

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

AUGUST, 2014

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),

5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JULY MEETING – At the 8 July meeting plans for the Indy Hamfest were discussed. We have a few pickup loads of stuff to haul from K9RU's house to the Fairgrounds on Friday afternoon. Also, we'll need help selling the stuff on Saturday. Field Day went well with reasonably good WX and "fair" band conditions. K9RU reported on the next round(s) of the W9IMS special event operations. The new FCC licensing procedures were discussed for ham with expired licenses. EJ, KK9EJ, reported that there is a DMR repeater on 441.200 in Indy. (DMR is a linked digital system started by Motorola amateur radio clubs.)

K9SGK TAKES INDY HAMFEST PRIZE – Congratulations to Steve, K9SGK, on winning the grand prize, a Comet CAA-500 Antenna Analyzer. The Hamfest was a success, the crowd was good, and the weather cooperated, holding off with the showers until the show was almost over.

We would like to thank all of the club members that helped out at the club booth. We did quite well selling the stuff and still have some left for next year.

NEXT TEST AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION – August 9, Saturday

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Jim Rinehart, K9RU. k9ru@arrl.net 317 495-1933

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indy, IN 46254-2407

INDY REZONE – Chris, KC9SRV, passes along the following: Indy Rezone is an initiative by the city of Indianapolis to totally update zoning in Marion County. There are some good changes proposed allowing amateur radio antennas as accessory uses in all zones. Currently they are not allowed in D-11, C-1, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-7, C-2 (now MU-1), C-3C (now MU-2), I-1-U&S, I-2-U&S, I-3-U&S, I-4- U&S, CBD-1, CBD-2, and CBD-3 districts.

They are carrying over the current 75' antenna height restriction and prohibition on locating in the front yard. If the ham community would like to alter that restriction now might be a good time to get involved - it is probably easier to make changes when the whole thing is being revised then after. Also right now everyone is distracted by the fight over allowing roosters.

The ham radio part is under [Article III](#), Section 06.D. The use table showing the newly allowed zoning are in [Article II](#) Table 743-1 page 24. I appreciate your feedback, Chris H., KC9SRV

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Aug 9	TARA Hamfest, Lafayette, IN http://w9reg.org/hamfest/index.htm
Aug 23	Owen - Monroe County Hamfest, Spencer, IN http://www.owencountyara.org/
Sept 6	Indiana State Parks On The Air 1600z-2400z http://inpota.com/
Sept 6 - 7	Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride, N9FEB@comcast.net or at (317) 753-8691
Sept 13 – 15	ARRL Sept VHF Contest 1800z – 0259z
Sept 20	Hancock ARC Hamfest, Greenfield, IN http://www.w9atg.org/

Sept 27	Indianapolis Radio Club Hill Top Operating Event http://www.indyradioclub.org/irchilltop.html
Oct 4	Hoosier Hills Hamfest, Mitchell, IN http://www.w9qyq.org/hamfest
Oct 11 - 12	Hilly Hundred, Bloomington ARC, Tom, KC9IRG tmyers@bluemarble.net
Oct 18	Indianapolis Marathon, Lawrence, IN, N9FEB@comcast.net
Oct 25	Hoosier Hikers: Knobstone Run, contact Brian Elliott, n9jpx09@yahoo.com
Nov 15	Ft. Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC.

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues> Contests updates

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> ARRL Special Event Stations page

http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search ARRL training page for test sessions

<http://indyhams.org/events/> Indiana events and public service opportunities.

FEMA AND ARRL SIGN AGREEMENT; FEMA ADMINISTRATOR CALLS HAM RADIO "RESILIENT"

The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) have announced a *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)* that will enhance cooperation between the League and FEMA in the area of disaster communication. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the agreement July 18 during the ARRL National Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut.

"Radio is one of the most resilient communications technologies we have," Fugate said. "When the power is out and telecommunications are down, the Amateur Radio community can serve as a vital resource in support of emergency responders and survivors during a disaster. This MOA will strengthen FEMA's partnership with ARRL and build upon our work to expand emergency communications capabilities and the use of Amateur Radio in emergency management."

The new agreement will allow FEMA and ARRL to work together to provide resources, services and personnel, as available, in order to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, while also raising public awareness about the use of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource. The pact also outlines the ways in which FEMA and ARRL will cooperate to carry out their respective responsibilities, with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations in the event of a natural or manmade disaster.

Craigie said that from radio's earliest days of experimentation to the present, ham radio volunteers have combined a passion for technology with a devotion to assisting agencies that respond to disasters. "This combination of inventiveness and service has saved lives for a century," she said. "We look forward to working with FEMA to further develop opportunities for trained, equipped and prepared Amateur Radio operators to serve the public interest whenever and wherever disasters affect our country and its communities."

Fugate echoed his afternoon remarks as the keynote speaker at the ARRL National Centennial Convention Banquet Friday evening. He said that before he even became FEMA administrator, it became clear to him that Amateur Radio could support ad hoc communication without relying on conventional communication systems. "The more sophisticated our systems become, the more fragile they become," he told the gathering of some 900 dinner guests. He again emphasized the need for resiliency in communication systems, and asked, "How many public safety networks can come close to ham radio's bandwidth?"

"The relevancy of ham radio only grows," he asserted. "Amateur Radio is taking that hobby and turning it into saving lives." --ARRL Letter

FCC PROPOSES SUBSTANTIAL FINES FOR TWO RADIO AMATEURS ALLEGING DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE, FAILURE TO IDENTIFY

The FCC Enforcement Bureau came down hard on two radio amateurs this week, proposing substantial fines for alleged deliberate interference with other Amateur Radio communications -- in one case by transmitting music and animal noises -- and failure to properly identify. In similar *Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NALs)* released July 22, the Commission proposed fining Michael Guernsey, KZ8O (ex-ND8V), of Parchment, Michigan, \$22,000, and Brian Crow, K3VR, of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, \$11,500. In both cases, the FCC said the evidence indicated that the transmissions at issue were aimed at interfering with other radio amateurs with whom each "has had a long-standing and well-documented dispute" that had spilled out onto the air.

The FCC in both instances responded last March to "several complaints of intentional interference" on 14.313 MHz. Commission agents used radio direction-finding techniques to pin down the source of the transmissions. According to the [NAL issued to Guernsey](#), the FCC agents monitored transmissions from his station for approximately 40 minutes on March 7, 2014, "and heard him transmit a pre-recorded song and various animal noises on the frequency."

According to the [NAL issued to Crow](#), FCC agents monitored transmissions from his station for approximately 3 hours on the morning of March 14, 2014, and heard him transmit slow-scan television (SSTV) signals and "a pre-recorded voice transmission of another amateur station on the frequency."

"These transmissions prevented other amateur licensees from communicating over the frequency," the *NALs* said, adding that neither Guernsey or Crow transmitted their assigned call signs while the agents were listening.

The FCC agents later the same day visited Crow's residence and asked to inspect his station, which they confirmed was capable of operating on 14.313 MHz. Crow denied operating his station that morning, however, and claimed that he was not at home when the interfering transmissions occurred.

The Enforcement Bureau has warned both Guernsey and Crow in the past regarding interference to other Amateur Radio operators. In Crow's case, the FCC said the fact that he subsequently interfered with other amateur operators "demonstrates a deliberate disregard for the Commission's authority," and warranted an upward adjustment of \$3500 to his proposed base forfeiture. Guernsey first came to the Enforcement Bureau's attention in the late 1990s and, the FCC said in the *NAL*, "has a history of causing interference to the communications of other Amateur Radio operators and has been warned repeatedly in writing." Guernsey's lengthy history with the Commission warranted an upward adjustment of \$14,000 to his proposed base forfeiture.

The Commission gave both licensees 30 days to pay their fines or to file written statements "seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture."

The *NALs* to Guernsey and Crow came in the wake of a June 5 *Notice of Violation (NoV)* alleging that Thomas Ryan Price, W7WL, of Sweet Home, Oregon, caused malicious interference to other radio communications on 3908 kHz, transmitted music on the same frequency, and failed to properly identify.
--ARRL Letter

HAM RADIO AIDS IN RESCUE OF INJURED COLORADO HIKER

While Bill Eberle, AB0MY, of Boulder, Colorado, and his wife Mary were hiking in the back country on July 21, they encountered a team of paramedics rendering aid to a 67-year-old man -- Michael Schuett, of Bloomfield, Colorado -- who had lost his footing while crossing a stream. Schuett had struck his head on a boulder and was found unconscious and face down in the water by another hiker, who had pulled him to safety. The paramedics, en route to a youth camp, also had stumbled onto the scene.

Lacking cell telephone coverage, Eberle put out a distress call on the hand-held transceiver he always takes along when he hikes. Promptly answering his call on the statewide Colorado Connection

Repeater system was Ryan Frederick, KD0TSZ, in Colorado Springs. Frederick contacted the Boulder County Sheriff's office. Authorities quickly turned to Scott Whitehead, KA0QPT, of Longmont, a sheriff's department radio specialist and 30-year veteran of the Rocky Mountain Rescue Team. Whitehead was able to contact Eberle via the repeater network, and the two coordinated equipment and rescue personnel.

Schuett was evacuated from the scene, treated at an area hospital, and released. He credited ham radio for bringing the rescuers to him. -- *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire*

CINCINNATI BPL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER PULLS THE PLUG ON ITS SYSTEM

A Cincinnati, Ohio, broadband-over-powerline ([BPL](#)) Internet service provider is throwing in the towel and yielding to more modern technology. Cincinnati Communications pulled the plug on its BPL system on August 1, according to a [report](#) on *The Enquirer* newspaper's Cincinnati.com website.

"The failure of the Cincinnati system will come as no surprise to anyone familiar with BPL technology," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, commented. "It's rather remarkable that they managed to keep it going this long."

Thomas Balun of Broadband Ventures LLC, which operates Cincinnati Communications, told *The Enquirer* that the company essentially would be starting over from scratch with more up-to-date technology. "The technology to subscribers' homes was really antiquated," Balun told *The Enquirer*. "We tried to figure out how to convert subscribers, but we can't do it. We have to shut the system down and start over."

The Enquirer report said Cincinnati Communications customers had endured "on-again, off-again service" with the BPL system, with some service outages lasting for days.

Balun conceded that the technology "was painfully slow," the Cincinnati.com report said, and the company plans to upgrade to an optical fiber system.

The Cincinnati system was never a significant source of interference to radio amateurs, Sumner said, because it used Current Technologies hardware. "The medium-voltage lines used low-band VHF frequencies," he explained. "The drops to homes used HF, but with the ham bands notched." Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

SPECIAL EVENT PLANNED THIS FALL ON 630 METERS

Experimental operators on 600/630 meters will conduct a special event operation October 31-November 2. The Maritime Radio Historical Society ([MRHS](#)), which maintains the KPH/KSM commercial coast stations, will take part in the event.

"This event marks the 106th anniversary of the Berlin Treaty that created the international distress frequency at 500 kHz," said [ARRL 600 Meter Experimental Group](#) Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR. "This will be a CW event."

Raab said some stations will operate beacons on the experimental band, transmitting anniversary messages, while others will simulate the sort of maritime communication that once occurred in this part of the medium-wave spectrum. They will call CQ on a designated calling frequency and then change frequency to complete the contact. Silent periods will be observed.

The activity will occur between 465 and 480 kHz and between 495 and 510 kHz. "Different licensees have different frequency authorizations," Raab noted. "The designated calling frequencies are 475 kHz for the lower band, and 500 kHz for the upper band."

Raab noted that this may be the last such event that includes operations on 500 kHz itself. "This band is not being included on new experimental licenses, as it is supposedly reserved for a new maritime-data service," he explained. He said he anticipates that more information will be released as the event

draws closer. –ARRL

INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB HILL TOP OPERATING EVENT SEPTEMBER 27TH

The IRC Hill Top Operating Event September 27, starting at 1300 UTC and ends at 1700 UTC (9:00 am to 1:00 pm EDT). This is a 4 hour contest with the objective to contact as many stations as possible that are operating portable from hilltop [locations](#).

Entry Categories:

Unlimited Hilltop—Registered temporary stations operating on any number of band/mode combinations recognized by these rules from a hilltop [location](#) with an unlimited number of operating positions, antennas, operators, and non-operating assistants or helpers.

Limited Hilltop—Registered temporary stations operating on no more than three band/mode combinations recognized by these rules from a hilltop location with no more than two operators. Limited Hilltop stations may use any number of non-operating assistants or helpers during station and antenna assembly and disassembly.

Single-operator Hilltop—Registered temporary stations operating on no more than three band/mode combinations recognized by these rules from a hilltop location with only one operator. Single-operator Hilltop stations may use no more than one non-operating assistant or helper during station and antenna assembly and disassembly.

Non-Hilltop—Permanent or temporary stations operating on any number of band/mode combinations recognized by these rules from a home or non-hilltop location.

All entries in a Hilltop category must be pre-registered with the event manager. Pre-registrations will be accepted until 11:59 pm EDT on the Thursday before the event by sending an email to w9bu@arrl.net. Pre-registration email to include the hilltop name, the approximate latitude and longitude of the hilltop, the elevation of the hilltop, the callsign the entrant plans to use for the event, and the band/mode combinations the entrant plans to operate.

Contest Exchange: Hilltop stations send hilltop name, hilltop elevation, and signal report. All others send signal report.

Suggested Frequencies: 10m SSB — 28.400 MHz, 6m SSB — 50.200 +/- 25 kHz, 6m FM — 52.550 +/- 20 kHz, 2m SSB — 144.250 +/- 25 kHz & 2m FM — 146.460 +/- 30 kHz.

See for more details: <http://www.indyradioclub.org/irchilltop.html>

AMATEUR RADIO, THE 1950s

[Editor's note: The ARRL has been publishing a lot of amateur radio history in the past few months. A couple of weeks ago, they covered the 1950s, a time when some of us were just getting into the hobby.]

This week, we'll look at the 1950s. Danny Weil, VP2VB, began his well-known series of *Yasme* DXpeditions around the world in 1955, putting some rare countries on the air. That series lasted until 1963, and it gave thousands of DXers the opportunity to work some new ones.

In the mid-1950s, The FCC ran out of 1 × 3 call signs with W and K prefixes and began reissuing lapsed W and K call signs. When those ran out, they went on to 2 × 3 call signs with WA (and, later, WB) prefixes.

The log periodic antenna -- a new and very useful concept -- was introduced to hams in the late 1950s. It had been developed by D.E. Isbell at the University of Illinois.

Late in 1958, hams lost the shared use of 11 meters, which then became the Class D Citizens Band.

During the late 1950s, amateurs continued to push the limits of VHF and higher bands. W6NLZ and

KH6UK ran regular schedules on VHF and succeeded in making two-way contact on 144 MHz in 1957, and on 220 MHz in 1959.

Another Amateur Radio first took place in 1960, when the first EME (moonbounce) [contact](#) was made on 1296 MHz between W6HB in California and W1BU in Massachusetts.

During the 1950s and 1960s, The USSR and the US were in the midst of the so-called "Cold War." Fearing that Soviet bombers could home in on radio signals to find their targets, the CONELRAD (CONtrol of ELectromagnetic RADiation) system went into effect from 1957 to 1962. For their part hams were required to (1) monitor an AM broadcast station at least every 10 minutes to be sure it was still on the air; and (2) shut down, if broadcast stations went off the air. In the event of such an emergency, key 50 kW AM stations would move to either 640 or 1240 kHz to broadcast emergency information. The stations on each of those frequencies would go on and off the air in a continually varying sequence, while all carried the same audio to provide continuous information to the public. -- *Al Brogdon, W1AB*

PARTY BALLOON CARRYING AMATEUR RADIO PAYLOAD CIRCLES THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

A simple party-style balloon carrying a 434 MHz solar-powered Amateur Radio transmitter is nearing the end of its [trip](#) around the Northern Hemisphere. Launched on July 12 from the UK by [Leo Bodnar](#), M0XER, the so-called [B-64](#) balloon is expected to complete its final transatlantic crossing over Cornwall in the UK on July 31 or August 1. It then is expected to continue east into Europe. So far the balloon has traveled some 15,500 miles and traveled over 17 countries.

Radio amateurs and listeners within range may be able to copy B-64's Contestia 64/1000 digital mode signal on 434.500 MHz USB. While over the UK, the balloon will alternate Contestia transmissions with APRS, also on 434.500 MHz. The tiny transmitter runs just 10 mW output and weighs 11 grams.

The balloon has been [tracked](#) along the way using APRS and the UK High Altitude Society ([UKHAS](#)) network over Europe, Siberia, and even briefly over North Korea before heading over Japan. It briefly passed over the US before swinging north into Canada. UKHAS reports that OX3XR in Greenland copied the B-64 transmission on July 29. The "B-64" designation denotes the number of similar balloons Bodnar has launched. The transmitter stores positions during its flight and transmits a log file displaying 5 days of previous locations in the comments field of its APRS transmissions. Bodnar's [B-63](#) balloon is said to be about 12 hours behind B-64.

SHORTS

ASTRONAUTS ANDY THOMAS, VK5MIR, AND DAVE LEESTMA, N5QWC, RETIRE FROM NASA – Astronauts Andy [Thomas](#), VK5MIR/ex-KD5CHF, and Dave [Leestma](#), N5WQC, have announced their retirements from NASA. Both operated on ham radio from space, and Thomas, as the last US astronaut to complete a duty tour onboard the Russian *Mir* space station, conducted several contacts with students on Earth as part of the SAREX program, the predecessor of [ARISS](#).

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