

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

DECEMBER, 2007

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

Wishing you a great holiday season!

SUMMARY OF THE 2-NOVEMBER MEETING – The meeting was called to order by president Jim Rinehart, K9RU (who made it to the meeting on time this month). The "old business" of batteries for the repeater UPSs were discussed. K9RU announced we will need four UPSs to take care of the two computers, an Ethernet switch, and a router. Dave Jarvis and Bob Begeman who are planning to attend the Ft. Wayne Hamfest, will look for good deals on batteries. AF9A will supply dimensions and other details on the batteries before the hamfest. There has been a continuing problem with the fuse holder in the Astron power supply running the repeater final amplifier. The offending fuse holder will be replaced. The Club voted to purchase additional conduit to protect the Cat5 cable running the Mike Koss' Com center to the repeater shack. The December Club meeting will be held at G.T. South's at 71st Street and Binford Blvd. The Club will again get a gift card for Mike Koss in appreciation for the use of his facilities for the repeater. Bob Begeman, W9KVK, will donate some video baluns to allow a security TV camera to be installed near the repeater shack. K9RU promised to update the Club info on QRZ.com.

WY9T IS IRCC 2007 "OUTSTANDING AMATEUR OF THE YEAR" -- The Indiana Radio Club Council has selected Bill Kennedy, WY9T, for the 2007 Outstanding Amateur of the Year. http://www.inarrl.org/2007_AOY.html [Bill was one of the operators for the RCA ARC Field Day effort this year.]

Bill has been a busy person. According to his nomination, Bill has been involved with getting Boy Scouts on the air as well as helping other young people get their amateur radio license.

Our top nominee is described as being a one-man special event station. Over the past 20 years he has been involved with the planning and operation one special event station after another. From the Pan American games in 1987 to the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race this year he has helped organize and anchor several area special event stations. His efforts have paid off in making a record number of contacts.

Bill most recently played an integral part in the success of the USS Indianapolis Memorial Station. As a result, the Museum radio station won the Top Ship award for most contacts this year.

His travels have taken him to the northern border of Indiana to help correct antenna problems for a disabled hams. Bill has been described as a one-man antenna and tower crew.

These are just some of the examples that lead to the selection of Bill Kennedy, WY9T, for this prestigious award. --Jack Parker, W8ISH

CONTESTS AND STUFF -- If you operated in the CQWW Phone contest, you know band condition were better than expected. I think the activity made any band opening obvious. In December we have the ARRL 160 meter CW contest and the ARRL 10 meter contest. The 160 meter contest should be good as the time of year and band conditions favor it. The 10 meter contest is an unknown, sunspot numbers do not favor it, but activity may find some openings. This will add to the challenge! --K9RU

JANUARY RCA ARC MEETING -- The first Tuesday of January is New Years day. Probably not a good day for a Club meeting. We'll decide at the next meeting whether to schedule a meeting another Tuesday in January or wait until February.

INDIANAPOLIS VE TESTING SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF 2007 -- The next VE testing session in Indianapolis will be Saturday, December 1st. Calling in advance to ensure testing availability is suggested but not mandatory.

SPONSOR: Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP)

LOCATION: Indianapolis Training Center 2820 N. Meridian Street.

CONTACTS: Liaison: Gale Wuollet, AA9WU (h) 317-849-8449

COORDINATING VEC: ARRL VEC, Inc.

All testing at the Indianapolis Training Center starts at 9:00 am and the last test will be administered no later than 11:00 a.m.

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

Dec. 14 Indianapolis Radio Club Dinner Meeting, <http://www.indyradioclub.org/>

Feb 23 Cabin Fever Hamfest LaPorte, Amateur Radio Club <http://www.k9jsi.org/>

WRC-07 WRAPS UP IN GENEVA; WILL LIKELY MEET AGAIN IN 2011

The final working session of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva drew to a close Thursday afternoon, November 15. The signing ceremony for the Final Acts will take place Friday. According to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the principal achievements and disappointments, as they relate to the Amateur Services, of the conference are:

Achievements

* Maintenance all existing amateur allocations, including the 7.200-7.300 MHz allocation in ITU Region 2 (the Americas) that had been somewhat at risk in connection with consideration of additional allocations for HF broadcasting (see below).

* A new worldwide secondary allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz with a maximum radiated power limit of 1 W e.i.r.p. (given the low efficiency of practical antennas for this frequency range, this limit is not as severe as it may sound).

* Inclusion of an item, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services" on the provisional agenda for WRC-11 (set for 2011).

* Avoidance of future agenda items that pose serious threats to key amateur allocations.

* Some improvement in the so-called "country footnotes" that provide for different allocations by country in all or part of the 1.8, 3.5, 50 and 430 MHz amateur bands.

Disappointments

* No new allocation for the Amateur Service in the vicinity of 5 MHz, and no agenda item to consider such an allocation at a future conference.

* No future agenda item to consider an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, Africa and parts of the Middle East).

The amateur issues were of course a minor part of the WRC-07 agenda, but the Amateur Service was involved in one of the most contentious agenda items dealing with allocations between 4 and 10 MHz. A series of European Common Proposals had proposed changes to allow for an increase of 350 kHz in HF broadcasting allocations, with a footnote for administrations to allow the Amateur Service to use 5.260-5.410 MHz on a secondary basis and with a radiated power limit of 250 W; however, HF broadcasting had no support from the other regional organizations and no compromise acceptable to all parties could be found. Ultimately the European administrations had to accept "no change" for broadcasting, effectively scuttling our chances for a 5 MHz allocation.

The IARU had hoped that if an allocation could not be achieved at WRC-07, an appropriate agenda item could be included for WRC-11. The 2007 conference, however, had little interest in taking up HF issues at the next conference, tentatively set for 2011, having little to show for a great deal of effort expended on HF in preparing for WRC-07. The only HF issues on the provisional WRC-11 agenda have to do with oceanographic radar applications and the implementation of new digital technologies for the maritime mobile service.

The International Telecommunication Union's planning for the next World Radiocommunication Conference begins on Monday in Geneva, with the convening of a two-day Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-11. Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will attend on behalf of the IARU. –ARRL Letter

MOTOROLA TO ACQUIRE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN PARENT COMPANY OF YAESU

Motorola issued a press release earlier this week stating that its subsidiary, Motorola USA, will "launch a tender offer to acquire a controlling interest in Vertex Standard Co., Ltd." Vertex Standard is the parent company of Yaesu. Upon successful completion of the tender offer and subsequent restructuring process, Motorola will own 80 percent of Vertex Standard; Tokogiken, a privately held Japanese company, controlled by current President and CEO of Vertex Standard Jun Hasegawa, will retain 20 percent, forming a joint venture. The total purchase price for 80 percent of the outstanding shares on a fully diluted basis will be approximately 12.3 billion yen (approximately US \$108 million). The bid will start November 6 and end on December 26. If the bid succeeds, shares of Vertex would be delisted from the Jasdaq Securities Exchange in Japan.

According to Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Yaesu's Executive Vice President for Amateur Radio Sales in North America, "I thought that the happiest and proudest day of my 45-plus years in Amateur Radio was when I was offered the opportunity to lead the Yaesu North American sales effort; however, being able to now announce this news to my fellow Amateur Radio operators takes over as the top life thrill for me! I am certain the good fortune that put me in this leadership chair at Yaesu now promises opportunities for me to do more for the technological future of Amateur Radio than I ever dreamed possible. I do not pretend to know the full extent of the positive impact this Motorola/Vertex Standard business arrangement will have on Amateur Radio -- I just know it is going to be terrific for all of us who love Amateur Radio for its public service and entertainment value, as well as its potential for us to make lifelong friendships in our neighborhoods and around the world."

Saying that hams should not expect to see a line of Motorola Amateur Radio products, Motschenbacher said he sees the joint venture between Motorola and Vertex Standard "as a very good thing for Amateur Radio in general and Yaesu customers in particular. I hope our loyal customers will readily see this business venture for what it is, an opportunity to make a solid 50-plus year old Yaesu company even stronger and more formidable than is already the case. There is absolutely no reason to have the slightest concern about equipment warranties and the continuation of support for our products. I am really excited to see what the joint engineering capabilities of these two huge communications companies will bring in the way of new technology advancement for the Amateur Radio service."

Motorola said that the joint venture "will develop and sell Vertex Standard branded products and develop select Motorola branded products. The Motorola brand will continue to focus on higher featured, higher tier products and continue to utilize existing Motorola distribution channels. Vertex Standard's strength in the Amateur, Marine and Airband (Avionics) segments will also provide Motorola with access to new business opportunities. In addition, Vertex Standard's solutions are highly complementary with Motorola's products and will add greater depth and breadth to Motorola's Government and Public Safety business." According to Hasegawa, "The joint venture will give Vertex Standard access to Motorola's global distribution channels, presenting considerable opportunities for Vertex Standard to drive growth. We also expect to reduce costs, as we will benefit from Motorola's global scale and resources. With Motorola, Vertex Standard will be stronger and better positioned to deliver new and innovative 2-way radio solutions for professionals and consumers around the world."

Motschenbacher said, "There is a unique aspect of business that comes with Amateur Radio. It's not just about a radio. It's the relationship between the ham, the radio itself and the company that makes that radio. This relationship in Amateur Radio is far different than it is, say, between a buyer of a HDTV, the TV and the TV manufacturer. The relationship in Amateur Radio is far more personal and 'bonding,' perse. I am certain that we will do our utmost to ensure that Motorola understands this delicate bond. Since Motorola is leaving the day-to-day management of Yaesu in the hands of my boss, Jun Hasegawa, President of Vertex Standard, we can expect our longtime relationship with hams to remain intact."

Calling the joint venture "a good thing," Motschenbacher said, "Before working in the business side of Amateur Radio, my old business partner and I purchased a number of small companies in our line of business. More often than not, we found that bringing these new acquisitions into our existing family of companies added more to the overall success of the total group than expected. Therefore, I believe that this joint venture is not just a $1 + 1 = 2$ equation -- I am positive that the outcome for our Amateur Radio customers is going to feel more like $1 + 1 = 3$ and that's a good thing!" --ARRL Letter

500 kHz EXPERIMENT ENTERS SECOND SEASON

Fall has brought lower static and good propagation, making excellent conditions for the 500 kHz experimenters. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 19 active stations.

Project Coordinator for the ARRL-sponsored 500 kHz experiment Fritz Raab, W1FR, said, "We have been joined by a second US experimental license, WE2XGR, with five participants, as well experimenters in the QRSS, PSK-31, and others. Contacts have been achieved at distances up to 1234 miles. Signals have been received all over North America, Alaska, and Hawaii, and trans-Atlantic reports are not uncommon."

The best time to listen is between sunset and sunrise, Raab said. "The operating frequencies are: WD2XSH -- 505.2-510 kHz; WE2XGR -- 505-515 kHz; UK -- 501-504 kHz, and SM,

DL, OK -- 505.0-505.2 kHz. Reception reports should be filed at the www.500kc.com Web site so that they become part of our data base." Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>. --ARRL Letter

UNFOUNDED RUMORS: REGION 2 IARU BAND PLAN & AM OPERATION

For those who follow FCC proceedings and already understand what the IARU is and how it operates, this may be old news to you. However, we still appear to have individuals, who do not understand the IARU (and sometimes even the FCC), get very excited when somebody tells them their cherished mode of amateur radio operation is in danger of being eliminated. What follows is for the benefit of these people.

The recently approved IARU Region 2 Band Plan is only an advisory band plan for use, as desired, primarily by those amateur radio societies in Region 2 that have little in the way of a band plan. This is the second IARU Region to adopt a new or revised band plan. Region 3 still has yet to act on this item.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is only an advisory organization made up of the amateur radio societies in each respective region. Region 2 is North and South America. The geographic regions mirror the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Regions. The ITU is the body that develops the rules at World Radio Conferences that then have to be adopted by each country. The IARU has no such power.

The current mini-uproar is the result of a very few ignorant people with issues making postings to various un-moderated Internet email reflectors.

There is no plot to shut down amateur radio AM operation in the U.S. or it's territories. The existing AM footnotes to our current band plan still apply and will continue to do so until the FCC changes or erases them from its Part 97 Regulations. I repeat, there is no ARRL plan to get rid of HF amateur radio AM operation in the U.S. I also point out that the AM footnotes (that enable AM operation) in the current FCC Amateur Radio Service band plan would have still applied to our regulation by bandwidth proposal, if it had become an FCC Regulation. Only the portions of the HF band plan that would have been changed were listed in the ARRL petition to the FCC. This is standard procedure in an FCC filing. Many people still do not "get it".

I find it absolutely amazing that many people jump to conclusions before they do their own homework. This is true in many activities, including amateur radio. There have been, and apparently always will be, individuals who are gullible, biased, have an axe to grind, or are some combination of the three when it comes to discussing and considering amateur radio regulations. They are few in number, but there are a lot of others who are taken in by these people simply because they don't understand the situation and don't want to spend the effort to get the facts directly from the source.

I don't have a good answer to this situation other than to keep working to spread the truth. I apologize for my exasperation that shows through in this message. --ARRL Central Division Director, George Isely, W9GIG

SHORTS

OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT -- ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, announced earlier this week that all operations from Vlad Bykov's, UA4WHX, last trip have been approved for DXCC credit.

These operations include, but may not be limited to, the following: 5X1VB -- Uganda; 9U0VB -- Burundi; 9X0VB -- Rwanda; D20VB -- Angola; D60VB -- Comoros, and J20VB -- Djibouti. Other operations include: 3DA0VB -- Swaziland; 5R8VB -- Madagascar; A25VB -- Botswana; C91VB -- Mozambique; ST2VB -- Sudan; Z2/UA4WHX -- Zimbabwe; V51VV -- Namibia, and OD5/UA4WHX -- Lebanon.

If you have any questions concerning these operations, or any questions about the ARRL DXCC program, please e-mail the DXCC Desk <mailto:DXCC@arrl.org>.

FCC RELEASES BROADBAND REPORT: The FCC has released their latest report summarizing the state of broadband in the US as of December 2006. It shows that by December 2006, Internet-access BPL increased slightly over December 2005, but also shows that it has been decreasing slightly from a peak that occurred sometime around mid-2006. According to the report, Broadband over Power line ended up with a deployment total of 0.006 percent of the total broadband lines in the US, compared to 0.011 percent at the end of December 2005. You can review the report on The FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-277784A1.pdf.

AARP ENDORSES AMATEUR RADIO: Amateur Radio and the ARRL received a significant public relations boost from the AARP this week. Promoting life-long learning for their members, Susan Ayers Walker wrote "Finding Your Hobby Online" for the AARP Web site. What's the first and most prominent activity listed to keep the mind active and functional? Amateur Radio! Here's what the article had to say: "Long before the internet was created, the Amateur Radio network was the way people from all over the world could connect. Amateur, or ham, Radio operators created vast social networks by talking long distances to other radio enthusiasts, making distant friends and exchanging calling cards. It is this linkage of radio enthusiasts that is ready to help communication flow in case of a disaster or weather emergency. The ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, has an informative website with lots of news and information, plus info on getting started or finding a chapter in your area." You can read more at http://www.aarp.org/learntech/computers/life_online/finding_your_hobby_online.html.

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