



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

FEBRUARY 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71ST, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the January meeting. Some members reported not receiving the Newsletter. Reason unknown. It was reported that the ARRL will no longer fund the QSL bureau. County Hunters apparently want paper QSL cards. Most others don't. Nothing new to report on 2025 Field Day. Our Club has paid the ARRL insurance for the next year. The '88 repeater has a couple of problems (minor) which need to be addressed. Dave Arland will present his annual CES program at the next IRC meeting. Remember the upcoming VHF contest.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025
Time: Starting at Noon **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: **James Kajder (505) 228-3704**
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NVEC 605 license application form.

Laurel VEC test sessions: <https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Open Net, Thurs. 7PM, W9RCA repeater, 146.88 MHz, tone 88.5 Hz

Feb 8-9	CQ WW WPX RTTY https://www.cqwxprtty.com/rules.htm
Feb 10-14	ARRL School Club Roundup
Feb 15-16	ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Feb 22	Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest , Dugger, IN
Feb 21-23	CQ 160M SSB Contest http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm
Mar 1-2	ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

Visit the **ARRL Special Event Stations database** at www.arrl.org/special-event-station to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

GET READY FOR "HAM RADIO OPEN HOUSE" ON WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2025

To help promote amateur radio science and technology, and to honor the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), ARRL is inviting radio clubs and schools to organize a Ham Radio Open House in April, built around World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18.

The event is intended to highlight the Amateur Radio Service for its development and practice of the latest radio communications and technology, and as a hands-on pathway into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields for the next generation.

In April, amateur radio clubs, school stations, and other groups will have the opportunity to advance public knowledge about ham radio by welcoming their communities into their stations for the Ham Radio Open House, as part of World Amateur Radio Day. The focus will be on scientific advancement and demonstrating cutting-edge technology. This is a chance to not only shape the conversation about modern ham radio but also to show how it serves as a steppingstone and testbed for many young people pursuing STEM education and future high-tech careers.

ARRL has teamed up with [HamSCI -- Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation](#) -- and the science community organization SciStarter to invite the public to participate in [One Million Acts of Science](#) during April, which is Citizen Science Month. By hosting a Ham Radio Open House at your group's station on April 18, you'll introduce individuals who might never otherwise find out about today's amateur radio, where science and technology intersect with fun and learning.

ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said ARRL is excited to work with HamSCI and SciStarter on this project. "This is an exciting opportunity to really reclaim the public's image of ham radio and show them the modern, cutting-edge technology that's in use by many amateurs," she said.

Clubs are encouraged to showcase the latest weak-signal modes, such as FT8 using WSJT-X, or other digital modes. This could be a great opportunity to explore new areas of amateur radio and demonstrate how the service is at the cutting edge of electrical engineering.

Look for resources to help organize and promote the event soon. Find details at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day.

HAM RADIO OPERATORS SERVING DURING CALIFORNIA FIRESTORMS

As the firestorms across Southern California continue to threaten millions of residents, trained amateur radio operators are serving critical volunteer roles to help officials spot fires before they get out of control. Dry conditions and wind gusts of up to 100 miles per hour have fueled days of devastating wildfires. Entire neighborhoods have been leveled by infernos.

The Eaton fire burned to the top of Mount Wilson, a critical logistical post for broadcast radio and television stations, as well as communications across the Southland. Federal agencies, air traffic control, local emergency responders, radio amateurs, and others all share tower space on the mountain.

While the main fires have been burning north and northwest of the central section of Los Angeles, just to the south, hams are standing watch. [Orange County Fire Watch \(OCFW\)](#) is a program locally organized by the Orange County Parks Department and the Irvine

Conservancy.

During severe fire weather, volunteers go to preassigned locations within parks and open spaces to report conditions. Many of them are hams, using the amateur radio bands to fill in mobile network weak zones.

[ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA](#), is among the deployed volunteers. He said hams are stepping up. “We’re all over the [ARRL Orange Section](#) on hilltops, reporting the wind and humidity, ash seen coming down, scanning for spot fires (none so far), smoke from the LA fires, guest activity at the parks, and being a presence at trailheads with reflective vests and vehicle signs indicating Fire Watch,” he said.

Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, is a retired firefighter who serves as the chief radio officer for Fire Watch. He says local clubs are key to providing the needed RF infrastructure. “Our local club, the [South Orange Amateur Radio Association](#) (SOARA), an ARRL Special Service Club, provides linked 2-meter and 70-centimeter repeaters: one high level and one coastal, for use by OCFW hams during deployments. There is a formal OCFW Net Control Station (NCS) for the entirety of these events.

Radio amateurs are also ready and able to serve at evacuation centers, providing support as needed.

Members of ARRL Headquarters staff have been in touch with ARRL volunteers and other ham radio groups around the affected area, and are offering material support for any activations. “It has been a busy start to the year for ham volunteers,” said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. “Whether it’s firestorms or ice storms or any other need, ARRL volunteers selflessly serve their communities. We’re mindful that large-scale events like this impact the hams who are active serving,” she said.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, has been on calls with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other served agencies, offering ARRL resources. Efforts are being coordinated locally by [Emergency Network Los Angeles \(ENLA\)](#), the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) group in Southern California.

Johnston urges hams in the affected regions to be ready to take care of themselves and their families before needing to deploy. He points to resources shared by [ARRL’s Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) during National Preparedness Month last September. “These are stressful events for everyone, and being a ham volunteer is really second to keeping yourself and your family safe,” said Johnston.

HAM RADIO DEMONSTRATION HELPS SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AT CAMP

Camp Family Justice serves pediatric survivors of violence in Contra Costa County, California, providing them with an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment surrounded by support services, including a medical clinic. The camp provides the opportunity for children to decompress, learn resiliency skills and build a path forward. Children who applied this year, and attended last year, are now reporting that they worked diligently in school to earn the privilege of attending Camp Family Justice for a second year.

Also contributing to Camp Family Justice is Spencer Holmes, KM6SJO, a popular science teacher at Heritage High School in Brentwood and adviser for the school’s amateur radio club, W6HHS.

A few weeks ago, Holmes brought a box full of radios to the camp. “The kids were excited,” said Holmes. “They had a lot of questions and two of campers took two GMRS radios and talked to each other for hours.” Holmes also set up a mini HF station. He was able to make contact with several stations and allowed the youth to talk, on a first-name basis, with other amateur radio operators.

“Clearly, it was chaotic fun,” he added. “But it allowed them to enjoy a safe environment and a sense of community.” Holmes is one of the only teachers in the state to receive a national

supporting grant from ARRL to facilitate radio communication education.

Some of the kids will be cycling through again this year to Camp Family Justice. Holmes thinks he might start talking about how to become an amateur radio operator and how he can make that happen.

Holmes is known for his dedication to education and his long-standing commitment to the East County community. What makes this year at Camp Family Justice especially meaningful for Holmes is an unexpected reunion with Registered Nurse Adrianna Goyette. Goyette, it turns out, was once Holmes's student at Heritage High School. Both are now giving back to the community, contributing their time and expertise to the camp's violence prevention program. Their story reflects the strength of the East County community, the power of mentorship, the lasting impact of education and a tip of the hat to amateur radio.

WARM UP AT 2025 ORLANDO HAMCATION®, FEBRUARY 7 – 9

Amateur radio operators from across the country, and even from around the world, flock to Florida in February for the annual [Orlando HamCation®](#) — one of the largest and most anticipated hamfests in the country.

HamCation includes all the popular mainstays of a full-featured convention, including exhibits and vendors, swaps, tailgate, and food. A full slate of forums will cover emergency communications, outreach to younger audiences (teens and college students), and high-tech topics like software-defined radio (SDR), remote operating, antenna design, and the fascinating world of pico balloons and tiny transmitters.

For those eager to get hands-on experience, attendees will be able to operate special event station W1AW/4 throughout HamCation (be sure to carry a copy of your amateur radio license). There will also be satellite operating demonstrations, organized by ARRL members Sloan Davis, N3UPS, and Tom Gaines, KB5FHK.

Orlando HamCation is February 7 – 9, 2025, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando, Florida. More details on the web at www.hamcation.com.

ARRL CLUB GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS A HALF MILLION DOLLARS TO GROW HAM RADIO

Thirty-seven amateur radio clubs benefitted from \$500,502 in grants through the ARRL Club Grant Program to implement projects that educate, recruit, train, and promote amateur radio in their communities. Funding for the grants comes from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\)](#).

There were 110 applicants to the 2024 ARRL Club Grant Program, with applicants from all ARRL Divisions and 40 states, requesting nearly \$1.6 million in support, in amounts ranging from as small as \$1,000 to as large as the maximum of \$25,000. Funds were distributed to the clubs in December of 2024.

Some examples of the work that will be accomplished via these grants include upgrades to antennas within [Florida's SARNet](#), a statewide linked UHF repeater network that is used extensively by emergency managers during hurricanes; enhancement of amateur radio-based telemetry systems onboard Illinois Space Society projects, and many programs targeting youth outreach.

“These grants are possible because of the strong partnership between ARRL and ARDC,” said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, “and provide transformational impact for the next generation of amateur radio clubs.”

ARRL BOARD REVIEWS AND APPROVES BY-LAW CHANGES. ESTABLISHES TECHNICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

The ARRL Board of Directors met in Windsor, Connecticut, for its Annual Meeting, January 17 - 18, 2025. ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, presided over the meeting in place of President Rick Roderick, K5UR, who could not attend.

Vice President McIntyre welcomed new Board members including New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, and Division Vice Directors David Galletly, KM2O (Hudson), Andrew Milluzzi, KK4LWR (Southeastern), and Joshua Long, W9HT (Central). She also recognized Central Division Director Brent Walls, N9BA, who previously served as Vice Director.

Prior to the Board meeting, Board committees met on January 16th with the following actions highlighted below:

The Programs & Services Committee and headquarters staff from the Radiosport Department are moving ahead with the creation of a new DXCC award -- DXCC Trident -- which will recognize those who achieve DXCC using CW, phone, and digital modes. Higher achievement endorsements can be earned at the 200, 300, and Honor Roll levels. The DXCC Trident award is intended to spur greater on-air operating and to inspire those using digital modes to also develop their skills in, and practice, CW and SSB.

The Administration & Finance Committee discussed and approved the 2025 operating plan, amending it with an additional \$200,000 for Washington advocacy. This includes continuing work to reintroduce bills H.R.4006 and S.3690 -- the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act -- for passage. The committee also agreed that an additional year will be granted to those Incoming QSL Bureaus who still require financial support from all ARRL members to operate.

The Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee established an initiative to track and report on the activities of clubs nationwide. This initiative will help ARRL better understand the scope of these activities and improve club leadership tools. The committee also adopted a rewrite of the ARRL Active Club Primer, a tool for radio club leaders, and a rewrite of the rules and regulations for ARRL Hamfests and Conventions.

The Historical Committee is expanding the ARRL Heritage Museum's online collection by adding a new virtual component, which currently features more than 3,000 images and documents. This virtual museum will continue to grow, showcasing both ARRL's historical collection and other significant items from the history of amateur radio.

Here are highlights of actions taken at the Board meeting:

Board members discussed motions proposed by a committee that was established by unanimous approval during the January 2024 Annual Meeting. This committee was tasked with evaluating proposed changes to By-Law 46, the Board's Conflict of Interest Policy, and By-Law 42, the charter for the Ethics & Elections Committee. The committee returned with a lengthy motion that certain Directors believed they had not had sufficient time to review and comment on. Despite broad support for passing the committee's motion, the Board approved delaying the vote until the July 2025 Second Meeting of the Board of Directors. Directors have until April 21, 2025, to file their comments with the committee for consideration in the final motion.

The Board approved two motions involving elections:

1. By-Law 18. ARRL has had a confusing set of documents defining the elections process. The rules set out in By-Law 18 require at least a two-thirds vote for approval, whereas the rules and regulations found in less formally controlled documents published on the ARRL website only require a simple majority. This motion moved most of the language from the rules and regulations into By-Law 18. The Board also approved changes driven by shortcomings that came to light during the 2024 election cycle. These changes are primarily intended to ensure that elections are conducted at a Division level where the members are

voting, and not at a national level.

2. By-Law 20. The Board approved a change to By-Law 20, providing greater discretion regarding the previous requirement for a member of the Ethics & Elections committee to observe ballot processing at the third-party election processing company -- an expense now considered unnecessary.

Government Relations:

1. The Board approved a motion to sunset the Governmental Affairs Committee and authorized the CEO to take on the responsibility of partnering with Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS (West Gulf), who is currently working with ARRL's lobbyists in Washington DC. It also requires the CEO to take on the responsibility of reporting the progress being made on certain legislation with quarterly reports to the Administration & Finance Committee.

2. The Board briefly discussed fund raising for the Legislative Issues Advocacy Fund. This included an appeal by Director Stratton for every Director and Officer to donate towards our legislative efforts. Less than a week after the Board meeting, nearly every Director and Officer has donated to the fund.

3. New Technical Standards Committee. The Board approved the formation of a Technical Standards Committee to oversee the successful Clean Signal Initiative (CSI) and to develop future initiatives including amateur radio receiver standards.

4. ARRL Foundation. The Board heard a report from ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ (Delta Division Director). The Foundation provides philanthropic support for amateur radio by way of the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program, Club Grant Program, Division Convention Grant Program, and through other grants and funds. In 2024, the Foundation awarded 126 scholarships totaling \$709,500, through the generosity of ARDC, individuals, and radio clubs. The Foundation also saw a return of the Club Grant Program and awarded 37 Club Grants totaling \$500,502.04. A total of 110 applications were received requesting \$1,593,580.24 for 2024. Norris also reported that the Foundation awarded 25 grants valued at \$47,434, and 2 Division Convention grants for \$12,250.

Elections:

1. Executive Committee (EC). Directors re-elected to the EC include Bill Lippert, AC0W (Dakota), Art Zygjelbaum, K0AIZ (Midwest), Jim Boehner, N2ZZ (Roanoke), and Jeff Ryan, K0RM (Rocky Mountain). Newly elected to the EC is Scott Yonally, N8SY (Great Lakes).

2. ARRL Foundation Board. ARRL Director Mark Tharp, KB7HDX (Northwestern), was re-elected, and Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI (New England), was elected to fill the seat vacated by former Central Division Director Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. Past Central Division Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA, and CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA, were re-elected for 3-year terms.

The complete minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available soon on the ARRL website. The Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for July 18 - 19, 2025. – ARRL Members Letter

REMEMBER THE “RUSSIAN WOOD PECKER?”

If you were a ham and worked the HF bands during the 1970s and 1980s, you certainly remember the so-called Russian Wood Pecker!

It was part of the Missile and Space Defense Forces (PRO), Over-the-Horizon (OTH) radar and was created for the sole purpose of providing early warning of nuclear missile attacks against the Soviet Union, within two to three minutes of the missile launch (the flight time of missiles between the United States and the USSR is 25 to 30 minutes).

Transmitted from Ukraine, not far from the Chernobyl power plant, by making 3 jumps between the ground and the ionosphere, the signal then returned to the receiver by 3 more jumps. When you look on Google at the orientation of the Duga-1 transmitter and receiver, it

is clear that the direction perpendicular to the antenna is indeed the American continent passing over the North Pole.

The Duga-1 Radar's shortwave radio transmitter broadcast powerful pulses that propagated across Northern Europe, Greenland and North America thousands of miles away, and a receiver, probably the largest radar antenna in the world and located 60 km from the transmitter, retrieved and analyzed the information with powerful computers. This radar detected the creation of atmospheric effects from the plume exhausts of a massive missile launch.

The link below will take you to ON5AM's web site with an extensive history on this project.

https://on5vl-org.translate.google/pic-vert-russe-duga-1/?fbclid=IwY2xjawH_zkllHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHSuI8IIJal5hqTUxpOIrzpf4LksgagNJUcax4cvSNBm_iXWuZ0v1iCdDRQ_aem_ueS7ep0zAhKlqgWZhNKisA&x_tr_sl=auto&x_tr_tl=es&x_tr_hl=en&x_tr_pto=wapp

You'll likely need Google Translate. In the upper left corner of your screen:



WE PREDICT EARTHQUAKES HOURS IN ADVANCE USING HF RADIO – IONOTERRA

A novel earthquake prediction system will use ionosondes – ionospheric measuring stations – in Merced, Jamul, Winterhaven and Perris, CA. The FCC licensed this experiment as WY9XKB, in ten high-frequency HF bands.

Ionoterra US Survey LLC said, “In theoretical scientific research conducted by our CTO Prof. Nathan Blunstein for three decades, he proved that earthquakes can be predicted by a set of certain phenomena in the ionosphere measured algorithmically hours before the earthquake using several ionosondes arranged in a certain configuration.

“In an initial limited proof of concept we conducted back in 2019, we showed that we can predict earthquakes hours in advance. Last year we obtained a [patent for our technology in the US](#) and in Japan.

“We have proposed Los Angeles as the location of our research because Los Angeles is prone to earthquakes with 82 reported earthquakes of 3 and above magnitude during 2023. Our proposed research, which will be conducted together with the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at UCLA, is developing the ability to predict earthquakes hours in advance, and will provide the opportunity to react and prepare in a timely manner in order to evacuate the population (buildings, schools, etc.), cut off gas and electricity, warn and stop trains, airports, bridges and tunnels [and] initiate emergency protocols at nuclear facilities.”

The invention is based on the discovery that the ionosphere becomes more inhomogeneous above the epicenter in the 12 to 16 hours before the earthquake. The inhomogeneities are believed to be produced by acoustic-gravity waves associated with the buildup of strain in the Earth's crust <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRun46OWjDM>

FARM GROUPS ASK FOR LEGISLATIVE HELP TO KEEP AM RADIOS IN VEHICLES

During the last two years, multiple car manufacturers started eliminating AM radios from their new models. That move could lead to challenges for farmers and rural communities that often depend on AM broadcasts for crucial news, information, and weather alerts.

AM radio serves as a vital lifeline in rural areas, particularly remote ones, providing essential information like farm market updates, and emergency broadcasts during severe weather or natural disasters. AM reach is extensive; a Nielsen study cited by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) reveals that 82 million Americans rely on AM radio, representing about a

third of all radio listeners. In agricultural areas, this reliance is even more pronounced, with nearly half deeming AM radio “highly important.”

According to the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB), more than 1,500 AM stations serve agricultural communities. That's one in three AM stations. Plus, nearly 80 percent of rural residents listen to the radio more than five days per week. That's contrasted with 64 percent utilizing streaming and a mere 16 percent using satellite radio. The data also suggests that listeners consider farm broadcasting highly credible, accurate, and timely. In a letter from the board of the NAFB to Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee emphasized, “removing AM radio from vehicles will put into serious jeopardy an important lifeline and source of information to rural America, not just during times of emergency events but every single day.

For most of 2024, the NAB, NAFB, and other organizations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Livestock Marketing Association, National Grange, National Farmers Union, Rural & Agriculture Council of America, and U.S. Cattlemen's Association have championed something called the “AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act.” There is now overwhelming support by a majority of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who support the mission and purpose of AM radio. The act has been passed by the House and currently needs passage by the Senate to be enacted into law. Go to www.wearebroadcasters.com for additional information.

Despite AM radio's continued popularity, multiple automakers made the surprising decision to eliminate AM radio as a standard feature. That move directly contradicts consumer preferences, as 90 percent of car buyers, according to the NAB, still value AM/FM radio as an essential standard feature. --ARRL

TECHNICAL

FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES -- You probably think of your rig as just a transceiver (which admittedly is quite a lot already), but with a little help, it can actually be used to do very precise measurements of frequency and filter responses. In this article, we'll review how certain types of modulation work, and how we can leverage that knowledge to turn your rig into an incredibly precise test instrument. Why bother with this, you might ask. Well, aside from the obvious of making sure your rig is properly adjusted, it allows us to characterize not only our rigs, but other test equipment (signal generators, VNA's, etc.) to make sure everything in our shack is working properly. Also, there is a semi-annual frequency test conducted by the ARRL – a great way to try out some of the approaches presented here.

One word of caution – this is a deep rabbit hole, and once you go down it, you may never be the same. It can easily become a never-ending quest for increased accuracy and resolution...

https://groups.io/g/fmt-nuts/attachment/1616/0/frequency_measurements.pdf de Brian–KC3VNB

SHORTS

TECHNICIAN CLASS COMING UP –Indianapolis Radio Club working with the Salvation Army offer 1-day Technician license preparation class with a VE tests session on Saturday, March 15, 9 AM to 6 PM.

Cost is \$20 and that includes the exam fee and lunch.

This will a review of the questions with explanations.

Coffee and donuts before the start of the class and there will be a break for lunch.

For more information or to sign up contact Jim Rinehart, K9RU; k9ru@arrl.net

ONE OF BOB BEGEMAN, W9KVK GOALS WAS TO GET CREDIT FOR 300 VE TEST SESSIONS. I checked the VE session credits and found he was credited for 301 ARRL VE test sessions. Bob actually had done more test session, but did not receive credit for them.

This is an outstanding achievement. Bob became a VE in 1996 after getting his extra at an RCA ARC test session and joining the VE team. He rarely missed a test session with RCA

ARC, Red Cross and Indianapolis Radio Club an enjoyed doing it. He also participated with the Hancock County VE team. --Jim K9RU

FORMER QST COLUMNIST, DR. EMIL POCOCK, W3EP, SILENT KEY – Dr. Emil Pocock, W3EP, has become a Silent Key. He passed away on January 10, 2025, at the age of 78. From 1992 to 2002, Pocock edited “The World Above 50 MHz” for ARRL’s membership journal, QST. He served as a volunteer in the ARRL Laboratory for many years.

Pocock was first licensed at the age of 12 and found a career as an academic. He was well-regarded by colleagues at ARRL as always being willing to help and teach. Longtime QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, led the publication during Pocock’s tenure. “Emil was a respected QST columnist for many years and had extensively studied VHF propagation. His contributions to the amateur community will be missed,” said Ford.

According to [his obituary](#), Pocock is survived by his wife of more than 37 years, Ann; and two nieces, Rebecca Pocock and Juniper Downs, and their families. A celebration of life will be scheduled in the future.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR THE 2025 EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE Presentations and papers are sought for the 48th Eastern VHF/UHF/ Microwave Conference, held May 8 - 11, 2025 in Windsor, Connecticut. All aspects of VHF/UHF/microwave operating, technical and non-technical (contesting, homebrewing, EME, antennas, software, etc.), are welcome. If you have a topic that you'd like to submit to the proceedings, contact Paul Wade, W1GHZ, via email at w1ghz@arll.net.

The conference is sponsored by the North East Weak Signal Group. For more details visit www.newsvhf.com.

NEW CONTEST HALL OF FAME WEBSITE LAUNCHED The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) is now managing the Contest Hall of Fame. They have launched a new website at contesthof.com that contains a short writeup about each Contest HOF inductee. As the new website is a work in progress, Randy Thompson, K5ZD, is seeking any additional biography information and photos of past inductees. He can be reached at k5zd@outlook.com. – Thanks Randy Thompson, K5ZD

DXCC® APPLICATION PROCESSING IS BACK TO TYPICAL PROCESSING TIMES. In October, we reported that the ARRL DXCC® System had been returned to service following work that was completed to ensure the security and integrity of the system following the [cyber-attack in May](#). Over 4,000 DXCC applications have been logged into the system for processing since returning the system to service. We are currently processing applications submitted in December, and we continue to mail orders for paper DXCC certificates and endorsement stickers. There were 315 certificates mailed between December 27, 2024, and January 13, 2025.

FCC UPHOLDS RECORD \$34,000 FORFEITURE AGAINST AMATEUR LICENSEE The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assessed a record [\\$34,000 forfeiture](#) against an amateur radio licensee for “willfully and repeatedly operating a radio station without authorization and interfering with the radio communications of the United States Forest Service ... while the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands were attempting to direct the operations of fire suppression aircraft working a 1,000-acre wildfire on national forest land outside of Elk River, Idaho.”

As ARRL News first reported in 2022, the FCC proposed the fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC stated in the Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

In response, Frawley acknowledged that he operated on a frequency reserved for government use and for which he lacked authorization but argues that he did not cause

interference to the government's fire suppression activities that were being coordinated on the channel and acted with "good faith and non-malicious intent to help." Frawley requested a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture based on the number and duration of the unauthorized transmissions, his history of compliance and corrective measures, and his inability to pay the proposed forfeiture.

In the Forfeiture Order released on January 3, 2025, the FCC rejected Frawley's request and assessed the full proposed forfeiture of \$34,000. Read more about the story [in previous coverage from ARRL News](#).

LONG TIME HAM RADIO OUTLET EMPLOYEE HONORED FOR 60 YEARS IN AMATEUR RADIO - Paul Szczerbinski, W9KHO, an employee of Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, received a Certificate of Honor from HRO President Robert Ferrero, W6KR, for 60 years as an amateur radio operator. This is just the second time the award has been presented.

Szczerbinski's history in radio dates to 1964, when, after being honorably discharged from the United States Air Force, he began working for Hy-Gain Electronics in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1967, Szczerbinski began working at Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee. In 2016, when AES aligned with HRO, Paul became the most senior Sales Associate, and he continues to work at the HRO Milwaukee store.

ARRL Wisconsin Assistant Section Manager Tom Czaja, KG9EE, extended his best wishes to Szczerbinski. "Congratulations, Paul, for your dedication to the amateur radio hobby and the amateur radio industry!" wrote Czaja. --ARRL

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.
