



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *February 2026 Newsletter*

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

**February 21:** Club POTA activation. INDIANA WAR MEMORIAL.

**March 13:** IRC Meeting. N4BAA 6 meter presentation. VIA ZOOM.

**April 10:** IRC Meeting. KD9YFY Amateur rocketry. Salvation Army EDS.

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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 32 in attendance. Newly licensed Amateur present was Mark Miller, KE9EHD and new Radio Club member present was Ben Woodard, KD9ZUC. David asked anyone with any suggestions for meeting topics to send their suggestions to [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org) David announced that the next club POTA activation would be Saturday, February 21 at the Indiana War Memorial *[more info in this newsletter]*. David reminded everyone that Club dues are due now. David announced that equipment from 2 estates had been donated to the club. David expressed his thanks to Jim Rinehart, K9RU for checking out the donated gear. Jim talked briefly about dealing with successors on estates. David reminded everyone that Hamvention tickets are available now at <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/> and “early bird” pricing (\$26) is in effect until March 1, at which time tickets will be \$30 each. David reminded everyone that the club’s next meeting is March 13 via Zoom, with Jose, N4BAA giving a presentation on 6 meters. Next, Bob Burns, AK9R talked briefly about the new design amateur radio Indiana license plate that became available on February 13. More information can be found at <https://inarrl.org/news/indiana-amateur-radio-license-plate>

Next, David introduced Dave Arland, to give his presentation about the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Dave started with his experiences with the restoration of a 1937 chairside RCA radio. He talked briefly about the Hard Rock Guitar Hotel being built where the Mirage hotel-casino used to be. He talked about the long lines at the airport to get a cab. That happens when there's an event with an estimated attendance of 148,000 people in town. One of the more curious items he saw at the show was an "analyzing toilet" that could let you know if you have any health issues based upon your waste. Dave said that the transition to "NextGen TV" (ATSC 3.0) is under way, with several vendors exhibiting compatible televisions and auxiliary tuners for use with non-NextGen sets. Dave said the exhibits at CES consume the equivalent of 47 Lucas Oil Stadiums. He said there were unique video displays all over the place. One of the more unique was one that projected onto a car window, presumably to entertain back-seat passengers. There was also a transparent windshield display that hopefully wouldn't be used by the driver while driving. There were "video displays as art", utilizing "E-Ink" displays (the same type of display used in Kindle Readers). There were Ultra-Wide TV displays, with AI information being displayed in the extra screen real estate. Among the more "interesting" items displayed were an "[AI Companion](#)", being built by Lovense and sperm microscopes. He said there were lots of robots, including a Ping pong playing robot, a Piano playing robot, and a Michael Jackson Robot. He had some pictures of some old company names getting a new "lease on life", including RCA, which is now owned by a company in Houston. Other old new names were Proscan, Delorean (bicycle this time) and a Kodak camera-looking Bluetooth speaker. And, of course, Radio Shack is maybe coming back (again). He saw [Rokid AI glasses](#), along with some creepy stuff, such as big-eyed, furry "pets". There was some "throw-back stuff", like a small "Space Invaders" game console. There were some cars displayed, such as a Bugatti with a miniature next to it. He said the US car manufacturers didn't have anything at the show this year. Waymo had an auto-driving taxi. There was a Chinese full size pickup truck that looked a lot like a Chevy or Ford. An interesting and somewhat scary thing he saw was a ChatGPT enabled wearable that sends a summary of your conversation to your email. One of the most thought-provoking items Dave talked about was a life-like electronic pet companion for Alzheimer patients. To close out his presentation, Dave talked about seeing an updated 360° presentation of "The Wizard of Oz" at The Sphere. There were lots of great tech related questions from the audience after Dave's presentation.

The evening wrapped up around 9:10, with Don, N9BGW winning the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate.

## Ham Radio News:

### NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT THIS SATURDAY, FEB. 21!

This Saturday, February 21, the club will be hosting another Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event. **We will be at the USS Indianapolis Radio Room within the Indiana War Memorial (55 E. Michigan St.) for this one!** We will start at our normal time of 12:00 noon, and have 2 HF radios on the air. Enter the building from Michigan Street. If you haven't been to the IWM or the USS Indianapolis Radio Room, you won't want to miss this. The Museum is top notch and the Radio Room puts it over the top! We will have our normal coffee, donuts, and water, so come on out for this special opportunity. Plenty of parking is available at meters or in garages in the area. **Special thanks to Ed Conder, N9IZN and Dave Jarvis, N9KZJ for helping with the arrangements for this!**

### WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

In person National Weather Service Spotter training talks are back this year! Listed below are the times listed so far for Marion and most of the "donut" counties:

- **Marion County** Thursday, March 5, 6:00 pm at Salvation Army EDS Building
- **Marion County** Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm IMPD East District Community Room, 201 Shadeland Ave
- **Marion County** Wednesday, April 8, 3:00 pm Purdue Extension Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E 38th St.
- **Hendricks County** Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am at Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E Main St., Danville
- **Hancock County** Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm at NineStar Connect, 2243 E. Main St., Greenfield
- **Hamilton County** Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am REGISTRATION REQUIRED sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABAF2CA2F4C25-60675009-2026#>
- **Shelby County** Thursday, March 26, 6:00 pm REGISTRATION REQUIRED sign up at <https://forms.office.com/r/qM4NhnN14b?origin=lprLink>
- **Johnson County** Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm Johnson County Sheriff's Dept., 1061 Hospital Rd, Franklin

For the complete list, including several on-line sessions, go to [https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter\\_talks](https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter_talks)

## **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**

2 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 2/14/2026. 1 new ham earned their first license. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Bill Leahy K9RFK, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, Jim Adams KB9JMU, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

## **POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE FOR “HAMCLOCK”**

With the unfortunate passing of Hamclock author Elwood Downey, WB0OEW and the advertised “Kill Date” for Hamclock of June 2026, I have seen a few possible solutions for a replacement of it. The easiest to implement replacement I have seen is “OpenHamClock”, available at <https://openhamclock.com/>. The nice thing about OpenHamClock is it is a customizable web page, so it will run on any operating system, as long as you can access a web browser. While the web browser version is very “feature rich”, it is also possible to install a “local” version on your PC that has a couple more integration options.

## **NEW DESIGN AMATEUR RADIO PLATE AVAILABLE NOW!**

The redesigned Indiana Amateur Radio License Plate is available now! You can see it on the [BMV's website](#) (this is a page showing all the “standard plates”. Just look for “Amateur Radio”). If you already have an amateur radio plate and want it replaced with the new design, you will have to go to a license branch to “amend” your registration. When I went in, it cost me a total of \$18.27, and I was in and out within 15 minutes. If you are getting your first Amateur Radio plate, you will need to go to a branch with your FCC-issued amateur radio license. It is unclear if simply renewing your current AR plate online will get a newly designed one. Thanks goes to our Indiana ARRL Section Manager, Bob Burns, AK9R for his work in making this happen!

There's more information about getting the new plate here:  
<https://inarrl.org/news/indiana-amateur-radio-license-plate>

## **UPDATED 60 METER RULE IN EFFECT NOW**

As of February 13, it is against FCC rules for U.S. stations to operate FT8 at 100w on 5.357; U.S. stations are limited to 9.5w on that frequency.

In order to continue using 100w, U.S. stations have moved to another channel - 5.371.5. To get all of the details (there are many), go to <https://www.arrl.org/news/new-60-meter-frequencies-available-as-of-february-13>

## 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/>. Advance sale tickets are \$26 each, and are available through March 1, when they will go up to \$30 each.

With Hamvention being arguably the largest annual gathering of amateur radio enthusiasts in the world, and only being a short drive from Central Indiana, you owe it to yourself to go at least once. With 6 buildings of Commercial exhibitors, including several equipment manufacturers and vendors, and acres and acres of Flea Market vendors, it can be somewhat overwhelming at first, but if you take your time and have a list of things or vendors you want to see, it will be all worth it! In addition to the exhibitors, there are several food trucks available, with seating areas adjacent. Also, don’t forget that there are three rooms of forums, typically with presentations by equipment manufacturers, specialty operating areas, and clubs. There are also “spin-off” events in the area during Hamvention, such as “Contest University” and several social opportunities.

## AN HISTORIC LOOK AT IRC MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Continuing a feature started in the October, 2025 newsletter, here is the next 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
1943	Jan. 5th - Moved to rooms above DRUG STORE at 25th & Station St. Feb. 5th - Moved to N.E. Community Center, (W9JP back on for a short time).

1950	Indianapolis Parks Dept. Building on W. 30th St..
1951	May 4th - Servicemen's Center at 100 N. Capitol, (W9JP more elaborate).
1952	October - Marine Armory at White River & 29th St.

More to come from the IRC's 111 year history in the next newsletter.

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

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Date: Feb 21 2026

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick

(317) 432-7095

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

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Johnson County REMC Building

750 International Dr

Franklin IN 46131-9733

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

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Mar 07 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: Mar 07 2026  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Sean Waltz  
(317) 753-8846  
Email: harcexams@gmail.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Hancock County EOC  
640 South Franklin St  
Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Indianapolis IN 46254  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club  
Date: Mar 14 2026  
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

Anderson IN 46016  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Mar 17 2026  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: 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/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Date: Mar 21 2026

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick

(317) 432-7095

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

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Johnson County REMC Building

750 International Dr

Franklin IN 46131-9733

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

## **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-March 1956 *Amachewer*:**

Many times in the past Amateur Radio Emergency Corps members have been called in to handle emergency radio communications and did so with the result of national recognition for a job done well. The achievement did not come about by accident. Many hours of handling traffic, learning procedures and operating practices provided the training for efficiency in an emergency. Also a large membership with a complete list of operators and equipment helps the organizing of emergency teams, if and when the need may be present

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## Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Dugger Hamfest: February 28 at Dugger Community Center, 834 S Hicum St, Dugger. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/550912628262491/>
- LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest: February 28 at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. Go to <https://lpcarc.org/hamfest/index2026.html> for more information.
- Wabash Valley Spring Hamfest: March 28 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds, 6550 N SR 59, Brazil, Public Contact: Chuck Procarione W9COD, Phone: 812-239-8061, Email: [Hamfest@w9uuu.org](mailto:Hamfest@w9uuu.org)
- Columbus Hamfest: March 28 at Columbus North High School, 1400 25th St, Columbus, Public Contact: Mike Idlewine WE9MI, Phone: 812-521-6206, Email: [Idlewine@comcast.net](mailto:Idlewine@comcast.net)

## 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:

