

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE, 2013

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE MAY MEETING – At the 14-May meeting, the status of the '88 repeater was again discussed. A computer for the Echolink has been identified. Our “IT department” will be loading and configuring the software, but it's not ready yet. Jim K9RU, John KF9UH and Jim AF9A worked on the IVY Tech receive site. The 2m antenna was replaced and the 70cm antenna re-aimed. The receive preamp was found to be defective and will be sent for repair. The receiver/transmitter/logic package was removed and will be checked out then returned to the site. Not much information is available on the joint W9RCA / IRC Field Day operation at the present time. Tom Chance, K9XV, is planning the event. It will be a class 2A operation at the Belzer scout camp. Our Club has purchased four (indoor) tables at the Indy Hamfest, July 13. The Club's plans for Dayton were discussed. Dave, N9KZJ, discussed the upcoming “Ships” event.

RCA ARC FIELD DAY - We will be operating with the Indianapolis Radio Club again this year. Everything is going forward with Jim Keith, AF9A working with Tom Chance, K9XV. The operation will be 2A and will be at Boy Scout camp Belzer. This is located near 56th and Shadeland. Set up will start around 9:30 AM Saturday morning. This is a 24 hour operation so you can stop by any time to visit or operate. Late night/early morning operators are always needed as is help during setup and tear down.

One station will be on Phone and the other on CW. Both a VHF station and a GOTA station are planned. If you know someone who has not been active or someone interested in ham radio, the GOTA station would be a good chance for them to get on the air and earn a few points for the club.

If you don't have time to operate, stop by anyway to see the operation. We will use the W9JP call for the main stations and W9RCA for the GOTA station. --K9RU

RCA ARC AT DAYTON - We had a good turn out of the RCA group at lunch and at the dinner after the hamfest Friday. Bob Vandevander had his regular spot in the flea market that proved to be a great rest stop and place to meet other RCA hams. The weather was great Friday. We did have dense fog in the morning and the rain held off till after the hamfest closed.

Dick Davis, W9ZB took the IRC bus to the Hamvention. This has been a great way to go over and return the same day. Dick can tell us his experience for this year's trip. --K9RU

NEXT TEST SESSION: Saturday, June 8th, starting at noon

Location: Integrated Public Safety Commission
8468 E 21st St.,
Indianapolis, IN 46219-2517
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Rhonda S. Curtis (317) 363-7457
Email: ws9h@arrl.net

INDIANA AMATEUR OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS DUE BEFORE JUNE 16 – Each year the Indiana Radio Club Council selects an outstanding INDIANA amateur radio operator from nominations submitted from their peers, who have used his or her technical expertise to advance the amateur radio service. They may have used this technical expertise at their own club, or at other clubs around the state or country, other amateur radio organizations, be they local, state, or national. They may have assisted in the development of ham radio in the Red Cross, Salvation Army, FEMA, or other disaster groups. They may have done seminars, put on classes, done forums at hamfests. They may be builders of equipment, antenna tinkerers, or just plain old time ham radio "geeks." Look around your area, there are plenty of the very knowledgeable in our ranks. We are looking for the best of these.

This Individual is not required to be a member of any club or organization. We are looking for nominees who have given of their time and technical expertise to the amateur radio community.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS: We need as much information about your nominee as possible, including: the nominee's name, call, email and/or home address, and home and/or cell phone number. We also need the same information for the nominating person, because we may need to contact you for additional information or confirmation. Please explain in some detail just what your nominee has done with their technical skills and how the radio community is better for those efforts. Nominations must be received by midnight on June 15, 2013 and the award will be presented at the Indianapolis Hamfest on Saturday July 13, 2013 at the IRCC forum.

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO: Dennis Gilbey, K9JZZ; 959 Harvest Ridge Dr.; Avon, IN 46123-7142 or k9jzz9@gmail.com

INDY HAMFEST UPDATE:

We will have \$6 advance sale tickets at the June and July RCA ARC meetings.

Air Conditioned Indoor Tables -- SOLD OUT

Air Conditioned Forums --FULL

Outdoor Flea Market -- Acres available on FIRST COME basis.

License Testing Onsite. Walk-ins are welcome.

Advance sale tickets at many valued locations.

Homebrew contest & QSL contest, prizes awarded

For more information, call our help line and leave a message:

317-261-6658 or visit our website and download a PDF

of the flyer, which shows advance sale ticket locations:

<http://www.indyhamfest.com/>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS & TESTING

June 8-9	ARRL June VHF Contest--Phone,CW & Digital, from Jun 8, 1800Z to Jun 10, 0300Z. Bands (MHz): 50+. Exchange: Grid square. Logs due: Jul 11.
June 15-16	SMIRK QSO Party—Phone & CW, 50 MHz Exchange: Grid square and member number. Logs due: Aug 1.
June 22-23	Field Day – IRC/RCA at Camp Belzer
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.

RENOWNED STORM CHASER TIM SAMARAS, WJ0G, KILLED IN OKLAHOMA TORNADO

Professional storm chasers Tim Samaras, WJ0G, his son Paul Samaras and fellow investigator Carl Young were [killed](#) on May 31 near El Reno, Oklahoma when an EF3 tornado suddenly changed paths and slammed into their vehicle; they were unable to escape. According to [ABC News](#), Tim Samaras -- an ARRL member -- was found dead in his car, still in his seat belt; Paul Samaras and Young were pulled from the car by the tornado; one of the men was found a half-mile away.

National Geographic Society Vice President for Research, Conservation and Exploration John Francis [told](#) *The Washington Post* that he fears that there are too many people jamming the roadways in pursuit of twisters and that this might have contributed to Friday's fatalities. In a May 2013 [online interview](#) with *National Geographic*, Samaras told of the increase in the number of storm chasers in recent years. "There's lots and lots of storm chasers out there, but you can probably count on one hand the number of people who go out into the field and collect data from tornadoes," he said. "We run into [storm chasers] all the time. On a big tornado day in Oklahoma, you can have hundreds of storm chasers lined up down the road. Oklahoma is considered the Mecca of storm chasing. We know ahead of time when we chase in Oklahoma, there's going to be a traffic jam."

The Samarases and Young were with [TWISTEX](#) (Tactical Weather Instrumented Sampling in/near Tornadoes EXperiment), a scientific field research program founded by Tim Samaras to "better understand tornado genesis, maintenance and decay processes and to gain insight and knowledge of the seldom sampled near-surface internal tornado environment." The TWISTEX team has been featured on The Discovery Channel's [Storm Chasers](#). Tim Samaras holds the Guinness World Record for recording the [greatest pressure drop ever measured inside a tornado](#) (100 millibars near Manchester, South Dakota on June 24, 2003) and is the only person to ever record video from inside a tornado.

In his [biography](#) on The Weather Channel's website, Tim Samaras said that he used Amateur Radio equipment when he chased storms. "Being that we are on a scientific mission," he explained, "we carry about 8-10 probes, along with other weather instruments, cameras,

laptops, GPS navigation, cellular telephone, ham radio equipment (I'm a ham radio operator), first aid kit -- in case we come across tornado victims (most of our crew is first aid trained), tools, winches, saws...well...the whole garage."

On the [Weather Underground blog](#), Jeff Masters discussed the confluence of factors that might have contributed to Friday's tragedy. "Tornadoes by their nature are unpredictable, and can change course unexpectedly, or pop up suddenly," he wrote. "It's particularly dangerous when a tornado is wrapped in rain, making it hard to see, or if a chaser is operating in a heavily populated area, where roads may suddenly become congested. All four of these conditions occurred Friday during the El Reno tornado."

National Geographic Society Executive Vice President Terry Garcia said that the National Geographic Society [made 18 grants](#) to Tim Samaras "for research over the years for field work like he was doing in Oklahoma at the time of his death, and he was one of our 2005 Emerging Explorers. Tim's research included creation of a special probe he would place in the path of a twister to measure data from inside the tornado." Tim Samaras' work on lightning was featured in the August 2012 issue of *National Geographic* magazine.

"I chase the most powerful storms on the planet," Tim Samaras said in a [video](#) on his [personal website](#). "All my life I've been on a quest to figure out how these things worked. Tornadoes have represented the biggest challenge as they are very fleeting in nature and extremely difficult to pinpoint their proposed destruction...At times I have mixed feelings about chasing these storms. On one hand they are incredibly beautiful; on the other hand, these powerful storms can create devastating damage that change people's lives forever."
--ARRL

AMATEUR RADIO AND HURRICANES

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 radio amateurs who are 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 [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 are 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, KI1U, added that when ARES activates in response to any tropical event, it is crucial that information flows up through the ARRL Section and is reported to ARRL 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 activate the ARRL HQ Emergency Response Team to support and coordinate the operations."

Corey noted that in July, the ARRL will host a webinar on the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season. Details will be posted on the ARRL website and in the June issue of the [ARES E-Letter](#), as well as here in *The ARRL Letter*. All those interested in public service and disaster communications are invited to participate. --ARRL Letter

ARRL COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF 5 GHZ UNLICENSED BROADBAND

Observing that "a decision in the near term with respect to the addition of [unlicensed National Information Infrastructure] U-NII devices to the 5.85-5.925 GHz band would be premature," the ARRL has commented in response to an FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ([ET Docket No. 13-49](#)) that proposes to authorize U-NII use of an additional 195 megahertz of spectrum in the 5.35-5.47 GHz and 5.85-5.925 GHz bands. The Commission was obligated, pursuant to Section 6406(a) of the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012* (Public Law No. 112-96), to begin a proceeding to allow U-NII devices in the 5.35-5.47 GHz band. As the ARRL comments note, "There is *no legislative obligation*, however, to make available the 5.85-5.925 GHz band for U-NII use."

The Amateur Radio Service has a longstanding secondary allocation of 5.65-5.925 GHz, with

an amateur-satellite uplink band at 5.65-5.67 GHz and a downlink at 5.83-5.85 GHz. In its 14-page filing, the ARRL traces the history of “a continuing series of overlays” to which the band has been subjected over the past 16 years, progressively reducing the utility of the amateur allocation. In 1999, the Commission allocated 5.85-5.925 GHz for direct vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside, or “Dedicated Short Range Communications” (DSRC). Amateurs may continue to operate in this segment, but only to the extent that they do not interfere with DSRC operations. In support of its argument that the introduction of U-NII into this segment would be premature, the ARRL observes that “...a U-NII overlay at the present time requires a good deal of compatibility analysis, none of which has been completed to date.”

The full text of the ARRL's comments is available below. The comments were filed on the deadline date of May 28, 2013. Reply comments are due by June 24.

http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/ARRL_5_GHz_Docket_13-49_Comments.pdf --ARRL Letter

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD REACHES 500 MILLION QSOs

On May 21 at approximately 9:40 PM EDT (0140 UTC on May 22), Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) -- the ARRL's online QSO confirmation system - reached a new record: 500 million QSOs. This milestone was reached as Gabor Horvath, VE7JH, of Crofton, British Columbia, uploaded a log from 2011 for VC7M, the [Canadian Multi/Multi Team in the 2011 CQ WPX CW Contest](#).

Since LoTW was first introduced in September 2003, almost 58,000 hams around the world have registered to use the system to confirm two-way contacts they have made. The confirmations are credited toward various ARRL operating awards, such as Worked All States and DXCC. By using digitally signed certificates with QSO date ranges and station locations for geographic information, LoTW is able to accommodate clubs, previously held call signs, QSL managers, DXpeditions, mobile and rover operators just as easily as it handles the individual user with one call sign and one location.

And on a related note... **RELEASE OF TQSL 1.14 FOR LoTW DELAYED** The ARRL [announced](#) that the introduction of the new TQSL 1.14 software for Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) would be available on May 20. Upon further testing, three defects -- now corrected -- were reported after that announcement. Before publicly releasing a corrected version of TQSL 1.14, the software must be thoroughly retested by the Trusted QSL Software Development Team. LoTW users should expect a public release of TQSL 1.14 by the end of the month. --ARRL Letter

FCC SETS DEADLINES FOR COMMENTS ON RF EXPOSURE REASSESSMENT

The deadlines have been set for comments and reply comments in an FCC proceeding to reassess the limits and policies governing exposure to radio frequency (RF) electromagnetic fields. On March 27, the FCC released a *First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry* ([ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137](#)). Publication in the June 4, 2013 Federal Register (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-04/pdf/2013-12713.pdf>) started the clock on a 90-day period for comments, the deadline for which is September 3. There is an additional 60-day period for reply comments, i.e. until November 1. The unusually long period for comments reflects the complexity of the proceeding and

underscores the Commission's desire for specific information on the costs and benefits related to the RF exposure issue.

While the FCC proposals do not change the existing RF exposure limits, they include the deletion of existing special exemptions from evaluation in the Amateur Radio Service in [Section 97.13\(c\)](#) of its rules. Minor rules changes adopted in the *Report and Order* section of the document take effect on August 5. A summary of the document is at <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-to-reassess-rf-exposure-limits>. --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

FCC SEEKS SMALL VANITY CALL SIGN FEE INCREASE – The FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* on May 23, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs by 20 cents. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$15 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if approved, will go up to \$15.20 for 10 years. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free of charge for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as the ARRL VEC. Read [more](#).

LIVING DANGEROUSLY: DESIGNING A QUADCOPTER – Many of us are familiar with Parallax, the maker of a multitude of components, subassemblies, and gadgets for the electronics experimenter and hobbyist. Ham radio projects have a somewhat different set of possible hazards, but this makes an interesting read just the same...

[Living Dangerously: Designing a Quadcopter](#) By Key Gracey, President of Parallax "First blood" occurred when Matt's Quadcopter flew into his face on Christmas Eve. What sounds like a great opening line for a novel is actually one of the safety incidents recorded during the months of product testing for the ten pound Quadcopter from Parallax. For over a year, the development team analyzed component quality, workmanship and operator error to get their popular drone ready to safely command the skies. --Jameco Electronics

SPANISH AMATEURS GAIN NEW PRIVILEGES ON 160 METERS – The Unión de Radioaficionados Españoles, Spain's IARU Member Society, has announced that Spanish amateurs may now use 1810-1830 kHz in the 160 meter band on a secondary basis. This is in addition to the existing primary allocation of 1830-1850 kHz. The new 630 meter band -- 472-479 kHz -- is also available to Spanish amateurs now. Both changes took effect on May 10.

Just in time for this weekend's ARRL June VHF Contest, Dave W9PA (ex-W9ZRX) has posted a brand-new release of the VHF Super Check Partial Files at www.k3lr.com/w9zrx/. Don't forget the trailing "/". Derived from 176 logs from recent ARRL VHF+ contests, the package consists of seven compressed "zip" files with various sortings of calls and grids. There are nearly 7000 call signs - thanks, Dave!

The extended and colorful writeup of the 2012 ARRL 10 Meter Contest by Scott Tuthill

K7ZO is [online](#) for your reading pleasure. Another insightful writeup with lots of analysis on this popular contest.

Joe KØNEB has published his annual [slide show](#) of Hamvention 2013 set to music. Enjoy "Freeze Frame" and there are some photos from the QRP mini-convention Four Days in May in there as well.

HEATHKIT LAUNCHES NEW SURVEY - After the apparent final demise of the Heathkit Company last year hams on several websites are reporting that they were surprised to learn of a new consumer survey from whomever now owns the company name.

The fairly lengthy on-line survey asks responders to relate what is important to them, their kit-building interests, their thoughts about the many vintage Heathkits and their interest if any in amateur radio. It also requests thoughts and ideas about Heathkit while offering the opportunity to sign up to join a mailing list.

The opening page instructions note that Customer privacy is very important to them. As such that they do not release personally-identifying customer information outside our company as explained in it's Privacy Policy. As such, those responding to the survey can choose which questions that they wish to answer.

You can find more on-line at tinyurl.com/new-heathkit-survey. - Amateur Radio Newslite

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