

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MAY, 2013

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, MAY 14th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL MEETING – Thanks to all those who attended the April meeting. Jim, AF9A, gave an update on the repeater operation. The repeater is operating normally. Echolink is not yet working and Dave Spoelstra is working to get us another computer configured. We are still trying to find a Pentium 4 computer for the Echo link. Bob, W9KVK did get us another computer to try for Echo Link. We have not gotten to work on the receive site at Ivy Tech but hope to get that scheduled soon. The Dayton Hamvention was discussed and it decided to again meet for lunch in the arena with the permanent seats (NW corner) and go to dinner on Friday evening. There were no additional details on the joint Field Day operation with the Indy Radio Club. Tom Chance K9XV is coordinating it for the IRC and Jim Keeth will coordinate it for RCA ARC. Our Club will have four tables at the Indy Hamfest, July 13. Jim, K9RU, discussed the W9IMS special event station for the Indy 500 and the plan for remote operation of one of the stations. Dave, N9KZJ talked about the WW2IND “Ships On The Air” operation planned for June.

NEXT TEST SESSION: There is no test session in May due to the Dayton Hamvention and all the other activities.

The next test session will be on Saturday, June 8 at 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Location: Integrated Public Safety Commission, 8468 E 21st St, Indianapolis IN 46219-2517

Contact: James K. Rinehart, K9RU **Phone:** (317) 495-1933 **Email:** k9ru@arrl.net

RCA ARC PLANS FOR THE DAYTON HAMVENTION -- Here are the plans for this year at the Hamvention... We will use 144.430 MHz simplex. Meet as usual in the northwest corner of the arena with the permanent seats at noon on Friday and again Saturday. Grab something to eat for lunch and join us there. We plan to meet for dinner at Old Hickory, 4029 North Main Street, (Rte 48) after the hamfest Friday evening only. Join us for a great steak at a reasonable price.

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB BUS TO THE DAYTON HAMVENTION, SATURDAY MAY 18th – Last chance to buy tickets is the IRC meeting, Friday, May 10...

This meeting will be the final opportunity to purchase your bus tickets to the Dayton Hamvention. The trip is Saturday, May 18, the cost is \$30 per person, not including admission to the Hamvention. The bus will have two pick up points: 6:30 am at Southern Plaza, and pick up around 7:00 am at Peddler's Mall on the east side. It will leave from Dayton around 4:00 pm. As in the past, there will be a short stop at McDonald's in Richmond on the way to Dayton for breakfast, and a dinner stop at MCL in Richmond on the way back. The bus will drop off at the front door of Hara Arena, and be parked in close proximity of the facility so items can be stored on the bus for your convenience. Contact Rhonda Curtis for more details and tickets: ws9h@arrl.net -IRC

JACK H. REYNOLDS, AA9BO, SK – W9GRE informed us that Jack Reynolds had passed away on March 24, 2013 at age 87. Jack was a very active member of the RCA ARC and part of our VE testing team. He conducted most of our CW tests and went out of his way working with people learning code and getting a ham license at his home.

Jack was born in Bedford, IN, on December 14, 1925, attended Arsenal Technical High School, to then join the Army Air Forces in aircraft repair school. Upon discharge, he returned to Indianapolis to begin a career with RCA in the Quality Control Department, retiring in 1983 after 42 years of service.

A skillful craftsman as well, he built three beautiful boats, and restored three private aircraft in his garage. He enjoyed flying, fishing, skiing, and many great camping trips to Kentucky Lake. After retirement, amateur radio became his favorite hobby and could be found on the *75 meter Geratol Net*.

Jack got his Novice license in one of our classes in the 70s and fell in love with operating CW. He was active the FIST GROUP and had a number of their awards including WAS, Rag Chewers Award.

Jack served several years as an ARRL Technical Specialist for the Central Indiana Section. He also served as a Field QSL Card Checker for the ARRL.

Jack was a friend and great ambassadors for Ham Radio. --Jim K9RU

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

May 17-19	Dayton Hamvention, Hara Arena, Trotwood, OH
June 8-9	June VHF Contest
June 22-23	Field Day
July 13	Indy Hamfest, Marion Co. Fair Grounds

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.

ACTIVITIES AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION

THE 18TH ANNUAL FOUR DAYS IN MAY THE QRP AND HOMEBREW MINI-CONVENTION - held concurrently with the Dayton Hamvention beginning on Thursday May 16th. The venue is once again the Holiday Inn located in Fairborn, Ohio which is just about twenty minutes to the east of the Hara Arena. Guest speakers this year feature Roy Lewallen W7EL, Rick Campbell KK7B and George Dobbs G3RJV, and others. Thursday evening will include a presentation from Ten-Tec at which there will be a new product announcement. Events on Thursday and Friday evenings are free of charge. More information along with tickets for the seminars, the Buildathon and Grand Banquet can be bought online at www.qrparci.org/fdim. (W4DU, G4GXL) --Amateur Radio Newline

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS AT HAMVENTION 2013 - On Saturday, May 18th, the session runs from 9AM until 4PM and will be held at the Hara Arena Hamvention venue. Immediately following the conclusion of the class a team of Volunteer Examiners will be on-hand to administer the Technician class exam. You must pre-register for the class and yes, there is homework. Info on what's in the class and how to enroll can be found at <http://www.hamclass.net/hamvclass.htm> Interested students should not delay as there is limited room and once the class fills, enrollment will be closed. The class will be again sponsored by Mitch Stern, W1SJ. If you have any questions please contact him at w1sj@arrl.net

TEST YOUR CW PILEUP SKILLS - Saturday night at Dayton's Crowne Plaza Hotel, you can test your CW pileup skills on the latest competition concocted by Russ KØVXU for the [Kansas City DX Club's](#) hospitality suite. Chuck NO5W is the author of the superb "horse-race" viewer that keeps score and lets those in the suite cheer on the contestants as the test progresses. This year he's added a [practice program](#) to let you warm up a little bit before the contest by choosing audio files from previous years and seeing how you do. Let the trash-talking begin!

THE NATIONAL VOICE OF AMERICA MUSEUM OF BROADCASTING AND BETHANY RELAY STATION -- a.k.a. the [VOA museum](#) - is holding their second annual Voice of America BBQ Bash on May 17 and 18. The event is sponsored by the West Chester Rotary Club and a portion of festival proceeds will benefit the VOA museum. The VOA museum is located in the historic Bethany Relay Station building at 8070 Tylersville Road in West Chester, Ohio, not far south of Dayton. The museum consists of collections and exhibits from the VOA-Bethany station; Media Heritage's Greater Cincinnati Museum of Broadcast History; the Gray History of Wireless Museum; and the control for the [West Chester Amateur Radio Association](#), best known as WC8VOA on the air. (Thanks, Eric W3DQ)

NEED THE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON DAYTON CONTEST EVENTS? – Try the K3LR web page ([www.k3lr.com](#)) for information on Contest University, Topband Dinner, Contest Dinner, and the four-night Contest SuperSuite. Links are at the bottom of the page. A [free webinar](#) on Dayton contest activities is available, too!

FCC ANNOUNCES ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2013

In the first quarter of 2013 (January-March), the FCC issued 23 enforcement actions. These enforcement actions are in addition to the \$10,000 fine issued to Jared A. Bruegman, ex-KC0IQN, of Bolivar, Missouri, and the \$25,000 fine issued to Terry L. VanVolkenburg, KC5RF, of Cocoa, Florida, as previously reported.

This past quarter, the FCC sent *Warning Letters* to 10 individuals regarding unlicensed transmissions, interference and repeater-related infractions. In addition, the FCC sent *Warning Letters* to four commercial entities or individuals that had conducted commercial operation on the amateur bands. The FCC also sent one letter to a power company, as well as eight letters addressing RFI complaints regarding interference from various electronic devices, including plasma television sets, electric fence chargers and grow light ballasts. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

FLORIDA MAN CITED FOR CAUSING HARMFUL INTERFERENCE TO RADIO AMATEURS

The FCC has issued a [Citation and Order](#) to Ruben D. Lopez Jr of Pomona Park, Florida. The *Citation*, issued April 23, is in response to several complaints about a well pump at Lopez's residence that was acting as an incidental radiator and causing harmful interference to local radio amateurs.

In July 2010 and February 2011, the FCC received complaints from radio amateurs regarding interference on the MF and HF Amateur Radio bands. Upon investigation, the FCC found that a well pump at Lopez's residence was causing the interference, and advised Lopez of the complaints and of the rules regarding interference to licensed radio services. The FCC instructed Lopez to resolve any interference.

According to the *Citation*, in October 2012 -- in response to another interference complaint -- FCC agents “used direction finding equipment to identify Mr Lopez’s well pump as the source of transmissions on the frequency 1800 kHz. The agents...confirmed that Mr Lopez’s well pump was the source of the interference by conducting on/off tests -- the interference ceased when the well pump was turned off. The agents informed Mr Lopez that he must cease operating his well pump until the interference could be resolved. After the October 23, 2012 inspection, the [FCC’s] Tampa Office received information that Mr Lopez tried to eliminate the interference by replacing the A/C line filter for the well pump, but the new filter did not resolve the interference.”

Lopez was found by the FCC to be in violation [Section 15.5\(b\) and \(c\)](#) of the FCC’s rules by operating an incidental radiator and causing harmful interference. He was instructed by the FCC to “take immediate steps to ensure that he does not continue to cause harmful interference, including repairing or replacing his well pump and associated control circuitry.” The FCC advised Lopez that if he continues to violate the Communications Act or the FCC’s rules, it “may impose monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation, or in the case of a continuing violation, up to a maximum forfeiture of \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act. In addition, violation of the Communications Act or the [FCC’s] rules also can result in seizure of the equipment through *in rem* forfeiture actions, as well as criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.”

If he desires, Lopez has until May 23 to respond to the *Citation*, either through an in-person meeting with the FCC office in Tampa, or via a written statement that should detail any actions Lopez has taken “to ensure that he does not violate the Communications Act or the [FCC’s] rules governing the operation of incidental radiators in the future.” --ARRL Letter

FCC ISSUES TWO FORFEITURE NOTICES FOR CELL PHONE JAMMING

On April 9, the FCC found two businesses -- The Supply Room in Oxford, Alabama and Taylor Oilfield Manufacturing in Broussard, Louisiana -- to have “apparently willfully and repeatedly violated Sections 301, 302(b), and 333 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and [Sections 2.803\(g\)](#) and [15.1\(c\)](#) of the Commission’s rules by operating multiple cellular phone jammers.” In addition, the FCC found that both businesses each imported five illegal signal jamming devices in violation of Section 302(b) of the Act and [Sections 2.1203](#) and 2.1204 of the Rules; Section 2 dictates the conditions under which radio frequency devices may be imported into the US. The FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and Order (NAL)* to each business: The Supply Room received an *NAL* in the amount of \$144,000 ([FCC No. 13-47](#)), while Taylor Oilfield Manufacturing received an *NAL* in the amount of \$126,000 ([FCC No. 13-46](#)).

The FCC received anonymous tips that cell phone jamming was occurring at both businesses. By using direction finding techniques, FCC agents discovered “strong wideband emissions in the cellular bands” that they determined to be “one or more signal jammers” at each site. Both The Supply Room and Taylor Oilfield Manufacturing admitted to the agents that they had each purchased five signal jammers off of the Internet from overseas sources.

While The Supply Room’s general manager admitted to the FCC agent that the jammers were in place “to prevent its employees from using their cellular phones while working” and they had been in operation for more than two years, the manager of Taylor Oilfield Manufacturing told the FCC agent that it “utilized the jamming devices to prevent its employees from using their cellular phones while working, apparently following a near-miss industrial accident that allegedly was partially attributable to employee cell phone use,” and that the jammers had only been in operation “for a few months.” Both entities voluntarily surrendered their jammers to the FCC.

“Signal jamming devices operate by transmitting powerful radio signals that overpower, jam or interfere with authorized communications,” the FCC noted. “While these devices have been marketed with increasing frequency over the Internet, with limited exception, they have no lawful use in the United States. Jammers are not only designed to impede authorized communications and thereby interfere with the rights of legitimate spectrum users and the general public, but also are inherently unsafe. For example, jammers can be used to disrupt critical public safety communications, placing first responders like law enforcement and fire fighting personnel -- as well as the public they are charged with protecting -- at great risk. Similarly, jammers can endanger life and property by preventing individuals from making 9-1-1 or other emergency calls. In order to protect the public and preserve unfettered access to emergency and other communications services, the [Communications] Act generally prohibits the importation, use, marketing, manufacture, and sale of jammers. The Commission has issued several enforcement advisories and consumer alerts emphasizing the importance of strict compliance in this area and encouraging public participation through the Commission’s jammer tip line.”

The FCC directed both The Supply Room and Taylor Oilfield Manufacturing to submit payment in full by May 9, 2013, or file a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture. Both entities were also directed to file a statement to be signed under penalty of perjury no later than May 9, 2013, that would provide information concerning the source(s) from which each business purchased or received the jamming devices. --ARRL Letter

FCC AGAIN DENIES ARRL'S PETITION IN BPL PROCEEDING

On April 16, the FCC issued a *Second Memorandum Opinion and Order*, denying the ARRL's December 2011 *Petition for Reconsideration* that sought reconsideration of the FCC's *Second Report and Order*, "fundamentally affirm[ing]" its rules for Access Broadband over Power Line (Access BPL) systems. In denying the ARRL's *Petition*, the FCC noted that the *Petition* "[did] not raise new arguments based on new information in the record or on the Commission's new analysis of limited points as directed by the Court, nor does it demonstrate any errors or omissions in the Commission's previous decisions," and that its previous rulings "strike an appropriate balance between the dual objectives of providing for Access BPL technology -- which has potential applications for broadband and Smart Grid uses -- while protecting incumbent radio services against harmful interference."

The ARRL made 14 principal points in its *Petition*, each of which was aimed at urging the FCC to enact additional rules that would permit BPL systems to operate without the severe interference potential inherent in BPL technology. The ARRL argued that the current rules do not address this severe interference potential, which was manifested in every deployment of BPL in which the safeguards urged by the ARRL were absent. The FCC dismissed all of the ARRL's arguments, claiming that the ARRL "did not submit any new information," made "no new argument" or that it had, in the Commission's view, failed to make its point.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said that full time, mandatory notching of amateur bands to a notch depth not less than 25 dB was "the least that the FCC should have required in its rules, because interference prevention is possible; *post-hoc* remediation is not. In this instance, the FCC has not acted responsibly in its stewardship of the MF and HF radio spectrum. The ARRL will continue to vigilantly guard against the abuse and pollution of the radio spectrum in the use of BPL technology on a case-by-case basis as necessary, wherever necessary." Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

DX ACTIVITIES FEATURED AT ARRL EXPO AT 2013 DAYTON

The ARRL will present a variety of DX activities as part of the [ARRL EXPO](#) -- the ARRL's "show

within a show” at the 2013 [Dayton Hamvention®](#), to be held May 17-19 at Hara Arena, near Dayton, Ohio. Activities will include DXCC card checking and the opportunity to drop off QSL cards for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau, as well as visits with representatives from the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) and IARU Member Societies.

Representatives will include those from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club ([DARC](#)), the Japan Amateur Radio League ([JARL](#)), the Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)) and the Qatar Amateur Radio Society ([QARS](#)). In addition, representatives from the IARU -- including President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, President Emeritus Larry Price, W4RA, and Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD -- will also be on hand to greet visitors.

JARL Awards

Representatives from JARL will be accepting applications for certain [JARL awards](#) ([AJD](#), [WAJA](#), [JCC](#), [ADXA](#), [ADXA-Half](#) and [Fuji](#)), as well as the IARU’s Worked All Continents ([WAC](#)) and 5-Band WAC awards at the JARL table within the ARRL EXPO. Amateurs who qualify for these JARL and IARU awards will be issued the certificates on the spot. JARL staff members Hiro Tamama, JA1SLS, and Shige Aoki, JR1UTH, will also be checking applications for other JARL awards; certificates for these awards will be mailed from JARL Headquarters *after* Hamvention. Check the JARL website for [more information about JARL awards](#), including award fees.

IARU Region 3 Operating Award

JARL will also be accepting applications for the [IARU Region 3 Operating Award](#). JARL will forward these applications to the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters ([NZART](#)), which administers the award. NZART will then send applicants their award certificate with any endorsements *after* Hamvention.

ARRL Card Checking and Outgoing QSL Bureau Services

ARRL staff and [DXCC](#) volunteer card checkers will once again offer full DXCC card checking -- including deleted countries and cards for 160 meters -- and award application processing this year at the ARRL EXPO. They will also be able to check applications and QSLs for the Worked All States ([WAS](#)) and VHF/UHF Century Club ([VUCC](#)) awards. Applications will be limited to 101 cards (more cards will be checked as time -- and volunteer card checkers -- become available). Use the [Online DXCC](#) tool and save money on your application! Remember to bring a printout of your application, card list *and* your cards (in the order in which they are entered into the Online DXCC) with you to Dayton.

ARRL members will also be able to drop off their QSL cards to be sent through the [ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau](#). Save shipping costs and bring your cards to Dayton; the ARRL will transport your cards to the Outgoing Bureau at ARRL Headquarters. In order to take advantage of this exciting benefit, all of the standard QSL Bureau rules must be followed: Cards must be sorted by DXCC country, they must go to countries where a bureau exists and you must be an ARRL member to use the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Hams utilizing this service do not need to box the cards, but they should be wrapped with rubber bands; ARRL will weigh the cards on-site in the ARRL EXPO area.

The ARRL EXPO -- located in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths) of Hara Arena -- will include more than 20 exhibits staffed by ARRL program representatives. Visit the [ARRL Hamvention web page](#) for a complete list of ARRL EXPO programs, activities and presentations, including a floor plan of all the exhibits. --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

PRESIDENT OBAMA NOMINATES FINANCIER AND FORMER TELECOM EXECUTIVE TOM WHEELER AS FCC CHAIRMAN – On Wednesday, May 1, President Barack Obama announced that he nominated Tom Wheeler to be the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. If the Senate confirms the nomination, Wheeler will replace Julius Genachowski who announced his resignation from the FCC in March. Pending Wheeler's confirmation, FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn -- the agency's soon-to-be senior Democrat -- will serve as the Commission's acting chairman.

Wheeler, 67, has served as an informal adviser to Obama in recent years and has been a major fundraiser for his political campaigns. He has a background as a venture capitalist and as a lobbyist for the communications industry. He is the former President of the National Cable Television Association (now known as National Cable & Telecommunications Association) and former Chief Executive Officer of the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association. Currently, he is a Managing Director at Core Capital Partners, a venture capital firm in Washington, DC. Read [more](#).

ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11 – In celebration of the 63rd anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD), the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test. Although Armed Forces Day is traditionally celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 18 in 2013 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 11 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention[®], scheduled for May 17-19. The annual celebration features traditional military-to-amateur crossband communications SSB voice and Morse code tests. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to stations making contact with the military stations. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

SEATTLE WILL HOST THE 32ND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE – Digital communications enthusiasts will be heading to the Pacific Northwest this autumn for the 32nd annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC), September 20-22, at Cedarbrook Lodge near Seattle, Washington. The ARRL/TAPR DCC is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results and practical applications. The DCC is for all levels of technical experience -- not just the expert. Introductory sessions are scheduled throughout the conference to introduce new technical topics for both beginners and experts. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

HAM RADIO EDITOR AND NOTED DXER JOE SCHROEDER, W9JUV (SK) – Joseph J. Schroeder Jr, W9JUV, of Glenview, Illinois, passed away Tuesday, April 30. He was 83. An ARRL Life Member, Schroeder was on the editorial staff for *Ham Radio* magazine from August 1974-July 1990, penning almost 400 articles that ran the gamut from FCC actions to Field Day to licensing issues. Schroeder was also the founding editor of *HR Report*, a newsletter published by *Ham Radio*.

Schroeder was one of only three radio amateurs who had 394 confirmed DXCC entities, placing the trio at the top of the DXCC standings. Schroeder had missed only seven entities, all of which are now deleted: Tibet (AC4), Damao and Diu (CR8), French Indo-China (FI8), French India (FN), Java (PK1-3), Netherlands Borneo (PK5) and Celebe and Molucca (PK6). Schroeder made Top of Honor Roll in 1993. Along with his 394 Mixed DXCC entities, Schroeder also held DXCC on Phone (238 entities), CW (165 entities) and 6 meters (108 entities), as well as VUCC on 50 MHz. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

THE [W9DXCC CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2013](#), has announced it will offer a six session class on Friday, to help inform all hams interested in DX'ing" about general topics of interest to the DX community. The class will be held the day before the W9DXCC convention and has been designed for both new and experienced DX'ers. Each session will cover a different aspect of DX'ing and features speakers NN1N, K9LA, K9AJ, K9EL, K9NU and W9MU. Please contact [W9MU](#) for additional details and information.) -ARRL Contest Update

[CENTRAL STATES VHF SOCIETY CONFERENCE](#) Online registration is now open. The 2013 Conference will be held near Chicago at the Elk Grove Village, IL, Holiday Inn from Thursday July 25th until Sunday July 28. There will be Antenna Range (144 MHz-24 GHz) measurements, Rover Row, Dish Display, and a Noise Figure Measurement Contest. This year will see the return of the free-admission "VHF-101" introductory session on Saturday morning. The banquet speaker will be ARRL CEO, Dave Sumner K1ZZ. (Thanks, Kermit W9XA)) -ARRL Contest Update

UPDATES ON CONTEST SOFTWARE - Rovers and mobile station aficionados of state QSO parties should check out Chuck NO5W's [CQ/X](#) logging software that integrates directly with a GPS to keep track of your county and grid as you move around. Another issue unique to the state QSO parties and county-hunter contests is operating from a county line. New versions of [N1MM](#) software (version 13.04.01 and later) support several variations on the rules for operating astraddle jurisdictional boundaries, as well. (Thanks, Chuck NO5W and Craig K9CT) -ARRL Contest Update

THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE VHF/UHF ANTENNA DESIGNS PRODUCED BY [Directive Systems](#) (ORIGINALLY C3I) HAVE A NEW OWNER --Terry W8ZN has purchased that product line and will be introducing some new 6 meter antennas in the near future. The new company was open for business as of April 1st. (Thanks, Chris W3CMP)) -ARRL Contest Update

RICK ZL2HAM HAS CREATED [VIEWPROP](#) A TERRIFIC NEW MAPPING PROGRAM THAT TAKES A STREAM OF SPOTS OR REVERSE BEACON NETWORK REPORTS AND PLOTS THEM ON ANY OF A COLLECTION OF MAPS FROM DX ATLAS – Not only are the receiving stations displayed but the path between them, with color indicating the band and variable persistence, among other interesting options. It's fascinating to see the different bands opening and closing as the Earth rotates. Both globe and flat map presentations are available in this beta test version. If you'd like to help complete the test process before *ViewProp* 1.0 is released, check in on the software's website or join the [online discussion group](#).) -ARRL Contest Update

UNMANNED VIDEO DRONES, Dave K1TTT has put one to good use - [checking out the antenna farm](#) without a climbing belt! Dave is using a [Parrot AR-Drone 2.0](#). It's hard to tell who is having more fun with the drone - Dave the operator or Pablo the excited dog! (Thanks, Tim K3HX)) -ARRL Contest Update

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