

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OCTOBER, 2011

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 6:30 PM AT G.T. SOUTH'S,  
5711 E. 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING** -- At the 13-Sept. meeting, the '88 repeater was discussed briefly. There have been no new developments in finding a new site. There doesn't seem to be much interest in trying to find a new site. It was pointed out that Mike Koss' brother has formed a company and taken over the lightning arrestors and many of the other products Mike was producing. The web site is <http://www.morganmfg.us>. Several positive comments were expressed on the Broadripple Hamfest held in August. Barry, K3BG, plans to drive his van to the Ft. Wayne Hamfest and has room for riders if you're interested.

**CONTEST SEASON IS HERE** -- CQ World Wide SSB Contest marks the start of the contest season. The CQ WW SSB and CW contests are biggest DX contests of the year and usually have the best band conditions. The SSB contest is the weekend of Oct. 29-30. CW is Nov. 26-27. This year with the sunspot numbers up conditions should be the best in years. This is a great opportunity to get on and work DX and it should continue through the ARRL 10 meter contest in December.

**HAM BLOG IN EE TIMES** – Kevin Nortrup calls our attention to a new Ham Radio blog/column in EE Times: <http://www.eetimes.com/electronics-blogs/other/4228570/A-Ham-s-Eye-View>

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

- Oct 8 **Lake County ARC Hamfest**, <http://www.lakenetnwi.net/member/lcarc/index.html>  
Oct 8 **Amateur Radio License Test Session**  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46254-2407  
Time: 12 PM (Noon) - Walk ins allowed  
Contact: Rhonda S. Curtis (317) 363-7457 email: <mailto:WS9H@comcast.net>  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club -W9JP
- Oct 29 – 30 **CQ WW DX Contest SSB**  
Nov 19 **FortWayne Hamfest**, <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>  
Nov 26 **Evansville Hamfest**, <http://w9ear.org/hamfest.htm>  
Nov 26-27 **CQ WW DX Contest CW**

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC.

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues> Contests updates

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> ARRL Special Event Stations page

[http://www.arrl.org/exam\\_sessions/search](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search) ARRL training page for test sessions

<http://indyhams.org/events/> Indiana events and public service opportunities.

## SUPER BOWL FREQUENCY COORDINATION IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Super Bowl Frequency Coordination are looking for volunteers We have a number of positions to fill, some tech, some non tech. Line sorters, technical screeners, readers, equipment taggers, media check-in, and so on. We need intelligent, energetic people who can stand and walk for long periods of time, although some positions, such as check-in, will work seated. There is a minimum age. College students are wonderful. There is a security background check.

A meeting was held on 7PM Monday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, 50 South Capitol Ave., in Capital Room 2. In addition to introducing the Super Bowl Frequency Coordination assistant program, I am told that application/background forms will be distributed and accepted at this meeting.

The NFL people said: "At this meeting we'll start gathering info (pictures and fill out the background investigation forms) necessary for the credentialing process. We will take photos for ID credentials."

If someone cannot make this meeting I'm sure that applications will be available and will be accepted for some time. Not all need to be hams – there are a number of non technical jobs. – Rhonda Curtis, WS9H & Al Grossniklaus, WD8BUG

## TOWER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED

The Indiana Occupational Health and Safety Administration has concluded their investigation of the tower construction accident that occurred on April 13, 2011 in Tippecanoe County, claiming the lives of two riggers. The site was shut down for 4 months for the investigation. (Construction resumed there last month.) Electronics Research, Inc. of Chandler, Ind. has been fined \$91,500 for alleged violations following the death of two tower erectors who fell approximately 320 feet..

Initial accident reports indicated the two men were attached to a 90-foot gin pole that was being jumped prior to the crew raising additional sections when a rigging failure caused the pole to come free of the tower. Some of the issues the investigation discovered were:

- The gin pole was being ridden up the tower as it was being raised
- Non-OSHA approved equipment was being used extensively on-site\
- Adequate fall protection equipment was not provided
- Makeshift devices for hoisting personnel were being used
- Hoisting equipment had not been marked with its capacity rating, or tested
- 100% tie-off to the tower was not being done

More details about the IOSHA findings can be seen here:

[http://www.wirelessestimater.com/t\\_content.cfm?pagename=ERI%20Cited%20By%20IOSHA](http://www.wirelessestimater.com/t_content.cfm?pagename=ERI%20Cited%20By%20IOSHA)

This tragic accident should be a very solemn reminder to all of us. Before you climb that ham radio tower, STOP and UNDERSTAND that a fall from only 30' can be just as FATAL as a fall from a much greater height. Those two men who lost their lives were professionals, experienced in what they were doing, with considerable training and using better safety equipment than you or I will probably ever own.

Before you climb, do a little research and learn the safety practices of the professionals. There is plenty of information about tower and climbing safety in many amateur radio publications available from the ARRL and other sources. Keep these points in mind as you plan your climb:

- Never climb alone
- Always use proper safety gear
- **Never use leather belts - they are NOT acceptable**
- Consider using a full-body harness instead of just a climbing "belt"
- ALWAYS use man-rated hardware (no cheap carabiners from the local hardware store!)
- ALWAYS be attached to that tower 100% of the time
- Never EVER "free climb"

As we stress in ARES training, your safety is the #1 priority, regardless of the mission. This should apply to all aspects of our hobby. We beg you to not take chances when working on amateur radio antennas and towers. If you are uncomfortable doing the work yourself, ask around and find someone who is better skilled and qualified to help you. Stay safe! -- Stephen M. Parker, WR9A ARES EC Indiana

## 10 METERS IS HOT!

With solar flux numbers not seen since 2004, the higher HF bands have seen a surge in activity. The solar flux has been at least 100 since August 20. On September 10, it reached 116, rising to 121 the next day. It climbed steadily, reaching a peak of 190 on Saturday, September 24. While higher solar flux is exciting news for all hams, Technicians should definitely take note: The 10 meter band is the only HF band where Techs have phone privileges. "Techs can get use their voice privileges from 28.300-28.500 MHz," explained W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. "If you don't have your own HF rig, find someone in your local radio club who does or call your Elmer. Without a doubt, you don't want to miss this opening. Who knows how long it will last or when it will come back? So get on the air while you can and experience the magic of 10 meters."

The solar flux hit its peak during the CQ WW RTTY Contest. "During the contest, both 10 and 15 meters were definitely hopping," said ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA. "I've only been licensed since 2006, and I've all the older hams tell me about how wonderful 10 meters could be, but I never saw it myself until the contest. Wow! It was better than I ever imagined, and I'm told it will only get better. I've never seem more than a handful of contacts on 10 meters during a contest, but we had almost 1100 contacts on the band during the 48 hour contest. We worked Senegal, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe and Asia, and even Japan on 10 meters. I couldn't believe how hot the band was!"

*QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, agreed. "I got on the radio for the CQ WW RTTY Contest and tuned to 20 meters out of habit. I was surprised at the lack of activity on 20, so I tuned up to 15 meters. So that's where everyone was! I couldn't believe the slew of activity on the higher bands."

But it wasn't only East Coast hams who experienced these spectacular conditions. Chip Margelli, K7JA, of Garden Grove, California, told the ARRL that "the high bands were a delight from out here on the West Coast. In the late afternoon and evening, 10 meters brought in loud stations from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and South America. Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Guam, Saipan, and other juicy catches kept my rotator working fast. But the real highlight was the massive opening to Europe and Africa that I enjoyed on Sunday, when I had some time to operate. Not only was I able to work into Western Europe, such as Spain, Portugal, France and England, but 'deeper' Europeans were very loud, as well: Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Baltics, the Czech Republic and Slovakia were all thundering in. Weaker signals were coming in from European Russia, Ukraine and other places I haven't heard for seven or eight years on 10 meters out here in California. I do not have an amplifier for 10 meters; I use 200 W and a homebrew 5-element Yagi about 60 feet high."

Also on the West Coast, Greg Howe, KI6IUJ, of Laguna Hills, California, played around with the openings on 10 meters. "I decided to take full advantage of the conditions by doing some very low power QRP work. After working several European stations at a 1 W, I decided to really go QRP -- 25 mW, the same power-level of most remote-control garage door openers. I established contacts running about 1 kW with the T32C Christmas Island DXpedition station and EA8CEQ in the Canary Islands. With their okay, I then reduced my power-level down to 25 mW. You don't need lots of power or a fancy antenna when 10 meters really opens up. Exercise a little patience, be persistent and go have some fun!"

"This is just the beginning of the fun and excitement that await us on 10 meters," Margelli said, "but what a beginning it was."

Editor notes: Check out 12 meters, it has been very good also. I got on last Saturday morning just to check out band conditions and make a few contacts and was still on at 11 PM. I started with Europe and finished with station in Japan. -K9RU

## 2010 ARRL TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Joe Taylor, K1JT and Bruce Walker, W1BW, are winners of the 2010 ARRL Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award for their article "WSPRing Around the World" that appeared in the November 2010 issue of *QST*.

Joe Taylor was first licensed as KN2ITP in 1954, and has since held call signs K2ITP, WA1LXQ, W1HFV, VK2BJX and K1JT. He was Professor of Astronomy at the University of Massachusetts from 1969 to 1981 and since then Professor of Physics at Princeton University, serving also as Princeton's Dean of the Faculty from 1997 to 2004 and retiring in 2007. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993 for discovery of the first orbiting pulsar.

Active on all amateur bands from 160 meters through 2.3 GHz, Joe's favorites have always been the VHF bands. Starting in 2001, he applied techniques learned and developed during his half-century of astrophysical research to the problems of communicating with very weak radio signals. This work led to development of the open-source computer programs *WSJT*, *MAP65*, and *WSPR*, which are freely available to the Amateur Radio community. Among Joe's proudest achievements are his recent completion of both WAS and DXCC on 2 meters. His confirmed DXCC total on 2 meters now stands at 106, with all QSOs made by EME ("moonbounce") using the JT65 signaling protocol of *WSJT*.

Bruce Walker has a Bachelor in Science degree in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is the Director of Genome Assembly and Analysis at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bruce was an avid shortwave listener in his youth and became a ham in 1991. His involvement in Amateur Radio has gone through several phases: homebuilt QRP, amateur satellites, early computer-based digital modes (PSK31, MSFK, etc), and occasional contesting. His current interests are software-defined radios, weak-signal HF work and DSP modes. Bruce lives in Concord, Massachusetts with his wife and two daughters.

Established in 1975 as the ARRL Technical Excellence Award, the name was changed in 1997 to honor the late Doug DeMaw, W1FB, a former ARRL Headquarters technical editor and well-known Amateur Radio author. The award consists of an engraved 9 inch pewter cup. - ARRL Letter

## ARRL BRIEFS WHITE HOUSE STAFF ON AMATEUR RADIO'S CAPABILITIES DURING EMERGENCIES

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On September 12, at the invitation of **White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Howard A. Schmidt, W7HAS**, the ARRL briefed several members of the National Security Staff on the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service to communicate in emergencies. "The White House is looking for ways that the great work of Amateur Radio operators can continue to support emergencies in the future with particular attention to increased use and dependency on internet based technologies," Schmidt said. The ARRL presentation, conducted by Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, W5MPC -- along with President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ -- focused on Amateur Radio's current and evolving capabilities to provide Internet messaging connectivity. --ARRL Letter

## HAM RADIO AND SCOUTING: JOTA 2011 - OCTOBER 15 - 16

Get Ready for Scouting's Jamboree on the Air. This year's JOTA takes place on October 15th and 16th.

This international event is getting a big push this year from the Boy Scouts of America, which, in cooperation with the American Radio Relay League, has been promoting not only participation of Scouts, but ham mentors who have a great opportunity to become Elmers to the next generation of potential radio operators.

Jim Wilson, K5ND, is the national organizer for the Boy Scouts of America participation in Jamboree on the Air... "Jamboree on the Air is the largest Scouting event in the world," Wilson explains. "Last year, the World Organization of Scouting Movement reported just over 700,000 Scouts participated in the event from just under 6,000 stations around the world."

This year, Wilson says the BSA and ARRL, have teamed up to boost U.S. involvement. And, so far, the numbers are looking pretty good. "We have 76 stations registered and if we count up the number of participants that they're expecting at their event, we're right around 10,000," Wilson says.

Many of the American stations will be setting up at weekend camporees or jamborees with a big opportunity to introduce Scouts to the fun of talking on the radio, using a computer for PSK activity, or even talking to an astronaut.

"NA1SS, which is the International Space Station, is going to be on the air throughout the JOTA weekend," Wilson says. "Astronaut Mike Fossum (KF5AQQ), who is also a Scoutmaster, is going to be on the air during breaks from his work schedule.

"And, they think he's going to be available most of the passes around the world. The uplink is 144.490 and the downlink is 145.800 megahertz. So watch for that. I think that will be pretty cool."

Wilson, is also the new trustee for the Boy Scouts of America K2BSA call sign. He says you'll hear that and other special call signs on during JOTA. "K2BSA actually has authorized some operations in California, here in Texas, in Alabama,"

Wilson says. "A number of 1-by-1 call signs like W2H is out of the Southern New Jersey Council and there's quite a few others." He cautions that JOTA operators, in the excitement of the moment, have to also be aware of third-party agreements.

"We have some information on that on our website, third-party traffic agreements," Wilson says. "So, if they're talking with a particular country that doesn't allow third-party traffic, they do need to be

cautious. "The ARRL keeps that list up to date working with the IARU and so we link to that list and we warn them about those concerns because we don't want to get anybody into trouble."

Wilson says the best resource on JOTA right now is the BSA's own website, which contains all the right links. "We offer a website with resources on there for Scouting leaders and for amateur radio operators to get involved in Jamboree on the Air," Wilson says. And that's at [www.scouting.org/jota](http://www.scouting.org/jota)." Look for KC3BSA, Venture Crew 59's station on the air from eastern Pennsylvania on JOTA Friday night and Saturday during JOTA. Stop by and talk to some of our Scouts.

## AO-51 TO SUPPORT 54TH JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

The AO-51 Command Team is happy to announce support of the Scouting **Jamboree On The Air** (JOTA) during the weekend October 15-16, 2011. The **AO-51** satellite will remain in its current configuration, with an understanding that contacts involving Scouts will be given first priority during this period. The current operating mode of AO-51 is as follows:Uplink: 145.880 MHz FM (No PL tone) Downlink: 435.150 MHz FM

The World Scouting Organization in Switzerland posted JOTA information on their web:<http://tinyurl.com/3rfp2cn> ([www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)) and [http://scout.org/information\\_events/events/jota/the\\_54th\\_jota\\_2011](http://scout.org/information_events/events/jota/the_54th_jota_2011) Also, visit the World Scouting Radio Library at: <http://tinyurl.com/5sz7tf5> ([www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org))

The Boy Scouts of America has several resources on-line for amateur radio stations participating in JOTA: <http://tinyurl.com/6d93qb7> (Boy Scouts of America [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)) -- Amsat, AO-51 Command Team

## CQ PUBLISHING TO OFFER ALL MAGAZINES IN DIGITAL FORMAT

New York based hobby electronics publisher Richard Ross, K2MGA, has announced that his CQ Communications will launch multi-platform digital editions of all of its magazine titles before the end of 2011. These titles include CQ magazine, CQ VHF, Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online.

According to Editorial Director Rich Moseson, W2VU, the digital editions will supplement, not replace, current print editions, and will feature enhancements not possible in the print medium. Versions will be available for a variety of online and mobile platforms including PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android 2.0 and higher.

Examples of features that will be possible in the digital world include live links to all World Wide Web addresses listed in each issue as well as supplemental content. This will include such additions as photo albums, audio and video files, software and more.

The digital editions of the CQ publications will be hosted by Zinio dot com. Zinio is one of the top names in the e-magazine publishing business. Moseson says that CQ's choosing of Zinio will assure that our magazines will always be able to take advantage of new technology when it becomes available.

The digital launch will begin in late October with the November issue of an enhanced, multi-platform, version of WorldRadio Online, which will again become a paid-subscription publication. This will be followed by the November issue of CQ, which, appropriately, is the magazine's first annual

Technology Special. The fall issue of CQ VHF and the December issue of Popular Communications will round out the introductions.

Digital editions will be available by single copy and by subscription. Details will be in the near future in the magazines and on all CQ Communications websites. Moseson noted that many CQ book titles are already available in digital form on CD. -- CQ

## HEATHKIT'S AMATEUR RADIO PLANS TAKING SHAPE

Heathkit Educational Systems hopes to reenter the Amateur Radio market by the end of 2011. Back in August, Heathkit [announced](#) its return to the kit business and actively solicited suggestions. The response from Amateur Radio operators convinced Heathkit to develop several Amateur Radio products.

"When we made the announcement on our web page about a month ago, we had no intention of entering the Amateur Radio kit market," Ernie Wake, Heathkit's Director of Sales and Marketing, told the ARRL. "The response was really overwhelming, exciting and scary. The scary part is that the brand name has so much loyalty that we don't want to disappoint the people who have such fond memories."

Wake said that Heathkit is presently working on developing a few Amateur Radio kits. "Initially, the kit line will include a few 'accessories,' like kits for a Dual Watt Meter, Antenna Tuners and the Cantenna," he explained. "Once we are a little more 'settled,' I think we will develop a QRP receiver. We won't rush to market just to get there. We want to develop a line of kits in the tradition of Heathkit. I'm hoping to have one or two kits by the end-of-the-year." –ARRL Letter

## SHORTS

**HB9DRV SELLS RIGHTS TO *HAM RADIO DELUXE*** -- Simon Brown, HB9DRV, has sold the rights to his popular *Ham Radio Deluxe* software package to a group consisting of Mike Carper, WA9PIE, Randy Gawtry, K0CBH and Rick Ruhl, W4PC. All three principals have more than 25 years of experience with radio data communications. Rick Ruhl is the president of W4PC Software, Inc whose products include the *PakRatt*, *PKTerm* and *Radio Operations Center* software suites. Randy Gawtry is the president of Timewave Technology Inc whose products include the PK and DSP families of data controllers and other commercial data products. Mike Carper is an experienced Fortune 500 technology executive, educator and featured speaker in the areas of wireless technologies and IT Service Management. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/hb9drv-sells-rights-to-ham-radio-deluxe>. – ARRL Letter

**REVISED REGION 1 HF BANDPLAN UNVEILED** - by International Amateur Radio Union Region One High Frequency Band Plan has been published. The changes are minor, and affect only the 40 and 10 meter bands in Europe, Africa and the middle-East.

On 40 meters, the CW contest-preferred segment of 7.000 to 7.025 MHz has been withdrawn. In practice this means in practice that CW contests on 40 meters are no longer confined to the first 25 kHz segment.

On 10 meters the changes are to the FM portion of the band. This includes adjustments to the simplex channels and the addition of four new repeater channels. A copy of the new IARU Region One High Frequency Band Plan can be obtained at <http://www.irts.ie/downloads>. (IARU – R1)

**COME AND JOIN US ON THE AIRWAVES – REVISITED** – About a decade ago, Andrew John Huddleston, OZ5E. Andrew, along with his wife Lissa Ladefoged, produced a ham radio video titled “Come And Join Us On the Airwaves.” The video features Andrew in a tuxedo atop a 100 foot high tower and Lissa at the 60 foot level performing the song while un-corking a bottle of Champaign. Unfortunately, when the video was posted to YouTube, the technology of the day did not do justice to the visual content. Now with the advent of High Definition video on the YouTube site, that has all changed:

Andrew and Lissa are country music devotees who live in Aarhus, Denmark, and are likely best known simply as The Ham Band. This, as a result of their 1994 CD of amateur radio related songs simply titled “Seek You.”

OZ5E: “The original version of the video that we uploaded to YouTube was a actually quite good quality and was viewed by about 18,000 people. Other really low quality versions of the video were uploaded with the wrong aspect ratio and rotten sound and these versions have been viewed by no less than half a million people. So we thought to put the High Definition version out there so that people can see that our (ham) radio station is a very, very pretty one.”

Comparing the original posting to the new upload by Andrew using true 720p high definition video is breathtaking. Especially when you look past the singers on Andrew’s tower and gaze at the splendor of the Danish countryside where it was produced. It’s so sharp and crystal clear that its as close as one can get to being there. You can experience the new Hi Definition “Come And Join Us On The Airwaves” on YouTube. Just use the shortcut of [tinyurl.com/ham-song](http://tinyurl.com/ham-song).

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