

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEBRUARY, 2013 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY MEETING – Thanks to all those who attended the 8 January meeting. Treasurer, Greg KC9TNR, reported the new checking account has been successfully established. Jim AF9A, reported on the status of the '88 repeater. The basic repeater system has been operating normally. There are some occasional intermod problems. We were able to gain access to the “downtown” remote receive site atop the Ivy Tech building. Our receiver and link transmitter are still there and appeared to work when powered up. The 2m receive antenna is damaged and needs to be replaced. We have not gotten the network connection established yet at the repeater site for Echolink, as we're still trying to find someone who will install a couple of fiber terminations. We did, however, try an Ethernet over twisted pair solution which appeared to work well. Thanks, K9RU. This will be our option if we can't get the fiber fixed. K9RU discussed recent 6 meter DX openings. K9RU also reported on recent and upcoming VE testing sessions.

NEXT TEST SESSION: NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION This is the same location used for testing last year.

February 9 - Saturday starting at noon
Location: EDS Training Center
4020 Georgetown Rd.
Contact: Rhonda Curtis
Email: w9sh@comcast.net

SECOND ANNUAL BROWNSBURG HAMFEST – The second annual Brownsburg Indiana Hamfest, ham radio, computer, electronics flea market is Saturday, February 16, 2013, 6:00 am until 2:30 pm. Set up available on Friday, the 15th from 2:30 pm until 8:30 pm. American Legion Post 331, 636 E Main St, Brownsburg, IN 46112. Admission is \$5.00. Plenty of free parking. Vendors: \$10 per table, \$15 with power. Bring your own power strips and cables. Table sales at the door, if available, both days. Sponsored by Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society <http://www.hcars.org/> Talk-in on 147.015 +

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

Feb 8	IRC meeting, http://www.indyradioclub.org/
Feb 9	License testing, EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., 12:00 noon.
Feb 9-10	CW WW RTTY WPX Contest
Feb 11-15	ARRL School Club Roundup
Feb 16	Brownsburg Hamfest, 636 E. Main St., Brownsburg, IN http://www.hcars.org/
Feb 16-17	ARRL International DX Contest – CW
Feb 23	IBRO Hamfest, Brookville, OH http://www.kd8knx.org/

Mar 2-3	ARRL International DX Contest – Phone
Mar 9	Terre Haute Hamfest and Computer Expo, http://www.w9uuu.org/
Mar 23	Sam Costa Run, http://indyhams.org/event/sam-costa-run-hamilton-county
Apr 13	Columbus Hamfest, http://www.carcnet.org/
Apr 20	North Central Indiana Hamfest, http://nci-hamfest.net/
Apr 20	Carmel Marathon, http://indyhams.org/event/carmel-marathon-hamilton-county-0
Apr 21	Rookie Roundup – Phone
May 4	500 Festival Mini Marathon, http://indyhams.org/event/500-festival-mini-marathon
May 18	Geist Half-Marathon, http://indyhams.org/event/500-festival-mini-marathon
June 8-9	June VHF Contest
June 22-23	Field Day
July 13	Indianapolis Hamfest, Marion Co. Fairgrounds, 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.

2012 MARKS ALL-TIME HIGH FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES

As 2012 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, had a good reason to cheer: The number of radio amateurs in the US reached an all-time high of almost 710,000. “2012 was definitely a banner year for the number of Amateur Radio operators here in the US,” she said. “It is amazing to see these new numbers and to know that Amateur Radio is experiencing such a healthy trend.”

In looking at new and upgraded licenses, as well as licensees per ARRL Division (see the charts below), Somma also crunched the numbers looking for growth within each license class -- and all of Amateur Radio -- over the last 40 years. “This is an all-time high for Technician, General and Amateur Extra class licensees,” she said. “When looking at the three current license classes, the number of Technicians, Generals and Amateur Extras peaked in December at 345,369, 163,370 and 130,736, respectively.”

Somma explained that the total number of US amateurs in the FCC database also continues to grow each year: “As of December 31, 2012, the number of licensees reached an all-time high of 709,575; year-end totals were 702,056 for 2011 and 696,041 for 2010. The number of licensees increased at an average rate of 21 per day, while the number of US licensees has increased by 7 percent since 2008!” More than 3000 new licenses were issued in 2012 than in 2011, while upgraded license activity remained steady in 2012.

In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate:

December 1971: 285,000

December 1981: 433,000

December 1991: 494,000

December 2001: 683,000

December 2012: 709,500

Source: 1971, 1981, 1991: print editions of *Radio Amateur Callbook*. 2001, 2012.

<http://www.ah0a.org/FCC/Graphs.html>. **Please note:** While the number of licensees has grown considerably over the years, we realize that these numbers include some who are no longer active in Amateur Radio. A recent survey of ARRL members, however, indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active.

ARRL VEC Program Statistics – The ARRL VEC is by far the largest of the 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) groups in the country, coordinating approximately 70 percent of all Amateur Radio exams. “When looking at the statistics over the last year, the ARRL VEC sponsored exam sessions and exam elements taken were up in 2012, which is a good sign for Amateur Radio overall,” Somma said. “Compared with 2011, ARRL VEC exam sessions in 2012 were up by 8 percent. A total of 6831 exam sessions were administered in 2012, compared to 6352 in 2011. Exam elements were slightly up from 41,096 last year, to 42,473 this year. The total number of accredited ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) has reached an all-time high of 36,682. The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses. 2012 was a very good year for Amateur Radio -- I can't wait to see what 2013 brings! --ARRL Letter

HAMVENTION AWARDS NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 15

There is still time to nominate a radio amateur for the **2013 Dayton Hamvention® Awards**: Amateur of the Year, Club of the Year, the Special Achievement Award and the Technical Excellence Award. The deadline for nominations has been extended to Friday, February 15. Anyone may nominate a person or club for these awards, and all Amateur Radio operators are eligible to receive these awards. The winners will be recognized at the 2013 Dayton Hamvention, which runs May 17-19.

The **Amateur of the Year Award** goes to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio. The **Technical Excellence Award** is for the person who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of Amateur Radio. The **Special Achievement Award** honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio, usually someone who has spearheaded a significant project. The **Club of the Year Award** goes to a club that has made significant contributions to the furtherance of Amateur Radio.

Additional details on these awards and nomination forms are available <http://www.hamvention.org/awards.php>. Nominations may be made electronically or via US Mail to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, OH 45401. --ARRL Letter

BSA TO OFFER AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR RATING STRIP

The Boy Scouts of America ([BSA](#)) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts and Scouters to wear on their uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services

Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout or Scouter's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities, as well as emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.

"Last year, the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee [introduced the Morse Code Interpreter Strip](#) upon the recommendation of the BSA's National Radio Scouting Committee," Wilson told the ARRL. "We are always looking for ways to promote Amateur Radio, both within Scouting and to the world. The National Radio Scouting Committee thought this new Amateur Radio rating strip was a wonderful way to do exactly that, as it readily identifies to everyone that the wearer is a licensed radio amateur, prepared to be useful and to help others."

Wilson, who heads up the National Radio Scouting Committee, said that the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the badge recently introduced by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by the Boy Scouts of America in the 1940s. --ARRL Letter

2012 BROUGHT INCREASE IN DXCC APPLICATIONS, ARRL QSL BUREAU CARD PROCESSING

With the coming of more sunspots comes more DX. And when more amateurs work DX, the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department -- especially the DXCC Desk and the ARRL Incoming and Outgoing QSL Bureaus -- goes into high gear.

"In 2012, we saw an increase in the number of cards received from ARRL members that were sent to foreign QSL bureaus, as well as the number of cards we sent out to the bureaus," said Membership and Volunteer Programs Administrative Manager Sharon Taratula. "In addition, the number of DXCC applications -- including those for initial awards and endorsements -- also increased."

In 2011, the DXCC Desk processed 11,173 applications for initial awards and endorsements; these comprised 1,305,376 QSOs. In 2012, the DXCC Desk processed 14,301 applications, comprising 1,491,661 QSOs. "This represents a 14 percent increase in the number of QSOs and a 28 percent increase in the number of applications," Taratula explained.

As the number of DXCC applications has increased, so has the number of QSL cards passing through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. "Through December 31, 2012, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau received 808,500 cards destined for foreign QSL bureaus from ARRL members in the US," Taratula said. "This represents an increase of 1 percent over the 2011 number of about 802,500 cards. In 2012, the ARRL shipped 731,440 cards -- or close to 5000 pounds of cards -- to foreign bureaus."

How the Bureaus Work – Each day, QSL cards are delivered to the [Outgoing QSL Bureau](#) where they are placed in dated bins. They are then sorted by country prefix and processed according to the date they were received in the Bureau. Each week, volunteers assist Outgoing QSL Bureau Associate Rose-Anne Lawrence, KB1DMW, in packing up the cards for the most active bureaus and preparing them for shipment.

Within the US, the [ARRL Incoming QSL Service](#) is made up of numerous call area bureaus, with one bureau serving each call area. These call area bureaus -- headed up by an Area Incoming Manager -- act as central clearing houses for QSL cards arriving from foreign countries. Volunteers at ARRL Headquarters sort all the incoming cards according to the number in a call sign and then send all the cards to the appropriate call area bureau. Volunteers within each bureau then sort the cards according to the first letter in a call sign's suffix. The cards are then sent to those in the call area who participate in the Incoming QSL Service.

For example, cards destined for ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, would be delivered to the Area 3 Incoming Manager, because Craigie's call sign has a 3 in it. Her cards would then be sent to the person in that call area bureau responsible for sorting cards with a K, as the first letter in her suffix is a K. The cards are then delivered to Craigie. While amateurs must be an ARRL member to take advantage of the Outgoing QSL Bureau, membership is not required to receive cards from the Incoming QSL Service.

"There is a definite cycle here in the Bureau," Lawrence said. "We keep busy all year long, but it really gears up in the fall, right around Thanksgiving weekend. It tapers off a little in the spring after contest season. Hams really do love their QSL cards, and we get to see so many beautiful ones pass through the Bureau."

Lawrence receives help in the Bureau from volunteers, most notably Lisa Zeug, K1UQT, and Michael Zeug, W1YM, Area 1 letter sorters from Massachusetts who also help out in the Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. Richard Lawrence, KB1DMX, and David Kaplan, WA1OUI, help with all parts of the Bureau operation at Headquarters. John Meyer, K9QVB -- the Area 9 Incoming Manager -- comes from Illinois each May every to spend a week at Headquarters slotting cards. --ARRL Letter

FCC DENIES MISSOURI HAM'S PETITION REGARDING CC&RS

On January 28, the FCC denied a *Petition for Reconsideration (PFR)* filed by James E. Whedbee, N0ECN, of Gladstone, Missouri. Whedbee filed the *PFR* in May 2012 in response to the FCC denying his *Petition for Declaratory Ruling (PDR)* filed in April 2012 that urged the FCC to address covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs).

In his *PDR*, Whedbee argued that CC&Rs restrict Amateur Radio facilities in violation of Section 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. He also asserted that there is a "controversy of CCR enforcement against Amateur Radio operators," and "requested a declaratory ruling terminating the controversy by holding that such CC&Rs are unenforceable."

The FCC concluded that the Mobility Division "properly acted" on Whedbee's *PFR*: "Given the opportunity for public comment already afforded by the *Public Notice* and the opening of GN Docket No. 12-91, and in light of the pendency (and later release) of the Commission's report to Congress and the statutory purpose of that report, your *Petition* was moot, premature, repetitive and frivolous." --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

ICELANDIC AMATEURS GET MF PRIVILEGES --According to the Íslenskir Radióamatörar (IRA) -- Iceland's IARU Member-Society -- radio amateurs in Iceland now have operating privileges on 472-479 kHz, or 630 meters, as of January 16. Amateurs in Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Monaco already have operating privileges in this portion of the MF spectrum. Delegates at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference approved this method of addressing Agenda Item 1.23, as the Conference considered a possible allocation of approximately 15 kilohertz between 415 and 526.5 kHz. After discussions and taking into account spectrum conflicts with the Maritime Mobile Service, delegates ultimately decided to allocate 472-479 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/icelandic-amateurs-get-mf-privileges>. --ARRL Letter

DXCC DESK APPROVES TWO LAOTIAN OPERATIONS – ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2010-2011 XWPA operation and the current XW4XR operation in Laos have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you have had these operations rejected in a recent application, please send an [e-mail](#) to the ARRL DXCC Desk," Moore said. "Once updated, results will appear in Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) accounts, as well as online in the [daily listings](#)." --ARRL Letter

CENTRAL STATES VHF CONFERENCE – The 2013 Central States VHF Conference will be held July 25-28 near Chicago in Elk Grove Village, IL at the Elk Grove Holiday Inn, 1000 Busse Road. Conference registration will open in February. The hotel has begun accepting reservations under the group code "VHF" on their website. To access the special rate please click on group code on the left side of the page and enter "VHF" at: <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/elk-grove-village/chieg/hoteldetail>

Conference features include: • Talks and Presentations• Antenna Test Range• Rover Row• Banquet keynote speaker is Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, CEO of the American Radio Relay League. --Southgate ARC

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