



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *April 2026 Newsletter*

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### **Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:**

**April 19:** W9JP IRC Club POTA Activation at Fort Harrison State Park.

**May 8:** John Portune, W6NBC speaking on Mag Loop antennas. VIA ZOOM.

**June 12:** Annual IRC Auction at Salvation Army EDS Facility.

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### **Highlights from the April Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 35 in attendance. When soliciting the group for new hams or upgrades, Ashley, KE9CNJ announced that she upgraded to Amateur Extra 3 weeks ago. Next, when asking for any new members of the club, Brian, KB9VAO announced that he recently joined the IRC, after getting back into the hobby after a lengthy break. David reminded those present that the Mini-Marathon could still use some more volunteer radio operators. He also noted that tickets are available online for the upcoming Hamvention in Xenia, OH. He reminded those in attendance of the Indiana QSO Party coming up on May 2. Next month's meeting will be via Zoom, with John Portune, W6NBC giving a presentation on Mag Loop antennas. Finally, David announced that the club's annual auction will be on June 12, and asked that anyone that has any "high value" items for the auction, to announce what they have and what they are asking as a reserve (minimum bid).

Next, David introduced Joe Ladwig, W9NVY for his presentation on Model Rocketry. Joe is the Assistant Director of Aerospace Education for the Indiana Wing of Civil Air

Patrol, as well as sponsor of the BNL Stars Amateur Radio and Rocketry Club. Joe gave an informative and entertaining presentation on Model Rocketry, starting with the history of rockets and demonstrating small DIY “rocket” kits that all attendees had the opportunity to assemble from simple parts Joe furnished. Joe had many different model rockets on hand and did a nice “show and tell” of each, explaining the differences between them. Joe spoke of the [LDRS 44](#) event coming up on April 16 through 19 at Pence Field in Warren County, Indiana, which Joe and his son Bryce will be participating in. After Joe’s great presentation, Kishan, KD9DCE won the drawing for the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate.

### **Ham Radio News:**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MINI-MARATHON**

### **A note from Marion County ARES Coordinator, Matthew, W9SOX:**

Hello from the West side of Indianapolis! It is that time of year to think about what you might be doing on May 2nd.

Might I suggest volunteering your radio and time to support the 500 Festival Mini Marathon.

Amateur radio operators will enhance safety along the course route at mile markers and pit stops. On location time for all positions is 0630 with staggered releases once the end passes your location.

Volunteers will need the ability to operate up to 6 hours so extra batteries will likely be needed.

We need YOUR support. Please let me know if you can help this May 2nd for the 2026 Mini Marathon. Follow the link at [www.mcinares.org/publicservice/500mini](http://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/500mini) to sign up.

If you know somebody who would be interested please pass this message along.

Thank you in advance and you will be hearing from me soon.

## INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP MAY 2

Now is the time to start making plans for operating in the Indiana QSO Party. This is when the world wants to make contact with Indiana! Whether you're an experienced HF operator and contester or a newly minted operator, the INQP is a great opportunity to make lots of contacts and put your county on the air. The INQP runs from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm on Saturday, May 2. You don't have to operate the whole 12 hours, so if you're volunteering for the Mini-Marathon, you can get on the air when you can. While this is an HF-only contest (160 meters through 10 meters), that doesn't rule out Technician Class operators, as Techs can operate SSB on 28.300 MHz through 28.500 MHz as well as CW on parts of the 80, 40, and 15 meter bands. Also, there are 3 other QSO parties on May 2, so there should be lots of contacts available. For more information about the INQP, including all the rules, go to <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.php>

## IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

8 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 4/11/2026. 3 new hams earned their first license and 4 hams upgraded. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Frank Kalisz W9PXV, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Rich Mullen WD9HCP, Bryce Wolf N9WF, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, Jim Brown W0RLD, Bill Leahy K9RFK, Jim Rinehart K9RU, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

## NEXT W9JP POTA OPERATING EVENT APRIL 19

Coming up on ~~Saturday, April 18~~ **due to the crummy weather forecast, our next POTA event will be held on Sunday, April 19.** We will be meeting for a club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event. We'll be set up in our regular location in front of the Visitor Center at Fort Harrison State Park. We plan to have 2 HF stations on the air by 12:00 noon, and will probably go for 2 or 3 hours. These are great opportunities for folks to get a taste of HF operating and to see what the POTA program is all about. As usual, we will be using the club's callsign of W9JP, but if you are registered with the POTA program, you will get credit for contacts that you make. If you're not licensed for HF operation, don't worry, we will have control operators on hand to get you on the air.

We will have coffee, donuts and cold water. So come on out! THIS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC!

## **CENTRAL DIVISION ARRL DIRECTOR CHANGE**

*[From David A. Minster, NA2AA, ARRL CEO and Secretary]*

I am writing to inform you of a leadership change within the Central Division. Brent Walls, N9BA, has resigned as Central Division Director to devote time to professional and personal commitments. He has served as Director since 2025 and previously as Vice Director beginning in 2021.

We're grateful to Brent for his years of volunteer service and for his contributions to ARRL and the amateur radio community.

According to the ARRL Articles of Association, when a vacancy occurs, the Vice Director assumes the role of Director for the remainder of the term. As stated in Article 7:

Upon the occurrence of such vacancy, the Secretary shall proclaim it and thereafter the duties of the Director shall be assumed by the Vice Director, and the Vice Director shall hold office of Director for the remainder of the term. Should the office of Vice Director be vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the President.

Accordingly, Joshua Long, W9HT, of New Haven, Indiana—who has served as Vice Director since 2025—has assumed the office of Central Division Director, effective immediately.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, will appoint a successor as Vice Director for the remainder of the term, which expires in 2027.

## **WSJT-X VERSION 3.0.0 RELEASED**

On April 8, Joe Taylor, K1JT and the WSJT Development Team released the first General Release version of WSJT-X since version 2.7.0. The new version can be downloaded from <https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/>. Scroll down the page to select the proper download for your computer environment. Complete release notes, highlighting the differences between the new version and previous versions, can be found at [https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/Release\\_Notes.txt](https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/Release_Notes.txt)

## **HAMVENTION 2026 COMING IN MAY**

Hamvention 2026 is coming up May 15 through 17 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Tickets for this year's Hamvention are available now by going to <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/>. Tickets are \$30 each.

If you're interested in carpooling with someone for the day on Saturday of Hamvention, IRC members are encouraged to post a note to the "IRCNews" email reflector if you have room for a rider, or if you need a ride. Just address your message to [ircnews@indyradioclub.org](mailto:ircnews@indyradioclub.org)

## **NEW LIFE FOR PART OF THE MFJ LINE**

In an April 13 press release, Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc., announced the sale of the renowned Hy-gain and Cushcraft antenna, rotator, and communication product lines to ITU Corporation, a 25 year old Indiana engineering and manufacturing company. ITU Corporation plans to convert the former Linton National Guard Armory to serve as the new manufacturing hub for Hy-gain and Cushcraft.

The article announcing this great news can be found [here](#).

## **STEPPIR RETURNING TO AMATEUR MARKET**

After exiting the amateur radio market in June of 2025, SteppIR appears to be making a limited return. According to a "splash screen" on the amateur section of their website (<https://consumer.steppir.com/>), "Thanks to some recent (and continuing) exciting developments on the commercial side of things, SteppIR will now be able to guarantee future sales of our consumer product line via online web sales!"

However, once again according to their website, their product offerings will be limited to the Urban Beam Yagi 40m to 6m, 3 element Yagi 20m to 6m, 4 element Yagi 20m to 6m (with the 40/30 loop option available for both the 3 element and 4 element antennas). The site says they will also be selling the SmallIR vertical 20m to 6m, and the BigIR vertical 40m to 6m.

## ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST COMING UP

The Department of Defense (or is it War?) will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, scheduled for May 9, 2026. This is the event where you get to contact Military stations transmitting on their DoD assigned frequencies by transmitting on the amateur frequencies they announce. **Make sure you know how to operate your radio in "split" mode to prevent trying to operate out of the amateur bands.** For a complete run down of what stations are scheduled to operate when and where, point your browser to <https://www.usarmymars.org/events-and-announcements>

## AN HISTORIC LOOK AT IRC MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Continuing a feature started in the October, 2025 newsletter, here is the final installment of the locations of meetings and other historic details of the Indianapolis Radio Club. The information presented in this series was originally compiled by Chuck Crist, W9IH (SK) in 2004, and has been updated as needed.

Year(s)	Meeting locations and other notes
1994 to 2007	Indianapolis Training Center, 2820 N. Meridian St. <i>Club chartered bus to Hamvention 2005 through 2018. Also, Broad Ripple Swapfest and picnic at QTH of Joe Lobriaco, K9OOA (SK) 2005 to 2012.</i>
2008-20	Ivy Tech on Fall Creek Blvd. <i>(2013 - Combined with Ivy Tech Radio Club in order to continue using facility)</i>
2020-22	From March, 2020 until March, 2022, the club met via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first "post-pandemic" in-person meeting was held at the Indiana War Memorial on March 11, 2022.
2022 to present	Salvation Army EDS Training Facility at 4020 Georgetown Road, with occasional Zoom meetings to accommodate presenters. <i>Beginning in July of 2023, the club held annual "Picnic and POTA" events at Fort Harrison State Park. Beginning in August of 2023, the club held "almost monthly" Parks on the Air (POTA) activations, mostly at Fort Harrison State Park.</i>

**UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS  
(check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Date: Apr 18 2026

Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick

(317) 432-7095

Email: [vetestingmarc@yahoo.com](mailto:vetestingmarc@yahoo.com)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Johnson County REMC Building

Register at Website

750 International Dr

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Anderson IN 46016

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Apr 21 2026

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Stephen M. Riley

(765) 425-4627

Email: [wa9cwe@arrl.net](mailto:wa9cwe@arrl.net)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EMA EOC

300 N. Delaware St

GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St

Anderson IN 46016

Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES

Date: Apr 25 2026

Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Joseph March

(317) 224-9433

Email: [joe.march@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:joe.march@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Sheriff's Training Room  
CALL AHEAD  
18100 Cumberland Rd  
Noblesville IN 46060-1624  
Website: <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/908/RACES>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: May 02 2026  
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: William F. Wootton  
(812) 327-5457  
Email: [KC9ACL@ARRL.NET](mailto:KC9ACL@ARRL.NET)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: First United Church  
2420 E 3rd St  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Sponsor: Hancock ARC  
Date: May 02 2026  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Sean Waltz  
(317) 753-8846  
Email: [harcexams@gmail.com](mailto:harcexams@gmail.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Hancock County EOC  
640 South Franklin St  
Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Lafayette IN 47901-1141  
Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team  
Date: May 09 2026  
Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Charles Schwarz

(765) 558-2838  
Email: [tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com](mailto:tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com)  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: The Bindery Artist Studios  
511 Ferry St  
Lafayette IN 47901-1141  
Website: <https://www.tcvet.info/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club  
Date: May 16 2026  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick  
(317) 432-7095  
Email: [vetestingmarc@yahoo.com](mailto:vetestingmarc@yahoo.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Johnson County REMC Building  
Register at Website  
750 International Dr  
Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Anderson IN 46016  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: May 19 2026  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: [wa9cwe@arrl.net](mailto:wa9cwe@arrl.net)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Madison County EMA EOC  
300 N. Delaware St  
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St  
Anderson IN 46016  
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

## 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://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews\\_indyradioclub.org](http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org).

## 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:

**From the April 1976 *Amachewer*:**

DAYTON HAMVENTION It's just about upon us, April 23, 24 and 25th. An even larger crowd is expected for this year's event. Some changes this year will not allow camping in the Hamvention parking lots, and the Saturday evening banquet being downtown at the Expo Center. If you are planning on staying at a motel, forget it as there are none available close to Dayton. We hope to see all the club members there for this fantastic event.

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### Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Randolph County ARC Tailgate: April 25 at Veterans Memorial Park, Parker City. More info at <https://rcarc.net/events>
- Hamvention: May 15 - 17 at Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH. Details at <https://hamvention.org/>
- Monroe County Hamfest: June 13 at Monroe County Fairgrounds. More info coming at <https://bloomingtonradio.club/>

## 2026 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto:w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org)

**To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>**

**Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:**

