



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *December 2020 Newsletter*

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### **Upcoming Meetings:**

January 8: Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE and Jim Crites, W6JIM. Long Island CW Club. This is a club devoted to teaching and cultivating the art of CW. This meeting, as all of their classes are, will be conducted **VIA ZOOM**.

February 12: Dave Arland with a virtual tour of radio station KDKA, **VIA ZOOM**.

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### **Highlights from the December Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm by club president David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 32 in attendance. There were no new hams in attendance. Eric Smith, KC9TJJ, announced that he has upgraded to general since the last meeting. David recognized the passing of long time club member, and former W9JP trustee, Don Hemenover, N9DOO.

Winter Field Day is January 30 and 31. The club will not be organizing any group operations, but club members are encouraged to operate on their own. David announced that the club's 501(c)3 application is complete, just awaiting final approval and filing. Once this is done, the Indianapolis Radio Club will be a non-profit corporation, and will be able to accept tax deductible contributions. Many thanks to the club's treasurer, Mark Burke, W9MGB, for getting this put together. Club dues for 2021 are payable via check, made out to "Indianapolis Radio Club", and mailed to club treasurer Mark Burke, W9MGB, at 6347 Green Leaves Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46220, or to the club's new paypal account at [w9mgb@arrl.net](mailto:w9mgb@arrl.net).

The January meeting will be on the Long Island CW Club.

The next order of business was the election of officers. David asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none. David then went over the slate of officers, as nominated. There were 23 votes from the floor for the slate as presented. The club officers for 2021 are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Next, David introduced the evening's speaker, Bob Heil, K9EID.

Bob started playing accordion in 1950, then his parents bought him a Hammond organ. At the age of 14, he got a job at a restaurant as organist. Then he got a job as a substitute organist at the local Fox theatre. In September of 1956, Bob got his ham ticket. He worked 6 meters all the time in 1956. That's when he first heard SSB. Bob said he was taken under the wing of K0DGE, chief engineer of KMOX, who helped him make a SSB rig and transverter. Bob showed pictures of his first tower at his parents' house. He was very active on 6m and 2m SSB. Bob was contacted by Bob Drake, of Drake electronics, who invited him to Dayton for the predecessor of Hamvention, so he could talk about how he was doing SSB. Bob showed a picture of his big 128 element 2 meter antenna array. He was VHF editor for CQ magazine in 1962. Bob started Halort Electronics with a couple of pieces of VHF gear. He got a job in 1959 playing organ at the Holiday Inn in St. Louis, which was the biggest Holiday Inn in the chain. He started "Ye Old Music Shoppe" in Marissa, IL. This was the start of his audio career. After making a name for himself as a live sound engineer, he got a gig with the Grateful Dead since their gear got confiscated Feb. 2, 1970. This was "The night Rock 'n Roll sound was born". Bob was proud to say that he never did booze, cigarettes, or drugs. He got a call from the Who to provide sound for their 1971 "Who's Next" tour. After this, he got a call from Pete Townsend to do the Quadrophenia tour of 1974 with quad sound (back speakers). The Quad console that he designed for this tour is now in the Rock 'n Roll hall of fame. He toured with fellow ham Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and made the "talk box", which was used on "Rocky Mountain Way". He also built and installed home theatre systems. He demonstrated the difference between inferior microphones and quality microphones. He had help from Paul Klipsch in 1972, of Klipsch Sound. Bob talked about how Bell labs scientists discovered the Fletcher-Munson curve because of poor intelligibility of the telephone system. He demonstrated the importance of 2.5 KHz in speech response. Bob built the first equalizer for ham radio in 1982. This led to the AQ-200. He gave lots of demos stressing the 2.5 KHz "sweet spot". He demonstrated why we need to close mic (no more than 2" from the microphone). When you double the distance to the microphone, you lose half of the effective power (6 dB). If you try to increase the gain of the microphone, you'll get more background noise. He demonstrated the importance of a

REAL wind screen (not just foam). It's best to not talk directly into a microphone, you want to go "across" the microphone. He demonstrated phasing on a microphone, using antenna theory. He used a large diaphragm microphone, and introduced an out of phase signal from the back. This effectively reduces the signal from the back of the microphone by 40 dB . This is the theory behind his PR-40 microphone. He learned lots from studies from Bell Labs. He presented a great demonstration of out of phase microphones, showing how the signal completely nulls out when the elements of the mics are equi-distant from the source.

After Bob's presentation, he answered many questions from those in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **CLUB DUES ARE DUE, AND PAYABLE VIA PAYPAL NOW!**

Indianapolis Radio Club treasurer, Mark Burke, W9MGB, has set up a PayPal account to accept dues payments to the club. The address of the account is [w9mgb@arrl.net](mailto:w9mgb@arrl.net). You can also still pay via check, made out to "Indianapolis Radio Club", and mailed to Mark at 6347 Green Leaves Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

### **FCC TO REQUIRE EMAIL ADDRESSES ON APPLICATIONS**

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective sometime in mid-2021. If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective.

The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail.

For the complete story, point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-require-email-addresses-on-applications>

## **ARECIBO INSTRUMENT PLATFORM FALLS INTO DISH**

The 900-ton instrument platform of the 305-meter radio telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico fell some 400 feet Tuesday morning, crashing into the huge, already-damaged dish below, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported in a December 1 Tweet. “No injuries were reported,” NSF said, adding that it is still assessing the situation. “Our top priority is maintaining safety.” The calamity not only was a final and fatal blow for the observatory but for the people of Puerto Rico.

To read the full story, go to

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arecibo-observatory-instrument-platform-falls-into-iconic-dish>

## **STAY ON TOP OF INTERNATIONAL MAIL RESTRICTIONS**

For those of us that use “snail mail” to exchange international QSL cards, you can check the latest international mail restrictions by pointing your browser to

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>.

## **CONTEST UNIVERSITY HOSTING “PROPAGATION SUMMIT”**

Contest University will be hosting “The 2021 Propagation Summit” Sponsored by DX Engineering and Icom America. The Summit will take place on Saturday, January 23, 2021, from 11 AM – 3 PM (all times are EST) via Zoom Webinar. There are 4 one-hour presentations scheduled covering propagation forecasts for Cycle 25, and other interesting topics, including a refresher on Ionospheric Propagation. To make it even more attractive, there will be a drawing for an Icom IC-705, but you must be present via Zoom to win.

Registration is open now at <https://www.contestuniversity.com/>.

**UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS  
(check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Franklin IN 46131-2443

Sponsor: Mid-State ARC

Date: Dec 19 2020

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

Contact: Jacki M. Frederick

(317) 432-7095

Email: KI6QOG@yahoo.com

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: Franklin Law Enforcement Center

1 Caisson Dr

Franklin IN 46131-2443 Enter at door next to the 90 foot tower

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Sponsor: Indianapolis RC

Date: Jan 9 2021

Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: James K. Rinehart

(317) 721-1458

Email: k9ru@arrl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility

4020 Georgetown Rd

CALL AHEAD!!!

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA

Date: Jan 16 2021

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

Contact: Joe March

(317) 224-9433

Email: jmarch54@att.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Hamilton Cty Emer Operations Ctr

18100 Cumberland Rd  
Sheriff's Campus Training Room  
CALL AHEAD  
Noblesville IN 46060-1624

## **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 December 1970 *Amachewer*:**

At the dinner, Bill Johnson, W9BUQ, SCM for Indiana gave a short talk on the League activities and those who do not already belong to ARRL to get in there on the side of solidarity for the expected attack on Amateur frequencies at the International Telecommunications Conference which will be held next year. *[Some things never change. -- ed.]*

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## **Upcoming Area Radio Events:**

- Contest University "Propagation Summit" (via Zoom): Jan. 23. Go to <https://www.contestuniversity.com/> to sign up.
- Orlando Hamcation (on-line): Feb. 13 -14. Go to <https://www.hamcation.com/> for more info.

- Dayton Hamvention: May 21 - 23. Still on for now. Go to <https://hamvention.org/>.
- Indianapolis Hamfest: July 9-10, 2021 Watch <http://indyhamfest.com/> for more info.

### **2020 Officers:**

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [davids@mediamachine.com](mailto:davids@mediamachine.com)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [dm0584213@gmail.com](mailto:dm0584213@gmail.com)
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - [w9mgb@arrl.net](mailto:w9mgb@arrl.net)
- Chief Operator: Quinton Ritter, KD9MVK - [qritter@ivytech.edu](mailto:qritter@ivytech.edu)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [W9TC@arrl.net](mailto:W9TC@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - [n9nic@arrl.net](mailto:n9nic@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - [jr9554@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jr9554@sbcglobal.net)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [W9TC@arrl.net](mailto:W9TC@arrl.net)

### **2021 Officers:**

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [davids@mediamachine.com](mailto:davids@mediamachine.com)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [dm0584213@gmail.com](mailto:dm0584213@gmail.com)
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - [w9mgb@arrl.net](mailto:w9mgb@arrl.net)
- Chief Operator: OPEN
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [W9TC@arrl.net](mailto:W9TC@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - [n9nic@arrl.net](mailto:n9nic@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - [jr9554@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jr9554@sbcglobal.net)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [kyle.bandy@me.com](mailto:kyle.bandy@me.com)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [W9TC@arrl.net](mailto:W9TC@arrl.net)