

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JULY, 2013

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, JULY 9th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE MEETING – Thanks to all who attended the June meeting. We had a good turnout. The status of the '88 repeater was again discussed. There has been no progress in getting a computer configured for Echolink. The remote receive electronics package for the IVY Tech building appears to be working. The receive preamp has been repaired. The Field Day operation with the Indy Radio Club (IRC) is being coordinated by Tom Chance, K9XV. The operation will be at Camp Belzer with setup beginning at 12 noon. All are welcome to come and operate. The Club will have four tables in the air conditioned building at the Indy Hamfest, July 13. Club members may bring their own stuff to sell. There will be license testing at the hamfest. We'll discuss logistics of moving the junk to the hamfest at the July meeting. K9RU discussed future testing opportunities. N9KZJ reported on the "ships event." K9RU reported on the W9IMS special event station leading up to the 500. The remote control operation worked "pretty well." The possibility of remoting the IRC club station is also being considered.

NEXT AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION:

July 13th at the Indianapolis Hamfest
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: Marion County Fairgrounds
7300 E Troy Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46239
Contact: Rhonda Curtis (317) 363-7457
Email: ws9h@arrl.net

KC9PXM AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP – Jordan Hoover, KC9PXM, has been awarded the The Indianapolis Amateur Radio Assoc. scholarship for 2013. This scholarship is one of 82 presented by the ARRL Foundation. Jordan is a student at the University of Notre Dame. The Indianapolis Amateur Radio Assoc. is the sponsor of the **Indianapolis Hamfest**.

INDY HAMFEST UPDATE:

We will have \$6 advance sale tickets at the July RCA ARC meeting.

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/>

W9RCA / W9JP JOINT FD OPERATION – Our Field Day operation with the IRC turned out well. K9XV did a great job organizing the event and there were only a few minor technical problems. The WX was good as were band conditions. Camp Belzer was quite a nice location with a low noise level. From the RCA club, Dick W9ZB, Dave N9KZJ, Leroy WA4OTD, Phil WB9RXL, Bob W9KVK, and Jim AF9A participated. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

DAVE CARLSON, W9HQG SK – Dave Carlson, W9HQG, passed away June 16th. He was 88 years old. Dave was very instrumental in getting the RCA ARC reactivated and was active with the RCA ARC in the 70s and 80s. Dave along with Clyde Hoyt, Ken Lockhart, Gil Hermiling and Ed Hindesdale helped us find space for the club station at the Sherman Drive plant. Dave headed up TV tuner and remote engineering for RCA.
<http://flannerbuchanan.tributes.com/show/David-Carlson-96033100>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS

July 13	Indy Hamfest, Marion Co. Fair Grounds, http://www.indyhamfest.com/
Aug 03	Angola Hamfest, http://llarc.tripod.com/
Aug 24	Owen-Monroe Hamfest, http://www.owencountyara.org/
Sept 07	South Bend Hamfest & Swapmeet, http://w9ab.org/
Oct 05	Hoosier Hills Hamfest, http://www.hoosierhillshamfest.org/
Nov 16	Ft. Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/
Nov 30	Evansville Hamfest, 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.

RULES CHANGE SOUGHT TO PERMIT ENCRYPTION OF SENSITIVE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The FCC is inviting public comments on a proposal from a Massachusetts ham to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to permit the encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations or related training exercises. On June 7 the FCC accepted for filing a [Petition for Rulemaking](#) (RM-11699) from Don Rolph, AB1PH, and put it on public notice. It will remain open for comment until July 8. Rolph petitioned the Commission in

March to suggest an additional exception to §97.113, which currently prohibits "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning."

"As such, encryption cannot be effectively supported by the Amateur Service," Rolph told the FCC in his *PRM*, "and this restriction has impacted the relationship of Amateur Radio volunteers and served agencies and significantly limited the effectiveness of amateurs in supporting emergency communications." He pointed out that Part 97 already relaxes its encryption prohibitions with respect to satellite control link communications and model craft radio control.

In his petition Rolph suggested excepting "intercommunications when participating in emergency services operations or related training exercises which may involve information covered by HIPAA [medical privacy requirements -- *Ed*] or other sensitive data, such as logistical information concerning medical supplies, personnel movement, other relief supplies or any other data designated by Federal authorities managing relief or training efforts."

Commenters may use the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)) to comment on RM-11699 online. --ARRL Letter

FCC CITATION TARGETS ONLINE RETAILER

The FCC has cited an Omaha, Nebraska based online retailer for marketing unauthorized RF devices, including high power 10 and 12 meter amplifiers, in violation of FCC rules. An FCC [Citation and Order](#) released June 6 orders Enterprise Group Inc, doing business as [ePowerAmps](#), to immediately stop advertising, marketing and selling "all unauthorized radio frequency devices, specifically modified Citizens Band (CB) radios and non-certified radio frequency (RF) amplifiers for use in the 10 and 12 meter bands" or face possible fines and seizure of equipment.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said it was reassuring to see evidence of the FCC's continuing commitment to enforcement relating to Amateur Radio. "It is gratifying to see the Commission's Enforcement Bureau taking action against flagrant violators," he commented. The Amateur Radio community has long complained about interference, mainly on 10 meters, from unlicensed CBers and so-called "HFers." The FCC once banned the sale of amplifiers capable of operating above 24 MHz, a move that some considered misguided and punitive to Amateur Radio licensees.

An agent from the FCC's Kansas City office observed on ePowerAmps' website "illegally modified CB radios being offered for sale," as well as various modifications and upgrades. These included swapping out the original final amplifier for a higher powered replacement. Linear amplifiers offered for sale varied between 120 W and 8200 W, and the Commission said none of the 50 linears offered for sale appeared to have FCC certification.

The FCC gave ePowerAmps 30 days to confirm "in writing" that it has stopped marketing unauthorized RF devices and to provide certain information to the Commission. --ARRL Letter

RSGB MARKS ITS CENTENARY ON AND OFF THE AIR

The Radio Society of Great Britain ([RSGB](#)) turns 100 this year. The [IARU](#) member-society represents Amateur Radio in the UK. The big day is July 5, Centenary Day, the anniversary of the Society's founding, when a commemorative plaque will be unveiled at Bletchley



Park -- famous for its secret World War II code-breaking activities. A Centenary dinner will follow. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, says the ARRL appreciates the importance of having strong national Amateur Radio societies around the world.

"No single Amateur Radio society can mount the kind of advocacy effort necessary at the international level to protect and advance the interests of Amateur Radio," she said. "However, working together under the auspices of the International Amateur Radio Union, the ARRL, the RSGB, and other national societies have been able to achieve positive outcomes for Amateur Radio worldwide. This has been true in the first century of the ARRL and the RSGB and will continue as our two organizations begin a second century of service to Amateur Radio and our members."

Special event call sign Gx100RSGB, where the x is replaced by the appropriate secondary station locator -- M, W, I, D, U and J, for example -- has been on the air since January 1. The UK's regulatory agency [Ofcom](#) has approved special prefixes GV, MV and 2V from July 5 through July 31. Individual licensees must [apply](#) to Ofcom for permission to use them.

The RSGB's Centenary Convention takes place October 11-13, preceded by a national hamfest in late September. The RSGB began as the London Wireless Club, established in 1913, a year before the ARRL got its start. By the end of its first year the club boasted more than 150 members. Today the RSGB has some 20,000 members. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

REPLY COMMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED IN 5 GHZ PROCEEDING

The FCC has extended until July 24 the deadline to file reply comments in its proceeding to allow unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices at 5 GHz. The FCC in February sought comment on making available an additional 195 megahertz of spectrum in the 5.35-5.47 GHz and 5.85-5.925 GHz bands for U-NII use. Reply comments are responses to comments already filed in the proceeding, [ET Docket 13-49](#). In comments filed in May on the FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)*, the ARRL told the FCC that a near-term decision with respect to adding U-NII devices to the 5.85-5.925 GHz band "would be premature," since no compatibility analysis has been completed.

U-NII devices use "wideband digital modulation techniques to provide a wide array of high data rate mobile and fixed communications for individuals, businesses, and institutions," the FCC explained in its *NPRM*.

The FCC extended the reply comment deadline in response to requests from two industry groups, IEEE 802 and the Wi-Fi Alliance. Amateur Radio 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. --ARRL Letter

LOCATION SERVICE DEPLOYMENT MAY CONSTRAIN 902-928 MHz AMATEUR USE

A portion of the 902-928 MHz (33 centimeter) band may become less useful to radio amateurs in urban areas as a result of an FCC [Order](#). The FCC has given Progeny LMS, LLC the okay to begin commercial operation of its multilateration location and monitoring service (M-LMS) on approximately 4 megahertz of the M-LMS portions of the band between 919.750 and 927.750 MHz where it holds licenses.

"Progeny is deploying a wide-area positioning system to provide more precise location services in areas where Global Positioning System (GPS) and other existing services may not work effectively, particularly indoors and in urban canyons," the FCC said in its *Order*, released June 6.

The FCC opened 33 centimeters to hams on a secondary basis (Amateur Radio is secondary on all bands above 420 MHz) in 1985, provided hams did not interfere with the automatic vehicle monitoring (AVM) service, subsequently expanded into the M-LMS. While M-LMS operations at least on paper have a higher priority than unlicensed Part 15 devices on the band, Progeny had to demonstrate through field testing that its network would not cause "unacceptable levels of interference" to such Part 15 devices as cordless telephones and baby monitors. The FCC said this was a result of its policy to promote "co-existence" in the band, while not elevating Part 15 devices to co-equal status with M-LMS systems.

In his "[It Seems to Us](#)" editorial in the June 2012 issue of *QST*, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out that effectively setting unlicensed services such as Part 15 at a higher priority than licensed services "is the reverse of the usual situation in which Part 15 devices are at the bottom of the pecking order." Federal (military) radiolocation and ISM Part 18 devices are at the top of the 902-928 MHz food chain. Sumner predicted in his editorial that operations such as Progeny's "will pose some new challenges for amateurs in a band that is already impacted by other users." On the other hand, he said, sharing bands with the military has helped Amateur Radio to stave off spectrum grabs from commercial interests. --ARRL Letter

NEW LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD SOFTWARE EASES UPLOADING

The recently released version of *Trusted QSL (TQSL)* software for Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) makes it much easier for users to upload logs to the worldwide contact repository. *TQSL* v. 1.14.1 may be downloaded from the LoTW page.

The new software lets users upload log files to LoTW *directly* from *Trusted QSL*, saving steps. It also will automatically check for updates, prompting users to download and install. Among other new features, any QSOs that have been successfully uploaded to LoTW or

saved to a file are registered in a database, and exact duplicates are automatically stripped from future logs (this feature may be disabled).

More than a half-billion contact records have been posted in LoTW since it began operation in 2003, resulting in some 72 million contact confirmations. Upgrading to version 1.14 is not mandatory. [Full information](#) on the advantages of upgrading is available on the LoTW website. --ARRL Letter

CALIFORNIA AMATEURS CLAIM NEW WORLD DISTANCE RECORD ON 3.7 MILLIMETER BAND

Mountain-topping radio amateurs in California are claiming a new world distance record on the 77 to 81 GHz band -- also known as "E band" -- a band many hams likely are unaware of and whose future is unclear. The claimed record was set June 13 between KF6KVG on a peak just east of San Jose and AD6IW in Kings Canyon National Park to the east-southeast.

"We achieved a distance of 252.49 km from Mt Hamilton (CM97di) to Kings Canyon National Park (DM06ms)," Goran Popovic, AD6IW, announced on the [50 MHz & Up Group](#) reflector. "We made two-way contact on FM and SSB with strong signals at both ends." Popovic was on the Kings Canyon end of the contact. The current E band record is 228 km, set in Germany between DL2AM and DL2GWZ.

According to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, this amateur band was first allocated internationally in 1979 as 75.5-81 GHz, with 75.5-76 GHz primary and the remainder secondary. When allocations below 76 GHz were realigned at WRC 2000, 75.5-76 GHz was deleted, 81-81.5 GHz was added as secondary, and the primary allocation was shifted to 77.5-78 GHz although only 77-81 GHz is available currently to amateurs in the US. Sumner says the band 77.5-78 GHz is under consideration at WRC 2015 for an allocation for automotive short-range radar, leaving the fate of the amateur primary allocation uncertain.

THE END OF THE COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPH? PLEASE QRS



Worldwide news media for several days have been proclaiming the impending demise of the telegram in India next month. Unfortunately various reporters and news outlets seem to have conflated the words "telegram" and "telegraph," with the result that many Morse code enthusiasts in the ham radio community have begun lamenting the occasion as the end of an era and perhaps even as another nail in CW's coffin. Here's what's really happening. Citing mounting financial losses, India's state-owned telecommunications outfit, [Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited](#) (BSNL), is ending its *telegram* service in

mid-July, but other telegram services in India will continue. Just the *state-run* service is calling it quits.

It's been many years since telegraphy was used to convey the content of a telegram in India. Today, telegrams at BSNL are routed to their destinations via the web using computer software -- essentially as Antique telegraph training set+email. Apparently for nostalgia's sake, however, when the last BSNL telegram in India is sent on July 15, the service will employ technology similar to that first used by the service when it began operation in 1850. British inventor and physician William O'Shaughnessy introduced telegram service in India that year, but he used a telegraphy code different from Morse's to send the message. --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

DAYTON HAMVENTION ATTENDANCE HOLDS STEADY – The [Dayton Hamvention website](#) has announced that 24,542 people attended Hamvention® 2013, approximately the same as last year's attendance. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)) has sponsored Hamvention since 1952. Originally called the Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention, the inaugural event, held in March in downtown Dayton, attracted 600 attendees -- twice the number anticipated. Hamvention attendance peaked at 33,669 in 1993, before the 1996 change in date from April to May. While attendance has fluctuated over the years, Dayton Hamvention has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring. On its website DARA already is counting down the days, hours and minutes until the next Dayton Hamvention, which takes place May 16, 17 and 18, 2014. --ARRL Letter

FCC SETS RF EXPOSURE REASSESSMENT COMMENTS DEADLINES – The Amateur Radio community and other interested parties have until September 3 to file comments on an FCC proceeding to reassess the limits and policies governing exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields. The FCC released a [First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry](#) in the proceeding (ET dockets 13-84 and 03-137) on March 27 and published in *The Federal Register* June 4. The ARRL plans to submit comments this summer. The Commission will accept reply comments -- ie, comments on the comments filed in the proceeding by September 3 -- until November 1. While the FCC proposals do *not* alter existing RF exposure limits, they do call for the elimination of existing special evaluation exemptions spelled out in [Section 97.13\(c\)](#) of the Commission's rules. Minor rules changes adopted in the *Report and Order* section of the document take effect August 5. -ARRL Letter

INTRUDER WATCH DOCUMENTS ODD BURSTS, BEEPS AND BUZZES ON THE BANDS – The [International Amateur Radio Union](#) Monitoring System (IARUMS) continues to observe and log suspect and apparently unauthorized operations that intrude on Amateur Radio allocations. For example, the May 2013 [IARUMS Region 1](#) (Europe) [Newsletter](#) reports an over-the-horizon (OTH) radar operating in Iran daily on 10 meters (26 to 30 MHz), transmitting bursts with 307 and 870 sweeps per second, 60 kHz wide and often jumping, covering 700 kHz and more. [IARUMS Region 3](#) (Oceania) volunteers also have reported hearing the OTH interference from Iran. Regulatory agencies in Switzerland and Germany have filed complaints without effect.

IARUMS volunteers in Region 1 also report BPSK daily military traffic from Ukraine on 15 meters. German authorities have formally complained. DGØJBJ reports having observed 11 OTH radars on 20 meters, 65 OTH radars on 15 meters and 30 OTH radars on 10 meters -- not including the OTH radars from Iran. IARUMS Region 3 volunteers further report ongoing "illegal use of 10 meters for local short-range communications in a number of Asian countries." Radio Amateurs in IARU Region 2 (the Americas) may report suspected intruders on *exclusive* Amateur Radio allocations to the [ARRL](#).

THE W9DXCC CONVENTION has reached the tender age of 61 and will be held on September 21st at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The banquet speaker will be ham radio's notable Nobel laureate, Joe Taylor K1JT. There will also be a session of DX University on September 20th from 9 AM to 5 PM - contact Jack W9MU for registration information. The full convention details and registration mechanics can be accessed online, as well. (Thanks, Jim N7US)

HERE'S A NEW RESOURCE FOR LICENSING AND UPGRADING HAMS: Icom America has announced their sponsorship for HamStudy.org, a new website that offers free learning tools for existing and potential amateur radio operators. The website was created by Richard Bateman (KD7BBC), Michael Stufflebeam (KV9G) and Rich Porter. The more learning tools we have, the better - thanks, Icom! (from QRZ DX for June 12, 2013)

HERE'S A WEBSITE THAT MAKES YOU SAY "WØW" - literally. The recent expedition to rare grid EN48 was deemed a great success, even making a QSO with Alaska. More photos and information are on the way and a pair of videos (number 1 and number 2) have been uploaded to YouTube. (Thanks to the KØSIX Group - KØMPP, KØSIX, KBØHNN, WAØVPJ, and K9MU)

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