

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEBRUARY, 2009      MONTHLY NEWSLETTER      INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 , 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),  
5711 E. 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY MEETING** -- At the January meeting we again discussed the digital TV transition and Obama's proposed delay at some length. Seems to be a popular subject among our group! On the repeater, we have gotten no leads on a Pentium 4 computer to may be used to upgrade our repeater Echolink installation. The home school link is down and needs checked out. AF9A and K9RU need to make arrangement with the home school to check out the link. K9RU reported the Indy Radio Club Field Day committee is talking about doing a 3A class station this year. (Last year, the RCA ARC joined with the IRC and did a class 2A operation.) The location will be at the Marion County Fair grounds, same as last year. The IRC is again planning to charter a bus to the Dayton Hamvention. Check the Indy Radio Club web site as the time gets closer for more information, <http://www.indyradioclub.org>. N9KZJ reported on the progress for the amateur radio station to be located at the Indiana War Memorial. N9KZJ and K9RU plan to operate the ARRL VHF contest from W9VW as a multi and W9ZB will be on from his home QTH.

**WINTER WX AND CLUB MEETINGS** – If we should have snow, ice, or other WX problems on our Club meeting days, we'll cancel the meeting via email to the list no later than mid-afternoon on the day of the meeting. Check your email if in doubt.

**INDIANAPOLIS VE TESTING SCHEDULE** -- Calling in advance to ensure testing availability is suggested but not mandatory.

March 7, 2008. April 4, 2008, June 6, 2008

**SPONSOR:** Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP)

**LOCATION:** Indianapolis Training Center (ITC), 2820 N. Meridian Street.

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

## HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Feb 21-22	ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
Mar 7-8	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
Mar 14	Wabash Valley ARA, Terre Haute, IN <a href="http://www.w9uuu.org">http://www.w9uuu.org</a>
Mar 14	Marion County Severe WX seminar, 9:00 AM at ITC
May 2-3	Indiana QSO Party
May 15-17	Dayton Hamvention
June 13-14	ARRL VHF QSO Party
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day
July 11	Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma <a href="http://www.indyhamfest.com">http://www.indyhamfest.com</a>

## DTV TRANSITION DELAYED

Obama and his staff have been pushing to get the digital TV transition gets delayed even before he was sworn in as President. A bill to delay the transition to June 12<sup>th</sup> was approved

by the Senate on January 26, it failed to get the 2/3 majority needed in the House by 23 votes on January 28. On January 30 the US Senate unanimously approved another bill version with minor edits and it was sent to the House of Representatives. This time the bill only required a simple majority and was passed by the House on Feb. 4.

This is the second time the transition has been delayed with December 31, 2006 set as the original date by Congress in 1996. Congress allowed a ten years period for the transition but they also allowed room for the date to slip if not enough people had the capability to receive digital TV. In 2005 Congress delayed the transition to February 17, 2009. This date would be after the Super Bowl and the Daytona 500 Race. The DTV converter/coupon program was also approved to aid the low income families and the elderly in the transition.

Demand was larger than expected for the \$40 dollar coupons that offset the cost of the converter boxes and funding has ran out early in January. Anyone applying for a coupon was put on a waiting list. NTIA is using funds from expired coupons that were not redeemed to fund new coupons on the waiting list. Congress's time would have better spent on the funding issues.

## **ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL GOALS FOR 2009**

The ARRL Board of Directors held its 2009 Annual Meeting on January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut, under the chairmanship of President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Radio Amateurs of Canada President David Goodwin, VO1AU/VE3AAQ, and IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, were guests of the Board.

The Board considered and acted on a number of organizational and regulatory issues. Election of the Executive Committee, committee appointments and awards were also on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

ARRL Strategic Plan: At its July 2008 meeting, the Board voted to develop a timeline to review and revise the ARRL Strategic Plan. The Board directed Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, to release the Plan's long-range goals to the membership and to solicit comments from members "on the future direction and priorities of their national organization." At this meeting, Sumner led an in depth discussion of the membership input. The Executive Committee is tasked with developing materials for use in completing the Plan revision at the July 2009 Board meeting.

ARRL Membership and Deployed Active Duty Military: The Board voted unanimously to amend Bylaws, stating that the Executive Vice President is authorized to maintain ARRL membership privileges without charge for the duration of a member's active military deployment outside the ARRL operating territory.

Budget: The Board voted to adopt the 2009-2010 Plan (as amended), as presented by the Administration and Finance Committee.

Scouting: The Board voted to offer assistance to the Boy Scouts of America and their 2010 National Scout Jamboree. By representing Amateur Radio and participating with K2BSA at the Jamboree in conjunction with the Boy Scouts, the ARRL plans to build on the success of past National Jamborees where thousands of youth learned about the value and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. Teaching the Radio merit badge program, license classes and VE exam sessions have been parts of the quadrennial event that attracts more than 40,000 Scouts and leaders.

Technology Task Force: This group, created in 1999, was formed to develop a strategy and plan of work for exploring new technologies, assessing their applicability to Amateur Radio and also developing a plan as to how to incorporate such new technology in the Amateur Radio Service. The Board resolved that the exploration and promotion of new Amateur Radio communications technologies shall continue to be an essential element of the ARRL's mission and that the original mission of the Technology Task and gratitude, the Board voted to dissolve the group.

IARU Member-Society Admissions: The Board voted unanimously to instruct the Secretary to cast ballots in favor of admitting the Emirates Amateur Radio Society and the Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosports an Radioamateur to the IARU ARRL Web Redesign: A group from Fathom, a contractor based in Hartford, presented the company's progress on a new design for the ARRL Web site. As recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee, the Board voted to approve a capital expenditure to move into the third phase of the design development.

Legislative Regulatory Matters Legislative Objectives: The Board voted to approve five legislative objectives for the 111th Congress:

\* Objective #1: The ARRL seeks legislation to extend the requirement for "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio station antennas (a requirement that now applies to state and local regulations) to all forms of land use regulation.

\* Objective #2: The ARRL opposes legislation that encourages the deployment of RF technologies such as broadband over power line (BPL) systems unless adequate safeguards against interference to licensed radio communication services are included in the legislation.

\* Objective #3: The ARRL opposes legislation that would diminish the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters, especially unintentional emitters.

\* Objective #4: The ARRL seeks recognition of the unique resources, capabilities and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communications issues related to emergencies, disasters, or homeland security.

Objective #5: The ARRL supports the complementary legislative objectives of other radiocommunication services, particularly the public safety and scientific services that require spectrum access and protection from interference for noncommercial purposes that benefit the public.

Call Sign Allocation Study: The Board voted to instruct the Executive Committee, with advice and input from the Programs and Services Committee, to study the FCC sequential, vanity and special call sign programs.

Amateur Radio and Driving: The Board noted that local municipalities, as well as state legislatures, have made laws or are considering laws that apply to drivers who use cellular telephones while driving. Recognizing that this sort of legislation often inadvertently prohibits -- or can be construed to prohibit -- Amateur Radio mobile communications, the Board instructed the Executive Committee to develop a policy statement and recommend language that protects the ability of licensed radio amateurs to prudently conduct mobile amateur communications.

The complete Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will soon be available on the ARRL Web <http://www.arrl.org/announce/board.html>. --ARRL Letter

## **MICHAEL J. COPPS NAMED ACTING FCC CHAIRMAN AND FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN RESIGNS**

On Thursday, January 22, President Barack Obama named current FCC Commissioner Michael Copps as Acting Chairman of the Commission. Rumors circulated in mid-January

that technology executive Julius Genachowski would be nominated as Chairman. Copps will serve as Acting Chairman until a new Commissioner/Chairman is confirmed.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Copps on his appointment. "Whenever we have sought a meeting with him or his staff, his door has always been open to us," he said.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin gave his resignation and will join the Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think-tank. Martin joined the group as a Senior Fellow in the Communications and Society Program on Tuesday, January 20, immediately upon his departure from the FCC. According to the Institute, Martin will be the fourth consecutive FCC Chairman to make the move to the group: Democrats Reed Hundt (1993-97) and William Kennard (1997-2001), as well as Republican Michael Powell (2001-05) have accepted fellowships with the Institute upon leaving the FCC. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that Martin's resignation is part of the "usual stuff we see when a new administration comes to office. We look forward to a positive relationship with the new Chairman and his administration." --ARRL Letter

## **LAURA L. SMITH NAMED TO AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT ROLE**

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, [retired](#) in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule violations."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules," said Harrison. "Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to

resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

If you have an enforcement issue, she may be reached by e-mail at: [laura.smith@fcc.gov](mailto:laura.smith@fcc.gov) I know that some of you are wondering, "Is Laura a ham?" No, not yet, but she does have the study guides. If you attend the Dayton Hamvention 2009 – May 15-17, you will have a chance to visit with her. –ARRL Letter

## FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

New Amateur Totals -- 2006 through December 2008							
Month	2006	2007	2008	Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755	Jul	1401	1786	2077
Feb	1605	2435	2998	Aug	1623	2183	2084
Mar	2531	3478	2816	Sep	1357	1462	1763
Apr	1728	2673	3090	Oct	1781	2109	2303
May	2283	2607	2562	Nov	1993	2132	2197
Jun	1967	2281	2402	Dec	1569	1935	2019
				Totals:	21,112	26,728	28,066

The number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. Looking at 2006 totals the upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent.

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said class:

Novice:	18,500
Technician:	322,500
General:	145,000
Advanced:	62,000
Extra:	115,500
Total US Amateurs:	663,500

As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased.

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction." -- Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A –ARRL Letter

## K6DUE CALL NOW PART OF ISS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The K6DUE callsign of the late NBC Newsman Roy Neal is now the call of the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the call letters will initially be used for ground station operations but may be used for other activities in the future.

For those not aware, Roy Neal, K6DUE, spent more than five decades as a broadcaster specializing in science and aerospace reporting for the National Broadcasting Company. He is generally credited with convincing then NASA chief Jess Moore to permit ham gear to be flown on board the early space shuttle missions. The first of these was STS-9 that carried Spacelab One and Mission Specialist Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who made the first-ever ham radio contacts from a spacecraft on-orbit.

After Garriott's successful flight, Neal and several others formed the group known as SAREX -- the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. Later called the Space Amateur Radio Experiment, it was a program that promoted and supported the use of amateur radio by astronauts in low earth orbit aboard the United States Space Shuttle. This, to communicate with other amateur radio stations around the world especially those in classrooms as a scientific demonstration. It was superseded by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS program that we hear so much about today.

Roy Neal, K6DUE, passed away at age 82 on August 15, 2003, following open heart surgery. On November 11th 2003 the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station organization announced an on-the-air event to commemorate Roy Neal's lifetime of achievements in ham radio. Now, with the acquisition of his K6DUE call letters by the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club, Roy Neal's contributions to manned ham radio operations from space will live on in perpetuity. --ARNewsline

## SHORTS

**LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD NOW EASIER THAN EVER** -- In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) has been updated. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based on tracking Manager LoTW help questions and listening to users.

"Through the efforts of Membership and Volunteer Services Dave Patton and Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, we have also added an automated results table on the LoTW Users Home Page that lists members in numeric order who have achieved the Triple Play Award," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "IT personnel have also fixed a number of longstanding issues with Logbook in recent weeks, and some additional enhancements are underway." The whole story including the new features can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/26/10589/>

With [more than 200 million QSOs submitted](#), ARRL's Logbook of The World system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. Yaesu is the [principal sponsor](#) of the LoTW Web site. --ARRL

**DESECHEO ISLAND DXPEDITION** -- The DXpedition to Desecheo Island, February 12-26 will use call sign K5D. "As soon as we land on Desecheo, two stations will be immediately activated," said DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26. Desecheo is very rare, and there are

many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, we are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list; the island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

**CQ TO ACCEPT EQSL FOR AWARDS PROGRAMS** -- CQ magazine says that effective immediately it will begin accepting contact confirmations made on the eQSL electronic Q-S-O validation system for its operating awards. According to CQ editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, there will be certain limitations and procedural differences for different awards, at least to start. Only confirmations from "Authenticity Guaranteed" members of eQSL will be accepted. This means that in accordance with existing eQSL policy, a membership level of bronze or higher is required in order to participate in award programs via eQSL.

According to Moseson, this is the first time that CQ has formally accepted anything other than traditional paper QSL cards for its awards. He says that CQ has been working with eQSL's Dave Morris, N5UP, and his team for several months to assure that the integrity of the awards programs will be protected. They also had to create mechanisms to make it easy for both award applicants and managers to use eQSL credits toward CQ-sponsored awards.

More information about how the CQ eQSL-based system will work is on line on the awards page at [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com). Information on eQSL is on the world-wide-web at [www.eqsl.cc](http://www.eqsl.cc). (CQ)

**VIETNAM IS BACK ON THE AIR** -- OM2DX reports that he is now in Hanoi and is working for the Embassy of the Slovak Republic. Mike has obtained a license with the call signs XV9DX and 3W1M. He is expected to be there for the next 3 years and be active on all bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via OM3JW.

**AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS TO BEGIN AGAIN ON MIDWAY ATOLL** -- The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced on Monday, January 26 that they would once again allow Amateur Radio operators the opportunity to operate from Midway Atoll. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002. The USFWS started a program earlier this month to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio. To ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, the USFWS said that Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009. "Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted," said Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown. "There is 120 V power available at the operation site. Any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity," Brown said, "this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals. For more information, please contact Brown via e-mail [Matt\\_D\\_Brown@fws.gov](mailto:Matt_D_Brown@fws.gov) or by phone at 808-954-4818. Lodging arrangements can be made with Darlene Holst via e-mail [dholst@chugach-ak.com](mailto:dholst@chugach-ak.com) or by phone at 808-954-4801. Midway Atoll is located in the North Pacific Ocean, approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu.

**W1AW ADDS YAESU'S FTDX9000D TO STATION** -- Thanks to the generosity of Yaesu, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, now boasts the Yaesu's premier

transceiver -- an FTDX9000D. Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Executive Vice President for Yaesu's Amateur Radio Sales Division, visited ARRL Headquarters on January 13 to present the radio. "Yaesu is very happy to present ARRL and the world famous W1AW station with our top-of-the-line FTDX9000D transceiver," Motschenbacher said. "The transceiver comes loaded complete with recently released PEP9000 performance enhancements designed to affirm our commitment to Amateur Radio.. --ARRL Letter

**FCC REPORTS DECLINE IN BPL CUSTOMERS** On January 16, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission released data, as of December 31, 2007, on the services used for high-speed Internet access in the United States. According to the data collected by the FCC, as of that date there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months. --ARRL Letter

In sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers, Broadband over Power Line (BPL) utilization apparently declined during the period. According to the FCC figures, the category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later. It is not known how many of these are "Power Line" and how many are "Other."

The 27-page FCC report may be found at on the FCC's Web site [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf) --ARRL Letter

**NSC WANTS TOTAL BAN ON MOBILE CELLPHONE USE** -- The National Safety Council is calling for a total nationwide driver ban on the use of cell phones including hands-free devices.

In an announcement on Monday, January 12th, the National Safety Council not only issued a plea directly to motorists to stop using the devices, but also urged businesses to enact policies limiting the use of cell phones by their employees. The Congressionally chartered agency also called on states to pass more laws banning the use of wireless communications devices while driving.

California, Washington state, Alaska, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Jersey all have laws on the books that ban the use of a mobile phone without a hands-free device. But the Councils proposal wants to eliminate even these hands-free exemptions.

The National Safety Council news release does not mention Ham radio, C-B radio or any other two-way radio based application other than cellphones and text messaging. However in mustering support for its campaign, the organization cites numerous studies including one by the Harvard Center of Risk Analysis. That one found that driver use of cell phones contributes to 636,000 crashes each year. This it says leads to 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 annual deaths.

**INTERESTING WEB SITES, LOTS OF ANTENNA INFORMATION --**

- [http://www.bird-technologies.com/techapps/tools/rfcalc\\_3-6-06.xls](http://www.bird-technologies.com/techapps/tools/rfcalc_3-6-06.xls)
- [http://www.k7mem.150m.com/Electronic\\_Notebook/antennas/yagi\\_vhf.html](http://www.k7mem.150m.com/Electronic_Notebook/antennas/yagi_vhf.html)
- <http://www.ac6v.com/antsoftware.htm>
- <http://www.qsl.net/kd2bd/splat.html>
- <http://www.fortunecity.com/skyscraper/jolt/345/LogCalc.html>
- <http://www.nj7p.org/Tube.php>

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