

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY, 2012

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER MEETING -- At the 13-Dec meeting, the possibility of putting the repeater back on the was again discussed. No decision for sure yet, but there doesn't seem to be much enthusiasm for getting it on! The club's liability insurance is up for renewal and we did receive a bill from our present insurance company. This was an ARRL insurance plan, but the ARRL switched providers. The ARRL has not sent us a bill and we decided to wait till the January meeting to decide who to go with or if we need the insurance. The 2012 joint Field Day operation with the Indy Radio Club may have to find a new location as the Marion County Fair Grounds may not be available. Dave, N9KZJ, reported on the R&L Electronics customer appreciation day. K9RU talked up the January VHF Contest. Our Club will again have tables at the Indy Hamfest in July. The remainder of the meeting included a wide ranging discussion of ATSC television.

<p>SNOW? Meeting? If we're having snow on the Tuesday afternoon before the scheduled Club meeting, check your email to make sure the meeting has not been cancelled. We'll try and make that decision by mid afternoon and send an email. -K9RU</p>
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K9SG TO BE A MEMBER OF THE HK0NA DXPEDITION -- [DXARC](http://dxarc.org) [DXColombia Amateur Radio Club](http://hk0na.com/), is pleased to announce its expedition to Malpelo <http://hk0na.com/>. We will use the callsign HK0NA, which has been issued by the Colombian Licensing Authority. Under the direction of Team Leader, Jorge, HK1R, HK0NA is to have signals on all bands and modes authorized by Colombian law.

The team will consist of both foreign and Colombian operators. **Dr. Gary Stouder, K9SG**, <http://www.dxarc.org/san.htm> from Greenfield, IN will be among the team members. We are hoping that DXers, DX Clubs, DX Foundations will help with the costs involved. Any and all financial assistance will be great appreciated.

The dates are firm. We expect to arrive on the island on Jan. 21, 2012 and begin operations immediately. The four members of the team traveling to Malpelo early with the Colombian Navy have the mission to erect the operating sites, infrastructure to support twenty people for 17 days, and erect all the antennas and stations. This is a huge sacrifice on their part as they will be on the island until our departure on Feb. 7th. There is a possibility that they will have some time to be will be QRV prior to the main team arriving.

The team will be QRV on 160m-6m, CW, SSB, and Digital modes. Elecraft has supplied the team with eleven K3 transceivers and five new KPA 500 amplifiers. Alpha has supplied three of their High Power 8410's amplifiers for use on the low bands and DX Engineering has supplied many of the antennas to be used. We plan to have two operating sites and as many as ten stations QRV on open bands/modes. One of the operating sites will be placed near the summit of the island with antennas to cover the areas of the world that have been blocked on previous DXpeditions. Our antennas will be strategically deployed to maximize our signal and to ensure DXers worldwide will have an opportunity to work us.

Dates:

December 27th— Advance team departs. Four members of Team sail with all equipment and gear to Malpelo with Colombian Navy.

Jan.18th— Team assembles in Bogota, Colombia

Jan. 19th— Team flies to Buenaventura and boards the SEAWOLF for final team meeting.

Jan. 20th— Depart on high tide for Malpelo

Jan. 21st— Arrive Malpelo after 24 hours, begin island access, begin radio operations.

Jan 21st through Feb. 5/6— continue radio operations.

Feb. 7th— depart Malpelo

Feb. 8th— arrive Buenaventura

Feb 10th— operators return their home for well deserved rest.

A BIT OF NOSTALGA -- I was talking with a ham friend a couple days ago about the loss of our site for the '88 repeater. I didn't think about it at the time, but I should have told him the location was at the site of the W87PAX special event station. If you didn't read it (or like me, have forgotten), Brian Smith, now W9IND, wrote a great article for the January 1988 issue of 73 Magazine, page 16 of the pdf: http://ia700806.us.archive.org/26/items/73-magazine-1988-01/01_January_1988.pdf --AF9A

K9YJW SK – Although he was not a member of the RCA Club, many of us knew Don Stewart, K9YJW. He passed away Jan. 2, 2012.

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

Jan 14 RCA/IRC Test session, 12pm-2pm, EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indy.
Contact Ronda Curtis, ws9h@arrl.net

Jan 21 - 23 ARRL VHF Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf-sweepstakes>

Feb 11 RCA/IRC Test session, 12pm-2pm, EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indy.
Contact Ronda Curtis, ws9h@arrl.net

Feb 18 - 19 ARRL DX Contest, CW <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Feb 25 Brownsburg Hamfest, Brownsburg, IN <http://indyhams.org/hamfests>

Feb 25 LaPorte Hamfest, LaPorte, IN <http://k9jsi.org/hamfest>

Mar 3 - 4 ARRL DX Contest, Phone <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Mar 10 RCA/IRC Test session, 12pm-2pm, EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indy.
Contact Ronda Curtis, ws9h@arrl.net

Mar 24 Columbus Hamfest, Columbus, IN

Apr 21 North Central Indiana Hamfest, Kokomo, IN <http://www.nci-hamfest.net/>

May 18-20 Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Dayton, OH <http://www.hamvention.org>

July 14 Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis <http://www.indyhamfest.com/>

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 ARRL training page for test sessions

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

YAESU'S AMATEUR RADIO DIVISION BREAKS WITH MOTOROLA, CHANGES NAME TO YAESU MUSEN

After four years under the Motorola umbrella, Yaesu has split from that company. According to Vertex Standard President and Chief Executive Officer Jun Hasegawa, effective January 1, 2012, Motorola will keep the Vertex Standard Land-Mobile Division, while the amateur, marine and air-band will be under the Yaesu Musen banner. The new company will be known as Yaesu USA here in the US.

“This reorganization will allow us to concentrate in amateur, marine and air-band business, which will better leverage and align the strengths of our entire business operation,” Hasegawa said in a press release dated December 27. “We believe that there is an exciting opportunity to evolve our organization to meet the needs of the Amateur Radio, Marine equipment and air band telecommunication industries by continuing to provide specialized services and the highest quality products.”

Hasegawa explained that the new company's name will be Yaesu Musen, “a name our business partners have been familiar with for over 50 years. We are delighted to bring you the legacy of trust, quality and solid customer service that has always been associated with the Yaesu Musen company name.”

While Yaesu Musen will have a new Japanese address, the address and phone numbers -- as well as the US operations and sales organization -- for Yaesu USA will not change. Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, will remain in charge of Yaesu USA's sales division. –ARRL Letter

WELCOME BACK, OLD SOL: ARRL 10 METER CONTEST SETS RECORD

As of December 21, a record 4456 logs have been received for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is happy to have sunspots back: "This just goes to show what sunspots can do for activity. For the last several years, Old Timers knew they'd have to wait for a while before Cycle 24 would kick in and band conditions would improve. Amateurs licensed around 2005-2006 have wondered what the OTs were talking about; with rare exception, 10 meters has been a place to listen for static, not DX. They'd never experienced 10 meters when it was truly open.

“When the solar flux climbed to 190 in September, it was like the first warm day after a long winter; people came out to play...and play they did, in unprecedented numbers! Activity during this contest season has been nothing short of tremendous, and it seems to have reached a zenith for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Old-Timers and new licensees from all around the world got on the air and had one heck of a good time on 28 MHz the second weekend in December, shattering the participation record by over 1000 logs. And we still have over 2 weeks to go before the log submission deadline!” –ARRL Letter

ARRL REQUESTS FEEDBACK FOR 60 METER BAND PLAN

In November, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O) detailing new rules for the 5 MHz (60 meters) Amateur Radio band. These rules have not been published in the *Federal Register*. In order to be official, the rules must be published in the *Federal Register* and will take effect 30 days after the publication date.

The R&O brings with it a number of changes for 60 meter operators . . .

The frequency 5368.0 kHz (carrier frequency 5366.5 kHz) is withdrawn and a new frequency of 5358.5 kHz (carrier frequency 5357.0 kHz) is authorized.

The effective radiated power limit in the 60 meter band is raised by 3 dB, from 50 W PEP to 100 W PEP, relative to a half-wave dipole. If another type of antenna is used, the station licensee must maintain a record of either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Three additional emission types are authorized. Data (emission designator 2K80J2D, for example, PACTOR-III), RTTY (emission designator 60H0J2B, for example, PSK31) and CW (150HA1A, i.e. Morse telegraphy by means of on-off keying). For CW, the carrier frequency must be set to the center frequency. For data and RTTY the requirement to transmit "only on the five center frequencies specified" may be met by using the same practice as on USB, i.e. by setting the suppressed carrier frequency of the USB transmitter used to generate the J2D or J2B emission to the carrier frequency that is 1.5 kHz below the center frequency.

Considering the expected increase in 60 meter activity when the R&O finally takes effect, the ARRL is asking for feedback to assist in crafting a proposed band plan. For example, what modes and activities should be recommended for the various channels?

If you're a 60-meter operator, e-mail your suggestions to hf-band-plan@arrl.org. You can also participate in an online survey here. –ARRL Letter

NTSB URGES STATES TO BAN CELL PHONE USE BY DRIVERS

On Tuesday, December 13, the National Transportation Safety Board (**NTSB**) recommended that States ban the nonemergency use of *all* cellular telephones and other "portable electronic devices" (PEDs) by drivers of motor vehicles. This would include hands-free cell phone operation and all text messaging while mobile. While this NTSB recommendation has been the lead story in national media, the "distracted driving" issue has been receiving serious attention for several years. A number of states and municipalities have prohibited texting and handheld cellular telephone use by all or some drivers, though none has gone so far as to outlaw all hands-free cell phone use. To avoid unintended consequences to Amateur Radio operation, the ARRL has been closely involved with this issue for several years. The full text of the NTSB report is not yet available, and it is not yet known whether the broad term "portable electronic devices" might be construed as including all or some Amateur Radio equipment.

On January 30, 2009, the Executive Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors approved and released an **ARRL position paper on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation**. In that paper, the ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur Radio communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times, but points out that mobile two-way radio equipment has been in use for at least 70 years and is quite dissimilar from full-duplex cell phones.

"Over the past several years, ARRL Section Managers, State Government Liaisons and ARRL members have monitored hundreds of state legislative bills on this topic," ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, explained. "While ARRL Headquarters is an information resource, it is the hard work of state and local level ARRL leadership that has been the key in our efforts to protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The wording of state legislation -- and specifically the definition of the devices that are being regulated -- determines what response is appropriate from the Amateur Radio community. The fact that a proposed state bill does not include a specific exemption for Amateur Radio doesn't necessarily mean

the bill would prohibit Amateur Radio mobile operation. A well-crafted bill that narrowly defines “wireless mobile devices” or “wireless communications devices,” for example, limiting those definitions cellular telephones and text messaging devices, might not need a specific exemption in order to protect Amateur Radio operation. In cases where a bill must be amended in order to add an Amateur Radio exemption, the proposed exemption language is critical. Some mobile cellular legislation, for example, would allow use of Amateur Radio while mobile only in an emergency, and thus routine amateur communications would still be precluded, and amateurs would be unlikely to install equipment that would be needed in an emergency.

The NTSB recommends that all states prohibit the use of cell phones and PEDs by all drivers of motor vehicles. The NTSB does not have the authority to impose such regulations itself, but the recommendation is likely to inspire additional legislative proposals. When state legislatures convene after January 1, the State Government Liaisons (SGLs), Section Managers and other volunteers in the ARRL Field Organization must monitor bills introduced into the various state legislatures for any potential problems. Introduction of such state legislation has been the norm for several years now; in fact, bills have been “prefiled” prior to the next legislative session in several states.

When a potential bill is sent to the ARRL, Regulatory Branch staff and legal experts review it to determine the potential impact on the Amateur Radio Service. If the definition of the prohibited activity clearly does not include Amateur Radio communications, it may be best to avoid raising the issue.

In August 2009, the ARRL received correspondence from the [National Safety Council](#), stating that there is **no evidence of significant risk by mobile Amateur Radio or other two-way mobile radio usage**, and that until there are peer-reviewed studies showing that there is a safety hazard, the NSC does not support legislative bans on mobile Amateur Radio communications. The NSC has applauded the NTSB recommendations, citing evidence that “cognitive distraction” occurs, even when hands-free devices are used.

The ARRL’s position is set out in the [Mobile Amateur Radio Policy Statement](#), and includes suggested legislative language for use where necessary. SGLs and volunteers are encouraged to use the basics of the statement when working with state legislators.

[CTIA](#), the international association for the wireless telecommunications industry, has released a statement reiterating its support for a ban on texting while driving: “As far as talking on wireless devices while driving, we defer to state and local lawmakers and their constituents as to what they believe are the most appropriate laws where they live.”

“The bottom line,” Henderson concluded, “is that we all support safe driving. Amateurs are encouraged to pay full time and attention to attentive driving while behind the wheel, and to avoid any and all distractions.” –ARRL Letter

AMATEUR RADIO BALLOON FLIGHT CROSSES ATLANTIC, SETS RECORDS

Ron Meadows, K6RPT, and his son Lee -- leaders of the [California Near Space Project](#) -- successfully launched an Amateur Radio high altitude balloon on Sunday, December 11 at 4:43 PM PST. The balloon reached a cruise altitude between 105,000 and 115,000 feet, where it continued its travel across the United States, the Atlantic Ocean and Spain and into the Mediterranean Sea. For most of its trip, the balloon traveled at about 150 miles per hour and eventually covered 6236 **great circle miles** in just 57 hours 2 minutes. According to the CNSP, this is a new Amateur Radio balloon flight record for both distance and duration.

The balloon, which bore the call sign K6RPT-11 and could be tracked via APRS, traveled through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. "When the balloon left the New Jersey shore behind, it was received by coastal stations as far away as Nova Scotia," explained CNSP Team Member Don Ferguson, KD6IRE. "When it exceeded the range of these stations, we lost track of it and feared that we would not hear from the balloon again."

Ferguson told the ARRL that when they woke up the next morning, the CNSP Team learned that K6RPT-11 was still in the air and transmitting. **CU2ARA** -- the club station of the Amateur Radio Association of the Azores, located on the island of St Miguel -- reported that they had successfully copied K6RPT-11's signal. That morning, the balloon reached a height of 111,503 feet and was traveling in excess of 160 miles per hour, headed east at 92 degrees. "The rest of the day on Tuesday was exciting, as more stations around the world took note of the little balloon from Silicon Valley that was heading for the European mainland," Ferguson said.

"The APRS system of digital radio repeaters maintained reception of the data traffic from the balloon transmitter, which transmitted its location from the onboard GPS," Ferguson noted. "In the US, this network is established on 144.39 MHz, but is on a different frequency in Europe. Radio amateurs across the world were able to quickly adjust the European receivers to the balloon's frequency and provided continued tracking worldwide. This is yet another example of the response and flexibility of ham radio operators to meet a sudden challenge and provide communications when needed."

According to the **CNSP's Twitter feed**, the balloon burst on Wednesday, December 14 at 0946 UTC, off the coast of Algeria. --ARRL Letter

DOT-DASH-DISS: THE GENTLEMAN HACKER'S 1903 LULZ

A century ago, one of the world's first hackers used Morse code insults to disrupt a public demo of Marconi's wireless telegraph.

LATE one June afternoon in 1903 a hush fell across an expectant audience in the Royal Institution's celebrated lecture theatre in London. Before the crowd, the physicist John Ambrose Fleming was adjusting arcane apparatus as he prepared to demonstrate an emerging technological wonder: a long-range wireless communication system developed by his boss, the Italian radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The aim was to showcase publicly for the first time that Morse code messages could be sent wirelessly over long distances. Around 300 miles away, Marconi was preparing to send a signal to London from a Clifftop station in Poldhu, Cornwall, UK.

Yet before the demonstration could begin, the apparatus in the lecture theatre began to tap out a message. At first, it spelled out just one word repeated over and over. Then it changed into a facetious poem accusing Marconi of "diddling the public". Their demonstration had been hacked - and this was more than 100 years before the mischief playing out on the internet today. Who was the Royal Institution hacker? How did the cheeky messages get there? And why?

Read the whole article at <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21228440.700-dotdashdiss-the-gentleman-hackers-1903-lulz.html>

AMATEUR RADIO A PLOT POINT IN MAJOR MOTION PICTURE

According to previews, the plot of the movie *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* -- set to be released February 10 -- hinges on Amateur Radio. The movie's hero Sean Anderson (played by Josh

Hutcherson) receives a coded distress signal that comes from a mysterious island where no island should exist. Sean decides to follow the signal with the unwilling assistance from his stepfather Hank (played by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson).

Sean explains to Hank why he wants to hunt down the signal: "A few nights ago, a radio signal got sent out from these coordinates. It could be the mysterious island that Jules Verne wrote about."

Hank replies: "You think you're gonna travel halfway around the world and meet up with some lunatic who's messing around on a ham radio?"

"That's not some lunatic," Sean says. "That's my grandfather."

Other than this mention of "ham radio," it is not yet known how Amateur Radio will be featured in the movie.

Together, Sean and Hank fly out to a tropical island to begin their quest. There, they meet up with Gabato (a helicopter pilot played by Luis Guzman) and his daughter Kailani (played by Vanessa Hudgens). The group sets out to find the island, where they find the island's lone human inhabitant: Sean's grandfather (played by Michael Caine). For a while, the five enjoy the wonders of the island -- the lost world of Atlantis -- but soon, seismic shockwaves begin destroying this rediscovered world. They must escape before the island is forced under the sea and its treasures are buried forever.

You can watch the trailer for *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*

<http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi4230192665/> --ARRL

SHORTS

ARISSAT-1 GETTING HOTTER - Ken W7KKE reports that ARISSat-1 is heating up as it starts to enter the Earth's atmosphere, it can still be heard on 145.950 MHz FM, but not for much longer.

On the AMSAT bulletin board he writes: "At 2055Z today had a 77 deg pass. Highest temp was the -Z PPT 6 panel temp at 88 C. Yesterday it was temp was 74 C. RF temp was 57 C which is one degree cooler than observed yesterday. Keps were only 0.7 days old, but still had to manually chase the signal when it was near predicted TCA."

Ken Eaton GW1FKY posted this report on Friday evening: Pleased to report lots of activity on the last two passes of ARISSat-1 over here in Europe today (Friday). Some calls at 1507 hrs PD0RKC, heard you and you were 5 X 8 but dropped to 5 X 5 rather quickly. At 1639 hrs heard ON4GP calling and then in contact with DG1ER, you were both 5X7 prior to the satellite switching off in eclipse. Nice to report the activity as we approach the end on the year and an era for ARISSat-1.

You can get orbital predictions times by selecting ARISSat-1 on the online prediction tool at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/> A graph showing the descent of ARISSat-1 can be seen at <http://www.qsl.net/py4zbz/arissat.htm#r>

ARISSat- . A Fun HAM Satellite! <http://www.uk.amsat.org/2011/12/25/arissat-1-a-fun-ham-satellite/>
--Southgate ARC

KL7RRC EXTREME WINTER EXPEDITION TO LAST IOTA NEW-ONE -- Weather permitting around January 5-8, 2012, the last IOTA new-one in Alaska will be activated by two members of Russian Robinson Club, Tim Tilleman NL8F and Yuri Sushkin N3QQ. They will sign KL7RRC/p on 10-80m CW and SSB. QSL via N7RO or UA9OBA.

The uninhabited group of islands (sand bars), located ~ 100 miles snow machines' ride from Bethel, Alaska. The Bering Sea is currently frozen and NOAA Ice Maps provide good assurance it will be a

smooth ride. Temperature is hovering around -20C (-4F). Our exact location will be provided in real time with satellite SPOT messenger:

We would like to thank Sergey RA3NAN, IREF (islandradio.org) and many of you for continuing financial support as well as Icom America for help with equipment. --Southgate ARC

CHANGING TIMES - ARMY MARS PHASING OUT WINLINK -- The Department of the Army has announced that it has begun to take steps to phase out the use of the WINLINK System. This is because of possible security breaches that might be incurred in the Internet aspect of transmissions using the mode.

According to the December 21st ARRL ARES E-Letter, the military chain of command that governs Army MARS feels that the Internet portion of WINLINK leaves the system significantly open to the possibility of intrusion. To deal with this it plans to replace WINLINK with a newer military e-mail system that has extensive protection against any form of hacking or any other form of incursion. To accomplish this, Army MARS will be expanding on the concept of a national network that is voice, RTTY and PACTOR capable under MIL-STD 110A. It says that PACTOR will become even more important as the new areas of focus will be peer to peer and keyboard to keyboard PACTOR based communications.

Amateur modes such as MT-63, OLIVIA, and WINMOR, which cannot be used by the military, will be eventually phased out as well.

The ultimate goal of this change will be to help Army MARS return to what it is really supposed to be. That of a radio-only system to relay long haul traffic as it has done very successfully in the past.

RADIO AMATEUR ON NEW TV SHOW --Tim Allen, star of *Home Improvement*, *Toy Story*, *The Santa Clause* and *Galaxy Quest*, just to name a few, stars in *Last Man Standing*, an ABC comedy airing at 8 PM (EST) on Tuesday nights. Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, a married father of three and the director of marketing at an outdoor sporting goods store in Colorado whose life is dominated by women. While Amateur Radio has not been prominently featured in the first episodes, according to John Amodeo, NN6JA -- the producer of *Last Man Standing* -- it is a part of the show and an important part of Mike's character. At press time, the episode that will establish Mike as a radio amateur is scheduled to air mid-January.

"Tim's character Mike is involved in creating the sales strategy for the store, including their catalog and Internet identity," Amodeo told the ARRL. "The store is like Bass Pro Shops or Cabelas. There is a strong self-sufficiency overtone to Mike's approach to life. Ham radio fits in the story as a means of emergency communication. It's not directly featured in the foreground story, but at the moment, it's a background element on the home set. Once I allow something to be put on the set, there's a chance the writers will feature it. Now that we have actually established Mike Baxter as KA0XTT, we can do more things featuring Amateur Radio." Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/em-ham-radio-in-hollywood-em-comedian-tim-allen-stars-as-radio-amateur-on-new-tv-show> --ARRL Letter

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

-- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

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