



Legacy Amateur Radio Club

# RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AFFILIATED CLUB

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

MAY 2018

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE  
TUESDAY, MAY 8th, 6:30 PM AT  
[SQUEALERS](#), 5899 E. 86th STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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## RCA ARC NEWS

**SUMMARY OF THE APRIL MEETING** – Thanks to all who attended the April meeting. Repeater update, other than an AC power interruption at the site, the repeater is operating normally. The committee organizing the event is divided into two groups this year, one for CW and one for SSB. A 3A operation is planned again this year. It was reported that Camp Belzer has been reserved (See additional info below). At the Hamvention this year, the Club activities are much the same as last year (See information below). Help is still needed for the Mini Marathon May 5<sup>th</sup>. Also the Indiana QSO party is May 5<sup>th</sup> (additional information below). Dave, N9KZJ, reminded us the annual Ships Weekend is the first weekend in June.

**AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION** – No test session in May due to all the May activities and the Hamvention. Find other testing opportunities at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

**INDIANA QSO PARTY MAY 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 11AM EDT to 11PM EDT** – The goal is to activate all 92 Indiana Counties and work as many stations around the world and all the Indiana counties. Most of the activity is on 20M, 40M and 80M. The evening on 40M and 80M provide the most contacts.

There are several other state QSO parties on and you can exchange reports with them.

See HDXCC INQP rules for more information. <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html>

**2018 FIELD DAY UPDATE** – It has been learned that contrary to what had been previously reported, Camp Belzer will not be available for Field Day this year. The organizing committee is evaluating several sites. It is hoped a decision can be made at the committee's May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**RCA ARC AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION** – RCA ARC Friday Dinner - The Hamvention closes at 6 pm. We are planning dinner at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 2715 Fairfield Commons Dr., Beavercreek, OH 45431 (937 956-0500).

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse is close to the Hamvention site and is the same place we went to last year. You can check out the menu at:

<https://www.bjsrestaurants.com/locations/oh/beavercreek>.

We'll get a reservation for 5:30 pm, so we can beat the crowd out of the Hamvention.

Those interested in attending, contact or e-mail Jim K9RU: [k9ru@arri.net](mailto:k9ru@arri.net) or call 317 721-1458. We need to know who is coming for the reservation.

The Friday and Saturday RCA ARC lunch get together in the bleachers by the track, the same as last year. They say there will even be more food trucks at the Hamvention this year.

**We will use the RCA ARC 144.43 MHz simplex frequency to coordinate the noon meetings and the Friday evening dinner. Be sure to bring your HT and charge the batteries (charge batteries first).**

**2018 Indianapolis Hamfest, July 13 – 14 will Host the ARRL Indiana State Convention –** The Indianapolis Hamfest will host the Indiana State Convention July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Marion County Fairgrounds on the Southeast side of Indianapolis. The ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager, Mike Corey K11U, will be attending the hamfest and speaking at one of the Saturday forums. The ARRL Central Division Director Kermit Carlson W9XA will also be in attendance. Friday from 5 – 7 pm “Meet and Greet Social” with your ARRL elected officials.

## HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

May 5            Indiana QSO Party <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/>  
May 5            Indianaois Mini-Marathon <http://indyhams.org/event/500-festival-mini-marathon>  
May 18-20      Dayton Hamvention <http://hamvention.org/>  
July 13-14      Indianapolis Hamvest <http://indyhamfest.com/>  
For More Contests Information: <http://www.contestcalendar.com/>  
Opportunities for public service: <http://indyhams.org/event>

## NEW ARRL CEO COMES ABOARD FACING CHALLENGES AND CHANGE

ARRL's new Chief Executive Officer, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, moved one floor down at ARRL Headquarters earlier this year to assume leadership of the organization with an overarching goal of promoting the League's mission: “To advance the art, science, and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.” Shelley has spent much of his tenure at ARRL Headquarters toiling out of the limelight, so he's a bit of an unknown quantity within the greater Amateur Radio community. But he brings to his new position nearly 3 decades of experience as ARRL's Chief Financial Officer. Shelley intends to leverage that background in his role as CEO, enabling him to hit the ground running.

He acknowledged that with both ARRL and Amateur Radio undergoing “a great deal of change,” not all League members will necessarily be on the same page, but he believes disagreement about the way forward “can be healthy, and bring new perspectives to light.”

“In my opinion, fulfilling ARRL's mission means doing so for all Amateur Radio operators, regardless of their license class, level of technical ability, or particular interests within the wide range of activities that Amateur Radio has to offer,” Shelley allowed. Increasing the number of younger radio amateurs will benefit both the avocation and ARRL, he said. And, Shelley added, that despite any generational rift — perceived or otherwise — between older and younger

hams, “There’s more to enjoy than ever before — Amateur Radio in 2018 looks and sounds different than it did in 1968 or even in 1988 — and licensing numbers indicate that people are still interested in exploring Amateur Radio.” ARRL Letter [Read more.](#)

## SPACE STATION COMMEMORATIVE SLOW-SCAN TV TRANSMISSIONS PROVE EXTREMELY POPULAR

Thousands of slow-scan television (SSTV) enthusiasts around the globe enthusiastically tracked the International Space Station (ISS) to download commemorative SSTV images transmitted as part of the ARISS-Russia Cosmonautics Day (International Day of Human Space Flight) celebration April 11 - 15. Another ARISS-Russia SSTV event is planned for May.

Upward of 9,000 images relating to the 40th anniversary of the Interkosmos Project period of the Soviet space program had been [posted for viewing](#). The SSTV images, stored on a computer in the ISS Russian segment, were transmitted by RS0ISS on 145.800 MHz with PD-120 SSTV protocol, using a Kenwood TM-D710E transceiver.

Certificates are being distributed via e-mail to those who posted reception reports and images. The e-mailed certificate commemorates the 20th anniversary (in 2016) of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program.

To be eligible for the ARISS SSTV Award, participants should have received and decoded at least one picture during the activity period. Image quality needs to be good enough to identify the picture. Partial images are acceptable.

To qualify, [upload](#) your decoded images and [complete the application](#) by May 15. Details and a list of ARISS SSTV award-winning stations are available on the application page.

## MORE-FREQUENT SPOTLESS DAYS SIGNAL START OF LENGTHY, DEEP SOLAR MINIMUM PHASE

The sunspot numbers have not been good, and it does not seem they’ll be getting much better anytime soon. According to the April 12 “K7RA Solar Update,” no sunspots were seen over the April 5 - 11 reporting week. Solar flux has been sitting in the 60s lately and is forecast to remain at that level for the next 45 days. We’re not at solar minimum yet, though; better days lie ahead — eventually.

Top contender Frank Donovan, W3LPL, asserts that solar precursors like spotless days, which correlate physical solar phenomena with future solar activity levels, are much better indicators of progress toward a solar minimum — a broad phase of the solar cycle — than of a specific event, such as the bottom of a broad solar minimum. Not only that, these and other solar precursors are useful in predicting the likely strength of Solar Cycle 25, although accurate predictions of the strength and timeframe of the Cycle 25 solar maximum aren’t possible until the new sunspot cycle is under way.

“We entered the Cycle 24 solar minimum with the onset of 8 spotless days in June 2016,” Donovan pointed out. “We had only 32 spotless days in 2016. We had 15 spotless days in a row in March 2017, followed by relatively infrequent spotless days for the next 7 months.”

The frequency of spotless days accelerated in early November 2017, with 13 spotless days in a row. That was followed by many more spotless days over the next 5 months. In all, 2017 experienced 104 spotless days.

“The frequency of spotless days accelerated again last month, when we had 25 spotless days,” Donovan noted. “We’ve already had 54 spotless days during the first quarter of 2018. This data

and comparisons to frequent spotless days during the last solar minimum suggests that we may have just begun a period of very frequent spotless days for approximately the next 2 years, similar to the period of September 2007 through January 2009.”

Donovan said the next solar precursor is frequent extended periods of spotless days. For example, 2016 saw 14 spotless days in a row, March 2017 had 15, November 2017 saw 13, and early March experienced 14.

“Long periods of spotless days will become even more frequent as we go deeper into solar minimum,” Donovan predicted. Once extended periods of spotless days become more frequent, another solar precursor will become important, he said.

“New high-latitude, opposite-polarity Cycle 25 sunspots will then begin to appear more frequently, perhaps by late next year,” Donovan said. “More frequent Cycle 25 sunspots will signal that we’re approaching the bottom of the [Cycle 24] solar minimum phase.”

An ongoing solar precursor that could herald the future strength of Cycle 25 is the intensity of the solar polar magnetic fields *prior* to the Cycle 24 solar minimum, Donovan said. “The good news is that the solar polar magnetic field strength is already slightly stronger than it was prior to the last solar minimum,” he said. “This suggests that Cycle 25 will be somewhat stronger than Cycle 24.”

Donovan said if the long periods of spotless days end in about 1 year, that will be a precursor of a stronger Cycle 25. If they take more than 2 years to end, however, it will portend a weaker Cycle 25. Read [more](#).

## MORE THAN 30,000 NEW HAM LICENSEES AND 7,000 AMATEUR RADIO EXAM SESSIONS IN 2017

For the fourth year in a row, more than 30,000 new licensees joined the Amateur Radio ranks, and ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions, serving some 35,350 candidates for a new or upgraded license. At the end of December 2017, the US Amateur Radio population stood at 748,136.

At nearly 378,000, Technician licensees represented the largest segment, with General (174,206), Amateur Extra (145,034), Advanced (41,938), and Novice (9,056) trailing. Licensee numbers showed continued growth across all classes except Advanced and Novice, which the FCC no longer issues; those numbers continue to drop.

Despite the optimistic influx of 32,196 newcomers last year, the net growth of 5,349 — about 0.72% over December 2016 — reflects some 27,000 expired or cancelled licenses in the FCC database over the past year. In making the case for changes to the entry-level license, the ARRL Board’s Entry-Level License Committee referred to “the large number of Baby Boomers (roughly born 1945 - 65) [who] will soon be aging off the licensee rolls.” The committee predicted the likelihood of “a significant decline in the number of hams, unless we take steps to reverse it.” Read [more](#).

## LOTW SUPPORT FOR CQ WORKED ALL ZONES (WAZ) AWARD GOES LIVE

ARRL and CQ magazine have announced the launch of Logbook of The World (LoTW) support for CQ’s Worked All Zones (WAZ) Award program, effective immediately. The goal of the project, under way since last year, has been to create the proper technical support system so that radio amateurs can submit LoTW confirmations for WAZ credit, and that has been accomplished, CQ and ARRL said in a joint statement.

LoTW — ARRL's electronic confirmation system for Amateur Radio contacts —provides contact confirmation when both stations upload their logs to the system, and a match between the logs is confirmed. LoTW has already supported the [CQ WPX Award](#) program since 2012.

"We are very pleased that participants in CQ's WAZ award program will now be able to use their LoTW confirmations for award credit," CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, said. "CQ WPX Award participants have found it very helpful, and we are sure it will be equally helpful for those pursuing WAZ and its many variations."

ARRL First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, concurred. "Users of LoTW have been telling us for some time that they would like to use QSLs from LoTW to apply for the WAZ award," he said. "They will now be able to select confirmations to be used for WAZ credit." Read [more](#).

## RADIO AMATEURS IN CANADA TO GET NEW 100 W 5 MHZ ALLOCATION

Radio Amateurs in Canada are poised to join those in several other nations around the world who have access to a new 60-meter band, 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz, as agreed upon at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15), but with a maximum power of 100 W effective radiated power (ERP). The updated Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations includes the new allocation, although radio amateurs have not yet been authorized to use it. Canada's radio amateurs will also retain the four Amateur Radio channels that do not fall within the new allocation. These have been authorized under a footnote to the Table since 2014, permitting phone, data, and CW at a maximum occupied bandwidth of 2.8 kHz. The 60-meter allocation and spot frequencies are on a secondary, non-interference basis.

In January 2017, ARRL asked the FCC to allocate a new, secondary contiguous band at 5 MHz to the Amateur Service, while also retaining four of the current five 60-meter channels and current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit. The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum in the US. The FCC has yet to act on ARRL's petition.

Canada's regulatory agency, the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) last August proposed to adopt WRC-15 decisions that included the 15 kHz Amateur Radio allocation. The proposed revisions to the Table would retain the original five 5 MHz spot frequencies with a maximum of 100 W ERP, but restrict the new 15 kHz allocation to just 15 W EIRP, as agreed to at WRC-15, accommodating the concerns of a few countries over possible interference to their domestic communications.

"Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) noted in its response to the proposed changes that there had been no reports of interference from Amateur Radio operations on the existing five 60-meter spot frequencies following their use in Canada since 2014 and in the USA for even longer," RAC President Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA, said. "Further, the rationale for allocating the spot frequencies had been based on the value of 60 meters for emergency communication, and the low power limit adopted at WRC-15 would seriously limit this use."

MacDonnell said comments from the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (of which RAC is a member organization), the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland, and several individual radio amateurs also recommended 100 W.

"The new allocation will be more effective and manageable for domestic SSB communications, and consistent with the existing use of the band on the five spot frequencies now enjoyed by Canadian amateurs," MacDonnell said.

ISED typically authorizes the use of new allocations via a revised document RBR-4 – Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service. "Radio Amateurs of Canada will be urging ISED to authorize the new 15 kHz segment as soon as possible," MacDonnell said.

## ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND COMMUNICATION TEST SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 12

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests to mark the 67th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) on Saturday, May 12. Armed Forces Day is May 19, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Hamvention. Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the US Army MARS website.

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between radio amateurs and military stations (authorized under §97.111 of the Amateur Service rules). It features traditional military-to-amateur crossband SSB voice, CW, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, and the opportunity for participating hams to utilize more modern military modes, such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). Military stations and Amateur Radio stations are authorized to communicate directly on certain 60-meter interoperability channels.

These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly-controlled exercise scenario, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station. QSL cards will be available for stations successfully contacting participating military stations.

Military stations will transmit (USB, unless otherwise noted on the schedule) on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific amateur frequencies they are monitoring. MARS stressed that frequencies used for the test will not impact any public or private communications and will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

An Armed Forces Day test 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. Technical information regarding these waveforms is available. The AFD test message will also be sent at 0300 UTC in CW.

Those who want a QSL should complete the request form on the MARS website.

## LOOK FOR "HAM RADIO 2.0 - INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY" AT HAMVENTION

At this year's Hamvention, the Yasme Foundation will sponsor "Ham Radio 2.0 -- Innovation and Discovery," which Foundation President Ward Silver, N0AX, describes as "a deliberately low-structure affair, affectionately dubbed '2.0 Row'" that's intended to be a gathering spot for innovative groups and organizations.

The IARU Region 1 group Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) will set up in this area, staffed by Florian Zwingl, OE3FTA, of Austria, and Koos Fick, ZR6KF, of South Africa. "We are hoping to spark an interest in YOTA here in Region 2," suggested Silver. The annual Region 1 YOTA conference for 2018 will be held in South Africa this coming August.

Representatives of the HamSCI (Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation) group will be adjacent to the Yasme Foundation's booth. Along with the HamSCI Forum, researchers and participants in HamSCI will be making short presentations in the 2.0 Row area. A schedule will be posted on the HamSCI website. Results of the recent Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) and some of the papers it generated will be on display as well.

Other organizations located in the Volta Building (Building 4) near the entrance to the Flea Market will include FIRST Robotics and Hamvention's Youth Tech area, just across the

walkway. NSIradio will be exhibiting software-defined radio equipment by Expert Electronics. The Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA) will be co-located with the NASA Radio JOVE exhibit. Stop by to learn about how a radio amateur and amateur astronomer, Scott Tilley, VE7TIL/VA7LF, of British Columbia, discovered that a long-dead satellite had returned to life. The schedule of subject, speakers, and times will be posted on the [HamSCI website](#)..

"I encourage Hamvention visitors to stop by and leave a QSL card," Silver said. "We invite college clubs to hang their colors, makers and builders to demonstrate their latest projects, vendors and individuals to put on short demonstrations, and for everyone to make connections and friends. There will also be some short presentations interleaved with presentations by HamSCI researchers. We hope to see a lot of new faces at 2.0 Row!"

## SECOND 3Y0Z BOUVET DXPEDITION ATTEMPT UNLIKELY FOR 2018 – 2019 AUSTRAL SEASON

The ill-fated 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island, halted earlier this year because of poor weather and engine problems with its transportation vessel, will very likely not be rescheduled for the 2018 – 2019 Austral season, organizers say.

"It has become apparent that the chance of finding a suitable and affordable vessel for the 2018 to 2019 Austral season is becoming less and less likely," the team said in an April 26 news release. "It appears that the very earliest we could mount a second attempt to activate Bouvet would be the 2019 to 2020 season, or possibly beyond."

The 3Y0Z team reports that it has reached "a fair settlement" with transportation contractor DAP and has received a partial reimbursement of its payments. "Our vessel Betanzos is now back in Punta Arenas, and we believe that the container with our personal gear and equipment is intact. We will be arranging to transport the container back to the US, arriving in a few months."

The 3Y0Z organizers say they want to offer prorated returns of the DXpedition funds in their account, although this will not happen until after the shipping container has arrived and the DXpedition has paid its bills and knows how much money will remain.

"This is going to be an enormous task, with 137 DX clubs and foundations and 3,700 individual DXers," the announcement said. "The process will take some time. We ask that you be patient as we complete this."

The process to claim a refund has not yet been established at this point, but the 3Y0Z DXpedition team plans to offer a choice of a prorated refund, or contributors may designate a foundation or club to receive the contribution. Any "unclaimed" refunds will be proportionally distributed to the major contributing foundations, and the 3Y0Z books will be closed.

"We all are unhappy and extremely disappointed that the project was not completed due to a mechanical failure on our vessel," the announcement said. "This left the captain no choice but to abort the mission for safety reasons. Please accept our team's heartfelt thanks for your outstanding support of this project."

## SHORTS

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**Entrepreneur and electrical engineer Jeri Ellsworth, AI6TK, will be guest speaker at the 12th annual AMSAT/TAPR Banquet during Hamvention.** The event will take place on Friday, May 18, at the Kohler Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio -- just south of Dayton. An American entrepreneur, inventor, and self-taught engineer and computer chip designer, Ellsworth will discuss her innovative ideas and her adventures in Amateur Radio. She gained notice in 2004 for creating a complete Commodore 64 system on a

chip housed within a joystick -- the C64 Direct-to-TV. In 2016, she earned her Amateur Extra-class license. Ellsworth was featured in the January 2017 issue of QST and in YouTube videos from Quartzfest. A social hour begins at 6:30, with the buffet dinner served at 7 PM. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

**“The Wireman” Press Jones, N8UG, SK** “The Wireman” Pressley W. “Press” Jones, N8UG, of Landrum, South Carolina, died on April 10. He was 89. The “original” Wireman and his crew have been staples of many hamfests and conventions across the US for more than 45 years, supplying attendees with coaxial cable, wire, insulators, balanced feed line, and more. “He was a great teacher and speaker with his one-of-a kind approach to communications, and a down-to-earth mentor,” said a statement on The Wireman website. An ARRL member, he was a technical advisor from 1994 through 2014.

The [Hamvention website](#) has been updated with new [Event Schedule information](#) and [Forum schedules](#). You can even add single events to your own Google calendar, or import the whole calendar to see everything. Your smart phone can keep track of all of the activities taking place and help remind you not to miss your favorites.

Your smart phone or computer calendar application can automatically keep track of *all* radio contests by subscribing to shared contest calendars. [WA7BNM's Contest Calendar](#) website publishes a contest event calendar in iCal format, or as a [shared Google calendar](#). So does [DL2NBY's website](#). Your club's website can also embed one of these contest calendars with just a few lines of HTML, so the dates will always be handy. Similar calendars exist for scheduled [DXpeditions](#) and other radio related events.

Let's say you need zone 36 in a contest. What are ALL of the prefixes should you be listening for? Find out using this handy [website that shows all countries possible for a particular zone](#). (Mark, KB7HDX)

**WSJT-X had its second public test of the new FT8 DXpedition mode, which was described in the [April 12 issue of the ARRL Letter](#).** During this session, rates of 225 contacts per hour were attained by one of the test "foxes." It was also noted that as with any mode, operating skill and rates increase with practice.

**Art Bell, W6OBB internationally known radio host has become a SK at the age of 72.** Art is the founder and first host of a late night radio program called "Coast to Coast AM" that was heard on radio stations throughout North America around the world. Art was a great advocate for the hobby holder of a three different call signs in the U.S. and Manila and often talked about ham radio to his audience on the program. He will be missed by many of us who have fond memories of late night entertainment and listening to his paranormal based program. His distinctive voice will not be heard again except in recordings. - N. Mike Foght, WB8MF

**Logbook of The World has Online Status Monitor** - Logbook of The World (LoTW) now has a full-time status monitor. The system's status is displayed in real time and is available offsite, offering a single spot for all users — web, Facebook, Twitter, etc. — to quickly check what's happening with the online repository of contacts and confirmations.

At a glance, the LoTW status monitor shows if the system is up, paused, or down; overall uptime statistics, and quick stats. A green status means all systems are go, a red status means the system is down, and a black status means the system has been paused. The monitor indicates overall uptime for the past 24 hours, the past 7 days, and the past 30 days, as well as the most-recent downtime occurrence. <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-queue-status>

**Additional frequencies for Ireland** - In June 2016 ComReg published its final Radio Spectrum Management Strategy 2016-2018 and indicated its intention to grant some additional spectrum to the amateur service. This has now been done and is in line with some of the requests made in the Society's submission.



The 70 MHz band has been extended to 69.9 MHz to 70.5 MHz. This is an increase of 275kHz over the existing band of 70.125 to 70.450 MHz and is the full band that may be allocated to the amateur service under the European Common Allocations table.

Further spectrum covering all modes including digimodes has been granted on a secondary basis at 30 to 49 MHz and 54 to 69.9 MHz. The latter band also includes digital television in addition to all other modes. These new frequency bands are listed among the bands available generally to radio amateurs in Annex 1 of a recently revised version of the Amateur Station Licence Guidelines document ComReg 09/45 R4 which is available on the ComReg website.

The new bands in the 40 MHz and 60 MHz regions will, among other things, facilitate modern type beacons in the region of these frequencies as well as moving the existing 70MHz beacon on 70.130 MHz to the section of the band designated for beacons.

IRTS (Irish Radio Transmitters Society) will be producing a local band plan for these two bands in consultation with countries that have allocations at these frequencies and IARU. South Gate ARC

**Maidenhead Grid EL58hx Activation Memorial Day Weekend 2018** - (Venice, LA, USA) Wyatt Dirks, AC0RA, and Clayton Coleman, W5PFG will travel to the mouth of the Mississippi River in far Southeast Louisiana to activate maidenhead gridsquare EL58hx on Memorial Day weekend, 2018. The primary activities will be on the 6m band and OSCAR satellites. This will be Wyatt's first activation of EL58 in Louisiana and Clayton's second. Both operators have conducted multiple, successful portable activations over the years, with Wyatt activating over 200 grid squares and Clayton over 150. Dates, the operating location in the grid, and transportation arrangements are confirmed.

The activation is scheduled to begin after 23:00 UTC on May 25 and will conclude by 20:00 UTC on May 27. All 6m operations will use the callsign AC0RA. All satellite operations will use the callsign W5PFG. HF operation will occur during slower periods on 6m and when there are no satellites in view. Those wishing to confirm HF contacts must do so via ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW.) 6m and Satellite confirmations will be available following the expedition on LoTW in addition to paper QSL's accompanied with a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope (SASE.)

Further information will be released prior to the expedition. For general inquiries contact Clayton, W5PFG, at [w5pfg@arrl.net](mailto:w5pfg@arrl.net). For 6m operational questions contact Wyatt, AC0RA, at [dirkswyatt10@gmail.com](mailto:dirkswyatt10@gmail.com).

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#### THANKS FOR READING!

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