMSAT News Service

## **INFLATABLE SATELLITE LAUNCHED**

A private space firm, Bigelow Aerospace, launched its Genesis I spacecraft. The inflatable spacecraft has successfully expanded and all of the solar arrays have been deployed.

Genesis I, the first spacecraft in a series to be built by Bigelow Aerospace, is a one-third scale prototype of a future craft that will eventually become a part of a commercial space station.



By the fall, Bigelow Aerospace hopes to launch Genesis II. Over the next several years, Bigelow plans to test larger prototype spacecraft, including a full-scale prototype that could launch as early as 2012.

The Genesis I satellite is visible to the naked eye. Pass times for your location can be found on-line at: <http://www.heavens-above.com>. --AMSAT News Service

## JULY 26 LAUNCH FOR 13 AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITES

Thirteen Amateur Radio Satellites were scheduled to be launched on July 26, 2006 on a DNEPR-1LV rocket from the Kazakstan Baikonur Cosmodrome. This will be the largest ever deployment of Amateur Radio Satellites. A fourteenth satellite will operate on commercial frequencies.

The satellites will be put into a 500 by 566 km orbit with an inclination of 97 degrees. Each satellite is a 10cm cube weighing just 1kg into which is packed the battery, transmitter and the various experiments.

Further information on the Dnepr Launch 1 can be seen at: <http://littonlab.atl.calpoly.edu/>. Additional information about the cubesats can be found on the AMSAT cubesat pages.

Ralph, WØRPK, maintains a web page with up-to-date CubeSat status at: <http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/CubeSat.htm>.

See the AMSAT main web page summarizes the July 26 CubeSat launch manifest, <http://www.amsat.org>. --AMSAT News Service

## SHORTS

**UK 5 MHZ EXPERIMENT EXTENDED TO 2010, GAINS TWO NEW CHANNELS:** UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom and the Ministry of Defence okayed extending the 5 MHz Amateur Radio experiment until June 30, 2010, and adding two new channels -- 5368 and 5373 kHz (center frequencies). Under the expanded plan, the UK and the US now will enjoy three center-frequency channels in common -- the two new channels and 5405 kHz. The UK experiment, which began in 2002, was to have concluded July 31. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) says the extension followed discussions between Ofcom and the RSGB. Current notices of variation (NoVs) issued by the Radiocommunications Agency -- the former telecoms regulator -- still expire July 31, 2006, however, and Full license holders in the UK who want to continue using the 5 MHz frequencies will have to file a new NoV application, available online from the Ofcom Web site <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/classes/amateur/applications/ofw285.pdf>. Applicants must explain how they plan to experiment on the 5 MHz channels. --ARRL Letter

**DISCOVERY LANDS SAFELY IN FLORIDA MINUS ONE RADIO AMATEUR:** The shuttle Discovery, with two radio amateur-astronauts aboard, landed safely at Kennedy Space Center in Florida July 17. In addition to Commander Steven Lindsey and Pilot Mark Kelly, the STS-121 crew included mission specialists Stephanie Wilson, KD5DZE, Lisa Nowak, KC5ZTB; Michael Fossum and Piers Sellers. A third radio amateur, European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, DF4TR -- aboard Discovery when it launched July 4 -- stayed behind to join International Space Station Expedition 13 Commander Pavel Vinogradov, RV3BS, and Flight Engineer and NASA Science Officer Jeff Williams,

KD5TVQ, for the remainder of their duty tour and for about half of Expedition 14's -- six months in all, NASA says. His arrival on the ISS marks the first time since May 2003 that the space station has had a three-member crew. NASA astronauts Michael Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and Sunita Williams, KD5PLB, and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, have been named as the 14th ISS crew. They will launch to the ISS in September. The July 17 landing marked the end of Discovery's 32nd flight. –ARRL Letter

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