



RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN

www.w9rca.org



DECEMBER 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 14th 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE IN A DIFFERENT ROOM

CHECK AT THE BAR TO FIND OUT THE LOCATION OF THE MEETING

Holiday Greetings !

STUDENTS: APPLY FOR ARRL SCHOLARSHIPS NOW!

<http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>

RCA ARC NEWS

NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the November meeting. Jim, K9RU, reminded us about the upcoming CQ WW contest. Plans are already going ahead for Field Day next year and RCA ARC plans to participate with Indy United group in again in 2022. We did discuss that we are working with John, W9KD, and the IRCC regarding the new Hortonville, IN repeater that will be operating on 146.285/.865 MHz. John, W9KD was a member of the RCAARC in the 80s. The repeater spacing is closer than normal coordination guidelines. A discussion of ham gear repair services, amplifier tube availability, high power transistors and driver transistors ensued. Jon Powell, KC9GUM, will be asked to investigate the possibility of getting new Club shirts. Jon was responsible for getting the present shirts several years ago. The treasurer will write a check to the Indiana Repeater Council.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, December 11, 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

Dec 11-12	ARRL 10 Meter Contest http://www.arrl.org/10-meter
Dec 19	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW Contest http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Jan 1	ARRL Straight Key Night http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night
Jan 1	ARRL Kids Day http://www.arrl.org/kids-day
Jan 2-3	ARRL RTTY Roundup http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

FT WAYNE HAMFEST AND ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION CONVENTION After a one year hiatus, the Ft Wayne (IN) hamfest returned. It was also the Central Division Convention. It was good to get back into the swing of things.

Brent Walls N9BA (Central Division Vice Director), Jimmy Merry KC9RPX (IN SM), Jim Moehring KB9WWM (IN SEC), Thom Beebe W9RY (IL SM) and Robert Littler W9DSR (IL SEC) were in attendance. All of us participated in the ARRL Forum, with participants asking good questions. Steve Ewald WV1X gave a field organization forum from HQ via Zoom. And I presented the Ft Wayne Radio Club with a plaque honoring their 100 years as a club and 90 years being affiliated with the ARRL.



General attendance was down a bit from 2019, but that seems to be the norm at the moment. Hopefully 2022 will get us back to or close to pre-covid numbers. I expect big attendance numbers at the ARRL National Convention at the Orlando Hamcation (February 11-13), and at the Dayton Hamvention (May 20-22). As for Central Division hamfests, our three Sms will be identifying their state conventions for 2022, and Brent and I (along with the SMs and others) will be identifying the 2022 Central Division Convention.

So as we end 2021 and enter 2022, support your local hamfest. Volunteer to help the organizers of the hamfest – it's a big job and I'm sure they would appreciate your help. And attend the forums (if any are offered) – they can offer lots of good information on topics you may not have been exposed to before. In my opinion, one of the best things about a hamfest is visiting and chatting with old friends. – Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA ARRL Central Division Director

WSJT-X DEVELOPMENT GROUP PARTNER BILL SOMERVILLE, G4WJS, SK

A key member of the *WSJT-X* development group — where FT8 and other cutting-edge digital amateur radio technology has originated — has died. Bill Somerville, G4WJS, was reported to have passed away earlier this week. He was in his mid-60s, and his death was unexpected. The development group founder, Joe Taylor, K1JT, called Somerville “a dear friend and very close colleague.” Taylor said that Somerville was the first to join with him in 2013 to form a core development group for *WSJT-X*, then in its digital infancy.

“Bill has been closely involved with *WSJT-X* and related software projects ever since,” Taylor said. “Our free, open-source software could not have achieved its extensive worldwide popularity and influence in ham radio without Bill's essential contributions.”

Somerville collaborated with Taylor and Steve Franke, K9AN — the third member of the *WSJT-X* development group — to author articles for *QST* and *QEX* about FT8 and other digital modes in the *WSJT-X* suite. The trio won the October 2017 *QST* Cover Plaque Award. They also received

the Dayton Hamvention® Technical Achievement Award in 2020, and the ARRL Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award in 2021.

Taylor said Somerville “devoted countless hours to program support, patiently answering user’s questions on *WSJT*-related forums.”

“I have only started to think about the many ways in which I will miss Bill — not [to] mention how we all will miss his immense and positive impact on *WSJT-X* and related projects,” Taylor said.

Professionally, Somerville was a software engineer who worked mainly as a C++ system software developer, as he explained on his QRZ profile. As an active radio amateur, he also applied his expertise to such projects as setting up an SO2R (single operator, two radio) station and enhancing his station’s automated processes. --ARRL

SENATOR BLUMENTHAL SUPPORTS AMATEUR RADIO AT SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARING

Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT) received an affirmative reply from FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel when he asked her to commit to providing his office “an update on the steps that the FCC is taking to support amateur radio operators.” The Senator posed the written question as part of Rosenworcel’s renomination hearing conducted by the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Blumenthal took note specifically that “Radio amateurs voluntarily provide an array of public services, especially emergency and disaster-related support communications when infrastructure has been destroyed by a hurricane or similar disaster. Their contributions in this area are regularly recognized by local and state authorities.”

“ARRL is grateful to Senator Blumenthal for his support and recognition of radio amateurs,” said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. Blumenthal has previously co-sponsored legislation supporting amateur radio, and his staff was recently briefed by ARRL on pending amateur radio matters at the FCC. Roderick added, “We need the partnership of the FCC and Congress to ensure our rules and spectrum continue to support the march of technological innovation in our vibrant Amateur Radio Service.”

Multiple proceedings to update or change the FCC’s amateur Part 97 rules to account for changes in technology and operating practices have been languishing at the FCC, some going back five or more years. ARRL is hopeful that these will be addressed soon.

The Senate Committee approved Rosenworcel’s renomination with a bi-partisan vote on December 1, 2021. She has served on the FCC since 2012, and the Committee’s vote to approve her nomination for an additional term sends it to the full Senate for final consideration. --ARRL

HAM RADIO UNIVERSITY GOING VIRTUAL AGAIN

With COVID-19 uncertainties precluding an in-person gathering for a second year, the 23rd annual Ham Radio University (HRU) educational conference will be held as a virtual event again this year, on Saturday, January 8, 1300 – 2000 UTC, as an online GoToWebinar videoconference.

Advance registration is required and begins on December 20.

HRU 2022 will be adding five forums this year, for a total of 19 presentations by experts in a broad range of amateur radio activities, including Amateur Radio Emergency Communications; Basics of HF Operating; Ham Radio Contesting and DXing; Communicating through Amateur Radio Earth Satellites; Software-Defined Radios; HF and VHF Digital Communications; Parks on the Air; SKYWARN; Cables and Connectors, and Using RaspberryPi Computers in Amateur Radio. Online attendees will be able to ask questions of the presenters.

Founded by Phil Lewis, N2MUN (SK), HRU also will serve as the online convention of the ARRL NYC-Long Island Section. As in past years, participation in HRU 2022 is free; an optional donation \$5 is suggested.

Additional information is online, including the schedule of forums and advance registration starting December 20. --ARRL

TWO 160-METER EVENTS IN DECEMBER GIVE NOD TO 1921 TRANSATLANTIC TESTS

160-meter operators can revel in two opportunities in December that promise to fill the airwaves with activity to test skills and stations on that band. The events take place a century after the Transatlantic Tests of the 1920s, which ushered in the dawn of international amateur radio communication.

The first, the annual ARRL 160-Meter Contest was this past weekend, December 3 – 5. On December 12 — and not to be confused with the ARRL 160-Meter Contest — ARRL and the RSGB will jointly sponsoring the 160-Meter Transatlantic Centenary QSO Party. This 6-hour event will run from 0200 to 0800 UTC. The event coincides with the 100th anniversary of the successful Second Transatlantic Tests. Participating stations will operate only on CW, trying to contact the two official call sign activations, W1AW and GB2ZE. At times the stations may listen for callers 1 kHz above their transmitting frequency, to shift the pile-up from their transmit frequency. They may also periodically ask for DX callers only. The exchange is call sign and signal report.

During the QSO Party, ARRL will activate W1AW from Newington, Connecticut. RSGB will activate GB2ZE with help from a team of stations, including members of the GMDX Group of Scotland sharing the operating duties. GB2ZE commemorates the call sign of Paul Godley, 2ZE, who was sent by ARRL to the UK to lead the second Transatlantic Test in December 1921.

W1AW will be active for all 6 hours. Stations operating as GB2ZE will follow this schedule:

- 0200 UTC, from the commemorative station at Ardrossan, Scotland
- 0300 UTC, from GM3YTS.
- 0400 UTC, from GM0GAV.
- 0500 UTC, from MM0ZBH.
- 0600 UTC, from MM0GPZ.

0700 UTC, from GM4ZUK until 0800 UTC or until the band closes at sunrise. The GMDX Group will award a *quaich* — a traditional Scottish drinking cup representing friendship — to the first stations in North America and the UK to complete contacts with both W1AW and GB2ZE during the QSO Party. A commemorative certificate will be available for download. Participants will not have to submit logs. The official logs from W1AW and GB2ZE will be used to determine the winners and for certificates.

For additional details, visit <http://www.arrl.org/transatlantic> or <http://rsgb.org/main/activity/transatlantic-tests>. --ARRL

INTREPID-DX GROUP ANNOUNCES YOUTH “DREAM RIG” ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

On December 1, Intrepid-DX Group President Paul Ewing, N6PSE, announced the prize recipients of the second annual Youth “Dream Rig” Essay Contest. Ewing said all essays received “were all unique in thought and very well articulated.” Extra points were given for correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling, he said.

“Most of the essays gave unique perspectives on how to reach out and connect with the youth of today. We will be sharing those ideas in subsequent postings,” he said.

The first-place winner and recipient of an Icom IC-7300 transceiver is Silas Davis, W3SED. Second-place winner Olivia Lee, KD2UYX, and third-place winner Isaac Schmidt, K6IAS, will each receive Yaesu FT-65R radios.

“Having read your many essays this week, we can tell you that our youth are full of great ideas, and they are brimming with enthusiasm to keep our hobby alive well into the future,” Ewing concluded. He thanked Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) for supporting this year’s prizes. --ARRL

ARRL AUTHOR, QST TECHNICAL EDITOR JOEL HALLAS, W1ZR, SK

Retired QST Technical Editor Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, of Westport, Connecticut, died on November 25. An ARRL member, he was 79. Hallas retired in 2013 but remained active as a contributing editor, handling the popular “The Doctor is In” column in QST and the podcast of the same name. He had been a radio amateur since 1955.

“Joel was not only brilliant, he shared that brilliance with the ham radio community in a way that taught innumerable hams things they needed to know in order to experience success and enjoyment,” said ARRL Publications and Editorial Department Manager Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. “He was a fine mind, a generous mentor and colleague, and a consummate gentleman. He will be missed.”

Retired ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, recalled Hallas as “an iconic figure in amateur radio media as a prolific author of QST articles and ARRL books, and even in the audio podcast community. I greatly enjoyed being Joel’s sidekick for the popular ‘Doctor is In’ podcasts. He had a wry sense of humor both on and off the microphone and a remarkably stoic attitude toward the illness that would eventually claim his life.”

Hallas authored six books about communications technology, published by ARRL. His titles include *Basic Radio*; *Basic Antennas*; *The ARRL Guide to Antenna Tuners*; *Hamspeak*; *The Care and Feeding of Transmission Lines*; *Understanding Your Antenna Analyzer*, and *The Radio Amateur’s Workshop*.

Hallas earned his bachelor’s in electrical engineering from the University of Connecticut and an MSEE from Northeastern University. He previously had worked for Raytheon as a radar systems engineer and for GTE as a nuclear weapons effects (electromagnetic pulse) analyst and as a satellite and terrestrial communications systems engineer, as well as for IBM and AT&T. He also taught at the college level.

He enjoyed sailing, as described in the July 2009 issue of QST. He and his 24-foot sloop *Windfall* — fully equipped with a ham station that used the insulated backstay as an HF antenna — graced the front cover.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Nancy, W1NCY. --ARRL

DAYTON HAMVENTION EXPECTS TO BE LIVE EVENT IN 2022

Dayton Hamvention® organizers are planning to mount the first in-person show in 2022, following 2 years of COVID-related cancellations. The event is set for May 20 – 22 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Last January, Hamvention organizers from the sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) announced they were calling off the 2021 event after considerable planning was already under way. The Hamvention Executive Committee cited lagging COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the US and the emergence of a more communicable form of the virus.

Southgate Amateur Radio News quotes Hamvention General Chairman Rick Allnutt, WS8G, as

saying that Hamvention committees “have been meeting, and volunteers are committed to making up for the time lost to pandemic cancellations.” The Hamvention website is already accepting bookings from vendors and inside exhibitors, and individual visitors can already buy tickets, which Allnutt said, “are all printed and ready to go.”

Nominations for the 2022 Hamvention Awards opened on November 1. Hamvention seeks “the best of the best” nominees for its Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, Amateur of the Year, and Club of the Year awards. Nominations close on February 15, 2022. Submit nomination forms via email or USPS to Hamvention Awards Committee, Box 964, Dayton, OH 45401-0964

Contest University (CTU) will take place on May 19 in conjunction with the annual Hamvention Super Suite activities, which will be moving to the Hope Hotel in Dayton. In addition to CTU, these activities will include the Top Band Dinner, the Contest Dinner, and the KC DX Club’s CW-copying competition, among other possible events. --ARRL

OCTOBER 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.

- Technician-class operators in Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, and Richmond, Texas, received *Advisory Notices* after making numerous FT8 contacts on 40 and 20 meters. Technician-class licensees are not allowed to transmit data on 40 meters and have no operating authority on 20 meters.
- Operators in Mims, Florida; Moorefield, West Virginia; State Road, North Carolina, and Grottoes, Virginia, received *Advisory Notices* concerning excessive SSB bandwidth on 40 and 75 meters. The operator in Moorefield, West Virginia, previously received an *Advisory Notice* for out-of-band operation on 7.138 MHz. His case will be referred to the FCC for further enforcement action, which could include removal of voice privileges from, or revocation of, his General-class license.
- An operator in Cave Creek, Arizona, received an *Advisory Notice* for making lengthy transmissions without identifying, as required by Commission rules.
- An operator in Highlandville, Missouri, was reminded that a beacon on 30 meters cannot be automatically controlled, pursuant to 97.203(d) of the Commission's rules, and must have a control operator present at all times of transmission. He was further advised that the FCC may request a schedule of control operators and their duty hours. --ARRL

GODFREY’S MH370 TRACKING GAINS EXPERT SUPPORT

TOP GERMAN ENGINEER Dr. Robert Westphal, who first put forward the idea of using WSPRnet to track MH370 has added his support to Richard Godfrey’s location research.

In a post to Mr. Godfrey’s MH370 blog, Dr. Westphal who is a radio amateur and expert on WSPRnet published the following challenge to those not yet convinced of the technology.

“One simple test: Go to <http://www.wsprnet.org> and look for WSPR signals from or to the islands of Reunion (FR, F61695), Mauritius (3B8) and monitor a WSPR station in Western Australia (VK6) in the data-base and/or live at <http://www.kiwisd.com>.

“Where do most of the peaks in SNR of the WSPR signals from the islands FR, 3B8 originate from? Look for the day (14 MHz and above) or night (7 MHz) on the radio path!

“Yes, aircraft approaches and departures from the islands. Double-check in FR24, FlightAware.....you can do that almost daily if SFI is not too low and Kp stays low. Also, see overflights of SIA478 and SIA479 on a daily basis! Reception over thousands of km!

“Just an easy validation test for the WSPR method to end the most fundamental discussion on WSPR detection capabilities. You can also try it in your backyard (home airport!)”

Dr. Westphal (above) is the Doctor of Engineering – Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Communication Technology at the Technical University Darmstadt, Germany. He is also a member of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC).

READ: MH370: Probable location found of MH370 <https://bit.ly/3xAw7vI> Additional information here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnMDO7bfYTc>

SHORTS

Australian hams show high interest in new 2 × 1 contest call signs. The Australian Communications and Media Authority ([ACMA](#)) amateur radio office has been receiving a high volume of requests for the newly available [2 × 1 contest call signs](#). ACMA says the processing time for exam and call sign applications is now 15 business days. Use of the new call signs starts November 1, for contests only. At this point, each call sign is valid for 1 year. All 26 VK3-prefix 2 × 1 call signs were snapped up quickly; demand was lower in other call areas. A [database](#) of 2 × 1 call signs is available.

Sponsors have postponed the previously announced W8S DXpedition to Swains Island. Organizers say COVID-19 restrictions and a limited number of flights in the first quarter of 2022 have made travel extremely difficult. Also, two W8S team members are on the 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition team set for November/December 2022. "Our project has certainly not been canceled but postponed to the spring of 2023.

Earlier this year, IARUMS reported that the Russian-Ukrainian radio war had escalated.

"In June, they used more frequencies than before, affecting our bands very hard." Jost recounted. "It is a great annoyance and a big shame." Jost has pointed out that the IARU Monitoring System has little opportunity to stop the on-the-air conflict.

"Only national authorities can hopefully do something against international complaints," he said. "It is very important and very helpful that many other [IARU] member-societies also observe these frequencies and make complaints to their regulators." The long-standing conflict has also affected 7050 and 7060 kHz.

The RSGB reports the /2ZE suffix has been authorized to mark 100 years since wireless pioneers on both sides of the Atlantic, including Paul Godley, 2ZE, from the US, succeeded in copying a signal transmitted across the Atlantic and received in Scotland -- the "first successful reception of a personal message across the Atlantic by amateur radio" -- on December 12, 1921. ARRL dispatched Godley as part of the "Second Transatlantic Tests."

VX3INSULIN will be on the air from Kingston, Ontario, during December to mark 100 years since a team at the University of Toronto discovered insulin in 1921. Operation will be mostly on FT8 and FT4. QSL to VE3NOO.

An overview, "[The Enigma of Japanese Call Sign System](#)," by JG1VGX and revised by Ryota "Roy" Motobayashi, JJ1WTL, is available. For example, sequential call signs are based on the station address (the transmitter location) only, not mailing address or license class. Japan does not issue vanity call signs. Special event call signs are available to organizations but not to individuals, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications issues such call signs. The same goes for special prefix call signs. Read the disclaimer at the end of the website.

The London BBC Radio Group has been granted a year-long special event call sign, GB100BBC, to commemorate the centenary of the BBC in 2022. Operations will be carried out by individual members or groups from home stations or BBC premises.

Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the primary time standard by which the world regulates clocks and time. It is within about 1 second of mean solar time at 0° longitude and is not adjusted for daylight saving time. It is effectively a successor to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

You may be asking yourself why the abbreviation is "UTC" and not "CUT." This abbreviation comes as a result of the International Telecommunication Union and the International Astronomical Union wanting to use the same abbreviation in all languages. English speakers originally proposed CUT (for "coordinated universal time"), while French speakers proposed TUC (for "temps universel coordonné"). The compromise that emerged was UTC.

AMSAT is looking for volunteers. Keeping amateur radio in space is a team effort, and volunteers carry out all of the work. AMSAT seeks individuals having a wide range of technical and non-technical skills. Openings include Vice President of User Services, Secretary, Volunteer Coordinator, and Public Information Officer. Submit a resume and cover letter to Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, or [email](#).

GB1002ZE and GB2ZE will be on December 1 - 26 to mark the first personal message [sent across the Atlantic Ocean](#) from ham to ham on December 12, 1921. In Scotland that day was 2ZE, Paul Godley, who went to the UK representing ARRL to attempt this test. The Ardrossan, Scotland, area Crocodile Rock Amateur Group, is handling this commemorative operation.

CF3BP will be on the air until December 12 to celebrate 100 years of transatlantic communications. 3BP was the call sign of Edward Roger Sr., the first Canadian ham to make a transatlantic contact -- from Ontario to Scotland.

Raja Chari, KI5LIU, is the newest commander of a NASA space mission. He and his three fellow members of SpaceX Crew-3 are now aboard the International Space Station. It promises to be a busy 6 months for the crew, which includes Matthias Maurer, KI5KFH, from the European Space Agency. The German astronaut will be involved in more than 35 experiments while on board the ISS. He will also be using the German call sign DP0ISS during a dozen scheduled contacts with German schools through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

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THANKS FOR READING

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

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