



RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

APRIL 2022

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 12th, 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, IN THE GAME ROOM, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the March meeting. At the first Field Day planning meeting of the year, our Club agreed to manage the 6 meter station, probably mostly FT8 mode. The location again this year will be the Victor Conservation Club north of Martinsville. Jim, AF9A, reported the '88 repeater is working well. Band conditions have been very good during the last few weeks with activity on 10 and 12 meters during the daylight hours. Six meters has also been open to the Caribbean and South America. Dave, N9KZJ, reminded us the Indianapolis Radio Club meeting will be Friday at the Indiana War Memorial. This will be the IRC's first in-person meeting in two years. There is been no announcement on the Indy Hamfest yet. [Editor's note: See the announcement from Mike Sercer, General Chairman of the Indianapolis Hamfest Committee, on the last page of this newsletter.]

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2022
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 NCV EC 605.
Contact: Jim Rinehart, k9ru@arrl.net, 317 721-1458

INDIANA QSO PARTY (INQP) MAY 7 – The Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is May 7th from 11AM until 11PM. The INQP is a casual contest with stations outside of Indiana trying to work all the Indiana counties.

Stations in Indiana to work as many stations as possible and including other Indiana counties.

You can operate on 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, and 10M, both CW and SSB (no FT8).

40M is likely to be the most popular band, with 20M during the day and 80M at night.

Since I also do the Mini-Marathon, I don't get on till about 3PM checking out 20M and 40M and in the evening 40M and 80M.

So far this year 10M and 15m band conditions have been very good, check out those bands. Techs can only operate on 10M SSB

Check out HDXCC: logging programs, county abbreviations other information:
<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html> – Jim K9RU.

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Apr 10	ARRL Rookie Roundup http://www.arrl.org/rookie roundup
May 7	Indiana QSO Party (INQP) http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html
May 7	Mini Marathon

An expanded, downloadable version of QST's [Contest Corral](#) is available as a PDF. Check the sponsors' website for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

NEW AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE APPLICATIONS FEE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE APRIL 19, 2022

A Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 23, 2022, in [MD Docket No. 20-270](#), announced that new application fees for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau applications will become effective on April 19, 2022.

New FCC Application Fee Will Not Apply To Amateur Radio License Upgrades The FCC staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license modifications, including those to upgrade a licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

UPDATED INFORMATION: The \$35 application fee, when it becomes effective on April 19, will apply to new, renewal, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application processed by the FCC.

If the applicant fails to pay within the 10-day window, the application will be dismissed by the FCC. The application will have to be refiled with the FCC which will restart the 10-day window. For examinees, an application can be refiled to the FCC, by the coordinating VEC, at any time before the CSCE expires.

UPDATED INFORMATION: Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to **upgrade** an amateur radio licensee's operator class*, will be exempt from fees. (*this new information was just confirmed by FCC staff on Tuesday March 29.)

"We are pleased that the FCC will not charge licensees the FCC application fee for license upgrade applications," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager, Maria Somma, AB1FM. "While applicants for a new license will need to pay the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and administrative updates such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees therefore will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."

Anticipating the implementation of the fee in 2022, the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July 2021 meeting, approved the "ARRL [Youth Licensing Grant Program](#)." Under the program, ARRL will cover a one-time \$35 application fee for license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC). Qualified candidates also would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC. ARRL is finalizing details for administering the program.

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, explained that all fees are per application. "There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. The fees will be the responsibility of the applicant regardless of filing method and must be paid within 10 calendar days of FCC's receipt of the application. For applications filed by a VEC, the period does not begin until the application is received by the

Commission, a ULS file number assigned, and an email sent by the FCC directly to the applicant."

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at license exam sessions. New and upgrade candidates at an exam session will continue to pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the new, \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system ([CORES – Login](#)).

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay. After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or explanation of other action. The link will be good for 30 days.

Somma also explained that applications that are processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity call sign requests where the applicant does not receive the requested call sign.

"The FCC staff has suggested that applicants for vanity call signs should first ensure the call signs requested are available and eligible for their operator class and area, and then request as many call signs as the form allows to maximize their chances of receiving a call sign."

Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC at www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee. Details for the ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program will be similarly posted there, when available. --ARRL Letter

HAM PAYLOAD GOING TO THE CHINESE SPACE STATION

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) satellite frequency coordination panel reports that an application has been submitted for an amateur radio payload to be hosted on the Chinese Tiangong space station. The coordination request states:

"CSSARC is the amateur radio payload for Chinese Space Station, proposed by Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC), Aerospace System Engineering Research Institute of Shanghai (ASES) and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT)."

The first phase of the payload is capable of providing the following functions utilizing the VHF/UHF amateur radio bands:

- 1) V/V or U/U crew voice
- 2) V/U or U/V FM repeater
- 3) V/V or U/U 1k2 AFSK digipeater
- 4) V/V or U/U SSTV or digital image

The payload will provide resources for radio amateurs worldwide to make contacts with onboard astronauts or communicate with each other. It will also play a role to inspire students to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, and to encourage more people to get interested in amateur radio.

The planned launch from Wenchang is scheduled for the third quarter of this years. - *Thanks to AMSAT UK*

WSPR BEACON ON THE AIR FROM ANTARCTICA

AMSAT Argentina has assembled and delivered a permanent WSPR (Weak-Signal Propagation Reporter) beacon system to the Argentine research station at Esperanza Base on the Antarctic Peninsula. Using the call sign LU1ZV, the 200 mW beacon is presently active on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters at 7.0386, 14.0956, 21.0946, and 28.1246 MHz, respectively, and reception has been reported by stations throughout the world.

The LU1ZV WSPR beacon is on the air from Esperanza Base, a permanent Antarctic research station.

WSPR is a digital communications protocol designed for reception at very weak-signal levels. It is part of the [WSJT-X](#) software suite. You can use *WSJT-X* to receive the LU1ZV beacon directly, or you can see reports from other stations online at www.wsprnet.org. [Thanks to the AMSAT News Service]

VOLUNTEER MONITOR PROGRAM CAUTIONS AGAINST OPERATING BEYOND LICENSE PRIVILEGES.

Many of the Advisory Notices sent out each month by the ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program go to stations heard operating outside the operator's license privileges.

Typical cases often involve operators holding Technician- or General-class amateur licenses being heard on a frequency or band not permitted by their license privileges. Most recent incidents have frequently entailed FT8 digital mode operation by Technician licensees on 20 and 40 meters. Technician licensees do not have any operating privileges on 20 meters, let alone digital privileges, and FT8 is a digital protocol.

Technicians (and Novices) may operate CW between 21.025 and 21.200 MHz on 15 meters, from 7.025 and 7.125 MHz on 40 meters, and from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, but they do not have any digital (data) mode privileges on these bands.

ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, said licensees who need a refresher course regarding their operating privileges may refer to Section 97.301 of the rules. ARRL also has a convenient chart on its website that details privileges available to all license classes, from Novice to Amateur Extra.

As monthly Volunteer Monitor reports indicate, some General-class operators have lost their way on some bands too, and Advisory Notices have gone out to those operating outside of the General-class phone subbands. For example, on 20 meters, Generals may operate phone from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz, but occasionally, General-class operators are heard outside of that subband. On 40 meters, the phone and image subband open to General licensees is 7.175 to 7.300 MHz. Of course, Technician and General-class licensees may operate CW on any subband on which they have operating privileges, although operation within the CW subbands is preferred by band plan.

On 10 meters, Technicians have RTTY and data privileges — including FT8 — from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and SSB phone privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz, and may operate on CW over the entire 28.000 – 28.500 MHz segment. Technicians may enjoy all operating privileges at 50 MHz and above.

The ARRL Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL monitor the airwaves and report evidence that may be used to correct errant operation or to recognize exemplary on-air operation. --ARRL Letter

HAMVENTION 2022 ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Chairman of the Hamvention Awards Committee Michael Kalter, W8CI, has announced the 2022 Dayton Hamvention award winners.

Special Achievement Award: Kerry Banke, N6IZW, of La Mesa, California, received the Special Achievement Award. Banke, first licensed in 1961 and now retired, spent most of his career in the research and development of electronics systems as a microwave RF electrical engineer. This included 14 years as a Qualcomm engineer, developing innovative microwave wireless

technologies. Banke's electronic interests span dc to light, with particular interest and expertise in microwaves. His ham radio operations have included transmissions on 136 kHz up to laser.

Banke's support to human spaceflight amateur radio started in 1994 when he served as a school technical mentor and certified ground station for the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) program. When NASA transitioned from SAREX to the International Space Station (ISS), Banke became a member of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) hardware team. For 7 years, working from his home and electronics lab garage, Banke led the circuit design, breadboarding, flight circuit board layout, assembly, and testing of the ARISS-developed multi-voltage power supply. This compact power supply innovation serves as the backbone of the ARISS next-generation on-orbit radio system.

Banke's contributions to the recently launched ARISS hardware system has significantly enhanced current ham operations on the ISS. Additionally, they enable future amateur radio expansion and experimentation that will permit new educational and operational capabilities for youth and hams. Annually, hundreds of thousands of ISS ham contacts are made via the voice repeater and APRS digipeater and thousands of youth are inspired and engaged through ARISS ham radio connections with astronauts aboard the ISS.

Technical Achievement Award: Adam Farson, VA7OJ/AB4OJ, of West Vancouver, B.C., received the Technical Achievement Award for his dedicated professional work with RF and telecommunications engineering issues and innovation. He has been a ham since he was a teenager.

Best known to the amateur radio community for his development of multiple sources of technical support for Icom radios, Farson started an Icom technical support net on 20 meters in the 1980s. He and came to know several senior Icom Japan engineers while living in, and traveling around, Japan while working. With each week's net, Farson helped hams solve challenging technical and logistical issues.

Farson has spent 3 decades creating an online resource for HF radios. His website -- a repository for highly technical information on Icom and other HF transceivers and amplifiers -- is now one of the most widely cited internet resources.

He independently performs measurements on nearly all new radios, including noise-power ratio, a measure he developed. His work includes producing the only data radio hobbyists have, which clearly delineates how modern software-defined radios (SDRs) perform across the spectrum of band noise levels. Farson has written multiple articles for technical and amateur radio journals. Recently, he penned a multipart series on modern HF solid-state amplifier design principles.

2022 Amateur of the Year Award: Jim Simpson, KF8J, of Xenia, Ohio first licensed as a teen, in 1966, his first shack was in the corner of his dad's garage he worked 39 states, including Hawaii using Heathkit equipment he built.

He upgraded to a General-class license in the late 1970s. He built two towers at his current location in Xenia in 1980, a 100-foot guyed tower for HF antennas and a 55-foot, free-standing tower for satellite communications. Simpson operates on 80 through 10 meters, mostly using voice with some digital operations, as well as on 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

In 1974, a tornado devastated the city of Xenia, Ohio. In 1975, Simpson saw a way to serve the community, and as a young man, he founded The Xenia Weather Radio Network. He remains active in the organization.

Simpson attended his first Dayton Hamvention in 1972 and has served on the Hamvention committee continuously since 1973.

Simpson was appointed Second Assistant to the Hamvention General Chair in 1983. In 1984 and 1985, he was appointed Assistant General Chair. He was appointed the Hamvention Chairman on the DARA Board for the 1986 and 1987. During that period, he introduced several technical innovations to the event and remains a senior advisor on the committee.

Club of the Year Award: The Highland Amateur Radio Association (HARA), K8HO, an ARRL Special Service Club located in Hillsboro, Ohio, has been named the 2022 Club of the Year. HARA was established in 1977 and serves a small rural population in Highland County, Ohio. As a result of ongoing licensing classes and mentoring sessions, the club reached an all-time high membership in 2021 with 143 members. Since 2015, membership has grown by 86 percent, and the membership is comprised of hams from 10 surrounding counties in southwest Ohio and two states. The club maintains five repeaters within Highland County, of which two are linked to provide a broader footprint. The club hosts a weekly 2-meter and 10-meter net, with an average attendance of 28. There are bi-monthly programs, as well as a monthly gathering called the "Brunch Bunch."

Hamvention 2022 is set for May 20 - 22 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Xenia is about 16 miles east of Dayton, Ohio. For more information, go to the Hamvention website at www.hamvention.org. --ARRL Letter

ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSS-BAND EXERCISE SET FOR MAY 14

The 2022 running of the Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band exercise will be held on May 14, 1300 - 2200 UTC. A complete list of participating stations, modes, frequencies, times, and other details [will be announced](#) on April 1. The event is open to all radio amateurs. Armed Forces Day is May 21, but the AFD Cross-band Military-Amateur Radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Dayton Hamvention. During the exercise, radio amateurs listen for stations on military operating frequencies and transmit on frequencies in adjacent amateur bands.

Military and amateur stations have taken part in this event for more than 50 years. It's an exercise scenario, designed to include ham radio and government radio operators alike.

Per previous announcements: "The AFD Cross-band Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service, as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications."

Military stations in various locations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham band frequencies they are monitoring.

An AFD message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. The AFD message will also be sent in CW and RTTY.

Full details will be released on April 1.

SHORTS

RSGB Legacy Committee to Fund 50 MHz Meteor Scatter Beacon The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) [has announced](#) that its [Legacy Committee](#) has agreed to fund a 50 MHz beacon specifically aimed at studying meteor events above the UK. The RSGB website reports, "Unlike conventional propagation beacons, this will beam vertically up using circular polarization. The 50 MHz band is particularly suitable for observing meteors by radio as they create an ionized trail strongly reflective to radio at that frequency, while they burn up on entry to the Earth's atmosphere. This is a collaborative project between the amateur radio and radio astronomy communities, and will enable a range of radio-based citizen science and STEM projects studying meteors. The beacon is to be located at the Sherwood Observatory of the Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society, a central location for UK coverage." -- *Thanks to* Southgate Amateur Radio News

WRTC 2022 Special Event Station Award Begins New Cycle --World Radiosport Team Championship 2022 ([WRTC 2022](#)) special event stations have been on the air to call attention to the international competition, now set to take place in July 2023. Stations that already worked toward the [WRTC 2022 Award](#) in January and February may be contacted again. Stations need 50 points for the award. The point structure is 5 for CW contacts, 10 for SSB contacts, 12 for RTTY contacts, and 17 for FT8 (or mixed). Points accumulate each month. Your [March score](#) will be added to your February and January scores. Register and log in to <https://hamaward.cloud> and select "WRTC2022 Award" to access your score page and logbook. The WRTC 2022 Award organizers are asking participants not to send or email QSL cards. Further information will show up on the hunters' website.

Special call signs are active during this event. More than 100 Italian radio amateurs will activate special WRTC call signs, one for each Italian call district, concluding on July 10, 2022. A [first-time award](#) promoting WRTC 2022 will be available. Look for these call signs to be active during some contests, concluding with the 2022 [IARU HF World Championship](#). Each participant's contact totals and award-hunter scores will be displayed on a [real-time leaderboard](#). Participants can download the award in digital format. -- *Thanks to The ARRL Contest Update*

Good map site to find amateur other hams that live near you:

<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map> –

After careful deliberation, the SP DX Contest Committee, together with Polish Amateur Radio Union (PZK) and the SP DX Club, has decided to cancel the 2022 SP DX Contest. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Poland has taken in more than 2 million refugees. Polish radio amateurs offer Ukrainian refugees accommodation in their homes and their help and services in any way they can. Under these exceptional circumstances, the organizers have decided that this year's SP DX Contest will be canceled. [*Thanks to Southgate ARC*]

Amateur radio researchers from NASA's Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) have observed giant waves in the upper atmosphere known as Large-Scale Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances, or LSTIDs, for the first time. The observational results appear to demonstrate the effects of LSTIDs on radio communications, as well as add to the understanding about how the wave interface. The results were published in the American Geophysical Union journal [Geophysical Research Letters](#).

CQ to Limit Contest Participation by Stations in Russia, Belarus, and Donbas. In a March 17 news release, CQ Communications, Inc. announced, "It will not accept competitive entries in any of its sponsored contests by amateur radio stations in Russia, Belarus, or the separatist Donbas region of Ukraine (unofficial D1 prefix). Logs submitted by these stations will be accepted only as check logs. In addition, contacts with these stations by other participants will have zero point value and will not count as multipliers." The policy will take effect with the CQ WPX SSB Contest on March 26 and 27, 2022, and future events will be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the situation at that time.

The BBC has resumed shortwave broadcasting of its English-language news service directed toward Ukraine and Russia. Broadcasts to Ukraine on 5875 kHz from 8/10 UTC and on 15735 kHz from 2/4 UTC. On medium wave, NEXUS- of Milan in Italy on 1323 kHz and proposes broadcasting for Eastern countries from 7/11 PM CET.

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>



The Indianapolis Hamfest

indyhamfest@gmail.com

April 4, 2022

Greetings,

I wanted to take an opportunity to express sincere thanks from all of the Indianapolis Hamfest staff to everyone who has supported our show for the past 50 years. Without your support we would have died years ago.

As many of you may know, much of our staff have been around for many decades, perhaps too many decades. Most of the current staff members are on the other side of 70 years old and felt it was time to pass the baton. To that end, in 2019 a campaign was started in an attempt to recruit new members. There were no takers except one. Andy Swanson, KC9SKV felt very strongly that the hamfest should go on. He made a valiant attempt to recruit others to help continue the show, but He too found that everyone wants it, but no one wants to be involved.

So, it is with great regret that at this time there will be NO Indianapolis Hamfest in 2022. Is it possible that the hamfest will return in 2023? At this time there is no firm plan in place. We realize that we may well loose our place in the hamfest circuit, but unfortunately this is our loss.

In closing, thank you to the major vendors for your many years of support and we wish you the very best for your future. Until we meet again.

73,

Mike Sercer, WA9FDO
General Chairman.
