

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE, 2012

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12th, 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 MAY MEETING** – Thanks to all those who attended the 8-May meeting. It was reported that the joint Indy Radio Club and RCA ARC Field Day operation would be at The Crest in Eagle Creek Park on the west side of the reservoir (SEE UPDATE BELOW). Plans for the Dayton Hamvention were discussed. Upcoming events include the W9IMS special event station, the ARRL June VHF Contest, Field Day, and the Ships on the Air Weekend. The Broadripple Hamfest is on the calendar but will be at a different location yet to be determined. We have several pickup truck loads of stuff to move to the Indy Hamfest on Friday afternoon, July 13. Please plan to help. We will have advance sale tickets (\$6) for the Indy Hamfest at the 12-June meeting. There are several upcoming opportunities for public service listed on the Indyhams web site at <http://www.indyhams.org/>

**NEXT TEST SESSION:** Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 PM (Walk-ins welcome)

**Location:** Salvation Army EDS Training Center, 4020 Georgetown Road, Indianapolis, IN

**Contact:** Jim Rinehart (317) 495-1933

**Email:** [k9ru.indy@g-mail.com](mailto:k9ru.indy@g-mail.com)

**FIELD DAY UPDATE – CHANGE OF PLANS...** Because many of the organizers of the Indy Radio Club and RCA ARC joint Field Day operation will be traveling to New Mexico this year, an Indianapolis FD operation will NOT be held. There are several other groups in surrounding areas which may welcome additional operators. The ARRL FD Locator map is at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> or check last years FD results for participating clubs and groups.

**REPEATER UPDATE** – The 146.88 W9RCA repeater may have a new home. More details when the deal is finalized!

**DAYTON HAMVENTION RECAP** – The weather was great! Friday and Saturday had a good crowd and attendance was up again this year, over 25000. Bob Vandevender, N9OLO had the same spot in the flea market that he has had for years and it provided a great place to take a break. We had our usual get-together at lunch for the RCA hams. Nineteen turned out at the Old Hickory Steak House for dinner on Friday evening.

Kenwood had already announced the TS990 which will be a high end transceiver for HF and 6 meters. They said the price was between \$5000 and \$10000 and it will be available in November!

The surprise came from Yaesu with the FTDX-3000 which is an HF and 50 MHz 200 watt radio that uses the fantastic receiver that was developed for the FTDX-5000. So now for \$3000 someone can have the receiver performance of a \$5000 FTDX-5000. Of coarse you don't get the second receiver and you don't get 200 watts; you only get 100; but there's that rig that so many people have been waiting for.

Yaesu also introduced its long awaited digital audio hand-held for the world at 2 meters and above that uses a different modulation scheme from either Icom's D-Star or Alinco's ITU-TV.32 protocols. It uses C4FM FFDMA protocol and its going to be a whole new venture of digital into amateur radio

with many, many of the capabilities that some of the other existing services can't offer. The repeater and the mobile will be coming later on in the year

For a visual highlight tour of Hamvention 2012 we suggest that you visit [twit.tv/hn](http://twit.tv/hn) and watch Episode 49 of Bob Heil's show Ham Nation called the Dayton Experience. Also there are two new Hamvention 2012 music videos on You Tube produced by kit building expert Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB. One is called Hamvention 2012 "Band On The Run" and the other is titled Hamvention 2012 "Gimme Dat Ding." To find them just put the word joehusker into the search YouTube search line. -K9RU

**ARRL SPRING SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED** -- Of the nine Section Manager elections this spring, two were decided by member balloting. Ballots were counted on May 22 at ARRL Headquarters. Terms for these ARRL Field Organization officials begin July 1.

The incumbent Indiana Section Manager, John Poindexter, W3ML, of Knox, who has served as Section Manager since 2009, decided not to run for a new term of office. Two radio amateurs vied for the open position, with **Lou Everett Sr, WA5LOU, of Indianapolis**, being declared the winner with 596 votes. His opponent Brian Jenks, W9BGJ, of Fort Wayne, received 429 votes. Everett has been serving in the Indiana Field Organization as the Indiana Section Traffic Manager, a Net Manger, Official Relay Station and as an Official Observer. --ARRL

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

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/>  
Aug 4            Broadripple Hamfest, location TBD.  
Sept 22          Greenfield Hamfest, Hancock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds  
Oct 6            Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest, Lawrence Co. 4-H Fairgrounds

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.

## ARRL RESPONDS TO FCC REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON IMPEDIMENTS TO AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

On Wednesday, May 16, 2012, the ARRL filed comments in response to the FCC's Public Notice seeking comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and impediments to Amateur Radio communications. Known as Docket 12-91, the Commission is soliciting comments from the public as it writes the report they were directed to present to Congress as part of [Public Law No. 112-96](#).

At the direction of ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and the ARRL Board's Executive Committee, the document was drafted by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, assisted by ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, as well as ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX and several ARRL Headquarters staff members.

Over 1500 e-mails were received at ARRL from amateurs, sharing the details of their various deed restrictions. An additional 350-plus e-mails were also received detailing actual Emergency Communications participation in various events from almost every state in the US as well as several US territories.

"The information provided to the ARRL by its members has provided a strong statement of how the various deed restrictions have negatively impacted the ability of Amateur Radio licensees to maximize their participation in disaster and emergency support communications," said Henderson. "The information provided by the membership not only helps us make the best case to the FCC in this docket, but also begins to lay a good foundation for considering possible rule changes that would enhance Amateur Radio communications beyond this proceeding. I want to thank the hundreds of concerned amateurs who made the effort to provide the ARRL with the facts of their personal set of circumstances. What you shared with us has helped us make a strong argument to present to the Commission," he added.

A copy of the ARRL's filing to the FCC may be found on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System website <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7021918167>. –ARRL Letter

## FCC EXPANDS PART 95 MEDRADIO RULES TO ALLOW DEVICES IN 2360-2400 MHZ BAND

In a *First Report and Order* and a *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (**ET 08-59**) released on May 24, the FCC decided to expand the Part 95 Personal Radio Service rules to allow medical devices to operate on a secondary basis in the 2360-2400 MHz band. These devices -- called Medical Body Area Networks (MBAN) -- provide a way for health care facilities to monitor their patients via wireless networks. Because use of these frequencies will be on a secondary basis, MBAN stations will not be allowed to cause interference to -- and must accept interference from -- primary services, including radio amateurs who operate on a primary basis in the 2390-2395 MHz and 2395-2400 MHz bands.

In July 2006, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* and *Notice of Inquiry and Order (NOI)*, regarding the use of the radio spectrum for advanced medical technologies. In December 2007, GE Healthcare filed ex parte comments in response, proposing that the band 2360-2400 MHz be allocated on a secondary basis for "Body Sensor Networks" (BSNs). In April 2008, the FCC put the proposal on Public Notice; the ARRL submitted comments, pointing out the potential incompatibility with amateur operations. Nevertheless, in June 2009, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that also requested comments on possible alternatives, including 2300-2305 MHz. The ARRL followed up in October 2009 with **additional comments**.

"Even though the Amateur Radio Service retains its primary status at 2390-2400 MHz, it remains to be seen how the addition of a new secondary service in the band will work out in practice," noted ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "In the past, the FCC has declined the ARRL's request to raise the status of the Amateur Service at 2300-2305 MHz to primary, even though there is no other service to which this segment of the band is allocated. This is now the only portion of the 2300-2450 MHz band -- which at one time was available in its entirety to amateurs -- that is not encumbered by other spectrum occupants. We hope that in the future, the FCC will be receptive to making the Amateur Service primary in this narrow segment, in recognition of the reduced utility of the remainder of the band."

In making the decision to allow these devices in the 2360-2400 MHz band, the FCC noted that the costs of permitting MBAN operation "are limited to the risk of increased interference, which we minimize by adopting rules to protect other licensed operations in these bands. We find that the risk of

increased interference is minimal and is greatly outweighed by the benefits of the MBAN rules we adopt today.”

Sumner observed that with this decision, “the Commission has effectively taken 2360-2400 MHz off the table for consideration for commercial wireless broadband.”

### **How Does this Affect Amateur Radio?**

MBAN operators in the 2390-2400 MHz band will have to account for radio amateurs, who are authorized on a primary basis in this spectrum. “Both Philips and GE Health Care assert that interference from MBAN devices to Amateur Radio is unlikely, citing factors such as the low transmission power and low duty cycle proposed for MBAN devices, as well as geographic separation and the frequency agility of MBAN devices,” the FCC pointed out in its comments. “The ARRL does not anticipate that an MBAN would cause ‘a significant amount of harmful interference’ to amateur users, but it cautions that some amateur operations -- such as weak signal communications that occur on a ‘completely unpredictable basis’ -- could receive interference.”

The FCC said it believed that MBAN devices can “successfully share the band with the Amateur Service. These frequencies are part of the larger ‘13 cm band’ in which Amateur Radio operators already share the adjacent 2400-2450 MHz portion of the band with low-powered equipment authorized under Part 15 of our rules. We expect that the Amateur Service will likewise be able to share the 2390-2400 MHz portion of the band with MBAN devices because the power limits for MBAN operations will be even lower than that allowed for the unlicensed equipment that operates in the 2400-2450 MHz range. We further believe that MBAN and amateur operations are highly unlikely to occur in close proximity to each other. An MBAN, which will use very low transmitted power levels compared to the Amateur Service, is not intended for mass market types of deployment, and instead will be used only under the direction of health care professionals.”

More information can be found here <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-expands-part-95-medradio-rules-to-allow-devices-in-2360-2400-mhz-band> --ARRL Letter

## **HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE "URGES" MARS COORDINATION**

On May 18, the US House of Representatives approved [HR 4310](#), *The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013*. This bill authorizes appropriations for military activities and prescribes military personnel strengths for Fiscal Year 2013. When the House Armed Services Committee ([HASC](#)) sent the bill to the House, it included language in support of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) and called for the three MARS branches -- Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps -- to be brought under one umbrella. (*Editor’s note: For a full text of the HASC’s report, click [here](#). The MARS section begins on page 222*).

“The Committee appreciates the important role played in support of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the armed forces by volunteer and Amateur Radio operators who comprise the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS). Under [Department of Defense Instruction \(DODI\) 4650.02](#), MARS provides contingency radio communications support to US Government operations. The committee understands that use by MARS of high-frequency (HF) radio to convey situational awareness and information in the event of natural or man-made disaster provides an important back-up to more technologically sophisticated communications systems that can be disrupted or destroyed as a result of unanticipated failures or deliberate hostile actions.

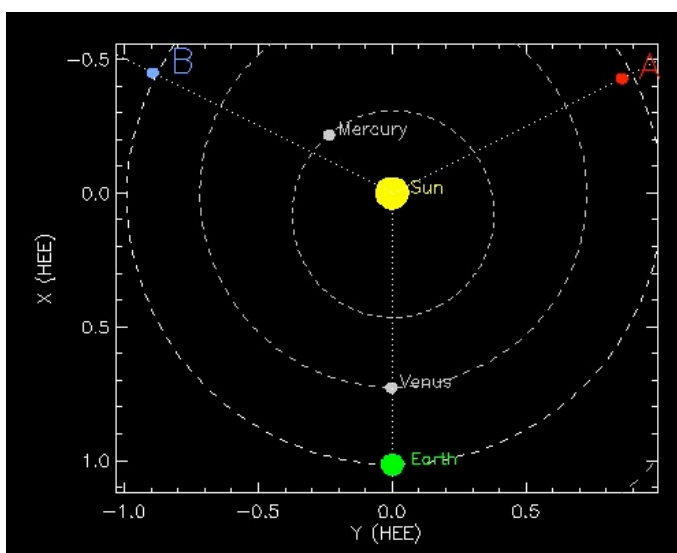
“DODI 4650.02 places policy oversight for MARS within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DOD Chief Information Officer (ASD(NII)/DoD CIO). However, since NII has been disestablished, the Committee is concerned that oversight of the

MARS program is unclear, and that there is a lack of standardization in policies, processes and procedures among the three MARS branches within the Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps, since MARS is independently managed within each service. As such, the committee encourages the Department to clarify and maintain policy oversight of MARS within the Office of the Secretary of Defense and to update DoDI 4650.02 with respect to the disestablishment of NII. Further, the committee urges the Department to appoint an individual manager with authority and responsibility for coordination of MARS policies and activities across each of the three MARS branches and within the Department to ensure holistic policy oversight of the MARS program. The committee also encourages the service secretaries and the geographic combatant commanders to integrate MARS more fully into their operational planning and activities, in accordance with the guidance and direction outlined in DoDI 4650.02.” --ARRL Letter

## WHERE IS STEREO?

The NASA Stereo Mission is a pair of space probes monitoring the Sun from positions ahead and behind the Earth in its orbit around the Sun. No sunspots can hide!

This figure plots the current positions of the STEREO Ahead (red) and Behind (blue) spacecraft relative to the Sun (yellow) and Earth (green). The dotted lines show the angular displacement from the Sun. Units are in A.U. (Astronomical Units) which is the mean distance from the Earth to the Sun. More information can be found on the NASA Stereo web site: <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



Positions of STEREO A and B for 5-Jun-2012 13:00 UT

--Thanks George, W3FEY, QRZ News

## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND ICOM JOINING FORCES

One of the biggest surprises to come out of Hamvention 2012 was an announcement that Icom and the Boy Scouts of America are joining forces to give scouts a new and exciting access point to ham radio. The new partnership between Icom and the BSA will expose tens of thousands of Scouts and their leaders to the fun, the excitement and the challenges found in amateur radio.

Jim Wilson, K5ND, who coordinates the annual Jamboree on the Air for the Boy Scouts of America each October, was introduced to Ray Novak, N9JA, division manager for amateur and receiver products at Icom America in Seattle, by a past staff member at the K2BSA operations at the national Boy Scouts Jamboree.

Wilson, who is coordinating the K2BSA operations for the 2013 BSA jamboree at The Summit in West Virginia, says he was initially looking for a commitment on equipment which Icom has been loaning the jamboree operations over the years. But Wilson had a different idea this time...

"Donate the equipment, don't loan it to us, but donate it to the jamboree and after the jamboree, we'll move it to local councils so they can put it to use and it'll be in use year-round," Wilson says. Wilson says his dialogue with Novak explored other areas where the BSA and amateur radio are in sync - such as Radio merit badge and Jamboree on the Air.

From that came the proposal from Icom's Novak to put HF radios, microphones and an antenna, in the hands of the BSA in the form of "loaner kits" to send out to Scout councils across the country.

"One is a long-range loan of up to 12 months that a Scout council can put in place while they're developing donations to support a longer term station," Wilson says. "But, give them a station that they can show how it works, they can get the Scouts excited, they can get local donors excited.

"And, then another type of loan station - which we're calling an event loan station. So, if you've got a Radio Merit Badge workshop where you'd like to put in place one of these stations, you can apply and we'll get it in the queue, see if it works out and get a station out there for a week or two weeks or what have you."

Novak, who has been helping set up equipment needs for the past few national jamboree operations at Fort AP Hill in Virginia, says he didn't want to wait a year for the next jamboree to get gear into the hands of Scouts and leaders for special events like JOTA or camporee demos or Radio merit badge workshops.

"I'm not as concerned about the Boy Scouts getting licensed as I am with them seeing that amateur radio is actually a fun thing and they take home with them and share with their parents and others what fun they had talking into a microphone and transmitting thousands of miles away to talk to another Boy Scout or another youth the same age instead of sitting there and texting," Novak says.

The BSA's Wilson says he confided in Novak his vision for the new Scout jamboree location in West Virginia and the idea of eventually establishing a permanent footprint for amateur radio there. That turned into something Wilson described as unexpected - an offer of repeaters for the site.

"A 2-meter repeater and 2, 70 centimeter repeaters," Wilson says of the Icom offer. "The 2-meter and 70 centimeter will be analog and we'll have a D-Star repeater also at 70 centimeters."

And, Novak says there is more, much more being worked out for HF, VHF, EchoLink, Foxhunting, and antennas for the K2BSA operations and Radio merit badge for the 2013 jamboree.

"Right now we're at just the very beginning of working out all the details and luckily we've got about a full year before we really need to have everything in place for the Summit and the jamboree," Novak says. "But that one year will go fast."

Wilson, who is excited to see this vision unfolding for the BSA and amateur radio, says it wouldn't have been possible without the people at the local Scout councils who have contributed to a seven-fold increase in the number of Radio merit badges earned by Scouts in recent years.

And, some of those Scouts, he says, are going on to the next level - thanks to the interest spurred by the merit badge...

"There are some committed Scouters and amateur radio operators putting in place merit badge workshops, offering Jamboree on the Air experiences, getting youth engaged in amateur radio and then they're going on and earning their Radio merit badge," Wilson says. "And, I'll bet a fair percent of those are going on and earning their Technician licenses."

## SHORTS

**ON THE AIR: HAVE SOME FUN IN THE 2012 ARRL JUNE VHF QSO PARTY** -- There will be lots of RF generated on 6 meters and up the weekend of June 9-11 during the 2012 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 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/have-some-fun-in-the-2012-arrl-june-vhf-qso-party>.

**NEW "PRB-1" LAW NOW IN EFFECT IN OHIO** -- On May 15, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed a bill, granting comprehensive rights to Amateur Radio operators in that state. HB 158 codifies the federal restrictions on the local zoning of amateur station antenna structures, thereby preserving Amateur Radio Service communications as a Homeland Security resource, placing the burden of proof for compliance on the zoning authority. According to ARRL Ohio Section Manager Frank Piper, KI8GW, this places the full language of [Section 97.15](#) into the *Ohio Revised Code*: "This new law states that 'Any legislative authority that denies an application for approval of an amateur station antenna structure shall state the reasons for the denial and shall, on appeal, bear the burden of proving that the authority's actions are consistent with this section.' This language removes the burden of proof from the Amateur Radio operator and places it on the legislative authority." Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/new-prb-1-law-now-in-effect-in-ohio>. --ARRL Letter

**NEW E-BOOK FOR NEWCOMERS OR RETURNING HAMS - *21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License*** is a new book by Daniel M Romanchik, KB6NU, that is now available for electronic reading on the Kindle and Nook. Written for the new ham or those amateurs who have not really been all that active late, its 21 chapters cover just about every aspect of the hobby as it is today. Included are such topics as how to locate an Elmer, how to buy a radio, set up a shack and much more. Also covered are the social aspects of the hobby including participation in clubs, hamfests and the like. The Kindle edition priced under three dollars is available from amazon.com.

**ARRL MICROWAVE BAND PLANNING COMMITTEE RELEASES DRAFT BAND PLANS** -- The ARRL UHF-Microwave Band Plan Committee has released for comment its draft band plan for 13 cm (2.3/2.4 GHz) and welcomes comments on it. The amended draft band plan for 902-928 MHz (33 cm) has also been released. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-microwave-band-planning-committee-releases-draft-band-plans> --ARRL Letter

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