RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Legacy Amateur Radio Club

AFFILIATED CLUB

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

FEBRUARY, 2017 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 6:30 PM AT G.T. SOUTH'S,
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY MEETING – At the January 10 meeting, the Indiana Repeater Council membership was debated. We will probably go ahead and join to give us some input to future issues being discussed. Jim K9RU, reported on work on the '88 repeater amplifier, power supply, and timer, all of which have resulted in some problems over the last few weeks. Also, plans are being made to combine the equipment in two racks into one. The 6m W9RCA beacon was discussed along with current digital mode beacons. Dave, N9KZJ, reported the USS Indianapolis Museum had received a 1944 TDE transmitter. Remember the Jan. VHF contest on 1/24 and Weather Spotter training coming up in the spring.

NEXT RCA / IRC AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Time: Saturday, February 11th. Exams start at 12:00 noon. Walk ins allowed.
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility,
4020 Georgetown Rd,
Indianapolis, IN 46254
Contact: Jim Rinehart k9ru@arrl.net 317 721-1458

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Feb 13-17	School Club Roundup
Feb 18	Brownsburg Hamfest, http://www.hcars.org
Feb 18-19	ARRL International DX – CW
Feb 24-26	CQ 160M SSB Contest
Mar 4-5	ARRL International DX Contest – SSB
Mar 25	Sam Costa Run, Hamilton County

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

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING!

Last year -- 2016 -- was another outstanding one for Amateur Radio licensing, says ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

"New Amateur Radio licenses issued were up by 1% over 2015, and this is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000," Somma reported. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014.

Somma said that while 2014 was a record-setting year for new licenses issued, ARRL VEC "continues to see an elevated interest in obtaining an Amateur Radio license."

The overall trend continues to be up, up, up! The total number of US Amateur Radio licensees has continued to grow each year since the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam requirement in 2007. Over the past decade, the net number of Amateur Radio licensees has risen by nearly 87,000, according to statistics compiled by ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A.

As of December 31, 2016, the total number of licensees in the FCC database was 742,787, topping the 2015 total of 735,405, but down just slightly from the all-time high of 743,003 reached last November.

Somma said license upgrades were down by 5% compared to 2015 -- 10,617 versus 11,224. "A new Amateur Extra class [question] pool took effect on July 1, 2016, which may have impacted upgrade totals in the second half of the year," she speculated.

As of December 31, according to figures compiled by Speroni, there were 143,337 Amateur Extra licensees, 45, 071 Advanced licensees, 172,807 General licensees, 371,560 Technician licensees, and 10,012 Novice licensees. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice class licenses. The General and Technician licensee totals at the end of last year were all-time highs, and the Amateur Extra total was nearly so. --ARRL Letter

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT SPEEDS TO US HOUSE PASSAGE, HEADS TO SENATE

Just 10 days after being introduced in the 115th Congress, the 2017 Amateur Radio Parity Act legislation, H.R. 555, passed the US House of Representatives on unanimous consent under a suspension of House rules. The bill's language is identical to that of the 2015 measure, H.R. 1301, which won House approval late last summer after attracting 126 cosponsors, but failed to clear the US Senate last fall as the 114th Congress wound down. The new bill, again sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), was launched on January 13 with initial cosponsorship by Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who chairs the influential House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"The grassroots effort of Amateur Radio operators across this nation in support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act has been remarkable, nothing like we have ever seen before," ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said. "To all hams, keep going! Now is the time to charge forward with that same momentum to the Senate. We can do it!" The bill arrives in the US Senate with ample time in which to garner its approval through an education campaign.

"We're very encouraged by the speed with which this bill made it through the House. It's amazing that this happened," said ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, who has been at the forefront of the legislative initiative. "With the help of ARRL members, we believe we can get this done," Lisenco continued. "We came within a hair's breadth last time, with [thousands of] e-mails to members of both houses of Congress, as well as letters and telephone calls. Member participation in this final push is critical."

H.R. 555 calls on the FCC to establish rules prohibiting the application of deed restrictions that preclude Amateur Radio communications on their face or as applied. Deed restrictions would have to impose the minimum practicable restriction on Amateur Radio communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of homeowners associations seeking to enforce the restriction. --ARRL Letter

NEW FCC CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI PRAISES HOUSE ACTION ON H.R. 555, OTHER TELECOMS BILLS

The FCC's new chairman, Ajit Pai, this week praised US House action on H.R. 555 and other telecommunications-related legislation that cleared the chamber the previous day.

"I want to commend the US House of Representatives for passing a number of important, bipartisan telecom bills yesterday," Pai said on Tuesday. "These bills will help bring greater

efficiency to the Commission, provide consumers with greater protections, improve rural call completion, help Amateur Radio operators, and take several steps to promote public safety," he continued, adding, "I look forward to working with Congress on these and other important issues as Chairman of the FCC."

President Donald Trump named the 44-year-old telecommunications attorney -- who has served on the Commission since 2012 and is its senior member -- to succeed Chairman Tom Wheeler, who stepped down on Inauguration Day, January 20.

"I am deeply grateful to the President of the United States for designating me the 34th Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," Pai said in a statement. "I look forward to working with the new administration, my colleagues at the Commission, members of Congress, and the American public to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans."

A Republican, Pai was nominated to the FCC by former President Barack Obama and was confirmed unanimously by the US Senate in 2012. Pai has said the Commission needs to eliminate "outdated and unnecessary regulations," as he proposed in a December speech. "The regulatory underbrush at the FCC is thick," he said. "We need to fire up the weed whacker and remove those rules that are holding back investment, innovation, and job creation."

Pai has said that he supports "the freedom to access lawful content, the freedom to use applications, the freedom to attach personal devices to the network, and the freedom to obtain service plan information."

In a January 24 speech, Pai addressed the "digital divide" in the US, "between those who can use cutting-edge communications services and those who do not," he said. "I believe one of our core priorities going forward should be to close that divide -- to do what's necessary to help the private sector build networks, send signals, and distribute information to American consumers, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or anything else."

The son of immigrants from India, the Harvard Law graduate and respected telecommunications attorney grew up in Parsons, Kansas.

The FCC now is down to three members, so President Trump will have the opportunity to appoint two more. In addition to Pai are Democrat Mignon Clyburn and Republican Michael O'Rielly. The Commission can have five members, three of whom typically are from the majority political party. Before leaving office, former President Barack Obama renominated now-former FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democrat, for a new term. --ARRL Letter

AM RALLY SET FOR APRIL 1-3 -- NO FOOLING!

Ever wonder what that "AM" button is for on your transceiver? Well, if you don't know about full-carrier amplitude modulation (AM) or have never used it on the air, you'll get the chance during the AM Rally, April 1-3, on the HF bands between 160 and 10 meters (except 30, 17, and 12 meters) plus 6 meters.

Amateur Radio voice-mode transmissions on the HF bands into the 1960s were AM, the same mode that used to predominate in radio broadcasting. Single-sideband (SSB), a form of AM, gradually took over the bands, although not without some pushback! Today, a group of dedicated radio amateurs keep the magic flame alive, getting on AM frequently, and for many of them, AM is their primary operating mode. The AM Rally gives the uninitiated a chance to dip a toe into the pool, so to speak.

A cooperative event organized by AM, SSB, and, yes, even CW operators, the AM Rally aims to encourage fellow operators to take this "sister mode" for a spin, make a few contacts, and have a shot at earning some nice certificates.

The event website has complete AM Rally details, contact information, award categories, logging, and tips on how to get the most out of your station equipment in AM mode.

The AM Rally begins on Saturday, April 1 at 0000 UTC (Friday, March 31, in US time zones) and concludes at 0000 UTC on Monday, April 3.

It's open to all radio amateurs capable of transmitting full-carrier AM, using any type of equipment, from vintage to bleeding edge. The event is sponsored by Radio Engineering Associates (REA), in cooperation with ARRL, which supports all modes of Amateur Radio operation. --ARRL Letter

MIDWINTER 630-METER ACTIVITY NIGHT SET FOR FEBRUARY 4-5

US and Canadian radio amateurs and Part 5 experimental stations will take part in the second annual Midwinter 630-Meter Activity Night, which will begin on February 5 at 0000 UTC (evening of Feb.4 in the US) and continue through 2359 UTC. Radio amateurs in the US will be able to make cross-band contacts with Canadian participants.

"This event is being undertaken because of the continuing, worldwide interest in 630-meter activities," said ARRL 630-Meter Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, in announcing the event. He said US radio amateurs are looking forward to gaining access to the new 472-479 kHz band, while Canadians are eager to learn more about the present level of amateur activity on their newest ham band.

"This activity night will give interested radio amateurs in both countries an opportunity to see firsthand what is happening, and cross-band activity with Canadian amateurs will offer a chance for US hams to take part in the activity," Raab said.

The event is open to both radio amateurs and listeners. Raab said it will provide an opportunity for participants to test their MF receive capabilities. Operation will be in various modes.

A number of US FCC Part 5 Experimental stations will also operate throughout 630 meters on CW, PSK31, JT9, and QRSS modes. Some stations will operate WSPR and QRSS CW beacons. FCC Part 97 rules stipulate that US Amateur Radio stations may not contact Experimental stations, however. Submit reception reports via the ARRL Experiment website. Read more. --ARRL Letter

CIA DECLASSIFIED DATABASE INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET-ERA AMATEUR RADIO

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reports relating to Amateur Radio in the former Soviet Union (including the Baltic States) and Warsaw Pact countries are among documents declassified to a new searchable online database, the CIA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room. Documents cover translations and assessments of Amateur Radio clubs; training; monitoring Sputniks; technology and equipment; QSL cards, and ruminations on a plan to monitor US ham radio transmissions for activities "of interest" to the intelligence community. Searches on "Amateur Radio" or "ham radio" will yield multiple documents, some heavily redacted.

For example, a 1949 memo largely dismissed the use of Amateur Radio in the Soviet Bloc as an intelligence-gathering tool. "Except for possibilities in the counter-espionage field, it is believed that exploitation of amateurs with reference to the USSR and satellites could lead at best only to information concerning the location of ham transmitters, an item of dubious intelligence value," said the memo, which carried the subject line "Exploitation of Radio Amateurs." Another memo from the same year showed that the USSR viewed the growing "cadre" of radio amateurs as the next generation of engineers.

Documents covering a wide range of topics not necessarily related to Amateur Radio also have been declassified, sanitized, and made available to the public for the first time in this archive. Some of these documents were only available previously in a closed system at the US National Archives. -- *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Andy Thomas, G0SFJ*

ARRL ASKS FCC TO ALLOCATE NEW 5 MHZ BAND, RETAIN CHANNELS AND CURRENT POWER LIMIT

ARRL has asked the FCC to allocate a new, secondary contiguous band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service, while also retaining four of the current five 60-meter channels and current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The proposed action would implement a portion of the *Final Acts* of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) that provided for a secondary international allocation of 5,351.5 to 5,366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service; that band includes 5,358.5 kHz, one of the existing 5 MHz channels in the US.

"Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season in the summer of 2017," ARRL said in a January 12 Petition for Rule Making. The FCC has not yet acted to implement other portions of the WRC-15 *Final Acts*.

The League said that 14 years of Amateur Radio experience using the five discrete 5 MHz channels have shown that hams can get along well with primary users at 5 MHz, while complying with the regulations established for their use. In recent years, Amateur Radio has cooperated with federal users such as FEMA in conducting communication interoperability exercises.

"While the Amateur Radio community is grateful to the Commission and to NTIA for the accommodation over the past 14 years of *some* access to the 5-MHz band, the five channels are, simply stated, completely inadequate to accommodate the emergency preparedness needs of the Amateur Service in this HF frequency range," ARRL said, adding that the five 2.8-kHz wide channels "have not provided sufficient capacity to enable competent emergency preparedness and disaster relief capability."

Access even to the tiny 15-kHz wide band adopted at WRC-15 would "radically improve the current, very limited capacity of the Amateur Service in the United States to address emergencies and disaster relief," ARRL said.

In its *Petition*, ARRL also called upon the FCC to retain the same service rules now governing the five channels for the new band. The WRC-15 *Final Acts* stipulated a power limit of 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), which the League said "completely defeats the entire premise for the allocation in the first place."

"For precisely the same reasons that the Commission consented to a power increase on the five channels as recently as 2011 [from 50 W PEP ERP to 100 W PEP ERP], the Commission should permit a power level of 100 W PEP ERP, assuming use of a 0 dBd gain antenna, in the contiguous 60-meter band," ARRL said.

ARRL pointed out that the ITU *Radio Regulations* permit assignments that are at variance with the *International Table of Allocations*, provided a non-interference condition is attached.

The FCC will not invite comments on the League's *Petition* until it puts it on public notice and assigns a Rule Making (RM) number. Read more. --ARRL

ARRL SEEKS OPINIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE NEW ENTRY LEVEL LICENSE

An Entry Level License Committee was established by the ARRL Board of Directors and appointed in September 2016. As part of its ongoing work, the committee is gathering member input and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC.

The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF.

The committee has created an **online member survey**. Please complete and submit the survey no later than April 7, 2017. Survey results will be published.

HAMVENTION READY TO DEAL WITH ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC FLOW AT NEW VENUE

Hamvention® is ready to deal with the anticipated heavy traffic flow when the event opens on May 19 at its new location, the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Mike Kalter, W8CI, said the all-volunteer Hamvention organizers have turned to professionals to address this aspect of the event. Kalter, who is treasurer of the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), was interviewed last week by DX Engineering's Tim Duffy, K3LR.

"We recognized that we needed to reach out to a professional engineering firm that does this all over the country to help us to work with the local government officials, so that we can have a good solid plan to keep the people flowing in," Kalter told Duffy.Kalter said arrangements have been made to have staging areas for those needing to either offload or load equipment from the indoor exhibit areas or the flea market.

He also pointed out that on-site parking would be free, and that no one will have to park in the mud. Kalter said areas set aside for parking are well drained, and he doesn't anticipate any problems, even if it rains during Hamvention. That goes for the flea market area as well, he said, noting that the arena infield area is used for events in good and bad weather alike.

Kalter said Hamvention expects to be able to post the plan for flea market spaces on its website soon. The layout for indoor vendor and exhibitor booths is already available on the Hamvention website. Kalter said that if everyone who attended Hamvention 2016 at Hara Arena shows up again this year, they will find plenty of room at the new venue. Maps are available on the website.

Turning to traffic of a different sort, Kalter noted that Greene County has brought in a high-speed Internet "pipe" to the new venue, and that AT&T will drop telephone lines wherever they're needed.

Kalter said there will be plenty of picnic tables as well as a temporary structure dedicated for socializing. He also promised that Hamvention 2017 will offer "a wide variety of great things to eat." That will include food vendors and food trucks.

ULRICH ROHDE, N1UL DELIVERED THE SIXTH SIR J.C. BOSE MEMORIAL LECTURE AT THE IEEE ON NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS: SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO

Ulrich L. Rohde, N1UL, of Synergy Microwave Corp was invited to deliver the sixth Sir J.C. Bose Memorial Lecture at the IEEE Hyderabad Section on December 2 during a joint session of the IEEE MTT, AP, and EMC Societies in Hyderabad, India. Rohde's talk was "Next Generation Networks: Software Defined Radio -- Emerging Trends." (Click here to view a collection of slides used in the lecture.)

While working under a US Department of Defense contract at RCA in 1982, Rohde's department developed the first SDR, which used the COSMAC (Complementary Symmetry Monolithic Array Computer) chip. Introduced by RCA in early 1976, the RCA CDP1802 eight-bit

CMOS microprocessor -- a 40-pin LSI integrated circuit chip -- was the company's first single-chip microprocessor. Rohde was among the first to present publicly on this topic with his February 1984 talk, "Digital HF Radio: A Sampling of Techniques," at the Third International Conference on HF Communication Systems and Techniques in London.

The Hyderabad lecture's namesake, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, was a Bengali scientist who lived in British India in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was an expert in math, physics, biology, and archaeology. Bose pioneered the investigation of radio and microwave optics, contributed significantly to plant science, and laid the foundations of experimental science.

Much of Bose's original scientific work was in the area of microwaves. He produced extremely short radio waves and was the first to use a semiconductor junction to detect radio waves. Bose's research on the response of tissues to microwaves and other stimuli led to many significant findings in that field, and the IEEE named him one of the fathers of radio science. -- *Thanks to* Microwave Journal

US NAVAL ACADEMY HFSAT COORDINATED FOR 15- METER TO 10-METER TRANSPONDER

The US Naval Academy has received IARU satellite frequency coordination for HFsat, a 1.5 U CubeSat carrying a 15 to 10-meter inverting linear transponder with a 30 kHz bandwidth (uplink 21.4 MHz, downlink 29.42 MHz). The Mode K configuration is reminiscent of the old "RS" series of Russian satellites. The CubeSat will also carry an APRS digipeater on 145.825 MHz. The US Naval Academy's Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, said HFsat is designed to demonstrate the viability of HF satellites as a back-up communication system, taking advantage of HF radios found in a typical Amateur Radio installation or frequently used to support disaster and emergency response communication.

"HFsat will be gravity gradient-stabilized by its full-sized 10-meter half-wave HF dipole with tip masses," Bruninga explained on the HFsat web page. "HFsat will continue the long tradition of small amateur satellites designed by aerospace students at the US Naval Academy."

A standardized CubeSat VHF communication card based on the popular Byonics MTT4B all-in-one APRS Tiny-Track4 module for telemetry, command, and control is under development at the Academy. Students are working with Bill Ress, N6GHZ, on the HF transponder card. HFsat's control operator will be Todd Bruner, WB1HAI.

Bruninga sees a future for Amateur Radio satellites operating on the HF bands. "HFsat will operate under the ITU rules of the Amateur Satellite Service since not only does that service currently have allocations for satellite relay on HF, but it is also the only service with nearly a century of knowledgeable operators' experience with the HF bands under all conditions," Bruninga wrote on the HFsat web page. "Should the system prove viable, and should other services desire to use the transponder technology, then the lengthy process to obtain federal HF [satellite communication] allocations could be considered." --ARRL Letter

NEW ROOKIE ROUNDUP RULES WILL MEAN MORE ROOKIES ON THE AIR

Changes to the rules for Rookie Roundup will make it possible for more radio amateurs to qualify for the "Rookie" category. Rookie Roundup is a 6-hour operating event aimed at radio amateurs licensed for 3 years or less. Operators first licensed in 2015, 2016, or 2017 already qualify as Rookies for the next Rookie Roundup, which will be the SSB event on April 17, 1800-2359 UTC.

Starting with the SSB event in April, operators licensed *before* 2015 may enter as Rookies if they made their first Amateur Radio contact during 2015, 2016 or 2017 -- *or* if they have never before made a contact using the mode of the upcoming Rookie Roundup (i.e., SSB for April,

RTTY for August, and CW for December). These operators should send 2017 in their exchange, and those qualifying for either of these reasons will be Rookies only for 1 year.

Rookie Roundup is the third Sunday in April (SSB), August (RTTY), and December (CW). Stations send the year they were first licensed as part of the exchange. Rookies attempt to make as many contacts as possible and may work everyone. Non-Rookies may only work Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event, multioperator teams can compete, and veteran operators are encouraged to participate! --ARRL Letter

THE TELESCOPE FROM 'GOLDENEYE' (Arecibo) IS IN TROUBLE

The U.S. National Science Foundation is accepting proposals from anyone who wants to take over operations.

The announcement comes as the federal agency runs out of funds to support the observatory, which features a 1,000-foot-wide (305-meter-wide) dish used in part to search for gravitational waves and track asteroids that might be on a collision course with Earth.

Officials with the foundation stressed that the agency prefers that the observatory remain open with the help of collaborators that would provide a funding boost.

"Our community reviews have recognized that Arecibo does great science and will continue to do great science," said Ralph Gaume, acting division director for the foundation's Division of Astronomical Sciences.

However, he warned it's possible none of the proposals that have to be submitted by late April will be chosen. This would leave the foundation with alternatives including suspending operations at the observatory, turning it into an educational center or shutting it down.

Scientists use the observatory in part to detect radio emissions emitted by objects including stars and galaxies, and it has been featured in the Jodie Foster film "Contact" and the James Bond movie "GoldenEye." It attracts about 90,000 visitors and some 200 scientists a year that use the observatory for free to do research, said observatory director Francisco Cordova.

The observatory has been used for amateur radio moon bounce. The first of these operations was on June 13–14, 1964, using the call KP4BPZ. A dozen or so two-way contacts were made on 144 and 432 MHz. On July 3 and July 24, 1965, KP4BPZ was again activated on 432 MHz, making approximately 30 contacts on 432 MHz during the limited time slots available. From April 16–18, 2010, again, the Arecibo Amateur Radio Club KP4AO conducted moon-bounce activity using the antenna. On November 10, 2013, the KP4AO Arecibo Amateur Radio Club conducted a Fifty-Year Commemoration Activation, lasting 7 hours on 14.250 MHz SSB, without using the main dish antenna.

The observatory has been threatened in recent years by bigger, more powerful telescopes in places like Chile and China, where officials recently unveiled the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST.

The foundation said it expects to make a decision by late 2017 as it awaits completion of a final environmental impact statement, which will outline all alternatives for the observatory's future.

SHORTS

Youtube interview with Dayton Hamfest Tresurier, Michael Kalter, W8CI at DX Engineering https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tunp5dCIHkI&authuser=0

If you want to keep up with the Dayton Hamvention's news, it appears the Hamvention Twitter feed is the place for it. This week's announcement is that there will be free parking!

QRP ARCI Four Days in May Event Registration Open: Registration is open for Four Days in May (FDIM), the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP ARCI) annual convention held in

conjunction with Hamvention. The hosting Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio, has sold out, but other accommodations are available in the vicinity. The event features a day of seminars (including a free kit), Buildathon, vendors' night, evening lecture, pizza night, QRP club night, homebrew competitions, games, music, raffles, door prizes, QRP Hall of Fame induction, and a banquet. Program details are available and being updated on the QRP ARCI website. Contact FDIM for more information.

Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO, is Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure Essay Contest Winner --Twelve-year-old Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO, of New Orleans, is the winner of The Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure (YDXA) essay contest. Not only did he receive a transceiver, 50 feet of coax, a power supply, and a vertical antenna, he'll be headed to Costa Rica this summer to take part in the YDXA Dxpedition.

Bryant got his license in May 2015, after being introduced into Amateur Radio through the Boy Scouts Radio Merit Badge program. He's chasing DXCC on phone and is a budding CW contester.

Applications are still being accepted for team members for the August 3-8 YDXA trip. These will also be available at YDXA's Hamvention® booth in May. --ARRL

New York Marathon, Running Luminary Allan Steinfeld, W2TN, SK – Former New York City Marathon Race Director Allan Steinfeld, W2TN, of Bowers, Pennsylvania -- considered a founding father of the modern running movement -- died on January 24. He was 70.

"Allan was one of the great pioneers in road race administration, developing many of the protocols required for a successful big-time event," said Dave Katz, the technical director for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), USA Track & Field, and many marathons, in a *Runner's World* obituary.

Steinfeld got to know legendary New York City Marathon Director Fred Lebow in the early years of the event, joining the New York Road Runners Club, as it was then known, serving as race timekeeper, eventually becoming Lebow's assistant, and, in 1994, its president and CEO. He stepped down in 2005 for health reasons.

Amateur Radio has had a significant role in supporting New York City Marathon communications since the 1970s. Read more. --ARRL Letter

The *VHF/UHF DX Book, 2017 Replica Edition* is now a free download courtesy of TRPublishing.

Link to Sites on Grounding and RF Bonding: W8JI's pages on grounding and bonding, and K9YC's materials .

Yaesu announced the FT-25R 5W VHF **and** FT-65R 5W VHF/UHF **handheld transceivers.** The FT-25R and FT-65R are compact, light and ruggedly designed handheld transceivers. They both offer 5W of output power, have a 1W front facing internal speaker and are IP54 / MIL-810-C,D and E rated. A newly designed large white LED display adds improved visibility under tough conditions. The supplied 1950mAh Li-Ion battery is capable of providing up to 9 hours of operating time on a single charge!

The World Wide Radio Operator Foundation **(WWROF) will present the** webinar "Waller Flag RX Antenna 101 - How to Construct a Waller Flag" **by JC, N4IS, on February 16**. You can also check out past WWROF webinars, including 2016's "High Performance RX Antennas for a Small Lot," also by JC, on the WWROF website. In addition to design and construction, techniques for testing and evaluation of flag performance will be discussed.

Tom, W0IVJ, has created a video of RFI detection **while driving through his neighborhood using an SDR receiver and active mobile antenna.** His narration of the video of the captured spectrum includes identifying VDSL2 interference, RFI from switching power supplies, and even a periodic ionosphere sounder.

Random DX Notes from All Over The TL8TT Central African Republic DXpedition will continue until February 14, with operation on 160-10 meters, SSB, CW, and RTTY (20 meters only).

- A5A will be active February 10-17 from Bhutan by JH1AJT, E20NKB, and E21EIC on CW, SSB, and RTTY, 160 through 10 meters. QSL to Zorro, JH1AJT.
- ZC4A from Cyprus (UK Sovereign Base Area) is active until February 8 on SSB and CW, 80 through 10 meters subject to propagation. Logs uploaded to Club Log and LoTW.
- Christmas Island now has a resident radio amateur. Cliff Tindall, now VK9VKL, has received his first Amateur Radio license, the Australian Standard class, with privileges on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters at 100 W. His new transceiver is in transit.
- The VP6EU Pitcairn DXpedition 2017 team is en route to the island. Two stations will operate on all HF bands from February 16 until March 5.
- Iran's Alborz DX Club will be on the air February 8-10 during a 3-day field day, on 40, 20, and 15 meters. QSL via EA5GL.
- Alain Rebondy, F5OZC, and Sébastien Lebrun, F8DQZ, will be active February 5-26 from the Republic of Guinea (3X); a call sign is pending. Activity will mostly be CW on 40 through 10 meters.

The latest Club Log Most Wanted DXCC List is up. — *Thanks to* The Daily DX, OPDX

THANKS FOR READING!

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. 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/