RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

APRIL, 2008 **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE **RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 1st (no foolin'), 6:30 PM AT THE G.T. SOUTH'S, 5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

The 4-March meeting of the RCA ARC was cancelled because of a snow storm and not so good road conditions.

PROPOSED JOINT RCA ARC AND INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB FIELD DAY OPERATION -- Since we did not have a February meeting and no chance to talk over the proposed joint FD operation with the IRC, N9KZJ and K9RU met with K9XV to discuss the details of a combined club operation and look at possible field day sites.

The proposed operation would be 2A, that is, a two transmitter operation. This would allow one station set up for phone and the other could be used for both CW and phone. We would also be allowed a VHF and GOTA station. W9RCA would be used for the GOTA station and W9JP used for the main FD operation. The plan is to use ICOM 756 Pros for all the stations. Logging software would be N1MM. We are looking into using batteries for power to eliminate problems with generators.

The favored FD site is at the home of K9XV, near Acton. It has the room for the setup and parking. One station could be setup on a screened porch, a camper could be used for the other. There is a garage on the other side of the house that could be used for the GOTA station. The VHF could be located with any of these stations.

The joint club Field Day effort will provide enough manpower and experience to run the 2A operation, and still be a lot of fun. -- K9RU

IRC BUS TO THE DAYTON HAMVENTION --Indianapolis Radio Club is doing the bus to the Dayton Hamvention again this year. The bus trip is on Saturday, May 17, plans are the same as last year with pick up and return stops on the south and east sides of Indianapolis. They will stop in Richmond for breakfast on the way over to Dayton and stop on the way back for dinner. The bus drops you at the door of Hara Arena and picks you up when the hamfest closes. Tickets are $30 each. The bus ticket does not include admission to the show or meals. Check out the Indianapolis Radio Club web site for details.
If you look at the cost of gas and parking at Dayton, this is a good deal.
For bus tickets contact: Judy Gardner, AA9GW – e-mail: aa9gw@juno.com

HAMVENTION 2008: ROAD CONSTRUCTION NEAR THE HARA ARENA – [Bob, W9KVK, passes this along to anyone planning to go to the Dayton Hamvention this year.]

If you are planning to attend the 2008 Dayton Hamvention, you will need to give yourself a little more driving time than in years past. This due to several road and street construction projects that will be ongoing in the area.

The first problem is construction is at the north end of the downtown Dayton area on Interstate 75 from about Mile Marker 53 to 56. Rob Lunsford KB8UEY, who is the Hamvention's Talk-In Committee Chairman says that the Ohio Department of Transportation

has started a multi-year multi-phase reconstruction of I-75 in which there are lane restrictions, bridge replacements, and various other adjacent projects.

The other traffic pinch involves one of the main surface streets used by attendees of Hamvention. Needmore Road it is almost a straight shot from exit 58 on I-75 to Hara Arena. Unfortunately for Hamvention goers a rebuild project is set to begin on this roadway and it will be down to one lane each way for no less than 100 working days. If you look at a calendar, that includes Hamvention weekend.

Lunsford says that these repairs are long overdue and there are work-arounds for those driving to both the Hara Arena and the event parking at the nearby Salem Mall. We suggest that you go to http://www.hamvention.org/ in coming days to find the alternate route that best serves you. –W9KVK

MARION COUNTY SKYWARN EMERGENCY NET REPEATER ANTENNA STROM DAMAGE -- The 146.76 MHz repeater's antenna may have suffered some damage in the March ice storm and the repeater was switched to another antenna on the tower. The present antenna will be replaced as it appears to have some internal damage.

All Skywarn Emergency Net operations as well as any other County Emergency Traffic will be conducted will be on the 146.76, but if the coverage is not good enough it will switch to the 146.70 MHz repeater, being used as a backup, thanks to the Indianapolis Repeater Association.

I.C.E. FOR SALE -- That's right – Indianapolis based I.C.E. (Industrial Communication Engineers), manufacturer of lightning arrestors, bandpass filters and other gizmos, has been put up for sale. Mike Koss, the CEO took the radical step of initially offering it on eBay.

Mike, W9SU, first licensed in 1968 as WB9BPG, has been very active in amateur radio and equipment he developed for his own station has evolved into a successful business.

Mile's plans after the sale includes devoting more time and resources in developing the already phenomenal "Comm Center" that is the club station for the Indianapolis Radio League and used for contesting, emergency communication and the home of the W87PAX and W9IMS special event operations. He might even try a DXpedition –K9RU

USS INDIANAPOLIS SPECIAL EVENT STATION GETS NEW CALL SIGN -- WW2IND is the new call for the USS Indianapolis (CA-35) Amateur Radio Club. Brain Smith, W9IND has allowed the use of his call for the past operations and well as being an active member of the group. The next operation will on the Museum Ships Weekend June 7 - 8, 2008 operating from the USS Indianapolis Memorial again this year. The Special operation coincides with the survivor's reunion. N9KZJ will give an update at our April meeting.

INDIANAPOLIS VE TESTING SCHEDULE -- Here is the Indianapolis Radio Club VE testing schedule for the rest of the year. Calling in advance to ensure testing availability is suggested but not mandatory.

April 5th
June 7th
July 12th (At a separate location with the Indianapolis Hamfest)
August 16th
Sept 6th
October 4th
November 1st
December 6th

SPONSOR: Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP)
LOCATION: Indianapolis Training Center 2820 N. Meridian Street.
CONTACTS: Gale Wuollet, AA9WU (h) 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.

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

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/

FCC DENIES PETITIONS TO BRING BACK MORSE CODE TESTING

In a "Memorandum Opinion and Order" (MOO) released February 28, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a "Report and Order" (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that amended Section 97.501 eliminating Morse code telegraphy requirement as of February 23, 2007.

The FCC noted in reaching this decision that "one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators' ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The FCC also noted that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is "to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy."

The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement "did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules." The Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so "it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license."

Two amateurs submitted separate petitions to the FCC, asking them to bring back the testing. Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina California, objected to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, requested the FCC reconsider their decision for "'strictly procedural'" reasons.

Gordon asserts that "'the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well.'" Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as "a 'strategic reserve,'" because there is "no assurance that...voice or digital modes will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments."

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. "We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission's decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency."

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that "an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition."

In summary, the FCC said neither petition asserted "any grounds for reconsidering" the decision in the Report and Order. "We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees.

TEXAS TO HOST USA'S ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bastrop State Park in Central Texas will be the site for this year's USA championship of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting. Fans of this international sport -- also called foxhunting or Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) -- are making travel plans now.

Interest and participation in ARDF has been growing every year since stateside hams first competed at the World Championships in 1998. Beginning in 2001, there has been an annual national championship to see who is best at the sport and to select team members for the World Championships. The Texas ARDF group and the Houston Orienteering Club are combining to host this year's events, to be held the second weekend of May.

Thursday, May 8 is scheduled for arrival and equipment testing; 2 and 80 meter transmitters will also be on the air near the event headquarters. There will also be a get-acquainted meeting and drawing for the starting order.

The 2 meter contest will take place Friday morning. Competitors will start in small groups made up of different age and gender categories, in the drawn order.

The 80 meter event will be early Saturday morning with starts in reverse order, highest numbers first. After everyone returns from the woods and the results are tallied, medals will be presented for first, second and third place in each category. There will be ample time for everyone to return home in time for Mother's Day activities.

On both bands, each of the five foxes transmits for 60 seconds at a time in numbered order on one frequency, and then the cycle repeats. Fox #1 continuously sends "MOE" in Morse code, then #2 sends "MOI," #3 sends "MOS" and so forth. Knowledge of Morse code isn't

necessary, because the number of dits reveals which fox is on. Find your required foxes in any order and then head for the finish, following your map or the continuous beacon transmitter on a second frequency.

As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate the woods. A ham radio license is not required, so encourage your unlicensed-but-athletic friends and family members to join in. Each person competes as an individual; there is no teaming or person-to-person assistance allowed on the courses. Using GPS as a navigation aid is also forbidden.

Registration for the 2008 USA championships is now open. A $70-per-person package includes the practice session, both competitions, Friday dinner and a T-shirt. Check out the Texas ARDF Web site http://www.texasardf.org/ for detailed schedules, frequencies, lodging information and registration forms.

ARRL GEARING UP FOR DAYTON

ARRL EXPO returns to Dayton Hamvention, to be held May 16-18, 2008 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The huge ARRL exhibit area is a showcase of displays, activities and program representatives to enhance your ham radio experience. The ARRL EXPO is open to all Hamvention attendees. Meet ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, other ARRL officials, volunteers and staff knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics. Among the highlights of the exhibit space will be a card checking area for operating awards, activities for young hams, the ARRL bookstore and more. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is the ARRL EXPO coordinator. "We are looking at some new and exciting venues within EXPO, but I'm not ready to spill the beans quite yet! We are focusing our attention this year on the theme of technology and on Hamvention's theme celebrating ham radio fellowship -- stay tuned for more news. We sincerely thank the 2008 Dayton Hamvention Committee and their volunteers for all they do to make this a signature convention; we are so pleased to participate." Keep an eye on the ARRL EXPO Web site for updates. http://www.arrl.org/expo

500 KHz RECORD BROKEN AGAIN

On February 21, Neil Schwanitz, V73NS/WD8CRT, on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, received a signal from experimental station WD2XSH/6. This experimental station, operated by Pat Hamel, W5THT, is located in Long Beach, Mississippi -- 6679 miles away from the island in the Kwajalein atoll. This contact breaks the previous record for the longest 500 kHz contact. That record, set in January 2008, was for a distance of 4737 miles from Cottage Grove, Oregon to Roi-Namur. An article on Hamel's station appears in the March issue of QST. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 20 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio. Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX. -- Information provided by Fritz Raab, W1FR http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf http://www.500kc.com

STATION LOCATOR SERVICE NEW FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field

Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site and follow the instructions. http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php –ARRL Letter

FCC FIXES TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS IN PART 97

On March 12, in an effort to correct typographical errors in the Commission's Rules (including rules affecting Part 97, the Amateur Radio Service), the FCC released a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MOO) http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-530A1.pdf. According to the FCC, these changes in the MOO are "non-substantive editorial revisions" and do not introduce new rules or change old rules applicable to Amateur Radio operators.

In this MOO, the FCC is updating the Allocation Table and service rules for the Amateur Radio Service with regard to the band 75.5-81 GHz. In 2003, the Commission released a Report & Order (R&O) http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-248A1.pdf, commonly called the "70/80/90 GHz R&O," that adopted a transition plan for the amateur use of the segment 75.5-76 GHz. The Commission concluded that moving Amateur Radio operations out of the 75.5-76 GHz band would not pose a major inconvenience to the Amateur Radio Service, but would "substantially benefit future fixed services, because it would eliminate the possibility of harmful interference from amateurs." Accordingly, the primary allocations to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services in the 75.5-76 GHz band were downgraded from primary to secondary status, with secondary use ceasing on January 1, 2006. After that date, the band 75.5-76 GHz was no longer available for use by the Amateur Service or the Amateur Satellite Service.

This transition plan was codified in footnote US387 and in Section 97.303(r)(3) of the Commission's Amateur Service rules. Because the transition period has concluded, the Commission "removed expired footnote US387 from the list of U.S. footnotes and we are amending Part 97 of the Commission's Rules to reflect this allocation change by: (1) revising the entry "75.5-81.0" GHz in Section 97.301(a) to read "76-81" GHz; (2) removing paragraphs (r)(2) and (r)(3) from Section 97.303; and (3) renumbering paragraph (r)(1) as paragraph (r)." In October 2006, the FCC released another Report & Order (R&O) http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf, the "Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O," that expanded the phone bands. With the release of the MOO, the FCC is making two changes.

The first change to the October 2006 R&O is simply a correction of a typographical error in the Rules for the General phone allocation on 15 meters. In the Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O, the Commission revised 21.30-21.45 MHz to read 21.275-21.45 MHz, but the current codification of the rule does not reflect this change. All the Commission did was to bring the Rules into alignment with the R&O.

The second change fixed an omission in the Novice/Technician allocation on 40 meters. The FCC found that when the Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O was released, "the Commission expanded the frequency segment authorized for amateur voice communications within the 40 meter band by correspondingly reducing a band segment used for narrowband emission types by 25 kHz, from 7.100-7.150 MHz to 7.100-7.125 MHz." The revised frequency table in Section 97.301(e) of the FCC's Rules that lists authorized frequency bands for Novice and Technician Class inadvertently omitted 7.100-7.125 MHz from Regions 1 and

3. "Because the Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O addressed the division of amateur frequencies among permissible emission types and not between geographic ITU Regions, we must further amend Section 97.301(e), as set forth in Appendix C, to implement the Commission's decision. Specifically, we are revising the 40 meter band by reinserting the segment '7.100-7.125' MHz in the Region 1 and Region 3 columns."

The FCC also took the opportunity to remove a double negative from Section 97.303(b). Before the release of the MOO, this Section read: "No amateur station transmitting in the 1900-2000 kHz segment, the 70 cm band, the 33 cm band, the 23 cm band, the 13 cm band, the 9 cm band, the 5 cm band, the 3 cm band, the 24.05-24.25 GHz segment, the 76-77.5 GHz segment, the 78-81 GHz segment, the 136-141 GHz segment, and the 241-248 GHz segment SHALL NOT cause harmful interference to, nor is protected from interference due to the operation of, the Federal radiolocation service." The FCC chose to take out the word "NOT" to bring the rule's words in line with the spirit of the rule. –ARRL Letter

DUCIE ISLAND, VP6DX, SET NEW RECORDS

After 13 days, 7 hours and 37 minutes of continuous operation, the VP6DX Team on Ducie Island made their 168,723rd contact. Valeri Koursov, RA0ALM, of Krasnoyarsk, Russia, contacted the Ducie Island expedition on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 0437 UTC on 30 meters. According to documents maintained by Jari Jussila, OH2BU, this contact breaks the record for the largest number of contacts made by any radio expedition. The previous record was held since February 8-28, 2001 by the Five Star DX Association's DXpedition to the Comoros Island, D68C.

The VP6DX Ducie Island DXpedition was one of three DXpeditions granted Colvin Award. -- Information provided by VP6DX Team. http://ducie2008.dl1mgb.com/onlinelog/index.php

FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

KB1CQX -- Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Amanda F. Spenlinhauer, KB1CQX, of Wells, Maine, reminding her that the trustees of the N1KMA, N1VAR, KQ1L and the repeaters operating under the WA1ARN call sign have requested in writing and verbally that you refrain from use of the repeater. These requests were due to Spenlinhauer's failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users and FCC rules. Spenlinhauer has ignored both the verbal and written requests.

The FCC warned that it would initiate enforcement action against her license which can include revocation, monetary forfeiture or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which she may operate KB1CQX". The Commission expects her to abide by the request to stay off the repeater systems and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee. Fines normally range from $7500-$10,000.

Spenlinhauer's Amateur Radio license is set to expire on April 7, 2008 and Hollingsworth advised "that your license will not be routinely renewed unless this matter is resolved."

Interference from Part 15 Device -- Hollingsworth also sent a an inquiry into interference from a Part 15 device to a licensee in Holmen, Wisconsin, and a Warning Notice concerning interference on 10 meters from an unlicensed station in Harmony, North Carolina. Two cases were opened by the Commission regarding unlicensed transmissions on non-amateur frequencies by amateur licensees in Zebulon and Pikeville, North Carolina. The Appalachian

Power Company in Charleston, West Virginia also received a letter from the FCC regarding radio frequency interference from power line hardware to an Amateur Radio licensee.

KA3OMZ -- On March 6, the FCC announced that it has issued a "Forfeiture Order" in the amount of $4300 to Ronald Mondgock, KA3OMZ, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, "for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 301 of the "Communications Act of 1934, as amended" (Act), by operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license." Mondgock's Novice class Amateur Radio license expired in December 2005.

Mondgock received several Advisory Notices and Citations: February 2001 an "Advisory Notice"warning that he had been heard operating on the 75 meter band which was a portion of the band he was not authorized to use.

In July 2004 he received a "Citation" from the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office "related to failure to identify, transmissions involving obscenity and indecency and operating on a frequency not authorized for your Novice Class license."

In November 2004 for a "Warning Notice" not replying to the "Citation" within the 20-day period. In the Warning Notice, Mondgock was warned by the Commission that if "a reply is not received by December 15, 2004, a 'Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture' will be issued against you. We note also that your license expires December 14, 2005. No renewal or upgrade will be granted until this matter is resolved."

FCC agent with the Philadelphia Office investigated complaints received about your operation and monitored radio communications on the frequency 146.550 MHz allegedly between William Chapman (KB3IXS) and you. Based on the radio communications that the FCC agent monitored, you may have violated the following FCC rules: Failing to transmit an amateur license call sign, in violation of Section 97.119(a) of the rules; Transmitting obscene and indecent words and language, in violation of Section 97.113(a) of the rules, and Operating on an unauthorized frequency, in violation of Section 97.301(e) of the rules. Mondgock was given 20 days to respond and told that his response "must address each alleged violation and include a statement of the specific actions taken to preclude a recurrence."

In February 2006, the Commission sent Mondgock a letter telling him that his application for renewal of his Amateur Radio license "cannot be routinely granted and has been referred to the Enforcement Bureau for review." He was advised that this was because he had never submitted responses to the Commission's correspondence or never claimed a letter sent via certified mail. Mondgock was given yet another 20 days to respond to this letter, and warned that if he chose not to do so that "your application for renewal will be dismissed and a 'Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture' will be issued against you."

In December 2006, the FCC's Field Office in Philadelphia sent Mondgock another "Letter of Inquiry" to "follow up on a recent investigation, of the operation of your Amateur Radio Service station, on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania agents determined the operation of your Amateur Radio Service station on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz violates Section 1.903(a) of the Rules and your operation on those frequencies must cease immediately. In addition, Mondgock was required to submit a detailed written response to the questions below regarding the operation of your station."

FCC received another report about Mondgock continued operation and sent an FCC agent with the Philadelphia Office to conducted an investigation between August-October 2006. Using direction finding techniques the agent determine that Mondgock apparently operated radio transmitting equipment on the frequency 439.850 MHz from your residence and from

your vehicle on October 24, 2006 and September 19, 2006. In addition, on September 12, 2006, the agent used direction finding techniques to determine that Mondgock apparently operated a repeater station on the frequency 147.560 MHz from One Commerce Square in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."

The FCC asked Mondgock 11 detailed questions concerning his operations, directing him to "provide a complete explanation to the following questions and should provide copies of any relevant documents." He was told that his answers must be accompanied by a signed, sworn statement attesting to the truth and accuracy of the response. He was given 20 days to respond with answers to the questions and provide the sworn statement.

On August 15, 2007, the Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued a "Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture" (NAL) to Mondgock in the amount of $10,000 for operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license. Mondgock responded to the NAL and did not dispute the findings of the Commission, but requested a cancellation of the Forfeiture based on his inability to pay.

In examining Mondgock's response, Section 503(b) of the "Act" requires that the Commission take into account "the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require." When considering someone's inability to pay a fine, the FCC has determined that, in general, gross revenues are the best indicator of an ability to pay a forfeiture. The FCC examined Mondgock's financial documentation that he provided and declined to cancel the forfeiture but reduced the amount from the original $10,000 to $4300. –ARRL Letter

AMSAT NOTES PASSING OF ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Last week marked the passing of Arthur C. Clarke, author of more than 100 published books in which he foresaw the future of technology, promoted the possibilities of human innovation and exploration and combined these with the ability to explain these to non-scientific readers.

The most famous example is from 1945, when he first proposed the idea of communications satellites that could be based in geostationary orbits, which keep satellites in a fixed position relative to the ground.

Tom Clark, K3IO recalled, "You might be interested in knowing that Arthur was an AMSAT Life Member. His member number, quite fittingly, was LM-2001."

Tom continued, "In the 1970's and 80's, Arthur was a frequent visitor to NASA. He was listed in the Goddard phone directory as a consultant in the LANDSAT group, and he also served as a consultant at NASA HQ. In the early 1980's (when I was AMSAT President), on a trip to Washington, Dick Daniels (W4PUJ), Jan King (W3GEY) and I made the presentation of honorary AMSAT LM-2001 to Arthur. He was most appreciative and spent a couple of hours talking with us about our being the "Wright Brothers" of the satellite world, building satellites in our basements and garages."

Arthur communicated with us several times in the years following that visit. He asked that his LM-2001 AMSAT Journal subscription be sent in his name to a library in Sri Lanka. -- AMSAT News Service

BLACK HOLE RF SIGNATURES AT 29-47 MHZ

Here is an item to discuss on the 2M repeater drive to work which may be more interesting than traffic, the weather, or the signs and symptoms of a gallbladder attack.

This week the UniverseToday website revealed that radio astronomers may be able to detect the evaporation and death of a primordial black hole by listening for their radio frequency emissions in the 29-47 MHz range.

Primordial black holes are remnants of the Big Bang and they are predicted to be knocking around in our universe right now. If they were 10^12 kg or bigger at the time of creation, they have enough mass to have survived constant evaporation from Hawking radiation over the 14 billion years since the beginning of the cosmos.

But what happens when the tiny black hole evaporates so small that it becomes so tightly wrapped around the structure of a fifth dimension (other than the "normal" three spatial dimensions and one time dimension)? Well, the black hole will explosively show itself, much like an elastic band snapping, emitting energy. These final moments will signify that the primordial black hole has died. What makes this exciting is that researchers believe they can detect these events as spikes of radio wave emissions and the hunt has already begun.

Interestingly, if their predictions are correct, this could provide evidence for the existence of a fifth dimension, a dimension operating at scales of billionths of a nanometer. If this exotic emission can be received, and if it is corroborated by both antennae, this could be evidence of the string theory prediction that there are more dimensions than the four we currently understand.

The Eight-meter-wavelength Transient Array (ETA) run by Virginia Tech Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering and Physics, and the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI), is currently taking high cadence radio wave observations and has been doing so for the past few months. This basic-looking antenna system, in fields in Montgomery County, North Carolina, is giving researchers a unique opportunity to see primordial black holes as they die.

See the full story at: http://www.universetoday.com/2008/03/16/when-black-holes-explode-measuring-t he-emission-from-the-fifth-dimension/ --AMSAT, Universe Today

SHORTS

TRADE OLD RCA QSL CARDS FOR 50S ERA HANDBOOKS -- For those of you who are not aware of what he is referring to, RCA used to provide hams, free of charge for the asking, a number of generic QSL cards with RCA prominently displayed. It was viewed as free advertising for RCA.

David DeSpain, W0BCG has some of the 60s vintage RCA QSL cards with one of their satellites pictured and would like to trade for old 50's era Handbook and is looking for collectible RCA QSL cards. If interested contact: David R. DeSpain, P.E.,(202) 382-7317, fax (202) 382-7343 or e-mail: ddespain@bbg.gov

ARRL "ANTENNA EXPERT" R. DEAN STRAW, N6BV TO RETIRE -- Dean Straw, N6BV has been responsible for shepherding and shaping "The ARRL Antenna Book" since he took over as editor in 1993 from Jerry Hall, K1TD. Dean announced his retirement, effective March 31.

A frequent contributor to QST (he most recently served as the handling editor for the "Hints & Kinks" column) and NCJ, Straw has also been Editor of numerous ARRL books: "ON4UN's Low-Band DXing" (4th Edition), "Low-Profile Amateur Radio," "The ARRL DXCC Handbook," "DXing on the Edge," "Amateur Radio on the Move," "Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur" and the ARRL Continuing Education "Antenna Modeling" course.

Straw said, "The Lord has been good to me -- how many people can truly say that their vocation has been their beloved avocation too? Looking back, it's been a gratifying 15 years that I've been privileged to work at ARRL." My wife has consistently maintained over the years: 'You're having entirely too much fun in this job!'" --ARRL Letter

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