

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NOVEMBER, 2012

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 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 OCTOBER MEETING** – At the 9-October meeting, Jim AF9A gave a short report on the status of the 146.88 repeater. The repeater is operating and coverage seems to be quite good, maybe even better in outlying areas than we had at Mike Koss' place and when we were on the RCA Sherman Dr. plant. Two receive sites plus the receiver at the transmitter site are operational. Some adjustments to the voter need to be made since the west side receive site is often voted even though it does not have the best signal to noise received signal. Echolink is not yet operational as we investigate the best (cheapest) way to get connection to the internet. We are looking to someone who would like to update the W9RCA.org web site. AF9A uploads the newsletter each month and changes the meeting date but the rest of the site remains pretty much unchanged over the years. Clarence, W2PGS, discussed some of the details pertaining to hosting of the W9RCA.org web site. Thanks to Clarence for making our site possible. Clarence's runs OutOfOrder Networks, <http://outoforder.ws/index.html>

**NEXT TEST SESSION: 11/10/2012** - Saturday starting at noon

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

**Contact:** Rhonda Curtis WS9H

**Email:** [WS9H@comcast.net](mailto:WS9H@comcast.net)

**INDY RADIO CLUB MEETING THIS FRI. NOV. 9, 7:00 PM** -- The meeting will be held in the fourth floor auditorium of the North Meridian Center of IVY Tech. This is the old AUL building located just north of Fall Creek Parkway, east of Illinois Street. Point your browser to [http://indyradioclub.org/pictures/IVYTech\\_map.pdf](http://indyradioclub.org/pictures/IVYTech_map.pdf) to see a map. The building marked "NMC" is where the meeting will be. All are welcome.

Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, will be giving a presentation on freeware available for both ham radio applications, as well as other applications. Lots of money can be saved by using freeware applications!

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

Nov 9 IRC meeting, 7:00 pm at IVY Tech

Nov 17-19 ARRL SS Phone Contest

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>

Nov. 30 – Dec 2 ARRL 160M Contest

Dec 8 – 9 ARRL 10M contest

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.

## ROBIN WALBRIDGE, KD4OHZ, MISSING AT SEA AFTER SINKING OF TALL SHIP *BOUNTY*; SHIP'S ELECTRICIAN DOUG FAUNT, N6TQS, RESCUED

Every DXer knows the story of the HMS *Bounty* and Pitcairn Island, VP6: In 1789, the HMS *Bounty* -- a small three-masted sailing vessel sent by Britain's Royal Navy to the Pacific on a supply expedition -- was roiled by tension between its crew and its captain, William Bligh. After landing in Tahiti and taking on a cargo of breadfruit, the *Bounty* set sail for the West Indies; it never reached that destination. Instead, Master's Mate Fletcher Christian led the men in a mutiny, eventually allowing Bligh and his loyalists to sail off in a longboat. After an arduous journey, they reached safety at the Dutch-owned port of Kupang. Christian and his followers ended up on Pitcairn Island where they burned the *Bounty* and settled on the island. Passing ships did not discover the enclave until after the turn of the century.

On Monday, October 29, a replica of the *Bounty* -- built in 1960 for a remake of the 1962 film *Mutiny on the Bounty* -- sank off the coast of North Carolina as Hurricane Sandy made its way toward New Jersey. Of its 16 crew members, 14 were rescued by the US Coast Guard. *Bounty* Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, never made it to one of the two deployed life rafts and is presumed dead. Claudene Christian, who claimed to be a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian, was unresponsive and passed away at a North Carolina hospital on Monday evening.

Doug Faunt, N6TQS, of Oakland, California, was one of the 14 who were rescued by the Coast Guard; Faunt served as a deckhand and was also the ship's electrician. A noted DXer and ARRL Life Member, he was part of the FO0AAA DXpedition crew in 2000 to Clipperton Island. He was also a member of the VP6DIA DXpedition to Ducie Island, and in 2007, he was part of the DXpedition to Lakshadweep. According to Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, Faunt had satellite communications equipment and *Winlink* capabilities on board the *Bounty*, but he was not the ship's radio officer. "Sailing on replica ships was a hobby of Doug's," Roscoe told the ARRL. "He had previously sailed across the Great Australian Bight on a replica of the *HMB Endeavour*, Captain Cook's ship. He was an able seaman of the watch." Roscoe was the radio officer on the replica *Bounty* for its original voyage to France in 1962.

Faunt told the ARRL that the *Bounty* crew tried various methods, including a satellite phone, to call for help, "but we got nothing when tried calling out on HF. We tried calling the Maritime Mobile Net, but nothing was out there. We had *Winlink* on the ship that we used for e-mail and accessing the Internet to post to blogs and to Facebook, and we finally found an e-mail address for the Coast Guard. As a last-ditch effort, we used *Winlink* to e-mail the Coast Guard for help. Within an hour, we heard a C-130 plane, and later, a helicopter overhead." According to Faunt, it was Walbridge, as master of the ship, who sent out the distress messages.

"I don't know how I made it off the ship," Faunt recalled. "I had finished serving a long watch, and then we started going down. I was exhausted. I had to swim to get to the life raft. The water was full of rigging, and here I am, in my Gumby suit, trying to swim. It was so difficult. While swimming to the raft, I came up for air and a spar was coming at me. I finally found a raft and tried to climb into it, but I almost didn't make it, tired as I was. Through the help of my shipmates who were already aboard the raft, I got on." The two life rafts were out about 100 miles from shore when they were rescued.

The vessel left Connecticut on Thursday, October 25 with a crew of 11 men and five women, ranging in age from 20-66. After being treated at a hospital in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Faunt arrived back home in California on Wednesday, October 31. "I'm looking for a new boat to sail and a

DXpedition to go on," Faunt told the ARRL. "Ham radio got me into my position on the *Bounty*, and ham radio got me out alive!" –ARRL Letter

## AS HURRICANE SANDY WREAKED HAVOC ON EAST COAST, HAMS HEED CALL TO HELP

11/01/2012

### NEW JERSEY

*Northern New Jersey* Two hospitals in New Jersey requested assistance from radio amateurs. According to ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Emergency Coordinator George Sabbi, KC2GLG, the hospitals were experiencing issues with their communications systems they use for direct communications between these their facilities in Middlesex and Union Counties.

Sabbi said that a shelter in Bergen County utilized radio amateurs when it opened on Monday, October 29 until late in the morning the next day. "Operators went off duty for rest and came back on Tuesday. The Red Cross is working on getting more Amateur Radio resources into additional shelters, noting that travel is a restriction for many volunteers due to the numerous road closures all over the state. I've received several reports of repeaters being on backup power or off-the-air, and in all cases, we've moved to alternate frequencies."

*Southern New Jersey* Through its Ham Aid program, the ARRL sent six VHF radios to Ocean County, New Jersey. ARRL Ocean County Emergency Coordinator Bob Murdock, WX2NJ, programmed them for deployment to the six shelters in Ocean County shelters today. One of the ARRL's National VOAD partners, NECHAMA -- Jewish Response to Disaster, provided transportation to Ocean County.

ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Emergency Coordinator John Zaruba, K2ZA, ran a Section Resource net on the SNJ ARES repeater at 7 AM, 1 PM and 7 AM each day to provide support to the County Emergency Coordinators. He sent requests, asking for six relief operators from within the Section to deploy to Atlantic County and another six relief operators to go to Ocean County. Both shoreline counties used Amateur Radio in the shelters run by the American Red Cross.

"As of Wednesday, October 31, commercial communications are coming back on line in the inland counties, with some counties, such as Mercer County, starting to use radio amateurs to assist in damage assessment as roads become more passable," explained ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Manager Gary Wilson, K2GW. "

Wilson told the ARRL that one of the reasons that New Jersey is somewhat better prepared than other states is that New Jersey Office of Emergency Management won't approve a County Emergency Management Plan unless it includes a RACES annex. "As a result, *every* county EOC has permanent Amateur Radio capability on 2 meters simplex, a 220 MHz radio aimed at the NJ2EM 220 MHz repeater that covers the entire state, 2 meter APRS for text messaging and HF capability on 75 meters LSB," he explained. "These are tested once each month on statewide nets. Similarly each American Red Cross chapter tests its 2 meter capability monthly with the central Red Cross station at N2ARC in Princeton, which then links to the State Emergency Operations Center in West Trenton. And of course, each county has a 2 meter repeater designated for their own work at the county level."

### EASTERN NEW YORK

The Eastern New York Section Coordination Net on the N2ACF system operated throughout Hurricane Sandy, concluding their operations on Tuesday at noon. According to ARRL Eastern New York Section Emergency Coordinator David Galletly, KM2O, Section leadership assessed the incoming reports and determined the duration of continued operations following the passage of Sandy through the Section when the net resumed on Tuesday morning. Even though the formal nets are over,

the system will still be available for informal use by those stations that still need emergency communication coordination.

## **CONNECTICUT**

Hams associated with SKYWARN were very active in Connecticut. “Assistant District Emergency Coordinator for SKYWARN Jim McBride, KD1LD, kept all of us updated about current conditions and did a great job working with our very dedicated SKYWARN Emergency Coordinators who coordinated activity in their counties,” explained ARRL Connecticut Section Manager Betsey Doane, K1EIC.

Many shelters throughout the Section were supported by radio amateurs, some of whom are also CERT trained. Stamford Emergency Coordinator Jon Perelstein, WB2RYV, reported that eight volunteers and two American Red Cross disaster leaders -- most of whom are members of the Stamford Amateur Radio Association -- supported the three Stamford shelters, provided backup communications for Red Cross between the shelters, the Emergency Operations Center and the Red Cross chapter house in Darien. Those staffing the shelters did everything from intake to cooking to support for the elderly and infirm. Other hams staffed the Citizen Service Line, also in Stamford. This service provides a way for Stamford residents to phone in and request information about evacuation plans. The hams also took reports of downed trees and power lines for dispatch of Connecticut Light & Power and city work crews.

“While backup communications were not needed during Hurricane Sandy, we had operators at all the shelters in the area, at the EOC and at the Darien Red Cross chapter house,” Doane said. “Our ham volunteers also became involved as ‘expeditors’ in dealing with various problems, such as untangling a (non-radio) communications issue that was interfering with food deliveries to the Stamford shelters. In the aftermath of the storm, the Stamford Mayor Michael Pavia was careful to single out SARA participants to various visiting politicians, including US Senator Richard Blumenthal. Both the mayor and the Director of Public Safety made specific mention of amateur radio in thanking the various volunteer groups who helped the city.”

In the western part of the state, Danbury Emergency Coordinator Mark Hertzbert, WA2IZQ, and his ARES group staffed the Danbury Emergency Operations Center, the shelter at the War Memorial and Danbury Hospital. “They served as backup communicators and were generally useful to the served agencies in tasks that were not necessarily communication-related,” Doane explained. “Everyone participated in continually assessing the situation in their areas of responsibility.”

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

According to ARRL North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator/North Carolina RACES Officer Tom Brown, N4TAB, ARES groups in the state participated in response to Hurricane Sandy activities. “Local teams operated during the response-and-recovery phases at several County Emergency Operations Centers and at the State EOC at Raleigh

Additional information is at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/as-hurricane-sandy-wreaks-havoc-on-east-coast-hams-heed-call-to-help> –ARRL Letter

## **FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO AMATEUR LICENSING RULES, EMISSION TYPES**

Earlier this month, the FCC [released](#) a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 12-283 -- proposing to amend the Part 97 rules governing the Amateur Radio Service. On October 24, a [summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register](#) and the FCC is seeking comments on it.

Specifically, the Commission is proposing to modify the Amateur Radio Service rules to grant examination credit for expired and beyond-the-grace-period-for-renewal Amateur Radio operator

licenses; to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed; to revise the time a call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system correspondingly, and to reduce the number of volunteer examiners needed to administer an amateur license examination. The *NPRM* also asks for comment on amending the rules to permit remote test administration, and proposes to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules to allow amateur stations to transmit certain additional emission types.

Comments must be filed on or before December 24, 2012 (60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*); reply comments must be filed on or before January 22, 2013 (90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*). Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 12 of the *NPRM*.  
–ARRL Letter

## AMSAT-NA PRESIDENT'S UPDATE GIVEN AT ANNUAL MEETING

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW gave a presentation to members at the 30th Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting in Orlando, Florida on Saturday, October 27.

Barry noted the significant strides AMSAT has accomplished in the area of education outreach reflected by the appointment of Mark Hammond, N8MH, as AMSAT's VP-Educational Relations. Over the past year Mark has been developing a team to enhance our capabilities in this area and worked with the ARRL to develop new approaches to STEM education that will translate into future opportunities in space.

Barry provided a summary of additional accomplishments for 2012:

- Fox selection by NASA for an ELaNa Launch based on our STEM educational activities.
- The Fox-1 project is on schedule planning for launch in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013.
- The Engineering Team has developed a capable and motivated staff.
- Evolving partnerships for future launch opportunities are under way.
- AMSAT has continued to deal with ITAR issues. The publication of the Fox design in the Symposium Proceedings book opens the path to placing the work in the public domain which is expected to relieve many ITAR issues going forward.
- Appointment of Frank Bauer, KA3HDO as VP-Human Spaceflight will allow AMSAT to develop additional opportunity in this area.
- Implementation of the new ARISS school selection process.
- Re-establishment of the AMSAT store on-line.
- Steps are being taken to revive the AMSAT Journal. Appointment of JoAnne Maenpaa, K9JKM as the new Editor.
- ANS is a world-class distributor of information about amateur radio in space. One new ANS Editor has joined the weekly rotation with openings for additional volunteers.

Many details of AMSAT's future partnerships for launch opportunities will be published in the AMSAT Journal. A link to the President's Report will be added to our <http://www.amsat.org> web page.  
*Barry Baines, WD4ASW* –Southgate Amateur Radio News

## SHORTS

**2012 ARRL FIELD DAY RESULTS NOW ONLINE** -- If you can't wait for your December issue of *QST* to arrive in the mail to see how you did in the 2012 ARRL Field Day, don't worry! The results -- including a [copy of the QST article](#) (with line scores) and a [results database](#) -- are now available on the ARRL website. Be sure to also check out the 101 comments in the [Field Day Soapbox](#). It's not too soon to start making plans for next year -- the 2013 ARRL Field Day is scheduled for June 22-23, 2013. Just a note: The results from Wyoming are missing in print edition of *QST*; they will appear in the digital edition of *QST*, as well as online. --ARRL Letter

**ARRL INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD** -- Nominations are open for the 2012 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. This award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize those radio amateurs who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster. As one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, Amateur Radio spreads goodwill across political boundaries. The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes the Amateur Radio Service's unique role in international communication and the assistance amateurs regularly provide to people in need. Read more [here](#). --ARRL Letter

**THE US POSTAL SERVICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JANUARY 27, 2013, THE COST TO MAIL FIRST CLASS LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND PACKAGES WITHIN THE US WILL GO UP.** - The cost to mail a first class letter will be 46 cents, while the cost to mail a postcard will be 33 cents, an increase of 1 cent for each. This is the third increase for postcard postage in less than two years; in April 2011, the USPS boosted the postcard stamp price from 28 cents to 29 cents, and from 29 cents to 32 cents in January 2012. The USPS will also introduce a First Class Mail Global Forever Stamp in January. This new stamp will allow customers to mail 1-ounce letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10. The cost to mail flat-rate Priority Mail packages and letters will also increase.

The US Postal Service is attempting to discontinue the sale of International Reply Coupons. (IRCs) They are requesting approval from the Postal Regulatory Commission to discontinue sales on Jan 27, 2013. Redemption of IRCs will continue for IRCs purchased in foreign countries.

**HAM RADIO CELEBRATES HOLLYWOOD** - was the title of an all-band multi mode operation from Stage 9 at CBS Studio Center in Los Angeles, California on Sunday, October 28th. Stage 9 is currently the home of the hit sitcom Last Man Standing which features ham radio as one of the shows themes. The callsign of the operation was K6H which stood for King-6-Hollywood. Several stations were up and running at K6H and while the majority of operators came from the PAPA System. The idea for the event was that of John Amodeo, NN6JA, who happens to be the producer of Last Man Standing.

Ham Radio Celebrates Hollywood was only on the air for a few hours. Even so the operators racked up a good number of contacts using traditional modes like SSB voice as well as emerging technology that included Echolink and IRLP. But perhaps the most important aspect of K6H is that it let the world of amateur radio know that the hams of Hollywood are also, thinking about the hobby and thinking about them as well. - Amateur Radio Newsline

THE *RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER* IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, AND JIM KEETH. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. EMAIL TO <mailto:WebMaster@w9rca.org>. Check our web site at <http://www.w9rca.org/>

