

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST, 2013

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 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 JUNE MEETING** – Thanks to all who attended the June meeting! Jim, AF9A, gave a status report on the '88 repeater. The repeater has been operating normally, however, the remote receiver at Ivy Tech has not yet been installed, and the Echolink computer is still awaiting setup by David, N9KT. A date in the near future will be set for re-installation of the remote receiver. Our Club has four tables at the Indy Hamfest on July 13. We have about two pickup truck loads of stuff to sell being stored which need to be moved to the Hamfest on Friday, 7/12. Field Day results were discussed. K9RU told about his group's adventures and technical problems they had in Michigan. N9KZJ and AF9A reported the IRC/W9RCA joint FD at Camp Belzer was well organized and very successful. Noise level at the camp was low and band conditions were good! Several years ago, the Club had shirts embroidered with the RCA logo to sell to members. It was suggested we may want to do that again. Let us know if you'd be interested.

## NEXT TEST AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION --

**Time:** Saturday, August 10th at 12:00 pm  
**Location:** EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46254  
**Contact:** Jim Rinehart, K9RU, 317 495-1933, [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)

**STEVE MCWILLIAMS, N9SM, SK** – Many of us will remember Steve from his days at RCA during the period 1973 to 1978 and later at AT&T and Bell Labs. In the 70s Steve was an active member of our club and we used his call for several of our FD operations at the Victory Conservation Club site. Steve passed away on July 16, 2013. <http://www.obitsforlife.com/obituary/738210/McWilliams-Stephen.php>

**W9IMS MotoGP SPECIAL EVENT OPERATION ON AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>** - W9IMS has completed Indy 500 and the Brickyard 400 special event operations leaving one more special event operation, the MotoGP for 2013. If you are interested in operating at W9IMS contact Bill Kennedy, WY9T.

**CHECKOUT WW2IND AND W9ISF AT THE STATE FAIR** – Plans are to operate W9ISF, Indiana State Fair Special Event Station on PSK 31 on August 14<sup>th</sup>. WW2IND is located near the front gate.

**DOWNTOWN REPEATER REMOTE RECEIVER IS UP AND WORKING** – Jim AF9A, John receive sites are up and working. The one hour project ended up taking all morning. The link transmitter required some trouble shooting, but AF9A got it working.

**INDY HAMFEST IS A BIG SUCCESS** – Indy Hamfest was back at the Marion County Fair Grounds, weather was great and so was the crowd. I want to thank everyone who stopped by and helped with the booth. We did not have that much stuff to sell but still did great making enough to pay our expenses plus the club's insurance. One school from Kentucky came up to buy stuff from us to use in their classroom. The booth provides a great place to meet with many of the RCA hams and former RCA employees.

**THE MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IS OFFERING A 1-DAY TECH CLASS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2013** - The class runs 8 AM to 4 PM with testing beginning at 4 PM, test fee is \$15. A \$5 donation will cover lunch and snacks. Students are required to pre-purchase the *ARRL Ham Radio License Manual* and pre-register. This will be a condensed class and we recommend students study the material before class. Books are available for purchase at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). To register, contact [secretary@midstatehams.org](mailto:secretary@midstatehams.org).

Location: Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN, Basement Conference Room.

**IRCC ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 OUTSTANDING AMATEUR OF THE YEAR** – Nominations are being accepted for the 2013 Outstanding Amateur of the Year award. Each year the Indiana Radio Club Council selects an outstanding Indiana amateur radio operator from the nominations received. All nominees will be recognized along with the final winner. The 2013 award will be presented at the November 2013 Fort Wayne hamfest, during the IRCC forum. Nominations must be received no later than October 4, 2013. Past winners are not eligible to receive a second award.

Nominees are judged by their dedication to amateur radio as a hobby, and as a public service instrument. Some of the qualities the IRCC is looking for, include: on the air activities, such as net participation, Skywarn, ARES, RACES, Satern, Redcross, and other public service operations. Other qualities are participation as a ham radio mentor or instructor, club or organization involvement, forum presenter, speaker, volunteer examiner, and recruiter of new hams, especially the much needed younger generation. Please include as many details as possible about the above activities in your nomination.

Please, when receiving this announcement, forward it to other hams, ham clubs, or organizations that the IRCC may not have been able to contact. Pass this announcement around, there are some 75 ham clubs in the state of Indiana. Less than half are members of IRCC. This is a great chance to recognize the very best in our ham radio community.

Nominees need not be associated with an IRCC member club, any other ham radio club or organization, or the ARRL, to be honored. Any ham in the state of Indiana is eligible for this award.

**VERY IMPORTANT NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Submit as much detail about your nominee as possible.
2. List the nominees name, call sign, home address, email address, home phone and/or cell phone number.

3. List your (nominators) name, call sign, home address, email address, home and/or cell phone number.
  4. List your (nominators) name, call sign, home address, email address, home and/or cell phone number.
  5. Send nomination prior to the October 4 deadline.
- Submit questions or nominations to: Dennis Gilbey, K9JZZ, IRCC Vice Chairman  
k9jzz9@gmail.com or call 317-946-9721

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS

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](http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search) ARRL training page for test sessions  
<http://indyhams.org/events/> Indiana events and public service opportunities.

## RECEIVER IMMUNITY STANDARDS UNNECESSARY, IMPRACTICAL FOR AMATEUR SERVICE, ARRL SAYS

[Responding](#) to an FCC [call for comments](#) based in part on recommendations in a Technological Advisory Council (TAC) [white paper](#), the ARRL this week told the Commission that establishing so-called "harm claim threshold" (HCT) standards for receivers would not work in the Amateur Service. HCTs, expressed in field strength or power flux density, would specify the level of radio interference that receivers should be expected to tolerate before a radio service could claim harmful interference. Limits would be established throughout a service's assigned frequency range as well as within certain frequencies outside that range. The ARRL argued that there *is* a need for minimum, perhaps even mandatory, receiver performance standards for home electronic devices, but the Amateur Service should not be subject to receiver immunity standards.

"Any performance standards for Amateur receivers would be purely arbitrary, and would compromise the experimental purposes of the Service," the ARRL told the Commission. "Amateurs have the technical knowledge to differentiate between interference from spurious or out-of-band emissions from nearby transmitters and that caused by receiver deficiencies."

In the Amateur Service, the League continued, station-to-station interference issues are typically resolved cooperatively without FCC intervention and are "essentially not a problem." The issue for radio amateurs, the League said, is "protection from spurious and out-of-band emissions from other services."

Early last year then-FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski tasked the TAC with studying the role of receivers "in ensuring the efficient use of spectrum and to provide recommendations on avoiding obstacles posed by receiver performance to making spectrum available for new services." In late April, the FCC released a *Public Notice* ([ET Docket 13-101](#)), detailing the recommendations of the TAC's working group on receivers and spectrum in a white paper called *Interference Limits Policy -- The use of harm claim thresholds to improve the interference tolerance of wireless systems*. A General Accountability Office report in February recommended that the FCC "consider small-scale pilot tests and other methods to collect information on the practical effects of various options for improving receiver performance." The FCC accepted comments on both the TAC white paper and the GAO report.

The ARRL told the FCC that the HF environment is not conducive to fixed receiver standards and that it would be impossible to establish reasonable HCTs for HF radio equipment. "The most pressing need," the League said, "is for improved immunity of consumer electronic devices and systems. The Commission has had the authority to require this for many years, and has failed repeatedly to exercise it." Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

## AMSAT WANTS AMATEUR SATELLITES OFF US MUNITIONS LIST

[AMSAT](#) wants the federal government to confirm that the Amateur Satellite Service will not be subject to International Traffic in Arms Regulations ([ITAR](#)), as a result of export control reforms now underway. In May the US Department of State Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) [proposed changes](#) to the *US Munitions List (USML)* Category XV (Spacecraft Systems and Related Articles). The changes redefine satellites that would remain under the *USML*. Satellites *removed* from *USML* would be transferred to the Department of Commerce *Commerce Control List (CCL)*.

"We ask that the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls explicitly confirm that satellites, ground equipment, and associated technical data for items pertaining to the Amateur Satellite Service are not subject to the ITAR when the new Category XV provisions are implemented," AMSAT said in [comments](#) filed earlier this month "Over the past 43+ years AMSAT has been integral to the development of Amateur Radio communications spacecraft based upon the model of an all-volunteer organization that follows 'open source' practices and creates spacecraft that are very low cost, which also reflects relatively low levels of sophistication compared to commercial satellites," AMSAT said.

A related set of AMSAT [comments](#) went to the Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), which has proposed creating a separate CCL category for satellites formerly under ITAR. AMSAT asked that Amateur Satellite Service spacecraft and associated equipment be separately categorized and controlled, given the significant differences between commercial and Amateur Satellite Service spacecraft.

"We ask that the Department of Commerce recognize the relative impacts of regulatory oversight on small, not-for-profit scientific and education organizations such as AMSAT and to find ways to mitigate these impacts on both AMSAT and our volunteers," AMSAT said. Read [more](#). -- AMSAT News Service

## ARRL REITERATES CALL TO EVALUATE INTERFERENCE POTENTIAL OF 5 GHZ U-NII DEVICES

In [reply comments](#) filed July 24 with the FCC, the ARRL reiterated its argument that any decision to authorize unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices at 5 GHz "should await a full and complete evaluation of interference potential and interference mitigation techniques among the varied and incumbent users." The Amateur Service has a secondary allocation at 5650-5925 MHz in the US. Earlier this year the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in [ET Docket 13-49](#), seeking comments 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.

"The comments of the National Telecommunications & Information Administration ([NTIA](#)) indicate that NTIA shares the same concern that ARRL has raised repeatedly in earlier proceedings concerning the 5 GHz band: that the *aggregate* interference potential of ubiquitous U-NII devices to incumbent radio services...is currently unknown," the League told the FCC.

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*. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

## BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE HOSTS SPACE STATION HAM RADIO CONTACT

European Space Agency Astronaut [Luca Parmitano](#), KF5KDP, aboard the International Space Station spoke July 20 via ham radio with Scouts attending the 2013 [Boy Scouts of America](#) National Jamboree, July 15-24, at the [Summit Bechtel Reserve](#) in Mount Hope, West Virginia. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program arranged the 2 meter contact between the Scouts' [K2BSA](#) and NA1SS.

"What really matters is to be good at what you do," Parmitano told the Scouts. "So, pick something you like, love it and be really good at it." Parmitano also said that the stars look different -- more natural -- from the ISS but appear the same size as on Earth, as do the planets.

ARISS Technical Mentor Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, coordinated the contact with the Jamboree. Some 40,000 attendees were anticipated at the National Jamboree over its 10 day run. Amateur radio has been a part of the Jamboree experience since 1953, when K6BSA was on the air from Irvine Ranch in California. An ARISS direct contact with Space Station Commander Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, was a highlight of K2BSA's activities during the BSA's centennial National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, in 2010.

On July 22, students at [Colegio Uruguayá](#), in El Pinar, Uruguay, spoke with the ISS crew via LU8YY. An ARISS contact also was scheduled this with students at the [Scuola Italiana di Montevideo](#) in Uruguay.

Visitors to the [European Space Agency's Space Camp 2013](#) in Radstadt, Austria, spoke July 24 with the ISS crew via a telebridge between IRØISS and VK4KHZ. The theme of this year's camp is "Space Exploration." Read [more](#).

ARISS is an international educational outreach with participation from ARRL, [NASA](#), [ESA](#), the [Russian Space Agency](#) (ROSCOSMOS), [CNES](#), [JAXA](#), [CSA](#) and [AMSAT](#). - ARRL Letter

## HAM CLUB RELOCATING GEAR FROM TOWER TOPPLED BY VANDALS

In the wake of what authorities in California believe is a case of vandalism that led to the collapse of a 200 foot radio tower on the West Coast, the [Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club](#) plans to relocate its gear from the Rocky Ridge tower site to another tower nearby. Jim Siemons, AF6PU, says his club's repeater committee decided this week to remove MDARC's heavily used 144.390 MHz packet/APRS digipeater from the equipment vault on Rocky Ridge as soon as the club can get physical access.

"The plan is to, at least temporarily, relocate the digipeater to the North Peak of Mount Diablo, where we are now building an ATV repeater system," Siemons told ARRL, adding that the move could happen as soon as Saturday. "The North Peak of Mount Diablo should offer packet and APRS coverage to the majority of Northern California," he added.

Despite the tower collapse, the club's radio systems continued to work. "Even though the prostrated tower with our antenna lay flat on the ground, our packet system faithfully continued to operate for a couple of days subsequent to the collapse," Siemons noted. He said American Tower Corporation has indicated that it plans to restore some of the most critical public safety radio services within a week.

Late on July 28 or early on July 29, authorities say, vandals apparently cut several guy wires supporting the Rocky Ridge radio tower, located in the hills of the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness above San Ramon and Danville, causing the 200 foot structure to crash to the ground. Siemons says the Rocky Ridge Tower "has been a key communications tower for amateur, commercial, and public safety radio operators, alike."

Until the tower is restored, Siemons predicted "challenges with coverage" in certain coverage areas. KCBS Radio in San Francisco this week reported that police were investigating the tower collapse. No injuries occurred. Damage could go as high as \$1 million. A Contra Costa County Fire official told the radio station that the tower collapse had affected some dispatch services in the western part of the county, but police say backup systems headed off any disruptions. According to KCBS, police "are trying to determine why vandals would target the tower, which is located in a remote area of the park behind multiple gates and fences." -- *Thanks to Jim Siemons, AF6PU, and KCBS Radio –ARRL Letter*

## SHORTS

**LAST OF VOA'S WARTIME TRANSMITTING STATIONS GOES DARK** – The Voice of America's Delano shortwave transmitting station is difficult to ignore. Even though it's set back nearly two miles from California's Route 99, the massive metal antenna structures rising from the almond groves and citrus orchards can't help but command the attention of motorists. The sheer size of the installation makes it appear intriguingly close to the highway, yet few motorists ever stop to investigate. After the sun sets, the station begs attention with the bluish-white pulsing of strobe lights and red beacons, too numerous to even begin counting from a moving car...

Here is a link to the full length version of this article published in *Radio World*, in 2008. Interesting history!

<http://www.rwonline.com/article/last-of-voas-wartime-transmitting-stations-goes-dark/20235>

**TOM CHRISTIAN, VP6TC/VR6TC, SK** – Tom Christian, VP6RC/VR6TC, a long-time radio amateur who became known as "the Voice of Pitcairn," died July 7 on the tiny South Pacific Island that was his lifelong home. He was 78 and a descendent of Fletcher Christian of "Mutiny on the *Bounty*" fame.

In 2009 he was diagnosed with possible Alzheimer's disease. According to his wife Betty, VP6YL/VR6YL, his health "deteriorated all too quickly," and the last few months were, in her words, "cruel ones to watch such a strong, vibrant man reduced to where he was not really aware of his surroundings."

Tom was first licensed in 1957. Over the years, he and Betty kept in routine radio contact with their ham radio friends overseas as well as with two of their daughters who are hams. He was buried July 8 in the cemetery on Pitcairn. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#), *NN1N*, *KI5DR* and *OH2BR*

**MONITORING TIMES TO CEASE PUBLICATION**-- [Monitoring Times](#) magazine will cease publication at year's end after 33 years. "We will publish through the December 2013 issue," publisher Bob Grove, W8JHD, told ARRL. "The decision wasn't an easy one, but economics played a greater part than personal. Judy and I are in excellent health, but the gradual drift downward of subscribers and advertisers made the decision clear."

Grove said that if a subscription runs beyond the end of the year, subscribers should [e-mail](#) or call the office at 800-438-8155 to arrange a refund.

*Monitoring Times*, which promotes itself as "The World of Radio All in One Place," covers -- among other topics -- shortwave and broadcast listening, scanning, military, maritime, and aviation monitoring, equipment reviews, clandestine stations, and public safety monitoring.

Commented Dan, VR2HF, after the news item appeared on [QRZ.com](#), "Sad to see them go. They were best in their class!" Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

**WAKE ATOLL K9W DXPEDITION PREPARATIONS ON TRACK** – The [Wake Atoll 2013 Commemorative DXpedition](#) team reports that preparations for its planned K9W [operation](#) this fall are "progressing nicely." Most of the needed equipment is in hand and being checked out before shipment to staging areas in California and Hawaii. The operation will commemorate 98 US civilian contractors -- "[The Forgotten 98](#)" -- who died on the atoll during World War II in October 1943.

"Our operation, observing the 70th anniversary of their deaths, will be dedicated to keeping their memory alive and honoring their sacrifice," the team said in a recent news release.

A contingent of 12 operators is being assembled with plans to operate five stations over a 14-day period on all modes, 160 through 6 meters. The team anticipates that the operation will start the last week of September or first week of October, depending on the military flight schedule into and out of Wake Atoll.

The Wake Atoll DXpedition is the recipient of an ARRL [Colvin Award](#). -- *K9W Wake Atoll Management Team*

**HAMS WIN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS AWARDS –** [Broadband-Hamnet™](#) (formerly HSMM-Mesh™) firmware, developed by Amateur Radio operators to provide hams with a high-speed digital wireless communication mesh network, has won both US and global awards from the International Association of Emergency Managers ([IAEM](#)). The USA Council of the IAEM International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) designated Broadband Hamnet as a Division 2 (state/regional national government, international, or nonprofit organization) Technology and Innovation Award winner. It went on to win the IAEM-Global Technology and Innovation Award in the same division. The awards will be presented in October at the IAEM's annual conference in Reno, Nevada. The firmware was the subject of a cover story article in the July 2013 issue of *QST*, "A Broadband Ham Network Crosses the Finish Line," by Lynn Jelinski, AG4IU. Read [more](#).

The IAEM also named Monte Fronk, KCØWMC, and Randolph Mantooth as co-winners of its 2013 IAEM-USA [Public Awareness Award](#) Certificate of Recognition. Fronk and Mantooth were recognized for developing and creating "Strength and Resiliency: Emergency Preparedness for Tribal Leaders," a 30 minute training video designed to educate elected Tribal leaders about disaster preparedness. Mantooth was one of the stars of the 1970s TV program "Emergency," which has been credited with inspiring a generation of firefighters and paramedics. -- *Thanks to Broadband-Hamnet webmaster Jim Kinter, K5KTF, and to Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C, Chief, Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs*

**2013 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE –** Mark your calendar and start making plans to attend the premier technical conference of the year, the [32nd Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference](#) to be held **September 20-22, 2013**, in Seattle, WA.

The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference 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. Topics include, but are not limited to: Software Defined Radio (SDR), digital voice, digital satellite communications, Global Position System (GPS), precision timing, Automatic Position Reporting System® (APRS), short messaging (a mode of APRS), Digital Signal Processing (DSP), HF digital modes, Internet interoperability with Amateur Radio networks, spread spectrum, IEEE 802.11 and other Part 15 license-exempt systems adaptable for Amateur Radio, using TCP/IP networking over Amateur Radio, mesh and peer to peer wireless networking, emergency and Homeland Defense backup digital communications, using Linux in Amateur Radio, updates on AX.25 and other wireless networking protocols. ...[Read more](#)

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