

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH, 2007      MONTHLY NEWSLETTER      INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING** – Because of a snow storm, there was no meeting in February.

**ECHOLINK IMPROVEMENTS ON W9RCA:** If you have monitored the W9RCA repeater you will notice that it has a voice IDer again. This is just one of the improvements that W9EEJ, N9KT, AF9A, N9KZJ, W9KVK and K9RU made to the repeater and Echo Link.

Bud, W9EEJ got us a vanity node number, 6522.

Bob, W9KVK got us a computer donated by the Indianapolis Computer Society so we could give Bud back his personal computer that we had been using. This is the second computer donation we have received from them and both are in use on the repeater. I wish to thank the Indianapolis Computer Society for the donations, we could not have gotten the repeater and the Echo Link back on the air with out these donations.

Jim AF9A, Jim K9RU and Dave N9KZJ mounted the new computer in the repeater building and cleaned up the installation. This does not sound like much but it took all afternoon.

Dave, N9KT spend several long evenings at the repeater site installing software and working out the bugs. He also has been trying new software to added new features. The voice announcements with the time and the new touch tone features are the results to all his work and experimenting.

I have received a number of good comments on the Echo Link operation. -- K9RU

**MARION COUNTY SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING** -- For 2007, the Severe Weather Spotter Training will take place at the Training Academy Building, located at 2820 N. Meridian St. in Indianapolis.

The program will begin promptly on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am, so please plan to arrive early for seating and signing in.

Thank you, N9FIM, Bob Blake (146.760); N9FEB, Mike Palmer (146.700)

**FROM DAVID SPOELSTRA ACTING ARRL INDIANA STATE GOVERNMENT LIAISON (SGL):** I need everyone's help NOW. SB 0216 is trying to make cell phone use while driving illegal. While I personally applaud this since I have been run into twice by people yakking on their cell phones, this bill could easily be interpreted that if you are talking to someone on a repeater that has a phone patch on it while driving, then you are violating the

law.

What I need is for people to email or call the two authors of the bill, Senators Kruse and Mishler, and ask them to amend the bill to specifically include an exemption for amateur radio operators. Please send me a copy of any emails you send to the Senators [to [davids@mediamachine.com](mailto:davids@mediamachine.com)].

There is already an exemption for emergency and medical vehicles and for volunteer firefighters and certain emergency services professionals. Since we fulfill emergency roles, I thought that people in our group would have excellent examples of why amateur radio operators should have an exemption.

Please get the word out to other Indiana amateur radio emergency groups. The earlier we take action, the easier it will be to get the bill amended.

Information about the bill can be found at: <<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/>>.

Email Senator Mishler:

<http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl?data=Senate|Mishler,Ryan|s9|sr>

Email Senator Kruse:

<http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl?data=Senate|Kruse,Dennis|s14|sr>

Thank you! --David, N9KT, ARRL Indiana SGL

**IRCC TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Spring is almost here and it's time for all Indiana amateur radio clubs and organizations to consider one of their own as a nominee for the 2007 IRCC Technical Excellence Award.

For the past six 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 an individual for this award 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 heroes 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. Remember the committee will only have what you have written on which to evaluate the nominees.

Entries will be judged on technical ability, hours of contribution, individual or organization served and extent of contribution (s). Emphasis on these areas will assist the committee in their evaluations. Include an e-mail address for both the honoree and submitting author so we may notify all individuals.

Deadline for entries is Midnight Friday June 8, 2007. E-mail your entry to: [w9eeu@arrl.net](mailto:w9eeu@arrl.net) or [pgadams@aol.com](mailto:pgadams@aol.com)

The Technical Excellence Award will be presented July 7th at the Indianapolis Hamfest. Get your nominations in for those deserving individuals.

Our committee looks forward to hearing from you. Gary Adams W9EEU IRCC Vice-Chairman

**RCA ARC SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE:** We have several of the RCA ARC shirts in L and XLT (extra large-tall) sizes. The shirt color is tan. Your first shirt is \$15. Additional shirts are \$20 each. Contact Jim Keeth at [af9a at arrl.net](mailto:af9a@arrl.net).

## HAMFESTS; EVENTS

10 Mar	Wabash Valley, Terre Haute, IN
15 Apr	Peru, IN
18-20 May	Dayton Hamvention
7 July	Indy Hamfest (note date change)

## NEW AMATEUR SERVICE RULES NOW IN EFFECT

The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees.

The ARRL VEC has been extremely busy scheduling new exam sessions, with close to 5000 sessions scheduled this year and it's only the end of February. Normally the ARRL VEC coordinates about 5500 sessions per year. ARRL VEC reports some 175 ARRL VEC test sessions were scheduled for the February 23-25 period.

Two dozen applicants showed up at League Headquarters open house, either to sit for an exam or apply for license upgrades. The ARRL was surprised at the number of people who wanted to take the test at All but two test applicants took their exams under the new rules. After people took their exams, some went over to W1AW to use their new privileges.

Despite snowy New England weather, a few applicants traveled some distance to take their exams. One couple thought this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take their upgrades here at ARRL Headquarters and drove in from Rhode Island.

ARRL VEC is now bracing for an anticipated application avalanche as paperwork from initial sessions shows up. Not only has the number of test sessions increased dramatically, the number of applicants at each session is up as well. To keep up with demand, ARRL VEC has hired additional help. Staffers from other HQ departments also have been lending a hand.

March QST includes an eight-page "tearout" section "Now, New Opportunities for Every Ham!" between pages 48 and 49. <<http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>>. It focuses on various topics of interest to those gaining new HF privileges through upgrading or owing to the new rules as well as to veteran licensees. Among other things, it covers mentoring -- or Elmering -- newcomers, "The Top 10 Reasons to Try Morse Code," earning ham radio operating awards by using Logbook of the World (LoTW) and a new ARRL band chart <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>>. --ARRL Letter

## CELLULAR TELEPHONE "BILLS" POSE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR HAM RADIO OPERATION

Bills aimed at thwarting "driving while cellular" and "driving while distracted" behavior have been introduced in several states, and most are worded broadly enough to potentially proscribe some Amateur Radio mobile operation. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND <[reginfo@arrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrl.org)>, so far has catalogued 11 active pieces of legislation. Bills introduced in Montana and New Mexico have been sidelined for now, but related measures -- more than one in some states -- remain alive in Georgia, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. Henderson reports that ARRL Field Organization volunteers and members called the League's attention to the various pieces of pending legislation, none of which specifically exempt Amateur Radio mobile operation.

"In most cases we try to work to have language exempting Amateur Radio inserted into the bill, rather than narrowing by definition the behavior or activity the bill seeks to address," Henderson explains. "It is a far easier approach and removes ambiguity down the road."

In Georgia, House Bill 5 (HB 5) would assess those anyone found to be "driving while distracted" while using a wireless communication device one driver's license infraction point. The bill defines "device" to cover not only cellular or mobile telephones -- whether or not they're hands-free, but any "wireless communication device, personal digital assistant, radio or citizens band radio." HB 5 thus appears to include such routine activities as changing the station on your car radio.

In Montana, House Bill 233 (HB 233) would restrict drivers from "the use of electronic communication devices, or any other activity that causes the driver to become inattentive." This bill was tabled in committee on January 30, following a hearing a few days earlier.

In New Jersey, Assembly Bill 1966, would broaden the scope of that state's existing law prohibiting the use of a hand-held wireless telephone while driving. It would expand the law to cover "distracted driving" by prohibiting a motor vehicle operator from engaging in "any activity unrelated to the actual operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe operation of the vehicle."

In New Mexico, House Bill 241 (HB 241) would prohibit a driver from using "a mobile communication device while operating a motor vehicle." The measure has been tabled.

Three related bills now are in play in Oregon: House Bill 2482 (HB 2482) and Senate Bill 293 (SB 293) contain essentially the same language, making it an offense to operate a motor vehicle "while using a mobile communication device" without a hands-free accessory.

In Texas, Senate Bill 154 (SB 154) would prohibit a motor vehicle operator from using a "wireless communication device" while under way, unless equipped for hands-free operation.

In Vermont, two measures are in play. House Bill 31 (HB 31) would make it a violation to use a "cellular telephone" while in motion on the highway, except in the event of an emergency. A more-restrictive bill, HB 126, addresses "distracted driving. The bill would include activities ranging from smoking, eating or drinking to "performing personal grooming," "interacting with pets or unsecured cargo" and "using personal communications technologies." Hands-free cell phone operation would be permissible, however.

In Washington, House Bill 1214 would outlaw such activities as "reading, manually writing or sending a message on an electronic wireless communications device." The measure does not include an exception for hands-free devices.

In Wyoming, two nearly identical measures are alive. Both incorporate an exemption for Citizens Band, but not for Amateur Radio operation.

Henderson advises ARRL members to contact their Section Manager <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smlist.html>> to learn about any initiatives under way to address the ham radio implications of a particular state bill. --ARRL Letter

## **WRC-07 CONFERENCE PREPARATORY MEETING UNDER WAY IN GENEVA**

Some 800 delegates representing 97 countries are attending the second session of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM-07) in Geneva. A major step along the way to World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07), CPM-07 convened February 19 and will continue until March 2. Representing Amateur Radio are International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <<http://www.iaru.org/>> President Larry Price, W4RA, and Technical Representative Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. Other Amateur Radio representatives are part of national delegations. CPM-07 will finalize the technical report that will guide the work of delegates attending WRC-07 October 22 through November 1. Drafting the CPM Report has occupied several ITU-R working parties for the past three years. No final decisions will be made at the CPM.

WRC-07 agenda items of interest to Amateur Radio involve allocations in the 4-10 MHz range, a possible secondary allocation to the amateur service at 136 kHz, the modification of footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations, and the selection of agenda items for future WRCs.

WRC-07 agenda item 1.13 will review allocations to all services between 4 and 10 MHz, excluding allocations from 7.0 to 7.2 MHz, which were settled to the advantage of Amateur Radio during WRC-03. Starting in March 2009, radio amateurs will enjoy a worldwide 200 kHz segment on 40 meters.

WRC-07 agenda item 1.15 will consider establishing a secondary Amateur Radio Service allocation in the band 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. While CPM Report text describing a method to provide this allocation appeared to be finalized by February 22, it's no guarantee that WRC-07 will actually make the LF allocation. --ARRL Letter

## **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR ARRL 2006 HIRAM PERCY MAXIM MEMORIAL AWARD**

The ARRL invites nominations for the 2006 Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM) Memorial Award <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html>>. The League's premier youth recognition, the HPM Memorial Award goes annually to a radio amateur under age 21 in recognition of the recipient's accomplishments and contributions "of the most exemplary nature" to both the Amateur Radio community and the local community during the previous calendar year -- 2006 in this instance.

Nomination criteria may include:

- \* Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level (for example, local radio club, ARES, net control, participation in civic groups);
- \* Technical achievement (for example, built a radio, put up an antenna, etc);
- \* Operating record (for example, nets, disaster drills, contests, ARRL November

Sweepstakes, etc);

\* Recruitment and training of new amateurs (for example, helped teach a license class, JOTA, etc);

\* Public relations activities (for example, create a ham radio Web page).

HPM Memorial Award winners receive a cash award of \$1500 and an engraved plaque. For more information, contact Mark Spencer, WA8SME <mspencer@arrl.org>; 530-495-9150. --ARRL Letter

## ARRL INVITES COMMENTS ON NEW HF DIGITAL PROTOCOL

The ARRL is seeking comments from amateurs concerning development of an open-source (non-proprietary) data communications protocol suitable for use by radio amateurs over high-frequency (HF) fading paths. This is not a Request for Proposals (RFP). An RFP may or not be forthcoming depending on evaluation of the information received.

Specifically, the League is asking for comments and information on the following issues:

\* Access Method: Is Orthogonal Frequency-Division Multiplexing (OFDM) the best candidate technology, or should other competitive technologies be considered?

\* Data Rate and Bandwidth: What data rates/throughputs are achievable at various bandwidths up to 3 kHz bandwidth?

\* Adaptivity: What adaptive features should be considered, such as automatic adjustment of transmitter power, modulation waveform and coding, in order to maximize throughput and efficiency in two-way contacts?

\* Robustness: What is achievable for reliable operation at power levels typical in the Amateur Radio Service and low signal/noise and interference ratios?

\* Error control: What are the appropriate applications of error control suitable for HF channels? For example, how should Repeat reQuest (ARQ) and Forward Error Control (FEC) be applied to two-way contacts and one-to-many (roundtable and bulletin) transmissions?

\* Activity Detection: What is an effective method of determining whether a frequency is busy prior to transmission?

\* Operating System: What operating systems (such as Windows or Linux) are appropriate for Amateur Radio use with this protocol?

\* Hardware: What practical and affordable hardware platforms are suitable for amateur stations? Consider the use of personal computers with or without sound cards. Provide any information about the need for an additional "box" if needed.

Please provide the following with your response: (1) name of respondent, (2) respondent's contact information, (3) related experience, and (4) type of respondent: (individual, partnership, corporation or group). Do not include proprietary information as part of your response.

Post, fax or e-mail your response by 1900 UTC, May 15, 2007, to ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI <w4ri@arrl.org>, 3545 Chain Bridge Rd -- Suite 209, Fairfax, VA 22030; Fax: 703-934-2079. --ARRL Letter

## SHORTS

**FORMER ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR ED METZGER, W9PRN, SK--** ARRL Honorary Vice President and Past Central Division Director Edmond A. "Ed" Metzger, W9PRN, of Springfield, Illinois, died Monday, February 26. He was 93. An ARRL Charter Life Member, Metzger spent more than half his life serving the League in a variety of

capacities.

Licensed in 1941, Metzger began his lengthy League service in 1957, when he became Illinois Section Communications Manager (SCM -- now Section Manager), a post he held until 1980. From 1965 until 1981, he also served as ARRL Central Division Vice Director. He became Central Division Director in 1981. That same year, the ARRL Board of Directors elected Metzger as an ARRL Foundation Director, and he subsequently served as the Foundation's president from 1993 until 2001, when Dick Isely, W9GIG, succeeded him as Director. On a motion by Isely, the ARRL Board of Directors in 2001 named Metzger an ARRL Honorary Vice President.

The family invites memorial contributions to the Edmond A. Metzger Scholarship, c/o The ARRL Foundation, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

**REVISED ARRL BAND CHART AVAILABLE:** A new ARRL band chart reflecting all recent changes to the FCC Amateur Radio Service rules as of February 23, 2007, now is available for downloading on the ARRL Web site in either black and white or color versions <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html> Created by ARRL Senior Technical Illustrator, Dave Pingree, N1NAS, the attractive new chart represents a major change from earlier designs. This is the same chart featured in the eight-page "Welcome" tear-out section in March QST (following page 48). The entire QST tearout also is available for downloading in PDF format <<http://www.arrl.org/HFWelcome/Welcome.pdf>>.

**NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR:** -- Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Award. The award recognizes a radio amateur 18 years old or younger who has used ham radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of Amateur Radio, to the state of the communications art or to the community or nation. Nominations are being accepted for Amateur Radio licensees living in the 48 contiguous United States, Puerto Rico and the 10 Canadian provinces. Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted before May 30, 2007, on an official application. Download a nomination form or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 2007 Young Ham of the Year Award, c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Ave, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Nominations may be made online using a Web form, but supporting materials must be submitted separately. Presentation of the 2007 YHOTY Award will take place in August at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama, site of the 2007 ARRL National Convention. There's more information on the YHOTY Web site <<http://www.yhoty.org/>>. --ARRL Letter

**FCC AFFIRMS BIG FINE FOR MARKETING NON-CERTIFIED TRANSCEIVERS:** The FCC has affirmed a \$14,000 fine it proposed in November in the case of a California radio amateur. The Commission alleges that Jason Kaltenbach, KE6CND, doing business as Metamerchant of Laguna Nigel, "willfully and repeatedly" violated FCC rules and the Communications Act of 1934 by marketing non-certified VHF and UHF transceivers on the eBay auction site. In a Forfeiture Order (NoF) released February 2, the FCC said Kaltenbach failed to respond to its November 9 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-268422A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-268422A1.pdf)>, so the Commission affirmed the fine based on the information it had. According to the NAL, an FCC agent found two models of KYD brand transceivers offered by Metamerchant, one capable of operating on 136 to 174 MHz at 3 W, the other capable of operating on 400 to 470 MHz at 4 W. In January 2006, the FCC cited Kaltenbach, d/b/a Metamerchant, for violating §302(b) of the Communications Act and §2.803(a)(1) of its rules by marketing non-certified General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS) transceivers.

Kaltenbach told the Commission the gear had been listed accidentally and that he removed them from sale and corrected his auction listing. Nonetheless, the NAL recounted, an FCC agent was able to purchase a non-certified VHF transceiver via auction from Metamerchant last March. In July, the FCC's Seattle office received a complaint from someone who purchased a UHF transceiver from Metamerchant via eBay that was neither FCC-certified nor certifiable. –ARRL Letter

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