

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

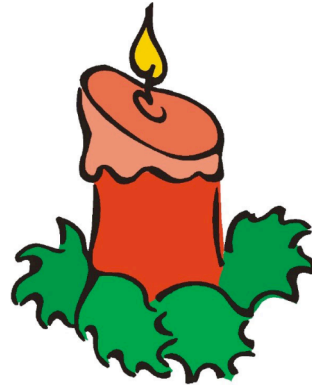
DECEMBER, 2008 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING –

Thanks to all who attended the November meeting! The FD results have been published and W9JP (our club's combined effort with the Indianapolis Radio Club) finished 2nd the state for the 2A class. 38th nationally in the 2A class. The plans are to go with the Indianapolis Radio Club next year. The main issue from the this years FD operation was the power line noise which they claim to have under control.



The Ft. Wayne Hamfest was discussed and who was going. This is the biggest hamfest in the state and most of the major dealers attend. Barry George, K3BG, is planning on driving his van to Ft. Wayne. Anyone needing a ride can contact him.

Jim Rinehart, K9RU and Jim Keeth, AF9A gave a rundown on the work they did on the repeater. We are looking for a replacement computer for EchoLink, a Pentium III to allow us to upgrade and run additional EchoLink related programs. Dave Brown, W9CGI talked about the problems he had been having with his beacon transmitters and it was on the air again. Dave Jarvis, N9KZJ, went over the plans for a station at the War Memorial using the WW2IND call.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREG COOK, KC9OSE -- A new member of our Club (and Thomson employee) and a new ham, Greg passed his test a couple of weeks ago.

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.

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.

INDIANA SECTION MANAGER POSITION STILL VACANT -- Indiana will also have a new Section Manager starting in January, since incumbent Section Manager Jim Sellers, K9ZBM, of Middlebury, decided not to run for another term. Sellers has served as Section Manager since July 2002. Raymond Andrews, K9DUR, of West Terre Haute, and John Poindexter, W3ML, of Knox, were candidates for the open seat. Andrews received 531 votes and Poindexter received 261 votes.

After ballots had already been mailed out to ARRL members in the Indiana Section, Andrews wrote to ARRL Headquarters withdrawing his candidacy due to health concerns. As such, the Section Manager's position for the new term starting in January was considered vacant because Andrews won the majority of votes.

CONGRATULATIONS IRCC AWARD WINNERS! -- Steve Carmean , K9DY, of Greenwood, has received the 2008 Indiana Outstanding Amateur of the Year award. Dave Zeph, W9ZRX of Westfield, received the 2008 Technical Excellence award. The awards are presented each year by the Indiana Radio Club Council at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest,

HAMFESTS; EVENTS

Mar 14 Wabash Valley ARA, Terre Haute, IN <http://www.w9uuu.org>
Mar 14 Marion County Severe WX seminar, 9:00 AM at ITC
May 15-17 Dayton Hamvention
July 11 Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma <http://www.indyhamfest.com>

ARRL VEC ANNOUNCES EXAM FEE INCREASE

On November 6, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by \$1, from \$14 to \$15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep \$6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at any VEC examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged.

FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license. These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its Services. VECs and VEs are expected to use good business judgment with respect to reimbursement amounts. The examination reimbursement fee cannot be used to offset non-session related costs and must be kept separate from other accounts.

The ARRL VEC permits its VEs to retain a portion of the exam fees they collect to directly reimburse themselves for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in setting up and conducting their examination sessions.

The ARRL VEC offers a wide level of assistance and services including exam supplies, such as paperwork and software, shipping costs both to and from the VEC and ARRL VE accreditation, as well as credentials, are all free of charge for our VEs. ARRL VEC maintain a toll-free number for our VEs and we even offer reimbursement to the VE team for their expenses.

We appreciate the dedication and volunteerism of all our VEs in the field. Every test fee we collect goes right back into the VEC program and to serving the Amateur Radio community." <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/> --ARRL Letter

DATES SET FOR DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <http://www.kp5.us/>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come." Desecheo is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

On Friday, December 19, three DXpedition team members, USFWS personnel and an unexploded ordnance (UXO) expert will go out to Desecheo to sweep and clear the assigned area of unexploded ordnance and other hazards. "We are uniquely fortunate for a 'sneak preview' of our operating site the week before Christmas," Johnson said. "We will spend a day on Desecheo clearing hazards from our operating sites. Rarely does such a most-wanted entity have an opportunity for a sneak peak to optimally plan logistics, stations and antennas." There will be no radio operations on this trip.

The KP5 DXpedition team will assemble in Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 8 for mandatory UXO training. They will spend the next few days training, preparing and staging the several tons of equipment for transport to the site and set out for Desecheo on February 12. Allphin said that as soon as they land on Desecheo, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26." --ARRL Letter

IARU REGION ONE MEETS IN CROATIA

Earlier this month, IARY Region 1 held its triennial conference in Cavtat, Croatia. Forty

IARU Member Societies were present, with another 12 Member Societies represented via proxy. IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, also attended the Conference

http://www.arrrl.org/news/files/CT08_Cavtat_Final_plenary_minutes.pdf.

In preparation for the expansion of 40 meters in Region 1 on March 29, 2009, the HF Committee debated a band plan to incorporate the change from 7.000-7.100 to 7.000-7.200 MHz. The conference adopted the following plan:

- * 7.000-7.025 MHz, CW, contest preferred (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.025-7.040 MHz, CQ, QRP Center of Activity to be 7.030 MHz (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.040-7.047 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.047-7.050 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.050-7.053 MHz, All modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.053-7.060 MHz, All modes (digimodes) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.060-7.100 MHz, All modes, digital voice 7070, SSB QRP Center of Activity to be 7.090 MHz, SSB contest preferred (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.100-7.130 MHz, All modes, Region 1 Center of Activity to be 7.110 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.130-7.200 MHz, All modes, SSB contest preferred, Image Center of Activity to be 7.165 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- * 7.175-7.200 MHz, All modes, priority for intercontinental operation (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

The conference had an eye to both new and young radio amateurs. Delegates agreed unanimously to recommend to Member Societies the importance of the annual Jamboree on the Air and encouraged the organizations to assist Scouts with the event. By doing so, the delegates said, this will promote Amateur Radio to Scouts to where they will get their Amateur Radio license and become active on the air.

The delegates also recommended that an additional category be introduced to Amateur Radio contests "wherever possible." Details for the "Youngsters and Newcomers" category will be left to individual contest organizers to develop. Delegates also encouraged contest organizers to replace signal strength reports required in contests with "some other less predictable exchange, so as to enhance the skill requirements of contest operators."

Sun City, South Africa was chosen as the venue for the 2011 meeting. –ARRL Letter

CQ COMMUNICATIONS ACQUIRES WORLDRADIO MAGAZINE

CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired WorldRadio magazine, CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA and WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, have announced jointly. CQ, based in Hicksville, New York, currently publishes CQ Amateur Radio, CQ VHF and Popular Communications magazines.

WorldRadio, based in Sacramento, California, has been published monthly since July, 1971, with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DXing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945.

Armond Noble, N6WR, Publisher of WorldRadio, said that at the age of 74 the time had

come for him to retire. "I wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio," Noble said.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said, "WorldRadio has filled an important niche in our hobby for nearly four decades. We welcome WorldRadio's readers to the CQ family, and we look forward to meeting their needs for many years to come."

Current plans call for WorldRadio to continue to be published online as part of the CQ family of magazines, with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized. --AMSAT News

NOMINATIONS DUE FOR HAMVENTION AWARDS

The Dayton Hamvention® now is accepting nominations for its 2009 Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, and Technical Excellence awards. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 18, 2009. All amateur radio operators are eligible. The winners will be recognized at the 2009 Hamvention®, which runs May 15-17.

The Amateur of the Year Award goes to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio. The Technical Excellence Award is for the person who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of Amateur Radio. The Special Achievement Award honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio, usually someone who has spearheaded a significant project.

The Hamvention® Awards Committee makes the decision on all awards based in part upon the information it receives--and not on the number of nominations submitted.

Documentation that informs the Awards Committee of a candidate's accomplishments may include magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and even videos (these materials become the property of Hamvention® and will not be returned).

Additional details on these awards and a nomination form are available on the Dayton Hamvention® Web site. Nominations also are accepted via US mail to Dayton Hamvention® Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, OH 45401. --AMSAT News

GLOBAL EMERGENCY NETWORK MARKS RECORD

The Global ALE High Frequency Network (HFN) <http://hflink.net/> -- an international Amateur Radio Service organization of ham operators dedicated to emergency/relief radio communications -- has become the first network to operate continuously for more than 500 days on all international Amateur Radio shortwave bands simultaneously.

According to HFN International ALE Coordinator Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA, the main purpose of the Network is to provide efficient emergency and disaster relief communications to remote areas of the world. "Beginning with a core group of six North American radio operators in June 2007, HFN rapidly expanded to cover large areas of the planet with 24/7 digital communications," she said. "HFN was designed to be an open framework for global Amateur Radio emergency services to interoperate on HF using the Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) system." <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/ale.html>

Relying on ionospheric radio communications, interconnected HFN base stations scan the radio bands every 10 seconds, from 3.5 MHz-28.0 MHz. Through this Net, Crystal said, ham operators stay connected with each other at all hours of the day or night in any mode of operation, and can send Internet e-mail or cell phone mobile text messages from the field. --ARRL Letter

IEEE ARTICLE ON BPL / PLT

The November 2008 issue of the *IEEE Communications* magazine carries an article on the potential effects of broadband wireline telecommunications on the HF spectrum.

A number of companies now sell products that transmit a broadband HF radio signal over the electric mains power supply. Such products can not only cause severe interference to the reception of broadcast radio stations they can also impact on the military users in this key part of the radio spectrum potentially jeopardizing Homeland Security.

The IEEE abstract of the article reads: Power line telecommunications and various forms of digital subscriber line transmissions are recent and rapidly evolving technologies using the existing electricity power or telephone lines for data transmission at rates higher than 1 Mb/s. As these lines were not designed for transmission of high data rates, they produce noiselike interferences in the HF range. The intensity depends on the electrical characteristics of the lines (balance, match, screening) as well as on the density and area coverage of these new systems.

Exact calculations are impossible at this time because of missing models for the new wirebound communication systems with respect to emission of radio noise in the HF band. Early measurements and estimations showed that radio noise from PLT and xDSL has the potential to cause problems for military HF radio communications and communication intelligence.

A Research Task Group under NATO was assigned to study the issue and determine possible solutions. Briefly, the findings of the RTG do indicate that PLT emissions have the potential to cause appreciable degradation in the exploitation of the HF spectrum by military users.

The article is available to IEEE members or can be purchased from http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/freeabs_all.jsp?arnumber=4689244 -- Southgate ARC

SHORTS

DEADLINE APPROACHING TO RESERVE HAM PLATES -- Dick, W9FG, reminds us that we have until December 15th to order or re-order our Amateur Radio License Plate. If you have any questions you can visit <http://www.myBMV.IN.gov> or call 317-233-6000.

CANADIAN AMATEURS RECEIVE LIMITED 500 KHZ PRIVILEGES: On November 10, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced that Industry Canada, which regulates Amateur Radio in that country, has accepted an RAC proposal for selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The proposal states that RAC would recommend amateurs who would be licensed to operate in the 504-509 kHz band with a maximum power of 20 W ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses, although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable on an annual basis, subject to the amateur demonstrating the

research he has carried out. According to the RAC, these amateur operations would support Canada's efforts to place a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference (WRC-11), which, if adopted, would create an amateur allocation in the 600 meter band. The US, under the auspices of the ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH, is also conducting research in this band. Canada is the eighth country to do experimentation on 500 kHz; along with the US and Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Romania are also participating. More information on the Canadian proposal will be posted to the RAC Web site as it becomes available. –ARRL Letter

CQ MAGAZINE CALLS ON FCC TO RESUME AMATEUR ENFORCEMENT -- CQ magazine is calling on FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Kris Monteith to move swiftly to name a successor to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio, and to bring FCC enforcement back to the ham bands.

Writing in his "Zero Bias" editorial in the December 2008 issue, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, noted that the Commission not only has failed to name a successor to Hollingsworth, but that not a single amateur enforcement action has been taken since his retirement this past July. At that time, the editorial noted, the amateur radio community was assured that the Commission's dedication to enhanced enforcement in the Amateur Service remains strong. However, the FCC's total inaction since July suggests otherwise.

"This is deeply disturbing and of grave concern," wrote Moseson, adding, "It would be a tragedy, and a travesty, if the FCC were to go back on its promise to be there for us and allowed amateur enforcement to once again drop off the radar."

"The need for continuing amateur enforcement was reinforced after the issue was sent to press when CQ was informed of an outburst of racist diatribes on 20 meters, including the transmission of recordings of a Hitler rally and Nazi marching songs. "This type of behavior was all too common before 'Sheriff' Riley came to town a decade ago," noted Moseson, "and it quickly disappeared once it became obvious that someone in authority was paying attention. But now, only a matter of months since Riley handed in his badge, it has become obvious to these hams that they are once again free to do whatever they please without fear of any consequences."

"The FCC must get back into the amateur enforcement business, and it must do so quickly," says Moseson, "before the situation once again gets out of control. Enforcement Bureau Chief Monteith must act promptly to name a successor to Riley Hollingsworth and assure amateurs that they have not once again been abandoned by the Commission."

The full text of Moseson's editorial is online at www.cq-amateur-radio.com, linked from the December issue highlights.

Season's Greetings !!!

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/>