



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

---

## *December 2023 Newsletter*

---

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

**January 12:** Rich Moseson, W2VU, Editor of CQ Magazine (via Zoom)

**January 27:** Winter Field Day at Salvation Army EDS, 2:00 - 6:00

**February 9:** Annual Consumer Electronics Show recap with Dave Arland (location TBA).

---

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

With this being our annual Holiday Celebration dinner, we had a short meeting prior to dinner. Club Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Bandy, KJ9B, kicked things off around 7:20 pm with self-introductions. There were 34 in attendance.

Ken announced that for Winter Field Day on January 27, the IRC would be working with the SATERN team at the Salvation Army EDS Facility from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm (inside!). Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend and get on the air and eat some chili.

Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, announced that amateur radio support is needed for the Purdue Outing Club Adventure Race (POCAR) in the Hoosier National Forest over the Martin Luther King Jr Day Weekend (January 13 - 15, 2024). See entry later in this newsletter for more information on the POCAR event.

Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, announced that the Indiana War Memorial Plaza National Historical Site has been named a new Parks on the Air (POTA) site (K-10561). This site encompasses the area from American Legion Mall to the Indiana War Memorial. The station at the USS Indianapolis Memorial radio station and exhibit is available to activate this site, with prior approval. Send an email to [ww2ind@comcast.net](mailto:ww2ind@comcast.net) to get more information. There are also several parking spaces and other portable options for activating this new POTA site.

After this short business meeting, we all enjoyed a veritable feast of fried chicken, chili, taco soup, baked beans, LOTS of potato salad, and some desert goodies.

After dinner, door prizes were awarded with the help of Skyler Michael (AC9HP's son). Some of the more notable winners were AC9HP's XYL (Newfield tickets), KC9SKA and AC9ZL's XYL won Indianapolis Symphony tickets. WORLD won the \$100 R and L gift certificate, and Skyler (AC9HP's son) won the \$66 50/50 drawing.

Here's a picture of most of the attendees:



## Ham Radio News:

### POCAR EVENT NEEDS RADIO OPERATORS

Amateur Radio is supporting the Purdue Outing Club Adventure Race (POCAR) in the Hoosier National Forest over the Martin Luther King Jr Day Weekend (January 13 - 15, 2024). This is a 48 hour event requiring day and night shifts.

POCAR is an adventure race where teams of 4 or more navigate the forest using only a map, compass and their wits to find various flags and check in points.

Radio gear will be provided. Operators will be in heated shelters, but will need to dress for the conditions. Interested hams wishing to learn more or sign up for a shift (or two) should contact Matthew, W9SOX via email [w9sox@qsl.net](mailto:w9sox@qsl.net)

More information on the event itself can be found at <https://purdueoutingclub.com/pocar-2024>

## **BANDWIDTH LIMITS REPLACE SYMBOL RATES ON HF**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published new rules adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

For the full story, go to <https://www.arrl.org/news/bandwidth-limits-replace-symbol-rates-on-the-hf-bands-other-bands-open-for-comment>

## **NEW AMATEUR EXTRA QUESTION POOL EFFECTIVE JULY 1**

If you've been studying for your Extra using the current question pool, be sure to test before July 1, 2024. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2024 - 2028 Extra-Class

FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public. The new Extra-Class Question Pool is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and member of the NCVEC QPC, said, “The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today’s amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, 82 new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction [of] the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced.”

Go to

<https://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-extra-class-question-pool-released-effective-july-1-2024> for the complete article.

## **ON-LINE CLASSES COMING UP**

An Extra Class will start on January 9th and run through April 30th (16 weeks). The class meets on Tuesday nights, from 6:30 to 8:30PM. The class will use the ARRL Extra Class License Manual, Twelfth Edition. The class is free. The class will be taught virtually, using the Zoom software. Class size is limited to 25 students. This class will also be streamed live and recorded for later viewing on the W4EEY YouTube channel.

A Technician Class will start on January 10th and run through March 13th (10 weeks). The class meets on Wednesday nights, from 6:30 to 8:30PM. The class will use the ARRL Ham Radio Technician License Manual, Fifth Edition. The class is free. The class will be taught virtually, using the Zoom software. Class size is limited to 25 students. This class will also be streamed live and recorded for later viewing on the W4EEY YouTube channel. Instructors will be Gary W4EEY and Dave KE4EA. To register for one of these free classes or for more information please contact Gary W4EEY by email at: [w4eey@arrl.net](mailto:w4eey@arrl.net)

Also, a General License class will start on January 14 for 6 weeks, running from 1:30 to 4:30 pm on Zoom. The classes are free, and will be taught by K8ZT, W8EZT & N8PLZ. For more information, go to <https://tiny.cc/beahamg>

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

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Dec 19 2023  
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  
200 N Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Sponsor: GCARC  
Date: Dec 26 2023  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller  
(765) 661-5893  
Email: mitchmiller55@gmail.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: EMA Building  
3921 S Garthwaite Rd  
Pre-register only, contact ahead  
Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Website: <http://www.grantarc.org/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Jan 06 2024  
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 876-8689  
Email: wfwootton@gmail.com  
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

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP  
Date: Jan 13 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Sponsor: Mid State Amateur Radio Club  
Date: Jan 15 2024  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick  
Email: ki6qog@yahoo.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Johnson County REMC  
750 International Dr  
Franklin IN 46131-9733

Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC  
Date: Jan 20 2024  
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/>

Noblesville IN 46060-1624  
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES  
Date: Jan 20 2024  
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Joseph March  
(317) 224-9433  
Email: jmarch54@att.net  
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>

Indianapolis IN 46256-1914  
Sponsor: Central Indiana Hams  
Date: Jan 27 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Frank E. Merrill  
(317) 590-4810  
Email: K9LXradio@gmail.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: The McKenzie Center for Innovation and Technology  
7250 E 75th St  
Indianapolis IN 46256-1914

## 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 November - December 1953, Ama-Chewer:**

### TAKE HEED

Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings  
And mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home  
To criticize and knock?  
Do you ever go to visit  
A member who is sick,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?  
Think this over, member,  
You know right from wrong.  
Are you an active member,  
Or do you just belong?

*[Unknown author]*

---

## Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Winter Field Day: 19:00 UTC, January 27 to 18:59 UTC, January 28 (2:00 pm local time). Indy Radio Club WFD at Salvation Army EDS at 2:00 pm.
- Hendricks County Hamfest: Feb. 10 at Hendricks County Fairgrounds. Details forthcoming.

## 2023 & 2024 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [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: 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:**

