

was a vault that he kept his art and other collectibles in. This building is now the home of the Nature Center of the Park.

John related several anecdotal stories about his experiences with the park's animals, and with the park's attendees and the area's residents as they pertain to the wildlife of the area. John said the busiest times for the park are the Labor Day, Memorial Day, and 4th of July holidays. The park averages around 580,000 visitors per year. He said that the middle of October is a good time for visiting the park to see the leaves. John let the crowd in on a little known secret, that dry cat food is the "universal food" for wild animals. He also told of problems with beavers in the downtown area, and how some times when Parks Dept. employees decide to lower the level of the reservoir un-announced, it causes problems with recreational boaters. He also told that one is likely to find all sorts of interesting things in the Nature Center's refrigerator, including hibernating bats!

Following John's presentation, he was presented with a token of appreciation from the IRC. Next, Chuck Crist, W9IH, announced some upcoming events, including the "Express Extra" class coming up (details later in the newsletter), and the fact that this coming June, the USS Indianapolis would once again be on the air, including some of the ship's survivors. Point your browser to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/ussindy.htm> for more details on the event. Next, Chuck started the award presentations: The "Old Timers" award was presented to Bob Begeman, W9KVK, a young 82 year old ham. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Mary and Adele Brown, KC9FFO, and KC9OOC, for their help in organizing the annual hamfest/picnic in August, Judy Gardner, AA9GW, was recognized for her service to the club as treasurer, Judy's husband Steve Gardner, N9XDT, was recognized for coordinating the refreshments for the club meetings, Ken Bandy, KC9GLQ, was recognized for being newsletter editor for 2006, and Ed Dixon, KB9RPB, (not present) was recognized for his help in the past with the August hamfest/picnic. Next, two sponsors of the IRC were recognized: The Indianapolis Training Center was recognized for providing meeting facilities and coffee for the Radio Club meetings, as well as providing space for the annual SkyWarn meetings; also recognized was Web Navigation, who has been the web host for the IRC's web site for the past 4 years. Next, Chuck presented the Marconi award for technical achievement to Dale Schieman, WB9YCZ. Finally, the Amateur of the Year award was presented to co-recipients (for only the 2nd time in club history) Joe and Betty Lobraico, K9OOA and K9OOB, for their commitment to amateur radio and bringing back the old fashioned "tail gate" ham fest to Indy.

Next, incoming President, Tom Chance, K9XV, awarded door prizes, the first of which were several Plexiglas HT stands, hand crafted by Bob Northern, W9VCS. Several other door prizes were presented, with the "grand prize", a wireless weather station, being awarded to John Lee, W9GRE. Thanks as always to Bob Osterhaus, W9PSE, for coordinating the door prizes.

For additional information on the December meeting, including pictures, point your browser to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/articles/art2006dec.htm>.

Ham Radio News:

FCC Corrects J2D Error in "Omnibus" Report and Order

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 28, 2006 -- The FCC today released an Erratum that corrects one error in the recent Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 -- the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding -- that inadvertently limited J2D emissions to an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz. J2D emissions are data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter. Had it been left to stand, the error would have rendered illegal below 30 MHz PACTOR III at full capability as well as Olivia and MT63 when operated at bandwidths greater than 500 Hz bandwidth, 1200 baud packet, Q15X25 and Clover 2000.

The FCC Erratum revises §97.3(c)(2) of the Amateur Service rules going into effect December 15 to read:

Data. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol, 1 as the second symbol, and D as the third symbol; (ii) emission J2D; and (iii) emissions A1C, F1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less when transmitted on an amateur service frequency below 30 MHz. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted.

In its comments on the proceeding, the ARRL argued that a 500-Hz bandwidth limitation in the definition of data emissions would have unintended consequences because the limitation would also apply to Amateur Radio bands where a higher bandwidth is allowed. In its R&O, the FCC said relaxing the bandwidth limitation "would de facto eliminate the separation of narrow bandwidth and wide bandwidth emissions," which it called an "reasonable means to minimize interference on shared frequencies and bands."

The Commission said in the running text of the R&O that it would address the League's concern by revising the Part 97 rules "to clarify that the 500 Hz limitation applies only to the emission types we are adding to the definition of data when transmitted on Amateur Service frequencies below 30 MHz."

Unfortunately, the language of the intended revision that appeared in the original version of the R&O inadvertently included J2D emissions among those to which the 500-Hz bandwidth limitation would apply.

The Erratum is available on the FCC Web site,
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-268642A1.pdf

The FCC incorporated some unrelated editorial revisions in the version of the R&O that appeared November 15 in the <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/E6-19189.pdf> Federal Register. The "omnibus" rule changes -- including those accounted for in the Federal Register and the Erratum -- take effect Friday, December 15, at 12:01 AM EST (0501 UTC).

Indiana CW Traffic Net Moving

With the restructuring of the 80-meter band, the Indiana CW Traffic Net (QIN) is moving to a frequency of 3565 KHz, effective immediately per Dick Hickok K9PUI, net co-manager. Net times remain the same, 0000Z and 1430Z, daily.

Marion County ARES beginning monthly meetings

Beginning in January 2007, Marion County will start having monthly ARES meetings and will incorporate the EMA Radio Group (MCACG) into it. This way, all will receive similar training as it relates to general emergency communications.

These meetings will take place on the same night as the DRG met, the second Tuesday of every month, but will begin one full hour earlier ... at 6pm. I will see how this time is accepted before entertaining changing it. The meeting will be held at the Red Cross HQs in downtown Indianapolis. It will be held at that location due to availability of space and parking ... not to mention it is centrally located in the county and easily accessed from surface roads or interstates.

So, the first meeting will take place, Tuesday, January 9th at 6pm.

Michael R. Palmer, N9FEB
Marion County ARES EC
<http://indyhams.org/>
(317) 849-3602 (home)
(317) 753-8691 (cell)

ARRL announces new electronic newsletter for clubs

A new monthly newsletter, ARRL Club News, is now available via e-mail at no charge to ARRL members. Designed to help invigorate Amateur Radio clubs and their activities, each issue will contain information and highlights for and about ARRL-affiliated clubs. "Although the first issues will be in text format, we expect to have the ARRL Club News available in HTML format so we can share photos and other exciting material from over 2000 ARRL-affiliated clubs," says ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Coordinator

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ. The first issue of ARRL Club News was sent Wednesday, December 6. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery, ARRL members must register on the Members Only Web Site <<http://www.arrl.org/members/>>. During registration, members will have the opportunity to sign up for e-mail delivery of the ARRL Club News, The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins and other material. ARRL members already registered and logged into the Web site may subscribe to ARRL Club News by visiting the Member Data Page <<http://www.arrl.org/members/>> scrolling down to "Which of the following would you like to receive automatically via email from ARRL?" and checking the box for ARRL Club News (monthly club news).

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- **Indy Radio Club "Express Extra" Ham Class**
6 class meetings, starting Jan. 22.
Pre-registration Deadline is Jan. 15. Contact Chuck Crist, W9IH at indytrax@core.com to pre-register. Registration fee of \$20, will be refunded after completing the class. Testing will be on Feb. 3. Go to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/indyclasses.htm> for more information.
 - **Dayton Hamvention®**
Come on Spring-time! It's not too early to plan for Dayton. The IRC bus will be going over on Saturday, May 19. Go to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/bustripdayton07.htm> for more info.
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2007 IRC Club Officers-Elect:

- President: Tom Chance, K9XV - ..EMAIL k9xv@arrl.net
 - Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - ..EMAIL dmiller@ivytech.edu
 - Secretary: Ken Bandy, KC9GLQ - ..EMAIL kc9glq@arrl.net
 - Treasurer: Judy Gardner, AA9GW - ..EMAIL aa9gw@juno.com
 - Chief Operator: Dave Craig, N9QVO - ..EMAIL slough@svs.net
 - Dir. at large: Bob Osterhous, W9PSE - EMAIL rosterhous@iquest.net
 - Dir. at large: Tom Price, WB9UNG – EMAIL pricetr@comcast.net
 - Dir. at large: Hank Wolfla, K9LZJ – EMAIL hwolfla@insightbb.com
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And Finally, a Poem for the Holidays:

**Radio Operator's Night before
Christmas...** submitted by Chuck, W9IH

Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver
who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before --
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.

"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kc9glq@arrl.net