

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JULY, 2012

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE MEETING – Thanks to all who attended the June meeting. We had a good turnout! Field Day plans were discussed. K9RU reported a group of 12 will be making the trip to New Mexico. In the Indy area, there are various groups in Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson and Hancock counties who will be operating FD. Anyone interested in operating could contact one of those clubs. We have reserved 5 tables at the Indy Hamfest in our normal location in the southwest corner of the tent. We have several pickup truck loads of stuff to go the Indy Hamfest on Friday afternoon of July 13th. N9KZJ and AF9A volunteered pickups. WA4OTD will use his van to haul some stuff. Jim Keeth, AF9A, had advanced sales tickets for the Indy Hamfest. The Broadripple Hamfest will be held at the same site (7373 Westfield Blvd) as in previous years but there will no cookout or raffle this year. N9KZJ reported 952 QSOs made at the WW2IND station on Museum Ships weekend. 36 other ships were contacted. The W9IMS special event station made 5700 QSOs leading up to the 500 race. The 147.21 repeater is on the air in Indy from one of the MECA towers at State and Washington St. The possibility of getting the 146.88 repeater back on from the west side of Indy was discussed.

NEXT TEST SESSION: Saturday, July 7 at noon

Location: Public Safety Commission, Communications Training Center,
8468 E 21st St, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Contact: Rhonda Curtis WS9H

Email: WS9H@comcast.net

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

July 14 Indy Hamfest, Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis <http://www.indyhamfest.com/>
July 23 -29 W9IMS Brickyard 400 Special Event Operation <http://www.w9ims.org>
Aug 4 Broadripple Hamfest, 7373 Westfield Blvd ,same location as in previous years.
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 ARRL training page for test sessions

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

INDY HAMFEST SATURDAY JULY 14th

The 42nd Indianapolis Hamfest will be Saturday, July 14, with gates opening at 6 AM EDT. A dual band HT will be given away every half hour starting at 9 AM. Setup will be 3:30 PM to 9 PM on Friday. There are currently a few tables available in the air conditioned commercial building, with free electric power. There are spaces available in the big tent and plenty of outdoor flea market spaces. Tent tables are \$15 for an 8 foot table in the tent and tailgate spaces are \$5 per 10 foot space.

Technical meetings include MARS, IRC, ARRL & DX/Contesting. As usual, there will be QSL card and homebrew contests. The Indiana National Guard will have their disaster communications unit set up on display.

Admission is \$6 advance and \$8 at the gate, children under 12 are free. For more information and places to purchase advance tickets, go to: <http://www.indyhamfest.com> **Jim Keeth, AF9A will have advance sale hamfest tickets at the July 10th RCA ARC meeting.**

We will need help moving the RCA ARC junk to the hamfest Friday afternoon and manning the booth on Saturday. Contact Jim, K9RU.

ARRL OFFERS ONLINE PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING

The former Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) series of three levels of emergency communications courses has been reconfigured into two new courses: An introductory course for radio amateurs who want to volunteer to provide services for public service and emergency communications, and a course for leaders and managers who are responsible for training and coordinating response efforts. The course descriptions for both of these courses that make up the ARRL's ARES® training program can be found in the [ARRL Online Course Catalog](#). Links to register for each course are included in the course descriptions.

Introduction to Emergency Communication

The *Introduction to Emergency Communication* course (#EC-001) is an update of the former Level 1 course. It is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any ham who wants to serve as a Public Service volunteer. It also provides an opportunity for non-hams who rely on communications in emergency situations to learn about Amateur Radio and its unique role in emergencies.

The course is offered online using the [Moodle online learning platform](#). When you register for the course, you will need to demonstrate completion of two FEMA course pre-requisites: *Introduction to the Incident Command System* (ICS-100 [IS-100.b]) and *National Incident Management System* (IS-700). The *Introduction to Emergency Communication* course has six sections with 29 lesson topics. It includes required student activities along with a 35 question final assessment. Participants should plan on completing the course in approximately 45 hours over a nine week period. You will have access to the course platform at any time of day during this nine week period, so you may work according to your own schedule. This is a mentored course. You will be assigned to correspond with an experienced radio amateur who will be your resource for any questions you have about the course content.

The fee for this course is \$50 for ARRL members and \$85 for non-members and those who register for "Guest" membership on the ARRL website.

Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs

The *Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs* course (#EC-016) is designed for Amateur Radio operators who will be in leadership and managerial roles, organizing other volunteers to support public service activities and communications emergencies. In this course, participants will learn how radio amateurs prepare and organize to support local community events and, when working in coordination with governmental and other emergency response organizations, how to deploy their services to provide communications when needed in an emergency.

This course is available online on the ARRL website to all League members. The course can be accessed without a fee or enrollment directly through the ARRL website. To view the course, you must be logged into the ARRL website as a member, or as a "Guest" member. This is a self-study course that you may complete at your own pace.

To enroll for the final assessment for this course and to receive a course completion certificate, documentation of completion of course pre-requisites (you'll find the list in the course description) and a \$35 fee is necessary. Depending upon your role and responsibilities, consult your Section Emergency Coordinator or Section Manager to determine if course completion with the final assessment is recommended. --ARRL Letter

NEW AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1

The new [Amateur Extra class \(Element 4\) question pool](#) -- released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday, July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions -- E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been [removed](#) from the new pool. The [current Technician class question pool](#) that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The [current General class pool](#) that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015. --ARRL Letter

AMATEUR RADIO AND HURRICANES

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center are calling for a "near-normal" Atlantic hurricane season for 2012. In its initial outlook for the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season -- which began Friday, June 1 and runs through November 30 -- the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is calling for a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 25 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a below-normal season. The 2012 hurricane season began early when Tropical Storm Alberto and Tropical Storm Beryl both developed several days before the official start of the season, the first time since 1908 that two tropical storms developed early; the only other year with two storms so early in the season was 1887.

Rick Palm, K1CE, editor of the ARRL's *ARES E-Letter*, warns that now is the time for ARES® members to assess their portfolio of communications equipment and disaster response knowledge. Palm gives several tips for amateurs involved with hurricane operations:

Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**) on 14.325 MHz is one of several key players. It serves either the Atlantic or Pacific during a watch or warning period and coordinates with the National Hurricane Center (**NHC**) in Miami. Frequent, detailed information is issued on nets when storms pose a threat to the US mainland. In addition to hurricane spotting, local communicators may announce that residents have evacuated from low-lying flood areas. Other amateurs across the country can help by relaying information, keeping the net frequency clear and by listening. See the HWN's [website](#) for more information. The net works closely with **WX4NHC**, the Amateur Radio station at the NHC.

The **SATERN Net** (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) provides emergency communication support to the Salvation Army and populations at large. They also handle health-and-welfare traffic. SATERN holds high profile nets on 20 meters (14.265 MHz) during major hurricanes and has a long history of excellence, discipline and service. Refer to the SATERN [website](#) for more information.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net (**MMSN**) meets on 14.300 MHz and is composed of hams who serve and assist those in need of communications on the high seas. According to its [website](#), the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobile stations. The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard and has an excellent working relationship with that agency. The MMSN has handled hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress and medical emergencies in remote locations, as well as passing health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They also work closely with the NWS and NHC by relaying weather reports from maritime stations.

The **VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net** operates by combining both the EchoLink and IRLP linked repeater networks, while handling critical wide area communications during major severe weather and tropical events. These operations have gained national stature in recent years and are a critical partner with WX4NHC. Whenever tropical weather is imposing a threat to the US mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX net will be fully operational. See the VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net [website](#) for more information.

Palm said that during hurricane events, there are usually two or three regional nets (usually on 40 or 20 meters) that spring to prominence as major key assets to the disaster response on an ad hoc basis. "Watch for these nets, as well as the nationally recognized networks described above, this season," he advised. "Don't transmit on their frequencies unless you are absolutely sure you have something substantive to add, and then only under the direction of the net control station."

ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, added that when ARES® activates in response to any tropical event, it is crucial that information flows up through the Section and is reported to Headquarters. "These reports allow us to develop the situational awareness and disaster intelligence that is required for us as an organization to support the Sections that are impacted," he explained. "In this way, we are able to respond to relevant requests from the media and finally to coordinate with the governmental and non-governmental organizations. This information also allows us to make the decision at Headquarters on whether to stand up the ARRL HQ Emergency Response Team to support and coordinate the operations."

If you are interested in Emergency Communications, please be sure to check out the monthly *ARES E-Letter*. You can elect to receive this monthly newsletter free of charge via e-mail by clicking the "Edit Your Profile" link on the [ARRL website](#), and then clicking "Edit E-mail Subscriptions." –ARRL Letter

SHORTS

ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES RESOURCE GRANTS FOR 11 SCHOOLS -- In June, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP), awarding equipment and resources valued at nearly \$16,000 to 11 schools. More than 590 schools across the country have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. Applications for equipment and resource grants are accepted twice each year; application deadlines are May 1 and November 1. A central goal of the ETP is to develop a foundation of wireless technology literacy among America's teachers and students. It employs Amateur Radio to explore radio science and electronics and provide hands-on activities that engage students' minds and imaginations, opening doorways into math, science and technology curriculum topics, as well as other core curriculum areas such as geography and language arts. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-executive-committee-approves-resource-grants-for-11-schools> -- ARRL Letter

THE ARRL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011 -- now available online -- reviews the major events of the year and documents the renewed growth of both the ARRL and the activities of the Amateur Radio Service. For the fifth consecutive year, ARRL membership grew -- totaling 157,813 members at year end.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, Amateur Radio is flourishing: "Despite challenges on many fronts, Amateur Radio and the ARRL were in better shape at the end of 2011 than at the beginning. In September, we reached a milestone in amateur licensing, with 700,000 individuals licensed by the FCC, and reached 702,056 at the end of December, up .86 percent for the year." Sumner noted that ARRL membership also grew at .86 percent, exactly the same rate as the licensing numbers. "While membership is still short of its all-time high, we have achieved five straight years of growth, straight through the recession," he said. "This record of success is testimony to the professionalism of our membership staff as well as to the diligent efforts of everyone, volunteer and staff alike, who contributes every day to a positive image of the ARRL in the Amateur Radio community." Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/2011-arrl-annual-report-now-available>. --ARRL Letter

ARRL UHF/MICROWAVE BAND PLAN COMMITTEE SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED 23 CM BAND PLAN -- Last winter, the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee asked the Amateur Radio community about current, planned and projected uses of the amateur bands between 902 MHz and 3.5 GHz. The excellent level of response provided us with the basis to complete drafts of the 9 cm, 13 cm and 33 cm revised band plans for ARRL Board approval. The Committee has now prepared for your consideration a draft band plan for 23 cm (1240-1300 MHz), the final band on its assigned list. Please look over the accompanying draft and let us know if you have any major concerns. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-uhf-microwave-band-plan-committee-seeks-comments-on-proposed-23-cm-band-plan>. --ARRL Letter

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN RADIO -- TV BROADCAST -- Check out <http://www.necrat.us/> for lots of pictures of various broadcast transmitters and towers.

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