RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MAY, 2012   **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**   INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE **RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** WILL BE
TUESDAY, MAY 8th, 6:30 PM AT <u>G.T. SOUTH'S</u>,
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL MEETING – At the 10-April meeting, we again discussed Field Day. A location has not yet been found. [Note: At the April IRC meeting, it was announced Field Day will likely be held at Eagle Creek Park in an area on the west side of the reservoir.]   No new news on the availability of a repeater site on the Ivy Tech building. Don't forget Dayton (see below) May 18-20. The Indiana QSO Party is May 5, noon to midnight local time. The Mini Marathon is also May 5. No additional operators are needed.   Dick, W9ZB, called our attention to an article in the April, 2012 issue of "Senior Life" newspaper about WISH-TV's Jack Parker, W8ISH:
 http://www.the-papers.com/OnlineIssue.aspx?pub=seniorlife&ed=ind&issue=si-04-04-12

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB WILL CHARTER A BUS TO DAYTON – There are still a few tickets available for the Indianapolis Radio club bus to the Dayton Hamvention again this year. This will be on Saturday, May 19, 2012 and the cost will be $30 per person for the round trip. Admission to the Hamvention and the food stops are not included in this price. This is a great way go to the hamfest and avoid any parking problem. It is to the door service and they stop at McDonalds in Richmond on the way over for breakfast and at MCL for dinner on the way back.

FOR LATEST DETAILS AND ANY QUESTIONS: e-mail k9ljw@arrl.net or CHECK IN TO THE MARION COUNTY INFO NET, WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM, 146.700. –K9RU

RCA ARC PLANS FOR THE DAYTON HAMVENTION -- Here are the plans for this year at the Hamvention... We will use 144.430 MHz simplex. Meet as usual in the northwest corner of the arena with the permanent seats at noon on Friday and again Saturday. Grab something to eat for lunch and join us there. We plan to meet for dinner at Old Hickory, 4029 North Main Street, (Rte 48) after the hamfest Friday evening only. Join us for a great steak at a reasonable price.

NEW LOCATION FOR LICENSE TEST SESSIONS - We are alternating every other month between Saturday test sessions at noon on the east side of town at the Integrated Public Safety Commission Com Training Center 8468 E 21st St. and Monday evening test session at 6:30 PM on the west side of town at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd.

NEXT TEST SESSION: Saturday, May 12th, starting at noon (Walk-ins welcome)
  Location: Integrated Public Safety Commission Com Training Center, 8468 E 21st St., Indianapolis, IN 46219-2517
  Contact: Rhonda S. Curtis (317) 363-7457
  Email: ws9h@comcast.net

FIELD DAY UPDATE – The joint RCA ARC / IRC Field Day event will be held Eagle Creek park. At "The Crest", on the west side of the reservoir, by the soccer fields. This is a nice location and there is no charge to get into this side of the park. They are looking for tents to use at the event. We will have more details at the RCA Club Meeting.

THE INDY HAMFEST IS DOUBLING THE HT GIVE-A-WAY -- The Indianapolis Hamfest, coming up on July 14, is doubling the HT per hour give-a-way from last year. One dual band handheld winning ticket will be drawn from the ticket barrel each half hour. You need not be present to win! We will have advance sale $6 tickets at the next RCA club meeting. http://www.indyhamfest.com

WEAU 2000 FOOT TOWER – Here is a link to a documentary on the construction of a 2000 foot TV broadcast tower near Eau Claire, WI.
http://www.weau.com/video/?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=6995960

NOT RELATED TO HAM RADIO; SOME TERRIFIC PICS --   [Author of the preface is unknown] Back in the mid '70s when I was working at Hellers Camera in Bethesda Md. I had a reference book with a color photo of the battleship Pennsylvania in an advanced base sectional dock, somewhere in the Pacific taken in about 1944. The quality of the photo made it clear that it was shot with a large format camera, which puzzled me since I did not think Kodachrome (the only modern color film at the time in the US) was available in sheet films. A co-worker was an old Kodak hand (and WWII vet, a radioman in Europe) and told me that they did have sheet Kodachrome, and that there was only one machine to process the film, located in Rochester. The exposed film was sent there for processing. Some of these images are 70 years old and look as fresh as ever. If someone had told any of the subjects in these photos that we'd have such a clear look at them in the year 2012... boggles my mind. Thought you'd find this interesting !

Just notice the quality of the photography. Also, when you click to open, at the top is says "For English speaking visitors, click here." Do that, and it will be in English rather than Russian.
http://pavel-kosenko.livejournal.com/303194.html?thread=22669914<http://pavel-kosenko.livejournal.com/303194.html?thread=22669914

ARDUINO'S PLAYMATE, WE NEED SOME AMATEUR RADIO APPS FOR THIS! -- The Arduino, a low-cost, open-source microcontroller board that lets novices program electronic devices, has spawned an international do-it-yourself revolution. Lightning is about to strike twice in the open-source hardware movement, with the release of Raspberry Pi. For $25, you can get the guts of an entire computer—with ports for video, USB, and an SD card. [Wi-Fi can be added through the USB port]. Ethernet is also available on the $35 model. The Raspberry pi is a single-board computer developed in the UK by the Raspberry Pi Foundation with the intention of stimulating the teaching of basic computer science in schools.

The design is based on a Broadcom BCM2835 system on a chip (SoC), which includes an ARM1176JZF-S 700 MHz processor, VideoCore IV GPU, and 256 megabytes of RAM. The design does not include a built-in hard disk or solid-state drive, instead relying on an SD card for booting and long-term storage.

The Foundation plans to support Fedora Linux as the initial system software package/distribution, with support for Debian and Arch Linux as well. Also planned are tools for supporting Python as the main programming language, plus others.
 http://spectrum.ieee.org/podcast/geek-life/hands-on/arduinos-playmate/?utm_source=techalert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=042612   --IEEE Spectrum, Wikipedia.com

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

May 5	500 Festival Mini Marathon (all ham positions are filled)
May 5	Indiana QSO Party, noon to midnight EDT
May 11	IRC monthly meeting, Salvation Army Team Emergency Network, Peggy McNary, N9QT

May 12   Amateur Radio License Testing, noon @ Integrated Public Safety Commission Com
            Training Center 8468 E 21st St. Contact: WS9H@comcast.net
May 18-20 Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Dayton, OH http://www.hamvention.org
June 2-3   Museum Ships Weekend, June 2, 0000Z to June 3, 2359Z
June 8   IRC monthly meeting, annual auction
June 9 - 11 ARRL VHF Contest
June 23-24 ARRL Field Day
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.

WPX AWARDS VIA LOTW ENTERS BETA TESTING

Earlier this year, the ARRL and CQ Communications **announced** that the ARRL will provide support
for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (**LoTW**) electronic
confirmation system. The WPX Award is the first of the CQ-sponsored awards that LoTW will
support.

"We had originally planned to introduce this new program in early April, but due to the introduction of
the **new DXCC fee structure** and our new **Online DXCC application**, we had to push the date back,"
explained ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "We are now beta testing the
program with a select group of hams and are looking forward to launching to LoTW-WPX partnership
in the first part of May."

The ARRL's LoTW system -- an interactive database recording contacts between radio amateurs --
was created in 2003 and has been adopted by almost 50,000 radio amateurs worldwide. It already has
records of more than 400 million contacts and is growing weekly. Amateurs will be able to use LoTW
logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard LoTW credit fees
and CQ award fees will apply.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that this step gives radio amateurs
throughout the world an inexpensive and convenient means of gaining credits toward CQ's popular
operating awards. "LoTW has significantly increased interest and participation in the ARRL's DXCC,
Worked All States and VUCC awards programs," he said when the partnership was announced. "We
anticipate a similarly positive response to the addition of the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to
spend more time operating and less time chasing QSL cards."

CQ President Richard Ross, K2MGA, said he is very pleased to be able to move forward with LoTW
support for CQ awards. "We have had excellent results with electronic confirmations for several
years," he explained. "I am glad that we are now able to begin expanding that convenience to those
participants in our award programs who use Logbook of The World. We look forward to a smooth
launch for WPX and to the expansion of LoTW support to include the rest of our award programs, as
well."

Yaesu is the Principal Sponsor of the LoTW website. –ARRL Letter

ARRL CARD CHECKERS CAN NOW CHECK CARDS FOR 160 METERS, DELETED ENTITIES

Acting on a recommendation by ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, the ARRL's Programs and Services Committee (PSC) adopted new rules for ARRL field card checkers. ARRL card checkers now may check QSL cards for those entities deleted from the DXCC list and, with certain exceptions, check cards for 160 meters. In addition, the PSC decided not to change the process by which card checkers are appointed.

Prior to April 16, 2012, these cards could only be checked at ARRL Headquarters. According to Patton, the reason for this was that some QSL cards for *18 MHz* can be altered to show *1.8 MHz* without the alteration being detected. Therefore, the time of the QSO becomes significant. Some cards for deleted entities date back prior to 1960, making it difficult in the field to sometimes determine which entity the card ought to count for. Deleted entities do not count for the DXCC Challenge or for the Honor Roll, but do count toward all-time totals.

Old rule [Section IV, Rule 1 (a)]:
1. Entities Eligible for Field Checking:
>**a.** All current entities dating back to November 15, 1945 can be checked. Cards for deleted entities and cards indicating 160 meters must be submitted to ARRL HQ.

New rule [Section IV, Rule 1 (a)(i-iv)]:
1. Entities Eligible for Field Checking:
>**a.** All entities dating back to November 15, 1945 can be checked as follows:
>>**i)** Cards for deleted entities may be checked by all DXCC card checkers.
>>**ii)** If the DXCC card checker cannot determine the entity of a QSL for a QSO with a deleted entity, the card checker may photograph both sides of the card and e-mail those images to the DXCC desk for final entity determination. The card checker must certify on the application that those images are made by him/her and are a true representation of the card. HQ will assign the final entity name as determined to the applicant's DXCC.
>>**iii)** Cards for 160 meters may be checked by DXCC card checkers who have themselves earned DXCC on 160 meters. Those card checkers who do not have 160 meter DXCC may not check cards for QSOs on 160 meters.
>>**iv)** All other bands (other than 160), modes and all entities may be checked by all DXCC Card Checkers.

Benefits of these rules changes include:
>Further improvement in member/customer service at ARRL Headquarters.
>Improvement in applicants' experience with DXCC participation.
>Improvement in QSO-validity review by allowing experienced DXers who are card checkers to review the 160 meter data.
>Enhancement of the use and value of the new **Online DXCC** web tool.

"These new rules are a good step forward for the DXCC field card checking program," said ARRL Delta Division Director and PSC Chairman David Norris, K5UZ. "It will add additional flexibility to the program and increase the value of the services that we provide to our members. In the past, it has been difficult for hams with QSL cards for 160 meters to get their cards checked. Now that card checkers can check cards for 160 meters in the field, the DXCC program should see an increase in the number of confirmed 160 meter QSOs." –ARRL Letter

ON THE AIR: AMATEURS MUST PROTECT NEW RADARS IN 23 CM BAND

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is deploying a new generation of Common Air Route Surveillance Radar (CARSR) that has some implications for the use of the 1240-1300 MHz (23 cm) band by amateurs. The Amateur Service allocation in this band is on a secondary basis, with aeronautical radionavigation and several other services primary in the United States Table of Frequency Allocations. The FCC rules require that amateur stations operating in the 23 cm band may not cause harmful interference to stations in the radionavigation-satellite service, the aeronautical radionavigation service, the Earth exploration-satellite service (active) or the space research service (active). One case of harmful interference in Southern California has been reported.

CARSRs are being installed in several dozen locations throughout the country and will use various frequencies in the 1240-1350 MHz range with an occupied bandwidth of about 3 MHz. In the vicinity of the radars, amateur operation may be precluded in a portion of the 23 cm band. The ARRL is in contact with FAA engineers. We anticipate that the constraints on amateur use of the band will be limited to those necessary to protect aviation safety, which of course cannot be compromised. ARRL Letter

2012 CONTINUES TO SHOW GROWTH IN AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING

The first quarter of 2012 (January-March) saw a high level of Amateur Radio license exam sessions, producing an elevated influx of applications for new licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, these numbers outpaced the 2011 first quarter results by 30 percent. This uptick does not only apply to new applications; there was a 6 percent increase in the number of upgrades, too. "Statistics over the last 13 years reveal that these are the highest numbers that we've ever seen for the total number of US amateurs," Somma said. "Now there are more than 704,000 radio amateurs in the US."

Somma said that there are currently 704,236 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US. "We broke the **700,000 barrier in October 2011**," she explained, "and the numbers continue to progress higher. Broken down by license class, at the end of March there were 14,352 Novices, 343,597 Technicians, 161,220 Generals, 57,393 Advanced and 127,674 Amateur Extra licensees. It's an all-time high for Technician, General and Extra class licensees, as well. Additionally, our total number of licensees across all three classes has grown each year."

For the first quarter of 2012, Somma said that the ARRL VEC test session statistics are the highest first quarter results since the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007: "Our exam session activity and exam elements administered are elevated. As the total number of licensees across all three license classes continues to grow each year, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions also grows. In turn, the number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also rising. The ARRL VEC has seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors. This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months." –ARRL Letter

SHORTS

REGISTER YOUR ARRL FIELD DAY SITE ON THE FIELD DAY LOCATOR -- First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's Field Day Station Locator Service has proved a popular addition to the

Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. So far, hams in 47 states, Puerto Rico and six Canadian provinces have listed Field Day sites on the Field Day Locator. If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator website and follow the instructions. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 23-24, join tens of thousands of radio amateurs as they gather for a public demonstration of the Amateur Service. –ARRL Letter

DIGITAL *QST*: COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU! -- The new digital edition of *QST* will debut toward the end of May. If you are an ARRL member and you haven't yet signed up to be notified automatically when the digital edition becomes available, you can do so easily. Just click on the "Edit your profile" link on the ARRL website. Once you are in your profile, click "Edit e-mail subscriptions" and then check the box next to "Notification of monthly digital edition of QST." That's all there is to it. A new FAQ about the digital edition has the answers to the questions ARRL members have been asking (it can also be accessed from the *QST* page on the ARRL website). We hope you enjoy the new digital edition of *QST*. –ARRL Letter

ARRL THANKS RADIO AMATEURS WHO FILED COMMENTS -- In April, the FCC put out a *Public Notice*, requesting comments regarding a Congress-mandated study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications. The ARRL asked that the amateur community forward comments directly to the ARRL so that it could use them to develop its comments -- more than 1200 radio amateurs responded! These comments will be reviewed in the next few weeks and used to help bolster the ARRL's formal response by the FCC's May 17 deadline. Thanks to everyone who took the time to send their comments!

SOLAR ACTIVITY REVIVED WITH A BIG INCREASE IN SUNSPOT NUMBERS. - On Friday, April 20, the daily sunspot number reached 162; four days later on April 24, the number reached 169. This level of activity has not been seen since last fall, when the daily sunspot number reached 173 on September 16, 184 on October 21 and 208 on November 9.

The average daily sunspot numbers more than doubled over the previous week's average, rising 73 points to 144.7, while the average daily solar flux was 133.9, an increase of nearly 29 points. Sunspot numbers for April 19-25 were 122, 162, 147, 118, 158, 169 and 137, with a mean of 144.7.

Jim White, WD0E, worked FK8CP (New Caledonia) on April 26. He wrote: "I just worked FK8CP on 6 meters SSB from DM79, about 35 miles southeast of Denver at 0027 on April 26 – an amazing 7131 mile path. For an hour before I worked him, there were spots of him from Southern California on DX Sherlock (see http://www.vhfdx.info/spots/), He was in and out of the noise, but we heard him for about 20 minutes off and on.

> "If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this,"

- - Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3M "Post-It" Notepads.

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