



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *February 2025 Newsletter*

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

**March 14:** Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, talks about his experiences in Armed Forces Radio.

**March 22:** W9JP POTA activation.

**April 11:** Dale Hammer, K9NN talks about the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) system.

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### **Highlights from the February Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 40 in attendance. There were several new members and new hams present: Mike Walker, KD9YOO; Joshua Dukate, KD9YPG; Ashley Riner, KE9CJN; Bryce Wolf, KE9CKW

David recognized the passing of former IRC President and Lifetime member, Chuck Crist, W9IH. David spoke about Winter Field Day, where several members of the IRC enjoyed the hospitality (and chili) of the SATERN Group at the EDS Training Facility. David also announced the Amateur Technician review and licensing session that he and Jim Rinehart, K9RU are going to be putting on March 15 at the EDS Training Facility *[more information in this newsletter]*. David pointed out the new “sale table” at meetings, where members can bring no more than a couple of items to sell (there were 2 radios sold at tonight’s meeting). In announcements from the floor, it was announced that former club member Fred Duncan, KC9FLB had passed away. Fred had been a member of the IDHS Ham Team (Auxcomm) for over 20 years. David gave an overview of the club’s finances, stating that for 2025, the club showed a slight “profit”, due in great part

to donations from Kroger, ARRL Club Commission program, and the club's auction. David, from his role as State Government Liaison, gave a brief report from the State House, primarily regarding a bill restricting "Radio Jamming Devices". If this bill becomes law, it will make malicious interference a violation of state law. Finally, David said that if the club wants to participate in Field Day, we need someone to volunteer to head it up.

Ed Lukens, AA9ED won the \$25 DXEngineering gift certificate.

Next, David introduced this evening's presenter, Bryce Bookwalter, KD9YEY. Bryce's presentation was on Backpacking and Portable Radio. Bryce talked about his journey into ham radio, including Civil Air Patrol and a stint in the Army. He now works in the Monroe County Health Department. He gave some good pointers on considerations for gear when backpacking. He said his primary goal is to hike the entire Appalachian Trail.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **GET A NEW HAM LICENSED MARCH 15!**

Do you know someone who wants to become a licensed amateur radio operator? Join David Spoelstra, N9KT and Jim Rinehart, K9RU in a one-day Technician exam review and testing session on Saturday, March 15. The session will be held at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Road, Indianapolis. The session will start at 9:00 am and will conclude with a testing session around 5:00 pm. The cost for this session is \$20 per person, which includes the testing fee, lunch, and refreshments. Those passing the Technician exam will be encouraged to test for their General Class License. Amateur Extra Exams will also be available. Reservations are required. Contact Jim Rinehart, K9RU to get signed up at [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AREA EVENTS**

There are several great opportunities coming up where you can use our hobby to benefit some popular events in Central Indiana. To volunteer for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, 500 Festival Parade, along with several other area events, go to <https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/> and find the event you're interested in. You'll be able to practice your communication skills and have fun at the same time!

## RECAP FROM FEB. 22 CLUB POTA EVENT

Fourteen members and friends of the Indianapolis Radio Club had a fun time at our first Club Parks on the Air (POTA) event of the year on Saturday, February 22, at Fort Harrison State Park. We braved some chilly temperatures, but got on the air around noon with 2 HF stations. Special thanks to Ellen and Gordon Brock (KD9RUD and KD9RUE) once again for the use of their tent that, coupled with a propane heater, made the operating stations very comfortable. 12 of the 14 present were members of the IRC, including one brand new member as of that day! We had 8 operators on the air, including 3 brand new hams. Those 8 operators made a total of 127 contacts on three bands, with several good DX contacts made (Spain, France, Germany, etc.) We are planning on doing the next club POTA event on March 22. Watch your email for details.

Here are some photos from the day. Click [here](#) for all the photos from the day.



Our tent “shack” for the day, courtesy of the Brocks.



Left: New ham Ashley, KE9CNJ gets some instruction from “POTA Bob”, KD9TQH.

Right: Dave, KB2IAC (seated) giving some instruction to new ham Brendan, KE9CNW, while Ken, KJ9B warms up by the heater.



## **INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP MAY 3**

The 2025 Indiana QSO Party is coming up Saturday, May 3, running from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm, Indianapolis time. This is a great time to get on the air, because everyone will be looking for Indiana stations. Once again this year, there will be 10 “rare” counties that may qualify for additional plaques. More information on the INQP can be found at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

## **NO MORE IN-PERSON SKYWARN TRAINING THIS SEASON**

Just in time for storm season, the in-person Skywarn training sessions, normally presented at various locations throughout Central Indiana by local National Weather Service officials have been “DOGEed”. Now, the only training session that is currently scheduled is a virtual session on Tuesday, March 4, at 6:00 pm. Registration is required for this session. To register, go to <https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter> and navigate down to the session on March 4.

## **BACK ISSUES OF IRC NEWSLETTERS ON-LINE**

A couple of years ago, the Indianapolis Radio Club was approached by the folks at *Internet Archive*, who had enlisted the help of Kay Savetz, K6KJN as their “Special Collections Program Manager”. Kay was looking for newsletters and other pertinent information from amateur radio clubs. At that time, the IRC sent Kay PDF copies of all the newsletters and other interesting documents that we had, dating back to 1940. Last month, we sent her all of our newsletters from 2024 to add to the collection. To view the Indianapolis Radio Club collection on the web, go to <https://archive.org/details/indianapolis-radio-club> To see the catalog of documents available in the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications (DLARC), go to <https://archive.org/details/dlarc-newsletters?tab=collection>

## **NEW VERSION OF GA RELEASE OF WSJT-X AVAILABLE**

If you are an FT-8 operator, you will be interested to know that the first General Availability (GA) release of WSJT-X in 2 years, version 2.7.0 is available at <https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/> Once on that page, scroll down to the green “Download” button, under “WSJT”. Make sure you use that download button, as there

are some other buttons that can be misleading and take you places you might not want to go.

## **ARRL TRAINING RESOURCES**

If you know a new ham, or maybe you are a new ham yourself, check out the training resources available from the ARRL at <https://www.arrl.org/newly-licensed-learn-more>. Some of the topics are “What radio equipment should I buy first?”, “How do I build a simple antenna”, and “What can I expect when I make my first contact?”. Several of these topics are available to all, but to access some training resources, you need to be an ARRL member. ARRL membership is a great investment in the hobby, because in addition to these training resources, the ARRL is our voice when dealing with regulation issues that can affect us all. Don’t forget, when you join or renew your ARRL membership, if you do it through the Club Commission Program, the Indianapolis Radio Club will get a “kickback” on your membership fee. For details, contact club treasurer Ken Bandy, KJ9B at [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org)

## **RESULTS FROM FEBRUARY 8 TEST SESSION**

4 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 2/8/2025. 3 new hams earned their first license, and 1 ham earned a license upgrade. Thanks to Jim Rinehart K9RU, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Ken Bandy KJ9B, Jim Brown W0RLD, Bill Leahy K9RFK, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

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

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Mar 01 2025

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 - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19

2420 E 3rd St

Register at 11:30am  
Testing at 12 NOON  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC  
Date: Mar 01 2025  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: David Keiser  
(317) 440-8486  
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Hancock EMA EOC  
640 South Franklin St  
Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Indianapolis IN 46254  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club  
Date: Mar 08 2025  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James Kajder  
(505) 228-3704  
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Register or Call ahead  
Indianapolis IN 46254

Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club  
Date: Mar 15 2025  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick  
(317) 432-7095  
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Johnson County REMC Building  
750 International Dr  
Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Anderson IN 46016  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Mar 18 2025  
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/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Apr 05 2025  
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 - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19  
2420 E 3rd St  
Register at 11:30am  
Testing at 12 NOON  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

## **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 February, 2005 *Amachewer*:**

#### **Planning for Radio Commemorative to USS Indianapolis:**

A committee has been formed to coordinate a radio tribute commemorating the 60th anniversary of the USS Indianapolis. It will be part of a special operating event called “Warships on the Air.” The USS Indianapolis Special Event Station will operate on Saturday and Sunday, June 16th and 17th June. This is a joint operation by the Indianapolis Radio Club, the Indianapolis Radio League, and RCA Radio Club. Operating modes will be: CW, SSB and AM on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Operating slots will be 2 hours long with up to 4 hours consecutive operation permitted. Please let us know if you can help operate the station so that the USS Indianapolis Special Event Station can be on the air the entire 48 hours of the special event.

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### **Upcoming Area Radio Events:**

- Wabash Valley Spring Hamfest: March 22 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds. Go to [https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest\\_2025.pdf](https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2025.pdf) for more info.
- Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest: April 5 at Columbus North High School. More info at <https://carcnet.net/> (although it's info for the 2024 hamfest right now).
- North Central Indiana Hamfest: April 26 at Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, Peru, IN. Go to <https://ncihamfest.com/> for more info.
- Hamvention 2025: May 16 - 18 at Greene County Fair and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. More information and advance tickets available at <https://hamvention.org/>



## 2025 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:**

