

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JULY, 2007 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, JULY 3rd, AT 6:30 PM AT DOOKZ SPORTS GRILL,
3800 E. 96th STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE MEETING – At the June meeting we got to hear everyone's impressions of all the new gear seen at the Dayton Hamvention. Money was approved to purchase food for Field Day which will be a 1E class station operating from Mike Koss' Comm Center. K3BG or AF9A will provide the generator. N9KZJ will provide the logging program. Setup should start at about 11 AM on Saturday, 6/23. The Indy Hamfest was also discussed. Possible sources of a truck to haul the junk were discussed. On Friday, July 6 at about 4PM we'll get together to load stuff to take to the Hamfest. We can use all the help we can get and we'll be finished loading and an hour or so. We also discussed an alarm system and TV camera for the repeater shack. AF9A purchased the lightning arrestors for the Ethernet cable.

HELPED NEEDED FOR INDY HAMFEST

The club will be moving "junk" from Mike's warehouse to the Indy Hamfest Friday afternoon, July 6. We plan to meet at Mike's around 3 PM to start loading then go to the Indy Hamfest to unload.

We will need help loading at Mike's and later unloading at the Hamfest.

We also will need help manning the tables at the Hamfest Saturday. Those who help with the tables can use the Club's tables to sell their own stuff provided it is marked with the asking price and they give us the price they are willing to accept.

Remember, the club does not have any dues and is funded by the junk sell at the Hamfest.

For more information contact Jim Rinehart, K9RU or Jim Keeth, AF9A.

2007 ARRL FIELD DAY --We tried something new this year operating from Mike Koss' using emergency power. With it raining during most all of the Field Day Contest, it was a good choice.

Setup was quick and took only about 2 hours. We used AF9A's generator. An extension cord was run into the building through one of the access pipes for coax, to power the equipment. Dave, N9KZJ and Bill WY9T spent a majority of the set up time getting the N1MM logging / rig control program working.

We had a good turnout this year and a lot of good operators. Bill Kennedy, WY9T joined us this year since he could not make it out to New Mexico with Mike due to job commitments and made a lot of Qs. Chuck Crist, W9IH handled the midnight to 5 AM shift, as he has for us in the past. We want to thank Don and Joyce Falk, KB9EQC & N9LTR for doing the

cookout. Bob Altmanshofer, WB9HZD handled the food and drinks and Jim Keeth, AF9A and his wife did the breakfast using the Boltman's FD recipe.

We made 1450 QSOs, after dupes, during the Field Day 24 hour period and this beat our best effort of 1421 Qs done several years ago with good band condition.

We want to thank everyone who came out and we hope you enjoyed it. I would like to know what you thought of the 1E emergency power class from a fixed station as compared to the 1A operation setup in the field we have done in the past.

Here a list of hams who participated: W9IH, Chuck Crist; Bill Kennedy, WY9T; Bob Altmanshofer, WB9HZD; Dave Jarvis, N9KZJ; Ed Conder, N9IZN; Mike Henny, KE9YA ; Dick Davis, W9ZB; Jim Keeth, AF9A; Jim Rinehart, K9RU; John Garino, KF9UH; Don Fulk, KB9EQC and Joyce Fulk, N9LTR. – K9RU

THE USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM SHIP EVENT -- The Indianapolis Armature Radio community operated in the Museum Ship on the Air event for the second time this year. During the Museum ships event the USS Indianapolis CA-35 made 1634 total contacts, with some of those being in 20 countries and with 17 participating ships.. Hams Operated for 37 hours of the 48 event hours.

One of the highlights of the USS Indianapolis on the air event was the visit by Mr. Jim O'Donnell; the only Indianapolis resident and USS Indianapolis survivor. Mr. O'Donnell shared with our operations group and facility visitors (about 40 folks) the actual accounts of some of those terrible days when the USS Indy was sunk in 1945. "Goose Bumps filled the room"; one of our new ham ops, Fred-KC9FLB said it all, "Chatting with Mr. O'Donnell was an experience of a life time".

Mr. O'Donnell is 87 years young and continues to carry on the memories of the USS Indianapolis and his shipmates every day.

Our facility had about 50 visitors to view the DVD displayed video story of the USS Indianapolis and participate in the on air amateur radio operations.

Thanks to those who helped make this second (2nd) Ships On the AIR EVENT very successful:!!! USS INDY OTA Sponsors: Indiana University, REI Management, Ihets, Indianapolis Radio Club, Thompson (RCA) Ham club, Maxium Crane, Indianapolis Radio League & FireHouse Photo Labs.

HAM OPERATORS: (29) W9IH-Chuck, W9IND-Brian, N9IZN-Ed, N9KZJ-Dave, K9XV-Tom, WY9T-Bill, N9KT-Dave, W9VW-Mike, W9IU-Jim, W0VLL-Pete, W0BJF-Barry, KG6ZIJ-Chris, WB9DKI-Ron, AA9YP-Jay, KC9KZM-Bob, WB9DKL-Ron, WA9VVG-Sam, N9QVO-Dave, KD8CTK-Charlene, KJ9C Mel, KC9FLB-Fred, KB9RDS-Steve, KC9ESH-Duane, NE9O-Mike, WA9BVS-Malcom, KC9GLQ-Ken, KC9GLR-Kyle, KB9ZLB-Heather, KC9HDH-Joe. and Dillion.

See the Indianapolis Radio Club web site for pictures and more information. –N9KZJ

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

7 July Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma, <http://www.indyhamfest.com/>
19 Aug Tippecanoe, Lafayette, IN <http://www.w9reg.org/hamfest>

25 Aug Owen Co./Bloomington, Spencer IN <http://www.bloomingtonradio.org/hamfest>
 16 Aug East Central Illinois, Oakwood, IL <http://www.vcara.org/>
 8 Sep Greater Louisville Hamfest, Shepherdsville, KY <http://critterbob.com/glha>
 15-16 Sep Peoria Superfest, Peoria, IL <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com/>
 16 Sep Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH <http://gcara.org/>
 23 Sep Hancock ARC, Greenfield, IN <http://w9atg.org/>
 29-30 Sep Chicago FM Club, Belvidere, IL <http://www.chicagofmclub.org/>
 17-18 Nov Fort Wayne Hamfest, Ft. Wayne, IN <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>
 24 Nov EARS & The Ham Station, Evansville, IN <http://w9ear.org/hamfest.htm>

US SENATE BILL WOULD REQUIRE FCC TO INVESTIGATE BPL'S INTERFERENCE POTENTIAL TO AMATEUR RADIO

Sen Mark Pryor of Arkansas has filed a bill in the US Senate calling on the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines, otherwise known as BPL. Sen Pryor is a member of the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

If passed, Senate Bill 1629, also known as the Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007, stresses the impact the Amateur Radio Service has with regard to emergency communication. The bill, if, and only if, it becomes law, would require the FCC to conduct a study on BPL and report back to House and Senate committees their findings regarding "the interference potential of systems for the transmission of broadband Internet services over power lines."

The bill states that there are to be four required areas of study.

1. "The variation of field strength of BPL service signals with distance from overhead power lines, and a technical justification for the use of any particular distance extrapolation factor.
2. "The depth of adaptive, or 'notch,' filtering for attenuating normally permitted BPL service radiated emission levels that would be necessary and sufficient to protect the reliability of mobile radio communications.
3. "A technical justification for the permitted, radiated emission levels of BPL signals relative to ambient levels of man-made noise from other sources.
4. "Options for new or improved rules related to the transmission of BPL service that, if implemented, may prevent harmful interference to public safety and other radio communication systems."

ARRL president Joel Harrison, W5ZN, said, "The ARRL is grateful for Senator Pryor's support. The radio amateurs of my home state of Arkansas are fortunate to be represented in both the Senate and the House of Representatives by legislators who are sensitive to our needs and concerns. The Senator's recognition of Amateur Radio's role in emergency communications and public safety is greatly appreciated."

This bill calls for the same studies to be performed as House Bill 462, introduced January 12, 2007 by Rep Mike Ross of Arkansas.

To view Senate Bill 1629, please see http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/amateur_radio_act.pdf –ARRL Letter

ARMY MARS HF E-MAIL SYSTEM PASSES "HURRICANE TEST"

Although the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season has yet to begin, a Transportation Security

Administration (TSA) alert for a fictitious hurricane in late March sent special teams of Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) emergency responders scurrying to duty stations from Miami to Houston and beyond. Dubbed "Operation Sidewinder," the drill aimed to test a new HF digital backup communication link for airports in case a weather or terrorist event ever compromised conventional telecommunications, as Katrina did in 2005. For this first comprehensive trial run, Army MARS mobilized a new Winlink digital communication system, with Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS members providing active support.

Operation Sidewinder marked the first comprehensive demonstration of the TSA's partnership with the Army MARS, a Pentagon-sponsored organization of volunteer Amateur Radio operators that supports federal government agencies during emergencies. MARS has some 5000 members in its separate Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps branches. Operation Sidewinder called for a Category 3 hurricane to make landfall at Miami, continuing on toward Houston. To drill MARS's capabilities in multiple emergencies, a possible terrorist operation concurrent with the weather emergency was added.

Earlier this year, the TSA, part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), adopted the MARS Winlink emergency communications network for deployment at major airports. DHS, however, has not adopted Winlink on a department-wide basis. DHS cites the Winlink system for its ability to provide interconnectivity between HF radio and the Internet. The use of Winlink 2000 permits access to SHARES [SHared RESources program of the National Communications System] and MARS systems via conventional HF/VHF/UHF radio circuits.

Army MARS Chief Stuart Carter said Operation Sidewinder gave MARS members the opportunity to demonstrate long-haul HF connectivity, local VHF communication, HF e-mail, a WiFi computer interface with HF radio for e-mail, a TSA HF mobile facility, an Army MARS volunteer's vehicle capable of indefinite HF operations and two small, light and portable HF suites.

Participants at Miami International Airport activated the TSA Winlink station and dispatched an initial situation report to inform the network that the airport had shut down in the face of 115 MPH winds. At Pensacola, the TSA's AAN4PNS portable unit was activated. Other TSA stations joined in from Dallas/Fort Worth, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houston and Charleston, West Virginia. At Charleston's Yeager Airport, a 10 member MARS support team handled 50 text messages along with several photos. Texas Army MARS Winlink gateway AAB6TX logged 236 exercise messages in addition to secondary voice and MT63 digital traffic. Additional participants included the Pentagon's AAN3PNT, the Army North headquarters at Ft Sam Houston in San Antonio; FEMA Region 6, and the Texas State Emergency Operations Center, plus dozens of Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS members who joined on their own initiative. --ARRL Letter

ARRL, DoD, FCC TRY TO COME TO TERMS WITH PAVE PAWS

The ARRL has sent out more than 100 letters to repeater owners/trustees who have repeaters affected by the "Pave Paws" radars (PPR). Citing an increasing number of interference complaints, the US Air Force has asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either mitigate interference to the Pave Paws radars or shut down. The ARRL is working with the US Department of Defense (DoD) to develop a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to this military radar system on both coasts.

The situation affects 15 repeaters within less than 100 miles of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, stresses that the Defense Department acknowledges Amateur Radio's value in disasters and emergencies and is being extremely cooperative -- and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is not on the table.

The Amateur Radio Service is a secondary user in the 420-450 MHz band, both by the Table of Frequency Allocations and the FCC Part 97 regulations. As such, Amateur Radio licensees, jointly and individually, bear the responsibility of mitigating or eliminating any harmful interference to the primary user, which in this case is the Government Radiolocation Service that includes the DoD Pave Paws systems.

The letters sent to affected repeater owners/trustees give them an up-to-date briefing on the ongoing negotiations with the US Air Force, as well as outlines the DoD's plan. The DoD has indicated a willingness to try a mitigation proposal, but they have also indicated their need is for these issues to be resolved sooner rather than later. With that expediency in mind, the proposed mitigation strategy is as follows:

- * All repeaters on the DoD list in the affected areas will immediately reduce power to 5 W transmitter power output (TPO). Each repeater licensee/trustee should contact Henderson to confirm this once this has been done for their system. Confirmation of this being done was needed from each repeater owner by Friday, June 15, 2007.

- * The ARRL will provide the Longley-Rice calculations for each repeater to the DoD by June 15, 2007. The DoD will provide engineering data to the ARRL and FCC by June 15, 2007. These studies will be reviewed by the DoD, the ARRL Lab and the FCC to determine the amount of mitigation necessary for each repeater. Based on this review by the DoD, additional mitigation proposals for individual repeaters (including further power reductions, lowering of antenna heights, use of more directive antennas and other possible mitigation techniques) will be provided by the ARRL as needed to individual repeater owners. If there is a disagreement on the conclusions, a conference call will be held to resolve any outstanding issues.

- * All interference must be resolved no later than August 1, 2007.

- * Beginning in August 2007 (and continuing on a periodic basis), the DoD will have a follow-up engineers study at each PPR site to ensure corrective actions have been taken and the interference and to ensure that successful mitigation continues.

According to the DoD, the in-band interference from Amateur Radio fixed FM voice repeaters has increased to an unacceptable level. Pave Paws radars are used for national security functions, including early detection of water-launched missiles. They are critical to our national defense and are in use 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The goal of the ARRL has been to develop and implement a plan that would mitigate the interference, and at the same time to permit the repeaters to continue operation and to operate on as liberal a basis as possible. To do so, the League has offered to work closely with the two involved repeater coordinating groups, as well as the individual repeater owners, sharing information and dealing with this issue on a coordinated basis with all stakeholders.

The League has also been in contact with representatives of the FCC.

They have the ultimate responsibility for enforcing any mitigation plan, up to and including ordering specific repeaters to shut down operations. The FCC is aware of the complex nature of this problem and the mitigation strategy being proposed by the DoD.

Since Amateur Radio operators are secondary users on the band, the ARRL has few options,

and all options involve cooperation with the DoD. It is hoped the Longley-Rice calculations from the ARRL and the DoD's engineering studies will provide enough data to allow as many of the repeaters in the affected areas as possible to remain on the air at reasonable power levels.

It is entirely probable that even with extreme mitigation techniques, some repeaters in close proximity to the PPR sites may have to be shut down permanently. If that happens, official notice would come from the FCC. It is also possible that some repeaters might be required to operate permanently at a lower power level in the areas near these Air Force bases. In those cases, the League will be in contact with the individual repeater owners with that information and the FCC will be notified.

Henderson requests that all repeater owners/trustees affected by this issue immediately implement the 5 W TPO for your repeater/s; please contact his office by June 15 indicating if you have implemented the power reduction. This will allow the ARRL to have voluntary compliance on hand that can be used to show the cooperation of the amateur community.

Henderson stresses that it is to each repeater's long-term advantage to implement the power reduction as soon as possible. The DoD indicated they will be collecting engineering data during June. This presents the opportunity to assess a repeater's actual impact at the lower power level and a more honest determination of its continued potential for harmful interference to the PPR sites. If any repeaters are running at higher power levels, then the determinations can only be based on assumptions rather than on actual data. --ARRL Letter

FCC ANNOUNCES ENHANCEMENTS TO ULS LICENSE ARCHIVE

The FCC has announced a redesign of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) License Archive Search. Users can access this new functionality via the "Archives" button under "SEARCH" on the ULS page.

"Each time a license is acted upon, the current version is captured within ULS," the FCC explained this week in a public notice. "The License Archive allows users to view the current and prior versions of a license."

In the redesigned License Archive, the search interface, results screen and detail pages will use the same display as ULS License Search. On the detail pages, users now will be able to directly access license information.

"There will be no need to 'drill down' -- follow link after link -- to reach the information you need," the FCC noted. "This enhancement increases functionality and improves compliance with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

The redesigned License Archive search interface allows a user to search using most of the criteria available in ULS Advanced License Search except for Radio Service Group, Licensee City, State and ZIP Code and Frequencies. Users will have the same ability to sort and restrict their archive search results that they have in ULS License Search, the FCC said. Licensee ID no longer will be available as a License Archive Search criterion, however. Users should now search by the Licensee's FCC Registration Number (FRN).

The search results display will be similar to the search results in License Search, with a few minor exceptions: There will be no display of a "Pending Applications" icon, a column titled "Version" will display "Archived" or "Current" depending on the version of the license and a "Last Action Date" column will be used instead of "Expiration Date."

In general, the License Archive Search details will look similar to License Search details. However, the following additional fields will be displayed for all archived licenses: Last Action Date, Version, Licensee ID, and Sub-Group Identification Number (SGIN).

Also, other License Search functions that previously were not available in the License Archive have been added, including a "Printable Page" link that allows the user to print the contents of the page pre-formatted for most common printers. A "Reference Copy" link now allows the user to print an unofficial copy of the license. A link to view "Related Applications" from the current version of the license has been added, as has the ability to view attachments and automated letters in a PDF file.

License Archive will display termination pending components similar to the manner in which they are currently displayed in License Search. Additionally, License Archive will display all terminated components of a license, regardless of when it was terminated. These components will indicate a status of "Terminated" on the component's summary and detail pages. Under the previous License Archive system, terminated components were not displayed unless the license itself was terminated as well.

For additional information or assistance, visit the FCC's at <http://esupport.fcc.gov/index.htm> or call the FCC Support Center, (877) 480-3201 or 717-338-2888 (TTY 717-338-2824) and select Option #2, Forms or Licensing Assistance. Hours are weekdays, except federal holidays, from 8 AM until 6 PM Eastern Time. --ARRL Letter

ARISS MILESTONE: 300TH CONTACT

On Thursday, May 31, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) made its 300th contact since its inception back in December 2000. This milestone QSO was to the NASA Teacher Conference in Houston, Texas. The first contact was on December 21, 2000 to Burbank School in Burbank, Illinois.

The United States leads in the number of ARISS contacts with 153. Japan is next with 25; Australia has 18, Canada has 16, Belgium has 10, the United Kingdom and Germany have 8 and France has 7 contacts. A total of 28 countries have made contact with the ISS through ARISS.

For schools interested in setting up an ARISS contact, first check with your local school! See if the school's Amateur Radio school station is sufficiently equipped to enable a successful contact (i.e., general technical level, transceiver + power, steerable antenna, tracking programs and such). Please take into account the expected level of deployment of the Amateur Radio equipment operated onboard ISS. Next, carefully fill out the application form (this can be found at <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/arissapp.htm>). Please make sure to include the school's educational proposal. The educational proposal should include answers to these questions: How will you: a) integrate this activity into the school curriculum and b) involve as many grade levels as you can, participating through essay contests, poster drawing, letter writing and so on? How will you get as much media coverage as possible? For US schools, e-mail your completed application to ariss@arrl.org.

For more information on the ARISS program, please see <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/faqariss.htm>.
--ARRL Letter

SHORTS

KENWOOD TO MERGE WITH JVC NEXT YEAR -- *This Week in Consumer Electronics* ([TWICE](#)) reports that [Kenwood](#) has agreed to merge in 2008 with Victor Company of Japan ([JVC](#)) under a holding company. JVC is owned by [Matsushita Electric Industrial Company](#). Japan's [Nikkei](#) business newspaper reports that the final details should be worked out by the end of the month, and that under the plan, Kenwood will buy 20 billion yen (\$161,469,466) in JVC shares as early as this summer, raising its stake to 13 percent. Matsushita will also sell part of its 52.7 percent of JVC to Kenwood's top shareholder, the [Sparx Group](#). When JVC and Kenwood integrate operations under the holding company in 2008, Matsushita will sell the rest of its JVC shares to the holding company to complete the transaction. The holding company's stock will be listed instead of Kenwood and JVC, according to Nikkei. Combined, Kenwood's and JVC's sales are \$7.3 billion dollars annually for their fiscal year that ended March 31. --ARRL

NEW GENERAL CLASS BOOKS ARE GOOD TO GO! According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the new ARRL General Class License Manual is ready for shipping. As of July 1, 2007, a new General Class license exam pool will take effect; the old pool will no longer be valid. The new ARRL General Class License Manual has everything you need to pass the General Class exam. Also available is the ARRL General Q&A. This book makes upgrading to General Class quick and easy, allowing you to review from the entire question pool with brief explanations following each question. You can order the new manuals, plus manuals for Technician and Amateur Extra from www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/.

WAS AWARD GETS A NEW LOOK: Radio operators applying for the ARRL Worked All States (WAS) award will now receive a handsome, newly-designed certificate, sure to be a nice attraction to the ham who enjoys chasing awards and displaying prizes in the shack. The WAS Award is available to all amateurs worldwide who submit proof with written confirmation of having contacted each of the 50 states of the United States of America. The WAS Awards program includes 10 different awards and endorsements. Complete details, rules and applications for WAS can be found on the ARRL Web site. Those who already hold a WAS award can get the new style certificate issued for \$10. Contact ARRL Awards Manager, Eileen Sapko at esapko@arrl.org or 86 -594-0288

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