

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NOVEMBER, 2009 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER MEETING – Thanks to all those who attended! The October meeting is election of officers and the current officers were elected for another year. Various ham radio contests were discussed since we're not entering the contest season. TheW9IMS (Indy Motor Speedway) Club three special event operations which coincided with the three races this summer netted in excess of 12,000 QSOs. Dave, N9KZJ, reported on the USS Indianapolis station at the war memorial. There will be an official open house in November.

AR NEWSLINE IS AVAILABLE ON W9RCA REPEATER ON ECHOLINK -- If you would like to hear the current weeks ARNewsline, connect to the Echolink node 6397 on the W9RCA repeater.

ARNewsline via Echolink is the work of Skip Hansen, WB6YMH, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Skip explained all you need to do is to connect to the Newsline conference, node number 6397 or dial the word news on the DTMF pad. The server will play the news in 2 minute chunks with 10 second pauses between them to reset timeout timers and give you an opportunity to disconnect simplex nodes. Audio is stopped during the pauses so no content is lost.

USS INDIANAPOLIS RADIO ROOM OFFICIAL OPEN HOUSE 11/7/09 – The Indiana War Memorial Museum's newest exhibit dedicated the USN WWII Radiomen, will have an official open house on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 from 2 to 5 PM, 431 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN. "Visit WWII Navy communications restored history." Go to <http://www.ussindyradio.org/ussindyradiormexhibit.htm> or <http://www.ussindyradio.org/> for more information -- USS Indy Radio Volunteers

RIG REFERENCE . COM – Looking on information on some radio? Check here: <http://rigreference.com/>

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

November 7, 2009 liaison is Dovid Ofstein (N9APE)

December 5, 2009 liaison is Gale Wuollet (AA9WU)

HAMFESTS & EVENTS

- Nov 7 – 9 ARRL SS CW Contest
- Nov 13 Indianapolis Radio Club meeting – “Calibration,” presented by Dick Chance
- Nov 14 – 15 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, Fort Wayne, IN
- Nov 14 – 15 Work All Europe RTTY
- Nov 21 – 23 ARRL SS Phone Contest

2010 WORLD RADIOSPORT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a grueling selection process, the organizers of the 2010 World Radiosport Team Championships, <http://www.wrtc2010.ru/>, have selected team leaders representing all six continents. Of the 76 applications submitted, 44 were chosen as Team Leaders. These Team Leaders will then choose a partner. WRTC, held every few years, takes place during the IARU HF World Championships, July 10-11. In 2010, WRTC will be held just outside Moscow.

WRTC began in 1990 under the auspices of the Goodwill Games, the brainchild of Ted Turner of CNN fame. The first Games were organized in Seattle, Washington, and focused on areas of cultural exchange, arts and other unique subjects -- one of these being Amateur Radio and WRTC. Radio amateurs from around the world gathered in an Olympic-style event, joining in competition and camaraderie. In 1996, WRTC moved to San Francisco, then Slovenia in 2000, Finland in 2002 and Brazil in 2006.

Eleven Teams will come from North America, 21 teams will come from Europe, six from Asia, one from Africa, one from Central America, two from Oceania and two from South America. Another six teams -- the WRTC 2006 Champions, a host team and four sponsored teams -- will bring the total to 50 teams. Each Team Leader will also nominate a referee, who, along with volunteers from the radiosport community, will be placed on a referee nomination list. From that list, referees will be selected and assigned to teams. During the competition, the team referee must be from a different country than that of the team and cannot be the one who was nominated by that team.

The 2010 WRTC will be held outside, "Field Day-style." According to organizers, the fields upon which WRTC will take place are located in a flat area about 35 kilometers south of Moscow in the Domodedovo district. Competitors will be located in clusters of 15-20 teams each in a total area encompassing about 40×30 kilometers. Height differences between teams will be no greater than 40 meters and each team will be separated by at least 500 meters. In order to prepare for this style of operation, organizers operated from these fields for the 2009 running of the Russian Radiosport Team Championship.

Each team will have antennas and power monitors [supplied](#), along with a tent, generator (and gasoline), tables, chairs and water. To avoid team members spending time refilling the generator, organizers will have a person dedicated at each location to help keep it up and running during the contest period.

Representing Area 1 of North America (W1, W2, W3 and the VA, NC, SC, FL and GA portions of W4) are Randy Thompson, K5ZD; Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, and Andy Blank, N2NT. Area 2 (the KY, TN and AL portions of W4 and W8 and W9) will be represented by **Mike Wetzel, W9RE**, and Scott Robbins, W4PA. Steve London, N2IC, and Kevin Stockton, N5DX, will represent Region 3 (W5, W0). Daniel Craig, N6MJ, and Mitch Mason, K7RL, will represent Area 4 (W6, W7, KL7). Area 5 (VE1, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE9, VY2 and VO2) will be represented by Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ. Area 6 (VE5, VE6, VE7 and VE8) will be represented by Lee Sawkins, VE7CC.

WRTC 2010 is supported by the Moscow Regional Government and the Northern California DX Foundation, <http://www.ncdxf.org/> --ARRL Letter

FCC ISSUES PUBLIC NOTICE ON AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATION DURING GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS

On October 20, 2009, the FCC released a *Public Notice* clarifying the Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their employers. Entitled *Amateur Service Communications During Government Disaster Drills*, the *Public Notice* addresses participation by paid employees of organizations taking part in drills.

The *Public Notice* -- [DA 09-2259](#) -- affirms that the Commission's rules "specifically prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications 'in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer.'" ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said that "This *Public Notice* is intended to clarify a difficult issue. A wide range of unofficial -- and frankly some incorrect -- interpretations have been offered on this topic in various public forums recently. DA 09-2259 is the official FCC notice on this issue. Though issued jointly by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ([WTB](#)), the Enforcement Bureau ([EB](#)) and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau ([PSHSB](#)) under delegated authority from the Commission, the *Notice* makes it clear that WTB is the Bureau at the FCC with jurisdiction over the Amateur Radio Service rules and their interpretation."

The *Public Notice* states that, in order to facilitate participation by employees who wish to engage in government-sponsored drills and emergency exercises on behalf of their employers, a waiver can be requested from the WTB *by the government agency sponsoring the drill or exercise* (and not by the individual who wishes to participate in the drill or exercise). The government entity conducting the drill must include in its waiver application the following information:

- When and where the drill will take place,
- Identification of the amateur licensees expected to transmit amateur communications on behalf of their employer,
- Identification of the employer(s) on whose behalf the amateur(s) will be transmitting, and
- A brief description of the drill.
-

"It should be noted," Henderson said, "that the waiver request must be filed and acted upon *in advance* of the drill. The waiver must be actually granted by the Commission *before* the amateurs participate in the drill. It is not enough to apply -- the waiver must be granted first."

Henderson added that the *Public Notice* also emphasizes that in an *actual emergency*, the Part 97 rules "provide that an amateur station may use any means of radiocommunication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and the immediate protection of property when normal communications systems are not available." In those specific circumstances, the rule waiver is not necessary.

Government entities requesting a waiver for their emergency/disaster drill should submit a written request addressing the factors listed above to Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC 20554, Attn: Scot Stone.

A waiver is needed only for those licensees transmitting messages on behalf of their employer during the State and local government public safety agency's "occasionally conducted emergency preparedness or disaster drills test or drill." This may, after analysis, turn out to be

very few licenses or, by rearranging functions of participants, a waiver may not be needed. The Commission has also emphasized that *only governmental agencies* may apply for a waiver.

In September, the ARRL released [guidelines](#) that address numerous aspects of the issue of business communications in the Amateur Service.

CANADIAN MILITARY RADIOLOCATION SYSTEM TO OPERATE ON 70 CM

Industry Canada has informed Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) that it has authorized the Department of National Defence to use a digital system called *Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS)* on frequencies that include the amateur 70 cm band, 430-450 MHz. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

There is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at regulatory@rac.ca.

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

2009 CW AND PHONE ARRL SWEEPSTAKES

Amateurs throughout the US and Canada will take part in the longest-running domestic contest, the 76th ARRL November Sweepstakes. Since 1930, this tradition in Amateur Radio has brought out all kinds of amateurs -- from seasoned contest veterans to neophytes, from long-time traffic handlers to operators new to HF. The CW running of Sweepstakes takes place November 7-9, while the SSB weekend is November 21-23. Each event runs from 2100 UTC Saturday until 0300 UTC Monday. All entrants may operate 24 out of the 30 hours.

Click <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/28/11166/?nc=1> for more information, including changes to the log submission deadline. --ARRL Letter

2010 [DAYTON HAMVENTION](#) -- MAY 14-16

Organizers are gearing up for one of the largest Amateur Radio gatherings in the world. According to Hamvention Assistant General Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI, a new online program for taking and tracking online orders has been implemented and all volunteer committee chairs and assistants are in place. Kalter said that the theme of the 2010 Hamvention is *Amateur Radio Clubs Worldwide: The Lifeline*. "We all recognize how much Amateur Radio clubs and organizations contribute to the service," Kalter said. "We all see this in how clubs pull together in disasters, Field Day, contests, working with youth, teaching classes and sponsoring hamfests; in parts of the world, the club truly is the communication link to the world." Kalter said that Hamvention organizers are asking hams to submit photos of your Amateur Radio club and the activities that the club participates in. "We would like to use some of these on the front

and back cover of the Hamvention program for 2010," he said. "We are also looking for stories of interest from your club." The Hamvention web site is: <http://www.hamvention.org/> --ARRL Letter

GEORGE E. SMITH, AA2EJ, WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Around 5:30 on the morning of October 6, George E. Smith, AA2EJ, of Barnegat, New Jersey, got a phone call that changed his life: He had just found out he had won the [Nobel Prize in Physics for 2009](#) "for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit -- the [CCD sensor](#)." Smith will share the prize money with two other recipients: Charles K. Kao, of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories in the United Kingdom and Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Willard S. Boyle, of Bell Laboratories. Each recipient will receive a [diploma](#), a [medal](#) and a [document confirming their share of SEK 10 million](#) (about \$1.4 million); Kao will receive 50 percent, while Smith and Boyle will each receive 25 percent of the monetary award.

Kao was recognized by the prize committee for his "groundbreaking achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibers for optical communication." His discoveries paved the way for optical fiber technology, used for almost all telephony and data communication today. Boyle and Smith invented a digital image sensor -- the CCD -- that has become an electronic eye in almost all areas of photography.

"My wife Janet, AA2EI, and I sailed around the world for 17 years," Smith told the ARRL. "While we were on our boat, we used Amateur Radio, especially in the South Pacific. Janet was the principal radio operator. With our radio, we could keep track of other boats in the area. Over in the Southwest Pacific, there are shore stations there that provide weather forecasts every day on the ham radio. We would listen for these, as it was such a tremendous help for us as sailors."

The CCD -- invented in about an hour over lunch when Smith and Boyle worked at New Jersey's Bell Labs -- was, according to [Wired Magazine](#), the first practical way to let a light-sensitive silicon chip store an image and then digitize it. In short, it is the basis of today's digital camera. According to *Wired*, the "most amazing thing about the invention" is that Boyle and Smith came up with the design so quickly. With Bell Labs threatening to take the funds from their department and transfer the money to other research, Boyle had to come up with a competing semiconductor design. He got together with Smith, and within an hour, they came up with the idea and sketched it all out on a blackboard.

"One morning in October, 1969," [Boyle wrote on his Web site](#), "I was challenged to create a new kind of computer memory. That afternoon, I got together with George Smith and brainstormed for an hour or so on a new kind of semiconductor device, drawing a few sketches and equations on a blackboard. We called it a charge-coupled device: A 'CCD.' When we had the shops at Bell Labs make up the device, it worked exactly as expected, much to the surprise of our colleagues."

When asked by the ARRL how he felt about winning the Nobel Prize, he exclaimed, "I feel great! Even though there's a lot of nonsense to go through with it, it's worth it and winning it does wonders for your ego. Aside from the initial shock and having to go through piles of mail, e-mail and returning telephone calls, I know that will calm down. As for the long-range future, I'm getting many invitations to give talks. Next year, I've been invited to speak at a major conference in Seoul, South Korea, another in Portland Oregon and another in Switzerland. I've been invited to France to give a talk, China, too. We need to sit down with a calendar and figure it all out. Having a Nobel makes a big dent in your lifestyle."

Smith told the ARRL that he knew the CCD was under consideration for the Nobel Prize, "but we didn't know exactly if, or when, it would happen. Research that wins the Nobel is often done

many years beforehand. In my case, this was 40 year old research. The Prize Committee wants to make sure the research has stood the test of time. --ARRL Letter

D-STAR REPLACES PACKET AT MEDTRONIC MARATHON

D-Star text messaging has now replaced packet radio in the Minneapolis and Sait Paul, Minnesota, Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon. This after another flawless operation with the new mode in 2009.

According to the amateur radio team supporting the event, five Icom D-Star RP-1D access points installed on Twin Cities building rooftops have proven to be 100% reliable. This included the unusually warm 2007 race where more than 50 runners were sent to area hospitals.

Team member Erik Westgard, NY9D, say that Packet radio's low data rate, complexity of the character mode interface, and user training issues have put that aging mode on the back burner. Westgard noted that using D-Star messaging means that any available operator can use the groups web based missing runner application. This means that they can be helping family members far more quickly.

In 2010 look for an expansion of D-Star in this event. This, as the support team hopes to begin phasing in D-Star digital voice. This they say will allow the concurrent use of low speed data messaging as well as voice contacts. --ARNewsline

EDUCATIONAL CONTACT USES D-STAR INTERNATIONAL LINK

D-Star has been used for a transatlantic hookup between students in two schools separated by about 8000 miles. This as pupils at St. Marys Catholic School in Kent in the United Kingdom got the chance to speak with their counterparts at St, Marys Catholic School in Temple, Texas via a D-Star based ham radio link-up.

The contact took place on Tuesday, October 5th. The students at both schools had prepared questions to ask each other. This included such diverse subjects as sports, television, classroom subjects and culture. They were also treated to presentations at before the contact to learn more about what amateur radio is.

Brian Joyner, G8ZYZ, and Catherine Block, M1CVF, handled the duties in the United Kingdom using the services of the GB7FK D-Star repeater in Kent. Steve Bosshard, NU5D, and the Temple Amateur Radio took care of the technology in the Lone Star State.

Reports are that the session went flawlessly and that both sides are looking forward to the next one. ARNewsline

QRZ.COM NOW HAS ELECTRONIC QSLING INFO

The giant QRZ dot com callsign website has expanded its callsign database. This, with added fields that take into account the emergence of electronic confirmations of on the air contacts as well as those hams who only use cards sent via the mail.

The newly added fields are Mail QSL that indicates whether this person will QSL by Postal Mail, eQSL says that a ham is using eQSL.cc, LOTW indicates whether this person uses LOTW. Another new field is IOTA which permits the insertion of an Islands on the Air designator.

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, who owns and manages QR.com notes that these are all user supplied items. That means if the item appears in the listing then the record reflects the member's choice. Otherwise, nothing is shown for these items. Lloyd adds that these new fields are also transmitted in the QRZ XML Logbook Data stream. For more info about logbook data, see the QRZ.com XML page. (QRZ)

ARISS CELEBRATES 500TH SCHOOL SPACE CONTACT

ARISS Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF noted that on Tuesday, 27 October 2009, ISS Commander Frank De Winne, ON1DWN answered questions from students participating to a venue at the brand new Copernic Science Center in Warsaw, Poland. This was the 500th School Contact since ARISS began operations in the year 2000. Schools in all continents benefit from ARISS educative School Contacts.

This telebridge contact was operated by ARISS ground station VK4KHZ located in Glenden, Queensland, Australia. At the end of the contact, Frank thanked Shane Lynd VK4KHZ - for the many ARISS telebridge contacts he'd already performed. Shane shares these thanks with his colleagues of the 11 ARISS telebridge ground stations which cover all five continents.

October 15, 2009 students in Gao, Mali talked with UNICEF good will ambassador Frank De Winne onboard the ISS and 23 October, students in Mbour, Senegal got answers to their questions, direct from space. During the same orbit, Frank De Winne also talked with students in Ieper, Belgium.

Audio recordings of the Warsaw and Ieper school contacts are available at <http://www.ariss-eu.org/archive.htm>.

ARISS is an international educational outreach program partnering the participating space agencies, NASA, Russian Space Agency, ESA, CNES, JAXA, and CSA, with the AMSAT and IARU organizations from participating countries.

ARISS offers an opportunity for students to experience the excitement of Amateur Radio by talking directly with crewmembers onboard the International Space Station. Teachers, parents and communities see, first hand, how Amateur Radio and crewmembers on ISS can energize youngsters' interest in science, technology and learning. –AMSAT NewsService

FCC FLOATS PLAN FOR TV BROADCAST SPECTRUM REALLOCATION

Blair Levin, FCC Broadband Czar floated a plan in October that proposed the reallocation of the broadcast spectrum. Broadcasters would be able to retain some spectrum so that they could continue broadcasting a standard-definition-only service for the millions of consumers who still rely solely on over-the-air TV. The FCC promised broadcasters some share of the proceeds that would come from auctioning the broadcast spectrum to wireless operators. The broadcasters now occupy a "large band" (470-698 MHz) and make "highly inefficient" use of it, it said. "The TV spectrum was recently described by the commission as 'beach front property' for mobile broadband services and it is uniquely suited to the provision of mobile services. So far, however, broadcasters are rejecting the plan.

The CTIA doesn't specifically cite the Levin plan, but it makes clear its support for is backing the idea of taking back broadcasting spectrum and making it available for wireless broadband access. The FCC should consider "reallocating this valuable spectrum to services better able to serve the needs of U.S. consumers," the wireless operators said in the FCC inquiry into making broadband access less expensive and more widely available. CTIA is the principal lobby of the wireless telephone industry.

"Broadcast television, by contrast, is almost completely provided to U.S. consumer through wired technologies," it said. "If the public interest in providing over-the-air television to the fraction of U.S. households without cable or satellite television has not already been overtaken by technological changes, it is rapidly becoming so."

The CTIA also urged the FCC to look immediately at reallocating unused TV channels at the upper end of the broadcast band. "In geographic areas where ch. 51, for example, is unused, reallocated to licensed wireless broadband services will provide a needed and immediate infusion of spectrum to help meet growing consumer demand for wireless broadband services.

This brings up the question of where does the FCC stand on its support for the proposed Part 15 White Spaces that uses the unused TV channels and Handheld / Mobile DTV. The wireless microphone user and manufacturer that use this spectrum must be wondering about their future.

SHORTS

SOLAR ACTIVITY – October show us some sunspot activity with phantom sunspot groups (1028) that appeared briefly, only to vanish, teasing us with hints of an increase in activity. Then a sunspot surprise for the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest, with many stations reporting excellent HF DX, even on 10 and 15 meters. 20 meter conditions were great well into the evening. Many Southern California hams, including K6GEP, were surprised to work Romanian station YO4ATW on 10 meters in the contest. It helped that YO4ATW was operating with a tri-band beam atop a 10-story building! Along with the quiet Sun, we are still seeing extremely quiet geomagnetic indices, a nice upside to the lack of solar activity.

FT5GA OPERATION ON [GLORIOSO ISLAND](#) HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT (SEPTEMBER 14-OCTOBER 8, 2009) - Until this operation, Glorioso sat at number 4 on [DX Magazine's](#) Most Wanted list; five operators operating for 23 days made more than 50,000 QSOs to make this rare one available.

THREE KILLED PUTTING UP AN ANTENNA - At approximately 8:40 PM on October 12, a man, woman and their 15 year old son were killed while trying to erect a 50 foot vertical antenna at the home of the man's mother, Barbara Tenn, KJ4KFF, in Palm Bay, Florida. The deceased were not licensed amateurs. According to police reports, Melville Braham, 55, Anna Braham, 49, and their 15 year old son Anthony were putting up an antenna -- Tenn's second -- at night when they lost control of the antenna and it crashed into nearby overhead power lines. The impact sent 13,000 volts of electricity through the pole that the three were holding. A family friend, a 17 year old boy, was on the roof at the time of the accident. He and the couple's daughter, who was in the house at the time, were not injured. For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/13/11135/?nc=1> --ARRL Letter

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/>