

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEBRUARY, 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEB 10th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY MEETING -- Thanks to all who attended the January meeting!

Field Day, results from last year, and advanced planning for this year were discussed. Jim, K9RU, reminded us of the January ARRL VHF contest. The club did renew the liability insurance. EJ, KK9EJ, gave us a demo of the local DMR repeater system. Here's a link to an online stream of the local DMR repeater. <http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/19156/web> Every Tuesday at 8pm is a statewide net.

NEXT TEST AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION --

Time: Saturday, Feb. 14th, 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd., Indianapolis, IN

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

IRC MEETING WILL FEATURE DAVE ARLAND -- The Indianapolis Radio Club meeting on Friday February 13th, will feature Dave Arland (<http://www.arlandcom.com/>). Previously Dave was Vice President of Marketing for Thomson's RCA Consumer Electronics Division, and Press Secretary to Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hudnut during his fourth term, and "The Gadget Guy" on WIBC. Dave will be speaking on upcoming technologies.

BROWNSBURG HAMFEST RETURNS IN FEBRUARY - The 4th Annual Brownsburg Hamfest Sponsored by the Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society will be on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at the American Legion Post 331 located at 636 East Main St. in Brownsburg. Setup will be on Friday the 13th from 3pm till 7:30pm. Setup will also start at 6am on Saturday Morning, the day of the Hamfest. Doors will open at 7am for the Hamfest, which runs through 3pm. Admission is \$5 at the door, parking is free. Vendors tables with power are \$15 and \$10 without power. Table sales available at the door both days. (Bring your own power strips and extension cords) Food Service put on by the American Legion. Talk-In will be on the 147.015 repeater. --IRC

For more information and table reservations contact Wayne Fox, KE9P, at hcars46122@gmail.com

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Feb 14 Hendricks County Hamfest, Brownsburg, IN <http://www.hcars.org/>
Feb 21-22 ARRL International DX Contest CW <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
Mar 7-8 ARRL International DX Contest Phone <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
Mar 14 Terre Haute Hamfest, Brazil, IN <http://w9uuu.org/>
Mar 21 [Sam Costa Run \(Hamilton County\)](#)
Mar 28 Columbus ARC Hamfest, Columbus, IN <http://carcnet.net>
Apr 18 [Carmel Marathon \(Hamilton County\)](#) KF9ZA@kremer.com
May 15-17 Dayton Hamvention
Jun 27-28 ARRL Field Day
July 11 Indy Hamfest

FCC "PAPERLESS" AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 17

Starting on February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), although the FCC has routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. That will stop next month.

In mid-December, the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had [proposed](#) in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives. Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees will also be able to print out an official authorization -- as well as an unofficial "reference copy" -- from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In [comments](#) filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

Under the new procedures, a new license applicant who already has an FRN and provides a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official ULS-generated electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants lacking an FCC Registration Number will receive in the mail an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES), but will no longer automatically receive a license document; they must request one by changing their "Paper Authorization Preference" in the ULS License Manager.

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had been using was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact [FCC Support](#) via the web, telephone, or mail to request paper licenses.

--ARRL Letter

QRZ LOGBOOK NOW OFFERING RECIPROCAL CONFIRMATION CREDIT AND LOTW DOWNLOAD

[QRZ Logbook](#) now recognizes contact confirmations from ARRL's Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). QRZ Logbook users now can download their contacts from LoTW directly into their QRZ Logbook. Contacts that exist in LoTW but not in QRZ Logbook will be added to your QRZ Logbook. LoTW automatically puts contacts made under a previous call sign into a user's current call sign account. QRZ will automatically put contacts into the logbook associated with the call sign used when the contact was logged.

"Not only will this improve your confirmation rates, because you are receiving credit for your confirmations on LoTW, but it will also import records that exist on LoTW and not QRZ Logbook," QRZ.com said in announcing the new service. "Those QSOs may match another record on QRZ, resulting in even more confirmations."

In addition, all contact data in your LoTW database -- whether or not the contact is new to your QRZ account -- will include the LoTW QSL Received Date, as well as the LoTW Sent (Y/N) flag set in the QRZ Logbook. Contacts confirmed in LoTW, whether or not they are new to QRZ, will automatically be confirmed in your QRZ Logbook. Read [more](#). -- QRZ.com

THE FUN HAS BEGUN: K1N NAVASSA ISLAND DXPEDITION IS ON THE AIR!

Decisions, decisions. Watch the Super Bowl or try to work the [K1N Navassa Island DXpedition](#)? Given that the Super Bowl happens every year and that a chance to work Navassa Island (KP1) might not happen again for another 10 years, a multitude of North American operators picked the latter option. Many elsewhere in the world apparently were in less of a quandary. The K1N team operators fired up on 40 and 80 meter CW sometime around 0100 UTC, welcomed by gargantuan pileups — with stations stretching 10 to 20 kHz or more up the band from K1N's transmit frequency. Preparations are under way to expand operation to other bands.

Stations trying to work K1N should *not* transmit on the DXpedition's frequency. K1N will *always* be operating split frequency.



K1N on 30M CW, 10.108 MHz, Jan 3, 00:00UTC. My receiver passband is the green shaded area. Guess he's "listening up!" --AF9A

The US Fish and Wildlife Service ([USFWS](#)) controls access to Navassa Island (KP1), and it's been more than 22 years since it was last activated. [ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List](#) puts Navassa Island at #2 overall, right behind North Korea. (KP1 is #1 on phone, #5 on CW, and #4 on digital modes.) K1N will not be operating on all modes on all bands but plans to limit most bands to a specific mode, "so that we can work the pileups down to the last little pistol," the team has said.

Once on the island, the DXpedition team members reported strong winds, high temperatures, rats as large as cats, scorpions, black widow spiders, and even some Haitians. Eight team members had arrived on the island as of February 1. Six remain in Jamaica.

The team is hoping to have four to six stations up and running by the end of the day (February 2). Plans call for K1N to remain on the air for approximately 10 days.

Late last week, a station, apparently in Europe, was pirating the K1N call sign on CW and RTTY. --ARRL Letter

ARRL BOARD OKAYS CHANGES TO DXCC PROGRAM, VHF AND ABOVE CONTESTING RULES

The ARRL Board of Directors has tweaked the DX Century Club ([DXCC](#)) rules to clarify and expand their recognition of remotely controlled station technology. It has also added a rule that puts greater ethical responsibility on operators with respect to remotely controlled operation. In addition, the Board adopted changes to the ARRL VHF/UHF contest rules that are aimed at encouraging greater participation. The Board took the actions during its annual meeting January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut.

The [DXCC Rules](#) changes, which affect Section I, subsections 8 and 9, explain and extend how contacts with remotely controlled stations now may be applied toward the DXCC award. According to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, the changes are subtle but significant. The modified rules make clear that contacts with legally licensed, land-based, remotely controlled stations count for DXCC, but the control point -- the operator's location -- of a remotely controlled station no longer has to be land based; the operator can be literally anywhere.

"It has always been permitted for a QSO to count for both stations, if either station was operated remotely from a control point within the same DXCC entity," Sumner explained. "Now the location of the operator doesn't matter; the operator could be on the far side of the Moon, if he or she could figure out how to remotely control a station on land back on Earth from there." Transmitter location continues to define a station's location, and, for DXCC purposes, all transmitters and receivers must be located within a 500 meter diameter circle, excluding antennas.

Under the old rules, if either station was operated from a control point in *another* DXCC entity, the contact did not count for DXCC for *either* station. "This was unenforceable unless someone was transparent about what they were doing," Sumner said.

The Board further adopted a new rule, now Subsection 11 (subsequent rules have been renumbered accordingly), that acknowledges the reality of the technology enabling remote operation, and it puts greater responsibility on individuals when it comes to applying that technology ethically and responsibly.

"Issues concerning remotely controlled operating and DXCC are best dealt with by each individual carefully considering the ethical limits that he/she will accept for his/her DXCC and other operating awards," the new rule states. It adds, in part, "the owner of these achievements needs to be comfortable standing behind his/her award and numbers. Peer attention has always been a part of awards chasing, of course, but in these times with so many awards and so many players, it is more important than ever to 'play the game ethically.'"

Subsection 11 acknowledges that technological advances "add to the difficulty in defining rules for DXCC," but stresses that the intent of the rules is what's important. "It will continue to be up to the operator to decide what types of legal remote control operating he/she will use (if any) to contribute to an operating award," the new rule concludes.

VHF and Above Contest Rules Revised – The Board also adopted amendments to the [General Rules for ARRL Contests Above 50 MHz](#) to encourage greater participation and band utilization. The changes become effective with the [2015 June ARRL VHF Contest](#). The revisions stemmed from recommendations offered by the Board's Programs and Services Committee's ad-hoc VHF and Above Revitalization subcommittee, composed of active VHF/UHF contesters, and they received strong support from the VHF/UHF community.

The subcommittee was charged with developing recommendations to increase the level and breadth of ARRL VHF and Above contest participation and encourage operation on lesser-used bands. As a start to the process, the Board approved three changes that will permit the use of assistance for all operator categories, with no effect on entry category; permit self-spotting for all operator categories, and allow single operators to transmit on more than one band at a time.

The changes will permit assistance in arranging contacts, but not in conducting contacts. They will, for example, allow a station to announce its location in a chat room, on a repeater, or even via e-mail.

In other actions, the Board instructed the HF Band Planning Committee -- which will soon solicit members' comments on proposed changes to the ARRL HF [Band Plans](#) -- to include the possibility of requesting that the FCC add RTTY and data privileges for Novices and Technicians on 15 meters.
--ARRL Letter

UNLICENSED RELIGIOUS BROADCASTER WHO USED AMATEUR FREQUENCIES ORDERED OFF THE AIR

The FCC has ordered an unlicensed California religious broadcaster, who sometimes broadcast on a frequency in the 40 meter phone band, to shut down his station. On December 31, the FCC's Los Angeles District Office issued a [Notice of Unlicensed Operation](#) to Martin K. Elliott of Inyokern, California. The FCC said it issued the *Notice* in response to a complaint of unlicensed operation on multiple HF frequencies, including some allocated to aeronautical stations. The

FCC said its agents used radio direction-finding techniques to confirm that signals on 6280 kHz and 11,595 kHz were emanating from a residence located near Inyokern, and property records indicated that Elliott was the current owner and resident.

"The Commission's records show that no license was issued for operation of a station on either the frequencies of 6280 kHz or 11,595 kHz at this location," the FCC wrote. "Unlicensed operation of this radio station must be discontinued immediately."

The pirate station, which [identified](#) itself as "YHWH," was not cited for operating on Amateur Radio frequencies, although ARRL Official Observers had monitored the station in the past on 7185 kHz LSB. One short-wave listener said the operator of YHWH changed frequencies regularly.

The FCC warned Elliott that operation of radio transmitting equipment without valid authorization violates federal law and could subject the operator to severe penalties including, but not limited to, substantial monetary forfeitures, equipment seizure, and criminal sanctions.

The Commission gave him 10 days to respond. The FCC said its *Notice* "does not preclude this office from pursuing additional sanctions based upon our investigation of this incident." --ARRL Letter

ARRL BOARD NAMES AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ARRL Board of Directors honored three professional journalists with the ARRL [Bill Leonard Award](#) for their outstanding coverage of Amateur Radio in video, print, and aural media. The award honors journalists for excellence in reporting that highlights the enjoyment, importance, and public service value of Amateur Radio. The award is a tribute to the late CBS News President Bill Leonard, W2SKE, an avid Amateur Radio operator and advocate.

The video award went to Christine Kim of KSNV-TV in Las Vegas, for her "Local Heroes" profile of the Nevada Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

The print award went to Marti Attoun of *American Profile* magazine, for her "Radio Active" article that profiled Amateur Radio.

The aural media award went to Steve Kraske and Beth Lipoff of KCUR-FM in Kansas City, for their "Exploring Ham Radio in a Digital World" interview of Brian Short, KCØBS; Carolyn Wells, NØCJ, and Matt May, KC4WCG.

The Board announced the award recipients at its 2015 Annual Meeting, January 16-17, in Windsor, Connecticut. --ARRL Letter

ARRL LIBRARY GOES LIVE!

After several months of planning, [The ARRL Library](#) is now live! The online Library is a free repository of educational presentations and oral histories. It is aimed at helping to preserve Amateur Radio's history and to educate clubs and individuals.

"This long-term project will be home to what I hope will eventually become one of the largest repositories of Amateur Radio-related papers and presentations, created by and for the Amateur Radio community," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "This is your opportunity to submit material for the betterment and education of all radio amateurs."

Kutzko said the Library will initially consist of three major areas. These will include *PowerPoint*

presentations that may be used at club meetings, for outreach to the general public, or for other public presentations; PDFs of general educational material about Amateur Radio, and oral histories of radio amateurs describing their personal experiences with Amateur Radio.

Current content includes presentations on operating digital modes, HF basics, and impedance matching. While the available material is sparse right now, Kutzko invites all radio amateurs to submit material for consideration -- as long as it relates to Amateur Radio. The Public Relations Committee will vet all submissions, and once a submission is approved, it will be added to The ARRL Library.

"Sharing expertise is one of the best things we can do for Amateur Radio," Kutzko said. "I hope you will consider submitting material for the Library and help give back to the entire community." --ARRL Letter

SHORTS_

HAM RADIO NOW HAS UPLOADED ALL OF THE 2014 DCC SESSIONS – HamRadioNow, a production by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, has finished uploading YouTube videos of all of the 2014 sessions of the TAPR / ARRL Digital Communications Conference last fall in Austin, TX. Technical stuff for those who are interested in digital. Very well done! Episodes 164 to 187, <http://arvideonews.com/hrn/>

SCHOOL CLUB ROUNDUP IS FEBRUARY 9-13! – School clubs are busily prepping their stations for The "Winter/Spring Term" [School Club Roundup](#), which gets under way Monday, February 9 at 1300 UTC, and continues through Friday, February 13, at 2359 UTC. Stations may operate no more than 6 hours in any 24 hour period (up to a maximum of 24 hours).

The twice-yearly event is an opportunity for school club stations -- from elementary school to college -- to get on the air for a friendly radio activity. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate too. See "[Getting Organized for School Club Roundup](#)" for some helpful tips! Stay up to date on SCR by [subscribing](#) to the School Club Roundup reflector. --ARRL Letter

FOX-1A SATELLITE LAUNCH DATE LAUNCH SET FOR AUGUST-- [AMSAT](#) has announced that its Fox-1A satellite will launch on August 27 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, on a United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 National Reconnaissance Office flight. Fox-1A will include an FM transponder with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz. The first phase of the Fox series 1-Unit CubeSats will allow simple ground stations using hand-held transceivers and simple dual-band antennas to make contacts. The [Fox-1](#) CubeSats also will be able to transmit continuous telemetry during normal transponder operation. The satellites will feature 200 bps telemetry in the audio spectrum below 300 Hz.

AMSAT said other satellites in its Fox series will take advantage of additional launch opportunities this year and next. The Fox-1B satellite is scheduled to fly next year. Fox-1C will launch during the 3rd quarter of 2015.

AMSAT has purchased the Fox-1C launch opportunity, which was not funded by the CSLI ELaN program, and fundraising to cover the \$125,000 cost is under way via the [AMSAT-NA](#) website and the [FundRazr](#) crowdsourcing website. Read [more](#). -- *AMSAT News Service*

NASA OPENS APPLICATION WINDOW FOR PAID CUBESAT, PICETSAT INTERNSHIPS – The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) seeks applicants to fill paid CubeSat and PICetSat-related [internships](#) for the Summer 2015 semester. These positions may be of interest to Amateur Radio licensees pursuing degrees in electrical or computer engineering and now in their junior or senior years. [Applications](#) are being taken on the NASA One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI) recruiting website. The openings are [CubeSat Simulator Upgrade Plus](#) -- advertised previously but now reopened -- as well as [CubeSat Ground Station Development](#), and [PICetSat Module and PCB Development](#). Other internship opportunities are available at each of the other 10 NASA field center locations as well, said Pat Kilroy, N8PK, of GSFC. The official application deadline is March 1, but Kilroy is hoping applications will be submitted sooner.

"The word to the wise student is to get one's application in ASAP -- and certainly within the next 3 weeks," Kilroy said. Applications from Amateur Radio licensees should include a call sign.

Details on each internship are available through the OSSI page. Contact [Pat Kilroy](#) for more information. [Applications](#) must be submitted via the OSSI web page. --ARRL Letter

CQ MAGAZINE COMBINING JAN/FEB 2015 ISSUES, CLOSING CQ PLUS DIGITAL SUPPLEMENT – CQ magazine announced that it will be publishing a combined January/February 2015 issue and will be ceasing publication of its "CQ Plus" digital edition supplement as of the March 2015 issue. Both moves are intended to help restore the magazine's normal schedule for its print edition and to strengthen its foundations moving forward as it enters its eighth decade of publication, said Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA. "These decisions were not made lightly," he added, "but in recognition of the realities of the publishing industry. It's a tough time to be in the magazine business, and we appreciate the patience and loyalty of both our readers and our advertisers."

The complete press release can be viewed at:

http://www.cq-amateurradio.com/news/2015_01_02_cq_news_release.html – IRC

ARRL CENTENNIAL QSO PARTY AWARDS, W1AW/p QSL CARDS IN PROCESS CERTIFICATES AND PLAQUES for stations that participated in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party are being processed. At this point, point totals are being calculated and confirmed. Participation exceeded expectations, with nearly 16,000 stations achieving at least 1000 points in the Centennial QSO Points Challenge. Approximately 2500 stations reached the Top Level of 15,000 points. W1AW portable operations completed nearly 3.5 million contacts during 2014, and W100AW logged some 70,000 contacts. Most Centennial QSO Party participants entered their contact information into the ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) program.

TECHNICAL WEB SITE OF THE MONTH - This fascinating video shows the SBSpectrumsoftware capturing the shifts in frequency for a signal propagating through the ionosphere. The time-lapse video compresses hours of recording time into a few minutes. You can see the ionosphere's individual layers come and go, rise and fall, and do all sorts of interesting things to the signal. This is a big part of why HF digital communication is so hard! (Thanks, Dennis N6KI and Bob W6VR)

A UPDATED [PREDICTION FOR FUTURE SOLAR CYCLES](#) HAS BEEN RELEASED BY NASA. I can't say 10 meter fans will be very happy but the low banders are probably celebrating in the streets! Summarizing the report, "Cycle 24 will be a low cycle very likely to be followed by several other low or even lower cycles - supported by the current and historical data. Make the most of the current band conditions and upcoming DXpeditions - it certainly looks as if we are heading toward a 'Propagation Winter.'" (From [ARRL Propagation Bulletins](#) ARLP003 and ARLP004)

RADIOSHACK IN TALKS TO SELL HALF ITS STORES TO SPRINT, SHUTTER THE REST - Bloomberg Link: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-02/radioshack-is-said-to-discuss-liquidation-as-part-of-sprint-deal>

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, AND JIM KEETH. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. EMAIL TO <mailto:WebMaster@w9rca.org>. Check our web site at <http://www.w9rca.org/>