

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY, 2008 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

*Happy New Year !
Our next meeting will be Feb. 5, 2008*

SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER MEETING – The Club's insurance has been paid for another year. The UPS batteries were again discussed. We will check with Interstate Battery for prices. Clarence, W2PGS will also check the availability of batteries or UPSs. Bob Begeman, W9KVK, announced he has two additional computers to serve as spares for the repeater. It was decided not to hold a January meeting since the first Tuesday is New Year's Day.

NO JANUARY MEETING FOR THE RCA ARC -- The first Tuesday is January 1st so we voted not to have a January meeting with the holiday and many of us will be out of town. The next scheduled meeting will be in February.

BOB ARMBRUSTER, WB9VPK SK -- Phil Owens reports that Bob Armbruster, WB9VPK, has passed away. Bob was active with the RCA ARC in the Sherman Drive days. I saw him recently at the Thomson retire insurance meeting in November. The obituary was in the Indianapolis Star <http://www2.indystar.com/cgi-bin/obituaries/index.php?action=show&id=86067>. I don't have any other details. –K9RU

WORLD RADIO USS INDIANAPOLIS ARTICLE -- The January, 2008 Issue of World Radio has a two page article (pages 44 & 45) "Honor, Duty, Country" about the USS Indianapolis OTA. A Museum Ships event 2005 & 2007. –W9IH

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

Jan 11 Indianapolis Radio Club, Digital Television, and it's effect on Ham Radio,
 presented by Jim Rinehart, K9RU. <http://www.indyradioclub.org/>
Feb 23 Cabin Fever Hamfest LaPorte, Amateur Radio Club <http://www.k9jsi.org/>

ARRL DXCC DESK ANNOUNCES NEW ENTITY

The ARRL DXCC Desk is pleased to announce the addition of St Barthelemy (FJ) to the DXCC List, making the island entity number 338 with a effective date of December 14, 2007. Cards with contacts dated December 14, 2007 or after will be accepted for DXCC credit. New

card submissions for St Barthelemy will not be accepted until January 1, 2008 in order to allow time for administrative adjustments.

On February 21, 2007 the French Ministry issued a decree making St Barthelemy an Overseas Collective, where its status is now equal to that of Guadeloupe, Martinique and other French territories currently on the DXCC List. On November 8, 2007 the President of Association Des Radio Amateurs De St Barthelemy, Philippe Delcroix, FJ5DX, contacted the DXCC Desk, requesting that St Barthelemy be considered a new DXCC entity.

The "event date" that caused St Barthelemy to be added to the DXCC list was December 14, 2007, the date the US State Department added St Barthelemy to the "List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" with its Administrative Center in Gustavia, qualifying it under DXCC rules in Section II - 1 Political Entities (c): "The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government, and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the 'permanent population' and 'administered by a local government' criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the U.S. Department of State's list of 'Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty' as having a local 'Administrative Center,' or (b) the United Nations list of 'Non-Self-Governing Territories.'"

French St Martin (FS), while also added to the List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty, will remain on the DXCC List, but it is now considered a Point 1 Political Entity under the same classification as that of St Barthelemy.

Please direct any questions you may have about St Barthelemy, St Martin or the DXCC program to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

RUMOR CONTROL, RM-11392

There have been postings to multiple ham radio email reflector lists recently concerning an FCC proposed rulemaking on digital transmissions on the HF ham bands. The information posted is very flawed:

1. The link to the supposed RM-11392 is just to the original petitioners copy received by the FCC. There is NO RM number assigned to it.
2. Neither an FCC nor Google search for RM-11392 turns up anything legitimate. There have been (at this time) 75 "comments" posted to the FCC website, starting today's date (12/26/2007) and most likely a result of the flawed information being circulated.
3. In one place, RM-11392 was supposedly issued Dec. 18, 2007 and has 30 day comment period. Yet, there is one ham who has essentially spammed various lists with "support RM-11392" many months before.
4. It appears the latest postings about it all came from the same flawed source.
--Don AE5K, HPSDR Discussion List Admin.

THE TRANSISTOR IS 60

John Bardeen and Walter Brattain, two Bell Labs researchers, built the world's first transistor December 16, 1947. Their device, called a point contact transistor, conducted electricity and amplified signals, a job then currently handled by bulky and delicate vacuum tubes and other components.

Their colleague William Shockley followed soon after with junction transistors. Although Bardeen and Brattain were first, Shockley's device became the basis for a scientific and industrial juggernaut.

Besides making it easier to store information and send signals, transistors had another, somewhat unanticipated, characteristic. They could be shrunk at a consistent rate over time, which makes transistors and electronic products steadily cheaper and faster.

The effect, ultimately expressed as [Moore's Law](#), encouraged investors to pour money into high-tech outfits because people had at least some level of assurance that tomorrow's products would be noticeably better than the ones available today. A high tolerance for risk has become one of the defining traits of Silicon Valley.

For tech companies, Moore's Law also served as a threat. Companies that chose not to invest in the new manufacturing techniques or components would quickly fall behind. Thus, innovation has become a matter of simple survival.

Predicting the end of Moore's Law is a cottage industry. If it does end, the heady lifestyle could slow down. Consumers would simply stop replacing their computers or other devices as fast as they do now and resort to getting new stuff when it breaks, Dan Hutcheson, CEO of VLSI Research, has said.

To date, though, the nay sayers have been wrong. Lithography, the technique exploited to draw circuits, was supposed to hit a wall at 1 micron, and then at 250-nanometer manufacturing. That's because, some people theorized, it would be impossible to draw circuits smaller than the wavelength of light used by lithography machines. The industry blew past the 250-nanometer manufacturing mark in the mid-1990s. (A micron is a millionth of a meter, and a nanometer is a billionth of a meter. The measurement refers to the average feature length of a chip.)

Chips now come out of factories with [45-nanometer features](#), thanks to the introduction of metal gates in transistors, a massive change. Read more at: http://www.news.com/Celebrating-60-years-of-transistors/2100-1006_3-6222770.html?tag=sas_email --C/NET News.com

RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA HONORS CRONKITE, BODSON, BELROSE

At the 98th annual Radio Club of America (RCA) banquet on November 16 in New York City, Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD; ARRL Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, PhD, PE, W4PWF, and Jack Belrose, PhD, VE2CV, were toasted and feted throughout the night. Bodson received the Sarnoff Citation, given to recognize significant contributions to the advancement of electronic communications. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK), was the first recipient of the Sarnoff Citation in 1973. Both Cronkite and Belrose received the Armstrong Medal, the RCA's foremost achievement award and named for its first recipient, Major Edwin Armstrong. The keynote speech was given by Andy Rooney of television's "60 Minutes."

According to RCA Director-Elect Don Bishop, W0WO, Cronkite and Rooney both attended the latter part of cocktail reception that preceded the banquet. Cronkite sat in an elevated chair to greet RCA members and guests in a receiving line and Rooney sat at a small table where the occasional visitor might approach to offer greetings. "The focus was on Cronkite, who enjoyed shaking hands with his admirers and exchanging a few words with them," Bishop said.

After the dinner, RCA Fellow Ted Rappaport, PhD, N9NB, came to the podium to present the

Sarnoff Citation to Bodson. Rappaport said, "It is my honor to present this year's Sarnoff Citation. It isn't given every year. It was initiated in 1973, and it is given to one individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of electronics. This year's recipient is Dennis Bodson. Dennis has dedicated his career to standardizing the electronics industry. His efforts in standards, which were required to allow components made by all manufacturers to interact with one another, were recognized by the IEEE with the Charles Proteus Steinmetz Award. We're honored to have with us Dennis Bodson to receive this citation. I asked him, given his amazing contributions amongst the many he has made technically, what was the key to his success. He said a key to his success was his wife of 42 years, Rita, who is with him tonight."

Bodson received the citation and responded: "As I look back through my career to identify highlights as anyone might do with their own careers, it is never a singular thing one sees. There are many others who help you to achieve. To those, I also thank them. I also have a special thanks to my family and to my wife Rita, because without their cooperation and support, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish much of anything. Thank you, Rita, and thank you to the Radio Club of America."

Richard Somers, W6NSV, presented Cronkite with the Armstrong Award. Somers said, "Each year, the Radio Club of America recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of wireless communications by honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry and the public it serves. The highest and most prestigious award given by the Club is the Armstrong Medal, created in 1935 and named after Major Edwin Armstrong, wireless pioneer and inventor of FM radio. Since that time, this award has been presented infrequently and only to the most accomplished and deserving individuals -- those who have made important contributions to the radio art and science. As his significant contribution, our award recipient has used the medium of television to keep the American public informed of the news in a manner never before imagined. And tonight, we have the distinct privilege of having that individual with us, America's best known and most respected broadcast journalist, Walter Cronkite."

Following the introduction, Cronkite simply said: "Thank you for accepting me as one of you and for your accomplishments in the field of communications."

RCA Vice President Marty Cooper then stepped to the podium and presented a second Armstrong Medal to John S. "Jack" Belrose, PhD, VE2CV. "As Richard said, the Armstrong Medal was first awarded in 1935 and has been awarded 40 times since then. Not long after it was first awarded, our next awardee went to work at the Communications Research Centre in Canada, John Belrose. Jack worked at the Communications Research Centre for 55 years and still works there today but he rose to become the director of the Radiosciences Branch. He was educated in Canada and got his PhD in Cambridge. He has participated in numerous Canadian and international standards and technical groups. He has written more than 125 articles and papers on the subject of radioscience and antennas and propagation. For your lifetime of important communications, it is my pleasure to present you with the Armstrong Medal," Cooper said.

Belrose, a "QST" and "QEX" author, responded: "It was noted that candidates for the Armstrong Medal are restricted to Club members since, in 1937, everyone who was anyone in radio was a member of the Club. We can't say that nowadays, but it shows the prestige that our Club once had. Professor Hazeltine, the first recipient in 1937, said Edwin H. Armstrong is the patron saint of our Club, and certainly it was true. Armstrong made it a practice to make his first declaration of his inventions before the Club. Seven out of 26 important papers were published in our "Proceedings." He was president from 1916 to 1920, and he was one of the six member team that designed, constructed and operated the Amateur Radio station 1BCG that successfully transmitted a 12 word message across the Atlantic from Greenwich, Connecticut to Ardrossan, Scotland on December 11, 1921. Thank you for giving me the

Armstrong Medal. When I look at it, I will think perhaps I did contribute something, rather than nothing, to the book of knowledge." --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

SUNSPOT 978 PROVIDES A NEEDED BREAK FROM THE CYCLE 23 LOWS -- Sunspot 978 faded earlier this month (Dec.), with Tuesday, December 18 its last day visible. It was on December 5th that sun heated up with this sun spot providing the first break in months and hope this was the start of the next sun spot cycle.

Unfortunately, sunspot 978 held no indication for the next sunspot cycle because the magnetic polarity was the same as spots from cycle 23, which is now ending. It was also at mid-latitude and spots from a new cycle tend to be high latitude.

But there was quite an interest in a high-latitude area of reverse magnetic polarity. So far this has not turned into an actual sunspot, so we wait. --ARRL NewsLetter

PETER W. DAHL COMPANY, MANUFACTURERS OF CUSTOM TRANSFORMERS, GOING OUT OF BUSINESS: The Peter W. Dahl Company in El Paso, Texas, will be closing its doors as of December 31, 2007, according to Peter Dahl, K0BIT, owner and founder of the company that has made custom transformers for more than 40 years. Dahl, 67, has Parkinson's Disease. The company manufactured a wide variety of transformers and reactors for Amateur Radio and commercial radio and television applications. According to Dahl, many are direct replacements for original equipment components that are no longer available from the manufacturer, while others have general-purpose applications in any number of different transmitters. He said that they had more than 4000 individual transformer designs on file. QST columnist John Dilks, K2TQN ("Old Radio"), said the closing of the Dahl Company was "sad news for those of us who restore the big iron." Dahl told the ARRL, "I want to thank everyone for their business throughout the years. I have enjoyed making each Amateur Radio transformer." --ARRL Letter

FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO INVITES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS -- The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) is now accepting applications for 55 academic year 2008-2009 scholarships to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2008. FAR fully funds three of scholarships and administers 41 others without cost on behalf of various club and individual donors; grant income funds the remaining 11 awards. Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from \$500 to \$3000, and preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. FAR encourages clubs -- especially those in California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin -- to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on their Web sites. More information and an application form may be requested by letter via e-mail <scholarships@farweb.org> or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2008, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. Headquartered in Washington, DC, FAR consists of more than 75 area Amateur Radio Clubs. FAR is devoted to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. --ARRL Letter

THE *RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER* IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, AND JIM KEETH. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. EMAIL TO <mailto:WebMaster@w9rca.org>. Check our web site at <http://www.w9rca.org/>