



## The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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

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### *October 2011 Newsletter*

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#### **Upcoming Meeting:**

- November 11: Logging software, by Dave Spoelstra, N9KT.
- December 9: Annual Christmas Dinner/Meeting at MCL at W. 86<sup>th</sup> and Township Line.
- January 13: TBA
- February 10: "Legacy" night, featuring Heathkits.
- March 9: Annual Antenna meeting.

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#### **Highlights from the October Meeting:**

Meeting called to order at 7:20 pm by Dave Miller, K9RTT. Dave thanked IVY Tech, saying that we are very fortunate to be able to hold our meetings in their building. Dave started the self-introductions. There were 36 in attendance. Dave announced a special meeting in February, the "Legacy" meeting will be on Heathkit, which has started making kits again. The speaker for that night will be a former employee of Heathkit. November's meeting will be on logging software, presented by Dave Spoelstra, N9KT. The December meeting will be at the MCL on west 86th street again. Paid up club members will get a \$10 voucher towards their meal. There are two possible topics for the January meeting either on beacons or APRS. March will be the antenna meeting by Tom, K9XV. Dave talked about doing a 2 meter antenna shoot out in April. Jay Wright, KK9L, announced that classes for all levels of license will start on January 25, 2012 in Hendricks County. Also, November 30 will be the Amateur Radio and volunteer recognition night in Hendricks county. Nominations can be given to Jay. Rhonda, Curtis, WS9H, announced that the next testing session in Marion County will be November 14 at 6:30 pm at the EDS facility of Salvation Army at Laffayette and

Georgetown Roads. Tom, K9XV, announced the JOTA event tomorrow, and he could use help from 9:00 to 3:00. The local JOTA station will be operational on 40, 20, and 17 meters. Rhonda also announced that applications are still being accepted for Super Bowl frequency coordination volunteers. Contact Rhonda to be put on the list.

Dave introduced the evening's speaker, Lon Martin, K0WJ. He was last year's winner of the HF antenna shoot out. He's been a ham for 30 years, and most of those have been mobile. He's organized the antenna shootouts for the 3905 group. His presentation was a "Mobile Installation Clinic". Cabling through firewalls is always a problem, so he always runs cables under the chassis into the passenger compartment. Lon emphasized to never use solid wire for mobile installations. Lon said to always fuse both power leads for the mobile power, or use circuit breakers, available on eBay for around \$10 each for 80 amp breakers. Lon stressed to never use solid conductor coax either. Lon said that bigger antennas are better, but mobile antennas are always a compromise. Resonate and match your antenna always. A resonate antenna is not necessarily matched for the proper impedance. Shunt coils are a good way to match antennas. The shunt will tend to cut down on noise also. Always mount the antenna in the best position. The vehicle is not a ground plane, it acts more as a capacitor. Capacity hats can make a big difference. Lon showed several types of cap hats and explained the differences between them. Lon said good cap hats are either 3- or 4-leaf clovers. Lon said to always bond doors, hood, trunk lids, etc. by at least 3/4" wide braid at the hinges. Bond the exhaust system at multiple points to eliminate noise on receive since the exhaust system can act as an antenna and send ignition noise to the radio antenna. After all bonding is done, the antenna system will need to be resonated again. Lon showed several pictures of antenna installations, explaining how they are better or worse. Lon said Mix 31 Toroids and Beads are the best formulation for HF bands.

After Lon's talk, door prizes were awarded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **HEATHKIT COMING BACK!**

As you may have heard from other sources, the venerable kit maker, Heathkit, is getting back into selling kits. The company, that was started in 1926 by Eddie Heath, and was very popular among hams from the 50s through the 80s had gotten out of producing electronics kits for the "build it yourself" crowd, and for the past 20 or so years has been known as "Heathkit Educational Systems". They are now selling their first new kit, the GPA-100, Garage Parking Assistant. According to their web site ([http://www.heathkit.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=123&Itemid=237](http://www.heathkit.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=123&Itemid=237)), they plan on marketing ham radio kits as well.

## **NEW HAM RADIO BLOG IN *EE TIMES***

There is a new Ham Radio blog/column in EE Times available at:

<http://www.eetimes.com/electronics-blogs/other/4228570/A-Ham-s-Eye-View>

## **BOONE COUNTY EC RESIGNS**

**Received from George Fields, N9BEC:**

I would like to take a moment to let everyone know that effective November 1st, 2011 I will be resigning my position as the Emergency Coordinator for Boone County.

I have another position with another organization in the county that is going to take up more of my time.

So I have been asked to let everyone know and anybody who is interested may apply by going to the following website. .... [http://www.inarrl.org/inares\\_index.html](http://www.inarrl.org/inares_index.html) .... I have spent the last 4 years building the relationship between Ham Radio and public service and many other organizations in the county and will be here to support and help any way I can to whoever take my place...

73's

George B. Fields - N9BEC  
Boone County Emergency Coordinator  
1017 Harney Dr.  
Lebanon, In. 46052

## **POSTAGE RATES GOING UP**

Effective January 22, 2012, US Postal Rates will increase as follows:

- First Class letters (up to 1 ounce): 1-cent increase to 45 cents.
- Additional ounces: unchanged at 20 cents each.
- Postcards: 3 cent increase to 32 cents.
- Up to one ounce letters to Canada and Mexico: 5 cent increase to 85 cents.
- Letters to other international destinations: 7 cent increase to \$1.05.

## **FIRST NATIONWIDE TEST OF EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM COMING UP**

The FCC, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)), will conduct the [first nationwide test](#) of the Emergency Alert System ([EAS](#)) at 2 PM EST (1900 UTC) Wednesday, November 9.

During the test -- which should last approximately three minutes -- listeners will hear a message indicating that “This is a test.” Although the EAS test may resemble the periodic monthly EAS tests that most Americans are already familiar with, there will be some differences in what viewers will see and hear. The audio message will be the same for all EAS participants.

For more information, point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-fema-noaa-to-conduct-first-nationwide-test-of-emergency-alert-system>

## **FREQUENCY COORDINATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUPER BOWL**

Al Grossniklaus, WD8BUG, one of the frequency coordinators for the NFL at Lucas Oil Stadium, says the NFL will need quite a few volunteers to help out with frequency coordination duties for the Super Bowl. Al says, “The good news from the NFL is that is that these ‘volunteer’ positions will not be completely unpaid – there is planned to be a small ‘stipend’ for each and there will be need for significantly more than the twenty I mentioned at the meeting. The official call is for “intelligent, energetic people who can stand and walk for long periods of time” (although some check in positions will work seated). There is a minimum age but volunteers do NOT have to be licensed amateurs. In addition to hams, college students also make wonderful Frequency Coordination volunteers.”

Contact either Al at [alg@wthr.com](mailto:alg@wthr.com), or Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, if you are interested in volunteering.

## **AREA CLASSES SCHEDULED**

Hendricks County will be starting their annual classes on January 25, 2012. Contact Dr. Jay Wright, KK9L, (317) 203-3335 for more information.

## **APRS CLASS COMING UP**

Bob Burns, W9RXX, will be presenting a class on APRS on Saturday, January 7, at 1:00 pm at the Hendricks County Senior Services building, 1201 Sycamore Lane, Danville, IN 46122. This is just north of the Hendricks Regional Health Hospital, east of Danville.

## **MARION COUNTY TESTING SESSION**

November 14, 6:30 pm. Salvation Army EDS facility at Laffayette and Georgetown. Contact Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, for more information.

## **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](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)

## **Signals from the Past:**

**In recognition of the increased activity on the HF bands, I am quoting a big chunk of the "DX" article from the October, 1956, *Amachewer*:**

Claude Richie, W9TKV reports being a bit weary at the time he wrote column for the September Ama-Chewer. This was due to a 9 hour session on 10 and 15 meters. From here on let's hear it in his own words.

Tired! It was worth it! 29 contacts, including 20 Europeans, 4 Africans, 4 South Americans, and 1 Hawaiian. Nothing new was worked, but this serves to illustrate that 10 meters in particular is getting to be 'OUT OF THIS WORLD.' Most of these contacts were made on 10 CW, but 10 fone has been most productive and recently numerous DX contacts have been made with splendid reports.

20 has been covered later at night and occasionally for very brief times about 7:20 AM. THE VERDICT: Loaded, especially with Russian and Japanese stations. Except for a poor cycle last week due to sunspots, conditions have been good to excellent on 20 meters. Only 2 new countries, however, (VR3 and a VQ2) have been contacted, but one has to keep trying.

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## Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- November 19 & 20: Fort Wayne Hamfest. Go to <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/hfmain.htm> for more information
- November 26: Evansville Hamfest. Go to <http://w9ear.org/hamfest.htm> for more information.
- November 30, 7:00 pm – Annual Hendricks County Volunteer Recognition Program. Hendricks County Government Center. Contact Dr. Jay Wright, KK9L, at (317) 203-3335 for more info or nominations.

## 2011 Officers:

- President: Jerry Skoll, KC9DTB - ..EMAIL [gskoll@msn.com](mailto:gskoll@msn.com)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - ..EMAIL [dmiller@ivytech.edu](mailto:dmiller@ivytech.edu)
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - ..EMAIL [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)
- Treasurer: Jay Willever, K9LJW - ..EMAIL [k9ljw@arrl.net](mailto:k9ljw@arrl.net)
- Chief Operator: Tom Chance, K9XV - ..EMAIL [k9xv@arrl.net](mailto:k9xv@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – EMAIL [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Ron Cooper, WB9DKL - ..EMAIL [wb9dkl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wb9dkl@sbcglobal.net)
- Dir. at large: Bob Begeman, W9KVK - ..EMAIL [w9kvk@juno.com](mailto:w9kvk@juno.com)
- W9JP Trustee: Don Hemenover, N9DOO – EMAIL [don9doo@lightbound.com](mailto:don9doo@lightbound.com)