

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SEPTEMBER, 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, 6:30 PM AT DOOKZ SPORTS GRILL,  
3800 E. 96<sup>th</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

*REMEMBER, THE MEETING IS THE DAY AFTER LABOR DAY*

## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST MEETING** – At the Aug. 7th meeting, a variety of subjects were discussed... We still need a design of some bars to put across the door on the repeater building to make breaking-in more difficult. No action items were taken on this subject. We still need to acquire video baluns for the CAT5e cable so a TV security camera can be installed. K9RU will follow up. A controller built by Bob Altmanshofer, WB9HZD, to allow us to power cycle the Echolink and the repeater computers was tested by K9RU. He will install with in the next week. Paperwork will be initiated to change the W9RCA trustee from N9RJ to K9RU. Dave Brown, W9CGI is planning another DX-vacation, more details later.

Russ, N9RJ, who has been a member of the club since the mid 70s and W9RCA trustee for more than 10 years moved to West Virginia. Russ has been a very active member of the club and worked on many of the club projects. Russ helped build the club station at RCA (Sherman Drive) and at Thomson. We used Russ's call for many Field Days and other club events. One year for Field Day Russ built a generator for natural power using a bicycle generator and a model airplane motor that we used to power a TENTE 505 running on alcohol. Russ will be remembered for his CW mobile operation and operating from his motorcycle. We hope he enjoys his retirement in West Virginia.

Mike Koss is planning to rent a dumpster over a period of months to clean up his property and storage building where we have our "junk". The Club has agreed to clean up the area we use and to dispose of the stuff which we deem will never sell. Once Mike gets the dumpster we can workout a timetable to clean up the building. The Club still has several of the Club shirts for sale. K9RU reported on several 6 and 10 meter openings in the past month.

Dick, W9ZB, brought his home brew software defined radio to show off. Nice work, Dick!

## HAMFESTS; EVENTS

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>

## **GAREC-07 CELEBRATES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS IN HUNTSVILLE**

The third event of its kind, and the first ever held in the United States, the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC-07) took place August 16-17 in Huntsville, Alabama, just prior to the 2007 ARRL National Convention and Huntsville Hamfest.

Almost 100 people from all over the world came to Huntsville, making this truly a global event. GAREC's prevailing theme, how to apply advanced technologies to emergency communications, was echoed throughout the two-day event. From presentations to discussion groups to emergency vehicle displays to information about the latest in hardware, GAREC attendees had a sampling of just about everything pertaining to the Emergency Communications arena.

According to IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS, "Compared to the first two GAREC conferences [held in Tampere, Finland], the number of international participants was considerably lower. Region 1 [Europe, Africa, the Middle East], was represented by Ireland, France, Bulgaria, Finland, The Netherlands and South Africa. Region 2 [the Americas] had representatives from Brazil, Canada, the United States and Trinidad and Tobago. Region 3 [Asia and Oceania] submitted a detailed report, but sent their regrets due to a collision of dates with a major regional event."

ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, said many large and essential organizations that work with Emergency Communications sent representatives to GAREC. "We saw representatives from the IARU, ARRL, Army MARS, American Red Cross, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Department of Homeland Security, The Salvation Army, industry and others." Sarratt said that organizations weren't the only attendees. "Many Section Emergency Coordinators (SEC), District Emergency Coordinators (DEC) and Emergency Coordinators (EC) from the ARRL field organization attended GAREC."

Among others from the ARRL, Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, attended.

Pitts spoke about the need for a Public Information Officer (PIO) to be in the Joint Information Center (JIC) at any ARES deployment. "We lose far too many good stories because no one is in the right place speaking to media at the time of the incident. With a 24 hour news cycle, even a few hours later is too little too late. This idea was well received, and while many of the region's groups have recently added this to their action plans, approximately a dozen other groups stated that they will be adding this component to their activities. This information was also well received by some of the international representatives who asked for copies of our PR materials and permission to translate and modify them for use in their home countries," Pitts said.

Dura talked about using VoIP, EchoLink and IRLP for establishing and maintaining communications during hurricanes. The session discussed the methods of combining RF links to the Internet to establish a cohesive network. The VoIP Hurricane Net is another tool that Amateur Radio operators, the National Weather Service, the National Hurricane Center and emergency managers use to gather detailed information on local conditions.

Other presentations included the use of new technologies and modes in Emergency Communications, such as ALE, EchoLink/IRLP, D-STAR, Winlink 2000 and TSSG, an advanced system being developed in Ireland.

Outside of the conference venue, various Emergency Communications agencies brought their vehicles. Sarratt said, "An impressive fleet of emergency communications vehicles added a perfect hands-on hardware feel to GAREC. The vehicles were on display and tour for visitors to learn about serious mobile communications." These vehicles, hosted by Alabama Homeland Security, Alabama Baptist

Disaster Relief, American Red Cross, The Salvation Army and the Tennessee Emergency Communications Association, were very popular, drawing large crowds. "Luckily, no emergencies occurred to take the vehicles away from us this weekend," Sarratt said.

While GAREC is not a decision-making body, its ideas and proposals will be submitted to the IARU to be included for discussion at their next Administrative Council meeting, scheduled for June 2008. These ideas may also be discussed at each of the three IARU Regions' upcoming meetings.

The conference made the recommendation to introduce the call sign suffix "/D." This suffix would be used by those in the Amateur Radio Service who handle traffic related to emergency and disaster situations. According to Pitts, this recommendation, made by Willem Visch, PG9W, would let anyone listening immediately know there was emergency traffic and lessen the chances of someone unintentionally breaking in on an emergency net.

GAREC appealed to all of the IARU Member Societies, as well as specialized emergency communications groups, encouraging the accession to and ratification of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Response Operations <<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/emergencytelecoms/doc/tampere/S-CONF-ICET-2001-PDF-M07.pdf>> by their respective national authorities. There are currently 37 countries that have adopted Tampere. The US has not.

The conference also appealed to the IARU to "further encourage the development and the application of new modes and technologies in emergency communications," and to support the development of training aids.

GAREC also asked Amateur Radio contest organizers to include a provision in their rules that contest participants avoid frequencies in the immediate vicinity of the Center of Activity frequencies (as proposed at GAREC-05); these frequencies are 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. According to Pitts, "This would minimize interference to weak or distant stations which may be passing emergency traffic, but not heard in the contest din."

Zimmermann said, "With the conference in Region 2, GAREC has established itself in a major event in the field of Emergency Communications. What started in Region 1 as an independent event, has in 2006 found wider attention due to its combination with the International Conference on Emergency Communications (ICEC-06) and now with the ARRL National Convention in 2007. It is, however, only thanks to the hosts of these conferences, that they can fulfill the purpose set out from the beginning.

Tying it all together was a call that came in right as GAREC was closing. Beepers went off, text messages were received, radios echoed throughout the hall as the National Weather Service and SKYWARN issued an alert to North Alabama due to high winds and oncoming storms. Pitts said, "The alert and call for ham radio helped underscore the dedication and need for those volunteers better than any final speech could have done. It was like, 'The party's over - we go back to work!'" --ARRL Letter

## **CANADIAN SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER**

A demonstration of cooperation in emergency communications preparedness between Canadian radio amateurs and those in the United States is planned for September 29-30 with a special event station VOIARES <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/aresjointevent.htm>. It will be located at the Marconi memorial station on historic Signal Hill, St John's, Newfoundland, where reception of the first transatlantic wireless transmission occurred in 1901. Sponsored by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the facilities are provided by Parks Canada and coordinated by the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA).

The objectives of the special event are threefold: To highlight the capabilities of Amateur Radio in providing emergency communications in times of crisis, to illustrate the cooperation between Canada and the United States on emergency preparedness within the context of the Security and Prosperity Partnership signed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Canada in 2005, and to create a database of communications "first responders" that the Government of Canada could contact for emergency communications assistance in times of crisis.

Radio amateurs from across Canada and the US are being invited to participate in this first-time official activity, with opening festivities scheduled September 29 from 1430-1730 UTC. In particular, ARES units in both countries are encouraged to take part and to "talk up" the value of Amateur Radio as a community resource. Officials from the Canadian government have been invited, and ARRL Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has confirmed his intention to attend. Operations will feature virtually all transmission modes on most HF bands over the two-day period. Times and frequencies are yet to be determined.

A commemorative QSL card will be issued. QSLs may be sent direct to VO1ARES via VE9GLF, G. L. Friars, 35 Upper Quaco Rd, Baxters Corner, NB E25 2S2, Canada. All replies from VO1ARES will be via the bureau. Those wishing a direct reply, including Short Wave Listeners, must include an envelope and sufficient postage. Within Canada, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. If outside of Canada, please include sufficient International Reply Coupons (IRCs) to cover the cost of a letter from Canada to your country. This is imperative in order to receive a card directly; otherwise it will go via the bureau.

Listen for VO1ARES both before and after the special event. The call sign will be active September 27-October 1. –ARRL Letter

## **ARRL/TAPR CONFERENCE COMES TO CONNECTICUT IN SEPTEMBER**

Mark your calendars for September 28-30 for the 26th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Hartford, Connecticut <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>>. This conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Software Defined Radio (SDR); digital voice; digital satellite communications; Global Position System (GPS); precision timing; Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS); short messaging (a mode of APRS); Digital Signal Processing (DSP); HF digital modes; Internet interoperability with Amateur Radio networks; spread spectrum; IEEE 802.11 and other Part 15 license-exempt systems adaptable for Amateur Radio; using TCP/IP networking over Amateur Radio; mesh and peer-to-peer wireless networking; emergency and Homeland Defense backup digital communications; using Linux in amateur radio; updates on AX.25, and other wireless networking protocols.

The three-day conference will include introductory and technical sessions on Friday and Saturday, a Friday evening social and a Saturday evening banquet. The ever-popular Sunday Seminar focuses on one topic and provides an in-depth four-hour presentation by an expert in the field. The Sunday Seminar speaker has yet to be announced.

According to TAPR Vice President Steve Bible, N7HPR, "the ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is for all levels of technical experience, not just for the expert. Not only

is the conference technically stimulating, it is a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual interest in any aspect of amateur digital electronics and communications. Introductory sessions are scheduled throughout the conference to introduce new technical topics for beginners and experts alike. For those amateurs who are more technically inclined, this is a must attend conference. Now more than ever, Amateur Radio needs this great meeting of the minds to demonstrate a continued need for our current frequency allocations by pushing forward and documenting our achievements. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is the best way to record our accomplishments and challenge each other to do more."

Registration is open until September 1; after that date, late registrations will be accepted. Conference presentations, meetings, and seminars will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. --ARRL Letter

## **FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

On August 23, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau released new Amateur Radio enforcement actions. Norman Ball, KE6VWN, of Sunland, California, and Richard Martin, KE6RJI, of Maywood, California, both received Warning Notices informing them that the FCC had received written complaints concerning the K6GE repeater and cited their "failure to follow rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users."

Mark F. Hubeny, N9ZHW, of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, received notification from the FCC informing him that he never responded to their Warning Notice concerning the operation of his amateur station on non-amateur frequencies sent June 1 of this year.

Romeo C. Valdez, K6RMY, of San Jose, California, received notice from the FCC about a complaint filed against the operation of his station. "The complaint alleges that you are operating an unidentified repeater on 147.735 MHz," the letter said.

Smith Trucking, Inc, of Smithfield, Pennsylvania, was cited by the FCC for "operating radio equipment without a license on the frequency 28.535 MHz and causing interference to licensed stations in the Ten Meter Amateur Band.

James T. Ogden, N7KPU, of Prescott Valley, Arizona, was advised by the FCC of a complaint from "the licensee of a coordinated repeater system, with supporting documentation, alleging that your N7KPU repeater is operating without coordination on 447.350/442.350 MHz and causing harmful interference.

The FCC issued an Order of Dismissal and Termination against Jack R. Sharples of Florida concerning the matter of his application for a new Amateur Radio license. In May, in a Hearing Designation Order, the FCC called Sharples "a convicted felon and registered sexual predator," and said "Sharples's felony conviction for at least one sexual-related offense involving children raises material and substantial questions as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to be a Commission licensee.

On March 8, 2007, David O. Castle, WA9KJI, of Evansville, Indiana, was first notified by the FCC to "refrain from using the repeater system operating on 146.79/146.19 and 147.15/147.75 MHz," stemming from a complaint by the trustee of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society, W9OG. --ARRL Letter

## SHORTS

**FIELD DAY LOGS RECEIVED ARE POSTED:** All 2007 Field Day logs have been received and posted to the Claimed Scores page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed/>>. They reflect all applications sent from the b4h Web applet, as well as those received via the US postal service and usable electronic submissions sent via regular e-mail (non-Web applet submissions). According to Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, "In some cases we did not receive sufficient information, and those entries are not allowed to be used at this time. A follow-up e-mail was sent to those concerned that included a blank summary sheet and a request to please complete the form and resubmit. In cases where we have not heard back from those requests, the entries are currently not on the list and can't be included until complete information is received back by the ARRL." Those with missing entries, who have questions or who find errors in their listing should contact Henderson via e-mail <[n1nd@arrl.org](mailto:n1nd@arrl.org)> or by phone at 860-594-0236 after Tuesday, August 28 when he returns from vacation. If you call before that date, Henderson asks that you "please leave a message and please be patient. I will work with you to resolve any problems." --ARRL Letter

**NEW PREFIX IN THE WORKS FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:** The ITU has granted a request from the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to replace T9A-T9Z with E7A-E7Z. According to IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, "While it probably will take some time for the BiH administration to implement this change, it should put to an end the use of call signs outside the ITU-allocated call sign block by stations in parts of BiH." The new prefix will be implemented "probably later this year," Sumner said. -ARRL Letter

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