



# RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN

[www.w9rca.org](http://www.w9rca.org)



APRIL 2020

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## NO MEETING THIS MONTH

A VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR  
TUESDAY APRIL 14 AT 7:00 EDT  
INVITATIONS TO JOIN WILL BE EMAILED BY APRIL 14

April 18<sup>th</sup> Amateur Radio License Test Session Canceled

## RCA ARC NEWS

**APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING** – For the April 14 meeting we shall use a Zoom virtual meeting. If you're not familiar with Zoom... Their basic service is free and allows up to 100 attendees. The only restriction is the meeting can only last 40 minutes (unless they have recently removed this restriction). You will receive an email message with a link on probably April 13 or 14. If you can access your emails by your smart phone, then you can join using it. If you join using your desktop or laptop and do not have a video camera, then it will join you with audio only assuming you have some type of microphone connected to the computer. If not, then you will be logged as listen only.

**SUMMARY OF THE MARCH MEETING** – Thanks to all who attended the March meeting. Field Day plans were again discussed. Not much has changed from last month. [Ed. Note: At the time of the March meeting, no Coronavirus related restrictions had been announced.] Our Club will contribute to the Indy United FD Club [Ed. Note: The ARRL has indicated that Field Day will go on the normal schedule. Participants will need to adapt to restrictions as needed.] The Indy Radio Club will again be in Speedway. Also, plans for the Dayton Hamvention and the Indy Hamfest were discussed. [Ed. Note: Of course the Hamvention has been canceled. No decision has been made on the Indy Hamfest. Expect a decision about the first of May.] For the Indy Hamfest, we have been given some stuff to sell which came out of Technicolor when operations were shut down. More would be welcome!

## **AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION**

**Time:** Saturday, June 13, 2020, 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](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net), 317 721-1458

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

June 27 -28 ARRL Field Day

July 10-11 Indianapolis Hamfest & ARRL State Convention, <http://indyhamfest.com/>

For more information: <http://www.indyhams.org/events>

**INDIANA QSO PARTY - MAY 2, 2020 - 11AM to 11PM EDT** --The purpose of the **Indiana QSO Party (INQP)** is to encourage contact with Indiana amateur radio stations by other Indiana hams and hams worldwide. Stations outside of Indiana work Indiana stations only. Indiana stations work everybody, including other Indiana stations. See the [rules](#) for the rest of the details.

Even with the COVID-19 Indiana stay at home order, you can operate from home and have a great time contacting hams around Indiana and the world on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter Amateur bands.

Check the INQP rules as they will change to meet the Governor's Stay at Home order and the COVID-19.

Get on the air and show that Indiana is still active even with COVID-19 restrictions.-- K9RU

## MESSAGE FROM ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR KERMIT CARLSON, W9XA

The challenges that we now face are significantly different than anything our modern world has previously encountered. Over the past week we have fielded a number of emails with questions and suggestions about the ARRL and amateur operations. The most important advice that we can offer is to please follow the directives of your local health professionals and government authorities.

On account of the orders of the Governor of Connecticut, the ARRL Headquarters has closed. All HQ operations are being conducted by remote with the staff working from home. Other than one or two people occasionally at 225 Main Street, the halls are empty.

We do want to express our sincere thanks to the members of our Headquarters staff for keeping the lights on, even if by remote. This shift in operation was arranged with little warning and has provided an ongoing continuity through the diligent efforts of dozens of dedicated HQ staff members.

Several members have inquired about the possibility of remote monitoring of VE Testing. The Alaska VEC does perform remote testing with proctors monitoring by online video. However, the Alaska VEC uses at least one proctor present at the testing location. With the current guidance of social distancing there are discussions on how a test could be administered completely by remote.

The ARRL VEC has been developing an all-electronic method of testing but that is not ready for use. The Board and staff are expecting that no immediate change is possible under the circumstance but there are discussions within the Board of possibilities that are being explored.

Here are answers to some the questions that have been asked about League operations and future League activities;

**Volunteer Examinations and the ARRL VEC** - Due to the orders in place by the State of Connecticut, the VE office is closed with nobody in the building. The following information is provided by Mr. Barry Shelly, N1VXY, the ARRL CEO;

The ARRL VEC is processing of existing test sessions that have been submitted through our e-file web page and are transmitting those to the FCC for processing. The FCC is functioning and processing normally so far.

Any sessions that had been mailed to HQ but not received by Monday March 23 are not being processed because no one is at HQ to process them.

The ARRL VEC is contacting VE that did conduct exams and are processing the sessions where the VE teams have the ability to scan and send the required PDF documents to ARRL VEC.

VE Teams are contacting the those who attended a tests session and having them submit a completed 605 to complete the application for a license.

Filing individual and club license changes and renewals that are emailed or phoned in directly to VEC continues as are the renewals which are forwarded from circulation staff and HQ staff.

Paper exams are not being sent out because no one is in the office to do so, these limitations are due to the edict of the Governor of Connecticut.

Also, the VEC office cannot process credit cards or checks until they are back in the office. VEC functions that can be done remotely are ongoing.

**Hamfests** – If your group or club is postponing or cancelling a hamfest please email Eric Casey, KC2ERC, at [ecasey@arrl.org](mailto:ecasey@arrl.org) with the updated information. To view hamfest and event cancellations, visit <http://www.arrl.org/canceledHamfests.php>

**Field Day** -There are no rule changes to those rules that were posted two months ago. A posting yesterday on the ARRL Web site answers most questions about the upcoming Field Day 2020. Please have a look at; <http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt> The concept is to work with whatever situation exists this year in June. The Field Day-2020 will be different because of this extreme situation, but it will be held. DE N1VXY, ARRL CEO

**The following message was sent from interim ARRL CEO Barry Shelly, N1VXY**, and was authored by ARRL Director of Operations Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Here at HQ we have received lots of communications from our members either asking for guidance or offering suggestions during the current crisis. We hope everyone is adhering to CDC and local health department guidelines by staying home, maintaining safe distances when around people, and following sanitary practices.

With many hams staying home there are opportunities to get on the air and call CQ or gather around the local repeater. We certainly do not need a reason to get on the air, after all, that is what hams do.

In terms of ham radio preparedness, this current crisis has not disrupted communications on a national scale. We know many of our members practice and train for a personal radio communication capability that can be called on when disaster strikes. ARES volunteers and our partners in providing emergency communications already routinely monitor the information and requests from Emergency Coordinators and the like. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service and this current crisis has not changed this.

We can encourage members to remain safe, and to follow the guidelines and requests of their national and local government officials and public health leaders. For those members who are healthy and safe at home, we can encourage them to get on the air:

Get on the air. As online fatigue and a feeling of isolation will inevitably creep into our new normal being on-air will introduce variety into our communication practices. As many of us are now housebound or working and studying from home, turning on a radio to connect with your ham radio peers will be a welcome respite!

Radio Clubs. Think of this current challenge as an opportunity to encourage our club members to get on the air. Move (short) meetings to the club repeater, and encourage check-ins. Organize skeds, nets, and challenges. Try different bands (HF, VHF, UHF ) and modes. This will also help new radio amateurs gain practical operating experience.

Readiness. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air will contribute to developing and practicing our personal radio communication capability.

If you are a radio amateur serving your community through the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or by volunteering with any of our partners in providing public service communications, thank you. ARES members routinely monitor the information and requests from their ARES Emergency Coordinators. We are grateful for all the ways you stand-ready to support the emergency service personnel in your communities when disaster strikes.

The amateur community is filled with examples of hams helping hams, with health and wellness check-ins and extra nets being held on the local repeaters. We would like to mention that this is also a time to explore the possibility of conducting an online video conference meeting in place of the local in-person meeting. Several of us have been living a daily work life on Zoom and email, but one does adapt to the lack of "personal" contact.

Please remember to take care of your neighbor and fellow amateur. The recommended social distance is 2 meters, but our contact can be as close as 2 meters, or any other band you choose. For instance, the Illinois ARES net on 3905 at 1200 Central has become a health and wellness daily net. Now is an excellent time to find new friends and old acquaintances on the air. Take care and stay well, 73, Kermit Carlson W9XA , Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA , Barry Shelly, N1VXY

## DAYTON HAMVENTION ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF 2020 SHOW

For the first time in its 68-year history, Dayton Hamvention® will not take place this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The glum news was not entirely unexpected, given widespread cancellations of public gatherings and a national state of emergency.

"The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year," Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, said in announcing the cancellation on March 15. "This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around 2 months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted. Thank you for your understanding in this time of international crisis."

The Dayton Hamvention cancellation comes less than a week after the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, called off this year's show. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

Since 2017, Hamvention has been held each May at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The international gathering attracted more than 32,000 visitors in 2019.

Hamvention's announcement has caused the cancellation of other associated events. These include Contest University, the Contest Dinner, and the Top Band Dinner. --ARRL Letter

## ARRL FIELD DAY 2020 -- A TIME TO ADAPT

Many individuals and groups organizing events for ARRL [Field Day](#) 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

"Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, or your group to try something new," ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. "Field Day isn't about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances."

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how -- and even whether -- you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won't work this year, then it's time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities include:

- Encouraging club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Using the club's repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna for family members interested in operating Field Day, who are now unable to participate as part of a larger group.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It's okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

"With any emergency preparedness exercise, it's not about adapting the situation to your operation; it's about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself," Bourque said. "Try something different." Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*

## ARRL MEMBERS AND ARRL VEC ACCREDITED VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS:

We know many examiners have canceled Amateur Radio License exam sessions to meet the requirements and recommendations of national and local government and health officials.

**The health and safety of examinees and our Volunteer Examiners is first and foremost in any decision-making process.**

**ARRL VEC does not offer video supervised online Amateur Radio licensing exams at the present time. However, we know some VE Teams are exploring alternative formats on a local basis.**

**However an ARRL VE Team did conduct an exam employing team safety and maintaining social distance:** <https://youtu.be/kcTOP3LhPU8>

Please continue to use ARRL's License Exam Search to find scheduled exam sessions in your area and verify with the local exam team that the session is still being held. Please visit [www.arrl.org/exam](http://www.arrl.org/exam).

ARRL VEC is continuing to process license examination materials received from Volunteer Examiners who have completed exam sessions although under the circumstances there are some delays. For qualified examinees, ARRL VEC forwards electronically all required data to the FCC.

We understand there are examination candidates who continue their studies toward new Amateur Radio Licenses and license upgrades. We also know some will be frustrated that, at this time, ARRL VEC does not offer online licensing exams. Amateur radio is not alone in this challenge, though.

While each of us continues to respond to the immediate evolving crisis, we also know that we must keep an eye to our future. Throughout its decades of service, the VEC system has served the FCC as a shining example of the successes of a privatized system. The ARRL VEC and our Volunteer Examiners are recognized throughout the Amateur Radio Service for our integrity and efficiency. Adapting our all-volunteer license examination administration will be a challenge, but one we are committed to undertake in order to advance the program and improve service.

While we face unprecedented challenges, opportunities also await. We are grateful to support radio amateurs in our common pursuit of skill, service, and discovery. ARRL and ARRL VEC remain steadfast in serving you. We will provide updates as they become available. – Sincerely, Maria Somma, AB1FM - VEC Manager / Editor ARRL

## W5YI CONDUCTS FIRST USA ALL-ONLINE VIRTUAL HAM RADIO EXAM

The first remote all-online amateur radio Technician license exam was carried out in the United States on March 26, 2020.

Our working group ran an "all-virtual" amateur radio technician license exam for the first time in history. This was a completely remote video session was a success. Ex-ham re-earned his Tech yesterday. Let's all congratulate KJ7NNU. Thanks to [@W5YI](#) for being supportive of this effort. thank [@w5yi](#) for this opportunity!

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai speedily tweeted his reply just 14 minutes later. Thanks for the suggestion. Let me look into this—stay tuned

Stay tuned, we hope to have a scalable solution available for broader use soon! [@N0SSC](#)  
[@arrlscv](#) – QRZnow

## COVID-19 AFFECTS SPACE STATION CREW TRANSITION

International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 62 crew is readying its *Soyuz MS-15* vehicle for an April 17 departure back to Earth. Expedition 62 members are NASA Flight Engineer Jessica Meir; Flight Engineer Andrew Morgan, KI5AAA, and Commander Oleg Skripochka, RA0LDJ. The

Expedition 63 crew members who are to replace them are nearing an April 9 launch aboard the *Soyuz MS-16* vehicle.

NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, KF5KDR, and Roscosmos cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin, and Ivan Vagner arrived this week at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan for final training. The Expedition 63 trio is scheduled to live aboard the station for a little longer than 6 months, with Cassidy as commander. Because of travel limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cassidy's family will watch from home when he blasts off on April 9. Launch day at Baikonur is usually a festive affair.

"But it'll be completely quiet," Cassidy said in a *Spaceflight Now* satellite interview from Star City, Russia. "There won't be anybody there." A NASA protocol has long been in place to prevent astronauts from carrying disease microbes into space. All astronauts going to orbit must go through a 2-week "health stabilization" quarantine period. This way, NASA can make sure the crew is not incubating any illnesses before launch. NASA said it "will continue to evaluate and augment this plan, in coordination with its international and commercial partners," if needed.

Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos has shut down all media activity surrounding the *Soyuz* launch, barring journalists from covering the mission in person. Russia will still live-stream the launch; NASA typically carries all of its crewed launches online via its NASA TV channel. The mid-April return of the Expedition 62 crew would typically involve a large number of recovery personnel.

SpaceX will launch its *Crew Dragon* capsule with NASA astronauts Bob Behnken, KG5BBX, and Doug Hurley aboard the spacecraft, "no earlier than mid-to-late May," NASA said, marking the first crew launch from the US since 2011. This is the final flight test of the system before SpaceX is certified to carry out operational crew flights to and from the ISS for NASA.

Pending the outcome of the demonstration test, SpaceX hopes to send its first operational crew of astronauts to the ISS aboard its *Crew Dragon* capsule later this year. On board will be Shannon Walker, KD5DXB; Michael Hopkins, KF5LJG; Victor Glover Jr., KI5BKC, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, for a six-month duty tour. NASA has not said what might happen if those operations should change in light of the pandemic.— *Thanks to NASA, AMSAT News Service*

## CIRCUIT BOARD FOR BARE-BONES VENTILATOR MOVES TOWARD PRODUCTION WITH RADIO AMATEURS' HELP

Radio amateurs continue to play key roles in developing the electronic control system for an open-source/architecture, modular, low-cost human patient ventilator. The device itself was designed by researcher Sem Lampotang and his team at University of Florida Health — the school's academic health center — using such commonly available components as PVC pipe and lawn-sprinkler valves. The idea is to create a bare-bones ventilator that could serve in the event of a ventilator shortage.

"The way I looked at it is, if you're going to run out of ventilators, then we're not even trying to reproduce the sophisticated ventilators out there," Lampotang said. "If we run out, you have to decide who gets one and who doesn't. How do you decide that? The power of our approach is that every well-intentioned volunteer who has access to Home Depot, Ace, Lowe's, or their equivalent worldwide can build one."

His team is working on adding safety features to meet regulatory guidelines, then they will run engineering tests to determine safety, accuracy, and endurance of the machine, which can be built for as little as \$125 to \$250.

Dr. Gordon Gibby, KX4Z — a retired associate professor of anesthesiology at the University of Florida and an electrical engineer — is among those involved in the project, developing control-system prototypes. He reports that a trial printed circuit board is being created, populated, and tested prior to large-scale fabrication. "This should lead to a documented open-source design that can be replicated or improved upon by any interested manufacturer," Gibby said, noting that the board could be built anywhere in the world, based on the Arduino Nano microcontroller.

"A huge amount of work has gone on in the design of the circuit boards," Gibby told ARRL. "We have at least two, maybe three designs, ready for fabrication." Current design specifications and a video of prototypes have been posted online. The Arduino-based control software will set the respiratory rate and other key parameters in treating critically ill coronavirus victims. Other radio amateurs involved in the control system aspect of the project include Jack Purdum, W8TEE, and uBITX transceiver maker Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE.

Using a Groups.io forum, up to 140 volunteers have been studying or working to push the project to completion. Software is being created by multiple volunteers, with amateur radio operators involved in that phase as well.

The ventilator's valves will precisely time the flow of compressed oxygen into a patient with lungs weakened by viral pneumonia in order to extend life and allow time for the body to clear the infection. --ARRL Letter

## ARRL CALLS FOR CONTINUED COEXISTENCE IN 3.4 AND 5.9 GHZ BANDS

In comments filed on March 9, ARRL said that while the FCC has not proposed to alter the secondary amateur allocation at 5.850 - 5.925 GHz, changes the FCC has proposed for other users "will constrain current and future amateur operations" in that band, if the proposals are adopted. The Amateur Radio Service shares the 5.850 - 5.925 GHz band on a secondary basis with Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC) systems. Amateur radio also shares the 5.850 - 5.875 GHz segment with industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) applications. ARRL's comments were in response to a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* in WT Docket 19-138, in which the FCC said it would "take a fresh and comprehensive look" at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band and proposed to make the lower 45 MHz of the band available for unlicensed operations and to permit vehicle safety systems in the upper 30 MHz of the band.

"This proceeding is of concern to radio amateurs across the country, because many of the operations carried out in this band are similar to those conducted in the 3.4 GHz band, from which the Commission, in a companion proceeding, is proposing to evict radio amateur operations," ARRL said.

ARRL urged the FCC "to consider holistically" its various spectrum reallocation proposals for mid-range spectrum, including the 5.9 GHz and 3.4 GHz proceedings as well as proposals in another proceeding that would affect 5.925 - 7.125 GHz. Those proposals would dedicate up to 1.2 GHz of spectrum for various types of unlicensed devices.

"The spectrum must be managed carefully and additional shared spectrum considered in order not to severely curtail amateur networks that often are used in public service applications when similar capabilities are not available to public service providers," ARRL said in its remarks.

ARRL noted the widespread use of 5.9 GHz in particular for amateur mesh and amateur television networks and links that radio amateurs have engineered into the band on a non-interference secondary basis, often for public service purposes. "For decades, these radio amateur uses have coexisted successfully with the primary users of the 5.9 GHz band without harmful interference," ARRL pointed out.



"Because of the flexibility, knowledge, and dedication of many individual radio amateurs, we can continue to operate and even grow, so long as both the 3.4 and 5.9 GHz bands remain available for amateur radio purposes on a secondary basis," ARRL said. "Additional sharing opportunities also should be made available where doing so would not interfere with primary operations and would employ otherwise unused spectrum for public benefit purposes," ARRL added, referencing a pending 3.1 - 3.3 GHz spectrum review by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages spectrum used by the federal government. --ARRL Letter

## FCC GRANTS TEMPORARY EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO WISPS OPERATING IN 5.8 GHZ BAND

The FCC has [granted](#) temporary permission to wireless internet service providers (WISPs) in rural portions of 29 states and the US Virgin Islands to operate in the 5.8 GHz band (5.850 - 5.895 GHz). The authorization, to help meet the temporary surge in demand for residential fixed broadband services during the COVID-19 pandemic, was one of multiple waivers issued in the past week that grant temporary access to a variety of bands in response to the uptick in residential broadband demand.

The 5.8 GHz grants were effective on March 26. Each grant is for 60 days, provided individual WISPs file STA applications within 10 days of March 26. Amateur radio shares this spectrum on a secondary basis with Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC) systems and industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) applications, and that status remains unchanged.

"[E]ach applicant is independently responsible for complying with the conditions of its grant," the FCC's Keith D. Harper, Associate Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division, wrote in granting the request. "Applicants are advised that this includes ensuring proper protection of incumbents in the 5.8 GHz band." The Commission noted that WISPs are responsible for ensuring that they do not cause interference to existing licensees.

According to the request, each of the WISPs provides fixed wireless broadband service in rural areas, primarily relying on unlicensed spectrum for last-mile connections to end users. "Many of the WISPs' customers have no other alternative to terrestrial broadband services," the request said.

The Commission's emergency grant explicitly requires that the WISP operations be conducted on a non-interference basis. Read [more](#).

## CANCELLATION OF PSAT3 LAUNCH MEANS NO DARPA LAUNCH CHALLENGE WINNER

The launch of the [PSAT3](#) CubeSat has been canceled, ending chances for winning the [DARPA Launch Challenge](#). The challenge offered a \$10 million prize for any launch provider that could deliver a rocket with only 30 days' notice of what payloads they would have and where they would launch from — and then, to do it again only 30 days later.

"We were on the second launch," said PSAT3's Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, of the US Naval Academy. "But on March 2, the third attempt by the launch provider was scrubbed at T-9 minutes and was not resolved until the launch window and DARPA Challenge deadline, had passed. Therefore, the Challenge was over. There was no winner, and we lost the launch."

The US Naval Academy project spacecraft remains available for a CubeSat Poly-Picosatellite Orbital Deployer (P-POD) launch opportunity, Bruninga said. He described PSAT3 as a follow-on

opportunity to duplicate the functionality of [PSAT2](#) in a full-sized P-POD payload that remains attached to the upper stage rocket body. The launch was expected to take place from Kodiak, Alaska.

## FCC LEVIES \$18,000 FINE ON LOUISIANA AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEE

In an enforcement case prompted by complaints filed in 2017, the FCC has imposed an \$18,000 forfeiture on Jerry W. Materne, KC5CSG, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, for intentional interference and failure to identify. The FCC had proposed the fine in a *Notice of Apparent Liability* ([NAL](#)) in the case in July 2018, and, based on Materne's response to the *NAL*, the agency affirmed the fine in a March 12 *Forfeiture Order* ([FO](#)).

As the FCC recounted in the *FO*, an FCC agent "observed Materne causing intentional interference to a local repeater by generating digital noise into an analog radio." The agent further reported that Materne failed to transmit his call sign, as required.

Materne disputed the FCC's findings, arguing that the *NAL* should be canceled because the agent "was mistaken in his determination that the source of the interference was Materne's station" as his radio was not capable of operating on the repeater frequency in question, the FCC said in the *NO*. Materne also asserted that he is unable to pay the fine and suggested in his response that the FCC should be able to access his financial information.

The FCC countered that the radio the agent observed in Materne's possession was capable of operating on the frequency in question. "We therefore are unpersuaded...that the proposed forfeiture should be canceled because, he alleges, he was not the party causing interference to the repeater and the radio in his possession could not operate on the frequency in question," the FCC said in affirming the findings of the *NAL*. "We are also unpersuaded by Materne's argument that he lacks the ability to pay the full \$18,000 forfeiture." The FCC said Materne failed to provide the FCC with proof of inability to pay, as required by the *NAL*.

The FCC gave Materne 30 days to pay the fine, or face having the case turned over to the US Department of Justice for enforcement. --ARRL Letter

## NEW TQSL VERSION 2.5.2 PROVIDES BETTER LOTW ROVER SUPPORT, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

The latest version of *TrustedQSL* (*TQSL*), version 2.5.2, offers improved Logbook of The World (LoTW) support for operations from several locations, as well as the ability to detect uploads that contain incorrect location data. The primary new feature in *TQSL* 2.5.2 allows logging programs, in conjunction with *TQSL*, to avoid incorrect contact uploads, while adding mechanisms to allow easy uploading of logs for roving stations. LoTW had required rovers to identify each location used as a separate location in *TQSL*. The new version of *TQSL* allows these operations to be handled much more smoothly by using information from the station's logging program.

When a log is signed by *TQSL*, the station details — call Sign, DXCC entity, grid square, and other location details provided by the selected station location (and call sign certificate) — are compared with the details in the log. If the US state and station location in a log do not agree, *TQSL* 2.5.2 will reject the contact, detecting errors in instances when an incorrect station location has been chosen. This feature will necessitate changes in many logging programs, because it requires that the log provide station details previously not used by *TQSL*. Once a logging program supplies these (MY\_STATE, MY\_DXCC, MY\_CQ\_ZONE, etc.), then *TQSL* will

validate them against the log. Currently, Cabrillo logs use the CALLSIGN field to verify that the contacts are for the correct call sign.

Optionally, a station performing roaming operations (e.g., from multiple grid squares) can choose to have *TQSL* assume that the log is correct. When call sign or home station are provided with the log, *TQSL* will automatically update the details on the upload. Select Override Station Location with QTH Details from your Log” on the “Log Handling” preference page to enable this feature.

This release also includes an update to the most recent *TQSL* configuration file. — *Thanks to Rick Murphy, K1MU*

## WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY ON APRIL 18 CELEBRATES 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IARU

Saturday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (WARD), this year marking the 95th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Around the world, amateur radio special event stations — most sponsored by IARU member-societies — will mark the event on the air, starting on April 18 at 0000 UTC and continuing until April 19, at 0000, honing skills and capabilities while enjoying global friendship with other amateurs worldwide. The theme for WARD is “Celebrating Amateur Radio’s Contribution to Society.” IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, notes that the COVID-19 pandemic casts the event in a different light than in years past.

“A few short weeks ago, many of us could not imagine the levels of isolation that we are now dealing with and the sacrifices of many on the front lines of the pandemic,” Ellam said. “As we have done in past challenges to our society, amateur radio will play a key part in keeping people connected and assisting those who need support.”

Ellam said he’s coming off his own 14-day isolation after returning from overseas. “I am touched by the kindness of strangers who assisted me when I was unable to leave my house,” he said. “It strikes me amateur radio operators, who give so much during these times of crisis are not limited to assisting over the air. Amateurs are true volunteers, and I would encourage everyone to assist in the community as they are able to.”

On April 18, 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris, with ARRL cofounder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, in attendance. Radio amateurs were the first to discover that shortwave spectrum could support worldwide propagation, and in the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, amateur radio found itself “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” as IARU history puts it. Two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, amateur radio gained allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. From an initial 25 countries, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions.

### How to Participate

- Get on the air. Create your own personal “event” to talk about amateur radio. (To list your World Amateur Radio Day event, contact IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ.)
- Check into the Echolink World Conference and IRLP 9251. The special event call sign will be W7W.
- Look for and contact stations using the W7W call sign.
- Create and hold a special net on World Amateur Radio Day to draw attention to the event and allow hams to start talking about our hobby.

- Spread the word. If you're responsible for club publicity, send a press release and do public relations outreach to highlight the event.

- Promote your personal World Amateur Radio Day activity on social media by using the hashtag #WorldAmateurRadioDay on Twitter and Facebook.

- Use the poster and flyer that IARU provides in publicizing the event, amateur radio, and your group or club.

World Amateur Radio Day is not a contest but an opportunity to talk about the value of amateur radio to the public and our fellow amateur colleagues. It is also a great opportunity to talk about your club and amateur radio in local media.

In this time of social isolation, amateur radio continues to remain relevant in bringing people together. "Social distancing" has long been a positive practice in the hobby by bringing people together culturally through radio while providing essential communication in the service of communities.

"My wish for this World Amateur Radio Day is for everyone to stay safe, follow the advice of medical professionals and use amateur radio and your skills to help us through this crisis," Ellam said.

## SHORTS

**Japan to Expand Access to 160 Meters** - Yoshi Shoji, JG7AMD, reports that Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is about to expand access to 160 meters for radio amateurs and permit SSB on that band. The current 160-meter band in Japan consists of 1810 – 1825 kHz (CW) plus 1907.5 – 1912.5 for CW and data. Japan will allocate 1800 – 1810 kHz and 1825 – 1875 kHz for all amateur radio modes. The effective date has not yet been announced.

**International Marconi Day 2020 has been Canceled** – The annual International Marconi Day (IMD) ham radio operating event that was set to take place on April 25 has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The 24-hour amateur radio event celebrates the birth of Marconi on April 25, 1874. Sponsored by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, which operates as GB4IMD, International Marconi Day features participating stations operating at sites having a personal connection to Marconi, including places where he set up transmitting and receiving stations.

Among the project's assumptions: The Food and Drug Administration will waive clearance for the bare-bones design, if a massive shortage develops; traditional medical components and supplies used in ventilators will be in short supply, and transportation will be impaired or disrupted.

**Amateur Radio Satellite Spreads Fight Coronavirus Message** – Indonesia's International Amateur Radio Union member-society ORARI reports the ham radio satellite LAPAN-A2 (IO-86) is being used to transmit a "fight coronavirus" message via APRS. The satellite's text message is, "Stay Healthy, Stay at Home #LawanCorona (Fight Coronavirus)." Sonny Dwi Harsono, YD1SCC, a researcher the Center for Satellite Technology Development, has explained that including the APRS text message was a form of support for government policies on social distancing in Indonesia.

To date, the message has been received by dozens of ORARI members throughout Indonesia, Harsono said.

Eventually, he said, plans call for trying to distribute the message via IO-86 every 100 minutes under certain conditions. Technical details are being worked out. Harsono pointed out that government messages about COVID-19 could also be transmitted via the satellite. — *Thanks to AMSAT News Service via AMSAT-UK*

**Contest Entry Features Multiple Operator Locations and Remote Transmitter-Receiver Site**

– Restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic recently prompted a novel approach to multioperator/multi-transmitter operation. The WW2DX entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest over the March 28 - 29 weekend featured 10 operators, each at separate locations around the US and in Europe, all operating via a single remote site on the coast of eastern Maine. WW2DX entered in the Multioperator, High Power category, racking up a claimed score of 32,026,176 points. NR6O operated from the west coast with a smaller complement of remote operators in the Multioperator, High Power category.

"It was so much fun to work this contest," one of the WW2DX operators, 17-year-old Connor Black, W4IPC, said. "This was the most fun I've had in a contest ever. We had no equipment failures and pulled off, hopefully, a new US record.

**Icom Announces Delay in Delivery of New IC-705 Transceiver**

- Icom has announced that delivery of the new IC-705 HF – 430 MHz all-mode 10 W transceiver, which was scheduled to be released in March, has been pushed back to later this year because the coronavirus pandemic has delayed the delivery of some components. "We are sorry to share this disappointing news," Icom said, "and as soon as we have more information, we will post it on our website and social media pages." Many radio amateurs had made reservations for the IC-705.

**Problem Resolved: Digital Editions of QST and On the Air Now are Available** – The digital editions of *QST* and *On the Air* magazine once again are available online as well as via the iOS, Android, and Kindle apps.

---

**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 mail to:WebMaster@w9rca.org. Check our web site at <http://www.w9rca.org>

---