



# RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN

www.w9rca.org



NOVEMBER 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 9th 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, IN THE GAME ROOM, 2100 EAST 71<sup>st</sup>, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

## RCA ARC NEWS

**OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY** – Thanks to all who attended the October meeting. We have not yet replaced batteries in the UPSs at the '88 repeater site. We need to get this done. There is no news to report on the status of the Indy Hamfest for next year. Some “what if” discussion followed about local hamfests. Also, discussed were some of the problems with getting local electronics parts plus the difficulty in finding repair parts of older amateur rigs in general. Congratulations to Harold Smith, KE6TI, for getting the QST cover plaque award for October.

### AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

**Date:** Saturday, November 13, 2021  
**Time:** Starting at 12:00 pm **by appointment only.**  
**Location:** Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407  
**Required: FRN and completed form NCVEC 605.**  
**Contact:** Jim Rinehart, k9ru@arrl.net, 317 721-1458

### HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Nov 6 - 8 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW <https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>  
Nov 13 - 4 Ft Wayne Hamfest & Central Division Convention  
<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>  
Nov 20 - 22 ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>  
Dec 3 - 5 ARRL 160 M Contest <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>  
Dec 11 - 12 ARRL 10 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

**2021 FORT WAYNE HAMFEST & COMPUTER EXPO. NOVEMBER 13-14.** Registration deadline November 10, Online at [www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com) Or click here for the registration form. For more information, check out our web site at: [www.fortwaynehamfest.com](http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com) or email the table chairman at [tables@fortwaynehamfest.com](mailto:tables@fortwaynehamfest.com) or phone 260-579-2196.

## ARRL CONCURS WITH TWO FCC WRC-23 ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT POSITIONS

ARRL [has said](#) it agrees with the draft positions of the FCC's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) Advisory Committee (WAC) on WRC-23 agenda items 1.13 and 9.1 (Topic A). ARRL is represented on the WAC and participating in its work. The FCC International Bureau issued a [call for comments](#) earlier this year.

With respect to agenda item 1.12, ARRL recommends that the US support "studies and possible consideration of a new allocation to the [Earth Exploration-Satellite Service](#) (Active) on a secondary basis within the frequency range of 40 - 50 MHz" for spaceborne radar sounders.

"Our support for the draft recommendation is conditioned on explicitly including in the recommendation the need to provide protection and not impose constraints on incumbent services in adjacent frequency bands," ARRL said. "Our expectation is that such studies will identify the capability and adequate means to protect the weak-signal operations of the Amateur Radio Service on the adjacent 50 - 54 MHz band without imposing any restraint on those operations, if the need to use this spectrum for spaceborne radar sounders is confirmed."

In its remarks, ARRL noted Draft Preliminary Views on WRC-23, WAC-23/034 (13.09.2021) appended to the FCC's *Request for Comment* that use of 50 - 54 MHz by radio amateurs was recently studied and documented in [ITU-Radiocommunication Report M.2478-0](#), "Spectrum needs for the amateur service in the frequency band 50 - 54 MHz in Region 1 and sharing with mobile, fixed, radiolocation, and broadcasting services."

ARRL also expressed its support for the WAC's draft recommendation on Agenda Item 9.1, Topic A, Space Weather Sensors. The agenda item calls on the Conference to consider and approve the Report of the Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau reviewing the results of studies relating to space weather sensors "with a view to describing appropriate recognition and protection ... without placing additional constraints on incumbent services."

The WAC draft recommendation is that the view of the US be "that changes to the Radio Regulations are outside the scope of Agenda Item 9.1" and that the US express its support for "conducting the studies called for in [Resolution 657](#) (Rev. WRC-19)."

"Completion and consideration of these studies are essential to achieving the desired objective of not placing any additional constraints on incumbent services," ARRL said.

ARRL represents the interests of radio amateurs through its participation on World Radiocommunications Conference and FCC advisory committees.

Read [an expanded version](#). --ARRL

## PRESIDENT NAMES ROSENWORCEL FCC CHAIR, ANNOUNCES PLANNED NOMINATIONS TO FCC, NTIA

President Joe Biden this week designated FCC acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel as Chair and announced that he intends to re-nominate her and nominate another to fill the open seats on the Commission. Rosenworcel, a Democrat, is the first woman to head the Commission. She has served on the FCC since 2012.

Prior to joining the FCC, Chairwoman Rosenworcel served as Senior Communications Counsel for the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Before entering public service, she practiced communications law. She is a graduate of New York University School of Law.

The President also announced that he plans to appoint Democrat Gigi Sohn to fill the other Democratic slot on the Commission. Sohn is a Distinguished Fellow at the Georgetown Law Institute for Technology Law and Policy and a Benton Senior Fellow and Public Advocate. She

served from 2013 until 2016 as counsel to former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler. Sohn earned her law degree at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. --ARRL

Biden also announced his intention to nominate Alan Davidson as Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) within the US Department of Commerce. Read [an expanded version](#).

## ARRL CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AMATEUR RADIO SECONDARY USE OF THE 3 GHz BAND

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in a [written statement](#) on the newly filed H.R.5378 before the US House Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee on Wednesday, urged Congress to direct the FCC to preserve amateur radio's secondary use of the 3-GHz band. President Roderick's statement was the result of a quick, well-organized response by ARRL to counter the continuing threat to amateur radio's secondary use of the 3 GHz band.

Approximately 10 days ago, ARRL became aware of a provision in the \$3.5 Billion Budget Reconciliation Bill that would have required that approximately 200 MHz of the 3.1 - 3.45-GHz band be reallocated to the use of 5G vendors. Moving swiftly, the ARRL Executive Committee authorized ARRL's Washington Counsel to begin preparations to respond. But, confronted with the probable delay of the Reconciliation Bill and an uncertain future for the 3 GHz provisions, Subcommittee Chairman Michael Doyle (D-PA-18) and Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA-6) introduced similar reallocation language on September 29 as H.R.5378 (117th Congress, 1st Session) and scheduled hearings on it and related communications bills for October 6.

The Executive Committee and the Legislative Advocacy Committee immediately set efforts in motion in Washington to obtain support for ARRL's position. Meetings were held on short notice to request support with the offices of Subcommittee members including Representatives Adam Kinzinger (R-IL-16) and Tim Walberg (R-MI-7), as well as with Representatives John Larson (D-CT-1) and Joe Courtney (D-CT-2).

In addition, ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Bob Famiglio, K3RF, and ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, met with Chairman Doyle's Chief of Staff on October 1, to explain why it's important that amateur radio continue to be permitted to operate in the 3.3 - 3.45-GHz band.

In his [written statement](#) to the Subcommittee in conjunction with the hearing, President Roderick emphasized that permitting Amateur Radio to continue to have use of the 3.3 - 3.45-GHz band on a strictly secondary, non-interfering basis will provide full protection to commercial licensees with exclusive licenses and further the public interest in providing a means for continued technological innovation.

Despite vigorous opposition from ARRL and others, the FCC in 2020 ordered the "sunsetting" of the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz band in order to auction the spectrum to commercial 5G providers. The Commission allowed amateur operations to continue in the lower 150 megahertz of the band, 3.3 - 3.45 GHz, until it acts in a future rulemaking to address that spectrum. Amateur operations were allowed to continue in the upper 50 megahertz, 3.45 - 3.5 GHz, only until 90 days after the auction including that spectrum has closed. The auction began this week; it is likely that operations will have to cease in February or March, 2022.

"A core standard of spectrum policy should be to maximize use of this valuable but finite spectrum resource," President Roderick told the panel. "The [FCC] in earlier proceedings adopted a variety of methods to share and maximize use of the spectrum by radio amateurs and others, but in its latest 3 GHz proceeding it did not do so, despite hundreds of comments filed by radio amateurs."

President Roderick said that if the current policy continues, existing spectrum at 3 GHz being addressed in H.R.5378 "will be cleared indiscriminately," leaving "significant spectrum resources vacant into the foreseeable future while radio amateur experimentation and operation will be forced to cease for no reason except regulatory myopia. It need not be so."

President Roderick pointed out that in earlier proceedings, the FCC adopted methods to ensure unencumbered spectrum access by primary users while accommodating secondary users on a non-interference basis. "These methods work well and remain effective without complaint in other frequency bands, and also should be applied to the 3 GHz band," he said.

Primary commercial users "would rarely use all of their licensed spectrum throughout their entire licensed service areas," President Roderick said. In its recent 3 GHz proceeding, however, the FCC "went beyond merely prohibiting amateur operations in areas and at times when primary Commission licensees might use the spectrum," ruling instead that all amateur operation in the subband being auctioned must terminate within 90 days of the auction's close. President Roderick told the FCC that it is not logical for the Commission to leave spectrum unused before licensees start using it.

He said there is no technical basis for removing amateur secondary operations from the 3 GHz band where radio amateurs "long have used the bits and pieces of unused spectrum for technological innovation."

H.R.5378 is not yet law, and ARRL's efforts to preserve amateur radio access to 3.3 - 3.45 on a secondary basis will continue. Read [an expanded version](#). --ARRL

## MICROSOFT RELEASED [WINDOWS VERSION 11](#) ON OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.

Radio amateurs may be eager to learn if it will run the station software they're running under Windows 7 or Windows 10, and if they'll need new device drivers.

"We are not too concerned," said Tom Wagner, N1MM, of the widely popular, free logging software that bears his call sign -- N1MM Logger+. "One member of the team and one end user has tested with Win 11 and not reported issues. We will fix them if they arise."

The WSJT-X Development Group is similarly unconcerned. "A few WSJT-X users have been running on the beta Windows 11 releases without any issues," said Bill Somerville, G4WJS. "This seems reasonable evidence that there should be no serious problems."

**Logbook of The World (LoTW) users** are reminded to backup their TQSL Callsign Certificate using the TQSL File "Backup" utility before updating to Windows 11. You can then use the TQSL File "Restore" utility to restore TQSL functionality after your OS update. See <https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/multiple-computers/> for details.

On existing Windows 10 PCs, Windows Update will let people know when the upgrade is available for Windows 11. You can also check to see if your device is eligible for the Windows 11 upgrade through Windows Update.

If your PC isn't fully compatible with Windows 11, Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 until October 14, 2025. --ARRL

## ENJOY TWO WEEKENDS OF FUN DURING THE ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

The [ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) (SS) weekends loom large on the amateur radio contest horizon. The CW weekend is November 6 - 8, while the phone weekend is November 20 - 22. Both events begin on Saturday at 2100 UTC and conclude on Monday at 0259 UTC.

The SS offers operating categories for every preference. The goal for many seasoned SS operators is to complete a "clean sweep" by contacting all 84 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) [Sections](#). Canada's Prince Edward Island province joined the list last year. Most SS operators try to run up the contact and multiplier counts and stay in the chair for the full 24 (out of 30) allowable hours.

The competition can be fierce, and the pileups can be huge. In 2020, ARRL received 1,445 logs for the CW event and 2,046 for the phone event. --ARRL Letter

## THE PREMIERE OF “NIGHT”, THE MOVIE

During the Edmond (Oklahoma) Amateur Radio Society's ARRL Field Day 2021, Marcus Sutliff, N5ZY, spoke with visitors from John D'Aquino's Young Actors Workshop ([YAW](#)) and learned of their plans to make a short film in which amateur radio plays a role, and that they needed some help. The filming was to take place in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and they needed someone with film or video experience and someone who could serve as a technical advisor. Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW -- a member of the ARRL Public Relations Committee -- became involved in the project, and in short order, he was able to assemble radios and props, consult on the script, and get ready for a long day of filming.

The film's purpose is to give aspiring young actors a chance to hone their craft in a real movie environment. Thanks to the [Oklahoma Film and Music Office](#), they were able to shoot three movie shorts in Oklahoma. In the Camp Hollywood 2021 film *NIGHT*, the young actors mature as the movie progresses.

The story begins on a day when the sun mysteriously has failed to rise. One character mentions firing up grandpa's ham radio. His younger brother reminds him that he once called ham radio "the dinosaur's internet," but now it could be one source of help or information. The actual internet is down, along with power, telephones, and apparently satellites. All the adults are conveniently absent. The ending will leave you hoping for *NIGHT 2*. The movie premiered recently and is [now available](#) on YouTube as a 34-minute short.

O'Dell stars as the ham radio voice of Colonel. He and Sutliff appear in the credits, so stay through the end.

O'Dell got a shout-out from ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager Mark Kleine, N5HZR. "Thanks, Kevin, for putting a great light on amateur radio," he said. --ARRL Letter

## RADIO AMATEURS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANTARCTIC ECLIPSE FESTIVAL IN DECEMBER

The [HamSCI](#) Antarctic Eclipse Festival in December is seeking amateur radio participation. As the shadow of the moon passes across Antarctica on December 4, it will generate traveling ionospheric disturbances that will, in turn, affect radio propagation. The unusual geometry of this year's eclipses will give researchers an opportunity to investigate complicated ionospheric dynamics over the poles as the long daytime of polar summer is briefly interrupted by the eclipse.

During this and other HamSCI eclipse festivals, hams and citizen-scientists are asked to collect Doppler-shift data from time-standard stations, such as [WWV](#). All that's needed is an HF radio connected to a computer. A GPS-disciplined oscillator is helpful for collecting data, but it is not required. Data collection will run from December 1 through December 10, and the results will be made available for scientific analysis.

All radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are invited to join in, even those located far from the path of totality. In 2020, more than 100 individuals from 45 countries took part in eclipse festivals. The instructions are available in multiple languages.

HamSCI is an initiative of ham radio operators and geospace scientists dedicated to advancing scientific research and understanding through amateur radio activities. Eclipse festivals are pilot campaigns for the Personal Space Weather Station (PSWS), HamSCI's flagship project. The PSWS team seeks to develop a global network of citizen-science stations. Participants monitor the geospace environment to deepen scientific understanding and enhance the radio art.



For more information on the Antarctic Eclipse Festival and how to participate, [visit](#) the HamSCI website. -- *Thanks to Kristina Collins, KD8OX*

## SEPTEMBER 2021 VOLUNTEER MONITOR PROGRAM REPORT

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between the ARRL and FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service. This is the VM Program report for September 2021:

- Technician-class operators in Mansfield, Ohio; Avon Park, Florida, and Pulaski, Tennessee, received *Advisory Notices* after making numerous FT8 contacts on 20 meters. Technician-class licensees do not have operating privileges on 20 meters.
- A Volunteer Monitor in Mission Viejo, California, received a Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard *Certificate of Appreciation* for his efforts in locating a defective transmitter on Marine Radio Channel 16 that was blocking emergency communications on that channel.
- A former licensee in Durham, North Carolina, received an *Advisory Notice* for operating under a call sign and license cancelled by the FCC.
- An operator in White Pine, Tennessee, received an *Advisory Notice* regarding operation on 7.137 MHz, a frequency not authorized under his General-class license.
- Operators in Swannanoa, North Carolina, and New Albany, Indiana, received *Good Operator Notices* for exemplary operation during 2021 and for regularly assisting other operators with transmitter adjustments and amateur radio procedures.
- The VM Program made one recommendation to the FCC for case closure.

VM Program statistics for August showed 2,008 hours on HF frequencies and 2,642 hours on VHF frequencies and above, for a total of 4,650 hours. -- *Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Administrator, Volunteer Monitor Program*

## GOLDEN GLOBE SAILING RACE ENTRANTS BANNED FROM USING AMATEUR RADIO

The use of amateur radio by participants in the 2022 - 23 Golden Globe Race (GGR) -- an around-the-world sailing competition -- has been banned. Race organizers put the restriction in place because of unlicensed use of amateur radio equipment in the 2018 - 19 event, *Yachting Monthly* [reported](#). In the 2018 - 19 race, Estonian skipper Uku Randmaa, ES1UKU, was penalized after seeking weather routing (the best route according to wind and weather conditions) via ham radio. While he [escaped disqualification](#), he did receive a 72-hour penalty. Randmaa received weather routing information from Bob McLeod, VP8LP, who advised Randmaa, "The more north you go, the quicker you get out of the wind hole."

The race rules say, "Entrants are free to speak to media, family, friends, and sponsors by radio at any time during the event, but must not be given any form of weather routing." But in the next sentence, the rules allow competitors to "communicate freely (by radio or by hailing) with other competitors, or other mariners on vessels at sea, requesting or giving any verbal information/advice whatsoever, even if this is considered weather routing."

The GGR rules that were spelled out in the [Notice of Race](#) require at least a 125 W marine MF/HF radio transceiver with a frequency range of at least 1.6 to 29.9 MHz, "fitted in a 100% watertight enclosure (able to be sealed in any storm) with permanently installed antenna and [ground] and an emergency antenna when the regular antenna depends upon the permanent Backstay."

The rules make clear that, "Any proven breach of International radio telecommunication regulations, such as transmitting on illegal maritime frequencies, may result in a time penalty. Ham Radio transmissions are specifically banned."

According to *Yachting Monthly*, the change has caused concern within the race community, "with some of the 2018 entrants highlighting difficulties in picking up Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) frequencies in the Southern Ocean due to the shrinking of the broadcasting network as more mariners rely on satellite communication."

"This is a retro race with skippers restricted to using a sextant [a navigation instrument used to measure altitudes of celestial bodies], paper charts, and wind-up chronometers, just as Sir Robin Knox-Johnston used in the first *Sunday Times* Golden Globe Race 50 years ago," Race Chairman Don McIntyre has explained.

In the 2018 race, some GGR skippers who operated on ham radio frequencies using bogus call signs were asked to stop operating.

GGR monitors all severe weather with winds over 40 knots and, if appropriate, provides both forecasting and routing information to assist entrants in sailing safely.

## ARRL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS STARTING ON NOVEMBER 1

The [ARRL Foundation](#) will start accepting [applications](#) for its 2022 scholarship program on November 1. The submission deadline is December 31. More than 100 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 will be awarded in 2022. The 2022 scholarship year totals an eligible amount of over \$800,000 to be awarded.

All applicants must be FCC-licensed radio amateurs (active non-US radio amateurs are eligible for scholarships sponsored by ARDC), and many scholarships have specific requirements, such as intended area of study, or residence within a particular ARRL Division, Section, or state, and license class. Some scholarships also require additional documentation, such as letters of recommendation.

The ARRL Foundation will be utilizing a new Scholarship Management Platform for the 2022 ARRL Foundation Scholarships. Applicants no longer choose specific scholarships but will be matched with all scholarships for which they qualify. Transcripts and any additional required documents must be submitted with the application, not emailed separately as was done in the past. Applications without accompanying transcripts and applicable required documentation will not be considered.

The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Committee will review all applicants, and scholarship recipients will be notified in May 2022 via USPS mail and email. For more information, visit the [ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program](#).

## 3Y0J DXPEDITION TO BOUVET ISLAND CONFIRMS NOVEMBER 2022 ACTIVATION

The [3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition](#) team says that with its first deposit on its contract to have the SS *Marama* provide transportation to Bouvet, it has confirmed its plans to activate the second most-wanted DXCC entity in November 2022.

"It is a huge task and undertaking to go to Bouvet, and we still critically need additional upfront support to close the budget," said the amateur radio DXpeditions team of co-leaders Ken Opskar, LA7GIA; Rune Øye, LA7THA, and Erwann Merrien, LB1QI. The DXpedition announced that two more operators will join the adventure, taking the number to 13.

Dave Jorgensen, WD5COV, is an avid DXer and experienced DXpeditioner. He is vice president of the Intrepid-DX Group, which had hoped to mount a DXpedition to Bouvet before its plans broke down.

The second new team member, identified as Peter, is described as "an experienced captain and expedition leader." He will oversee the Zodiac landings and serve as a digital mode (FT#) operator.

"Our preparation for Bouvet includes planning, constructing, and testing a system for landing Zodiacs safely, [and] this will be tested in rough sea in Norway before and after Christmas," the 3Y0J team said in its news release.

"We plan for safely landing the Zodiacs in different manners also with some swell, unmanned, and with less risk for operators. And we prepare for the event that Zodiacs are capsizing, and we still can retrieve the equipment. We have done the first prelim sea trials of the Zodiac equipment in Norway and will continue sea trials to further mature the concept."

According to the announcement, the team plans to use a gasoline-engine powered winch to lift equipment up a cliff to the operating site. This will also be tested in Norway. "We plan to access the 25-foot cliff with professionals means and, if needed, prepare for climbing and bolting a short route to gain access."

Follow the DXpedition team's plans from its website and the 3Y0J [Facebook](#) page. Read [an expanded version](#). --ARRL Letter

## THE 2022 ARRL HANDBOOK FOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS IS NOW AVAILABLE

*The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications* for 2022 is a must-have for every radio amateur's bookshelf. Whether you're an experienced ham or new to the hobby, you'll find information you can use to advance your amateur radio knowledge and skills. This current, comprehensive, and complete reference is available in three formats — traditional softcover, a six-volume, shrink-wrapped **book set** (box not included), and digital **eBook**.

The 2022 edition features new projects and tools, including 3D printing techniques for ham radio construction, battery selection for portable operation, analog-to-digital converter overload, solid-state amplifier linearity, an update on Solar Cycle 25, and more.

*The Handbook* six-volume book set, ARRL Item No. 1519, ISBN 978-1-62595-151-9, is \$59.95 retail. *The Handbook* softcover book, ARRL Item No. 1502, ISBN 978-1-62595-150-2, is \$49.95 retail.

More new books have also just been stocked in the ARRL Store, including the second edition of *Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur* by Ward Silver, N0AX. This new edition shows you how to make sure your station follows current standards for lightning protection and RF grounding. It details effective grounding and bonding techniques for the home, portable or mobile station, as well as for towers and antennas.

Also just out: *More Arduino for Ham Radio* by popular author and experimenter Glen Popiel, KW5GP, introduces many of the new Arduino boards and add-on modules, followed by an overview of the software, tools, and techniques needed to bring projects to life. Practical projects showcase a wide variety of applications and include how the software sketches work.

*Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur*, ARRL Item No. 1496, ISBN 978-1-62595-149-6, is \$25.95 retail, special ARRL Member Price \$22.95.

*More Arduino for Ham Radio*, ARRL Item No. 1472, ISBN 978-1-62595-147-2, is \$39.95 retail, special ARRL Member Price \$34.95.

Order from the ARRL Store, or call (860) 594-0355 or toll-free in the US (888) 277-5289.



## SHORTS

**Harold Smith, KE6TI, Wins the October 2021 QST Cover Plaque Award** – The winning article for the October 2021 QST Cover Plaque award is “The DC2020 Receiver,” by Harold Smith, KD6TI. The QST Cover Plaque Award — given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue — is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the [QSTCover Plaque Poll web page](#). Cast a ballot for your favorite article today! --ARRL

**The WSJT-X development team has announced the general availability release of WSJT-X version 2.5.1.** This release mainly contains improvements and repairs defects related to Q65 and JT65 when used with nonstandard and compound call signs. Those planning to use Q65 or JT65 to make weak-signal contacts involving a nonstandard call sign should upgrade to this version. Also included is a new feature for microwave aircraft scatter, as well as repairs for bugs detected since the general availability release of version 2.5.0. A complete listing of changes is available in the [Release Notes](#). Links to WSJT-X 2.5.1 [installation packages](#) for Windows, Linux, and Mac are available.

**ARRL's YouTube channel, ARRLHQ, has launched a series of amateur radio Technician-class license courses.** This series of videos features Dave Casler, KE0OG, QST's "Ask Dave" columnist, who leads viewers through [The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual](#). These videos supplement the manual and provide an overview of the sections students will study, along with a few videos on how things work. Share this excellent resource with those who are preparing to take the Technician exam, and visit the [ARRLHQ YouTube channel](#) for more great amateur radio videos.

**A free General-class licensing course via Zoom will begin on Thursday, October 28 and continue through Thursday, January 13** -- nine sessions in all, plus 3 weeks off for the holidays in November and December. Rol Anders, K3RA, will be the instructor. Sessions will start at 6:30 PM ET (2230 UTC on October 28; 2330 UTC thereafter) and run for 3 hours. Classes are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. To sign up, [email](#) Anders.

**COOL TOOL FOR FINDING HAMS** - I might have mentioned this tool before, but it is very useful for finding hams close to you or in other areas, based on callsign, grid square, zip code, or street address. Go to <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map> to give it a try.

**The government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands has proposed to delegate the administration of amateur radio licenses to the Falkland Island regulator** and to issue amateur radio call signs with the prefix VP0, rather than VP8, with an initial suffix letter of either an S or G, as appropriate. VP0 is also the prefix of the British Antarctic Territories.

**After more than 2 years of inactivity, Robert, 3B9FR, is again active from Rodrigues Island,** an ARRL DXCC entity. He is mainly a CW operator but does occasionally get on SSB and FT8.

**The Intrepid-DX Group has extended the submission deadline for this year's Youth "Dream Rig" Essay Contest to November 15, 2021.** The winner of the 2021 contest will be announced on December 1. Those who submitted an essay last year are invited to submit again. The prize is an Icom IC-7300 transceiver. Entry rules: (1) Write and submit a two-page essay that answers the question, "How can amateur radio evolve to remain relevant in the age of the internet? (2) Be a US amateur radio licensee aged 19 or younger. (3) Promise to keep the radio for 1 year and to use it on the air. (4) [Send](#) your essay in text or MS Word attachment by November 15, 2021 (no Google documents, please) (5) Alternatively mail it to The Intrepid-DX Group, 3052 Wetmore Dr, San Jose, CA 95148, USA, postmarked by November 15, 2021. All submissions become the property of the Intrepid-DX Group and may be published. [Contact](#) Paul Ewing, N6PSE, and visit The Intrepid-DX Group [Facebook page](#) for more information.

**Radio Silence on the Far Side of the Moon** – An ITU panel is proposing a ban on radio transmissions between 300 MHz and 2 GHz on the dark side(?) of the Moon to protect radio astronomy. --ARRL

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>

---