

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY, 2010    MONTHLY NEWSLETTER    INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th, 6:30 PM AT THE [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),  
5711 E. 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER MEETING** – Thanks to all those who attended the December meeting on a rainy night. Upcoming contests were discussed including the 10 meter contest (propagation is improving), the RTTY contest, Straight Key Night, and the January VHF contest. It was pointed out that the Club's antenna rotator is still on the antenna mast at Thomson. A Lowe's gift card will be given to Mike Koss for the use of his property for our repeater site. The Club has only enough "hamfest junk" left to require 3 tables at this year's hamfest. Probably only 2 or 3 pickup truck loads.

**SNOW ON TUESDAY?** -- If bad weather should cause us to have to cancel the Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, we'll let you know my email. We'll try and get it out by mid afternoon.

**W9EEJ IS NOW W9GOV** – Bud, ex W9EEJ and WD9GOV has changed his call to W9GOV. Sorry, Bud, we forgot to put this in last month.

**ON THE AIR** -- If you operated the ARRL 10 meter contest, Friday evening and Saturday there was not much activity to be found, but that changed on Sunday afternoon with a band opening into southwest, mainly Texas that lasted beyond the end of the contest Sunday evening. This provided a lot of easy QSO and was fun to see this activity on 10 meters again. Dick, W9ZB reported working some Florida stations on CW. – K9RU

**CLASSES STARTING IN HENDRICKS COUNTY** -- Beginning on Wednesday, January 27, there will be Amateur Radio Classes in Hendricks County, at the Senior Services Center just north of Hendricks Regional Health in Danville. Classes meet from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and will be available for Technician through Extra class licenses. Classes will meet for 8 or 9 weeks, with testing either on the last class meeting, or the Saturday following the last class. Contact Dr. Jay Wright, KK9L, with any questions.

**PLUG IN HYBRID VEHICLE SEMINAR** - Coming up on Tuesday, January 12, will be a free seminar on Plug in Hybrid Vehicles. The seminar starts at 6:30 pm, and will be held at the IPL Safety room at 1230 Morris Street, Indianapolis. Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles (PHEV) can run on either battery or liquid fuels, and can be recharged by directly from the grid. These vehicles have significantly better fuel economy than current models, and could be used in the future as electricity storage devices (the car charges a night when power use is low, but can be discharged during the day during peak usage). Indianapolis Power and Light and IUPUI have been involved in the development and application of PHEV. This seminar will cover what IPL is doing in the field, how it will affect the grid, plus technical details on how the PHEVs operate. Planned speakers include: Mr. Mike Dvorak, Director, Special Projects, Indianapolis Power & Light and Dr. Sohel Anwar, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, IUPUI. For more information, point your browser to <http://www.cis-ieee.org/event.asp?eid=106>

**NEW 10 METER CW BEACON IN INDIANA** -- N1KON has just fire up a new 10 meter CW beacon on 28.2723 Mhz located in EM79LT, Centerville, IN. Jerry is using a Radio Shack HTX-10 running 10 watts to a vertical. Jerry is interested in signal reports and QSL cards would be welcome. It is in the testing stages as far as where it can be heard. The beacon message is sent at 10 WPM with a 12 second gap before repeating.

**VE TESTING SCHEDULE --**

**January 9**

**Sponsor:** BLOOMINGTON ARC INC  
**Time:** 11:30AM (No walk-ins)  
**Contact:** JOHN P MAASSEN (502)432-8486  
**Email:** [K9FK@ARRL.NET](mailto:K9FK@ARRL.NET)  
**Location:** FIRST UNITED CHURCH, 2420 E 3RD ST., BLOOMINGTON, IN 47401 REGISTER AT 11:30AM - TESTING AT 12 NOON

**January 14**

**Sponsor:** ILLIANA RADIO CLUB  
**Time:** 7:00PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** JAMES P OSBURN (812)238-0584  
**Email:** [WD9EYB0707@WIRELESSINFIELD.COM](mailto:WD9EYB0707@WIRELESSINFIELD.COM)  
**Location:** RYVES YOUTH CENTER AT ETLING HALL, 1356 LOCUST ST., TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807

**January 16**

**Sponsor:** INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB (W9JP)  
**Time:** ALL TESTING STARTS AT 9:00 AM (WALK-INS ALLOWED)  
**Contacts:** GALE WUOLLET (317) 849-8449, <mailto:indy33windy@comcast.net> or DOVID OFSTEIN (317) 908-5125 [doctoro57@yahoo.com](mailto:doctoro57@yahoo.com)  
**Location:** INDIANAPOLIS TRAINING CENTER, 2820 N. MERIDIAN STREET

**Sponsor:** HENRY COUNTY ARC  
**Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** MICHAEL K BRANDT  
**Email:** [KA9CXY@ARRL.NET](mailto:KA9CXY@ARRL.NET)  
**Location:** HENRY COUNTY LIVRARY, 376 S 15TH ST., NEW CASTLE, IN 47362

**Sponsor:** DELAWARE ARA  
**Time:** 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** C KURT ALEXANDER (765) 759-6131  
**Email:** [WB9USA@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB9USA@ARRL.NET)  
**Location:** MARING-HUNT LIBRARY, 2005 S HIGH ST., MUNCIE, IN 47302

**January 21**

**Sponsor:** CHIEF ANDERSON ARC  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
**Contact:** AL A WENDLING (765) 642-7291  
**Email:** [WYAL@AOL.COM](mailto:WYAL@AOL.COM)  
**Location:** ANDERSON DISPATCH & EMA CENTER, 739 GENE GUSTIN WAY, BLDG HANDICAP, ANDERSON, IN 46011

## HAMFESTS & EVENTS

- Jan 23 – 25 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes [Rules](#)
- Jan 29 – 31 CQ WW 160M CW Contest
- Feb 4 Mansfield Mid-Winter Hamfest & Computer Show, Mansfield, OH
- Mar 27 Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, Columbus, IN,
- May 14-16 Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Trotwood, OH

## ARRL CEO, GENERAL COUNSEL PRESENT ARRL'S STANCE ON BPL TO FCC COMMISSIONERS

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, made the rounds of the five FCC Commissioners' offices during November to acquaint them with the ARRL's position on the regulation of interference from Broadband over Power Lines ([BPL](#)) systems. The meetings were conducted in accordance with the rules governing ex parte communications in pending rulemaking proceedings, in this case the *Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM)* in [ET Docket No. 04-37](#).

On November 2, Sumner and Imlay met with advisors to Commissioners Robert McDowell, Mignon Clyburn, Meredith Attwell Baker and Michael Copps; on November 24, they met with Priya Aiyar, the Legal Advisor for Wireline Competition and International Issues to Chairman Genachowski. In each instance, they emphasized that while BPL is not currently a major source of radio interference -- owing to its marketplace failure as a consumer broadband delivery medium -- interference does exist and could become a much greater problem if BPL becomes part of the "smart grid" deployment that is intended to improve the efficiency and reliability of electric power distribution and to reduce peak demand.

Sumner and Imlay were able to offer a "win-win" scenario if 35 dB notches to protect the HF amateur bands are mandated, along with a scientifically based extrapolation factor for the measurement of BPL emissions. Such notches are consistent with current industry practice, but there is no way to ensure that future deployments will implement notching unless it is a regulatory requirement.

"We did not expect much feedback from these meetings and were not disappointed in that regard," observed Sumner. "However, in stark contrast to the Commission under its previous two chairmen, no one we met with was 'cheerleading' for BPL as a viable 'third wire' for consumer broadband delivery."

Flexibility and durability are also ideal characteristics for military equipment, since the antenna could be folded or rolled up into a small package for deployment and then unfolded again without any impact on its function. Dickey thinks these new applications are the most likely uses for the new antennas, since the alloy is more expensive than the copper typically used in most consumer electronics that contain antennas. -ARRL

## AMATEUR RADIO TECHNOLOGICAL HAS BEEN SHOWING UP A LOT IN PLACES

Hams indeed are technical and creative people, consummate [MacGyvers](#). In the past few months alone, [George Smith, AA2EJ, won the Nobel Prize for Physics](#). [Computerworld](#) published John Edwards' article titled "[Want to Bone Up on Wireless Tech? Try Ham Radio](#)." Diana Eng, KC2UHB, has had [her articles](#) published in [Make Magazine](#). Computer giant

Hewlett-Packard published a Real Life article "[Behind the Voices of Ham Radio](#)." Steven Sande, KC0EZH, wrote "[5 Mac Applications for Ham Radio Fans](#)" for *TUAW* -- a Web site that calls itself "the unofficial Apple Weblog." APRS systems were the theme of Joe Murphy's, N4PAT, [video podcast](#). *Popular Mechanics*' Glenn Reynolds [endorsed Amateur Radio in crises](#), referring people to the ARRL for information.

Now 2010 is just about here. To kick off the new year, computer magazine *Linux Journal* has come out with an entire issue dedicated to Amateur Radio and the creative uses of open source computer programs. This 80 page issue features [Tux, the Linux mascot](#) on its cover wearing a pair of headphones, holding a microphone -- and even sporting an Emergency Coordinator badge around his neck -- hooked up to an HF transceiver. The issue has headlines on the cover such as "Amateur Radio and Linux -- Open Source for the New Generation," and "Get Started with Amateur Radio," and includes articles like "[When All Else Fails -- Amateur Radio, the Original Open-Source Project](#)" by David Lane, KG4GIY.

You might wonder, "What is the connection between Amateur Radio and Linux?" The editors at *Linux Journal* answer that question, saying that "Linux may be the only O/S out there with an AX.25 packet radio protocol driver, and it's had it since forever. So blow the dust off your license and start reading."

Lane -- who blogs for *Linux Journal* on open source issues -- told the ARRL that the same day he posted "[Open Source Ham -- Is That Like Free Range Chicken?](#)" on his blog, he was chatting on Internet Relay Chat (IRC) with *Linux Journal* publisher Carlie Fairchild: "She said they were thinking of doing an Amateur Radio-focused issue -- what did I think? I said something to the effect of 'Did you see my post this morning?'"

Shortly thereafter, Lane posted on the ARRL's PR e-mail reflector to see if there was any interest in such an issue. "I was buried in positive responses," he said. "This was near the end of October and any articles we were going to run with had to be in hand the first week of November. But the Amateur Radio community came through -- I forget now how many articles we received, but it was enough that we had some options, eventually choosing three articles to run in the issue. Within two weeks, we put a magazine together with a focus on Amateur Radio!"

Lane said that there is now a "[virtual ham shack](#)" on the *Linux Journal* Web site, as well as a [forum](#) where radio amateurs can get together and discuss the "hot topics" of Amateur Radio. "The folks at the *Journal* have tasked me with keeping the focus on them and keeping them 'lively,' so any help is appreciated," Lane told the ARRL. "In recognition of *Linux Journal*'s efforts, I have awarded them the [Prince William County \(Virginia\) ARES®/RACES Challenge Coin](#). This recognition is a way of rewarding members of Prince William County ARES®/RACES who have gone above and beyond the call of duty or for those that have aided the cause of Amateur Radio." Lane is the Emergency Coordinator for Prince William County.

*Linux Journal* can be found on newsstands now. While some articles in the issue can be read online by the general public, most are available only to subscribers. --ARRL

## **AMSAT-CHINA'S FIRST AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE XIWANG-1 (HO-68)**

Less than one week after China's first Amateur Radio satellite -- XW-1 -- was [successfully launched](#), AMSAT-NA OSCAR Number Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO has informed Alan

Kung, BA1DU, Amateur Satellite Project Manager and Chief Executive Officer of AMSAT-China that XW-1 is now designated as Hope OSCAR 68, or HO-68.

The satellite was launched successfully 15 December from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center of China, on a CZ-4C rocket and Amateur Radio Operators around the world have received beacon signals from XW-1.

HO-68's communications payload includes a beacon and three crossband transponders operating in FM, SSB/CW and digital modes. The schedule shows the popular SSB linear transponder being switched on over Europe on New Year's Day at 21:05 and 22:50 UT. The 50 kHz bandwidth linear transponder for SSB and CW operation is inverting so an LSB signal on the uplink gives USB on the downlink.

It uses these frequencies:

Uplink: 145.925 - 145.975 MHz

Downlink: 435.765 - 435.715 MHz

Beacon: 435.790 MHz

The FM transponder uplink is 145.825 MHz and downlink is 435.675 MHz, a 67.0 Hz CTCSS tone is required. XIWANG-1 (HO-68) Real Time Tracking (tick draw footprint) <http://www.n2yo.com/?s=36122>. For the latest Keplerian elements for XW-1 and other satellites, check out the [WIAW Keplerian Bulletins](#). – ARRL

## FCC DISMISSES TWO AMATEUR RADIO-RELATED PETITIONS

On Wednesday, December 9, the Federal Communications Commission dismissed two separate *Petitions for Rulemaking*: One filed by Murray Green, K3BEQ, concerning the operation of repeater stations in the Amateur Service, and one filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, requesting amending [Section 97.119\(a\)](#) to change how often stations must identify themselves.

**Murray Green, K3BEQ (DA 09-2559)** -- In his [Petition](#), Green -- who filed his *Petition* on March 23, 2009 -- requested that the FCC amend [Section 97.205\(e\)](#) of its Rules "to prohibit a repeater station licensee or control operator from limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations, unless a user blatantly violates the Commission's Rules." Green argued that [Section 97.205\(e\)](#) -- which permits a repeater station licensee or control operator to limit the use of a repeater to certain user stations -- conflicts with [Section 97.101\(b\)](#) which states that no frequency is for the exclusive use of a particular amateur station, and each station's licensees must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the Amateur Service frequencies. In his *Petition*, Green argued that [Section 97.205\(e\)](#) permits "a pay for use policy in the Amateur Radio Service, enables user censorship and intimidation, breeds on the air inactivity by not using frequencies effectively and creates a negative public image."

In denying Green's *Petition*, the FCC concluded that [Section 97.205\(e\)](#) does not establish an exclusive assignment of a frequency to a repeater, saying that Green's contention that a coordinated closed repeater has "exclusive control of an Amateur Service frequency." The Commission noted that coordination is not required as a condition of operating a repeater:

"Coordination does not and cannot result in assignment or establish control of an Amateur Service channel," the FCC said in its reply, "and nothing in the rules prohibits other amateur stations from using the channels for which a repeater has been coordinated when they are not being used by the repeater. Section 97.205(e) merely enables a repeater licensee or control operator to control the repeater so that he or she can ensure the repeater is properly operated as required by [Section 97.105\(a\)](#). Accordingly, there is no conflict between the rules, and no grounds for the Commission to propose to amend Section 97.105(a)."

The FCC advised Green that questions concerning the impact of the operational decisions of a repeater control operator, licensee or trustee -- such as limiting the repeater's use to certain stations -- should be addressed to the local frequency coordinator so that repeater problem can be "expeditiously dealt with at the local level by people with first-hand knowledge of the facts."

**Glen Zook, K9STH (DA 09-2564)** -- Zook filed his [Petition](#) on April 7, 2009, requesting that the Commission's Rules "be amended to incorporate certain portions of the Commission's former station identification rule." He said that "the provisions...in Section 97.119(a) are open to individual interpretation which may, or may not, meet the expectations of the Commission," and that certain portions "are, on a very routine basis, ignored by a significant number of amateur radio operators." The FCC noted that Section 97.119(a) currently provides that an amateur station "must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions."

Zook proposed that the FCC add to Section 97.119(a) certain portions of the Commission's former station identification rule, specifically "to require that an amateur station transmit its call sign during the first transmission of any communication or series of transmissions, and to allow an amateur station to not transmit its call sign at the end of a communication when the communication or series of transmissions lasts less than three minutes."

The FCC noted that in May 2006, Zook had filed another *Petition* requesting that the Commission amend Section 97.119(a) to require that call signs be transmitted at the beginning of each transmission or series of transmissions: "In response, the Commission received approximately one hundred comments, generally opposing the petition. In 2007, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division dismissed this petition, concluding that the requested rule changes were not necessary and were not supported by the Amateur Radio community, and noting that the commenters believed that the current station identification rule properly balances the burden of requiring the station to transmit its call sign with the convenience of those receiving the transmissions to determine the identity of the station making the transmissions."

In denying Zook's present *Petition*, the FCC said that his request "does not assert or demonstrate that circumstances have changed since 2007 with respect to the adequacy of the current station identification rule," the FCC concluded that it does not present grounds for the Commission to propose amending Section 97.119(a): "Your current proposal, like your previous petition, does not demonstrate that revising the station identification requirement as requested would address the concern that many Amateur Radio operators do not identify their station timely or at all, or that the problem of station operators not complying with the present rule cannot be addressed by enforcement of the present rule rather than a rule change." – ARRL

## WHITE HOUSE NAMES HAM AS NEW CYBERSECURITY COORDINATOR

On Tuesday, December 22, President Barack Obama named Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS, as the new White House Cybersecurity Coordinator. According to the White House, Schmidt -- an ARRL member -- is one of the world's leading authorities on computer security, with some 40 years of experience in government, business and law enforcement and "will have regular access to the President and serve as a key member of his National Security Staff. He will also work closely with his economic team to ensure that our cybersecurity efforts keep the Nation secure and prosperous." -- ARRL

## SHORTS

**SUNSPOT ACTIVITY** -- Many of us are nearly giddy with joy over the recent steady increase in sunspot activity that seems long overdue. On December 9 a sunspot appeared, giving us a daily sunspot number of 13 -- this followed 16 days of no sunspots. . Average daily sunspot numbers rose more than 10 points for the week of December 23 compared to last -- from 21.1 to 31.4! The new group is number 1034, and need we say it is a Solar Cycle 24 spot? Cycle 24 spots were news at one time, but we haven't seen a Solar Cycle 23 spot since number 1016 on April 29-30, 2009. Solar Cycle 23 peaked around 8-9 years ago. The monthly average daily sunspot numbers for September, October and November were 6.6, 7 and 7.7, so the 31.4 sunspot numbers for December is quite a large jump.

**SCOTT ROBBINS, W4PA, TO PURCHASE VIBROPLEX** -- told the ARRL that he has signed an agreement to purchase The Vibroplex Company, Inc from present owner Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, W4OA, effective December 21, 2009. "Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," Robbins told the ARRL. "I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company." Robbins -- who has been employed with Ten-Tec Inc since 1995 (he has been Product Manager for Ten-Tec's Amateur Radio equipment line since 1997) -- will leave his position in mid-December to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex. "It's a great opportunity to continue the more than 100 years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents," Robbins said. -ARRL

**ARRL LICENSING STUDY GUIDES ARE COMING TO AN EBOOK READER NEAR YOU** - ARRL is pleased to announce that owners of [Kindle](#) -- an electronic book reader sold by [Amazon.com](#) -- can now download [ARRL's Tech Q&A](#) directly from the online bookseller for use on their Kindle. Kindle is shaped much like a book with a paper-like screen that displays text and pictures. Those who have the Kindle application installed on their [Apple iPhone](#) or [iPod touch](#) can also download the book for use on these devices. When you download the *Tech Q&A*, you can gain access quickly and easily, smoothing the path to your first ham radio license. This ideal study tool -- whether you're at home, in the office, traveling or just on the go -- lets you review the questions and answers from the entire Technician question pool so you can pass the 35-question exam. Kindle versions of the *General Q&A* and the *Amateur Extra Q&A* will be available sometime in January. All three can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$9.99 each. --ARRL

**MARS GETS NEW NAME AS IT FINE TUNES MISSION** (Dec 24, 2009) -- On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an *Instruction* concerning MARS, effective immediately. This *Instruction* gives the three MARS services -- Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps -- a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military *Auxiliary* Radio System. The *Instruction* is the first major revision to MARS

since January 26, 1988 -- as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications. – ARRL

**NCVEC RELEASES NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL** -- The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010.

The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012. -- ARRL

**2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES - SPECIAL CANADIAN PREFIXES** -- The following Amateur Radio prefixes will be available for use in Canada from February 1st to March 31st, to commemorate the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in British Columbia. Canadian stations with a VA prefix can use VG, VY can use XK, VO can use XJ, and VE can use VX. –SouthGate ARC

**W0ERE 30 METER AMATEUR RADIO BEACON** - New, On air October 13, 2009 Goal: This is purely experimental beacon and will not necessarily be permanent, depends on several factors. See below. BEACON SPECS. Call: W0ERE/B Freq.: 10.1295 MHz C.W. Mode Location: Highlandville, Mo. Grid EM36 Antenna: G5RV radiating E/W, Horizontal polarization.

**LIVE OSCAR SATELLITE STATUS PAGE** -- The **OSCAR Satellite Status** was created to help users work out which satellites are active and in which mode they are in. It provides a single global reference point for all users in the Amateur Satellite Service to show the most up-to-date status of all satellites as actually reported in real time by users around the world, see <http://oscar.dcarr.org/>

Getting started on Amateur Radio Satellites PDF <http://www.uk.amsat.org/content/view/408/168/>

Real Time Satellite Tracking (tick draw footprint): <http://www.n2yo.com/>

**AMSAT-UK** publish a colour A4 newsletter, OSCAR News, that is full of Amateur Satellite information. Join online at [https://secure.amsat.org.uk/subs\\_form/](https://secure.amsat.org.uk/subs_form/)

*Best Wishes and Good DX in 2010 !*

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