



Legacy Amateur Radio Club

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AFFILIATED CLUB

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

FEBRUARY 2019

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 6:30 PM AT
[SQUEALERS](#), 5899 E. 86th STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

Summary of the January meeting – Thanks to all who attended the January meeting. Among the items discussed... The FCC shutdown and amateur license applications; the FOX satellite apparently having receiver problems; the FCC's \$900K fine against Swarm Technologies for launching satellites without approval. Planning for 2019 Field Day will begin with monthly meetings beginning in Feb. John, KF9UH, purchased a new battery for the repeater UPS which has solved some of the problems which have been occurring. Upcoming 160m, RTTY, and VHF contests were discussed. The ARRL Grid Chase contest is over. The only one in our Club who seriously participated was K9RU with a grid score of 4366 (703 unique grids), 6235 QSLs out of about 8400 contacts. Good job, Jim!

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION –

Time: Saturday, February 09, 2019, Noon (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

Feb 09 Hendricks County Annual Hamfest, Danville, IN <http://hcars.org/>
Feb 11-15 ARRL School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
Feb 16-17 ARRL International CW DX Contest <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
Mar 2-3 ARRL International SSB DX Contest <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>
May 05 Indy Mini Marathon (Not too early to sign up to help) - N9FEB@comcast.net
May 05 Indiana QSO Party <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/>
May 17-19 Hamvention, Green County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH <http://www.hamvention.org/>
May 25 500 Festival Parade
June 22-23 Field Day
July 12-13 Indianapolis Hamfest, Marion County Fairgrounds, <http://www.indyhamfest.com/>

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

FCC NOW PROCESSING AMATEUR RADIO APPLICATIONS

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator said today (01/30/2019) that the FCC has begun processing Amateur Radio applications for the first time since early January, when it shut down because of the lapse in funding.

"The FCC worked through its backlog very quickly, and started processing our files about noon today," Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Amanda Grimaldi, N1NHL, said on Wednesday. "We're slowly submitting the files we have in queue — we don't want to bombard them! Assuming there are no hiccups, everyone should see their applications processed by the close of business on Thursday."

The ARRL VEC had piled up some 2,700 pending Amateur Radio applications, many of them from 425 ARRL VEC examination sessions that took place during the shutdown or immediately prior to it. These do not include files that the other 13 VECs may have ready to upload to the FCC. --ARRL

ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ISSUES STATEMENT ON AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT

At its annual meeting January 18 - 19, the ARRL Board of Directors decided that the organization needs to "review, re-examine, and reappraise ARRL's regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land use restrictions."

In order to effectively undertake such a review, the Board adopted a resolution to withdraw its December 18 [Petition for Rule Making](#) to the FCC, which sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act ([ARPA](#)), without prejudice to re-filing. The resolution also is asking members of Congress who had refiled legislation to enact the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) to refrain from seeking to advance that legislation pending further input from ARRL.

Board members noted that ARRL has been pursuing adoption of the ARPA for the past several years, and that objective has not yet been achieved. While everyone understands that getting Congressional approval on any matter can be a lengthy process, the difficulties getting the ARPA approved has been a source of frustration to the organization and its members. A majority of the Board now believes that there is a need to reassess the organization's approach to this issue.

The Board wants to make clear to its members, and to those whose policies and conduct prevent or impair the right of US Amateur Radio operators to operate from their homes, that this pause is not, and should not be interpreted as an abandonment of its efforts to obtain relief from private land-use restrictions. The Board noted that its intent is "to renew, continue and strengthen the ARRL's effort to achieve relief from such restrictions." This action represents a chance to get the best product possible for all US Amateur Radio operators.

The Board expressed its sincere appreciation to the thousands of ARRL members who took the time to contact their representatives in Congress to urge them to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Board also offered its thanks to those members of Congress who have consistently and continuously supported the rights of US Amateur Radio operators. --ARRL Letter

NEW ARRL CEO WANTS TO "START A CONVERSATION"

In his first appearance at a ham radio event, ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, told Ham Radio University 2019 attendees on January 5 that he was there to initiate a dialogue on what will make ARRL more successful in its missions amid a changing Amateur Radio environment. Michel became ARRL CEO about 3 months ago.

"What I'm here for is to start a conversation," Michel [told his audience](#) at New York's Long Island University. "I'm starting conversations everywhere I go to find out, by talking to people, what's really important."

In his view, Michel said, ARRL is a membership organization, a business, and a 501(c)(3) public charity that exists for the public good. "All three of those must exist in balance," he said, adding that the balance has been lost. He said changes need to be made in how ARRL is organized and how it operates, and he made clear during the post-presentation Q&A that he sees himself as an agent of change.

In terms of a membership organization, Michel said ARRL's some 157,000 members, local clubs, and Headquarters staffers should form a three-way partnership, but, he conceded, that the links among those components "are shaky at times," due to a lack of understanding and differing expectations.

Citing ARRL publications as an example, Michel pointed out that the way people get information today is far different than what it was 50 years ago. ARRL's business of the future will be based upon the creation of value. "If we don't create the value and deliver the value, then we're not really an advocate," he said. "ARRL is uniquely positioned to create, curate, and deliver information about Amateur Radio. The way that information is created and delivered is changing, and if we don't change with that, we're not going to be the dominant provider."

In terms of numbers, out of some 30,000 new licensees each year, some 17 - 18% join ARRL, and after 1 year, 61% remain. "Why are we not getting 100% of those new hams?" Michel said. Because 80% of the new licensees took their exams through ARRL VEC, Michel said their lack of interest in joining ARRL suggests "something is wrong in the value proposition." More telling, he continued, is the fact that ARRL membership is falling behind in terms of a percentage of licensees. "We need to turn that around," he said, if ARRL is to continue representing itself as speaking on behalf of Amateur Radio.

Part of the problem lies in current demographic trends in membership. Most ARRL members are Amateur Extra-class licensees, while a larger majority of those who have never been members are Technician licensees. Active radio amateurs are 33% more likely to join ARRL, Michel pointed out. He said a significant majority of non-member Technician licensees have indicated they would like training and support for newcomers, courses for licensing and practical radio operating, training for public service and disaster communication volunteers, and continuing education on technical topics and "online live help" to learn more about ARRL and ham radio.

"We've got them through the test to get their license, and then we've dropped them," Michel said. "We've got to fix that."

The planned approach is recognizing that ARRL members do not represent a monolith, but that each has their own Amateur Radio persona. The spectrum of hams, Michel said, spans communications, service, technology, and hobby.

"Let's think about an average person with some kinds of traits and how you market material to them," Michel proposed. "I'm trying to start a conversation with everybody about how to start something new." --ARRL Letter

BRUNEI V84SAA DXPEDITION TO FOCUS ON LOW BANDS

Setup is under way in the tiny Southeast Asian nation of Brunei, located on the Island of Borneo and surrounded by Malaysia, for the [V84SAA DXpedition](#). Eighteen operators under the leadership of Krassy Petkov, K1LZ, will fire up on February 7 and continue until February 18. Operation will concentrate on the low bands.

"Many of the team have already landed in Brunei, and the tent is set up on the beach for the CW team," top band expert Jeff Briggs, K1ZM/VY2ZM, reported just prior to his planned departure from the US. Briggs explained in a February 4 update that two operating sites — one for CW and the other for SSB — will be set up some 25 kilometers apart. "The CW stations will be set up on Seri Kenangan beach, with an ocean shot to North America and Europe," he said, adding that he anticipates the first real night will be February 8, as the team may not be fully set up on 160 meters on the first day, and "there is a lot on our plate." After that, Briggs said he plans to be at the radio nightly, and he's hoping manmade noise remains minimal to nonexistent.

All of North America will have some portion of common darkness with the V84SAA team. Briggs advises North American stations to look for V84SAA immediately after local sunset in Brunei, not necessarily at local sunrise in North America. "We may peak out of a 220° heading about 20 minutes after it gets dark in Brunei," he said.

For antennas, the team will use verticals on 160 and 80 meters and a four-square on 40 meters located on the beach. Plans call for two Beverages — one for Europe and another for North America. While the team will focus on the low bands, expect to find V84SAA on the higher bands — including 30, 17, and 12 meters.

In addition to Petkov and Briggs, other US operators on the team include Briggs's son Patrick, KK6ZM, and Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA. The V84SAA team will have the support of Tamat Lampoh, V85T, and the Brunei Darussalam Amateur Radio Association. QSL via Tony Stefanov, LZ1JZ, direct or via the bureau. During the DXpedition, V84SAA will upload its logs daily to Club Log.

Brunei is the overall 146th most-wanted DXCC entity, according to the Club Log [DXCC Most Wanted List](#), but it's number 39 on 160 meters, and 73 on 80 meters. --ARRL Letter

COURT RULES EXCESSIVE ANTENNA APPLICATION FEES VIOLATED REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit. The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein, N2EHG, that the Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption [PRB-1](#) in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to "reasonably" accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the "minimum practicable regulation" in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein, who lives in the Bronx, had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna

support structure for a multioperator station in the Hamlet of Lagrangeville; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

"This case, which goes back to 2013, was about applying PRB-1 to a situation in which a municipality attempted to thwart the installation and maintenance of ham radio antennas by imposing excessive permit application costs on the ham applicant," said communications attorney Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is familiar with the case. Imlay said the FCC has refused to clarify the cost-prohibition issue as it relates to PRB-1's "minimum practicable regulation" and reasonable accommodation provisions of PRB-1.

"The Town incurred more than \$17,000 in legal consulting fees in connection with [Landstein's] applications, and informed the petitioner that he was required to reimburse the Town for these fees before any determination would be made with respect to the applications," the court decision recounted. "The Town subsequently, as 'an accommodation to the petitioner,' reduced the amount...to...\$5,874, but also required the petitioner to maintain a minimum advance continuing escrow balance of at least \$1,000 to cover the Town's future consulting costs..."

"We hold that, because the Town did not limit the consulting fees charged to the petitioner to those necessary to the decision-making function of the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, the town exceeded its state-granted authority by requiring payment of the consulting fees and, moreover, violated a rule promulgated by the [FCC]," the court concluded.

Given the significant delay, Imlay said both he and Landstein had lost hope that the case would ever be resolved in Landstein's favor -- and in the favor of radio amateurs in New York, generally -- much less be a case that would "create favorable precedent for Amateur Radio."

"ARRL originally was drawn to this case, because New York is the only state that, due to a very old case decision, has held that Amateur Radio antennas are not necessarily a 'normal accessory use' to residential real property," Imlay explained. "Because the issue in the case dealt with both that issue and the issue of cost prohibitions in the permitting process relative to the cost of the antenna installation, we decided to fund the case." Landstein lost at trial, and an appeal was filed in about 2015, for which ARRL provided memoranda of law about the cost-prohibition issue. "The antenna at issue and the support structure was to cost no more than \$1,000," Imlay said.

The court concluded that the town "may not use its land-use regulatory authority to construct 'hoop after hoop' for the petitioner to jump through in order to erect his radio antenna tower [and] cannot impose unreasonable expenses so as to create an insurmountable financial barrier to the pursuit of the project. In this context, not only must the consultant fees be reasonable..., but the underlying services must be necessarily related to those municipal regulatory functions which are not preempted by federal law." --ARRL Letter

AMSAT ANNOUNCES 50TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS PROGRAM

AMSAT has announced its 50th Anniversary Awards Program, to help celebrate 50 years of keeping Amateur Radio in space. Satellite and HF contacts can help participants to earn one of these awards:

- 50th Anniversary AMSAT OSCAR Satellite Communications Achievement Award
- 50th Anniversary AMSAT Satellite Friends of 50 Award
- AMSAT on HF 50th Anniversary Award

The 50th anniversary AMSAT OSCAR Satellite Communications Achievement Award will be issued on one of the original goldenrod paper stock certificates and signed by AMSAT's founding President, Perry Klein, W3PK (ex-K3TJE). "With only 20 original certificates available, this award will certainly become a collector's item," AMSAT said.

[Complete details](#) are on the AMSAT website. Awards cost \$25, plus postage. Certificates will be sequentially numbered.

To receive the 50th Anniversary AMSAT Satellite Friends of 50 Award, work 50 stations on any satellite -- with a limit of one contact per day -- during 2019. Contacts may be made from various locations, as long as the operator uses his or her personal call sign (with any appropriate locators). This award is \$15, plus postage. [Complete details](#) are on the AMSAT website.

To achieve the AMSAT on HF 50th Anniversary Award, work at least one AMSAT member on any HF band in any mode. Additional award levels are based on the number of AMSAT members you contact on the HF bands. [Complete details](#) are on the AMSAT website. -- *Thanks to Robert Bankston, KE4AL, AMSAT-NA Vice President of User Services*

MarconISSta OFFERING ONE LAST CHANCE TO TEST UHF ANTENNAS

The [MarconISSta](#) experiment at the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARRL ARISS](#)) *Columbus* module ham station will be decommissioned on February 9, about 3 weeks earlier than anticipated. MarconISSta is a radio spectrum analyzer on the ISS that monitors parts of the RF spectrum in VHF, UHF, L, and S bands in order to analyze current use and availability for satellite communication.

The project is conducted by a team of researchers and students from Technische Universität Berlin, with support of the German Aerospace Center, the European Space Agency, ARISS, and other partners. MarconISSta engineers are inviting all who possess a UHF antenna and can generate at least 30 dBW EIRP to **attempt transmitting** to the ISS. MarconISSta will record and publish all transmissions copied. Successful tests have been carried out with 50 W and 15 dBi antenna gain.

This experiment is ideal for testing your antennas and letting ARISS evaluate the VHF/UHF antenna pattern. Whenever the ISS is within range, transmit between 435 and 438 MHz, avoiding 435.95 MHz in Europe and 436.5 MHz (the receiver's center frequency). Transmit a continuous carrier, and do not employ Doppler shift correction.

The MarconISSta hardware was launched last August and integrated with the onboard ARISS equipment. The experiment ended after collecting 9 GB of data, but in late December, the European Space Agency (ESA) funded it for another round, and the system was turned on again last month. -- *Thanks to MarconISSta and ARISS*

ARRL LAUNCHING NEW PODCAST GEARED TOWARD NEW RADIO AMATEURS

For those just getting started on their Amateur Radio journey, ARRL is launching a new podcast aimed at answering your questions, providing support and encouragement for newcomers to get the most out of the hobby. The podcast, "So Now What?," will launch on Thursday, March 7, and new episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the ["ARRL The Doctor is In"](#) podcast.

Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas. "No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community...that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have," said ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast's executive producer.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

Given the growing popularity of podcasts, Isgur believes that providing this information in a podcast format will be a very effective method of reaching out and engaging this particular part of the Amateur Radio community, which is important for building and maintaining Amateur Radio interest and activity.

Patnode said she is excited to ask questions she has about different aspects of Amateur Radio, such as how to incorporate ham radio with newer technologies like Raspberry Pi computers and Arduino microcontrollers, and to learn more about the hobby right along with the audience.

Carcia believes the "So Now What?" podcast will be a perfect complement to the podcasts that the ARRL already offers -- "ARRL The Doctor Is In" and "ARRL Audio News."

In addition to serving as co-host, Patnode is also the audio editor/producer of the podcast. ARRL Graphics Department Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, designed the podcast logo, and ARRL Radiosport Administrative Manager Sabrina Jackson, KC1JMW, will voice the introduction and closing.

Listeners can find the "So Now What?" podcast at Blubrry.com, Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

"So Now What?" will be sponsored by LDG Electronics, a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products. --ARRL Letter

HUNDREDS REPORT HEARING SAQ ALEXANDERSON ALTERNATOR ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Alexanderson Alternator transmissions on Christmas Eve 2018 from Sweden's SAQ drew more than [340 listener reports](#) from 28 countries, including seven reports from the US.

"Many visitors had come to the transmission hall to enjoy coffee, cake, and Swedish ginger snaps as they were watching the activities with starting and running the old radio transmitter SAQ," the report from Sweden said this week. "The 'old lady' was in a very good mood, and we had a flawless startup and transmission. The conditions were very good with the dry and cold weather, and the signal was strong."

The nearly century-old electromechanical Alexanderson Alternator at SAQ transmits on CW at 17.2 kHz on special occasions. Amateur Radio station SK6SAQ was also active on Christmas Eve on 75, 40, and 20 meters, with two stations on the air from the SAQ site in Grimeton, Sweden. --ARRL

EARTH'S MAGNETIC NORTH POLE SHIFTS TOWARD SIBERIA

National Centers for Environmental Information ([NCEI](#)) scientists have updated the world magnetic model (WMM) mid-cycle, as Earth's northern magnetic pole has begun shifting quickly away from the Canadian Arctic and toward Siberia, an [NCEI report](#) said this week. The new WMM more accurately represents the change of the magnetic field since 2015. The alteration could have an impact on government, industry, and consumer electronics.

"Due to unplanned variations in the Arctic region, scientists have released a new model to more accurately represent the change of the magnetic field," the report said, noting that updated versions of the WMM are typically released every 5 years. This update comes about 1 year early.

"This out-of-cycle update before next year's official release of WMM 2020 will ensure safe navigation for military applications, commercial airlines, search and rescue operations, and others operating around the North Pole," said NCEI, which is part of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). "Organizations such as NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration, US Forest Service, and many more use this technology. The military uses the WMM for undersea and aircraft navigation, parachute deployment, and more."

Other governmental entities use the technology for surveying and mapping, satellite/antenna tracking, and air traffic management. Smartphone and consumer electronics companies also rely on the WMM to provide consumers with accurate compass apps, maps, and GPS services.

Airport runways may be the most visible example of a navigation aid updated to match shifts in Earth's magnetic field. Airports around the country use the data to give runways numerical names, which pilots refer to on the ground. The declination has changed slightly more than 2.5° over the past 2 decades or so. Compasses use declination — the difference between true north and where a compass points — to help correct navigation systems for a wide variety of uses.

As Earth's magnetic field evolves between the 5-year release schedule of the WMM, these predicted values can become off as the rate of change in Earth's magnetic field evolves due to unpredictable flows in Earth's core. The NCEI report said Earth's north polar region is experiencing one of these erratic changes.

DXer and Contestester Frank Donovan, W3LPL, said the slowly drifting *geomagnetic* north pole has much greater significance to DXers and contesters because the northern auroral oval — which greatly affects HF propagation over the north Atlantic and north Pacific Oceans — is closely centered on the geomagnetic north pole and *not* on the magnetic — or dip — north pole discussed in the NCEI report.

"The geomagnetic north pole has been drifting generally northward at only about 3 miles per year," Donovan pointed out. "The location of the magnetic north pole is important to navigation but of relatively little importance to space-based phenomena such as HF ionospheric propagation." — *Thanks to NOAA-NCEI*

EUROPE'S YOUNGSTERS ON THE AIR ENTHUSIASM BREEDS EXUBERANCE IN US

Some of the enthusiasm engendered by Youngsters on the Air ([YOTA](#)) in International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)) Region 1 (Europe and Africa) has spilled over into IARU Region 2 (the Americas). A group of a half-dozen young radio operators calling itself "Team Exuberance" will visit the contest superstation of Tim Duffy, K3LR, in late March for

the [CQ World Wide WPX](#) SSB event. The team was inspired in part by YOTA's Youth Contesting Program ([YCP](#)) in Europe, which arranges for youthful IARU Region 1 members to participate in contests from top stations. Last year's YCP station hosts included ES5TV, 9A1A, EC2DX, 4O3A, and DM9EE, with more YCP events planned for 2019. YOTA also sponsors an annual summer camp gathering of some 80 young radio amateurs -- this year in Bulgaria -- and the monthly [YOTA Youth Sked](#). A handful of young US radio amateurs have attended recent YOTA summer camps. A similar initiative is the annual Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure ([YDXA](#)), which offers a group of young contesters the opportunity to operate from a DX location.

The Young Amateurs Radio Club ([YARC](#)) in IARU Region 2 [picked up the ball](#) in 2017. [Membership](#) is free, and applicants do not have to be licensed. ARRL's Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative ([CARI](#)) also has been generating contesting and operating enthusiasm at campus ham radio clubs.

YARC, which sponsored summer and winter QSO parties in 2018, has offered to coordinate and facilitate station visits between US and Canadian hosts, recruiting operators within easy travel distances of a host station. Station hosts in Central America, the Caribbean, and South America are invited to recruit teams of young operators for contests.

[Visit](#) the YARC website to offer your station, or [email](#) with station particulars. YARC will try to connect you to young operators in your area, with the rest up to the host and participants. Young radio amateurs may connect with other YARC members via the [Young Hams Discord](#) group and via online and HF [nets](#). -- *Thanks to [The ARRL Contest Update](#) via Ward Silver, N0AX*

ON-ORBIT FREQUENCY CHANGE ANNOUNCED FOR UWE-4 CUBESAT

The Satellite Technology group at the University of Würzburg has announced a change of frequency for the UWE-4 CubeSat, launched on a December 27 *Soyuz* flight. The 1U CubeSat carries an electric propulsion experiment and a 70-centimeter 9.6 k AX.25 digipeater. "After 2 weeks in orbit, UWE-4 is in very good shape," the group reported. "After the early-orbit phase, we are looking forward to some interesting experiments with the attitude determination sensors and the propulsion system. Unfortunately, our uplink success rate is very poor, which currently prevents these experiments." The university team said that the problem appears to be a "substantial noise floor" at the original frequency. "For this reason, we filed a request for the change of our radio frequency to 435.600 MHz with IARU, which has already been approved," the group said. The procedure to change the UWE-4 frequency began on January 10. The Satellite Technology Group requested that radio amateurs [forward](#) any UWE-4 telemetry files via email. -- *Thanks to the UWE-4 Team via Trevor, M5AKA, and AMSAT News Service*

SHORTS

Fair warning: [Extended support for Windows 7 ends in January 2020](#). This means that no new security updates will be published for the operating system after that date. Using computers that are not up to date with security patches can present risks to all of the other computers and devices on your network.

The new [IC-9700 VHF/UHF/1200 MHz radio is the feature of this UK YouTube video](#) posted by Icom. Though it's not available yet, pre-release samples have been demonstrated, and pre-orders may be possible through your favorite Amateur Radio gear supplier. (Sterling, N0SSC, via Twitter)**Hams in Indonesia have three new bands.**Indonesia's IARU member-

society [ORARI](#) reports that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has allocated bands of 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200 meters), 472 - 479 kHz (630 meters), and 5.315.5 - 5.366.5 MHz (60 meters), effective on December 31, 2018. The 60-meter band is at a maximum of 15 W EIRP for Advanced and General licensees only. All allocations are on a secondary basis.

[Icom engineers were testing different methods of using voice recognition to control radio settings, and some of the results were presented at the Tokyo Hamfair.](#) Two methods of control were explored. In the "direct" case, hardware attached to the radio had all of the necessary processing to directly control the radio. In the "cloud" case, they built an Alexa skill, which runs in the cloud to communicate with a Raspberry Pi connected locally to an Icom radio. The radio was controlled by speaking phrases such as, "Alexa, set the frequency to 7 megahertz." (via Twitter)

Registration is Open for QRP-ARCI "Four Days in May" 2019 [Registration](#) is open for the QRP Amateur Radio Club International ([QRPARCI](#)) "Four Days in May" (FDIM), Thursday - Sunday, May 16 - 19, at the Holiday Inn, Fairborn, Ohio. The annual FDIM event for QRP enthusiasts and builders takes place in conjunction with Hamvention®. Sign-in begins the evening of Wednesday, May 15. Most of Thursday will be taken up with seminars, "meet the speakers" opportunities, and an open room for casual show and tell. Most of Friday and Saturday are open to attend Hamvention and visit the QRP-ARCI Toy Store. Friday evening activities typically include "show and tell," vendor displays, and a homebrew contest. Saturday evening features social activities and a banquet, while Sunday is open for Hamvention. Attendees are invited to display their QRP-related projects at FDIM. Reservations and group room rates for FDIM are available via the [QRP-ARCI website](#). For more information, [contact](#) FDIM 2019 Chair Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV.

Ed, W0YK, [announces](#) that the annual Digital Contest Dinner, coincident with the Hamvention and Contest University activities, will be Thursday, May 16, 1800 local, at Spaghetti Warehouse, 36 West 5th Street, Dayton, Ohio. This is an "Informal dinner with digital contesting friends, and anyone is welcome." According to Ed, there may be a program. If not, it will be a social event. For more information, see [this post in RttyDigital post on Groups.io](#).

Chad, WE9V has created a new [world map](#) of all the CW and RTTY Skimmers that have been reporting spots to the [Reverse Beacon Network \(RBN\)](#) within the last 90 days. Though coverage is worldwide, there are many obvious gaps where more coverage would be helpful. Want to help fill the gaps? Add a skimmer or two of your own! The Red Pitaya is an SDR board that can simultaneously support CW or RTTY skimming on 8 bands simultaneously. For details, [see here](#). A new [STEMlab SDR](#) based on an upgraded Red Pitaya SDR board is currently under development. Once the board is available and current software is modified, this SDR should also be able to directly support simultaneous CW or RTTY Skimming on 8 or more bands simultaneously. Note that an [impedance matching transformer](#) is strongly recommended to improve the receive performance of the current Red Pitaya, but it will not be needed for the new version."

Identifying signals that are displayed on your waterfall or spectrum display can be helped by using the [Sigidwiki website](#). You can compare what you see on your the screen to what you see on the website, and listen to real samples of various types of emissions. No category appears to be excluded! Representative samples include those you'd see on Amateur bands, and others we'd like NOT to see on our bands: over the horizon radar, cellular signals like 4G LTE, Tire Pressure Management System (TPMS) emissions, and scores of others. (Howard, WB4IVF, via Flexradio email list)

US Islands Awards Program Announces 25th Anniversary Award, Recent Rule Changes
The US Islands ([USI](#)) Awards Program celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and is offering

a commemorative award for both chasers and activators for contacts made between January 1 and December 31.

To qualify, chasers must confirm 25 islands during 2019, as a club or individual, and activators must qualify or activate 25 islands in any combination, making at least 15 contacts for both new island qualification and island activation. This award can be issued to multiple club members using a single call sign, or to an individual. Send a list of confirmed or activated islands to Award Chairman Jay Chamberlain, NS4J. The list should include name, call sign, address, email, USI number, island name, date worked or activated, and call sign used or worked.

The following permanent rule changes went into effect on January 1: The minimum contact count for island qualifications has been lowered from 25 to 15; the contact requirement of two DXCCs during an island qualification has been dropped, and the bands eligible for island qualifications have been expanded to include 6 meters and satellite contacts.

JAUDE released an external driver program that allows the popular RTTY software MMTTY to perform FSK keying. With the addition of his program, and a little configuration, you'll be able to use K3NG's [TinyFSK](#) software with [MORTTY](#) hardware, or build your own.

Flex Radio Systems has announced a new feature, [multiFlex](#), which enables two operators to use a single Flex Radio Systems transceiver simultaneously. This has immediate applicability in the multi-1, multi-2, and multi-multi contesting categories where it's a common advanced strategy to use two or more operators to search and pounce and run a band at the same time. For more information, [see the Flex Radio Systems website](#)

[HamSCI Workshop 2019](#) is the place where professional scientists and the Amateur Radio community get to rub elbows. Among the topics to be discussed at this year's workshop are ideas and proposals for [Personal Space Weather Stations](#), ground-based instrumentation that can be used to monitor the 2024 solar eclipse, and other topic areas related to Amateur Radio and science. The conference is March 22-23, 2019 at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information on how you can present, see the [HamSCI call for papers](#), and for general information on the conference, see the [conference website](#).

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/>
