

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

APRIL, 2009      MONTHLY NEWSLETTER      INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),  
5711 E. 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE MARCH MEETING** -- We have already had some informal talks with Tom, K9XV who is chairman of the Indianapolis Radio Club (IRC) Field Day committee. The location will be the same as last year, the Marion County Fair Grounds. The power line noise which was a big problem last year, has been fixed and is being monitored. If it shows up again, we're told by the folks at IPL, it will be fixed. The IRC has talked about changing from class 2A to 3A but will only do it if they are sure there is the manpower to support it. K9RU, N9KZJ and AF9A will represent the RCA ARC on the FD Committee. Planning meetings will start in April.

There was discussion about the Dayton Hamvention and who was planning to attend. At the Indy Hamfest, we're planning to have our normal tables in the flea market.

Dave, W9CGI passed around some information on the cost of doing a DX vacation to the Caribbean. These were locations already set up with equipment and antennas.

On the '88 repeater, we had been having Echolink problems with some people being able to connect and others not. Dave, N9KT spent a couple of evenings looking into the problem, checking the software, computers and routers and was able to work through and correct the problems. Thanks, Dave.

Also on the '88 repeater, the receive site near the downtown area has been down since last October and the west side started acting up in February. Jim AF9A and Jim K9RU checked out the downtown site and found it had been unplugged and the preamp was missing. It was reconnected and is up and running. John, KF9UH got the equipment from the west site and Jim, AF9A is checking it out.

Membership dues for the Indiana Radio Club Council and the Indiana Repeater Association were approved.

**INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB BUS TO DAYTON HAMVENTION** ---Planning to go to the Dayton Hamvention but don't want to drive or worry about parking? The Indianapolis Radio Club is chartering a bus to the Hamvention. The bus will leave Indianapolis early Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and will drop you off in front of the Hara Arena. On the return trip, leave the Hamvention at 4PM Saturday afternoon arriving in Indy arriving around 7 PM. The cost is \$30 person with pickup and drop off locations on the south side at Southern Plaza and East side at Washington Plaza "Peddlers Mall".

Contact IRC Treasurer: Jay Willever. [K9LJW](#) or at the next IRC monthly meeting.

**INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP IN MAY** -- It's a 12 hour event in which hams all over the world try to work as many Indiana hams in as many Indiana counties as possible... it's the Indiana QSO Party, to be held May 2 2009. This year the ARRL is encouraging all states to have a QSO party. You will find several other state QSO parties on the air that weekend. This does make the bands a bit crowded, but you can work them all and exchange counties with them. 80, 40 and 20 meters are the main bands used in the QSO party both CW and phone. 80 and 40 meters are great for picking up Indiana counties Saturday.

INQP is sponsored by the Hoosier DX & Contest Club, and rules, scores, logging programs and activity information are posted at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp>. Take a look at the web pages, and plan to be on the air May 2.

**HAM RADIO 201, CONTESTS AND STUFF** -- So, you've received your ham ticket, bought a VHF or UHF FM transceiver, and gotten on some of the local repeaters few times. Congratulations! Welcome to the hobby. We're sure you'll enjoy it. There are a wide variety of ham radio activities and operating events you may find interesting, or not. If you don't have a receiver covering the 160 meter thru 6 meter band you may not have heard any contest operation. Although there are many VHF and UHF contests, operation is usually on SSB or CW, not FM repeaters. Some of the contests are very popular as evidenced by wall-to-wall signals across the bands during the contest period.

**Contests** - There are dozens, probably hundreds, of various contests throughout the year sponsored by various organizations or groups. In practically all contests, the main goal is to complete as many contacts with other stations as possible during the contest period. A complete contact between two stations is usually defined as the exchange of some information (a "report") which is logged for scoring purposes. An example, if you are operating a station in Indiana, you may send the other a station a report of "five nine Indiana." Which of course means I copy you "readability 5, strength 9 here in Indiana." You would also be required to copy similar information from him to complete the exchange. This is the RST reporting system, <http://www.radioing.com/hamstart/rst.html>, a carryover from CW operation and used on CW, voice, and some digital operation. The report is always 5-9 even if you can barely hear the other guy!

There are various reports depending on the contest. ARRL sponsored contests often use signal report (5-9) plus your ARRL section (Indiana, some states have multiple ARRL sections). Other examples may include your grid square, <http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>, CQ zone (CQ Magazine sponsored contests), <http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/CQ/index.html>, or some information about you or your station or operating conditions. The report you receive from the other station is part of your log which is usually input to a computer logging program which computes your score. Depending on the contest, there may be bonus points or multipliers based on geographical areas or other factors.

So, you win. What's the prize? Usually you get to see your call sign in a list with all the others who entered and points scored by each published in a magazine or on the internet. Maybe you get a certificate!

Field Day, although not considered a real contest by the die-hard contesters, is coming up on the fourth full weekend in June, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>. Plan to join us!

**DXpeditions** – Also a competition of sorts. The DX Century Club <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/> award sponsored by the ARRL, is a continuous contest to see who can work, and get confirmed, the most "countries." Currently there are 338 entities which qualify as a country for the purposes of the DXCC award. A DXpedition is, as the term implies, an expedition to one of the DXCC entities for the purpose of putting this country on the air for a period of time so that other amateurs have a chance to get a contact. DXpeditions to "the rare ones" typically are well organized and sponsored trips put together by a club or group of interested hams. Keep in mind, the definition of a country for the purposes of DXCC is not necessarily the same as the political definition of a country. Many islands separated from the mainland may qualify as a separate country. As you might expect, the competition to work some of the rare ones is very intense!

**Special Event Stations** – Although not a contest, the usual reward for working a special event station is usually a rather nice QSL card or certificate. Special event stations can be in honor of almost anything. Often a special event call sign is issued for the event. The Museum Ships on the Air event, <http://www.indyradioclub.org/ussindy.htm>, is an example although in this case, there are many special event stations on the air during this weekend. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Club, W9IMS, runs special event operations each year prior to the races at the Speedway, <http://www.grz.com/w9ims>. IOTA, Islands On The Air, [http://webhome.idirect.com/~va3rj/isl\\_iota.html](http://webhome.idirect.com/~va3rj/isl_iota.html) and WLOTA, World Lighthouses On The Air, <http://www.wlota.com/> are other examples.

**State QSO Parties** – The ARRL promotes a QSO party, <http://www.arrl.org/awards/ysqso/>, to encourage amateur operation and help those amateurs working toward their Worked All States, WAS, award, or various County awards. The Indiana QSO party is May 2-3, 2009.

**INDIANAPOLIS VE TESTING SCHEDULE** -- Calling in advance to ensure testing availability is suggested but not mandatory. **June 6, 2009, and July 11 at the Indy Hamfest**

**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

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>
Aug 1	Broadripple Hamfest
Sept 26	Greenfield Hamfest No fees, no prizes, just free flea market!

## DAYTON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARD WINNERS

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (**DARA**), host of the **Dayton Hamvention®**, has announced the winners of their three 2009 annual receive awards -- 2009 Amateur of the Year, the Technical Excellence Award and the Special Achievement Award -- at the annual event in May. Each year, DARA **invites the amateur community to submit nominations** of hams who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service.

Hamvention Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, praised the winners: "On behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and Hamvention 2009, it is my pleasure to congratulate this year's Award Winners. Their outstanding contributions and the many years of service exemplify what the Amateur Radio Service is."

**Amateur of the Year** -- Wade "Danny" Hampton Jr, K4ITL, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was named the 2009 Amateur of the Year. Hampton, whose efforts helped create an extensive emergency radio network for North Carolina, is the architect of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network. This system, established in the early 1970s, today sports more than 40 machines in North Carolina. The system is heavily used for public service work. He has enhanced the network's utility with custom audio processing boards and RF components. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Management and **SKYWARN** have recognized the network's vital role in emergency communication. Recently, Hampton helped coordinate the development of a local hospital-based Amateur Radio emergency repeater system that ties 10 facilities together.

A ham since 1958, Hampton is Southeastern Repeater Association (**SERA**) technical committee chairman as well as ARRL North Carolina Section **Technical Coordinator**. "Danny's extensive knowledge of the two-way and broadcast radio industries in this state has enabled him to assist many repeater owners," said former ARRL North Carolina Section Manager John Covington, W4CC. "His advice in resolving RFI problems between repeater and commercial services, as well as other technical matters, has been extremely valuable to the Section."

**Technical Excellence Award** -- Copthorne "Cop" Macdonald, VY2CM, of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, was named the recipient of the Technical Excellence Award. Macdonald, an SSTV pioneer, ham radio author, and renewable energy advocate, received his first ham license when he was 15. As an engineering student at the University of Kentucky, he designed and built the first ham radio SSTV system; the paper he wrote describing the system won national first prize in the 1958 **AIEE** student paper competition. He worked with other SSTV pioneers to get the FCC to authorize SSTV

operation in the HF ham bands -- an effort that succeeded in 1968.

Macdonald wrote many articles on SSTV for *QST* and *CQ*, and in 1973 started New Directions Radio - a network of hams concerned with using ham radio and SSTV "to help create a more aware, more caring and more responsible human society." He also wrote columns for two magazines about this issue: "Cop's Column" in *CQ* and "New Directions Radio" in *The Mother Earth News*.

In 1975, Macdonald moved to Prince Edward Island, Canada. In the early 1980s, he ran an energy conservation program there; in the 1980s and '90s, he wrote for the PEI and Canadian governments on energy conservation and renewable energy. At some point, Macdonald said he realized that what we needed as individuals -- and a world society -- is a more insightful, more caring, more prudent way of being called wisdom. He has since written three books on that subject: *Toward Wisdom*, *Getting a Life* and *Matters of Consequence*. In 1995, Macdonald started The Wisdom Page, a Web presence devoted to wisdom.

**Special Achievement Award** -- Richard Garriott, W5KWQ -- legendary video game programmer/designer and ham radio operator who was the sixth private citizen to fly to the International Space Station (ISS) -- was named Hamvention 2009 Special Achievement Award winner. Garriott introduced ham radio to thousands of students from the ISS.

Like his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who made history as the first ham to communicate from space with radio amateurs during the [STS-9](#) space shuttle mission in 1983, the Hamvention Awards Committee called Richard "a ham radio pathfinder in his own right." Through on-orbit experimentation, implementation of new capabilities, extensive operations using many diverse operations modes and phenomenal educational outreach initiatives, he inspired and transformed the lives many students.

Richard Garriott's 10 day stay on the ISS represented an unsurpassed opportunity for hams and students worldwide. More than 500 two-way voice QSOs were conducted, with more than 1000 [SSTV](#) images downlinked. He communicated with tens of thousands of students in seven different Challenger Learning Centers in the US, the Austin Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy in Texas, the Pinehurst School in Ashland, Oregon, the Budbrooke School in the UK and the National Space Challenge in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Garriott also had numerous random chats with scouts worldwide as part of the Amateur Radio Jamboree on the Air ([JOTA](#)).

In an effort to kick-start the SSTV operations mode on ISS, Garriott received a specially modified Kenwood VC-H1 from the [ARISS](#) team that was left onboard the ISS, significantly enhancing ARISS educational outreach. He performed numerous SSTV experiments, and helped the ARISS team test and debug several ham radio systems on ISS, including the software-based SSTV systems, SpaceCam and MMSSTV. In his short stay on ISS, he performed 10 times more SSTV downlinks than any other crew member on the shuttle, *Mir* or the ISS.

Hamvention Awards Chairman Frank Beafore, WS8B, said the committee had a tough task selecting the winners from the number of worthy nominees. "We believe each winner has made a significant contribution to the ham radio community," he said. "We were again impressed with the quality of the nominations." --ARRL

## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN US SENATE TO INVENTORY RADIO SPECTRUM

Two US Senators -- Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine -- have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

<<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/>> and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

The bill also mandates that both agencies create a centralized portal or Web site that lists each agency's band inventories. This information would then be made available to the public via an Internet-accessible Web site. Both agencies would also be required to make all necessary efforts to maintain and update the inventory information "in near real-time fashion and whenever there is a transfer or auction of licenses or change in allocation or assignment." The bill includes an exemption for licensees or users if they can demonstrate that disclosure would be harmful to national security.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that the bill is in its infancy and that there is no corresponding legislation in the House of Representatives: "The text of the proposed legislation neither exempts Amateur Radio nor considers the frequency-agile and unfixed nature of most Amateur Radio operations. This bill merits watching and presents amateurs an opportunity to educate their Senators about the nature of our stations and our Service." –ARRL Letter

## **FCC PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR MEDICAL DEVICES OPERATING ON 70 CM BAND**

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf), proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology "could revolutionize medical treatment and therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease'), as well as numerous other neurological disorders. It could be used in conjunction with next-generation prosthetic limbs to provide wireless sensation and control to the prostheses. Of particular note, this technology can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of numerous US soldiers who suffered spinal cord, brain and other serious injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and other missions abroad."

Last month, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. "There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals," Price said. "The very low power output of these devices should have no impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate."

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications Service [MICS]) in Part 95 of the Commission's rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426 432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz.

The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention

protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service. –ARRL Letter

## ARRL COMMENTS ON FCC'S PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL BROADBAND PLAN

On March 10, 2009, the FCC invited comments via a Public Notice [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-09-561A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-561A1.pdf) concerning the establishment of a comprehensive rural broadband strategy as part of the Department of Agriculture's Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill. Per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Congress required the FCC to develop a "comprehensive national broadband plan." According to the FCC, they, Congress, and the Secretary of Agriculture "have repeatedly recognized the importance of ensuring access to advanced telecommunications and information services to all Americans, with a special focus on rural and hard-to-serve areas." The proceeding provided an opportunity for the ARRL to express its concerns about broadband over power lines (BPL) <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>> that the FCC has yet to satisfactorily address.

In the comments submitted by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD [http://www.arrl.org/news/files/09-29\\_Rural\\_Broadband\\_Comments\\_03\\_2009.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/09-29_Rural_Broadband_Comments_03_2009.pdf), the ARRL reaffirms its support of broadband opportunities in rural areas. "ARRL is in agreement that broadband is critical to the health of agricultural and other businesses, and to the educational interests of Americans who live in rural areas," Imlay stated. Imlay commended the FCC in looking for broadband solutions on both the short and long term, as well as identifying how Federal programs "might overcome obstacles that currently impede rural broadband development." Imlay pointed out that while the FCC and various power utilities have touted BPL as a promising means of providing rural broadband service, the ARRL contends that there are "prohibitive limitations (notable among these being the large number, and the cost, of repeaters and couplers required on overhead, medium voltage power lines for what amounts to a limited number of subscribers' homes in rural areas)."

The ARRL maintains that before BPL could ever be considered as a long-term source of broadband in rural America, the FCC must adopt rules that provide against BPL interference to the licensed radio services. Imlay said that studies have pointed out that BPL systems cause interference to licensed radio services in "certain configurations," such as international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, disaster relief, military and the Amateur Radio Service.

Imlay said that Amateur Radio is a "continuous, intensive user of the high-frequency bands in residential areas," and as such, "is arguably the most pervasively affected" by deployment of BPL in rural areas. "Amateur mobile operation is a particularly notable victim of BPL interference, since medium-voltage power lines run parallel to roadways." The Commission's BPL rules "include no effective protection."

Imlay told the FCC that more than four years ago, the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) <http://www.usda.gov/rus/> recognized "the need and willingness to utilize agency resources to remove interference concerns as an obstacle to rural broadband rollout (at least via BPL)." In a January 2005 letter from then-RUS Administrator Hilda Gay Legg to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, regarding the RUS's Community Connect Grant Program <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm>, the RUS acknowledged that the cost of interference mitigation from BPL systems was a "significant" issue, and told the ARRL that "whenever a loan or grant application proposes broadband service delivery via BPL, the RUS will 'consider the cost of interference mitigation in [its] financial analysis.'" On March 20, current FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein was nominated by President Barack Obama <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1> to become the next Administrator of the RUS.

Saying that rural broadband opportunities should be "evaluated in terms of the scientific realities of the technologies on the table, and not on the basis of what the Commission wants to believe about them," the ARRL asked the FCC to fulfill "without further delay the obligations placed upon it by the United States Court of Appeals in ET Docket 04-37, and adopt such revised and additional rules for BPL so as to eliminate the extant interference potential of the technology." With the regulatory uncertainty and unresolved interference issues that continue to surround BPL, the resolution of ET Docket 04-37 is a "prerequisite for the development" of a plan for a complete evaluation of rural broadband opportunities and the development of a rural broadband plan. –ARRL Letter

## US COAST GUARD TO DISCONTINUE LORAN STATIONS

Last month, the US Coast Guard announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation) <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. – ARRL Letter

## FCC CLARIFIES WHAT AN AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER IS

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), A repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels." Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time. In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "an amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "an amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word

'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit." To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time." –ARRL Letter

## SHORTS

**A RARE HOOSIER ISLAND ACTIVATION COMING UP** -- On August 1st, Ernie Pyle Island, in Owen County will be activated. Station W9I will be on the air to commemorate the 109th birthday of Indiana hero Ernie Pyle. They plan on operating CW and SSB on the 10 through 40 meter bands.

**DTV TRANSITION DATE IS NOT CHANGING AGAIN** -- Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) wanted to make sure that presumptive Commerce Secretary, former Washington Governor Gary Locke, is clear that the new DTV hard date of June 12 is not moving. In her opening statement Wednesday in Locke's nomination hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee, Hutchinson put a fine point on it: "We cannot extend that deadline again. The NTIA has been given additional funding and the number of consumers on the waitlist to receive coupons has diminished, but there are still many out there and I will certainly want to see how you plan to run the NTIA to assure that DTV is ready to transition in June."

**WHITE SPACE DEVICE TESTING COMES TO CALIFORNIA** -- The FCC has granted an experimental permit to Adaptrum with call WE2XXI to experiment with white space devices to operate on TV Channels 7 through 51 with the exception of Channel 37 which is reserved for Radio Astronomy.

White spaces refer to frequencies allocated to a broadcasting service but not used locally. In the United States, the term has gained prominence after the FCC ruled that unlicensed devices that can guarantee that they will not interfere with assigned broadcasts can use the empty white spaces in spectrum. More is on-line at [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/C-288835A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/C-288835A1.doc)

There has been a lot of concern by the NAB that these devices may not have the sensitivity to detect the off air DTV stations in rural areas where reception requires an outdoor TV antennas. A white space device not detecting a DTV station and transmitting on the DTV channel can cause interference to the reception.

**NEW INTERNET MARKET PLACE FOR AMATEUR RADIO** -- The Amateur Radio Exchange is a new eBay style auction / listing site that is less expensive and safe for Amateur Radio.

The [Amateur Radio Exchange](#) is offering free listings for the Month of March and reduced listing during April. With the bulk listing feature you are able to place items on the site in a snap!!!

The [Amateur Radio Exchange](#) is a safe and secure place for hams to Sell, Buy, or swap. The new [Forum](#) is easy to access using the same username and password. You are invited to visit and register to use this Amateur dedicated website.

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