



Legacy Amateur Radio Club

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



AFFILIATED CLUB

RCA ARC Indianapolis 60th Anniversary 1956 - 2016

SEPTEMBER, 2016

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST MEETING – Thanks to all who attended the August 8th meeting. Results of the Indy Hamfest were discussed. We could have used more help manning the tables! There are still antennas and two 30 foot towers from Dave Brown's estate which are available if anyone is interested. Contact Jim K9RU or Jim AF9A if you are interested. Jim, AF9A, reported the '88 repeater is operating normally as is the 6m beacon. The recent UHF contest was pretty much a dud minimal band openings. K9RU discussed some problems related to the W9IMS and Windows 10. The Indy Radio Club Hilltop Contest will be Sept. 24th on the 10, 6 and 2 meter bands. There will be a Frequency Measuring Conest on Wed., Aug 10th.

NEXT RCA / IRC AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Time: Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016. Exams start at 12:00 noon. Walk ins allowed.

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility,
4020 Georgetown Rd,
Indianapolis, IN 46254

Contact: Rhonda S. Curtis, (317) 363-7457, e-mail: ws9h@arrl.net

Help Needed for Upcoming Events: Ham Radio volunteers are needed in all the public service events that we support. These are:

Sept. 10 Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride

Oct. 1 Indianapolis Marathon in Lawrence

Nov. 7 Indianapolis Monumental Marathon

Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, N9FEB@comcast.net www.IndyHams.org

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sep 16-17	W9DXCC Convergence, Shaumburg, IL http://w9dxcc.com
Sep 24	Indianapolis Radio Club Hilltop Contest
Sep 24	Bloomington Hamfest, Bloomington, IN http://www.bloomingtonradio.org
Oct 22	Shelbyville Tailgate 2016, Shelbyville, IN http://www.brvars.com
Nov 12	Fort Wayne Hamfest, Fort Wayne, IN http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com

Opportunities for public service: <http://indyhams.org/events>

DX ENGINEERING'S TIM DUFFY, K3LR: NEW FAIRGROUNDS VENUE "PERFECT FOR HAMVENTION"

[DX Engineering](#) Chief Operating Officer Tim Duffy, K3LR, says he's enthusiastic about the new Dayton Hamvention® venue at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio — both as a vendor and as an individual radio amateur. DX Engineering recently produced a short [video tour](#) of the new Hamvention location, which includes an interview with Hamvention spokesperson Mike Kalter, W8CI.

"I can tell you that I have been hearing from all over the world a sigh of relief after [people] see the video we did at the Fairgrounds," Duffy told ARRL. "The new venue is huge, and it is clean — it will be perfect for Hamvention." Duffy said he likes the Greene County Fairgrounds so much that he thinks that Hamvention will be even better at its new site than it had been for the past 10 years or so at Hara Arena in Trotwood, Ohio.

Duffy, who is also ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, encouraged the Amateur Radio community to support and encourage Hamvention's sponsor — the Dayton Amateur Radio Association ([DARA](#)) as it makes the myriad arrangements for the big show. "This is a very tough job for an all-volunteer staff," he added.

In the approximately 8-minute video, Kalter, who is DARA's treasurer, said he was happy that Duffy, as a Hamvention vendor, could see the new venue firsthand. "We consider this a collaboration," Kalter told Duffy. "We want everybody to be happy."

For his part, Duffy was enthusiastic about the size of the new site. "This place is so big!" he said. The Fairgrounds covers more than 100 acres, and Duffy said he checked out every building. He told Kalter that he was impressed to see DARA volunteers showing up at the new Hamvention site every day as they prepare for their Xenia debut in 2017.

"What I saw here today — I think you're well on your way," Duffy told Kalter. "Things are on the right track."

Kalter expressed the hope that DARA will be able to take Hamvention to "a whole new level" at its new location. --ARRL

SPACEX FALCON 9 FAILURE PROMPTS AMSAT REVIEW OF FOX-1CLIFF AND FOX-1D SCHEDULE

As a consequence of the September 1 explosion of a SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle during a "static fire" test, [AMSAT](#) has announced that it's postponing the planned integration of Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D on the maiden voyage of the Spaceflight SHERPA platform. Fox-1C and Fox-1D were to have launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 between September 1 and November 30.

Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D carry university experiments from Pennsylvania State-Erie, Vanderbilt, University of Iowa, cameras provided by Virginia Tech, as well as amateur radio voice repeaters capable of U/V or L/V operation.

The Nayif-1 CubeSat, developed by Emirati students from the American University of Sharjah, was expected to be put into orbit on the same launch as Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D. Nayif-1 carries an inverting 435/145 MHz transponder (FUNcube-5) for SSB/CW.

The Falcon 9 rocket destroyed on September 1 was to have put Israel's Space-Communications Ltd Amos-6 satellite into orbit on September 3, as part of an effort by Facebook to provide Internet access to parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The cause of the explosion at Cape Canaveral remains under investigation.

In a statement, SpaceX said the launch vehicle was "vertical and in the process of being fueled for the test." The company said the explosion appears to have originated in the vicinity of the upper-stage liquid oxygen tank.

AMSAT has said it will provide schedule updates on Fox-1Cliff and Fox-1D, as further information becomes available. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

FCC PROPOSES SUBSTANTIAL FINE FOR UNLICENSED AMATEUR OPERATION, FALSE POLICE CALL

A New York City man faces a fine of \$23,000 for operating on Amateur Radio frequencies without a license and for transmitting a false officer-in-distress call on a New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio channel. The FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL)* on August 31 to Daniel Delise of Astoria. It details a history of complaints and alleged illegal radio operation on Delise's part that dates back to 2012.

"The Commission previously warned Mr Delise that unlicensed operation of this station was illegal and that continued operation could result in further enforcement action," the FCC said in the *NAL*. "Mr Delise's deliberate disregard of the [Communications] Act and the Commission's warning warrants a significant penalty."

ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, credited the intervention earlier this year of New York Rep Peter King with getting the case "off the back burner and up to the front of the line." Lisenco and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, met with the Republican congressman in January to discuss ongoing interference issues in the Greater New York City/Long Island area. King subsequently wrote FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to urge "timely and visible enforcement."

Lisenco also praised the direct involvement of FCC Enforcement Bureau Region 1 Director David C. Dombrowski "and his willingness to work with us and to use information we provided as potential leads," as well as "a system of grass-roots reporting that depicted the current pattern of intentional interference with legitimate amateur communications on local repeaters," coordinated by Richie Cetron, K2KNB, an Official Observer and Assistant Hudson Division Director. Lisenco said FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith "has been a great help in keeping us informed and in the loop."

The FCC reported receiving "numerous complaints" that Delise was transmitting on different frequencies, issuing two official warnings in 2012. The Commission said complaints about Delise continued through 2013 and 2014, but, the FCC said, an investigating agent "was not able to confirm a rule violation." Still more complaints alleged that Delise was transmitting without authority on 461.225 MHz, a frequency licensed to NYC City Wide Disaster Services, the FCC recounted. In 2014, the FCC received 10 more complaints identifying Delise by name, plus another nine in 2015 and one more in 2016.

Last April, field agents monitoring in Delise's Astoria neighborhood detected a strong voice transmission on 147.96 MHz. They were able to track the signal to the building where Delise resided, and, ultimately, went to his apartment and confronted him.

The FCC said Delise admitted making the transmissions on 147.96 MHz and acknowledged that he did not have an Amateur Radio license. As a result, the FCC's New York Field office issued a [Notice of Unlicensed Operation](#).

A couple of weeks later, the NYPD informed an FCC field agent that it had taken Delise into custody for "sending out false radio transmissions" over the NYPD radio system and for possessing radios capable of operating on NYPD frequencies, in violation of state law. According to the NYPD, a call had gone out reporting an officer in need, and the responding officer spotted Delise speaking into a radio. The police report said Delise admitted to making the transmission and that he told officers that he had more radios and would continue to transmit on police frequencies. Obtaining a warrant, the NYPD confiscated all radio transmitting equipment from Delise's apartment, including 14 radios capable of operating on NYPD frequencies.

The FCC concluded that Delise apparently transmitted without a license on Amateur Radio frequencies, even after being warned not to do so, and that he apparently transmitted false or fraudulent distress signals on NYPD frequencies. Both violations were "willful," the FCC said.

Delise could have faced a penalty of more than \$140,000, under the provisions of the Communications Act. The *NAL* gave Delise 30 days to pay the fine or to file a written statement

seeking a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture. The FCC fine may not be at the top of Delise's list of worries, however. According to Lisenco, Delise now is serving prison time resulting from the false police call and his guilty pleas to other charges.--ARRL

TEAM USA HEADS TO WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fifteen top US on-foot hidden transmitter hunters are packing their bags to join more than 400 other competitors from 39 nations taking part in the 18th [World Amateur Radio Direction Finding \(ARDF\) Championships](#) in the Black Sea resort of Albena, Bulgaria. Competitors are divided into six [age categories](#) for males and five for females, in accordance with International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) rules for ARDF competition. Team USA includes nine men and six women from six states. Ranging in age from 26 to 74, they won their places on the team by their excellent performances in the [2016 USA ARDF Championships](#) in Texas and the [2015 USA ARDF Championships](#) in Colorado.

"This is the 10th time that the US has fielded a team for the World Championships, which take place in even-numbered years in various countries," said ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV. "The [last time](#) that Bulgaria hosted was in 2006, when Team USA won its first World Championships medal." That year, Nadia Scharlau of North Carolina captured bronze in the 80 meter classic event, which required her to find four transmitters scattered within 2700 acres of forest.

Competition in Bulgaria gets under way on August 30 with the 80 meter classic ARDF World Cup event, an optional competition for individuals. Five members of Team USA will participate. World Cup events over the next 3 days (2 meter classic, [sprint](#) and [foxoring](#)) serve as world-class training and an opportunity for individual medals.

World Cup competitors get a day of rest on Saturday, September 3, as the remaining World Championships participants arrive. The following day is devoted to foxoring, the first official World Championships event. Participants in all events seek medals both as individuals and as members of national teams, which are limited to three participants per age/gender category from each country.

The World Championships continue with the sprint on Monday, September 5, and classic events on Tuesday and Thursday; Wednesday is set aside as a free day and cultural tour, offering a break between the classics. Banquets and medal award ceremonies follow each day's competition, and everyone goes home on Friday, September 9.

Moell said Team USA's best year to date was [2012 in central Serbia](#), when the US fielded 13 competitors. Six of them collected a total of 13 medals in the World Cup and World Championships that year.

The [latest information](#) on how Team USA is faring in Bulgaria will be posted on Moell's "Homing In" website. [Details](#) on the 18th World Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships are on the World ARDF Championships website.

The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA) is hosting the event. The Bulgarian seaside has been the host of previous international ARDF competitions, and this year's event organizers say they have chosen new areas where ARDF competitions have not taken place in the past.

Visit the [Homing In](#) website of ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, for more information on ARDF. --ARRL

FO-29 SATELLITE TURNS 20

It's been 20 years since the Fuji-OSCAR 29 ([FO-29](#)) satellite launched on August 17, 1996, from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center. Its 100 kHz-wide analog Mode V/U transponder

continues to serve the Amateur Satellite community, although its packet BBS and digiwalker no longer function.

With an apogee of 1323 kilometers, FO-29 provides satellite operators with excellent DX opportunities every few months. Intercontinental contacts are regularly reported, including contacts between Japan and Alaska and between North America and Europe. While the theoretical maximum range at apogee is 7502 kilometers, the transponder's excellent sensitivity and solid 1 W downlink signal allow that distance to be stretched when conditions are right. The longest distance covered via FO-29 was an unscheduled 7599.959 kilometer (approximately 4712 mile) [contact](#) on August 27, 2015, between Dave Swanson, KG5CCI, of Little Rock, Arkansas (on Shinnal Mountain in EM34), and Christophe Lucas, F4CQA, in Trouy, France (NJ17). Swanson answered F4CQA's CQ.

The 2015 K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island made 29 contacts during two passes of FO-29, activating that extremely rare DX entity on satellite for the first time since 1993, when Don Roland, VE1AOE, reported logging between 400 and 500 contacts as part of the W5IJU DXpedition to Navassa — making the bulk of them on AO-13.

FO-29 remains the most widely used linear transponder satellite and an ideal starting point for beginners.

Uplink for the mode V/U (J) inverting linear transponder is from 145.900 to 146.000 MHz, SSB or CW. The downlink is 435.800 to 435.900 MHz. The CW beacon transmits on 435.795 MHz.

JARL offers an award for confirmed QSOs with 10 different stations via FO-29. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

HAM RADIO OUTLET REFURBISHES, REOPENS FORMER AES MILWAUKEE LOCATION

Ham Radio Outlet ([HRO](#)) opened its latest Amateur Radio retail outlet at the site of the former Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) headquarters store at 5710 West Good Hope Road in Milwaukee on August 27. AES closed its Milwaukee, Las Vegas, Cleveland, and Orlando outlets on July 28, following a surprise announcement 4 weeks earlier that it was going out of business after 59 years as a ham radio equipment supplier. A couple of weeks later, HRO announced plans to make over the Milwaukee outlet and reopen it as its “superstore” — now HRO's largest. Several former AES Milwaukee employees now are working for HRO, which undertook a rapid remodeling project to make the store over in its own brand. Dan Vanevenhoven, N9LVS, visited the HRO Milwaukee location on opening day, camera in hand, and he [posted](#) video of his brief tour on YouTube.

“One of the first things that caught my eye was the radio demo area,” Vanevenhoven says in his video. “They’ve actually got radios that you can try out.” A row of eight carrels, each with a different piece of gear ready to use, stretches along part of one wall in the store.

The Milwaukee store in 5000 square feet of Amateur Radio equipment, antennas, books, and accessories.

A family-owned business, HRO is the world's largest Amateur Radio dealership, with 14 locations from New England to the West Coast. It opened a new outlet in Plano, Texas, in early 2015 and relocated and expanded its Portland, Oregon, store, which opened in late July.

HRO has planned the weekends of September 10, 17, 24 and October 1 for the grand opening of its Portland store, and October 1, 8, 15, and 22 for the grand opening of the new Milwaukee outlet. --ARRL

NAB PLACES THE INCREASING SPECTRUM NOISE RESPONSIBILITY FIRST AT FOOT OF FCC

It's high time to take action about all this noise. So says NAB. The National Association of Broadcasters today urged the Federal Communications Commission to address increasing spectrum noise from manmade sources, and to do so "aggressively and expeditiously."

"Failure to do so risks devaluing licensed spectrum and drowning licensed users in a sea of noise," the NAB wrote in a comment filing, calling noise a threat to all radio and TV broadcast services. It wants the commission at least to set emission limits for devices operating on the AM band and to clarify the kinds of good engineering practices that should be followed by the makers of electronics that cause so much noise -- such as switching power supplies in consumer and commercial equipment; power transmission lines; LED lighting including traffic lights; and composite video display systems such as those in Times Square and Las Vegas.

In June, the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology announced that its Technological Advisory Council would begin investigating changes and trends in the radio spectrum noise floor. The council consists of a group of technology experts and provides expertise to the commission.

The NAB welcomed the initiative but lays the initial responsibility for controlling radio noise at the feet of the FCC, saying that the agency was created by Congress to address interference chaos in the first place. "Today's worsening noise problem threatens to recreate the very disorder that the commission was established to eradicate," the NAB said.

The association said effective spectrum management must assess both the likelihood of interference and the costs of disrupting existing services.

"Noise is caused largely by the proliferation of cheap and simple electronic designs with little or no regulatory oversight or enforcement.

At the same time, the shift of radio communication systems from analog to digital increases, in many cases, the susceptibility of communications systems to such noise interference." There is also a misperception that digital radio technologies are more robust than analog predecessors. While it's true that many digital systems can operate closer to the noise floor than an analog counterpart, the NAB wrote, a rising noise floor can offset that advantage.

NAB said AM signals in particular are susceptible but insisted that the commission need not accept the inevitability of an ever-worsening noise environment.

"It is simply poor spectrum policy to continue to battle interference with techniques that ultimately create more interference, and does not comport with the general requirement in the Communications Act to 'use the minimum amount of power necessary to carry out the communication desired,'" the NAB wrote. (The filing did not address a commonly heard gripe from HD Radio critics that, on the U.S. AM band in particular, the digital signals are themselves a source of unwelcome noise and interference.)

The first step, the NAB suggests, is for the commission to address the cause of the problem. It pressed for a review of Part 15 emission limits to determine what improvements are necessary to protect licensed services, and then adopt enforceable limits that will minimize noise interference.

At a minimum, it said, the commission should set radiated emission limits to protect AM stations.

"There are no emission limits for devices operating on frequencies below 30 MHz. This means that the AM band is afforded no quantitative protection at all," it wrote. "Under Part 18, radiated emissions outside the ISM bands allow for 10 uV/m at one mile and 25 uV/m at 1000 feet. The protected service contour for AM coverage by most stations is 0.5 mV/m, while the interference protection ratio for groundwave-to-groundwave is 20:1. By adopting and enforcing radiated emission limits of 0.025 mV/m, measured at a distance of 10 meters, the FCC could eliminate much of the interference that exists today and better protect stations in the AM service."

It also asked the commission to clarify the meaning of “good engineering practices to minimize the risk of harmful interference,” a phrase in the rules covering makers of incidental radiators. “The commission provides no guidance as to what constitutes ‘good engineering practices,’” the NAB wrote. “Absent any further guidance, this rule is largely meaningless and unenforceable in practice.”

Also, NAB noted that for in the case of devices, there is an incentive to cut costs by removing RF-suppression equipment that does not affect day-to-day operation. “At present there is no requirement for a post-market sampling or measurement program to detect such modifications. Either the manufacturer or the FCC, or both, need to have a robust enforcement program that includes sampling of retail products for compliance.”

In short, the commission’s existing limits on intentional, unintentional and incidental radiation are inadequate to protect licensed radio services, particularly broadcast services. “We urge the commission to undertake a comprehensive review of these limits and develop specific and enforceable limits to prevent further noise interference.” - Radio World

THREE COMPANIES AGREE TO PLEAD GUILTY FOR FIXING PRICES OF ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS

The US Department of Justice announced this week that three companies have agreed to plead guilty for their roles in a conspiracy to fix prices for electrolytic capacitors sold to customers in the US and elsewhere. The companies are Rubycon Corporation, Elna Co Ltd, and Holy Stone Holdings Co Ltd.

“The Antitrust Division has now charged five companies and one individual for their participation in this international price-fixing conspiracy,” Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brent Snyder of the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division, said in an August 23 Justice Department [news release](#). “The electrolytic capacitors conspiracy affected millions of American consumers who use electronic devices containing capacitors every day.”

The division filed one-count felony charges against each of the three companies in US District Court in San Francisco. In addition to pleading guilty to the charges against them, each company has agreed to pay a criminal fine and to cooperate with the Division’s ongoing investigation. The plea agreements are subject to court approval.

NEC TOKIN Corp and Hitachi Chemical Co Ltd already pleaded guilty earlier to participating in the same worldwide conspiracy. NEC TOKIN was sentenced to pay a \$13.8 million fine in January, while a \$3.8 million fine was levied on Hitachi Chemical in June. In March of 2015, a grand jury indicted Takuro Isawa, a former Global Sales general manager for one of the capacitor manufacturers, for his alleged participation in the conspiracy.

This week’s charges resulted from an ongoing federal investigation by the Antitrust Division’s San Francisco Office and the FBI’s San Francisco Field Office into price fixing, bid rigging, and other anticompetitive conduct in the capacitor industry. Anyone with information on price fixing, bid rigging or other anticompetitive conduct related to the capacitors industry should contact the Antitrust Division’s [Citizen Complaint Center](#), tel (888) 647-3258, or or call the FBI tip line, (415) 553-7400.

The Justice Department released court documents on [Elna](#), [Holy Stone](#), and [Rubycon](#). --ARRL

VCRS BECOME HISTORY WITH FUNAI DECISION TO TERMINATE PRODUCTION

Japan’s Funai Electric. Co.—the world’s last manufacturer of the once “must-have” devices—announced it was making its last VCR production run last month. Funai cited lack of demand and difficulty in obtaining parts as factors in making the decision to terminate VCR production. (Sales had dropped from a high of around 15 million machines at the VCR’s peak of popularity to just some five percent of that number last year.

Sony, who in 1975 had fueled widespread consumer interest in home video recording with the introduction of their VCR in the Betamax format, JVC/Panasonic introduced the VHS format VCR in 1976 and the Beta versus VHS format battle was on. RCA introduced the VBT200, the first VCR in the VHS format with 4 hour record time with a price tag of \$1000. The video cassettes were \$35 each.

Millions of the machines were sold as prices steadily dropped from the hefty \$2,500 (more than \$11,000 in today's money) of Sony's initial LV-1901 recorder/TV combo package to less than \$100 in later years. Beginning in the early 1980s, the VCR—coupled with a small color camera (and later combined as the “camcorder”)—began to upset long-established 8mm home movies as the technology of choice for capturing weddings, vacations, and other personal events. By the 1990s, film had become passé, forcing most home movie camera manufacturers to abandon that market. VCR sales continued to boom as prices fell, with more and more TV owners acquiring the devices to allow time-shifting of favorite programs (and commercial skipping). VCRs also served as an early form of “video-on-demand,” with an increasing number of Hollywood movies made available for both sale and rental. (At its peak, Blockbuster Video Entertainment operated some 9,000 stores to address this demand.)

The arrival in 1995 of the DVD, and a few years later, the home-recordable DVDs then the Digital Video Recorder with inexpensive high-capacity solid state storage cards and the maturation of the Internet and development of high-quality video streaming technology further helped to change the consumer video recording landscape.

<http://www.tvtechnology.com/resources/0006/the-vcr-fades-to-black/279197>

SHORTS

THE 64TH ANNUAL [W9DXCC CONVENTION AND BANQUET](#) will feature Contest University on Friday, September 16, 2016, in Schaumburg, Illinois. Featured speakers include well-known contesters K9CT, K3WA, K9WX, K9ZO, and WW9R, who will discuss topics including contesting basics, ethics, RTTY contesting, propagation, modern contesting hardware and software, and how “little pistols” can be competitive. The day's sessions will be followed by a gathering of the Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC) at a local restaurant. The W9DXCC is an ARRL-approved Specialty Operating Convention.

AVES ISLAND YX0V DXPEDITION PUT ON HOLD --The planned YX0V DXpedition to Aves Island has been postponed. No new dates have been announced. A DXpedition team was set to depart on August 31 for the 17th most-wanted DXCC entity.

On August 24, the Amateur Radio Association of Venezuela, Santiago de Leon de Caracas Group, announced that it has been notified by the Venezuelan Navy that the DXpedition to Aves Island — to be held in commemoration of Navy Day 2016 — “ has been put on hold until further notice.”

Aves Island was last activated on February 13, 2007, by YW0DX. The group had hoped to be on the air for up to 10 days as YX0V and already had begun preparations.

Tiny Aves Island is situated west of the Leeward Islands. It's only about 1200 feet long and some 150 feet wide. — *Thanks to YX0V Pilot Station Steve Romagni, W4DTA*

FEMA Teaming with Amateur Radio Clubs to Present Preparedness Information – September is National Preparedness Month. As part of its focus on community education and preparation, [FEMA](#) offers a “Family Emergency Communications Plan” to help families work out their communication strategies in the event of an emergency. ARRL is partnering with FEMA to offer this material to interested Amateur Radio clubs that are willing to present it in their localities during National Preparedness Month. While the FEMA presentation focuses on the Family Communications Plan and doesn't specifically mention ham radio, the material offers Amateur Radio clubs a great opportunity to raise their visibility in their communities.

A webinar with FEMA Region 1 Preparedness Liaison Sara Varela will take place on Tuesday, August 23, at 8 PM EDT (Wednesday, August 24, at 0000 UTC), to offer background and training for any club wishing to present FEMA's Family Emergency Communications Plan material in September.

[Registration](#) is requested. The presentation of the FEMA material to local communities should take approximately 1 hour. It will include a *PowerPoint* presentation and links to worksheets that families can discuss and fill out together.

Clubs are free to offer additional presentations on their activities following presentation of the FEMA material.

AMSAT-UK Space Colloquium Videos are Available – Thanks to the efforts of British Amateur Television Club (BATC) and AMSAT-UK volunteers, videos of presentations at the 2016 International Space Colloquium July 29-31 in Guildford, England, are now available on YouTube.

AMSAT-UK members operated a satellite ground station during the event, using the call sign G0AUK. Contacts were made via SO-50, AO-85, and FO-29 satellites.

The 2016 Colloquium presentations, as well as those from previous years, can be found on the [AMSAT-UK YouTube channel](#). Video presentations may be downloaded. –ARRL

[DARPA is sponsoring a smart radio contest](#). Billed as "The world's first collaborative machine-intelligence competition to overcome spectrum scarcity," the competition involves using a standardized SDR platform to demonstrate how intelligence can be built into radios to establish and maintain communications in the presence of congestion and interference. One of the interesting aspects of the competition format is that the qualifying or hurdle round entries are made using cloud computing images and data sets of sampled I/Q information, so nearly anyone with SDR expertise can enter.

THANKS FOR READING!

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/>