

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

APRIL, 2010      MONTHLY NEWSLETTER      INDIANAPOLIS, IN

---

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 13th, 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** – The improving HF band conditions and the activity during the ARRL DX contest were discussed. 15 meters has been good into Europe and South America and 10 meters can be open from time to time with contacts into South America. The joint Field Day operation with the Indianapolis Radio Club and the possibility of running 3A class with more opportunity for CW operating time was discussed. Jim, K9RU, has grounded the guy wires on the repeater tower and this appears to have fixed the noise problem which has been causing an intermittent problem for years. A UPS was added to back up the Echo-Link and repeater control computers. Dave, N9KZJ gave an update on the WW2IND operation and it appears to be a popular attraction. Dave, W9CGI said his trip is still on down to the islands and if anyone is interested in going. Rates are very good.

**O'DARK-THIRTY SWAP MEET COMING IN APRIL!** -- April 17th 2010... O'Dark-Thirty Swap Meet, admission is free, time 0600-noon...location is Northwest corner of Southport road & Madison Ave. Free donuts & coffee (while they last). Rain or shine event. Bring your own rain cover. PITCH-IN Lunch! Sponsored by the Indianapolis Radio Club.

**GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE IRC BUS TO DAYTON** -- Once again, the Indianapolis Radio Club has reserved a bus for the Dayton Hamvention. The trip will be on Saturday, May 15. The bus will pick up at two locations: On the south side at Southern Plaza at 6:30 AM, and on the east side at the Peddler's Mall at approximately 7:00 AM. The cost for the round trip bus ride is \$30 per person. This cost does not cover admission to the Hamvention, go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your tickets on line for \$20. \$25 at the door. We will stop for a fast food breakfast in Richmond on the way over, and stop for a more relaxed dinner in Richmond on the way back. Our coach will drop us off at the main entrance of the exhibit hall and park in close proximity of the show so we will be able to visit it to drop things off or to relax. The bus normally leaves the Hamvention around 4:00 pm, and arrives home by around 7:00 pm. Send a note to club treasurer Jay Willever, K9LJW, if you are interested in tickets. His email address is [k9ljw@arrl.net](mailto:k9ljw@arrl.net).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE INDIANA QSO PARTY** -- Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, noon to midnight. Check for activity on 80, 40 and 20 meters both CW and Phone.

This year there are plaques to be awarded to the top scorers in Indiana:

- Top Club Aggregate Score, Indiana
- Top Indiana Score, Single op high power (> 100 watts)
- Top Indiana Score, Single op low power (≤ 100 watts)
- Top Score, Portable (single or multi-op) in Indiana
- Top Score, Mobile in Indiana
- Top Score, Rover in Indiana
- Top Score, Multi-op, fixed single transmitter in Indiana

This is a great time to work on your [Worked All Indiana Award](#). It only takes 60 confirmed counties to earn the initial certificate. This year we're instituting a new policy whereby your INQP QSOs will count as confirmed QSOs toward your WAI. Just indicate the INQP QSOs on your GCR, and we'll use your submitted log to confirm the QSOs.

You are invited to join the INQP [reflector](#). Post your questions about the INQP, make suggestions for next year, or just jump in the general discussion with other participants and the organizers.

The [New England QSO Party](#) (NEQP), [7th Call Area QSO Party](#) (7QP) and the [MARAC County Hunters](#) is the same weekend as the INQP. They will send their state *and* county. So, when you work an NEQP station, add your state to the exchange. Some of the logging programs can handle working the multiple QSO parties.

The **free** logging program **NIMM Logger** supports the INQP. Other logging software supports the INQP, for details checkout: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/software.html>

#### AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TESTING 10-MAY-2010

**Sponsor:** W9IMS ARC

**Time:** 6:30PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Location:** W9IMS Comm Center, 3321 N Gale Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

**Contact:** Jim Rinehart, K9RU

**Phone:**(317) 218-7304

**Email:** [K9RU@ARRL.NET](mailto:K9RU@ARRL.NET)

**DAVE BROWN, W9CGI**, is cleaning out his shack. Items not sold go to the Indy Hamfest, July 10. Contact Dave at <mailto:w9cgi@chilitech.com>

1. Two MFJ1270 TNCs, one set for 1200 baud - \$35 and the other set for 9600 baud -\$45.
2. Alinco DR110 FM Transceiver, 12VDC, 45 Watts, never run mobile for \$100.
3. HP PC 2133 Netbook, used less than a month with free ham software \$225
4. MFJ 949E 300W Antenna tuner, like new rarely use 1/2 coax sw + open wire - PS, \$100
5. Rohn - Spaulding HDBX 32 ft tower hardware, base - never erected - \$200
6. PC Intek P4 #2, Full tower, Win XP sp3, mouse /KB/ monitor - ham software - \$100
7. X10 Security system, WIFI wireless, 2 remote cameras, 1 camera with case, motion detector - \$100

## HAMFESTS & OPERATING EVENTS

<b>April 17</b>	O'Dark-Thirty Swap, NW corner of Southport & Madison, Indy.
<b>May 2</b>	Indiana QSO Party, noon to midnight EDT
<b>May 14-16</b>	Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Trotwood, OH
<b>June 26-27</b>	Field Day
<b>July 10</b>	Indianapolis Hamfest, Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis

See the [ARRL Contest Branch page](#), the [ARRL Contest Update](#) and the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) and the [ARRL Special Event Station Web page](#) for more info.

## ARRL POSITIONS ON THE FCC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING (NPRM) IN [WT DOCKET NO 09-209](#), CONCERNING VANITY AND CLUB STATION CALL SIGNS

**Vanity Call Signs** In order for a vanity call sign to be assigned to an amateur, the call sign must be assignable at the time the application is processed. Even if a licensee is deceased, the call sign is not available if the license is still active in the FCC database. When the FCC receives what it calls "proper documentation of the licensee's passing" (a signed request for license cancellation accompanied by a copy of a death certificate, an obituary or data from the Social Security Death Index that shows the date of death), it then cancels the license as of the licensee's date of death. "We propose to amend our rules to codify these procedures by adding a new paragraph to [Section 97.21](#)," the *NPRM* states; currently, the procedure for canceling a license due to the grantee's death is [outlined on the FCC's Web site](#), but is not codified in their rules. "We believe that this will make our cancellation process more equitable and transparent, and facilitate the availability of desirable call signs."

The FCC calls its rules "ambiguous" concerning call signs that become available for reassignment "as to whether the waiting period runs from the date of death or the date that the Commission cancels the license in light of the licensee's death." As such, they are proposing to amend the rules "to clarify that a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death is deemed to have been canceled as of the date of death, regardless of when the licensing database is updated to reflect the licensee's death." In the *NPRM*, the FCC proposed to modify their processes to ensure that the deceased's call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for at least 30 days after the staff updates the licensing database to reflect the licensee's death.

When a vanity call sign application is granted, the call sign currently assigned to the licensee's station is surrendered and is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years. Occasionally, the FCC said, vanity call sign applications have been granted to applicants who "erroneously or fraudulently indicated that they fell within an exception to the two-year waiting period. Sometimes, after the situation is brought to the applicant's attention, the applicant applies for and is assigned another call sign, thereby surrendering the improperly obtained call sign." The FCC proposes to amend [Section 97.19\(c\)](#) to clarify that "a new two-year period does not commence when the most recent recipient acknowledges, or the Commission determines, that the recipient was not eligible to be assigned the call sign."

The FCC also proposes to permit Novice class licensees to serve as club station trustees. The Commission noted that there was an historical prohibition against Novice class licensees serving as club station trustees since Novice licenses originally were not renewable. Because such licenses now may be renewed on the same basis as any other Amateur Service license, "we believe that this prohibition is no longer necessary," the *NPRM* noted. The ARRL noted that while few clubs will want a Novice licensee to be the trustee of their club station because of the cumbersome identification requirements when a club station is operated outside of the trustee's operating privileges by a control operator with a higher class of license, the ARRL has no objection to the FCC proposal to permit Novices to be trustees.

To expand the pool of available call signs, the ARRL asks that the FCC permit the issuance of call signs with prefixes NA-NZ, WC, WK, WM, WR and WT and with three letter suffixes. The ARRL also asks the FCC to revisit the issue of special event call signs at a later date to determine whether the public interest would be served by expanding the options for special event call signs beyond the current 1×1 format.

**Club Call Signs** The ARRL does not support the FCC proposal to limit a club to one license grant and one call sign. Clubs often have more than one station, particularly in the case of repeater stations. The FCC proposal would not correct the perceived problem of an individual obtaining multiple vanity call signs as the trustee for a club, because there would be no bar to the creation of multiple clubs.

Instead, the ARRL, offered the following alternative proposal to address in several ways the shortage of Group A vanity call signs (1×2, 2×1 call signs, and 2×2 call signs beginning with AA-AG and AI-AK that are not sequentially assigned):

- Except for *in memoriam* call signs, no new Group A call signs should be issued to club stations. Existing Group A call signs held by clubs would be grandfathered.
- The pool of available Group A call signs should be expanded by permitting the first character of a two-character Group A call sign suffix to be a numeral as well as a letter (for example, W23A). As the result of modifications to the ITU Radio Regulations adopted in 2003, such call signs are now permitted for amateur stations.
- To address particular shortages of Group A call signs in offshore areas, prefixes that are assigned to locations without postal addresses and prefixes that are unassigned should be made available in the offshore areas that do have postal addresses.
- Applicants for Group A vanity call signs should be required to affirm on the application that they are United States citizens. –ARRL Letter

## FCC DENIES ARRL'S REQUEST FOR DECLARATORY RULING

In 2005, after the State of Florida adopted statutes aimed at pirate broadcasters and making it a felony to make a radio transmission without Commission authorization or to interfere with a licensed public or commercial radio station, the ARRL -- through General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD -- filed a *Request for Declaratory Ruling (Request)* with the FCC, seeking a declaratory ruling on portions of that statute. The ARRL argued that the statute was written so broadly that one could infer that Commission-licensed Amateur Radio stations in Florida would be subject to felony prosecution if their transmissions interfered with broadcast or other radio receivers. In 2006, New Jersey adopted a similar statute and the ARRL's *Request* was modified to include that state. Five years and one day after the original *Request* was filed with the Commission, the FCC denied the *Request*. –ARRL Letter

## ARRL REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1755

Senate Bill 1755 -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* [introduced](#) in October 2009 by Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) -- has unanimously passed the US Senate and has been [sent to the US House of Representatives for consideration](#) and now sits in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The ARRL is asking its membership to contact the leadership of the Energy and Commerce committee, requesting support and action on moving S 1755 through the committee. S 1755 accomplishes the same things as HR 2160; HR 2160 was [introduced in April 2009](#) by Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). Since S 1755 has already been approved by the Senate, moving it forward in the House will simplify the process.

S 1755 points out that "[t]here is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all

levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

If enacted into law, S 1755 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)) to undertake a study -- and report its findings to Congress within 180 days -- on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

The study shall:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)).

For more information on S 1755, please visit the [ARRL Government Relations Web page](#).

## FCC SEEKS COMMENTS FOR BLANKET WAIVER TO ALLOW AMATEUR RADIO IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DRILLS

In February 2010, the American Hospital Association (AHA) filed a request with the FCC for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules "to permit hospitals seeking accreditation to use Amateur Radio operators who are hospital employees to transmit communications on behalf of the hospital as part of emergency preparedness drills." On March 3, the FCC issued a *Public Notice* -- WP Docket 10-54 -- seeking comments if the Commission "should grant AHA's request for a blanket waiver of Section 97.113(a)(3) to permit amateur operators who are hospital employees to participate in emergency drills that are conducted by hospitals for accreditation purposes and that are not government-sponsored." Section 97.113(a)(3) specifically prohibits amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer." Instructions on how to paper file or file electronically are listed in the *Public Notice*. --ARRL Letter

## A CLOSE ENCOUNTER FOR AMSAT-OSCAR 51

While many in North America were fast asleep Monday morning, March 1, the [AMSAT-OSCAR 51](#) satellite had a potentially dangerous encounter with another spacecraft known as [Formosat 3D](#). OSCAR 51 is a popular Amateur Radio satellite that often functions as a crossband FM repeater, relaying brief conversations over hundreds of miles. Formosat 3D is part of a constellation of six remote sensing microsattellites that collect atmospheric data for weather prediction and for ionosphere, climate and gravity research. Both orbit at an altitude of approximately 500 miles.

On Sunday evening, AMSAT-NA Vice President of Operations, Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, received an e-mail alert from the [US Joint Space Operations Center](#), warning of the close approach between Formosat 3D and OSCAR 51 that would take place the following morning. "There is really nothing we can do other than watch and try to collect telemetry," Glasbrenner said. "Of course, any contact would mean instant death for OSCAR 51. It's all predictive until they smack together, but the estimate was that they would come within 2900 feet overall, but only 130 feet radially.

"We were all relieved that OSCAR 51 was fine," Glasbrenner said, "but it reinforces how tenuous our satellite presence is, and the fact that we should be constantly working and fundraising to build and launch new satellites." --ARRL Letter

## FCC REAFFIRMS STATEMENT ON ROS

In mid-February, European amateurs first used a new, experimental digital mode known as [ROS](#). On February 23, 2010 -- after FCC review of the original documents provided from the developer's Web site -- the FCC made the following statements on ROS:

"[Section 97.305](#) is the rule that specifies where different emission types are allowed to be transmitted on different bands. 'ROS' is viewed as 'spread spectrum,' and the creator of the system describes it as that. We assume that he knows what he created. [Section] 97.305 authorizes spread spectrum emission types (defined in [Section 97.3](#)) to be transmitted by FCC licensed amateur stations at places we regulate communications only on 222-225 MHz and higher frequency amateur bands. European telecommunication regulatory authorities may authorize amateur stations in Europe to use SS on the HF bands, but this is of no concern to us. The Commission does not determine if a particular mode 'truly' represents spread spectrum as it is defined in the rules. The licensee of the station transmitting the emission is responsible for determining that the operation of the station complies with the rules. This would include determining the type of emission the station is transmitting and that the frequencies being used are authorized for that type of emission."

Since that initial FCC review, several Internet sites have reported a claim -- attributed to the FCC -- that the original statements made had been reconsidered and that the FCC view was now that "ROS cannot be viewed as Spread Spectrum and it would be encompassed within [Section 97.309](#) (RTTY and data emissions codes)."

When queried about this new statement, the FCC's Consumer Assistance Office stated that "[T]he information contained on the ROS Web site was *not* provided by the FCC." They then reaffirmed the original statements that originated from the FCC's Wireless Bureau, which handles Amateur Radio rules for the US.

In response to a 2006 ARRL *Petition* regarding spread spectrum issues, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* on March 16 (WT Docket No 10-62), proposing to amend Part 97 to facilitate the use of spread spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread spectrum (SS) emission and reducing the maximum transmitter power output when transmitting a SS emission. Through an *Order* attached to the *NPRM*, the Commission also made "certain non-substantive revisions" to the Amateur Service rules. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/18/11396/?nc=1> --ARRL Letter

## STUDY SHOWS THE SUNS MAGNETIC FLOWS CAUSE SUNSPOT LOWS

From 2008 through the first half of 2009, the sun had a puzzling dearth of sunspots, flares and other storms, extending the usual lull at the end of the 11-year solar activity cycle for an extra 15 months. Findings from the study, which relied on the orbiting Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, or SOHO, may also suggest a better way to forecast the intensity and duration of future solar cycles.

David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and Lisa Rightmire of the University of Memphis in Tennessee analyzed 13 years of SOHO measurements that tracked the movement of ionized gas from the solar equator to the poles. The researchers found that the relatively slow gas movement, known as the meridional flow, sped up a few years before the last solar minimum began in 2008. What's more, the flow was substantially faster than the speed at the previous solar minimum, a more typical and less extended downturn in solar activity some 11 years earlier.

Read the full Science News story 'Magnetic flows cause sunspot lows, study shows' [http://www.sciencenews.org/view/gene...s\\_study\\_shows](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/gene...s_study_shows)

## SHORTS

**ARECIBO ON 432 MHZ MOON BOUNCE** - The Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club, KP4AO, will be putting the 1000-foot radio telescope on the air for 432 MHz EME from April 16-18.

The scheduled times of operation are:

April 16: 1645 - 1930 UTC

April 17: 1740 - 2020 UTC

April 18: 1840 - 2125 UTC

Tx Frequency: 432.045 MHz

Rx Frequency: 432.050 to 432.060+

Tx power: 400 W

Antenna gain: 60 dBi

System noise temp: 120 K (cold sky)

System noise temp: 330 K (when pointed at moon)

KP4AO can be heard with a small hand-held yagi pointed at the moon and a good receiver. A 15 dBi antenna and 100 W will be enough to work us on CW.

Operators at KP4AO will do their best to work as many stations as possible. Each session will start with a brief announcement and CQ in SSB. SSB QSOs may continue for 30 minutes to an hour, if the QSO rate remains high. The mode will be shifted to CW as soon as it is judged that higher QSO rates would result.

We will listen for calls at frequencies 5-15 kHz higher than our own, and even higher if QRM warrants. Callers who s-p-r-e-a-d o-u-t are more likely to be copied. If you've already worked us in any mode, please do not call again -- give others a chance. If we call "CQ QRP", we will listen for stations running 100 W or less to a single yagi. Please do not answer such a CQ if you are running more power or have a larger antenna.

On April 18, if we reach a condition where most calling stations have been worked, and we

judge that operating in the digital mode JT65B would produce a higher QSO rate, we will switch to JT65B.

Note that any of these planned operating strategies may be changed as circumstances dictate. We are extremely fortunate to have been granted access to the world's largest radio telescope for this amateur radio good-will event. We look forward to working as many stations as possible in the allotted time!

**NZ HAMS GRANTED TEMPORARY 600 METER ALLOCATION** - Based on a request filed by New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters that nations telecommunications regulator has agreed to grant New Zealand Amateurs temporary access to a slice of the 600 meter spectrum.

Beginning on March 1st, 505 to 515 kHz has been granted to them on a temporary basis pending an international allocation to radio amateurs and includes some restrictions. These involve a maximum radiated power not to exceed 25 watts effective radiated and a maximum bandwidth of 200 Hertz.

On the international scene, work continues to gain a world-wide allocation in this area through the International Amateur Radio Union. If and when this is approved, it is likely that the New Zealand Amateurs will be granted a permanent allocation in the 600 meter area. (NZART)

**THREE HAMS ACHIEVE HIGH SPEED CW RECORD** - And talk about high speed Morse code. The latest High Speed Telegraphy Honor Roll has been published with three amateurs, LZ4UU, DJ1YFK and EW8VK, achieving an amazing 1231 characters per minute. For full details check out [www.rufzxp.net](http://www.rufzxp.net). (Southgate)

**FCC LAUNCHES BETA OF SPECTRUM DASHBOARD** -- The day after releasing its National Broadband Plan, the FCC unveiled a website listing spectrum licensees across the country. This new "Spectrum Dashboard" is in beta, but the idea is to reveal to which entities radio frequencies are licensed in each U.S. municipality. The initial version covers licensees in frequencies between 225 MHz and 3.7 GHz, "the range of spectrum potentially usable for mobile broadband," the FCC said. The site is at <http://reboot.fcc.gov/reform/systems/spectrum-dashboard>.

**FCC AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT CORRESPONDENCE POSTED** -- The FCC has posted new Amateur Radio enforcement correspondence on its "[Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions](#)" Web page. Laura Smith, Special Counsel in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, sent a letters to the Sacramento (California) Municipal Utility District and to Northwestern Energy of Helena, Montana; Northwestern Energy also received letters voicing these same matters in March and September 2009. These letters concerned received complaints that equipment operated by these utilities may be causing harmful interference to Amateur Radio operators. Direct all questions about the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings *via e-mail only* to the FCC Enforcement Bureau.

---

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/>