

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JULY, 2009 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

The Indianapolis Hamfest is this Saturday, July 11, at Camp Sertoma, German Church at Brookville Rd, US 52. We need your help loading our stuff starting at 3:30 PM Friday, July 10 at Mike Koss' warehouse. We also need your help Saturday selling the stuff. Please plan to help out for a couple of hours.... Thanks!

RCA ARC NEWS -- Final planning for field day was discussed. We do need to get together with Tom, W9XV and verify what we need to supply.

The Indy Hamfest is coming up on us very quickly, July 11 and the plans for moving the "junk" from Mike's to the Hamfest are the same as last year. We will meet at Mike around 3:30PM to load the stuff. Jim, AF9A has made arrangements for the truck. Jim, K9RU has taken care of the tables. Help will be needed at Mike's to load and at the Hamfest to unload. We will need help Saturday manning the booth. Room will be available for items you have to sell, but they will be your responsibility and you will need to help man the booth.

Jim, K9RU replaced the receive antenna with a 4 Bay dipole array pointed east and added a 440 MHz vertical for the backup control link receiver. Both antennas were donated by Dave, N9KZJ.

We approved the plans to operate a special event station on June 12th for the Digital transition and to commemorate 70 years of analog TV broadcasting.

2009 FIELD DAY -- The weather was great, with no rain, the food was good and the noise was down compared to last year for the IRC/RCA ARC Field Day. We had a very good turn out with 44 people visiting the site.

I would like to thank everyone that came out and helped with the operation. Below is a breakdown for the different stations.

Station #1 40M/15M

40M CW 79, Phone 530
15M Phone 52
Total QSOs: 661

GOTA Station, 80M, 40M & 15M

Total QSOs: 254 QSOs

Station #2 80M/20M

80M Phone 265
20M CW 227
15M CW 21

Total QSOs: 1104

VHF Station 6M

CW 1, Phone 56
Total QSOs: 57

Totals All Stations: 2076 QSOs

W9RCA DIGITAL TRANSITION SPECIAL EVENT OPERATION – This was a spur of the moment idea, with only a short operating time starting at 6:30 PM to 11PM. We had a great time and

worked about 1100 stations. Band condition on 20 meters were great, working many ZL and VK stations. Bill, WY9T was operating on 20 meters and with the good condition, we could not get him to quite until 2 AM. -K9RU

WW2IND MUSEUM SHIPS ON THE AIR – I don't know the QSO totals for the WW2IND USS Indianapolis memorial operation, but I do know they had a good turn out. I did get a chance to stop by and operate and visit the USS Indianapolis radio room they are putting together at the museum. – K9RU

ARRL VHF CONTEST -- 6 Meter has been erratic this year, not many openings in the spring, but the VHF contest provided some good operating conditions with opening around the US and South America. Since the contest there have been 6 meter openings into Europe. 2 meters up have provided contact up into Canada. -K9RU

TV REMOTE CONTROL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED – There is an inexpensive RCA TV remote control, model RCR312, which will operate your DTV converter box and your TV. Allows you to adjust your TV audio volume while in the DTV converter mode. It is available at Wall-Mart.

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

SPONSOR: Indianapolis Radio Club (W9JP)

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

TIME: All testing starts at 9:00 AM

CONTACTS: Gale Wuollet (317-849-8449), <mailto:indy33windy@comcast.net> or Dovid Ofstein (317-908-5125) doctoro57@yahoo.com

July 11, 2009	at the Indy Hamfest
August 8, 2009,	liaison is Dovid Ofstein (N9APE)
September 5, 2009	liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)
October 3, 2009	liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)
November 7, 2009	liaison is Dovid Ofstein (N9APE)
December 5, 2009	liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

July 11	Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma http://www.indyhamfest.com
July 18 -19	CQ VHF Contest
July 24-26	W9IMS Brickyard 400 Special Event Station Operation
Aug 1	Broadripple Hamfest
Aug 28-30	W9IMS MotoGP Special Event Station Operation
Sept 11	Indianapolis Radio Club 3 rd Hill Top OTA Event
Sept 26	Greenfield Hamfest No fees, no prizes, just a free flea market!

CEA ASKS FOR MORE BROADBAND SPECTRUM

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) called on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to open up an additional 200MHz of broadband spectrum as part of its National Broadband Plan.

In a document presented to the FCC, the CEA asked the National Broadband Plan allocate at least 200MHz of additional spectrum for use by advanced wireless services, while making sure it does not inadvertently hinder innovation. The CEA recommended the FCC and NTIA each identify 100MHz of spectrum that could be repurposed for consumers and businesses.

The CEA also called on the FCC to maintain an environment that would advance competition and broadband deployment by stimulating investment in a high-speed broadband infrastructure. In addition, the industry organization called for minimal regulation of the broadband market.

US SETS FINAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER WIRELESS PILOT

Looking to help eliminate the dangerous and inefficient hodgepodge of communication and network technology used by emergency response personnel, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today said it had picked 14 groups from across the country to pilot an ambitious Multi-Band Radio project.

In 2008, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate awarded a \$6.2 million contract to Thales Communications to demonstrate the first-ever portable radio prototype that lets emergency responders-police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and others-communicate with partner agencies, regardless of the radio band they operate on. This is the final pilot in a three-part test, DHS said.

Currently radios only operate within a specific frequency band; subsequently, responders are often unable to communicate with other agencies and support units that operate in different radio frequencies. Comparable in size and weight to existing portable radios with similar features, multi-band radio would provide users with much-improved incident communications capabilities, the DHS stated.

Thales Liberty multiband mobile radio received US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certification in April. The Liberty radio is made in the U.S. and is the first multiband, software-defined LMR designed specifically for government agencies and first responders, the company said.

The MBR prototype is capable of operating in the primary public safety bands between 136-174 megahertz (MHz) and 380-520 MHz as well as in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. Additionally, when authorized, the MBR is capable of operating on the Department of Defense bands in the 136-138 MHz and 380- 400 MHz ranges as well two Federal Government bands: 162-174 MHz and 406.1-420 MHz. This capability will for the first time let for Federal agencies interoperate with local, tribal, regional, and state counterparts, the DHS said. Carrying a price tag of \$4,000-\$6,000, the MBR is equal in form, factor, and cost to existing high-end portable radios, the DHS said.

The 14 pilot organizations are: - 2010 Olympic Security Committee (Blaine, Wash., and Vancouver, B.C. Canada), - Amtrak (Northeast Corridor), - Boise Fire Department (Boise, Idaho), - Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (Ottawa, ON Canada), - Customs and Border Patrol (Detroit), - Federal Emergency Management Agency (Multiple Locations), - Hawaii State Civil Defense (Honolulu), - Interagency Communication Interoperability System (Los Angeles County, Calif.), - Michigan Emergency Medical Services (Lower Peninsula Areas), , - Murray State University (Southwest Kentucky), - Phoenix Police Department and Arizona Department of Emergency -- Management Greater Phoenix and Yuma County), - Texas National Guard (Austin, Texas), - U.S. Marshals Service (Northeast Region), - Washington Metro Area Transit Authority Transit Police (District of Columbia). Each agency will conduct a minimum 30-day pilot in fall 2009.

PRESIDENT OBAMA MAKES FOUR NOMINATIONS FOR FCC COMMISSINERS. GENACHOWSKI IN AS FCC CHAIRMAN

Just barely five months into his first term as President of the United States, Barack Obama has put his personal stamp on the Federal Communications Commission: On June 25, the US Senate confirmed Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman and reconfirmed current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for his first full term as Commissioner. Earlier the same day, he nominated South Carolina Democrat Mignon Clyburn and Republican Meredith Attwell Baker for the two vacant Commissioner seats.

President Obama nominated Genachowski to lead the Commission on March and renominated McDowell on June 2. Both nominees received bipartisan support from the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee before their names were moved to the full Senate for confirmation: Genachowski received a 24-1 vote from the committee, while McDowell received unanimous support. Genachowski is a Democratic nominee, while McDowell is a Republican. Only three Commissioners at a time may be members of the same political party.

Julius Genachowski -- Genachowski was sworn in On Monday, June 29, US Supreme Court Justice David Souter as the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of the President's from Harvard Law School. He 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. "He will bring to the job diverse and unparalleled experience in communications and technology, with two decades of accomplishment in the private sector and public service.

Robert McDowell -- McDowell, a Republican, was first nominated by President George W. Bush and sworn into office in June 2006, filling the unexpired term of Republican Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

According to the White House, McDowell has collaborated with his fellow Commissioners to develop and establish American communications policy covering the wireless, media and Internet industries, as well as international policy matters. He has worked to create rules governing wireless auctions, establish a framework for unlicensed use of TV "white spaces" spectrum, develop incentives to encourage the development of new broadband technologies, review public interest benefits as part of the approval process of proposed corporate mergers and adjudicate enforcement proceedings. McDowell brings to the FCC 16 years of private sector experience in the communications industry.

Mignon Clyburn -- Clyburn, the daughter of House Majority Whip Representative James Clyburn (D-SC), has served on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina since 1998. The Public Service Commission regulates South Carolina's investor owned public utilities, including providers of telecommunications services. Before her election to that body, she spent 14 years as the publisher and general manager of "The Coastal Times," a weekly newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina. Clyburn graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking, Finance & Economics in 1984.

Meredith Attwell Baker -- Baker, the daughter-in-law of former Secretary of State James Baker, formerly served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and the Acting Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/> from 2007 to January 2009. Named as Deputy Assistant Secretary in February 2007, Baker first joined NTIA as a Senior Advisor in January 2004, and also served as Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of International Affairs and on detail to the White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy. Baker was replaced by Larry Strickling, who received the Senate's nod to head the NTIA on Thursday, June 25.

"We have serious concerns regarding the nomination of Meredith Attwell Baker as an FCC Commissioner," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "While Ms. Baker was Acting Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the NTIA released a deeply flawed report entitled 'Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007'. The report seriously and inexcusably overstated the extent of deployment of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) as a means of delivering broadband services to consumers. Documented FCC figures showed there to be about 5000 BPL customers nationwide, yet the NTIA dismissed this number out of hand and went on a fishing expedition for higher figures that it could quote in the range of 200,000 to 400,000 -- utterly specious numbers without a shred of factual foundation."

Sumner continued: "The ARRL proved that these figures were taken out of thin air and twice called upon Acting Administrator Baker to issue a correction. Not only has the NTIA failed to do so to this

day, our well documented complaints were not even acknowledged. If her FCC nomination is to go forward, we believe that Ms. Baker first must acknowledge and correct this egregious error that occurred while she was in charge at NTIA."

Baker spearheaded the coupon program for digital-to-analog converter boxes to help facilitate the transition to digital television. She has served on delegations representing the United States at major international telecommunications conferences and engaged in bilateral discussions with senior level officials from countries around the world.

ARRL SEEKS COURT ACTION TO COMPEL FCC TO COMPLY WITH RULING

On June 24, 2009, the ARRL filed a petition with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit asking the Court to order the Federal Communications Commission to comply with the Court's 2008 decision that remanded the FCC's ruling on Access BPL for further action.

In its Petition for a Writ of Mandamus, the ARRL asks that the Court "order the Commission to comply with the terms of the Court's mandate by (1) soliciting comment on the unredacted studies placed in the rulemaking record, and (2) providing a reasoned explanation of its choice of an extrapolation factor for Access BPL (or issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking proposing a different extrapolation factor), within sixty days".

"What's at issue is the fact that after over a year the FCC has not complied with the Court's order," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The FCC needs to ask the public to comment on the scientific studies conducted by the FCC and on which they relied in their BPL decision. It also must either offer a reasoned explanation, based on the scientific studies already in the FCC's record, for its determination of the rate at which radiation from medium voltage power lines carrying BPL decays with distance from the power line, or issue a new Notice of Proposed Rule Making and seek comment on an appropriate standard."

The Court of Appeals issued its decision April 25, 2008 and its mandate on June 13, 2008. ARRL's petition asserts: "By March 31, 2009, the Commission had taken no action with respect to the disclosure of the unredacted scientific studies and had not therefore solicited public comment on the unredacted studies. Petitioner, therefore, filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Commission seeking the unredacted versions of the studies that the Court ordered be included in the rulemaking record, and about which an opportunity for comment was to be provided by the Agency."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that "We have been waiting patiently for the FCC to fulfill its obligations under the Court of Appeals decision, but after more than a year, it's clearly past time for the Commission to act. Thanks to the release of the unredacted staff studies in response to the ARRL's most recent FOIA request -- a request that should not have been necessary for us to make -- we finally know what the FCC withheld from public view back in 2004 and what they now must deal with in order to resolve the regulatory uncertainty that continues to hang over BPL. We are hopeful that under its new leadership, the FCC will get back on track and will revise its rules governing BPL interference to be consistent with the technical record and sound science."

On May 1 of this year, the Commission released the unredacted studies without comment or notice. As the ARRL's petition continues, "To date, no public notice of that action has been given and no further action has been taken by the Commission with respect to the provision of an opportunity for the public to comment on the unredacted studies."

Henderson explained that "the release of the unredacted studies is only a partial fulfillment of the Circuit Court's decision. The ARRL's position is that further delay is not warranted by any reasonable, factual standard. There is precedent in law that 'a reasonable time for agency action is typically

counted in weeks or months, not years.' It is 14 months since the Court's decision, and still the FCC has no timeline to meet its mandated obligations."

The ARRL is asking that the Court order the Commission to comply with the Court's order within 60 days. The petition states: "Given the simplicity of the Commission's compliance with the two components of the Court's Mandate on remand and the amount of time that the Commission has already taken following the issuance of the Mandate, the Court need not be concerned with the question of how much more time is needed for the Commission to complete its tasks. Sixty days is more than enough to solicit public comment on the unredacted studies and to justify, if it can, the extrapolation factor, or to reopen the rulemaking proceeding in order to determine a different, appropriate extrapolation factor." –ARRL Letter

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER PREDICTS "NEAR-NORMAL" HURRICANE SEASON

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are calling for a "near-normal" Atlantic hurricane season this year.

Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz is one of several key players <http://www.hwn.org/>. It serves either the Atlantic or Pacific during a watch or warning period and coordinates with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. Frequent, detailed information is issued on nets when storms pose a threat to the US mainland. In addition to hurricane spotting, local communicators may announce that residents have evacuated from low-lying flood areas. Other amateurs across the country can help by relaying information, keeping the net frequency clear and by listening. See the HWN's Web site for more information. The net works closely with the hams at the NHC's Amateur Radio station WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.com/>.

The SATERN Net (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) <http://www.saturn.org/> provides emergency communication support to the Salvation Army and populations at large. They also handle health-and-welfare traffic. SATERN holds high profile nets on 20 meters (14.265 MHz) during major hurricanes and has a long history of excellence, discipline and service. Refer to the SATERN Web site for more information.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) <http://www.mmsn.org/> meets on 14.300 MHz and is composed of hams who serve and assist those in need of communications on the high seas. According to its Web site, the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobile stations. The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard and has an excellent working relationship with that agency. The MMSN has handled hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress and medical emergencies in remote locations, as well as passing health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They also work closely with the NWS and NHC by relaying weather reports from maritime stations.

The VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net <http://www.voipwx.net> operates by combining both the EchoLink and IRLP linked repeater networks, while handling critical wide area communications during major severe weather and tropical events. These operations have gained national stature in recent years, making the Net a critical partner with WX4NHC. Whenever tropical weather is posing a threat to the US mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX net will be fully operational. See the VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net Web site for more information.

Palm said that during hurricane events, there are usually two or three regional nets (usually on 40 or 20 meters) that spring to prominence as major key assets to the disaster response on an ad hoc basis. Don't transmit on their frequencies unless you are absolutely sure you have something substantive to add, and then only under the direction of the net control station," Palm advised.

If you are interested in Emergency Communications, please be sure to check out the monthly ARES E-Letter <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/> You can elect to receive this newsletter free of charge via e-mail by going to the Member Data Page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>. –ARRL Letter

NASA/NOAA RELEASES NEW PREDICTIONS FOR SOLAR CYCLE 24

An international panel of experts -- led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and sponsored by NASA -- has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," said panel chairman Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center. This report clarifies a NOAA report from May 2009 that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average" http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090508_solarstorm.html.

The latest forecast revises a prediction issued in 2007. At that time, a sharply divided panel believed solar minimum would come in March 2008 followed by either a strong solar maximum in 2011, or a weak solar maximum in 2012. "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," said Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

In June 2009 the solar cycle is in a valley, the deepest of the past century. In 2008 and 2009, the Sun showed some of the lowest sunspot counts on record, as well as weak solar winds and a low solar irradiance, going more than two years without a significant solar flare. "In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it," Pesnell said. "Solar minimum has lasted far beyond the date we predicted in 2007."

In recent months, however, Pesnell said that the Sun has begun to show some small signs of life: Small sunspots and "proto-sunspots" are popping up with increasing frequency. Enormous currents of plasma on the Sun's surface are gaining strength and slowly drifting toward its equator. Radio astronomers have detected a tiny but significant uptick in solar radio emissions. All these things are precursors of an awakening Solar Cycle 24 and form the basis for the panel's new, almost unanimous forecast.

There could be more surprises, panelists acknowledge -- and more revisions to the forecast. "Go ahead and mark your calendar for May 2013," Pesnell said. "But use a pencil." -- Some information from NASA

DICK ISLEY, W9GIG, ANNOUNCED HE'LL BE A CANDIDATE FOR REELECTION AS ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR

Dick Isley, W9GIG has announced that he would be a candidate for reelection as ARRL Central Division Director this fall. I plan to file my nominating petition with ARRL Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, at the board meeting later this month.

In the announcement letter, Dick said "I like discussing amateur radio issues with fellow hams. I thoroughly enjoy working with my fellow ARRL directors and officers. Yes, we sometimes have differences of opinion, but this just adds a bit of zest to the process of reaching a consensus."

The ARRL has made a lot of progress the past 10 or so years, but there still are some serious issues, that I believe I can help resolve, or at least see that more effective plans and policies for dealing with them are developed.

After years of loss and stagnation, the number of Amateur Radio licensees and ARRL memberships appears to be slowly increasing. The increase in the average age of U.S. Amateur Radio licensees appears to be leveling off - hopefully an indicator we are attracting new and younger people into the hobby. We need to accelerate these processes.

The RF spectrum is a finite resource and there are ever-increasing uses and demands, both public and commercial for it. We will always have to politically defend our Amateur Radio frequency allocations here at home and at the International level. However, providing effective, well publicized, emergency communications is our most effective long-term defense.

The financial costs of recruiting new people into the hobby and protecting our frequencies, plus our membership programs and service are constantly rising. ARRL needs to increase revenues beyond what member dues and ARRL publications can reasonably provide.

If you have any ARRL or Amateur Radio related questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me at: dick@pobox.com George R. (Dick) Isely, W9GIG, ARRL Central Division Director, 736 Fellows Street, St. Charles, IL 60174

SHORTS

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES LOG SUBMISSION DEADLINE CHANGED -- The ARRL Contest Branch announced that the ARRL Sweepstakes log submission deadline will be reduced from 30 days to 15 days, allowing for results from both the CW and Phone portions of the contest to be posted to the ARRL Web site within 60 days of the deadline. Electronic logs in the Cabrillo format are being encouraged. The ARRL plans to contact as many paper log submitters as possible and point out resources they can use to generate Cabrillo logs.

While the ARRL will never turn away a paper log (never?), the advantages of electronic log submission are critical to the success of the accelerated presentation of the Sweepstakes results. "Numerous software contest loggers exist for Windows and DOS, including the free packages CT <http://www.k1ea.com/> and N1MM and <http://pages.athome.net/n1mm/>," he said. Entrants are also able to manually convert their own paper logs to a Cabrillo log at the WA7BNM Cabrillo Web site" http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlsscw_cab.php. --ARRL Letter

CENTRAL STATES VHF SOCIETY SEEKS PRESENTATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE -- The Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) <http://www.csvhfs.org/> is soliciting presentations and poster displays for their 43rd Annual Conference this summer -- July 23-26 -- at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village, Illinois <http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/index.html>. Possible presentation topics on all aspects of weak-signal VHF and above include, but are not limited to, antennas (modeling, design, arrays and control), equipment construction, propagation, test gear, regulatory issues, operating, digital signal processing and software-defined radio. The submission deadline for presentations and poster displays is June 29; bring posters for display with you to the conference. For more information, visit the CSVHFS 2009 conference Web page <http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/index.html> or contact Kermit Carlson, W9XA, at w9xa@yahoo.com. --ARRL Letter

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