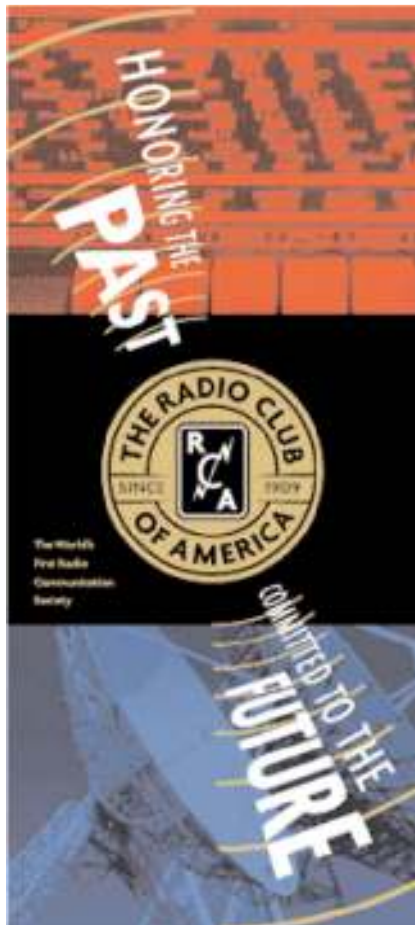




Radio Club of America

June Online



Welcome to the **Radio Club of America e-newsletter**. Besides bringing you news, updates and other interesting information, the Club believes this will become a community-building vehicle for you and other Club members that you can pass on to others.



**A SPECIAL THANKS TO BIBY PUBLISHING
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CHANGES TO THE BY LAWS At the June 8, 2007 Board of Directors meeting, the RCA By-laws were updated in relation to Nominations and Elections. The Nominations and Elections Committee was added as a standing committee of the Club. The following dates relative to the election process were approved:

July 1st will be the new cut off date for nominations made by petition. For the year 2007 only, that date was moved back to August 1st. The Nominations and Elections Committee will submit its nomination report to the membership no later than September 1st of each year. The mailing of ballots will be made on or before October 10th of each year. The polls will now close on November 1st. What does this mean to you our members? First and foremost this year, anyone considering running for office and being nominated by petition needs to make sure they comply with the August 1, 2007 deadline. By separating the

nominations from the balloting, there will now be sufficient time for candidates to present position statements and circulate information relative to their running for office. The final ballot count will be done well in advance of having to report the election results, no more mad scrambles on the morning of the meeting. Everyone can now mark their calendars with the actual annual deadlines, well in advance of any mailings.

After many years of dedicated service the Club Treasurer and Secretary will not be running for re-election this year. We are making an appeal to the membership for volunteers to come forward and let Karen Clark, our Executive Secretary, know if you have an interest in running for either of these positions.

--Tony Sabino, Nominations & Elections Committee Chair

OPEN POSITIONS After many years of dedicated service the Club Treasurer and Secretary will not be running for re-election this year. We are making an appeal to the membership for volunteers to come forward and let Karen Clark, our Executive Secretary, know if you have an interest in running for either of these positions.

--Tony Sabino, Nominations & Elections Committee Chair

RCA AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION®

RCA's exhibit at the Dayton Hamvention® May 18-20, 2007 sported a classy white-on-black table cover -- or sepulchral, maybe, with the gothic lettering and black skirt. It looks classy to me. And easily adaptable for Halloween, with a splash of orange. Thanks go to Stan Reubenstein, WA6RNU. He had the

new cover made, and he donated it to the Club. Stan, RCA's executive vice president, said he ordered the new cover for RCA at the same time he was having one made for his manufacturers' representative firm, Aurora Marketing Company.

Along with Stan, Steve Meer, K0SCC; and Gene McGahey, AL7GQ, handled most of the booth duty. "Robert Walsh, WA8MOA, stopped by and helped for a few hours," Stan said.

Stan said the booth received a lot of visitors. "You need to come next year. We had a blast!" he said. Thank-you to Stan for the booth photo.

Elsewhere at the Hamvention®, several RCA members were listed in the program as speakers at the following forums:

Carole Perry Parker, WB2MGP, at the Teacher's Workshop and the Youth in Amateur Radio forums. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the Digital Future of Amateur Radio forum. Dr. Ted Rappaport, N9NB, at the Antenna Forum.

Doug Sharp, K2AD, of Firestone, Colorado, was listed as the moderator and a speaker at the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) Information Session forum. He said that the current NFCC president moderated the forum. Doug is the immediate past president. "We had a lively discussion regarding how we attempt to coordinate the new digital modes of communication, specifically repeaters, on the ham bands. Do we just place a new P25 or D-STAR repeater on the same repeater pairs? Or do we try to re-farm the existing repeaters? Try to find new spectrum? It was a discussion such that those coordinators in attendance could start to think about how they will handle this within their groups," Doug said. He added that in this area, the NFCC only recommends and distributes information. "We are not authorized to make national policy," he said.

Gordon West, WB6NOA, of Costa Mesa, California, spoke at the American Red Cross forum and was the moderator for the His Choice forum, which focused on tropospheric ducting.

"The ham radio convention was an upbeat success, probably due to the elimination of the code test, with the word TEST in capital letters. There was no shortage of new hams wanting to learn the code, now that they weren't required to take an in-class test. Code is not dead, as evidenced by those selling code oscillators and Vibroplex keys and the FISTs. That is the foundation for the preservation of Morse code in amateur radio," Gordon said.

The operator of the Gordon West Radio School said that "the whole ham radio convention was upbeat. We saw hams wearing funny hats with antennas and blinking towers on their hard hats. We saw formations of ham operators in old military uniforms, carrying old military radios, and they were on the air on 75 meters, marching in formation through the swap meeting, confirming 75 meters and military radios and the tradition of hams having fun. It drew a lot of attention to what ham radio is about, which is making friends and having a good time. While in past years, the mood was somber, this year it was hilarious."

Gordon said that he saw Stan and other RCA members on the exhibit floor, "and they were doing a great job of talking about RCA. We had in our booth RCA sign-up forms, and we talked with several folks who we hope to sign up for RCA."

The Gordon West Radio School had its usual 30-foot booth in the major exhibit area. "We offer training materials to obtain the ham license and commercial licenses such as the GROL. I'm there to meet the many graduates and encourage them that the most important part of getting licensed for ham radio and getting an upgrade is to get on the air and operate. That was the message I had. Don't get a licensed to have a license; get on the air. Don't think about upgrading to the next level until you've done everything there is on each level," Gordon said.

The His Choice seminar that Gordon presented was about tropospheric ducting. He said the session drew a standing-room-only crowd to hear recordings Gordon made over the years of the radio communications path between Southern California and Hawaii, a distance of about 2500 miles. Gordon said that the path has been worked every July on 2 meters, 432 MHz, 1296 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5.6 GHz. "This year, we're hoping to set the record on 10 GHz between Hawaii and California using tropo ducting, which occurs in July," he said.

"I did several other seminars. One for the American Red Cross, talking about the important pool of volunteer hams, and the value of volunteering for an important agency like the Red Cross that will regularly let them see action. I did some seminars for ARRL on the importance of ham-radio Elmers working with new hams to make sure they get on the air with their new equipment," Gordon said.

I asked Gordon what new hams had to say to him.

"New hams I met at Dayton were excited about the prospect of being able to operate on worldwide frequencies. In years past, those frequencies were reserved for those who mastered the Morse code. They were delighted to upgrade to General class and get on the worldwide channels without a code test, but they had no fear of learning the code. The only fear was of the test itself, not the code. Now that the test has been eliminated at the FCC level, hams can learn it without the test hanging over their head that kept them from upgrading from Technician to General class. They were positive about their attempt to get on the air and become an active ham radio operator," Gordon said.

I told Gordon that I remembered taking a Morse code test when I was 15 years old. My hand shook because I was nervous, and I couldn't write fast enough to pass the exam as I listened to a test message.

"A lot of people think about that," he said. "They could learn 5 wpm for the Novice or 13 wpm for the General. It's a pressure kind of thing that some people just don't do well under pressure. The code test for 5 wpm lasted five minutes. It would start with z's and y's and w's that were the more difficult letters, and that would unnerve the person taking the test. It was a pressure kind of thing. I'm glad that the code test has gone away. We sold more CD products than we ever sold in the past five years, now that the code test has gone away. We're delighted for the hams that feel that code is important, as I do, that no longer do they have to sit for a pressure-cooker exam," Gordon said.

RCA has few radio amateurs among its elected leaders, yet as much as 60 percent of the members have amateur radio licenses. It occurred to me that it could be a fine thing for some of RCA's leaders to obtain licenses as a way of recognizing and honoring the heritage and tradition of the Club, along with setting a good example for younger members who join. I mentioned that to Gordon.

"Any time that RCA wants to hold a one-day refresher course for some of our members to license up as an entry-level ham operator, let me know, and I'd be happy to offer it, including coming to New York City in November for a day before the big meeting," he said.

"Many RCA personnel certainly are technical enough. One has to be brought up to date on rules and regulations of the Amateur Service that they may not have had contact with, and some of the modes of communication that ham operators use. Without the code test, we could do a one-day class and get members up to the entry Technician level," Gordon said.

Concluding his remarks about the Dayton Hamvention®, Gordon said, "It's always good to see the RCA there."

--Don Bishop, Public Relations Committee Chair

RCA breakfast at APCO: The RCA breakfast at APCO is just around the corner. It is planned for Wednesday, August 8th at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore On the Inner Harbor. The speaker is Harlin McEwen, we has been in the field of law enforcement for over 48 years, and is the first recipient of the RCA/NPSTC Richard DeMello Award. The sponsors are: Intrado, Mission Critical Communications, PCTEL, Tait Radio Communications. Go to the RCA website, Upcoming Events for the [invitation form online.](#)

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