RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Legacy Amateur Radio Club

AFFILIATED CLUB

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

OCTOBER 2018 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9th, 6:30 PM AT
SQUEALERS, 5899 E. 86th STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING – Thanks to all who attended the September meeting. K9RU reported the '88 repeater is running on the exciter, medium power. Hopefully we get the power amp installed very soon! The Indy Radio Club field day committee has signed a agreement to again use the Victor Conservation Club site. Keep your eyes open for any parts we can acquire to sell at next year's Indy Hamfest. K9RU reported there may be some more stuff available from VOXX. The W9IMS Special Event Station has concluded operation for this year making over 13,000 QSOs despite poor band condition. Speaking of the Indy Hamfest, Mike Sercer has reported that the present board of directors is made up of folks who are 70 or more years of age. Some younger folks are urgently need to get involved. It's not a difficult or very time consuming job and present board will guide you the first year or two.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION –

Time: **Saturday, October 13, 2018, 12:00 pm (Walk-ins allowed)**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: **Jim Rinehart, k9ru@arrl.net, 317 721-1458**

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Oct 6	Indianapolis Half Marathon, Lawrence, IN bwalls@arrl.net
Oct 6	Hoosier Hills Hamfest http://www.w9qyq.org/
Oct 6-7	Hilly Hundred, Ellettsville, IN mailto:N9FEB@comcast.net
Oct 6-7	ARRL SET (Simulated Emergency Test)
Oct 15-19	ARRL Fall School Clubs Roundup
Oct 19-21	Scouting's Jamboree on the Air
Oct 27-28	CQ WW Phone DX Contest Oct 6-7 https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm

For More Contests Information: http://www.contestcalendar.com/
Opportunities for public service: http://indyhams.org/event

SCOUTING'S 2018 JAMBOREE ON THE AIR SET FOR OCTOBER 19 - 21

Scouting organizations are still registering to participate in the 2018 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) over the October 19 - 21 weekend. With about 1 month to go, JOTA Coordinator Jim Wilson, K5ND, told ARRL that registration is "probably on target" at this point. US registrations stood at 235 as of the end of last week. Right after JOTA 2017, 489 US locations had signed up, although that included both Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) participants, which, Wilson said, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have "remained steadfast" in considering JOTA and JOTI as separate events, although, he noted, this is not the case at the world level.

"Our goals are primarily to grow participation," Wilson told ARRL. "The World JOTA-JOTI Team has set a goal of 3 million participants by 2021; 2017 saw 1.5 million worldwide. Sign-ups at the world level right now are at 1,428 locations. Wilson said that, in the US, many locations wait until the last minute to register their participation. In 2017, some 7,900 Scouts took part in JOTA, down by nearly 10,800 participants from 2016, but topping participation for 2014 and 2015. Total radio contact numbers were down from 2016 and 2015.

"We've also put in place a number of aids to help people improve their on-the-air experience, which will be challenging without sunspots," Wilson pointed out. "We've provided a video of how to work HF for JOTA. We've also provided a quick reference card to help Scouts during the QSO." Recommended JOTA frequencies are listed on the K2BSA website. "Operators should note that these frequencies are starting points to find QSOs," Wilson added. "They can also turn the dial to find other stations on the air. It's not like a repeater." A list of Girl Scout activities supported by JOTA-JOTI has also been posted.

Held each year on the third full weekend in October, JOTA is the world's largest Scouting event. JOTA uses Amateur Radio to link Scouts and hams around the world. Scouts of any age and gender can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers.

Radio amateurs at the local level are encouraged to work with a scout council or unit to set up a JOTA station or arrange to have Scouts visit their shacks. "You can also participate just by making QSOs with the many JOTA stations that will be on the air," Wilson said. --ARRL Letter

ARRL FOUNDATION INVITES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

The ARRL Foundation will begin accepting scholarship applications on October 1 from eligible radio amateurs planning to pursue post-secondary education in the 2019-2020 academic year. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2019. Individuals and clubs support many of the more than 80 scholarships, ranging from $500 to $5,000, that are awarded annually. Applicants for all scholarships must be active radio amateurs and must complete and submit the online application.

"The ARRL Foundation Board of Directors is honored to be able to continue to offer scholarships to assist Amateur Radio operators in offsetting the costs of higher education," said ARRL Foundation Secretary and ARRL Development Manager Lauren Clarke, KB1YDD. "All ARRL Foundation scholarships are made possible by individuals or clubs, and we are grateful for their support."

Students planning to apply for 2019-2020 academic year awards should first carefully review the eligibility requirements and scholarship descriptions. Although only one application per applicant is required, applicants may ask to be considered for as many of the scholarships for which they are eligible (some scholarships have geographic criteria or other requirements).

Check off only the scholarships for which you would like to be considered. In addition to completing the online application, applicants must submit a PDF of their academic transcript from their most recently completed school year (emailed to foundation@arrl.org).

Applications are due on January 31, 2019, by 11:59 PM ET. *Applications without accompanying transcripts will not be considered.* Awards winners are typically notified in mid-May by USPS mail and email.

For more information about ARRL Foundation scholarships, email the ARRL Foundation or call (860) 594-0348. --ARRL Letter

NEW BETA VERSION WSJT-X 2.0 BOASTS MAJOR CHANGES

As promised, the *WSJT-X* Development Group has announced a new "candidate release," *WSJT-X 2.0 rc2*. This beta version of the popular digital mode suite incorporates many new FT8 and MSK144 features that will be of particular interest to the Amateur Radio contesting community. It includes all FT8 DXpedition Mode changes already developed in *WSJT-X* 1.9.1.

"Enhancements to the FT8 decoder ensure that in most situations decoding sensitivity is slightly better than for the old protocol. Symbol rates and occupied bandwidths are the same as before, and false-decode rates are significantly lower," the user notes explain. "The decoding threshold for MSK144 is a fraction of a decibel higher than before, owing to the slightly larger message payload and higher code rate." *WSJT-X 2.0* introduces no significant changes to the JT4, JT9, JT65, QRA64, ISCAT, Echo, or FreqCal protocols.

The new features are summarized on the *WSJT-X* website and in the *Quick-Start Guide to WSJT-X 2.0*. Contest-related changes include:

Support for standard ARRL Field Day exchanges, such as 6A SNJ.

Better support for North American VHF contests, with improved handling of grids and /r rover call sign designators.

Six-character locators and call sign suffix support for portable operators, focused on EU VHF contesting.

Support for standard contest exchanges in the ARRL RTTY Roundup, such as 579 MA or 559 0071.

Support for call signs of up to 11 alphanumeric characters, to accommodate non-standard and compound call signs.

Support for new exchanges should expand the ability of contesters to use FT8 and other *WSJT-X* protocols during contests that allow digital contacts and where the exchange is a traditional signal report and state/province/country.

According to the release notes, *WSJT-X 2.0* also offers "significantly better sensitivity" (about 1 dB) for the *WSPR* decoder. In addition, color highlighting of decoded messages provides worked-before status for call signs, grid locators, and DXCC entities on a by-band basis. Color highlighting can also identify stations that have -- or have not -- uploaded their logs to "Logbook of The World" (LoTW) within the past year.

Those participating in *WSJT-X* beta tests are expected to report their experiences to the developers and upgrade to the general availability release when it becomes available. Visit the *WSJT-X* web page for more information.

RADIO AMATEURS RECEIVE IMAGES FROM CHINESE LUNAR SATELLITE

Some earthbound radio amateurs and sky watchers have received images from a tiny Chinese satellite now orbiting the moon. In May, China launched the DSLWP-A and DSLWP-B microsatellites -- also known as *Longjiang-1* and *Longjiang-2* -- into a lunar transfer orbit, although *Longjiang-1* was apparently lost in the process and likely remains in deep Earth orbit. They were deployed as secondary payloads with the *Queqiao* relay satellite as part of the Chang'e 4 mission to the far side of the moon. DSLWP stands for "Discovering the Sky at Longest Wavelengths Pathfinder." The satellite will test low-frequency radio astronomy and space-based interferometry, and while it carries Amateur Radio and educational payloads, no transponder is aboard. The Chang'e 4 mission will be the first-ever attempt at a soft landing on the far side of the moon. The Chang'e-4 lander and rover are scheduled to launch in December. The Harbin Institute of Technology (BY2HIT) developed and built the DSLWP spacecraft and is overseeing that mission. The microsat also carries optical cameras from Saudi Arabia.

An open telecommand protocol allows radio amateurs to take and download images. The spacecraft transmits on 70 centimeters (435.400/436.400 MHz), with 250/500 bps GMSK using 10 kHz wide FM single-channel data, with concatenated codes or JT4G. JT4 uses four-tone FSK, with a keying rate of 4.375 baud; the JT4G sub-mode uses 315 Hz tone spacing and 1,260 Hz total bandwidth.

According to an article in *GBTimes*, *Longjiang-2* (DSLWP-B) used its own propulsion system to slow down and enter lunar orbit, while the relay satellite "continued past the moon to its special destination." *Longjiang-2* has used a student-developed camera to take images of the moon, Mars, the sun, and other celestial objects. Data and images have been downloaded by hams and satellite-tracking enthusiasts around the world, including the US, Brazil, China, the Netherlands, and Italy.

The Harbin Institute of Technology team also operates LilacSat-1, a 2U Amateur Radio CubeSat launched as part of the European QB50 initiative, and LilacSat-2 (CAS-3H), an Amateur Radio and technology test satellite.

The *Queqiao* communications relay satellite is required for the lunar far-side landing to facilitate communication with a not-yet-launched lander and rover because the moon's far side never faces Earth, and some significant scientific measurements from the dark side of the moon require real-time contact with Earth. *Queqiao* was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

The Harbin Institute of Technology Amateur Radio Club has invited more radio amateurs to get involved with the DSLWP mission, and QSL cards have been designed for different flight phases for amateurs who successfully receive telemetry or make contact.

REVERSE-POLARITY SUNSPOT GROUP DOES NOT BELONG TO CYCLE 25, OBSERVATORY SAYS

The Royal Observatory of Belgium's Solar-Terrestrial Centre of Excellence (STCE) has asserted that the reverse-polarity sunspot group 2720 observed in late August belongs to the current solar cycle -- cycle 24 -- and does not represent the start of cycle 25.

"Because of its reversed polarity, some websites claimed sunspot group 2720 was possibly one of the first groups of new Solar Cycle 25," the Centre said. "This is simply not true, in view of its very low 8° latitude. The next Solar Cycle 25 sunspot group should have *both* reversed magnetic polarity *and* much higher heliographic latitude, typically 20° to 40° from the equator. Only two tiny, short-lived numbered sunspot groups are currently assigned to new Solar Cycle 25, sunspot group 2620 in December 2016 and 2694 in January 2018."

STCE said that while both of those small sunspots have been assigned to cycle 25, some uncertainty exists as to just which sunspot cycle they actually belong to. STCE said some additional sunspot groups that belong to cycle 25 were so tiny and short-lived that they were not assigned a sunspot number. "During each solar cycle, about 3% of all active regions have reversed polarity but do not belong to the previous or next solar cycle," the Centre said. "With 2,000 to 3,000 sunspot groups per solar cycle, this means that every solar cycle has a few dozen reverse-polarity sunspots that belong to the ongoing sunspot cycle despite their reverse polarity."

After examining magnetograms of the sun's surface, well-known Amateur Radio solar observer and propagation authority Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, agreed that AR2720 is reversed in polarity from other sunspots in the northern solar hemisphere. What confuses the issue, he said, is its low latitude, as a cycle 25 sunspot area should be at a much higher latitude.

The same weekend of sunspot group 2720, a radio blackout lasting about a day took place, affecting the HF amateur bands as well as GPS systems. Solar watcher Tamitha Skov, in her YouTube report, called the G3-level geomagnetic storm "one of the top five storms of the solar cycle." Read more --ARRL Letter

DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO HOTSPOTS MAY BE INTERFERING WITH SATELLITE UPLINKS, AMSAT REPORTS

This week, AMSAT News Service (ANS) cited an August 27 report from AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, saying that a digital mobile radio (DMR) signal has been interfering with the AO-92 (Fox-1D) satellite's 435.35 MHz uplink frequency. Glasbrenner said hotspots, repeaters, terrestrial simplex, and "anything not satellite" should never transmit in the segments 145.8 - 146.0 MHz or 435 - 438 MHz by international band plan.

Well-known satellite enthusiast Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK/VA7EWK, told ARRL that one DMR hotspot operating on the AO-92 uplink frequency in the St. Louis area has shifted to another frequency. But, he added, "I think there are still issues, since not all hotspots will report their frequencies and positions to websites such as BrandMeister or via APRS, where they appear on other sites such as http://aprs.fi."

"There are others surely operating near satellite uplinks," Stoddard added. "For many, the 435 - 438 MHz satellite subband is a big piece of quiet real estate in a busy part of the 70-centimeter band for weak-signal work, repeater links, amateur TV, and other possible uses."

Stoddard points out that FCC Part 97 addresses Amateur Radio operation in these segments, although regulations in many other countries may not be as detailed. §97.3(a)(7) defines auxiliary stations as, "an amateur station, other than in a message forwarding system, that is transmitting communications point-to-point within a system of cooperating amateur stations."

Stoddard said this would include remote bases, EchoLink and IRLP nodes, and hotspots used for digital voice modes, as well as stations using these hotspots and nodes. Auxiliary stations may not transmit in the 145.8 - 146.0 and 435 - 438 MHz satellite subbands (among others in the 2-meter and 70-centimeter amateur bands), per §97.201(b). Further:

•§97.3(a)(40) defines a repeater as, "an amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels." Stoddard said that because most hotspots operate on a discrete frequency, they would not qualify as repeaters, even if they operate like a repeater, per §97.205(b).

•§97.101(a) stipulates, "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules, each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice." Stoddard remarked, "Whether the hotspot is interfering with a satellite downlink in a particular area, or it is interfering with the satellite uplink affecting a much larger area, this would not be good amateur practice."

•In addition to subbands where hotspots are not permitted, Stoddard said, §97.101(b) is also relevant. It states, "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the Amateur Service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station."

ARRL RELEASES LIMITED EDITION 2019 HANDBOOK SIX-VOLUME ULTIMATE BOXED SET

The 2019 edition of *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications* is now available as a six-volume boxed set in a handsome hard slipcase in addition to the traditional, soft-cover print edition.

"For many years, users have suggested that the *Handbook* would be easier to read and browse if it were divided into more manageable volumes," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "We did it! This is the first-ever *ARRL Handbook* in a multi-volume set. This means you can grab just the volume you need without having to retrieve the entire *Handbook*. It's one of the biggest improvements we've made to *The Handbook* in decades." The six volumes are divided by major topic areas:

- **Volume 1:** Introduction and Fundamental Theory
- **Volume 2:** Practical Design and Principles -- Part 1
- **Volume 3:** Practical Design and Principles -- Part 2
- **Volume 4:** Antenna Systems and Radio Propagation
- **Volume 5:** Equipment Construction and Station Accessories
- **Volume 6:** Test Equipment, Troubleshooting, RFI, and Index

Since its first edition in 1926, *The Handbook* has been a trusted Amateur Radio mainstay -- a comprehensive reference and guide to the understanding and practice of radio communication, electronics, and wireless technology. Key topics include electronics theory and principles, circuit design and equipment, radio signal transmission and propagation, digital and analog modulation and protocols, antennas and transmission lines, and construction practices. *The Handbook* is updated every year, and this new edition includes many new projects and topics. These include:

- A simple SLA float charger project by John Boal, K9JEB

- Amateur Radio data platforms by Paul Verhage, KD4STH, and Bill Brown, WB8ELK
- The latest information on the *WSJT-X* digital suite by the *WSJT* Development Team
- Filter and circuit design software by Tonne Software and Jim Tonne, W4ENE
- Low-noise VHF and UHF oscillators by Ulrich Rohde, N1UL, and Ajay Poddar, AC2KG
- Update on Solar Cycle 24 by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA
- Updated SSTV practices and technology by Larry Peterson, WA9TT
- Designing dual-band loaded dipoles by David Birnbaum, K2LYV
- Latest transceiver survey by Joel Hallas, W1ZR
- Updated component tables
- State-of-the-art guidelines for SDR (software-defined radio) design

Both editions include a unique download code, so you can download and install a fully searchable digital edition of the printed book, as well as expanded supplemental content, software, PC board templates, and other support files.

The Handbook Six-Volume Boxed Set, ARRL Item No. 0895, ISBN 978-1-62595-089-5, is $64.95 retail. *The Handbook* soft-cover edition, ARRL Item No. 0888, ISBN 978-1-62595-088-8, is $49.95 retail. Order from the ARRL Store, from your ARRL Dealer, or call (860) 594-0355 or toll-free in the US, (888) 277-5289. Shipping in early October. --ARRL Letter

The Handbook Kindle edition comes in six separate volumes, automatically delivered to your Kindle, starting on October 8, $9.99 per volume (Vol 1, Vol 2, Vol 3, Vol 4, Vol 5, Vol 6).

"GET YOUR PARK ON" OPERATING EVENT SET FOR OCTOBER

What is hoped will be the first annual "Get Your Park ON" operating event will take place October 14 - 20, in celebration of Earth Science Week. The event is open to Amateur Radio operators around the world and is sponsored by the national affiliates of World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF), which encourages radio amateurs to operate outdoors in protected nature parks.

During this on-the-air celebration, hams can participate in one of two ways. North American hams can opt to be Activators, setting up and operating in geological and nature centers, such as national and state parks and forests, national monuments, and protected nature habitats. They also may decide to be Hunters, operating from home and searching out and making contact with the Activators.

"We are trying to have parks activated in all states of the USA and Mexico and all Provinces of Canada," the sponsor's Facebook page notes. "Let's have some fun." The week-long special event is reminiscent of ARRL's popular National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event in 2016, but extends to a larger set of national treasures beyond those managed by the National Parks Service.

In October 1998, the American Geosciences Institute organized Earth Science Week, a national and international event to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth, a common goal shared by WWFF. Both programs encourage participants to get outside and enjoy nature.

"Get Your Park ON" begins at 0000 UTC on October 14 and continues through 2359 UTC on October 20. Visit the "Get Your Park ON" Facebook page for more.

Earth Science Week 2018 engages young people and others with learning resources and activities exploring the relationship between the arts and the Earth systems. This year's theme of "Earth as Inspiration" promotes public understanding and stewardship of the planet. Of special interest to the Amateur Radio community and their families is an "Inspired by Earth" photo contest and an essay contest for students in grades 6 through 9. -- *Thanks to Norm Meyers, N9MM --ARRL*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TAKES CENTER STAGE FOR 2018 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

The 2018 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is just ahead. The primary ARRL-sponsored national emergency exercise is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved with emergency and disaster response. Although the main SET weekend this year is October 6 - 7, local and Section-wide exercises may take place throughout the fall. Those who already take part in public service and emergency activities are getting ready for the annual SET, a dress rehearsal, next month. But, the 2018 ARRL SET is an open casting call for all radio amateurs interested in expanding their emergency preparedness knowledge and skill.

The annual SET encourages maximum participation by all Amateur Radio operators, partner organizations, and national, state, and local officials who typically engage in emergency or disaster response.

In addition to ARES volunteers, radio amateurs active in the National Traffic System, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN™, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and a variety of other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are needed to fulfill important roles in this nationwide exercise.

The SET allows volunteers to test equipment, modes, and skills under simulated emergency conditions and scenarios. Individuals can use the time to update a "go-kit" for use during deployments and to ensure their home station's operational capability in an emergency or disaster.

At the national level, ARRL has established formal working relationships with partner organizations and agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO-International), Citizen Corps, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), REACT International, Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE), United States Power Squadron, and Boy Scouts of America. Details on these organizations and how they work with ARRL and Amateur Radio operators are on the ARRL website.

To get involved, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. Check on upcoming planned activities through local, state, or Section-wide nets. If you don't know already, find out who the Emergency Coordinator is and where the nearest ARES group meets. Your ARRL Section Manager should be able to assist.

Additional background on the annual SET appears in the article, "2017 Simulated Emergency Test Results," in the July 2018 issue of *QST*. Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for

ARRL Section and Field Organization leaders are posted on the ARRL website for use by Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers, or by Section leaders in charge of reporting this year's SET activity. -- *Thanks to Steve Ewald, WV1X*

PROPOSALS TO HOST CONTACTS WITH SPACE STATION CREW DUE BY NOVEMBER 15

Proposals by school and educational organizations to host Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contacts with an International Space Station crew member next year will be accepted starting on October 1. Completed proposals are due by November 15. ARISS anticipates that the contacts will be scheduled between July 1 and December 31, 2019, although crew schedules and ISS orbits determine exact contact dates. A committee of educators evaluate and approve proposals.

"ARISS contacts allow education audiences to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to work and live in space," ARISS said. "These scheduled contact opportunities are offered to formal and informal education institutions and organizations, individually or working together."

To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will a draw large number of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in contact dates and times.

Educational proposals should include plans for students to study topics related to space technology, space exploration, or space research, and to learn about communication, wireless technology, and radio science. The more advanced preparation educators make with educational plans, the more learning and value the ARISS event will have for students, ARISS said. A *Proposal Guide* can help in planning and identifying what's necessary to host an ARISS scheduled contact.

Full information on hosting an ARISS contact is available on the ARISS website.

Amateur Radio organizations around the world, NASA, and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan, and Europe sponsor this educational opportunity by providing equipment on the space station and operational support to enable direct communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world via Amateur Radio. In the US, the program is managed by ARRL and AMSAT in partnership with NASA. --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

Home Brewers! Free parts! – If you're building something or repairing something you might check this web site: http://w7zoi.net/ke6f.html

The VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DXpedition October 20 through November 3 will use DXA to post contacts on a near real-time basis. "Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, of Cordell Expeditions, offered the use of DXA, and we gladly accepted," the DXpedition said in a news update this week. "Within 60 seconds of your contact with VP6D, the browser page is automatically updated to show your call sign; this confirms that your contact is in the log (DXA reads the VP6D log). This process eliminates the need for duplicate contacts on the same band/mode and minimizes the confusion caused by pirates or other DXpeditions operating at the same time." The DXpedition leaders said they performed an end-to-end test of the DXA system, and

expressed confidence that DXA "will significantly reduce, or eliminate, the hundreds of emails asking for 'log checks.' If you see your call sign on DXA, you're in the log." The VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DXpedition will continue through November 3. The VP6D team also plans to put Ducie Island on 6-meter moonbounce for the first time ever. Operation will be on 50.200 MHz using JT65.

AMSAT has announced the results of its 2018 Board of Directors election. AMSAT-NA has announced that Tom Clark, K3IO; Mark Hammond, N8MH, and Bruce Paige, KK5DO, have won new 2-year terms on the AMSAT Board of Directors. The First Alternate is Peter Portanova, W2JV. The Second Alternate is Scott Harvey, KA7FVV. Both will serve 1-year terms. The results of the voting, with 698 ballots cast, were: Tom Clark, K3IO, 574; Mark Hammond, N8MH, 507; Bruce Paige, KK5DO, 402, Peter Portanova, W2JV, 359, and Scott Harvey, KA7FVV, 176. -- *Thanks to AMSAT-NA Manager Martha Saragovitz and AMSAT Secretary Clayton Coleman, W5PFG*

Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted entities list has been updated as of August 28. The list includes 340 entities, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or North Korea, is the #1 most-wanted DXCC entity, as it has been for quite a few years. The other top 10 most-wanted entities, listed in descending order, are: 3Y/B Bouvet Island; FT5/W Crozet Island; BS7H Scarborough Reef; CE0X San Felix Islands; BV9P Pratas Island; KH7K Kure Island; KH3 Johnston Island; VK0M Macquarie Island, and FT5/X Kerguelen Island.

The **ARRL School Club Roundup** fall session is October 15-19, 2018. The point of this contest is to foster friendly competition and increase Amateur Radio activity at elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges. Non-school clubs and individuals can also participate. This multi-day event happens during the week, presumably when contesters are able to use resources at school. Some schools make this event part of their radio club's activities driven by an educator or club sponsor. Many schools at the college level rely on the students to decide on whether and how to participate**. Results from previous events are available**, where you can see consistent strong participation from particular schools.

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/