

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST, 2008 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12th, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

**THE AUGUST MEETING WILL BE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY,
AUGUST 12. THIS MONTH ONLY.**

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JULY MEETING – At the July 1st meeting the results of Field Day were discussed. The consensus was everyone had a good time. The planning was great and everything went pretty much as planned with the exception of the power line noise. The possibility of power line noise was considered for the Fairgrounds location and checked out earlier in the spring by several folks and found to be "not a problem." The IRC will work with IPL to try and get the problem resolved. The general agreement was that our Club would probably do a similar operation next year with the Indy Radio Club if invited. The upcoming Indy Hamfest was also discussed. It is hoped we'll have a good turnout to help load stuff from Mike Koss' warehouse. We're going to try and take as much stuff as possible and discard most of what does not sell. This may be the last year of taking a large amount of stuff. We're hoping that whatever is left in the warehouse doesn't amount to much. The Club will purchase two gift certificates from R&L Electronics for Hamfest homebrew and QSL contest prizes. W9ZB has acquired some World Radio subscriptions for additional prizes. The Club will be looking for a new treasurer. Barry, K3BG, has retired and will be moving to Utah. Also we need someone to help with duplicating and mailing (snail mail) a few newsletters each month. It was decided to hold the August meeting on the **second Tuesday of the month** to accommodate some folks travel schedules.

INDIANAPOLIS HAMFEST RESULTS -- Thanks to everyone who helped!!! We had a good turnout for the loading and got a large amount of stuff on the truck. Pretty much the usual crowd was milling around the truck at unload time so that went pretty rapidly. The Club did pretty well and didn't have to trash too much or haul much back. The two hours of rain on Saturday morning caused the crowd to hang out in the commercial building and the tent. This probably hurt the overall attendance by about 25% but was to our advantage as there was a good crowd sifting through our stuff during that time. Also, thanks to everyone who helped sell on Saturday. –AF9A

BROAD RIPPLE HAMFEST -- The sixth annual Amateur Radio old fashion tailgate & swapfest for ham radio folks at the home of Betty & Joe Lobraico in Broad Ripple is this coming Saturday, August 2nd at 7373 Westfield Blvd. in Broad Ripple. 7AM to 1PM, no charge. See the Indy Radio Club website for details: <http://www.indyradioclub.org/hfk9ooa2008.htm>

GREENFIELD HAMFEST – Mike Mallory, NE9O, reminds us of the upcoming Greenfield Hamfest on September 28. 8AM until 1PM at the Hancock County 4H Fairgrounds. Admission is \$4. Indoor tables are \$10 plus admission. There is a covered

pavilion area that is available for the flea market, no tables provided.
<http://www.w9atg.org/>

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.

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.

PROPANE TANK SAFETY ALERT – [Clarence, W2PGS, passes on the following information] This is especially important because so many places don't allow Propane tank refilling, but rather tank swaps.

Please check out the link at the end of the article, as it has pictures which allow you to identify bad tanks immediately.

Methamphetamine cooks are buying propane tanks from the exchanges at Wal-Mart, Circle-K, Kroger, etc., and emptying them of the propane gas. Then they fill the propane tanks with anhydrous ammonia, which they now have a recipe to cook Methamphetamine. After they are finished with the propane tanks, they return them to the store. The stores refill the tanks with propane gas, unknowing to them the improper substance that was inserted in the tanks and sell them to their consumers.

Anhydrous ammonia is very corrosive and weakens the structure of the tank. It can be very dangerous when mixed with propane gas and hooked up to a grill, recreation vehicle, etc.

You should inspect the propane tank for any blue or greenish residue around the valve areas. If there are evidences of these substances, do not purchase the propane tank and advise the vendor of your findings.

The information was researched, and you should check out the following website for more details. They also have pictures for you to view.

<http://www.npga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=529> –W2PGS

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

Aug 2	BroadRipple, 7373Wesfield Blvd.,Indy http://www.indyradioclub.org/hfk900a2008.htm
Aug 17	TARA Hamfest, Lafayette, IN http://w9reg.org/hamfest/index.htm
Aug 23	Owen/Monroe Co. Hamfest, http://www.bloomingtonradio.org/
Aug 23	First Annal Tailgators' Hamfest, Ripley Co.ARC, http://www441775.com/
Sept 25	Greenfield Hamfest, 4-H Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN http://www.W9ATG.org/
Oct 5	Hoosier Hills Ham Club, http://www.hoosierhillshamfest.org/
Nov 15-16	Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo. http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/

FCC ISSUES CITATION TO GEORGIA COMPANY FOR SELLING, IMPORTING UNAUTHORIZED RF DEVICES

On July 21, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Citation to the owner of a Georgia company for selling unauthorized radiofrequency devices (specifically wireless video transmitters) and importing radio frequency devices without filing the proper FCC forms with the US Customs office and the US Border Patrol.

The FCC found that Vladimir "Vova" Reznik, owner of RangeVideo <<http://www.rangevideo.com/>>, was "marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices, specifically, wireless video transmitters." The Commission sent Reznik a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) regarding this and noting the following specific items he had for sale on the RangeVideo Web site: 900 MHz 100 mW audio/video transmitters; 900 MHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 1.3 GHz 300 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 200 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 1000 mW audio/video transmitters, and 2.4 GHz 1000 mW cased audio/video transmitters.

According to the FCC, the 900 MHz devices are capable of operation on 980 MHz, 1010 MHz and 1040 MHz; the 1.3 GHz device is capable of operating on 1240 MHz, 1320 MHz and 1360 MHz, and the 2.4 GHz devices are capable of operating on 2490 MHz. "Thus, these transmitter devices cannot comply with the FCC's technical standards and therefore cannot be certified or marketed," the Citation reads.

Reznik responded to the LOI, admitting that he first imported the devices in 2006 and that he continues to import the devices. The FCC noted that he admitted to selling more than 2600 of the transmitters since 2006. Reznik also admitted to not filing the proper forms with the US Customs Office or the Border Patrol.

The FCC also noted that Reznik stated that before he ships a transmitter device, he "switches" it to operate only in the Amateur Radio Service ('ARS') bands. While radio transmitting equipment that transmits solely on ARS frequencies is not subject to the equipment authorization requirement prior to manufacture or marketing, it appears that the seven transmitter devices marketed on your website are equipped with external toggle switches on the unit, which if engaged would allow operation of the device on the restricted frequencies."

In 1996, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) released a Public Notice "to clarify the Commission's Rules regarding equipment intended to operate in various radio services in the high frequency radio spectrum, including 10 meter Amateur Radio Service equipment.

The Notice states that transmitters intended for operation on non-amateur frequencies "must be approved prior to manufacture, importation or marketing." The Notice specifically includes Amateur Radio Service transceivers to be designed "such that they can easily be modified by the users to extend the operating frequency range into the frequency bands" of other non-Amateur Radio Services among those devices, subject to equipment authorization procedures.

The Notice also states that the FCC considers these transceivers as intended to be operated on frequencies where the use of type accepted equipment is required "because of the simplicity of modifying them to extend their operating frequency range." According to the Citation, "the transmitter devices listed on 'Reznik's' website require a grant of equipment certification prior to the initiation of marketing in the United States, but, as noted above, cannot be certified because they operate on restricted frequencies."

Reznik was given 30 days to reply to the Citation, either through a personal interview at the FCC's Atlanta Field Office or via a written statement. Through the Citation, Reznik was told that his response "should specify the actions that you are taking to ensure that you do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency equipment in the future." –ARRL Letter

KANSAS HAM, SON, ELECTROCUTED WHILE ERECTING ANTENNAS

While putting up backyard antennas on the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, Edward Thomas, KC0TIG, of Kansas City, Kansas, and his son Jacob were electrocuted. Edward, 65, was pronounced dead at the scene. Jacob, 27, was rushed to the hospital but died later that day. Initial reports suggest that the antenna they were installing came in contact with 7620 V power lines. Neighbors reported a "loud popping sound" and the electricity went out on the block.

Jacob's 7 year old daughter witnessed the tragedy and ran to the neighbor's yard, calling for help. Byron Kirkwood and another neighbor attempted to perform CPR on the men; the neighbor also called 911. Robert Mullendore, a spokesman for the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU), was quoted by Kansas City television station KSBH as saying it is rare to survive a shock as strong as the two men received: "There are people who will survive -- they're lucky by the grace of God, it's high energy, it's dangerous, that's why it's up in the air -- you just have to be careful. Even those who survive have pretty wicked wounds and they are lifelong wounds." In the power business for more than 30 years, the spokesman said these accidents are "really rare," saying that he only sees something like this "every two or three years. If you're doing any kind of work like this, you just really, really need to be aware of your surroundings."

Chuck Kraly, K0XM, used to work for KCBPU; he built and maintained the substation that fed the circuit going to the Thomas home: "This is nothing to take chances with. In my almost 30 years as a ham -- and 27 years in the power utility field -- I have seen way too many 'accidents.' Stop and look. If it is close or seems that way -- don't. Find another place. High voltage lines are not forgiving. Your life depends on it. Please follow the warnings. Anywhere close is too close."

Thanks to Larry Staples, W0AIB, and others who contributed to this story –ARRL Letter

ARRL, FCC MEET IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS BPL REMAND

On July 9, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, met with members of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology to discuss the recent US Court of Appeals decision regarding broadband over power lines (BPL) http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520033586. In that case, the Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission.

According to Imlay, the meeting was convened to discuss "a possible regulatory approach" to BPL with the FCC. Suggestions put forth by ARRL "would address the needs and concerns of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding harmful interference from [BPL systems] while imposing the minimum necessary regulatory obligations on BPL

deployments."

The ARRL understands, Imlay said, that "there are at this point rules that could be adopted which would, at once, (1) protect Amateur Radio communications from predictable harmful interference from BPL; and (2) permit broadband over power line systems to operate in the 3 to 80 MHz range without significant constraint and without substantial redesign or retroactive build outs." –ARRL Letter

COURT OF APPEALS: FCC MUST REIMBURSE FEES STEMMING FROM BPL CHALLENGE

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ordered that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reimburse ARRL for the docketing fee and the cost of reproducing copies of briefs and appendices in the ARRL's successful challenge of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) rules

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>

The Order, issued on July 9 following review of an opposition from the FCC and a reply from the ARRL, awarded the ARRL's full claim of \$6,096.18.

Commenting on the Order, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed: "While this is just a small fraction of the cost of our judicial appeal, the Order is significant because the Court did not buy the FCC's arguments that the ARRL had only achieved 'partial success' in its appeal and that our claim of costs was excessive."

Sumner continued: "In addition, the FCC falsely claimed that the ARRL 'was unsuccessful in persuading the Court to vacate the rules it challenged.' In fact, the ARRL never sought to do so since the BPL rules adopted by the FCC, inadequate as they are, were still better than nothing. The award of these fees affirms that, contrary to the 'spin' the FCC has tried to put on the Court's remand, the ARRL substantially prevailed in its appeal." –ARRL Letter

SHORTS

E-MAILS ASKING FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION NOT FROM ARRL: We have received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it. –ARRL Letter

W1AW/KL7 TO OPERATE FROM ARCTIC CIRCLE: Just 300 miles south of the Alaskan Arctic Ocean -- where the Arctic Circle crosses the Dalton Highway (66 degrees, 33 minutes north) -- W1AW/KL7 will be on the air (grid square BP56) July 26-

August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The Alaskan summer skies are ablaze with gray line-enhanced propagation effects, providing six to eight hour spurts of activity to most of the ham radio world. W1AW/KL7 plans to be active from 0600 UTC-1400 UTC to maximize gray line propagation. From Alaska, signals will take off in both directions at the same time: Europe to the East on one side, with Asia to the West on the other side. For an illustration of how Arctic gray line propagation works, see page 21 in the August 2008 issue of QST. The 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention will run from August 1-4, 2008 in Anchorage. For more information, please see the W1AW/KL7 Web site <http://www.akhamfest.com/arcticcirclespecial.php>. --ARRL Letter

GERMAN RADIO MANUFACTURER HALTS TRANSCEIVER PRODUCTION -
- In a surprise move, Hilberling GmbH has stopped production on the much anticipated PT-8000 series of HF/VHF Amateur Radio transceivers. Apparently due to CE marking regulations, Hilberling had to make constant adjustments to the design of the radio and was unable to repeat the performance of prototypes in production models and was not able to justify the expense involved with further redesign work. The CE mark certifies that a product has met European health, safety and environmental requirements, ensuring consumer safety. Array Solutions -- which had been set to be the North American distributor for the transceiver series -- featured the PT-8000 at its booths at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention®. --ARRL

SMITHSONIAN STATION GOING QRT --The Daily DX' reports that the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History Amateur Radio station **NN3SI** will be going QRT on July 31st.

The club has been trying for several months to come up with a solution to keep this icon on the air. Annually the museum has three million visitors, many getting a first time exposure to Amateur Radio. NN3SI has been QRV for the last 32 years.

The station will be active daily before finally shutting down on July 31st. Starting around 1315z, activity will begin on 40 meters. Watch the following frequencies for possible activity: 3840, 7240, 14240, 21340 and 28440 kHz (+/-). They may also be on PSK.

QSL info and more details are available at: <http://www.qrz.com/NN3SI> --Southgate ARC

MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVATION -- Operators **Doug KD8CAO** and **John K8YSE** will activate the Grand Haven South Pierhead Inner (USA-1077) and Grand Haven South Pierhead Outer (USA-1078) Michigan Lighthouses during the ARLHS 2008 National Lighthouse-Lightship Week, August 2-9th.

Operation from Grand Haven will be on August 2nd. On August 3d, they will try to activate other Lake Michigan lighthouses.

Look for them on all HF bands. Satellite operations on AO-51, SO-50 and AO-27 are a possibility. QSL via K8YSE. --Southgate ARC

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