



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

"The oldest continuously operating Amateur Radio Club in the United States"

May 2011 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

June 10: Annual auction

Highlights from the May Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm. There were 53 in attendance at the meeting, including one visitor and two new members.

The club's web site was discussed. It is still a work in progress. At this point, the information is more for the general public, rather than for members.

The next meeting will be the annual auction. It will take place in the garage of IVY Tech. Those attending are reminded to bring your own chair.

It was announced that the bus for Dayton only has 10 seats left. Field Day was discussed: Tom Chance, K9XV, is heading up the Radio Club's plans, with the plan to have a 3A station at the Marion County Fairgrounds. Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, announced that the next testing sessions will be at the EDS Training Facility at 4020 Georgetown Road, Indianapolis, 46254. The dates and times for sessions will be announced later in this newsletter. Dave Spolestra, N9KT, announced that the W9IMS special event station will run from Jay Kraus', W9TC, house and Tom Chance's house. Jay is located in Fishers; Tom close to Acton. The plan is for the stations to start on 5/21, then 5/27, 5/28,

and 5/29. If anyone wants to operate any other times, call to see about availability. Check <http://QRZ.com> for updated information, the schedule is listed at <http://tinyurl.com/w9ims2011indy>. The QSL card for W9IMS this year will be spectacular in honor of the 100th anniversary of the race, it will be four-sided with 2 color and 2 b&w pages. All winning cars except for three will be on display at the museum. Mike Sercher, WA9FDO, talked about the Indianapolis Hamfest coming up on July 9. This will be the 41st year for the hamfest. Tickets will be \$6.00 advance/\$8.00 at gate. The gates will open at 6:00am. The hamfest will be held at Camp Sertoma again. Check out <http://www.indyhamfest.com> for more info. A dual band handheld will be given as a door prize each hour. Mike Palmer, N9FEB, talked about some of the events coming up in the area. Mike announced that the Wednesday info net is back on 146.700 repeater at 7:30 on Wednesday nights. He said that Newline starts at 7:00, followed by the net. Dr. Jay Wright, KK9L, announced that Hendricks County's Volunteer Recognition will be November 30 at 7:00p, at the Government Center in Danville. The Hilltop event was discussed. It will be in September, and there is talk about setting up in parks to be more visible to the public. Bill Schini, N9JPS, announced that he is still looking for volunteers for the "Park to Park" event in Hendricks County, coming up on Field Day weekend in June. He currently has 8-10, but needs about 30.

At this point, club president Jerry Skoll, KC9DTB, presented the featured program for the evening. In his program, Jerry explained maritime radio, and described how it differs from land based radio. He recounted some stories of the sea. Jerry said the Maritime Mobile Services Network is a great asset to mariners who may need assistance.

After Jerry's presentation, door prizes were given away, and reminders and upcoming event reminders were offered. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

[Editor's note: Thanks again to K.C. Corbin, KC9MTL, and Sam Carter, WA9VBG, for taking notes on the meetings this month.]

Ham Radio News:

SENATE "COMPANION" BILL TO HR 607 AVOIDS IMPACTING AMATEUR SPECTRUM

On Thursday, May 19, Senators Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) and John McCain (R-AZ) introduced S 1040 -- The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 -- in the Senate. While it has a similar objective to HR 607 -- introduced in February by Representative Peter King (R-NY-3) -- this Senate bill, unlike HR 607, does not call for auctioning any portions of Amateur Radio spectrum. Both bills call for the allocation of the so-called "D block" of spectrum, 758-763 and 788-793 MHz, to facilitate the development of a public safety broadband network.

On learning in February that a Senate version of HR 607 was being drafted, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, met with staff members of the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee who were working on the bill to share the ARRL's concerns with regard to HR 607. "They seemed very receptive to our argument and appreciative of the public service contributions of radio amateurs," Sumner said. "It is gratifying to see that S 1040 avoids impacting our spectrum allocations."

Sumner explained that while some media reports are referring to S 1040 as "the Senate version of HR 607," it is important that radio amateurs not oppose S 1040: "There is no reason for us to do so. We support the creation of an interoperable broadband network for first responders. Other than to oppose any method that would impact amateur spectrum use, we do not support one method over another of achieving that objective. We only oppose one aspect of HR 607, not the entire bill."

S 1040 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation, chaired by Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV). Senator Rockefeller earlier introduced his own bill, S 28, to address the same general topic. Neither Senate bill would impact amateur spectrum.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NET BACK ON 146.700

According to Mike Palmer, N9FEB, there is a Central Indiana Informational Net on the 146.700 Wed. @ 7:30pm. Newline airs at 7pm. There are announcements and ham radio information disseminated on it. Mike says that he is normally the net control station for this net.

NEW 2 METER IRLP REPEATER IN INDY

From Dave Gingrich, K9DC:

I have built and placed into service a dedicated IRLP repeater on 2 meters. 147.315 MHz, 94.8 CTCSS (PL). Super Stationmaster antenna at 90 feet at my house, running a transmitter power of 180 watts, located near 64th Street and Michigan Road (NW Indianapolis). It operates just like my repeater on 443.425.

There is no charge to use the system, but I do require users register via e-mail to get the operating instructions and so I can communicate any changes to the user community.

For additional information, send an empty e-mail to irlp-info@realham.net. You will receive a reply with more detailed information including registration instructions.

I'll take any questions you might have... on the air.

de K9DC

FCC REVAMPS WEB SITE

The Federal Communications Commission announced that it has launched a complete overhaul of its website. According to an April 6 press release from the FCC, the new website is “architected with a more intuitive user experience and the addition of Web 2.0 technologies, the new site improves and simplifies the FCC.gov experience for consumers, government, public safety agencies and the business community.” This is the first major update to the Commission’s website in 10 years.

Even before Julius Genachowski became FCC Chairman in June 2009, he stressed his desire to improve and modernize the way the public interacts with the Commission and the federal government. Since then, the FCC has utilized Web 2.0 technologies on official agency blogs, multimedia and social media outlets, as well as opening the agency’s processes via online participation platforms. According to the FCC, The Commission’s New Media Team will continue to update the new website with the help of public input through the public engagement and participation features in the new FCC.gov, as well as the agency’s social media outlets. “This FCC is empowering consumers and businesses to get the most out of technology,” Genachowski explained. “The launch of the new FCC.gov keeps us at the forefront of innovation, and delivers on our promise to move at the speed of high-tech change.”

FCC WANTS TO RAISE VANITY CALL FEE AGAIN

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on May 3, seeking to raise the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$13.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$14.20 for 10 years, an increase of 90 cents. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 14 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC’s 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 14,600 Amateur Radio vanity call sign “payment units” or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$207,320 in fees from the program.

Point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-seeks-to-raise-the-fee-for-vanity-call-signs> for more details.

SPACE WX PREDICTIONS TO GO OFF OF WWV

Beginning Tuesday, September 6, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) will cease broadcasting its geophysical alert message on WWV and WWVH. These messages inform listeners of the solar flux, the mid-latitude A and K indices and space weather storms, both current and predicted. Currently, the message is heard on minute 18 from WWV and minute 45 from WWVH. The information will still be available on the SWPC website. If you care to comment on this, or if you have any questions, the SPWC -- part of the National Weather Service (NWS) -- would like to hear from you. Send an email to SWPC.CustomerSupport@noaa.gov to comment.

TWIT.TV LAUNCHES “HAM NATION”

This Week In Technology announces the launch of “HAM Nation”

A weekly HD video webcast about Ham Radio featuring interesting guests. Hosted by Bob Heil, K9EID, they will cover many fascinating aspects of Amateur Radio each week.

Set your browser to <http://live.twit.tv/> on Leo Laporte’s TWIT network Tuesday Evenings at 8:00 pm CDT (Central)

The initial episode featured special guests Joe Walsh, WB6ACU and Dave Jennings, WJ6W.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carl Ashmore KC9EVI
Randy Biggs KA7BSA
Deb Goodrich AB9WX
Jay Kraus W9TC
William Schini N9JPS
George Taylor KC9TTZ
John Willenbrock N9UE

UPCOMING TESTING

Saturday, June 4 – 9:00a
Monday, July 11 – 6:30p
Saturday, August 6 – 9:00a
Monday, September 12 – 6:30p

Testing will be held at the EDS Training Facility, at 4020 Georgetown Rd, Indianapolis IN 46254-2407

Contact: Rhonda Curtis, e-mail: WS9H@comcast.net

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at <http://www.indyradioclub.org/rqstnewsletter.htm>.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the May, June, July 1953 *Amachewer*:

The Army reports that a new walkie-talkie unit has been developed that uses 117 dry batteries, each in a separate pocket of a vest worn by the operator, whose body heat keeps the batteries warm and functioning more efficiently. What next, we wonder.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- June 25 – 26: Field Day
- July 9: Indianapolis Communication and Technology Expo Go to <http://www.indyhamfest.com/> for more information.
- August 6: Annual Broad Ripple Hamfest and Indianapolis Radio Club Picnic. Starting at 6:00 am at 7373 Westfield Blvd.

2011 Officers:

- President: Jerry Skoll, KC9DTB - ..EMAIL gskoll@msn.com
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - ..EMAIL dmiller@ivytech.edu
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - ..EMAIL kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Jay Willever, K9LJW - ..EMAIL k9ljw@arrl.net
- Chief Operator: Tom Chance, K9XV - ..EMAIL k9xv@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – EMAIL k9ru@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Ron Cooper, WB9DKL - ..EMAIL wb9dkl@sbcglobal.net
- Dir. at large: Bob Begeman, W9KVK - ..EMAIL w9kvk@juno.com
- W9JP Trustee: Don Hemenover, N9DOO – EMAIL don9doo@lightbound.com