

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE, 2011

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

**\$6 ADVANCE TICKETS FOR THE JULY 9TH INDY HAMFEST WILL
BE AVAILABLE AT THE JUNE 14TH MEETING. TICKETS WILL
BE \$8 AT THE GATE.**

SUMMARY OF THE MAY MEETING -- At the May meeting, we discussed plans for the Indy Hamfest on July 9. We have junk stored at two locations with more than one pickup truck load at each location. We could use a couple of pickup trucks (and drivers) on Friday afternoon, July 8, to help transport stuff. Contact Jim, K9RU at k9ru@arrl.net. The W9IMS special event station will be at two separate locations this year. One at K9XV and the other at W9TC. Bill Kennedy is coordinating the scheduling of operators. Information is on QRZ.com. VE testing will be held at the Salvation Army EDS Training Center, 4020 N. Geogretown Rd., Indianapolis. Remember Field Day, June 25-26, and Ships on the Air June 4-6. 10 and 6 meters have been good from time to time recently.

RCA ARC AND INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUBS ARRL FIELD DAY OPERATING PLANS -- Field Day is June 25-26. The location is the Marion County Fair Grounds, 7300 East Troy Ave. on the east side of Indianapolis, same as last year. Operation will be from the Sheriff's building. Use the entrance on Fisher Rd, which runs along the eastern edge of the grounds. Set up will begin early Saturday morning and will be a 3A operation, 3 stations with the addition of a VHF and GOTA (Get On The AIR) station. Everyone is welcome and we get bonus points for hams that have not been inactive or non hams who operate the GOTA station under the supervision of a licensed operator. The VHF station will be on 6 meters for bonus points. Two of the main stations will be on SSB and one on CW. There are places to camp but the Fairgrounds does charge a fee. This is a joint effort with the Indianapolis Radio Club. -K9RU

WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION -- Considering all the rain we had this spring, you couldn't have asked for better weather for the Hamvention. The flea market was up from last year, but so were the prices. The ARRL area was larger with a very nice display and with representatives countries there including China. The Chinese dual band HTs were selling for about \$80 and I think that was the deal of the hamfest. We had a good turn out at the RCA get together at noon and at the dinner at Old Hickory Friday evening. I took the IRC bus over Saturday and that was a lot of fun. We were dropped off at the front door to the hamfest. Les McClure and Bob Vandevender's tent in the flea market provided a good place in the flea market to sit down and take a break. Something always happens at Dayton and this year it was the exploding sewer in the flea market. -K9RU

ECHOLINK GONE, W9RCA USED BY W9IMS FOR INDY 500 -- W9RCA repeater continues to be on the air from Mike's location but lost our internet connection the 1st of May. We continue to look at options for a new location. W9IMS used the repeater as a link between their two station locations for the 500 race special event operation.

CENTRAL INDIANA INFORMATIONAL NET" WEDNESDAYS ON 146.700 -- Word from Mike Palmer, N9FEB, is there is a Central Indiana Informational Net on the 146.700 Wed. @ 7:30pm. Newslane airs at 7pm. There are announcements and ham radio information disseminated on it. Mike is normally the NCS.

NEW IRLP REPEATER IN INDY -- Dave Gingrich, K9DC put a dedicated IRLP repeater on 2 meters, 147.315 MHz, 94.8 CTCSS (PL). The antenna is a Super Stationmaster at 90 feet, running 180 watts on transmit, located near 64th Street and Michigan Road (NW Indianapolis). It operates just like his other repeater on 443.425, except there are no courtesy tones.

There is no charge to use the system, but Dave does require users register via e-mail to get the operating instructions and so he can communicate any changes to the user community. For additional information, send an empty e-mail to <mailto:irlp-info@realham.net>. You will receive a reply with more detailed information including registration instructions. --K9DC

HAM RADIO ~~IN THE NEWS~~ ON FOX -- http://dl.dropbox.com/u/3824764/IMG_0099.MOV
Thanks to Greg, WR3K.

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

Jun 11	South Bend Hamfest, South Bend, IN http://w9ab.org
Jun 11-12	ARRL VHF Contest
June 25 - 26	Field Day, W9JP-W9RCA joint operation Marion County Fairgrounds
July 9	Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis http://www.indyhamfest.com
July 11	VE Testing, Salvation Army EDS Training Center, 4020 Georgetown Rd, Indy Contact : Jim Rinehart, k9ru@arrl.net
Aug 6	Broad Ripple Hamfest & IRC Annual Picnic
Aug 27	Indy Radio Club Hilltop Contest
Aug 27	Ripley County 4 th annual indoor hamfest
Sep 24	Hancock County Tailgate Hamfest

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page, <http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues>, the WA7BNM Contest Calendar, <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> and the ARRL Special Event Stations page, <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> for more info. See ARRL training page for test sessions: http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search <http://indyhams.org/events/> for Indiana events and public service opportunities.

FCC ISSUES CITATION TO ILLINOIS COMPANY FOR ILLEGAL MARKETING OF UNAUTHORIZED RADIO FREQUENCY DEVICES

On June 2, the FCC issued a *Citation* to Gary L. Stanford -- doing business as Spark Gap CB Shop in Lincoln, Illinois -- for "marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices and external radio frequency power amplifiers." This is in violation of section 302(b) of the Communications Act, and Sections 2.803(a)(1) (marketing of radio frequency devices prior to equipment authorization) and 2.815(b) (external radio frequency power amplifiers) of the Commission's rules.

On November 1, 2010, an agent from the FCC's Enforcement Bureau office in Chicago visited the Spark Gap CB shop in Lincoln. According to the *Citation*, the agent asked the clerk if the store had any amplifiers for sale. The clerk showed the agent a display case with external radio frequency power amplifiers for sale from several different manufacturers. The clerk also suggested that the agent consider purchasing a 10 meter Amateur Radio that is modified to operate on frequencies in the 11 meter Citizen's Band. The clerk also showed the agent a 10 meter Amateur Radio that was on display and operating on a Citizen's Band frequency.

The FCC advised that Spark Gap should take immediate steps to ensure that it does not import, advertise or sell such devices. If, after receipt of the *Citation*, Spark Gap CB violates the Communications Act or the Rules by continuing to sell these unauthorized devices, the FCC may impose monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation, and up to \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. In addition, violations of the Communications Act or the Rules can result in seizure of equipment through *in rem* forfeiture actions, as well as criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.

Spark Gap CB may respond to the *Citation* by July 2 either through a personal interview at the FCC office in Park Ridge, Illinois, or a written statement. Any written statement should specify what actions Spark Gap CB Shop has taken to ensure that it does not violate the Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency devices in the future. <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-issues-em-citation-em-to-illinois-company-for-illegal-marketing-of-unauthorized-radio-frequency> –ARRL Letter

US DISTRICT COURT DISMISSES MAINE AMATEUR'S COUNTERCLAIMS

After two US Attorneys [filed a Complaint in US District Court in October 2010](#) against Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, for not responding appropriately to an order that he pay a \$21,000 fine for violating several sections of Part 97, Baxter filed many *pro se* motions. On May 23, the US District Court in Maine released an *Order*, dismissing one of Baxter's motions, an amended counterclaim, on multiple grounds. The Court dismissed Baxter's claim for the following reasons: That the counterclaim plaintiff [Baxter] does not have standing to file a civil action against the government for its decision not to initiate a prosecution; that this Court does not have subject matter jurisdiction to review a Federal Communications Commission licensing decision, and that the Federal Tort Claims Act does not authorize a civil suit based on a governmental agency's alleged failure to perform its statutory duty.

The fine had been levied, according to the *Complaint*, "for defendant's willful and repeated violations of Sections 97.101(d) [commencing transmissions on top of existing communications on 3.890 MHz] and 97.113(a)(3) [transmitting communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest] of the Commission's Rules, and for the defendant's willful violation of Section 97.105(a) [exercising control over station] and 97.113(b) [broadcasting] of the Rules, and for failure to file requested information pursuant to an Enforcement Bureau directive" [information in brackets added]. The *Complaint* sought to force payment of the \$21,000 fine along with a filing fee and "such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper." –ARRL Letter

SENATE "COMPANION" BILL TO HR 607 AVOIDS IMPACTING AMATEUR SPECTRUM

On Thursday, May 19, Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and John McCain (R-AZ) introduced S 1040 - *The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011* -- in the Senate (see below for link). While it has a similar objective to [HR 607](#) -- introduced in February by Representative Peter King (R-NY-3) -- this Senate bill, unlike HR 607, does *not* call for auctioning any portions of Amateur Radio spectrum. Both

bills call for the allocation of the so-called “D block” of spectrum, 758-763 and 788-793 MHz, to facilitate the development of a public safety broadband network.

On learning in February that a Senate version of HR 607 was being drafted, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, met with staff members of the Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee who were working on the bill to share the ARRL’s concerns with regard to HR 607. “They seemed very receptive to our argument and appreciative of the public service contributions of radio amateurs,” Sumner said. “It is gratifying to see that S 1040 avoids impacting our spectrum allocations.”

Sumner explained that while some media reports are referring to S 1040 as “the Senate version of HR 607,” it is important that radio amateurs *not* oppose S 1040: “There is no reason for us to do so. We support the creation of an interoperable broadband network for first responders. Other than to oppose any method that would impact amateur spectrum use, we do not support one method over another of achieving that objective. We only oppose one aspect of HR 607, not the entire bill.”

S 1040 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation, chaired by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV). Senator Rockefeller earlier introduced his own bill, S 28, to address the same general topic. Neither Senate bill would impact amateur spectrum. – ARRL Letter

THE ARRL JUNE VHF QSO PARTY

Lots of RF will be generated on 6 meters and up the weekend of June 11-12 during the 2011 ARRL June VHF QSO Party. While many amateurs think of the VHF+ bands as a “local” band for public service, emergency communications or even a bit of fun on FM repeaters, weak-signal VHF+ enthusiasts know better. Even with a modest station, it’s possible to work hundreds, or even thousands of miles on the VHF bands during a good opening.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is a big VHF enthusiast. “In more than 25 years of Amateur Radio, weak-signal work on 6 and 2 meters remains the most fun and intriguing activity I do,” he said. “There is nothing like a good VHF opening. With its fun and interesting propagation characteristics like sporadic-E, tropospheric ducting, aurora and even meteor scatter and moonbounce, VHF offers QSO opportunities that HF can never satisfy.” Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/gear-up-for-the-arrl-june-vhf-qso-party>. – ARRL Letter

US PROPOSES WRC-12 ALLOCATIONS FOR HF RADARS

The ARRL and its partners in the IARU have been involved in the preparations for several items on the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference ([WRC-12](#)) agenda. Agenda item 1.15 is “to consider possible allocations in the range 3-50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications.” Such radars have been in operation in coastal areas for many years, typically under experimental licenses.

Based on protection requirements for the Amateur Service that the IARU had arranged to be included in ITU documentation, the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) Report for WRC-12 that was adopted in February concluded that sharing between oceanographic radars and the Amateur Service “seems to be difficult.” Sharing studies, therefore focused on in-band compatibility in the bands used only by the fixed and/or land mobile services. The CPM Report offers three methods of satisfying the agenda item through various combinations of primary and secondary allocations, with the objective of satisfying the operational need for safety systems (e.g. for the detection of tsunamis) and providing for the operation of other systems while protecting other allocated services from harmful interference.

The CPM Report does not propose specific allocations for oceanographic radars, this being the prerogative of individual administrations who may submit proposals directly to the ITU or through their respective regional telecommunications organizations such as CITEL; however, the report does identify broad ranges of fixed/mobile spectrum where such allocations might be considered. None of these ranges overlap internationally allocated amateur bands.

In the United States, preparations for a World Radiocommunication Conference proceed along two parallel tracks. The FCC convenes a WRC Advisory Committee (WAC) to gather input from non-federal spectrum users and other interested parties. Several Informal Working Groups (IWGs) are established to address the wide range of agenda items. The ARRL participates fully in the WAC and relevant IWGs. At the same time, federal spectrum interests are addressed through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in the Department of Commerce. The FCC, NTIA and Department of State collaborate to develop US proposals based on the two preparatory streams.

In October 2010, the WAC completed its work on agenda item 1.15 and adopted draft proposals of allocations for radiolocation in the bands 4.440-4.500 MHz, 13.410-13.530 MHz, 13.870-13.990 MHz, 25.330-25.550 MHz, 26.200-26.420 MHz and 41.6-42.4 MHz. The allocations would be on a primary basis, but without the right to claim protection from interference from other primary services operating in the bands. This outcome was satisfactory to the ARRL. The WAC subsequently held its final meeting on April 19, 2011.

But in May 2011 -- following a consultative process that is as yet unclear -- the US submitted NTIA-developed proposals to CITEL, the regional telecommunications organization for the Americas, that are significantly different from the WAC proposals and affect more frequency bands, specifically 3.155-3.200 MHz, 4.438-4.650 MHz, 5.250-5.450 MHz, 13.410-13.570 MHz, 14.350-14.990 MHz, 25.330-25.550 MHz, 26.200-26.420 MHz, 41.015-41.665 MHz and 43.35-44.0 MHz. These allocations would be on a primary basis, but with a footnote that radiolocation stations may not cause harmful interference to, nor claim protection from, stations operating in the fixed and mobile services - an odd provision, since this is the definition of a secondary, not a primary, service.

One aspect of these proposals is of concern to the ARRL: the inclusion of 5.250-5.450 MHz. While there is no international allocation to the Amateur Service in this band, the United States -- and a growing number of other countries -- have authorized limited amateur operations on a non-interference basis. In view of the sharing difficulties noted in the CPM Report, the ARRL would have raised its concern within the FCC preparatory process, had the NTIA proposals been made available to the WAC, as was the case with more timely NTIA proposals.

In a letter dated May 26, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, expressed the League's concern to S. Decker Anstrom, Head of the US Delegation to WRC-12. Her letter concludes: "We would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to improving the proposal through appropriate domestic processes in advance of its submission to the ITU." A link to the letter is provided below.

While the inclusion of 5.250-5.450 MHz in the US proposals for radiolocation allocations is unfortunate, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that the proposed allocation has a long way to go before possible adoption in Geneva next year. While the ARRL works domestically to address the issue, the IARU will be doing the same through its Member-Societies in other countries and its relationships with regional telecommunications organizations. "For now, the best thing for concerned amateurs to do is to let matters run their course through the normal WRC preparatory processes," he said. --ARRL Letter

FEMA ADMINISTRATOR CALLS AMATEUR RADIO "THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE"

In an [FCC forum](#) on earthquake communications preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate described the Amateur Radio operator as "the ultimate backup, the originators of what we call social media." The forum-- held May 3 at FCC Headquarters in Washington, DC -- brought together officials from the White House, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), FEMA, the FCC and the private sector. Fugate and FCC Bureau of Public Safety and Homeland Security Chief Jamie Barnett gave the opening remarks.

Later in the forum, Fugate spoke more on Amateur Radio. "During the initial communications out of Haiti, volunteers using assigned frequencies that they are allocated, their own equipment, their own money, nobody pays them, were the first ones oftentimes getting word out in the critical first hours and first days as the rest of the systems came back up," he told the forum. "I think that there is a tendency because we have done so much to build infrastructure and resiliency in all our other systems, we have tended to dismiss that role 'When Everything Else Fails.' Amateur Radio oftentimes is our last line of defense."

Fugate said that he thinks "we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and wired and our broadcast industry and all of our public safety communications, that we can never fathom that they'll fail. They do. They have. They will. I think a strong Amateur Radio community [needs to be] plugged into these plans. Yes, most of the time they're going to be bored, because a lot of the time, there's not a lot they're going to be doing that other people aren't doing with Twitter and Facebook and everything else. But when you need Amateur Radio, you really need them."

You can watch a video of the forum on YouTube. Fugate's remarks begin at 18:55. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzx-kv0li_Y – ARRL Letter

WHERE IS AMATEUR RADIO GROWING THE FASTEST? –

The answer may surprise you -- it's China. The enthusiasm of Chinese radio amateurs was very much in evidence at ARRL Headquarters on Tuesday, May 24, when a dozen amateurs from Beijing and Shanghai toured ARRL Headquarters. The group -- which included representatives of Chinese AMSAT -- had attended the Dayton Hamvention® the previous weekend, where a booth for the Radio Association of China and its subsidiary, the Chinese Radio Amateur Club (CRAC, pronounced SEE-rack), was a part of ARRL EXPO.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, met with Zhu San Bao, BY1CRA, Executive Vice Chairman of The Radio Association of China, to hear about the evolution of Amateur Radio in China and to explain ARRL operations in more detail. China is now represented in the International Amateur Radio Union by the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA). CRAC has been established to cover all aspects of Amateur Radio and is assuming some of the functions of the CRSA.

The Chinese guests capped a busy period of international activity at ARRL HQ that began on Monday, May 16, with a visit by Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, who is a Director of IARU Region 3, as well as President of the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI). The following day, two officers of the Viet Nam Amateur Radio Club (VARC) -- Chairman Nguyen Minh Duc, XV2REH, and President Nguyen Bac Ai, XV2A -- arrived to tour ARRL Headquarters and to discuss their plans for hosting next year's IARU Region 3 Conference –ARRL Letter

SHORTS

FCC SEEKS TO RAISE THE FEE FOR VANITY CALL SIGNS --The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on May 3, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$13.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$14.20 for 10 years, an increase of 90 cents. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Read more here

AMATEUR RADIO IN THE CLASSROOM -- High School Radio Club to Offer Free Foxhunting Transmitter Kits - Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, is an Instructor with the ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, as well as a math and electronics teacher at Pueblo High School in Tucson, Arizona. One of his responsibilities at Pueblo is advising the school's Amateur Radio club. "Our radio club has discovered how much fun ham radio can be as a way to improve the math, science, technology and communications skills of the students," he told the ARRL. "We are also fortunate that the ARRL has been generous in providing us with equipment, materials, supplies and curricula. Without their support, we would not currently be involved in building QRP transceivers, ATV downconverters for our Amateur Television station (W7ATN), underwater robots for mapping lakes recently discovered in caves in the Southwest -- and fox hunt transmitters." Read more here.

RADIO SHACK LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR DIY PARTS --Back in the day, RadioShack was the first place many of us looked for parts. QST construction projects routinely referenced RS part numbers, and the Shack even sold 10 and 2 meter transceivers. What goes around comes around, and RadioShack is now looking for input from us, as members of the larger DIY community, on parts we'd like to see them carry. There's a video explaining what they're looking for, and a place to add comments. <http://blog.radioshack.com/post/2011/05/19/RadioShack-And-The-DIY-Community-You-Talked-Were-Listening.asp> --ARRL Letter

ON TUESDAY, MAY 24, BOB HEIL, K9EID -- owner of Heil Sound -- Premiered a new netcast show on Leo Laporte's TwiT.tv website. Called HamNation, the show will focus on equipment, applications, tips and general information for the Amateur Radio operator. Heil's first guest was rock star, friend and fellow radio amateur Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. Walsh also wrote the theme music for the show. The show will be broadcast each week over the Internet at TWiT.tv at no cost. Read more here.

JOIN THE USA ARDF TEAM IN ALBUQUERQUE - The Annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) will take place in forests near Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 14-18, 2011. USA's national championships are being combined with the IARU Region 2 Championships. According to ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, they are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate in the woods with handheld radio gear for several kilometers. Medals will be awarded for the top three finishers on each band in 10 age categories, six for males and four for females. A two day training camp will precede the formal competitions. Organizers of the 2011 championships are members of the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club and the New Mexico Orienteers, led by Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK, and Mike Pendley, K5ATM. Registration is now open -- Moell said that it is important for competitors to register early. The organizers need an accurate head count and assurances that there will be sufficient attendees. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/ardf-update-foxhunters-prepare-for-national-and-iaru-championships-in-albuquerque>.

ARRL VHF/UHF ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT - The ARRL would like to encourage more participation in its several VHF/UHF contests held each year. Many of the HF transceivers sold in recent years include 50 MHz, and some also include the 144 and 432 MHz bands

with multi-mode capabilities. The question at hand is how can we encourage more owners of such radios to utilize these bands and modes to participate in VHF/UHF contests?

The ARRL VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) has been asked to consider this question, and to make recommendations to encourage, explore and expand the ARRL VHF and UHF contests and other operating activities by using the multi-band and multi-mode capabilities of modern transceivers and related equipment.

The VUAC would like to ask the Amateur Radio community to provide their comments and ideas for consideration

Please send any comments or ideas you have on this matter to your ARRL VUAC Division representative no later than July 1, 2011. A listing of each Division's VUAC representative can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-staff-vuac-cac>.

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/>