



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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

January 2011 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

February 11: Legacy Radio "Repeater History"

March 11: Chili Cook-Off

April 8: Annual Antenna Meeting

Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 by new club president Jerry Skoll, KC9DTB. Jerry started self introductions. There were 58 present at the meeting. Jerry gave the highlights of the board meeting held that evening. The future of our hobby was discussed, focusing in on what interested young people in the hobby. Jerry asked Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, to head up a committee to address this and get more folks interested. We want to "pick the brains" of young hams.

Rhonda talked about VE testing. The sessions currently planned are February 5, March 5, and possibly April 2. Rhonda invited any with VE credentials to get in touch with her and come to the sessions. These will be ARRL sessions. She said that after the April session, sessions would be every other month. Dr. Jay Wright, KK9L, announced the Hendricks county classes starting on January 26. Technician, General, and Extra classes will be offered, and they will be using a mix of ARRL and other teaching resources.

Jerry announced that we will continue with door prizes. Jerry asked that if anyone finds good deals on prizes, to bring them in. Dave Miller, K9RTT, announced the upcoming meeting topics. February is “legacy month”, where the history of repeaters in the Indianapolis area will be discussed. He said that at one time Indianapolis was the capitol of 2 meter radios, with two manufactures. April will be antenna meeting. June will be the auction. Chili cook off will be March.

Jerry read the proposed change to the by-laws, primarily to increase the dues to \$20 monthly or a single payment of \$200 for lifetime. The change passed unanimously.

Ken Sullivan, N1HQH announced that the weekly ARES net is now on the 146.97 repeater with 107.2 tone. Tom Chance, K9XV, announced that the 220 net has moved back to to the 224.8 repeater, with 88.5 tone. Mike Palmer, N9FEB, announced that he has sent out an email about upcoming events. Bob Blake, N9FIM, wondered if there had been any thought given to putting out tables at the meetings in order to be able to get rid of old gear. Bob also announced a tentative date of March 12 at 9:00 for the Marion County Skywarn class. Jerry gave a recap of what was going on with the ITC. IVY Tech has purchased the building, primarily for the kitchen areas. The former owners are leasing the top three floors. There were no current plans to kick us out of the building. Steve Wendt, KB9RDS, asked about the bus trip to Dayton. It is on the books again. Tom Chance said we may have the Terre Haute club sharing our bus.

Jay also announced the Hendricks County Skywarn class on March 5. Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, introduced himself as the ARRL liaison to state government, and said there are several things on the books about “hand-held devices”, so we need to keep aware of what going on, and possibly will need to contact our lawmakers.

Dave, K9RTT, gave an introduction of Dave Spoelstra and his talk about designing QSL cards. Personal cards can show something about you, rather than stock ones. Resolution of the image used is a major consideration. There are two types of graphics files: Lossy, and lossless. A lossy type is JPG, Lossless types are PNG, and TGA, among others. Proportion of image is also very important, so as not to distort the image. For commercially produced cards, you need to leave a 1/4” border all the way around the card, so when the card is cut, there is no information lost. Dave stressed that date and time used always be in UTC standard times. Dave then assembled a new card for us, using Paint.Net free software.

Door Prizes were awarded after Dave's presentation, and the meeting adjourned at 8:49

Ham Radio News:

MARION COUNTY ARES NET CHANGING HOME:

Per Ken Sullivan, N1HQH:

Effective January 5, 2011, the weekly ARES net will move to the W9ICE 146.970 (PL 107.2) repeater. I wish to thank the W9IRA Repeater Association for its many years of service and support for ARES. It is hoped that all concerned will react with enthusiasm and support the new format of training at its new location. The many hams that use the 146.700 will have this repeater for regular use during prime time and those interested in ARES training will have a place to meet and train as well. This is the primary reason for the change and I would like to thank all who belong to and support the ARRL and its ARES program.

LINK YOUR NET TO IDHS RACES REPEATER

A note from Don West, W9DEW, Communications Director for IDHS:

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) RACES Team has a Repeater on the Indiana Government Center at about 217' on 220 MHz. We have recently expanded the capabilities of the controller associated with the repeater and are interested in testing some of the functionality and coverage of the remote base with repeater on two meters and on 440 MHz.

A secondary purpose is to give our Team Members an opportunity to practice accessing the controller functions and remote base operation skills in a non-emergency situation so that they are more skilled in an emergency situation.

To this end, I would like to know of any local nets in the Central Indiana area that would be willing to let the IDHS Team link to their two meter or 440 MHz net.

If agreeable, please send me (dwest@dhs.in.gov) : input frequency, offset, CTCSS (tone, if necessary), Day and Time of the net, and any other pertinent information. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

SLOW CODE WEB SITE ON LINE

From Brian Murrey, KB9BVN:

Thanks to all the hard work done by David Spence KB9VTK, the new website for the Indiana Slow Code Net is now online at <http://www.indianaslow.net>

We will be adding more content as we go along, as well as helpful links to NTS procedure documents and NET help files.

FLEX RADIO FOR SALE

I am selling my Flex Radio SDR 5000a with the Fire Wire PCI card and cable. Download the software from Flex, and install in a good computer, and you are on the air. The radio does not have a tuner, or the second receiver.

The radio is in very good condition, and has a small scratch on the side of the radio. A picture is available. The radio is now in operation, and comes from a non-smoking ham shack. I am asking \$2250 for Indianapolis Radio Club Members. If you are interested, please give me a call at 317-861-0186, or drop me an email at hwolfla@gmail.com

HENDRICKS COUNTY CLASSES COMING UP

Beginning on Wednesday, January 26, Amateur Radio Classes will be presented in Hendricks County, at the Senior Services Building, located just north of the Hendricks Regional Health Hospital in Danville. The classes will meet from approximately 7:00 to 9:00, and will meet every Wednesday for 8 weeks. Classes will be available for Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class license study. Testing is planned for March 26th.

NEW AMATEUR RADIO BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- HR 2160 -- in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- S 1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

"We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

HR 81 can be found on the web in PDF format at,
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr81ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr81ih.pdf>.

NEW SEC ANNOUNCED

A note from John Poindexter, W3ML, Indiana ARRL Section Mgr.:

The new SEC is Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ. Joseph e-mailed me his thoughts on the ARES HF Net and I want to share some of those thoughts with you.

I think the net could be used to discuss;

- 1) recent ARES policy changes
- 2) significant lessons learned from public service events or emergency exercises
- 3) problems the EC faced and how he solved it
- 4) problems the EC faces and wants suggestions for solving.

Some issues need more discreet one on one consideration, but most EC's face similar problems of team participation, EMA cooperation, etc. What works in one team may work fine for others. Rather than re-inventing the wheel, EC's need more opportunities to share ideas. I'd run the net more like a corporate staff meeting. Each member is expected to discuss recent issues, actions, and plans forward. I think it's also useful for the general ARES team member to hear and participate in these discussions. Maybe they would appreciate better the problems their county EC deals with routinely. The biggest hurdle would be getting the EC's/DEC's to talk openly. Maybe it's just wishful thinking that the SEC could hold a productive open discussion with the DEC's and EC's at least once a month.

NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR STATE ARES ANNOUNCED

More from W3ML:

Jim McDonald, KB9LEI (Muncie) is our new Indiana PIC. We welcome Jim, who has held this position before and has now agreed to accept the position once again upon the resignation of "Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH.

Jim can be reached via kb9lei@arrl.net if you have something in the PR field that you need help with.

AFFILIATED CLUB COORDINATOR NEEDED

One more from W3ML:

I am looking for a new Affiliated Club Coordinator. If you think you would like to be considered for this position, check out the requirements at <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-coordinator> and then e-mail me at w3ml@arrl.org stating your interest along with an informal resume of your experiences and interests that apply to amateur radio.

UPDATES ON UPCOMING INQP

From Mel, KJ9C:

We approved the rule changes for 2011 Indiana QSO Party.... there are three of some impact:

1. County abbreviations will agree with the MARAC abbreviations, so IF you are in the MARAC County Hunter contest the same day as INQP, the info logged will be the same. If you are in MARAC contest, be sure to log "IN" before the 4 letter county abbreviation that you receive. For you Hoosiers, it helps to send "IN" before the county info. I have been doing that for years now in CW, and most folks assume it means "in" as in "from".... but it agrees with MARAC format and it's won't kill your rate.
2. We did away with bonus points for special event stations... they did not change final scores that much (except at the bottom of the standings) and it was tough to score them However, special event stations (like the Bison Stampede station and anniversary stations) are encouraged to offer special certificates for contacts (as they have done in the past). This leads us to the third change....
3. We added a competition class for multi-multi stations.... a multi-multi is more than one transmitter on the air at one time, from one location. So you could do a Field Day style operation with your club and cover 5 or 6 bands for the full 12 hours. This ought to increase Indiana's visibility and give big signal clubs (like Ft Wayne was in 2010) a shot at a plaque.

There will still be a plaque for TOP INDIANA CLUB AGGREGATE score, meaning that all the club's members can contribute their scores to the club's total (HDXCC and SMC are not eligible). Be sure to note your club in your score summary.

If we can get a sponsor, we might also award a plaque for TOP SCHOOL STATION (high school, junior high, or college) to encourage competition between certain big college stations (in Lafayette and Indy and Bloomington) that haven't shown up recently.

These changes may not be super popular with everybody, but they reflect comments from the reflector as well as the opinions of the sponsoring club. Rules will be posted on the INQP web site as soon as N9LF can find W9TN.

Start talking up INQP 2011.... maybe even stir some interest in your local club meeting. Looking forward to an even bigger INQP in 2011 (and 2010 was much bigger than past INQPs).

NEW PRICING ON ARRL OUTGOING QSL BUREAU

Effective January 17, 2011, a new pricing structure went into effect for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. With the new rate structure, amateurs will no longer need to count outgoing cards and then guess as to what to pay based upon a half-pound rate; a simple weighing of the cards is all that is necessary to determine what amount to send to the Bureau. This new structure also accommodates a small rate increase in response to recent postage, shipping and handling costs.

The last rate revision for the Outgoing QSL Service was in January 2007. Even though international shipping costs have remained flat over the last 4 years, domestic shipping costs have risen more than 16 percent since 2007, while material and handling costs continue to climb 1 to 2 percent each year.

The new rate will be:

- \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.
 - \$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or
 - 75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- of cards will cost \$18.
- If you have any questions concerning the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service or the rates to use the service, please send them via e-mail to buro@arrl.org.

W1AW 2011 WINTER OPERATING SCHEDULE

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
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1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST) DIGITAL Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST) DIGITAL Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

**ARRL FILES PETITION FOR PARTIAL RECONSIDERATION WITH
FCC REGARDING VANITY, CLUB CALL SIGNS**

In October 2010, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), detailing rules changes to the vanity call sign system and call signs for Amateur Radio clubs. These new rules are scheduled to go into effect on February 14. The ARRL found that most changes made by the R&O are "reasonable codifications and clarifications of existing policies." But several amended Sections of Part 97 – including sections 97.5 and 97.19 -- are unclear. As such, the ARRL filed a Petition for Partial Reconsideration, urging the FCC to reconsider and modify these portions "in order to reflect the intent of the Report and Order."

The Petition for Partial Reconsideration can be found on the web at, <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7021025735> .

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 January, 1974 *Amateuer*:

COMING MEETINGS:

Future meetings include programs by Regency Electronics, Genave. Both manufacturers of 2 meter FM and other commercial solid state radio transceivers, etc.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- February 26: Cabin Fever Hamfest, LaPorte Civic Auditorium
Go to <http://k9jsi.org/> for more information
- March 13: Wabash Valley ARA Hamfest, Go to <http://www.w9uuu.org> for more information

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