



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

March 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

April 10: IRC Meeting. KD9YEY Amateur rocketry. Salvation Army EDS.

April 18: W9JP IRC Club POTA Activation at Fort Harrison State Park.

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

Highlights from the March Meeting:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm by Club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 33 in attendance. David announced next month's meeting will be in-person at the Salvation Army EDS on April 10, with Bryce Bookwalter, KD9YEY talking about amateur rocketry. The May meeting will be via Zoom with John Portune, W6NBC talking about Mag-Loop antennas.

Next, David explained that our originally scheduled presenter, N4BAA was unable to give his presentation tonight due to a scheduling mix-up. As a quick substitute, Ken Bandy, KJ9B gave a presentation on the upcoming Indiana QSO Party (INQP). Ken went over the general information about the INQP; it happens on the first Saturday of May, May 2nd this year, and runs from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm Eastern time. The objective of the INQP is to get all 92 Indiana counties on the air, making as many contacts as possible with other stations, both in Indiana and outside of Indiana. For the past several years, 10 counties have been designated for each INQP as "rare counties", based on the activity in those counties for INQP over the past few years. Ken pointed out how portable operations with Parks on the Air can be combined with the INQP. Also, "county line"

operations can be done, giving out the exchange for both counties, as long as the station is actually on the county line. Ken mentioned that new for this year, SSB (phone) contacts will count the same as CW contacts for the INQP. Ken talked about the many certificates and plaques that are available for many different categories in INQP. Ken noted that the INQP always falls on the same day as the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, which has lots of amateur radio volunteers involved. However, usually operators can do both events without missing much of the INQP. N9KT added that there is a “Worked All Indiana” award available to stations that provide proof of making contact with a minimum of 60 Indiana counties, saying that the INQP is a great time to make those contacts. Ken stressed that even stations that only make a few contacts in the INQP should submit logs. More information on the INQP can be found at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.php> including an activity map showing what counties have planned activity. Ken suggested that anyone wanting to get more information on the INQP sign up for its Groups.io page at <https://groups.io/g/INQP>

Ham Radio News:

FEBRUARY W9JP POTA EVENT A BIG SUCCESS

On Saturday, February 21st, the Indianapolis Radio Club held a Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event at the Indiana War Memorial (IWM) USS Indianapolis radio room re-creation. A total of 23 people attended the operating event, including 12 club members and several guests. Of those 23, 14 operated for 170 contacts. Anyone that was at last March’s event held at the IWM will remember how dismal the HF bands were. Luckily, that was not the case this year! **Special thanks to Ed Conder, N9IZN, and Dave Jarvis, N9KZJ for their help in making this event possible!** Pictures from this event can be found [here](#).

TECHNICIAN AND GENERAL CLASSES COMING UP

On Saturday, April 11, and continuing on Saturday, April 18, Technician and General Amateur Radio classes will be presented at the Hendricks County Senior Center, 1201 Sycamore Lane, Danville, IN. For more information and to register, contact Bruce Enz, W9ENZ at bruceenz@gmail.com

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 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

4 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 3/14/2026. 2 new hams earned their first license. Thanks to Jim Adams KB9JMU, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Gregory Winters K3RW, Jim Rinehart K9RU, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

NEXT W9JP POTA OPERATING EVENT APRIL 18

Coming up on Saturday, April 18, 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!

MARCH POTA OPERATING EVENT WAS CHILLY!

On a chilly and breezy March 11, 18 hardy souls (15 of which were IRC members) met at Fort Harrison State Park to put W9JP on the air. Unfortunately, the HF bands were not cooperating and the 7 operators who got on the air were only able to muster 70 contacts in the almost 3 hours that we were there. At least we had hot coffee and donuts, along with conversation to keep the day from being a bust! Click [here](#) to see some photos from the day.

WANT TO WORK FOR THE ARRL?

[From George Spatta, WIGKS, Laboratory Manager, ARRL]

Today I want to let everyone know about a very rare position at ARRL that has just become available. Joe Caria, NJ1Q W1AW station manager for just months shy of 30 years is retiring. We are seeking someone to fill that position. In a nutshell the W1AW Station Manager maintains and manages the day-to-day operations of the W1AW station.

This includes planning and specifying the equipment and antennas used in the station, diagnosis and repair of failures of station equipment, coordinating needed repairs with equipment manufacturers. Test the spurious emissions from the station transmitters annually or as needed. The W1AW Station Manager is responsible for meeting the operation schedule, staffing schedule, and visitor operations. Making sure the morning bulletins / code practice / qualifying runs are transmitted and overseeing visitor operations are really the meat and potatoes of the day-to-day job.

This is a full time on-site position in Newington, CT. If any of you are interested or know someone who is qualified and may be interested, please have them reach out to me. The position requires that the person hold a current Amateur Extra license.

UPDATE FROM W1AW REGARDING KEPLERIAN DATA MODES

W1AW to change digital mode in Keplerian Data Transmission on Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Beginning with the 6:30 PM EDT (2230z) Keplerian data transmission on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will replace the second digital mode - BPSK31 - with MFSK16.

RTTY (Baudot) will continue to be the first digital mode used in the Keplerian data transmissions. The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions remain the same.

The current W1AW operating schedule - complete with times and frequencies - can be found on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule. The online digital schedule will be updated on the day of the Keplerian data transmission mode change.

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.

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.

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

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
1953-66	Indianapolis Parks Dept. Building at W. 29th & Harding St.. <i>(by 1958, the club was meeting on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month)</i>
1966	Sam's Technical Institute on East 38th Street
1967-70	Indianapolis Parks Dept. 29th & Harding
1970-94	Christian Missionary Headquarters Bldg. in Irvington (Longest duration in one meeting place!) <i>(beginning Sept. 1982, the club started meeting once per month, on 2nd Friday)</i>

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: Mar 21 2026

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

Register at Website

750 International Dr

Franklin IN 46131-9733

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

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Apr 04 2026

Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 327-5457

Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: First United Church

2420 E 3rd St

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254

Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Apr 11 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

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
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
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
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>

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.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the March-April 1960 *Amachewer*:

This week I had the opportunity to read again Clinton DeSoto's book "200 Meters and Down." It was first published about 1937 and covers very thoroughly, the growing pains of amateur radio, from the beginning up through 1936. The manner in which the TRADITION of our hobby was expressed seemed to me to be a most significant thing. As a matter of fact you get a genuine awesome feeling when you realize the role destiny has played in establishing and preserving amateur frequencies for our exclusive use. Destiny with the uncanny foresight of the men who guided and organized the early experimenters who were to become recognized officially as "Amateurs" in the halls of government and by our law makers.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- 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
- 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

2026 Officers:

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

