

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH, 2008 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING – The 5-February meeting was conducted by VP Dave Jarvis, N9KZJ. Since we had no January meeting, the items from December were reviewed. We still have no batteries for UPSs needed to back up the repeater computers and routers. It was suggested that Jim, K9RU, may purchase batteries. The video baluns donated by Bob, W9KVK, and the associated video surveillance system has not yet been installed. W9KVK also has a spare compute, either for Echolink or the repeater controller, to be delivered probably at the next meeting. The food was good, as usual, and reasonably priced.

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB FIELD DAY – The Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP) asked if the RCA ARC would be interested in joining them in their Field Day operation. They plan a 3A class entry, this is a three transmitter operation, with a VHF and GOTA station. We talked about this last year and the main objection was we wanted to use W9RCA and they wanted to use W9JP. Their goals are for a big score in their class and ours was been to do better than we then the year before. The number of people we have for the Field Day Operation is declining each year and this is something we will discuss at the next meeting.

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June 7-8, 2008 – A Special Event Station will operate from the USS Indianapolis Memorial again this year during the Museum Ships on the air weekend. In the past this has been an every other year Special Event operation to coincide with the survivor's reunion. This year the survivors' reunion was changes to an annual event, so it was decided to follow the lead and make the Special Event operation an annual event. The RCA ARC has been one of the sponsoring clubs for the Special Event operation. N9KZJ will give an update at the meeting.

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB 2008 VE TESTING SCHEDULE --

SPONSOR: Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP)

LOCATION: Indianapolis Training Center, 2820 N. Meridian Street.

CONTACTS: Gale Wuollet, AA9WU 317-849-8449, or Jay Wright, KK9L 317-203-3335

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. Calling in advance to ensure testing availability is suggested but not mandatory. Dates are;

1 - March	5 - April	7 - June
12 - July at the Indianapolis Hamfest 9AM		
16 - August	6 - Sept	4 - October
1 - November	6 - December	

CLASSES CONTINUE IN HENDRICKS COUNTY -- Continuing on Wednesdays, at 7:00 p.m., amateur radio classes will be held at the Danville Senior Services Center, 1201

Sycamore Lane, Danville, IN. Technician classes, as well as General and Extra upgrade classes will be available. Contact Dr. Jay Wright, KK9L, at 317-203-3335 for more details.

KB9ZLB, HEATHER HEININGER IS PUBLISHED IN WORLD RADIO -- If you get the World Radio magazine, you need to check out page 40 in the March 2008 issue. Heather Heininger, KB9ZLB, has a poem published about ham radio. Heather is very active on 6 meters and with the W9IMS operation.

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

Mar 8 Terre Haute Hamfest, Vigo Co. Fairgrounds <http://w9uuu.org/>
Mar 29 Columbus Hamfest, <http://www.qsl.net/carc>
Apr 20 North Central Indiana Hamfest, <http://www.ncihamfest.com/>
May 16-18 Dayton Hamvention, <http://www.hamvention.org/>
June 7-8 Museum Ships Weekend
June 28-29 Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay>
July 12 Indianapolis Hamfest, <http://www.indyhamfest.com/>
Aug 17 TARA Hamfest, Lafayette, IN <http://w9reg.org/hamfest/index.htm>
Nov 15-16 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo. <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>

REPEATER COORDINATION: SERA ANNOUNCES DIGITAL VOICE BANDPLANS

Someone had to take the lead in coordinating digital voice repeaters and the SouthEastern Repeater Association has. While not the first digital voice repeater plan, it represents the largest geographic area and likely will have an impact on neighboring states and those states neighbors. Amateur Radio Newline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM has the details:

Acting on a motion presented by Mississippi Director Steve Grantham, AA5SG, the giant SouthEastern Repeater Association has adopted provisions to allow for the introduction of digital voice technology systems. This includes such entities as P 25 and D-Star repeaters.

To make this happen association President Roger Gregory, W4RWG, appointed a working committee to implement the needed changes on the groups web site. While the web presentation is described as a work-in-progress there are already links to the newly posted 144 to 148 MHz and 420 to 450 MHz Frequency Utilization Plans.

The SouthEastern Repeater Association has taken the position that the introduction of digital voice technology must have minimal impact on all existing analog operations in both the repeater and non repeater portions of any band. A quick glance shows that on both bands the coordinating body has chosen to keep most, though not all, digital voice operation within current repeater subbands. It uses interleaving between existing F-M repeaters to accomplish this.

The committee has a lot more work ahead of it to make this all happen smoothly. This includes modifying any association documents or forms requiring change. It's also tasked with assisting district coordinators in matters pertaining to the introduction of such digital

repeaters. The committee will also continue to study and bring forth new information as needed to facilitate ongoing effective digital repeater coordination efforts.

Whether or not the SouthEastern Repeater Association plan will be adopted nationally is not known, but it opens the door to a coordinated effort to introduce digital voice repeaters while protecting all other spectrum users. And that's definitely a step in the right direction.

The SouthEastern Repeater Association is the nation's largest repeater band-planning body. It provides voluntary frequency coordination for Amateur Radio repeaters in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. The action on digital voice repeaters came at the organization's winter board meeting on January 5th. You can see its new 2 meter and 70 centimeter band plans on line at:

OVERVIEW OF SERA PLAN: <http://www.sera.org/D-Star Position Statement - 3.htm>

SERA 144-148 MHz Frequency Utilization Plan: <http://www.sera.org/2.html>

SERA 420-450 MHz Frequency Utilization Plan: <http://www.sera.org/440.html> -- SERA

HOMEBREW CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Homebrew Challenge (HBC) <http://www.arrrl.org/qst/hbc/> was announced in the August 2006 issue of QST and on the ARRL Web site. Entrants were encouraged to submit a home-constructed voice and CW, 5 W minimum output radio by August 1, 2007. The radio had to be reproducible from no more than \$50 of new parts.

In October of 2006, by popular demand, HBC organizers at ARRL offered a second category to the competition that allowed a PC to be used as part of the control, display or processing function; it could also be used to program a microprocessor.

QST Technical Editor Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, found four entries that passed the documentation and price confirmation check. These entries also went through an ARRL Laboratory evaluation to make sure that they met all the ARRL and FCC technical requirements before being subjected to a thorough operational evaluation by ARRL staffers.

The judges announced two winners in the HBC, one in each category. The PC-supported winner was Jim Veatch, WA2EIJ, who gathered the most points in the evaluation by our judges; an article describing his radio will appear in the May 2008 issue of QST. In a way, Hallas said, Veatch's radio could be considered a contender for the other award as well, since he has agreed to provide his firmware onto builders' processors at no cost if they don't have programming capabilities.

The winner with a radio totally without use of a PC is Steve Weber, KD1JV, who came in close behind in overall scoring by the judges. His radio will be described in a subsequent QST article.

In addition to these winners, entries were received from Dave Cripe, NM0S, and Doug Pongrance, N3ZI. Hallas said the judging panel enjoyed exploring and operating each radio; each radio had its strong points and unique features, making selection difficult. The judges spent many hours operating, comparing and scoring the radios based on their technical proficiency, as well as operating features and reports from distant stations.

Hallas thanked the judges for contributing their time to this effort: W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI; Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B. Hallas also served as a judge. Almost all the judges have considerable experience operating low power (QRP) radios in contests and other venues. Hare has served as a judge for various QRP equipment contests

sponsored by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRPARCI) and noted these entries stood well in comparison to many he has judged previously.

Hallas also thanked ARRL Lab Engineer Michael Tracy, KC1SX, for fitting in HBC testing between product review evaluations and his other responsibilities, as well as for helping set up the operational evaluation suite in the newly renovated W1HQ/W1INF Headquarters Operators Club shack. --ARRL Letter

COLUMBUS LAB INSTALLED ON THE ISS

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station complex got the new Columbus lab up and running during the recent visit by the shuttle Atlantis. Columbus, the laboratory built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and host of two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas, was launched into space on February 7 aboard the space shuttle Atlantis, arriving three days later.

In 2007, the ARISS antennas successfully passed electrical and SWR tests, with one of the two antennas, Antenna 42, going through a final test -- a thermal test under vacuum. Columbus will house an additional Amateur Radio station, including the first digital Amateur Radio TV (DATV) station in space, as well as a ham radio transponder. The yet-to-be-built Columbus amateur gear will facilitate operation on new frequencies that will make it possible for ARISS to establish wideband and video operations for the first time and allow continuous transponder operation.

According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, "The ARISS-Europe Team has been holding meetings to determine what the ARISS International Team should have for a station in the Columbus module. The Europeans will need to begin fundraising for the multiple sets of equipment, such as the on-orbit equipment, the required back-up on-orbit equipment and the test equipment. Some portions of the equipment system can be purchased, but much of it would need to be built. Once the team purchases or builds the equipment, it will need to undergo special testing for space and getting the equipment certified (probably by ESA) and finally manifesting the system for launch. All of that will take many months and help from ARISS volunteers from many countries."

The mission, STS-122, brought seven astronauts to the ISS: Commander Stephen N. Frick, KD5DZC; Pilot Alan G. Poindexter; Mission Specialist Rex J. Walheim; Mission Specialist Stanley G. Love; Mission Specialist Leland D. Melvin; Mission Specialist Hans Schlegel, DG1KIH, of Germany, and Mission Specialist/Expedition 16 Flight Engineer Leopold Eyharts, KE5FNO, of France. Flight Engineer Dan Tani, KD5DXE, already on board the ISS, returned to Earth on Atlantis; Eyharts stayed behind on the ISS and take his place.

Touchdown was February 20, making for a 13-day flight. --ARRL Letter

W1HQ IS THE ARRL HQ NEW EMPLOYEES CLUB CALL SIGN

W1HQ is the ARRL headquarters station for ARRL employees to enjoy during non-work hours. W1HQ became the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club, replacing W1INF as the employees' club station. W1HQ, former QST Managing Editor Laird Campbell, W1HQ, became a Silent Key in 2002 and W1HQ became the ARRL HQ club station with his family's blessing.

The Employees have the option of using their own call sign while operating W1HQ, or they may use W1HQ. Of course, employees are not allowed to use the station during their working hours, but may use it on their free time, such as lunch hour and weekends.

W1INF will be used by the ARRL Laboratory staff for on-the-air operations and tests.

Since the mid-1930s, W1INF, the ARRL HQ Operators Club, has been available to ARRL employees. During the flood of 1936, W1INF handled a great quantity of flood relief traffic after the headquarters station, W1MK, located at Hartford's Brainard Field, near the Connecticut River, was destroyed. At the time, W1INF was located at the League's West Hartford headquarters.

Breathing new life into W1HQ, ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, gave the room a much-needed coat of new paint. Hare put his woodworking skills to use and constructed all-new desks and cabinets. Building Manager Greg Kwasowski, W1GJK, installed new carpet and ceiling tiles and Test Engineer Mike Tracy, KC1SX, and Lab Assistant Anthony Nesta, AA1RZ, ran new antenna cables to the roof and rewired the entire room with a new antenna patch panel to accommodate all the new antenna feed lines. Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, built a trap vertical.

W1HQ provides ARRL employees who do not have an amateur station of their own a place to get on the air. "I'm thrilled to have this station here," said Kutzko. "I live in an apartment and can't put up antennas outside at home. W1HQ gives me a way to chase DX and be active in contests on both HF and VHF."

Breen said, "I live in a condo and don't have a lot of availability to get on the air at home. With the revitalization of W1HQ, it's now a homey, comfortable place to get on the air."

W1HQ is equipped with transceivers that were brought over from W1AW. Mike Mertel, K7IR, of SteppIR, donated a 3-element 20-6 meter Yagi to W1HQ that was placed on the roof of the Headquarters building in November 2007. Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound donated two new Pro Set 4 mic/headsets, a PR781 Proline microphone and a topless boom to the station. Nema Electronics Inc and Times Microwave Systems jointly donated two 500 foot rolls of LMR-400.

SHORTS

NEW D-STAR FORUM LAUNCHED: With many forums including each transceiver type and even a mods, tweeks and bug fixes section. Registration required by you can enter the forum. Diagrams are online today showing users how to build their own data cables. The url is <http://www.dstarforum.com/> --G0KSC

FCC CHANGES "LOCKBOX BANK" FOR VANITY CALL SIGN PAYMENTS: As of February 14, 2008, U.S. Bank has replaced Mellon Bank as the lockbox bank for all FCC programs (with the exception of auction-related payments). Applicants who manually file FCC paper applications via mail -- usually for new vanity call signs or for renewal of vanity call signs -- will need to send payments to U.S. Bank. Amateurs filing paper applications for a new Vanity Call Sign Applications need to submit FCC Payment Form 159 and the FCC Regulatory Fee <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanityfee.html>, along with the FCC Form 605 and FCC Form 605 Schedule D. After completing all required forms, mail them along with the payment to the address of the Commission's new lockbox bank: Federal Communications

Commission, PO Box 979097, St Louis, MO 63197-9000. When submitting fees, payments or applications to the lockbox bank, filers should specifically reference the Government Lockbox number - 979097 -- on the 159 payment form. U.S. Bank will accept hand-delivered filings or courier deliveries at their office located at U.S. Bank, attn: FCC Government Lockbox Number 979097, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St Louis, MO 63101. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, "The FCC has also established a 45-day transition period that began on February 14 to mitigate the transition's impact and to provide time to resolve any reconciliation and change-over discrepancies." The FCC strongly encourages the use of their electronic filing and payment options. Electronic payments can be submitted through their secure Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html>. Electronic payments allow for faster processing of applications. Further info can be found on FCC Web Site <http://www.fcc.gov/fees/lockbox.html>.

2008 FIELD DAY WEB PAGE GOOD TO GO: The official 2008 ARRL Field Day Web page [http:// www.arrl.org/FieldDay](http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay) is up and running. The page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links. There is also a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, pins and other supplies. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said supplies will begin shipping in early March, but it's not too early to place a pre-order now. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.

AMSAT GETS KEPLERIAN DATA APPROVAL -- AMSAT's 2008-2009 request to re-distribute Keplerian elements from US Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) Space-Track web site has been approved. The USSTRATCOM Form 1 request to re-distribute the Keps was approved as of February 21, 2008. This means that AMSAT will continue to distribute the NASA verbose and the two line format Keplerian data for another year. Thanks to AFSPC for their help. --AMSAT News Service

CQ -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MgOyWW5uG8>

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