



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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

September 2010 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 8: Software Defined Radio update
- November 12: Presentation on Solar Power
- December 10: Annual Christmas Dinner/Program
- January 14: Making your own QSL cards
- February 11: Legacy Radio "Repeater History"

Highlights from the September Meeting:

Meeting called to order by Tom Chance, K9XV, at 7:30 pm There were 51 in attendance. Tom went over the events of the past summer, starting with the Broad Ripple Hamfest. Next Mark Musick, WB9CIF, gave a report on the hilltop event. There were 7 hills activated. Mark is still waiting on two logs. He reported that there was good participation from local stations. The top hill plaque will be awarded at the next meeting. Band conditions were pretty good, with the exception of 75 getting noisy in the afternoon, 6 and 2 were fairly open. 40 meters was fairly noisy also. Ken Bandy, KJ9B, talked about the contribution of gear to the club from the estate of Silent Key Richard Nibeck, WB9VKT. Chuck, W9IH, talked about the Paul Bohrer, W9DUU-SK, sale tomorrow, Saturday, September 11. Antenna Shoot-Out will be immediately prior to the next meeting. The shoot-out will be on 80 meters again. Bob, W9KVK, and Tom will have demonstrations on VHF antennas. Tom recognized Don Hemenover, N9DOO, and Mike Rollins, WA9NCF, on being out of the hospital.

Next, Ray Hoffman from IPL, started his presentation on upcoming smart grid technology. "Demand Side Management and Potential Smart Grid Programs". Purpose is to cycle power use at peak times to postpone the building of new power plants. One incentive program is called "Ditch Your Fridge. Chill Your Bill." The intent of this program is to get old less efficient fridges off of the grid. The "CoolCents" Air Conditioning Load Management Program gives IPL the means to cycle a home's air conditioner during peak periods. There is also a residential CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lamp) Rebate Program. Also, the "Energy Star Plus" program for new home construction rewards high SEER rating air conditioners. There is a "Renewable Energy Incentive" program for renewable energy installation in homes. Regarding the Smart Grid system: IPL is doing test with 125 homes currently providing near real time monitoring of energy consumption, hoping to encourage home owners to reduce consumption. This can provide different rate structures, "time of use" rates, providing higher rates during higher consumption periods. IPL currently uses automated meter reading via radio system. AMI (Automated Meter Infrastructure) is the next step, to provide two way meter interface. Home Energy Management System (HEMS), interfaces with AMR/AMI gear, giving real time info. One thing discussed was Electric Vehicle charging at night, during off peak periods, as opposed to during the day, in peak periods. IPL's "Green Power" program was discussed, where the customer pays a bit of a premium to participate in a renewable energy program.

Following Ray's interesting presentation, Tom drew for door prizes. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Ham Radio News:

NCVEC QUESTION POOL COMMITTEE WITHDRAWS FOUR QUESTIONS

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and Volunteer Examiners (VEs) were to take action to remove these questions from use by July 1, 2010. Due to a rules change and pending action by the FCC, questions T2C02 and T2C03 from the July 2010 Technician Pool and questions E1C04 and E1C05 from the July 2008 Extra Pool may not be used in examinations after June 30.

The two Technician questions dealt with emergency communications and Section 97.113 of the FCC's rules governing Amateur Radio. In March, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), WP Docket No 10-72, that proposes to amend the rules to provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may

transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

"Adoption of the NPRM appears more likely than not, abolishing the temporary waiver [needed for government-sponsored emergency communication drills] (T2C02) and making T2C03 an invalid question," the QPC said in a statement appearing on the NCVEC Web site.

"Therefore, we feel it is best to withdraw these two questions now to avoid the possible inclusion of invalid information in training material now being prepared."

The two Extra questions dealt with third party restrictions as defined in 97.109(e); the FCC has since deleted this rule, so the information is no longer applicable to the Amateur Service.

ORDER YOUR IRCs ONLINE AT USPS WEB SITE

Many hams have long complained about difficulties they have encountered when purchasing International Reply Coupons (IRCs) from their local post offices. Now the US Postal Service (USPS) has made it easier to get those IRCs to send with your direct QSL cards -- order them online from the USPS Web site. The USPS ships all in-stock domestic orders for stamps and retail items within 1 business day via Priority Mail with Delivery Confirmation or First Class Mail. Shipments should arrive within 3-5 business days. All stamp orders are charged a \$1 handling fee, regardless of the order amount. IRCs purchased from the USPS, whether online or in person at a post office, cost \$2.10 each.

Point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/news/order-your-ircs-online-at-usps-web-site> for the complete story.

SOME LOCAL NEWS FROM OVER THE SUMMER

Total sales from the auction at the June meeting were \$420 with the club receiving \$82.25 in donations. We had 10 sellers and 30 buyers.

Steve Curtis has a new call, ND9C.

Congratulations to Russ Best who received his license in June and is now KC9SPJ. Russ joined the club in March. Congratulations to Ken Sullivan, N1HQH and Spence Gibbs, N9DVL, on their recent appointments to new posts in the ARES organization. Ken is the

ARES Coordinator for Marion County (as well as the RACES Coordinator). Spence is now the District Five ARES Coordinator.

The winners of the Yaesu radios at the Broad Ripple Hamfest were:

FT-450 David Crockett, WA9ZCE; FT-7900 Leroy Wignot, WA4OTD; FT-60R Robert LaGrange, N9SIU; FT-250R Mark Musick, WB9CIF.

LOCAL PACKET NODE NEWS

From information received from Don West, W9DEW, there are two new packet stations in the Indianapolis area on 145.050.

Jerry, N9LYA and Neil, K9CTB; have installed a node on top of a building at 38th St and Meridian Street. It is W9HU-7. It is a two port node station the second port is on 147.555. It should have very good coverage, as it is pretty high.

Also, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security RACES Team Node is going at the Indiana Government Center at Washington and West Streets in downtown Indy.

FCC OKAYS EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN EMERGENCY DRILLS

Moving with unaccustomed speed, the FCC adopted a Report and Order on July 14, allowing hams who are employed by both government agencies and non-government agencies such as hospitals, to participate in emergency and disaster drills on behalf of their employers. The ruling was based on a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WP-10-72, issued this past March, in response to petitions arising from a strict interpretation by the FCC's Enforcement Bureau of the prohibition on amateurs communicating on behalf of their employers. The decision came just more than a month after the reply comment deadline.

The ruling added a new paragraph to Section 97.113(a)(3) of the FCC rules, which reads as follows:

(i) A station licensee or control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in an emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill. Tests or drills that are not government-sponsored are limited to a total time of one

hour per week; except that no more than twice in any calendar year, they may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours.

There is no specific effective date given in the Report and Order, so it will presumably become effective upon publication in the Federal Register. The complete text of the report and order may be accessed online at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0714/FCC-10-124A1.pdf

VANITY CALL SIGN FEES DECREASE AGAIN

On July 19, the Federal Communications Commission announced via the Federal Register that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will decrease 10 cents, from \$13.40 to \$13.30. The new fees take effect 30 days after publication, making August 17, 2010, the first day the new fee was in effect.

In FY2010, the FCC expects to grant 14,800 vanity call signs, bringing in \$196,840 from the vanity call sign program. Earlier this year, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM), seeking to lower the fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

ARRL VE TESTING SCHEDULE FOR MARION COUNTY

Sponsor: W9IMS Amateur Radio Club

Where: W9IMS Comm Center, 3321 N Gale St, Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Liaison: Jim Rinehart (317) 218-7304

When: October 11, 2010, 6:30 pm, walk ins allowed

D-STAR REPEATER NOW IN PLACE IN ARRL LABORATORY

The ARRL Lab has installed a D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) repeater in the Lab at the ARRL Headquarters building. Operating with an output of 147.390 MHz, positive offset, the W1HQ D-STAR repeater is a local repeater with a modest footprint covering the Hartford-New Britain, Connecticut area. The antenna is on the roof of the Headquarters building with the repeater located in the Lab. With its gateway, the repeater is accessible to any D-STAR user on the planet. The Lab's call sign is WIINF.

“The purpose of the repeater is to better educate the Lab staff on D-STAR technology,” explained ARRL Test

Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. “In turn, we will have the ability to handle some of our members’ questions on the matter. We also intend to use this new technology when emergencies occur where D-STAR technology is deployed.”

In the near future, the W1HQ D-STAR system will also include 70 and 23 cm repeaters, as well as a 23 cm high speed data link, once initial frequency coordination is granted. “We’re especially interested in the high speed data link,” Allison said. “Though it will have a limited range, we can begin experimenting with its potential and use it as a training tool for Lab staff.”

Allison thanked Bill Unghire, N1CNV, for his contributions as the major motivator for the ARRL HQ D-STAR project. “Bill, an ARRL Life Member, also provided valuable IT support with setting up the gateway,” he said. Building Manager Greg Kwasowski, W1GJK, handled the installation of all of the hardware, and Allison and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, handled the testing and coordination efforts. “Try giving the Lab a call -- during our noon lunch break, of course,” Allison invited.

WELCOME NEW CLUB MEMBERS

June: Matt Fearnow, W9SIG

July: Taylor Bell, K3FEN

August: Lon Martin, K0WJ, and Ken Sullivan, N1HQB

September: James Roth, KB9SSB

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 October, 1956 *Amachewer*:

May not be hearing as much of W9JVF, Ron Williams for a while. Ron has opened up a spanking new office in Cumberland... Business is real estate, insurance and tax accounting... Understand Ron is out for hire for most anything but baby sitting and cutting grass but XYL, Millie informs us that he can do that in FB way also. Let's get behind the boy and get him started!

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- September 25, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm: Greenfield Hamfest
 - October 3, 6:00 am to 1:00 pm: Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest
 - Oct. 15 – 17: Ham Radio “Camp Out”. American Legion Park and Campground in Fortville. Contact Rick, N9GSU at IndyRick@gmail.com for more info.
 - November 13 and 14: Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo Go to <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/hfmain.htm> for more info.
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2010 Officers:

- President: Ron Cooper, WB9DKL - ..EMAIL wb9dkl@sbcglobal.net
- 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: Bob Osterhous, W9PSE - ..EMAIL rosterhous@iquest.net
- Dir. at large: Bob Begeman, W9KVK - ..EMAIL w9kvk@juno.com
- W9JP Trustee: Don Hemenover, N9DOO – EMAIL don9doo@lightbound.com