

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SEPTEMBER, 2012

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST MEETING – At the 14-August meeting, K9RU reported on the Indy Hamfest. Comments on the hamfest were very positive in spite of the commercial building not being available. The Club did very well selling parts and we want to thank everyone who helped at the booth. . There is very little left for next year. We'll have to try and collect some more junk. Jim also reported the Koss property has been sold although the towers are still standing. The storage building has been pretty well cleaned out. The '88 repeater will likely be installed at the now location on the west side within a month. A motion was passed to purchase two UPS batteries for the computers at the new repeater site. K9RU reminded everyone that September is the start of the "contest season."

NEXT TEST SESSION: Saturday, September 8, starting at 12PM

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

Contact: Rhonda Curtis WS9H

Email: WS9H@comcast.net

A PUBLIC AUCTION OF DAVE GRAVES', WB9UYQ (SK), ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT AND OTHER STUFF – SATURDAY, SEPT. 8, 10AM. -- The auction will be at Dave and Diana's home, 24720 Mt Pleasant Rd, Cicero, IN. Ham Radio Equipment: 2 Morse code hand keys, MFJ-8100 World Band Short Wave Radio, , MFJ-9410D Versa Tuner II, Heathkit HW-8, Heathkit HD-1250 solid state dip meter, Heathkit HW-401 transmitter and SB-303 receiver.

REPEATER UPDATE – The 146.88 repeater is back on the air from the west side of Indy near west 10th St. and I-465. Jim K9RU did a lot of work putting the whole thing back together and getting it operational. John, KF9UH, was responsible for getting the site. The antenna height is just under 200 ft. Thanks the Dave, N9KZJ, for helping with the installation. The Echolink is not operational yet, but we're working on getting an internet connection into the building. There is still some tweaking needed and we are working on getting the remote voting receive sites operational. Remember, the repeater does require a 88.5Hz tone. --AF9A

INDIANA AMATEUR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED -- Summer is fading fast and fall is almost here. Time for a reminder that the Indiana Radio Club Council will meet for the semi-annual organizational meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 2 PM in the Avon Library. This is an important meeting and will include the selection of the Outstanding Amateur of the Year.

We are still accepting nominations for this prestigious award. If you have a club member or know of an Indiana Amateur Radio Operator that has worked above and beyond the call of duty to advance Amateur Radio in his/her community during the past year, we would like to hear from you. Send as much information as possible to help build a better picture of who this individual might be.

Send nominations to IRCC Vice Chairman Dennis Gilbey k9jzz@gmail.com. And, please plan to send at least one representative to the annual meeting. We need your input to help build better clubs. Thanks and 73, Jack W8ISH, IRCC Chairman

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

Sept 22 Greenfield Hamfest, Hancock Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
Oct 6 Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest, Lawrence Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
Nov 17 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, Ft. Wayne, IN <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>
Nov. 24 Evansville Hamfest, Evansville, IN <http://w9ear.org/hamfest.htm>

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.

GET IN ON THE VHF FUN IN THE ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY

September is here -- and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the VHF+ bands have been getting a workout: "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the **2012 ARRL September VHF QSO Party** the weekend of September 8-10 is a great place to start. With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands."

Kutzko explained that September -- as opposed to June with its sporadic-E openings -- is known for good tropospheric propagation. "In the past week, there have been some good tropo openings in the mornings on 2 meters along the Eastern seaboard and in the Midwest. There's even been a touch of sporadic-E propagation on 6 meters this week, primarily in the western half of the US. Couple the recent openings with talk among the VHF Hopeful of some F2 propagation on 6 meters (due to the upswing of Solar Cycle 24), and the potential for enhanced propagation during the contest looks favorable."

While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex -- especially near large population centers -- Kutzko said that most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB, which means you need to use horizontally polarized antennas: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long, and is an easy construction project," he explained. "Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." But remember: SSB and CW QSOs use horizontally-polarized antennas, while FM uses vertical polarization. You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the **Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site**, in the Antennas chapter of *The ARRL Handbook*, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of *The ARRL Antenna Book*.

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. "Find some high ground and put up an antenna; you'll be amazed at the difference operating from a high-terrain locale will make," he said. "Others operate the contest as a 'rover,' operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself." Activity will be centered on 50.125, 144.200, 222.100 and 432.100 MHz. These are the calling frequencies; it's bad etiquette to monopolize them. But Kutzko said that most SSB activity will take place between 50.125-50.250 MHz, and CW between 50.100-50.080 MHz. If conditions are

exceptional, you may even hear signals above 50.250. But Kutzko advised that the frequencies between 50.100-50.125 MHz are a "DX Window," meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations, so please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in that range.

The [2012 ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#) runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, September 8 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 10. Complete rules and entry forms may be found [here](#). All logs must be [e-mailed](#) or postmarked no later than 0300 UTC on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. While electronic logs are preferred, paper logs can be sent to September VHF Contest, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. **-ARRL Letter**

FCC RELEASES CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED STUDY ON AMATEUR RADIO

On August 20 -- in response to a Spring 2012 Congressional directive -- the Federal Communications Commission released its findings on the Uses and Capabilities of Amateur Radio Service Communications in Emergencies and Disaster Relief: Report to Congress Pursuant to Section 6414 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

This report contains the FCC's "review of the importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications relating to disasters, severe weather and other threats to lives and property in the United States; and recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio operators in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in the planning and furtherance of initiatives of the federal government." It also required "that the study identify impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications and provide recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments."

"There are many positive things included in the FCC report to Congress," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "We are pleased that the Commission highlighted the existing Amateur Radio infrastructure to provide disaster and time-critical communications. They also recognized the flexibility of the Amateur Service in working with federal, state, local and tribal emergency service agencies to supplement existing communications. The affirmation of the value that Amateur Radio brings to the communities across the country is underscored by the suggestion that 'DHS work with state, local, and tribal authorities so they may develop disaster area access or credentialing policies for trained amateur operators, including a means for documenting their qualifications...'"

While the FCC did hold Amateur Radio in a positive light in its discussion of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications, the FCC report was not as favorable in the portion of the study that addressed impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications. In the comments provided to the FCC as they prepared the study, the ARRL -- as well as numerous individuals -- cited the proliferation of specific land-use restrictions, such as deed restrictions and homeowners associations covenants, that prohibit the erection of even modest Amateur Radio antennas. Read more [here](#). **-ARRL Letter**

2012 ARRL FIELD DAY LOGS POSTED

More than 2600 submissions have been received for the 2012 running of [ARRL Field Day](#). According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, this is another great showing for the number of entries received for what is one of Amateur Radio's most popular on-the-air operating events. The combined list of Logs Received for Field Day has been [posted online](#). The list includes all logs submitted via the <http://www.b4h.net/> website, as well as those submitted via e-mail and US Mail.

Because Field Day is not a "Cabrillo-format" event, there is no automated robot for processing entries. When you go to the website to see if your submission was received, look near the bottom of the page under "Other Reports." Click on the link to open the PDF for the 2012 listings. If you find your listing is missing, please contact Henderson via [e-mail](#) or by phone at 860-594-0200. If you find a typographical error in your listing -- or if your log is marked as a "Checklog" -- please contact Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, via [e-mail](#). Logs marked as "Checklog" indicate that required information is missing that is still needed to properly process your entry. All problems must be resolved by Friday, August 31.

Henderson explained that the current list only shows general categories; the various sub-categories are added when the data is merged into the master database. Claimed scores or bonuses are also not included, as these are not publicized until the results are officially released. The results from the 2012 ARRL Field Day will be posted online on or around November 1, as well as in the December issue of *QST*. The 2013 ARRL Field Day is scheduled for June 22-23. --ARRL Letter

REPEATERBOOK - THE FREE REPEATER ANDROID APP FOR THE USA AND CANADA

Powered by the popular community database of RepeaterBook.com and software of ZBM2.com RepeaterBook, enables you to easily find repeaters across the USA and Canada, for free and without a network connection.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.zbm2.repeaterbook&feature=search_result?t=W10

- No network connection required.
- Use network, GPS or a grid square to find Repeaters.
- Displays your grid and selection distance.
- Comprehensive selection, sorting and display options.
- Displays distance, heading and full repeater details.
- Fast and flexible, designed to help you use the repeater network.
- Easily submit updates and additions from within the app.
- Supports BlueCAT - FT-857 / FT-857 Bluetooth CAT interface

Touch a repeater to instantly set your radio, no more fiddling with CTCSS, frequency and offsets.

For our friends outside North America we have our popular Repeater app.

RepeaterBook and Repeater will always be free.--Garrett KD6KPC and Nicolas M1HOG

SHORTS

IARU SUPPORTS PROPOSAL FOR .RADIO DOMAIN NAME -- The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has expressed public support for a **.radio** top-level domain name. Under the proposal as put forth by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), registration will be available via the EBU to all eligible radio representative organizations and broadcasters, Internet radios, radio amateurs, radio professionals and their respective representative organizations, as well as companies providing radio-specific products and services in order to create a worldwide radio community. The proposal must be approved by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); this organization is responsible for the coordination of the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers and, in particular, ensuring its stable and secure operation. Read more [here](#). --ARRL Letter

VHF PIONEER PAUL LIEB, KH6HME (SK) -- Paul Lieb, KH6HME, of Hilo, Hawaii, passed away July 16. He was 84. Lieb was best known for his VHF work and his radio beacon on the slopes of Mauna Loa where he worked the famous trans-Pacific tropo duct to the West Coast. Lieb achieved many tropo ducting distance records up through 5760 MHz and received the Dayton Hamvention

Special Achievement Award in 1999 for "his pioneering and record-setting work in tropospheric ducting and VHF, UHF and microwave communications." Read more [here](#).

VIC POOR, W5SMM (SK) -- Victor (Vic) Poor, W5SMM, of Melbourne, Florida, passed away Friday, August 17, due to complications from pancreatic cancer. He was 79. Just last month, Poor -- an ARRL member -- received the ARRL President's Award for his contributions to the development of digital communications systems in the Amateur Radio Service. Poor was also known for his work in the development of one of Intel's first commercial microprocessors. Poor -- who also held the calls KH6AXV, W6JSO and K3NIO -- developed an active interest in ham radio while still in high school and became W6JSO in 1951. He quickly developed an affinity for RTTY and later, other Amateur Radio digital modes, and was instrumental in the development of many hardware and software innovations that are at the heart of modern day computing and communications technology, used both in Amateur Radio and in industry. Read more [here](#).

GEORGE VARVITSIOTES, K6SV (SK) -- Ham Radio Outlet (**HRO**) Vice President George Varvitsiotes, K6SV (ex-WB6DSV), passed away August 21 due to complications from cancer. He was 57. An ARRL member, Varvitsiotes began his career at HRO in September 1976 as a salesman in the company's Burlingame, California store. "While at HRO, George did just about everything," recalled HRO Owner and President Robert Ferrero, W6KR. "As Vice President, George did all the purchasing for the entire company. He was a technician, a salesman, a store manager. He loved our hobby top-to-bottom. George lived ham radio.

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