

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH, 2009 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING -- At the February meeting, the status of the repeater and Echolink were discussed. One of the remote receiver sites is still down. Echolink is still has the problem that some stations can connect, or be connected "to", and others cannot. Hopefully Dave, N9KT, will soon be able to take a look at this. The joint Field Day operation with the Indianapolis Radio Club (IRC) and W9RCA was discussed. The IRC is pushing for a 3A (three transitter) operation this year. The thinking in our Club is that it is unlikely we'll be able to get enough operators to continuously man the three stations for the entire twenty four hours. The amateur radio participation in the Mini Marathon was discussed (see "Public Service..." below). Dave, N9KZJ, reported on the on-going project of installing an amateur station at the Indiana War Memorial. The Club still has some blue equipment racks in storage which we would like to get to a good home. Contact Jim Rinehart.

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES – For anyone interested in public service opportunities in the Indianapolis area, information can be found at <http://indyhams.org/seg/events> . Some of the upcoming events are the Mini-Marathon pre-races, Mar. 7 and Apr. 4. The Mini on May 2 plus the Geist Half-Marathon on May 16, and 500 Festival Parade on May 23. Mike Palmer, N9FEB, is the person to contact for more information or to volunteer. <mailto:N9FEB@comcast.net>

In addition, one of the coordinators of the CIBA N.I.T.E. (Navigate Indy This Evening) Ride <http://www.niteride.org/home.html> is Elaine, KC9KZH. This is Saturday, June 27th ... Field Day Weekend. Elaine coordinates the route and safety part of this event. There are roughly 100 Law Enforcement Officers along the route, blocking intersections for the cyclists. There are around 2500 cyclists involved, riding some 20 miles around the streets of the near west side and downtown.

Elaine is in need of course marshals, folks that would be at stationary positions to assist in keeping the bikers on the correct route. This is a late one ... 9 PM marshal meeting, 11 PM start of event, 2 AM event over. Those on early spots would be let go much sooner of course. It would be a long night, but safety is a must. Anyone interested? Contact N9FEB or KC9KZH: kc9kzh@hotmail.com

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

March 7, 2009. April 4, 2009, June 6, 2009

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.

INDIANA 2009 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - MARCH 3, 2009

With the deadline for introducing new legislation in the Indiana House and Senate already past, it looks like Indiana hams can rest easy. ARRL Indiana State Government Liaison David Spoelstra, N9KT, has been active on five bills that could have affected Indiana hams:

SB0080: Cell phone use while driving: <http://tinyurl.com/aoq3k9>

SB0196: Electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle: <http://tinyurl.com/dgdspt>

HB1181: Ban on visual display screens while driving: <http://tinyurl.com/bkdort>

HB1242: Mobile telephone use: <http://tinyurl.com/asefg9>

HB1699: Cell phone use while driving: <http://tinyurl.com/ak6oma>

On February 9th, SB0196 was rendered neutral by an amendment that made the bill only pertain to "a person operating a motor vehicle as a public passenger chauffeur" - i.e. bus driver, taxi driver, etc. On February 16th, HB1242 was rendered neutral by an amendment that excluded "two-way radios" and "handheld, portable, two-way radio transceivers commonly known as a walkie-talkies". SB0080, HB1181, and HB1699 died in committee.

David will continue to monitor SB0196 and HB1242 for new amendments that might affect Indiana hams as the bills move through the Indiana House and Senate on their way to becoming laws.

Thanks to Indiana ARRL Section Manager John Poindexter, W3ML, for his support as well as the countless Indiana hams who contacted their legislators to voice their concerns about these five bills. -N9KT

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

Mar 7-8	ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
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 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 http://www.indyhamfest.com
Sept 26	Greenfield Hamfest No fees, no prizes, just free flea market!

THE K5D 2009 DESECHEO ISLAND DXPEDITION IS IN THE HISTORY BOOKS

The K5D operation has now ended with 115,728 Qs total and with this outstanding effort will put KP5 Desecho near the bottom of the DX "Most Wanted" list.

K5D operated on all bands from 6 meters to 160 meters and made dozens of satellite contacts via AO-51, SO-50 and the ISS crossband repeater using a handheld satellite station. According to information posted to the AMSAT-BB reflector by Bill, NZ5N, astronaut Mike Fincke, at the mic of NA1SS aboard the International Space Station, worked K5D at 15:43 UTC on Feb. 25th.

K9SG, Gary Stouder from Greenfield, IN and member of the Indianapolis Radio Club was one of the K5D operators.

Log search: <http://69.89.25.185/~trexsoft/t-rexsoftware.com/desecheo/lookup.htm> QSL
N2OO: <http://69.89.25.185/~trexsoft/t-rexsoftware.com/desecheo/qsls.htm>

ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION TO FEATURE RICHARD GARRIOTT, W5KWQ

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, will be attending the 2009 ARRL National Convention -- hosted by the Dayton Hamvention -- as a special guest of the ARRL and AMSAT. Garriott, who took off for the International Space Station (ISS) on October 12, became the sixth private citizen to fly with the Russian Federal Space Agency (RKA) for a short-term mission on the ISS <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/09/10382/?nc=1>. Not two hours after he arrived on the ISS on October 14, Garriott was making ham radio contacts, just as his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- the first ham to make QSOs from space -- did in 1983 while aboard the space shuttle Columbia on STS-9. Both Richard and Owen are ARRL members.

"We are so excited to have Richard be a part of our National Convention this year," said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "He will spend some time in the ARRL EXPO exhibit area, meeting convention attendees and signing autographs <http://www.arrl.org/expo>. He's also been confirmed as a Hamvention forum speaker." The ARRL EXPO is a large exhibit area located in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths) at Hara Arena.

"This mission to the ISS fulfilled a lifelong dream to experience spaceflight, just as my father first did 26 years ago," Richard said. "It's an honor to be the first American to follow a parent into space." While living on the ISS, Richard conducted scientific experiments and environmental research -- but he also had a chance to do quite a bit of Amateur Radio operating, including sending slow-scan TV (SSTV) images.

Richard said that after his first QSOs with Earth, he understood how "well-networked" the global ham community really is: "I received specific reports back through Mission Control-Moscow about the technical aspects of my work and how the [amateur] community was enjoying the transmissions. This redoubled my enthusiasm to do quality work for the Amateur Radio legions around the world, as I realized how much it meant to those with whom I had the chance to talk. By late in my flight, I had contacted many hundreds of hams by voice and I have good records of these contacts."

For the past 26 years, ham radio operations from aboard the space shuttles and the International Space Station have helped to spotlight the innovation and experimentation that are benchmarks of the Amateur Radio Service. Richard Garriott's story as a private astronaut embodies that same "can-do" spirit. "We are absolutely delighted that Richard has agreed to take part in the 2009 ARRL National Convention. His biography reads like an adventure novel -- one that spans global expeditioner, explorer and entrepreneur," Inderbitzen said. "Like many radio amateurs, Richard has an innate fascination with science and technology. He has written very enthusiastically about his experience using Amateur Radio from aboard the ISS. He found it particularly gratifying to find hams around the globe eager to make radio contact with him at any time of the day or night. Throughout the mission, he made hundreds of radio contacts with individuals and classrooms full of children. When we greet Richard in Dayton, we'll welcome him as one of our own!" --ARRL Letter

ARRL DX PHONE CONTEST BRINGS DX IN FULL FORCE TO HF BANDS

The 2009 ARRL DX SSB Contest March 7-8 provides a great opportunity for DX even with the present band conditions with the focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX stations – this means stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada. US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>

"While the origins of the ARRL DX Contest go back to 1929, the first Phone weekend wasn't until 1937," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "AM was the voice mode used at that time. The rules may have changed since the event was held back in the 1930s, but the premise remains the same: How many contacts with stations in far-away locales can you make?"

Contests offer a great opportunity to work DX, even for stations running 100 W and a dipole or vertical antenna. Contest stations generally have large antenna systems as well as very good operators who are looking for contacts and have the skills to pull out a weak signal. If you live in an area where antenna restrictions exist, take your contest effort on the road! Operate from your car, set up a portable antenna in a park or campground or see if a friend's station is available. If you have a station and won't be using it, consider opening your doors to members of your club to try their hand at working some DX. If you make 100 QSOs, you're eligible to purchase a commemorative pin for your efforts."

The ARRL DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 7 to 2359 UTC Sunday, March 8. Complete rules and forms are available online <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>. Why let all this DX pass you by? Get on the air and have some fun! --ARRL Letter (edited)

HAMS BUST COPS ON UNOFFICIAL CHAT CHANNEL

Radio hams in Indianapolis are taking credit for getting city police in that city to stop using unofficial extra radios on which the cops reportedly used language that might make a sailor blush. **Jack Parker, W8ISH**, has the details:

Dozens if not hundreds of Indianapolis Metro Police Officers have been busted for using Amateur Radios illegally to rag chew while on duty.

According to a report aired on an Indianapolis TV station, complaints to the FCC from local radio hams lead to a shake down of all Metro Police vehicles. Amateur Radio operators reported hearing foul language and improper usage of Amateur Radio frequencies by Metro Police officers.

Department PIO Lt. Jeff Duhamel had this to say: "Apparently, there has been a problem with some language, which is a violation of the FCC regulation. The chief has decided that the officers should pull them out of their vehicles." This prompted the department to do a three-day inspection of cruisers, ordering everyone with an unlicensed radio to remove them.

Local hams are expected to monitor the success of this crackdown and report further violations. Now they know that there are thousands of ears listening to their every word on

what they thought was their unofficial chat channel - ears with tape recorders ready to send more complaints to the FCC. -- Amateur Radio Newsline & *Jack Parker, W8ISH*—Indianapolis -- (edited)

ANNOUNCING THE ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Planning continues for the next USA and International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 ARDF Championships. Radio-orientees of all skill levels will gather in Boston, Massachusetts on the first weekend of June for two days of intense competition, first on two meters and then on 80 meters. The events are open to any fan of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting, with or without a ham license. Besides [IARU Region 2](#), which encompasses North and South America, visiting competitors are welcome from any continent.

Site of the contests will be the Blue Hills Reservation, a 7000-acre open space about ten miles south of downtown Boston. To keep participant costs to a minimum, these ARDF championships will be combined with a local meet of the New England Orienteering Club and use NEOC's excellent maps of the site. The concurrent ARDF and classic orienteering competitions will have separate electronic scoring systems. Distinctive flags will mark the hidden transmitters to avoid confusion with the regular orienteering controls.

Effective immediately, the Blue Hills Reservation area is off limits for anyone who will be competing in the 2009 USA ARDF Championships. To avoid any unfair advantage, potential competitors may not go to this site until competition time.

Organizing and hosting the 2009 championships is Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI (pictured at right), one of USA's most accomplished radio-orientees. As a youth, he learned ARDF and won awards for it in his native Russia. After coming to America, he first participated in USA's national championships in 2003, where he won silver and bronze medals in the five-fox M21 category. He has competed in M21 at every USA championships since then and has had the best five-fox time of all stateside participants every time. As a member of ARDF Team USA, he has been to the 2004, 2006 and 2008 World Championships. Last year, he finished in fifth place worldwide in the M40 category on 80 meters (see story below).

To encourage first-timers and foreign visitors, the competition fee will be waived for persons who have never participated in the USA ARDF Championships, and for persons coming from outside North America. Those persons will have the option of purchasing event T-shirts. The competition fee for all others will be \$50 per person, including T-shirt.

Vadim is now accepting registrations and inquiries by e-mail to vadim.afonkin [at] comcast.net. His Web site about these 2009 championships is at www.bostonardf.org and includes a downloadable registration form. Information on accommodations in the area may be found [here](#).

SHORTS

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI NOMINATED AS NEXT FCC CHAIRMAN -- On Tuesday, March 3, President Barack Obama nominated Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman. Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of Obama's from Harvard

Law School. Upon Senate confirmation, Genachowski will replace Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps; Copps took over the Commission on January 22, 2009, two days after then-Chairman Kevin Martin resigned. Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups -- two groups often at odds -- for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues. --ARRL

FCC REVOKES LICENSE OF INDIANA HAM -- On February 25, the Federal Communications Commission revoked the license of Lonnie L. Keeney, KB9RFO, of Greencastle Indiana. According to the FCC, Keeney's 2002 conviction of child molestation, a Class C felony, renders him "lack[ing] the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee." Keeney has 30 days to appeal the revocation http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-456A1.pdf --ARRL Letter

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB DAYTON HAMFEST BUS TRIP -- The Indianapolis Radio Club is again chartering a bus to the Dayton Hamvention this year. This is a great way to go to the show, you don't have to worry about parking and you can enjoy the trip.

The bus will leave Indianapolis early Saturday, May 16th and return that evening at around 7 PM. There is room for 44 persons and the cost is \$30 per person, no refunds. Pickup and drop off locations: South side at Southern Plaza and east side at Washington Plaza "Peddlers Mall". We will stop once on the trip to Dayton (quick breakfast), location to be announced.

The bus will drop off in front of the Hara Arena, and will be locked when unattended during the hamfest. At noon the bus will visit the hamfest for those who have items to secure or store for the return trip. The bus will leave Hara Arena for the return trip at 4PM.

For questions and sign up, contact IRC Treasurer, Jay Willever. <mailto:K9LJW@arrl.net> or at the next IRC monthly meeting, March 13.

THE ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD AT DAYTON HAMVENTION AGAIN THIS YEAR -- The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention May 15-17 at Hara Arena, a three days event chock-full of every bit of Amateur Radio you can think of. The centerpiece of ARRL's convention planning is ARRL EXPO, a huge showcase of ARRL program representatives and activities.

The ARRL EXPO, located in the large exhibit area in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths), will showcase exhibits and activities to enhance the ham radio experience with official ARRL program representatives, activities, forums and the ARRL bookstore offering popular publications and products and ARRL merchandise.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking -- including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards.

W1AW/8 Special Event station is planned, so be sure to have a copy of your license on hand and get in the hot seat of W1AW/8 and get on the air!

SWEDISH AMATEURS GRANTED NEW PRIVILEGES ON 50-52 MHz AND 7.1-7.2 MHz -- On January 29, the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency (PTS) announced that Amateur Radio operators in that country will now have access to 50-52 MHz (6 meters) with a power output limit of 200 W <http://www.pts.se/sv/Radio/Amatorradio/>. Before the change,

Swedish amateurs were allowed on the band only with a special license at an additional cost. The Foreningen Sveriges Sandareamatorer (SSA), Sweden's IARU Member-Society, also announced that as of April 1, Swedish amateurs will gain access to 7.0-7.2 MHz (40 meters), bringing Sweden into line with the WRC-03 decision to shift broadcasting stations in Regions 1 and 3 out of the 7100-7200 kHz band and to reallocate the band exclusively to the Amateur Service in those two regions as of March 29 <http://www.iau.org/re1030703.html>. Each country in Regions 1 and 3 is permitted to determine their own timeline for the amateur allocation. While the band has been vacated by commercial broadcasters, no country is required to give amateurs privileges on those frequencies.

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/>