RCA Amateur Radio Club
Indianapolis, IN
www.w9rca.org

MAY 2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR
TUESDAY MAY 11th AT 7:00 EDT
INVITATIONS TO JOIN WILL BE EMAILED MAY 10th

RCA ARC NEWS

THE MAY 11th MEETING – For the May 11th meeting, we shall again use a Zoom virtual meeting. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. You will receive an email message with a link, meeting ID and password on May 10.

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. You can also use your phone and call in using the numbers listed in the email for the session.

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended our April Zoom meeting. Jim K9RU reported the number of persons attending the monthly test sessions has decreased a little from the all time highs of a few months ago. Field Day is definitely a "go" this year. The plans are well underway. Our Club will make a monetary donation. K9RU, as well a some of the rest of us, have a bunch of junk to sell for the Club at the Indy Hamfest. We need to decide on the number of tables the Club should rent. The meeting concluded with a discussion of various SDRs.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: **Saturday, May 8, 2021**
Time: Starting at 12:00 pm **by appointment only**.
(Required: FRN and completed form NCVEC 605. A mask is required) s
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: **Jim Rinehart, k9ru@arrl.net, 317 721-1458**

2021 ARRL Field Day is June 26-27 – The RCA ARC will be part of the Indy United ARC, W9SU Field Day operation again this year. Last year, they had the highest FD score in the country.

Operation will again be from the Victor Conservation Club, south of Mooresville and in the 3A class with 2 HF CW stations, a GOTA and VHF stations.

The RCA ARC will handle the 6 meter setup and operation.

Indy United FD coordinator, Brian Smith, will be the guest speaker at the May Indianapolis Radio Club meeting and will discuss the FD operation. Check Indianapolis Radio Club for details or contact Ken Bandy KJ9B kj9b@arrl.net – Jim K9RU

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

May 20 - 22	Dayton Hamvention (online) https://hamvention.org/
May 22	HAMVENTION QSO Party - 8am to 8pm EDT
May 29-30	CQ WPX CW contest https://www.cqwpx.com/
June 26-27	ARRL Field Day
July 9-10	Indianapolis Hamfest - http://indyhamfest.com/

For more contest info: **https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html**

INDIANA QSO PARTY (INQP) --The INQP was last Saturday and I hope you had time to get on and make a few contacts during the QSO Party.

Indiana was well represented with most all of the counties on the air and condition were good on 80M, 40M & 20M.

I operated portable from my brother's farm in Wayne county with my Heathkit SB104A, SB1000 and dipoles for 75M, 40M and 20M at 30 feet.

The wind was the biggest challenge putting up the antenna, they kept getting tangled and after an hour messing with them trying to get them untangled it took two attempts to get them up.

At first I thought my antennas were not working as there was very little background level at home in Indy it is S2 to S5, but I checked the SWR and everything was fine.

Operating the INQP portable was a lot of fun and with COVID 19 provided a good chance to get out and do something. --K9RU

RCA ARC AT THE INDY HAMFEST July 9 & 10 --There will be an Indy Hamfest this year and we will have tables in the commercial building. Both AF9A and K9RU have been gathering and storing stuff to sell at the Hamfest and storing it at our homes.

We will have a lot of stuff to move to the Marion County Fairgrounds to sell and will need help both moving it and manning the ttables.

The money we get from selling the stuff funds the operation of the repeater and the Club. --Jim K9RU

WANT TO BE PART OF THE INDY HAMFEST? – If you would like to be a part of the hamfest committee (meetings held on the 3rd Monday via Zoom) please contact Mike Sercer, WA9FDO. This year is the 50th Indy Hamfest and they are looking for new people wanting to be involved.

NEW !!! INDIANAHAM'S & ELMER'S NET

Through a common interest in getting New Hams active, a new net is starting this coming Wednesday evening, May 5. The net has been affectionately named the "Rookie Net". The Rookie Net will take place on the W9WIN system, giving it a great potential to get lots of new

hams comfortable withchecking into a net. For those not familiar with the W9WIN system, it is comprised of 6 linked repeaters covering the majority of the southern half of Indiana. The Indianapolis repeater (444.325, 136.5 CTCSS) is located on the south side of Marion County, and offers great coverage of the majority of the county, even with handheld radios. For a listing of the rest of the repeaters on the W9WIN system, point your browser to https://w9win.net/repeater-info/repeaters/

The net will start at 8:00 pm, Indy time, and will occur every Wednesday evening. The net will offer a no pressure atmosphere, where the new ham can become comfortable talking on his or her radio, and get questions answered. There may even be some surprises for new hams. The seed for this net came from a conversation with Ellen and Gordon Brock (KD9RUE and KD9RUD). That seed has grown over the last week through many emails and a Zoom call with Ellen, Gordon, Russ (N9DHX, the ambassador of the W9WIN system), Jimmy Merry (KC9RPX, ARRL Indiana Section Manager), and myself. We appreciate the support of Jimmy and the ARRL in getting this net started.

If anyone has any questions about how to get on the net, feel free to drop an email to elmer@indyradioclub.org 73, Ken, KJ9B

UPDATED FCC RADIO FREQUENCY EXPOSURE RULES ARE IN EFFECT

The FCC has announced that rule changes detailed in a lengthy 2019 *Report and Order (R&O)* governing RF exposure standards went into effect on May 3, 2021. The new rules do not change existing RF exposure (RFE) limits but do require that stations in all services, including amateur radio, be evaluated against existing limits, unless they are exempted. For stations already in place, that evaluation must be completed by May 3, 2023. After May 3 of this year, any new station, or any existing station modified in a way that's likely to change its RFE profile -- such as different antennas or placement, or greater power -- will need to conduct an evaluation by the date of activation or change.

"In the RF *Report and Order*, the Commission anticipated that few parties would have to conduct reevaluations under the new rules and that such evaluations will be relatively straightforward," the FCC said in an April 2 *Public Notice*. "It nevertheless adopted a 2-year period for parties to verify and ensure compliance under the new rules."

The Amateur Service is no longer categorically excluded from certain aspects of the rules, as amended, and licensees can no longer avoid performing an exposure assessment simply because they are transmitting below a given power level.

"For most amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion for amateur radio, which means that ham station owners must determine if they either qualify for an exemption or must perform a routine environmental evaluation," said Greg Lapin, N9GL, Chair of the ARRL RF Safety Committee and a member of the FCC Technological Advisory Council (TAC).

"Ham stations previously excluded from performing environmental evaluations will have until May 3, 2023, to perform these. After May 3, 2021, any new stations or those modified in a way that affects RF exposure must comply before being put into service," Lapin said.

The December 2019 RF *R&O* changes the methods that many radio services use to determine and achieve compliance with FCC limits on human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The FCC also modified the process for determining whether a particular device or deployment is exempt from a more thorough analysis by replacing a service-specific list of transmitters, facilities, and operations for which evaluation is required with new streamlined formula-based criteria.

The *R&O* also addressed how to perform evaluations where the exemption does not apply, and how to mitigate exposure.

Amateur radio licensees will have to determine whether any existing facilities previously excluded under the old rules now qualify for an exemption under the new rules. Most will, but some may not.

"For amateurs, the major difference is the removal of the categorical exclusion," Lapin said, "which means that every ham will be required to perform *some* sort of calculation, either to determine if they qualify for an exemption or must perform a full-fledged exposure assessment. For hams who previously performed exposure assessments on their stations, there is nothing more to do."

The ARRL Lab staff is available to help amateurs to make these determinations and, if needed, perform the necessary calculations to ensure their stations comply. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, who helped prepare ARRL's *RF Exposure and You* book, explained it this way. "The FCC did not change any of the underlying rules applicable to amateur station evaluations," he said. "The sections of the book on how to perform routine station evaluations are still valid and usable, especially the many charts of common antennas at different heights." Hare said ARRL Lab staff also would be available to help amateurs understand the rules and evaluate their stations.

RF Exposure and You is available for free download from ARRL. ARRL also has an RF Safety page on its website.

The ARRL RF Safety Committee is working with the FCC to update the FCC's aids for following human exposure rules -- *OET Bulletin 65* and *OET Bulletin 65 Supplement B for Radio Amateurs*. In addition, ARRL is developing tools that all hams can use to perform exposure assessments.

FCC AUTO-REGISTRATION FEATURE FOR EXAM APPLICANTS TO BE DISCONTINUED

Auto-registration in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) amateur radio exam for candidates using a Social Security number will be discontinued on May 20, 2021. Applicants must use an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for all license transactions with the FCC. Examinees must register in CORES and receive an FRN *before* exam day. Starting on May 20, electronic batch filed applications that do not include a candidate's FRN will be rejected. The Social Security/Licensee ID Field will be disabled.

An instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to establish a CORES account, which is necessary for licensees to make administrative updates and download electronic license authorizations.

After June 29, all filers must provide an email address on all applications. When an email is provided, applicants will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses once granted (allow incoming email from authorizations@fcc.gov). If no email is provided when filing on or after June 29, applications will be rejected. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend.

Licensees need to log in to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) to download their authorizations. The FCC no longer issues paper copies. — *Thanks to the FCC*

RUSSIAN ROBINSON CLUB ANNOUNCES ACTIVATION OF RARE IOTA ISLANDS IN THE ALEUTIANS

The Russian Robinson Club (RRC) has resumed its plans to activate rare Kiska Island (IOTA NA-070) and Adak Island (IOTA NA-039) in Alaska's Aleutian Islands chain in July for Islands on the Air (IOTA) enthusiasts. Plans to activate these islands in 2020 were called off because of COVID-19 concerns.

The uninhabited Kiska Island (52.06° N, 177.57° E) lies in the North Pacific's treacherous Bering Sea, which RRC calls one of the most intense patches of ocean on Earth and where strong winds, freezing temperatures, and icy water are the norm. The island also features the prominent conical Kiska volcano. Kiska Island is a National Historic Landmark and part of the Aleutian Islands World War II National Monument and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR). Permission to visit is required from both Alaska's Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The KL7RRC team plans to have a minimum of two stations on the air on 40 – 6 meters, SSB, CW, and FT8. Operators will place special emphasis on the difficult trans-polar path to Europe.

The 56-foot aluminum sailing vessel *Seal* will make the 1,000-mile journey along the Aleutians to Kiska with a stop at Dutch Harbor to pick up Tim, NL8F, and the gear sent in advance to his location. The team will continue sailing west to Adak Island, where some team members will activate Adak Island on June 30 – July 3. The SV *Seal* will pick up the entire crew there, which will have flown in by July 3. Then, they hope to arrive at Kiska and be on the air as KL7RCC on July 7 – 12, before the return sail to Adak and flights home. Additional KL7RRC activity may take place from Adak July 14 – 16.

Donations are welcome. QSLs for KL7RRC (Kiska Island NA-070) and KL7RRC (Adak Island NA-039) are via N7RO. All donors will receive direct QSLs.

A slot is open for a fifth operator. Contact team leader Yuri, N3QQ if interested.

Updates will be posted on the Russian Robinson Club website. — *Thanks to Hal Turley, W8HC, via* **The Daily DX** --ARRL

MARCH 2021 VOLUNTEER MONITOR PROGRAM REPORT

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

The FCC delayed action on the renewal application of a General-class licensee in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, in order to review allegations of repeated transmission of obscenities and failure to properly identify.

The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator issued 14 *Advisory Notices*. An *Advisory Notice* is an attempt to resolve rule violation issues informally before FCC intervention:

- An *Advisory Notice* was sent to the owner of a remote amateur station in California, advising him that he is responsible for deliberate interference transmitted by any station over his remote facility.

- An *Advisory Notice* was sent to a radio amateur in Ripley, Tennessee, regarding deliberate interference and failure to properly identify on 75 meters.

•An *Advisory Notice* was sent to a radio amateur in Jefferson, Georgia, regarding failure to properly identify on 40 meters.

•*Advisory Notices* were sent to radio amateurs in Tiburon, Petaluma, and Manteca, California, and Grants Pass, Oregon, concerning interference on 75 meters.

General Advisories were sent to operators in West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin concerning operation on 7.200, 3.927, and 3.860 MHz.

A *Good Operator Commendation* was sent to a husband-and-wife team in Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, recognizing excellent net and 2-meter operations.

VM representatives had two meetings with FCC officials. -- *Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator*

MARS IS A NOT ALWAYS AN OBVIOUS RESOURCE IN EMERGENCIES

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a US Department of Defense adjunct comprised of radio amateurs that's not always the first resource that comes to mind in an emergency, even within the military. In a recent article in *SIGNAL*, US Marine Corps Major Brian Kerg exhorts the brass to more fully exploit amateur radio in general, and MARS in particular, for use in times of distress.

"As future threats continue to evolve, day-to-day communications architectures will become more unreliable in times of crisis," Kerg concludes. "It is imperative that joint communications planners turn to amateurs to remain experts. By building awareness of how to employ MARS and training military radio operators in ham radio technique, leaders will ensure their planners are proactively leveraging the organic amateur communications networks that abound across the globe."

In his article, Kerg -- who does not appear to be a radio amateur -- attempts to raise the amateur radio consciousness level of military planners who are deciding how to address an emergency. He characterizes ham radio as a robust and readily available communications resource when things go south.

"And they are often every bit the expert as professional military communicators and signalmen. The term 'amateur' refers not to their technical acumen but to the private, nonbusiness use of allocated radio bands by those possessing amateur radio licenses," Kerg points out. He notes that while voice communication may be the most common ham radio mode, operators are skilled at sending and receiving text, images, and data.

With MARS, the Defense Department has a mechanism employing amateur radio operators who can actively support military operations. "Notably, military aircrews remain capable of using MARS phone patches through high-frequency radios when satellite communications are unavailable," he writes.

Kerg says the downside is that the use of MARS "remains a largely unknown or niche capability, one that is usually stumbled upon by planners in the moment of crisis and then poorly implemented." He said awareness of MARS was not helped when the Navy and Marine Corps MARS were shuttered in 2015, leaving only Army and Air Force MARS.

Military planners should focus on raising awareness of MARS and of amateur radio by making it available through training and other activities, Kerg said. Contesting could be a component. "The wide variety of annual amateur radio competitions can further incentivize military operators to improve their amateur radio skills while inevitably improving proficiency in their mission-essential tasks," he wrote.

Kerg currently serves as the fleet amphibious communications officer, US Fleet Forces Command.

YOTA ANNOUNCES NEW THREE-TIMES-A-YEAR CONTEST

"Team YOTA" of Youngsters on the Air in IARU Region 1 has announced it will sponsor a new contest, the YOTA Contest. Open to all radio amateurs, it takes place three times a year and runs for just 12 hours. YOTA said the aim is to boost on-the-air activity by younger radio amateurs and to support YOTA. The contest will take place on different 12-hour windows on three Saturdays.

The opening event will be on May 22, 0800 - 1959 UTC. The other two in 2021 will be July 17, 1000 - 2159 UTC, and December 30, 1200 - 2359 UTC.

YOTA has established eight different operating categories, which include sub-categories for operators age 25 and younger, but operators of all ages may participate. Covering 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, the allowable modes will be CW and SSB.

The contest exchange will be the age of the participating operator. Different ages serve as score multipliers during the contest. Stations may work the same station once per band mode.

Contacts between the station's own continent are worth 1 point, while working DX is worth 3 points. The most points will be achieved by working the youngest operators. "The younger the operator, the more points one will get for the QSO," YOTA said.

The IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group is working with Hungary's IARU member-society MRASZ, the Hungarian Amateur Radio Society. MRASZ is providing a contest log robot, among other things.

Submit Cabrillo logs only. Contest winners will be announced once logs received have been checked in the various categories. Winners will be awarded with a YOTA Contest plaque.

The contest committee consists of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group: Philipp, DK6SP, chair; Markus, DL8GM, vice chair, and members Csaba, HA6PX, and Tomi, HA8RT.

Contact the YOTA Contest Committee with any questions or further information.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FUNDS CREATION OF RESEARCH LAB AT ALASKA'S HAARP

A section of the HAARP antenna array field at sunset with Mount Drum in the background.

A 5-year, $9.3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant will allow the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Geophysical Institute to establish a new research observatory at the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP). A former military facility, HAARP is now operated by UAF and is home to HAARP Amateur Radio Club's KL7ERP. The new Subauroral Geophysical Observatory for Space Physics and Radio Science will be dedicated to exploring Earth'supper atmosphere and geospace environment. The facility's 33-acre Ionospheric Research Instrument will be the centerpiece of the observatory.

"This NSF support will provide the scientific community increased access to the instruments at the observatory and, hopefully, grow the scientific community," said Geophysical Institute Director Robert McCoy, the project's principal investigator.

A second NSF-funded project will add a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) instrument at the site, which will allow the study of other regions of the upper atmosphere. UAF hopes to add additional instruments over time at the Gakona, Alaska, research site.

The research grant will allow scientists to investigate how the sun affects Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere to produce changes in space weather. Their work will help fill gaps in knowledge about the region, which is important because ionospheric disturbances, if severe enough, can disrupt communication systems and damage the power grid.

Research at the observatory is initially expected to include the study of various types of aurora and other occurrences in the ionosphere.

The Gakona facility is a prime location for the study of the ionosphere and magnetosphere because of its location in relation to one of Earth's magnetic field lines that reaches deep into the magnetosphere.

"Amateur radio will clearly benefit with an improved understanding of ionospheric propagation and space weather physics, and providing improved HF propagation prediction modeling data," HAARP Research Station Chief Engineer and ARRL Life Member Steve Floyd, W4YHD, told ARRL. He said, "Radio science experiments will also provide a valuable data set to encourage development of new radio technologies and modulation methods."

Floyd is the trustee for KL7ERP, which, he says, is available "to demonstrate amateur radio to visiting scientists and students, to maintain contact with Alaska hams, and to provide visiting hams with an opportunity to operate from this unique Alaska location." Read an expanded version. --ARRL Letter

INTREPID-DX GROUP JOINS FORCES WITH LA7GIA IN BOUVET ISLAND ATTEMPT

The Intrepid-DX Group has teamed with DXpeditioner Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, in its quest to activate Bouvet Island, the second-most-wanted DXCC entity according to Club Log. The 3Y0J DXpedition is planned for January through February 2023. A dependency of Norway, Bouvet is a sub-Antarctic island in the South Atlantic. The last Bouvet activation was 3Y0E, during a scientific expedition over the winter of 2007 – 2008.

"There's a lot to do, and we have a big financial mountain to climb," DXpedition co-leader Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said in a recent interview with Tim Duffy, K3LR. Ewing will share leadership duties with Opskar in the amateur radio adventure.

"The cost of the *Braveheart* charter is enormous, but we've got some experience under our belt doing South Sandwich and South Georgia back in 2016. That was perfect preparation for Bouvet. We'll have a very difficult landing, so we're prepared for that."

A 2018 DXpedition to Bouvet was scuttled after severe weather and an engine problem forced the team -- with Bouvet already in view -- to turn back.

The plan calls for the 3Y0J team of 14 to board the marine vessel *Braveheart* in Capetown, South Africa, for "the treacherous voyage to Bouvet," Ewing said. "We will plan to spend 20 days at Bouvet and, weather permitting, we plan to have 14 to 16 good days of radio activity."

"This will be an arduous and expensive mission. Our budget is $764,000, and the 3Y0J team will fund much of this mission. We desperately need the global DX community to support our mission

and help us make this important activation of the second-most-wanted DXCC entity. It is only through this kind of support that we can achieve our mission of making 100,000 contacts or more from Bouvet."

The Northern California DX Foundation and the International DX Association have already stepped up to the plate.

"We plan to make best use of propagation and modes on 10 - 160 meters," Ewing said in the announcement. Operation will be on SSB, CW, and digital modes. "But I want to make it clear," Ewing told Duffy. "There's no doubt. We *are* going!"

Follow the Intrepid-DX Group's 3Y0J plans via Facebook. Visit the 3Y0J website for more information and to make a donation. Read an expanded version.

MEMBERS OF THE POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB TO ACTIVATE NSS FOR ARMED FORCES DAY

Members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) will activate the historic NSS call sign on Saturday, May 8, during the 2021 Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test. For more than 60 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this exercise, during which military stations transmit on military frequencies and listen for radio amateurs on adjacent amateur bands. It will take place May 7 – 8 this year.

NSS operation will be from the location of the former US Navy High-Power Radio Station at Greenbury Point in Annapolis, Maryland. NSS began operation in 1918 on VLF, using a pair of Federal Telegraph Company 500 kW Poulson arc transmitters and four 600-foot towers. NSS began operations on HF in the 1920s, and operations there continued until 1976.

NSS was dismantled in 1999, but three of its 600-foot towers remain on Greenbury Point. A commemorative NSS QSL card is available via K3LU (SASE appreciated). — *Thanks to Frank Donovan, W3LPL*

SHORTS

Nationwide Spring Drill Set for May 8, World Red Cross Day --The Red Cross Emergency Communication Training Group is holding its nationwide Spring Drill on World Red Cross Day, Saturday, May 8, 2021. Individuals are invited to participate. Last year, more than 1,000 participated in the initial spring drill.

The bar has been raised to *Winlink* proficiency for this year's drill. Red Cross forms are integrated as templates in *Winlink Express*, and hams using *Winlink* can also send messages to non-hams. With this year's drill being held on World Red Cross Day, more international participation will be solicited. *Winlink* Thursdays training sessions have been attracting more than 500 participants this year. — *Thanks to the American Red Cross Emergency Communications Training Group*

For those that enjoy DXing, or want to learn about DXing, registration (free) is now open for the 72nd International DX Convention. This is what was previously known as the Visalia DX Convention. This year's event will be conducted via Zoom (surprise!). Sessions run from 1400 - 2300 UTC (10:00 am to 7:00 pm EDT) on both May 15 and 16. Registration for this free event is open now. Goto http://dxconvention.com/index.html to register and see the program line up. There will also be some impressive door prizes awarded at two drawings each day.

Bob Wilson, N6TV, has updated his presentation, Everything You Need To Know About

USB and Serial Interfaces. His presentation includes the history and evolution of serial ports, chipsets, software tools for troubleshooting, and how to best utilize the built-in USB to the serial functionality built into some modern rigs to support CAT, CW keying, and RTTY keying.

Researcher and innovator Ulrich Rohde, N1UL, has been awarded the Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was nominated by Markus Söder, president of the German state of Bavaria and member of the Bavarian Parliament. Söder said that Rohde's work as a scientist, university lecturer, developer, and entrepreneur in the fields of radio frequency and microwave technology "has made a significant contribution to our country's technological advances, prosperity, and security." The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, also known as the Federal Cross of Merit, is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals for services to the nation. Federal President Theodor Heuss established the Order in 1951 on the second anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic.

Over the Horizon (OTH) radars in ham bands may be too numerous to count. The IARU Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) March newsletter reported that the seemingly ubiquitous Over the Horizon Radars (OTH-Rs) made up about 60% of all interference observations, to the point that "one cannot even count them anymore." The IARUMS presumes that only a few stations are transmitting on often-changing frequencies. In contrast to the past, however, these are more frequently burst systems, which typically transmit for just a few seconds before changing frequency. IARUMS said that only the "Contayner" and "Pluto" systems transmit on a single frequency for longer periods.

The Caribbean Emergency and Weather Net (CEWN) has been providing round-the-clock coverage during the La Soufriere volcanic eruption. The island of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and several neighboring islands are being affected by the disaster. When responding to disasters and emergencies such as this, the CEWN utilizes 3.815 MHz LSB and 7.188 MHz LSB. CEWN is requesting that radio amateurs not involved in the volcano response keep these frequencies clear. -- *Thanks to Ira Harris, VP2EIH*

North American QSO Parties to Recognize Young Contester Entries To encourage young radiosport participants, *National Contest Journal* (*NCJ*) will recognize their entries in the North American QSO Party (NAQP), starting with the August 2021 NAQP CW and NAQP SSB events. Following the lead of Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) in International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU), operators 25 years of age and younger will be highlighted in the results. The NAQP log upload app and **3830scores.com** will include a "Youth (25 and under)" check box. Initially, the young operator designation will apply only to single-operator entries. This is not a separate category. Participants of any age will compete for awards in the regular single-operator category. 3830 Scores will display the young operator scores as an overlay to the single-operator group. NAQP line scores will note the young operator scores and a separate table of these scores will be included in the results and referenced in the *NCJ* "NextGen Contesters" column by Neil Rapp, WB9VPG.

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