



Legacy Amateur Radio Club

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



AFFILIATED CLUB

JANUARY, 2016

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th, 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 DECEMBER MEETING** – Thanks to all those who attended the Dec. meeting. We had a good turnout! Pres. Jim, K9RU, announced the insurance (one of our bigger expenses) has been paid for next year. Jim also commented on the status of the repeater... We'd still like to find a site for another receiver to make a total of four operational receivers. The Fusion Repeater has been on the air since shortly before Thanksgiving. It works very well on FM but there is currently a problem in that it doesn't repeat a C4FM digital signal. This will be looked at in the very near future. The long awaited 6m beacon hardware has been built and tested by K9RU. It should be ready for installation at the West Side receive site shortly. The plan is to operate on 50.069 MHz with a planned power of about 15 Watts into a dipole antenna favoring propagation to the SW and NE. Jim said he has already received one confirmation of reception from near Grand Junction, CO while he was testing it. Dave, N9KZJ, reported on Pearl Harbor day at WW2IND. Reminders: The ARRL 10m contest in Dec. and the January UHF contest are upcoming.

**THE YEASU DR-1X FUSION REPEATER IS ON THE AIR** – The new repeater has been on 146.88 for several weeks. There was initially a problem getting it to repeat C4FM digital signals which turned out to be a wiring error between the new repeater and our old system. We're still using the voting system and the old controller controls the new repeater when in the FM mode giving the same functionality as we've had in the past. Keep in mind, **88.5 Hz CTCSS is REQUIRED** in FM mode. The repeater web page has been updated: <http://www.w9rca.org/repeater.html>

**BILL GOODALL, K9DBY SK** – Bill Goodall, K9DBY passed away Sunday January 3rd, 2016. Services will be 10am Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at Flanner and Buchanan Broad Ripple.

Bill was active with several radio clubs in Indy, and has attended the RCA ARC club meeting since he worked for NBC and WTHR Channel 13. He was a member of the RCA ARC VE testing team and also worked with the Red Cross VE testing group and the Indianapolis Radio Club VE team. Over the years you could count on Bill to participate at the test sessions and was always willing to talk to new hams.

Wild Bill was well known and liked by the Indianapolis Amateur radio Community. He was the PA announcer at the Indy Hamfest where you could also find him buying goodies for his collection.

**IRCC 2015 TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD** – W9IMS, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC Tech Crew – WY9T, Bill Kennedy; K9XV, Tom Chance; K9LZJ, Hank Wolfla; N9KT, David Spoelstra and K9RU, Jim Rinehart won the IRCC 2015 Technical Excellence Award for innovation and advancement of the state the art of amateur radio for the remote station operation for a special event station, integration of software and developing new hardware.

The Technical Excellence Award was presented at the IRCC meeting at the Ft Wayne Hamfest. Other nominees were: WB9HXP, Richard Landgrebe; W9AMT, Tony Tolbet & KA3OPZ, Paul Prestia. -- K9RU

## NEXT TEST AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

**Time:** Saturday, January, 9th Exams start at noon. Walk in allowed.  
**Location:** Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46254-2407  
**Contact:** Rhonda Curtis, WS9H: ws9h@comcast.net

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Jan 30 ARRL January VHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>  
Feb 13 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Brownsburg Hamfest <http://www.hcars.org/>  
Feb 20-21 ARRL DX – CW Contest <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>  
Feb 27 Dugger Hamfest <http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html>  
Mar 5-6 ARRL DX – SSB Contest <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>  
Mar 26 Columbus Hamfest <http://www.carcnet.net/?p=12>

## NORTH KOREA ON THE AIR FOR FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN A DECADE

In an unexpected turn of events, Polish DXer Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, who visited North Korea -- officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) -- in December in advance of a planned Amateur Radio operation early next year, showed up on the air from the most-wanted DXCC entity around 0000 on December 20. During a "demonstration" for North Korean officials, P5/3Z9DX made nearly 800 DXers -- most of them in Asia -- very happy over the couple of days he was on the air. Grzyb operated mostly on 15 meters with some excursions on 20 and 10 meters, SSB only. The P5/3Z9DX preview was the first from North Korea since the 2001-2002 operation by Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN.

The surprise appearance of P5/3Z9DX on the air coincided with some of the worst HF conditions in days, if not weeks, no thanks to a geomagnetic storm. Grzyb's visit to Pyongyang this month had been scheduled to iron out the details of his 2016 operation. The radio equipment he took to North Korea remained behind in government hands, as agreed beforehand. A P5/3Z9DX operation from North Korea now is poised to take place in February.

While operating from North Korea, P5/3Z9DX was running 100 W to a vertical antenna mounted on a metal fencepost some 7 feet above the ground among government high-rise buildings. He also was handicapped by high ambient noise levels. During the brief on-the-air stint, government officials came and went, apparently to keep a close watch on things. Grzyb told *DX-World* on December 20 that his "real" DX operation in February might take place from a different location. -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) and *DX-World.net*

## PALMYRA, SOUTH SANDWICH/SOUTH GEORGIA WILL HELP KICK OFF 2016 DXPEDITION CALENDAR

Let the 2016 pileups begin! Two major January DXpeditions will be among other smaller efforts, with all aimed at providing a new one to the madding crowd. Look for the Palmyra Island and South Georgia Island/South Sandwich Islands activations, starting around mid-month.

The Pacific Islands DX Group's [K5P](#) DXpedition to Palmyra hopes to be on the air on January 12 and will continue until January 25. Palmyra ranks among the Top 10 most-wanted DXCC entities. Initially a 12-member team was set to depart and activate K5P. Due to a change of aircraft that will transport the team to the island, the team has been trimmed to nine operators. The team is planning to leave Hawaii for Palmyra on January 11. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group has been awarded permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll.

The Group notes that another Palmyra Atoll activation may not take place for many years, since access is severely restricted, and permission is difficult to obtain. The team said that without the cooperation and support of the Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the DXpedition would not be

possible. The DXpedition's co-leaders are Craig Thompson, K9CT, and Lou Dietrich, N2TU.

Meanwhile, the 14-member Intrepid-DX Group [VP8 DXpedition](#) team to the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia will set out on January 9 from the Falkland Islands on the R/V (research vessel) *Braveheart* for a 37 day voyage. Both entities are rare. The team will use VP8STI from South Sandwich and VP8SGI from South Georgia.

"Our plans have us activating South Sandwich Island first, as it is the #3 most-wanted DXCC [entity] in ClubLog," the group said on its website. "We will be active on South Sandwich for 8 full days, weather and sea conditions permitting. We expect to start our activation of VP8STI on January 17." South Georgia is the 8th most-wanted DXCC entity, according to the ClubLog [Most Wanted DXCC List](#).

The DXpedition's website describes the South Sandwich Islands as "a cold and inhospitable placem" and Southern Thule Island, where the group will operate, as "one of the most remote places on Earth."

Following the South Sandwich operation, the team will voyage to South Georgia and activate it for 8 days starting on or about February 1. Altogether, the VP8STI/VP8SGI team plans to spend 10 days on each island, including setup and teardown.

"Our goals are to operate fast and efficiently and to provide as many all-time new contacts with these rare entities," team co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said on December 31. "We will make the extra effort to work the most remote and difficult regions." Upon returning to Stanley in the Falklands, the team will operate as VP8IDX for 5 days with an emphasis on 160 meters, he added.

Individual team members are covering much of the DXpedition's \$425,000 estimated cost, with the rest coming from club, foundation, and individual donations. --ARRL

## APPLICANTS MOVE INTO NEXT STAGE OF ARISS CONTACT SELECTION PROCESS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) has announced that the proposals of 17 schools and organizations submitted during the recent application window will move forward into the next stage of planning to host Amateur Radio contacts with ISS crew members. Once scheduled, the contacts will take place between July and December 2016.

"This is a significant step in ARISS' continuing effort to engage young people in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities and raise their awareness of space exploration, space communications, and related areas of study and career possibilities," the ARISS announcement said.

The 17 schools/organizations now must complete acceptable equipment plans that demonstrate the ability to execute a contact. Once the ARISS technical team approves equipment plans, the final selected schools/organizations will be matched up with contact opportunities offered by NASA.

The schools and organizations are Boca Raton Christian School, Boca Raton, Florida; **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana**; Frontiers of Flight Museum's "Moon Day 2016," Dallas, Texas; Howell L. Watkins Middle School, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; iSPACE, Cincinnati, Ohio; John Glenn Middle School, Maplewood, Minnesota, and Kopernik Observatory & Science Center, Vestal, New York.

Also, Lawrence Public Library, Lawrence, Kansas; Museum of Innovation and Science, Schenectady, New York; Northland Preparatory Academy, Flagstaff, Arizona; Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria, Illinois; University of Nebraska's Peter Kiewit Institute, Omaha, Nebraska; South Street School, Danbury, Connecticut; Space Jam 10, Rantoul, Illinois; United Space School, Seabrook, Texas; US Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama, and World Genesis Foundation, Goodyear, Arizona.

ARISS is a cooperative venture of AMSAT, ARRL, and NASA in the US, and other international space agencies and Amateur Radio organizations around the world. Its primary purpose is to organize Amateur Radio contacts between ISS crew members and classrooms or informal education venues. --ARRL Letter

## HAMVENTION SEEKS 2016 AWARD NOMINATIONS

[Dayton Hamvention®](#) 2016 is soliciting nominations for Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, Technical Excellence, and Club of the Year awards. All Amateur Radio operators/clubs are eligible, with winners recognized at Hamvention® 2016, May 20-22 at Hara Arena.

The Amateur of the Year Award goes to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio. The Special Achievement Award honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio, typically by spearheading a significant project. The Technical Excellence Award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding technical advancement in Amateur Radio. The Club of the Year Award honors a club that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio.

Nominations must be received by February 1. [Additional details and nomination forms](#) are available on the Dayton Hamvention® website. Send nominations [via e-mail](#) or to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 1446, Dayton, OH 45401-1446. --ARRL

## PRELIMINARY CQ WORLD WIDE SURVEY RESULTS SUGGEST CONTESTERS TRENDING OLDER

The CQ World Wide Contest Committee has [posted](#) the preliminary results of its September survey of CQ WW participants. The committee received 5117 responses from contesters around the world, the greatest number -- nearly 2600 -- from Europe. An analysis of the results showed that most survey participants were in the older age brackets and that there were not many youth participants.

"This is especially true when we look at the age distribution in North America," said the analysis, prepared by Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q. "There is very little survey participation in North America from those under 40 years of age." More than 900 of the nearly 1500 respondents from North America were at least 60 years old, according to the survey.

CQ said the situation in Europe was "a little more optimistic," where the age curve trended about 10 years younger overall.

"While the missing young people could be a symptom of the survey methodology, any look around a ham radio club meeting [or] convention reveals similar findings," the survey commentary said. "Should we be concerned about the future of radiosport (and Amateur Radio)? What can we do to encourage more young people to participate?" it went on to ask.

The CQ WW Contest Committee analysis concluded that older-skewing operators may lead to lower operating times, increased multioperator entries, or eventual less overall activity.

CW was far and away the most popular operating mode, at least among participants age 40 or older. Nearly 62 percent of those participating in the CQ WW survey indicated they were either serious contesters or part-timers trying for the best score.

"It was very gratifying to receive so many survey responses in such a short time," the CQ WW Contest Committee said in summary. "The CQ WW community is passionate and engaged -- both on the air and in considering the future of the event." Other summary highlights:

Europe is the leader for contest activity.

Contesters are getting older.

There is a wide range of interest levels.

CW is the favorite operating mode.

The CQ WW Contest Committee said that a future blog post would discuss the results of questions related to possible rule changes. --ARRL Letter

## INTERNATIONAL DX ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES HUMANITARIAN FUND

The International DX Association ([INDEXA](#)) has announced the formation of a fund -- "Hams with Hearts" -- to support humanitarian projects carried out by DXpedition teams. Thanks to an initial contribution by Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, INDEXA will be able to begin humanitarian support grants beginning in mid-January 2016, the announcement said.

"To qualify for humanitarian grants, DXpeditions must present a clear plan for a humanitarian project to coincide with their DXpedition," the announcement said. "The project must provide direct, physical benefit to the local population and go beyond leaving behind ham equipment, making a video, or giving a class in Amateur Radio."

INDEXA said acceptable projects might include such things as providing school supplies, clothing, medical supplies, first aid equipment, or water purification supplies. The INDEXA board will review the plans and decide whether or not to fund the project.

"In the early years of this fund, it is likely that grants will be modest," INDEXA allowed. "We therefore will be seeking low-cost but high-impact projects. As this fund grows it may be possible to encourage DXpeditions to conduct humanitarian projects by supporting both the DXpedition itself and the humanitarian project it carries out. We are grateful to Zorro for his generosity and acknowledge the many humanitarian projects he has carried out on a personal level. With this new fund we hope to benefit humanity and enhance the image of Amateur Radio around the world." --ARRL Letter

## FROM THE NEW OWNER OF TEN-TEC

As some of you may be aware, Dishtronix has purchased the assets (but not the liabilities) of Ten Tec from RKR Designs. I had desired to keep this under wraps until Ten Tec is reorganized, but there is too much speculation concerning the service department to continue without an announcement of some sort.

There is a myriad of things that must be accomplished before everything is formalized. Unfortunately these things must be done before we can continue with jobs that were sent in for repair to RKR. At this time I would ask people to be patient and please do not call or email me about your repair. When we get the phone numbers transferred successfully or new phone numbers we will post them. As we progress with the change, someone will contact you about your repair. When service resumes we will be contacting the repair customers.

As some of you may be aware I have been looking at all aspects of operation of the company and restructuring operations has been necessary. In reviewing the service department accounts, it is apparent that some customers use the service department to diagnose the radio and elect to not proceed with the repair. Unfortunately this open door policy costs the company one hour of billable time to receive, unpack, open, diagnose, provide an estimate and repack a radio for return to the customer.

Effective immediately, all radios including those sent in to RKR, will incur a \$140.00 minimum charge to look at a radio, even if it is not repaired. Service time is \$125 per hour with the average repair requiring from one to two hours. This means you can expect to pay at least \$265.00 plus parts and return shipping for any repair.

For customers who sent radios in to RKR which were not repaired, who object to these terms, we will return your unit to you at your expense.

A second problem in the service department is with the time technicians spend on the telephone that quite often ends up having nothing to do with the Ten Tec product but is some other station deficiency. The problem here is Ten Tec is not compensated for that time, yet Ten Tec pays wages to the technician. When the service department resumes operation, Ten Tec will charge the customer for any telephone call or email that consumes more than five minutes of technician time. That time will be billed in quarter hour increments at the prevailing service rate.

I am fully committed to bring Ten Tec back to a sustainable state. This will take some time. Please give us time to finalize these plans since there are so many business related issues to get through. We will definitely need to rely on you as customers to help continue the Ten Tec tradition of innovative product and cutting edge technology.

## FCC PROPOSES TO PENALIZE CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA LICENSEES

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has proposed fining William F. Crowell, W6WBJ (ex-N6AYJ), of Diamond Springs, California, \$25,000 for intentionally interfering with other Amateur Radio operators and transmitting prohibited communications, including music. FCC San Francisco District Director David K.

Hartshorn released a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NALF](#)) on December 18, detailing the allegations.

"Deliberate interference undermines the utility of the Amateur Radio Service by preventing communications among licensed users that comply with the Commission's rules," the FCC said in its *NALF*. "Mr Crowell's deliberate interference to other users, using voice, noises, and music, directly contravenes the Amateur Radio service's fundamental purpose as a voluntary noncommercial communications service..."

An Advanced class licensee, Crowell is no stranger to the Enforcement Bureau, which warned him as far back as 2000 about intentional interference. In 2008 the FCC designated his current license renewal application for [hearing](#), alleging that he had caused intentional interference, interrupted others' communications, transmitted music, and made one-way transmissions, including some containing "indecent language," the FCC said. His license, which expired in 2007, has not been renewed, but Crowell may continue to operate while his application is pending. Prompting the December 18 *NALF* were complaints earlier this year by members of the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association (WARFA), which conducts nets three times a week on 75 meters.

The Enforcement Bureau recounted that its agents and the High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) Center monitored Crowell's transmissions during the WARFA Net on 3908 kHz on August 25 and August 27. As the agents and the HFDF Center listened, Crowell "repeatedly interrupted other amateurs using noises, recordings, and music, in addition to talking over amateurs affiliated with the WARFA Net, so as not to allow them to transmit on the frequency," the FCC said in its *NALF*. "His transmissions and recordings included racial, ethnic, and sexual slurs and epithets." According to the *NALF*, the interference continued until the net shut down. Read [more](#).

**Also in FCC actions:** The FCC Enforcement Bureau has entered into a consent decree with a Florida radio amateur to resolve an investigation into whether the licensee violated Sections 97.113(b) and 97.119(a) of the FCC rules by transmitting one-way communications and failing to identify. As part of the deal, Thomas J. Warren, K3TW, of Lecanto, Florida, will pay a monetary penalty. The FCC issued an [Order](#) incorporating the *Consent Decree* on December 9 in the case, which dates back to June 2015.

"In response to complaints that an unidentified station was transmitting on an Amateur Radio frequency at 14 MHz, FCC agents determined that the transmissions were coming from Mr Warren's residence," the FCC said in its December 9 *Order*. "To settle this matter, Mr Warren admits that he failed to transmit his assigned call sign, violated the Commission's rules, will report any noncompliance with rules governing the Amateur Radio Service, and will pay a \$3500 civil penalty."

The *Consent Decree* provided a few more details of the case. The FCC recounted that, after tracking down the unidentified transmissions to Warren's residence, Warren conceded that he had not identified at least some transmissions that he'd made that day. "The agents issued an on-scene written warning to Mr Warren regarding the violations," the FCC said in the *Consent Decree*. "In his written response to the warning, Mr Warren acknowledged that he may have failed to transmit his station identification as required on June 25, 2015."

According to the *Consent Decree*, Warren's transmissions "related to an ongoing dispute with another Amateur Radio operator, whose intentional interference had allegedly disrupted communications on the American Foreign Service Net that operates weekly on 14.316 MHz." Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

## TECHNICAL

**Digital Communications Conference Presentations Available Online** – Some of the [presentations](#) from the 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference now are available on YouTube, courtesy of Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of "HamRadioNow." Gary does a good job and there is lots of good information here. For those who are into HF receiver testing (both conventional analog and software defined) [HRN 228](#) tells you more than you probably want to know.

## SHORTS

**2015 was The Indiana Radio Club Council's Last Year** -- The IRCC was founded in 1947, organizing clubs in Indiana to get support to have the legislature pass a bill to authorize amateur radio call letter license plates. And, after many years of hard work it was passed and in 1954 Indiana began issuing call letter license plates.

Over the years the IRCC has monitored legislature bills that would impact ham radio. One of the reoccurring themes were bills to limit having radio in mobiles that could cover police frequencies, the scanner law, radar detector laws and using a radio while in motion.

Last fall several of the officers had to resign for either person or health reasons. This left the IRCC with too many vacancies to fill. They were looking for people that want to work building the IRCC and did not want to just draft people to fill the positions. After much discussion and reviewing the goals and accomplishments of the IRCC, it was decided that the IRCC would be terminated at the end of 2015. – K9RU

**Real-time global wind pattern indicator** – This is another great online ap for the radio ham, this one shows you wind patterns across the globe, another really interesting resource that is worth a look!

<http://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/isobaric/1000hPa/orthographic=-88.91,38.30,1194/loc=-86.369,39.279>

**Digital Amateur Television in TV Technology** – <http://www.tvtechnology.com/broadcast-engineering/0029/amateur-radio-operators-convert-to-digital-television--part-1/277663>

**IBJ: TV Stations Could Make Millions by Pulling the Plug** – [http://www.ibj.com/articles/56192-tv-stations-could-make-millions-by-pulling-the-plug?utm\\_source=eight-at-8&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=2015-12-16](http://www.ibj.com/articles/56192-tv-stations-could-make-millions-by-pulling-the-plug?utm_source=eight-at-8&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=2015-12-16)

***THANKS FOR READING!***

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