



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

December 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

January 9: IRC meeting **via Zoom**. Presentation by Steve McVoy from the Early Television Museum.

January 17: W9JP IRC Club POTA activation at Fort Harrison State Park.

January 24: Winter Field Day at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility.

February 13: IRC meeting in person. Annual CES recap with Dave Arland.

Highlights from the December Meeting:

This was our annual Holiday Pitch-In. There were 46 IRC members, family, and friends in attendance. IRC Vice President, Jim Brown, W0RLD started the buffet line at 6:30 pm. There was the normal abundance of food available for all to enjoy. After dinner, Guna, Dave Rogers, KB9YYM's wife, entertained everyone with a ham radio themed musical program, complete with several embedded holiday-themed Morse Code messages. Following Guna's performance, drawings were held for the many door prizes available, courtesy of Vox Electronics Corp.; KB3IFH QSL Cards; ARRL Indiana Section Manager, Bob Burns, AK9R; and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. The "Grand Prize" of a \$100 DX Engineering Gift Certificate, was won by Cathy Harris, W9QKR. The 50/50 drawing was won by Chris Ellison, KC9GEM.

Here is a photo of most of those in attendance at the Pitch-In. More pictures can be found at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LtcYmu8ghG7NTzJA6>



Ham Radio News:

JOIN US FOR WINTER FIELD DAY JANUARY 24

Saturday, January 24, the Indianapolis Radio Club will join SATERN and ARES at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility to participate in Winter Field Day activities. For those not familiar, [Winter Field Day](#) was started in 2007, and is today run by the Winter Field Day Association. It is similar to the traditional Summer Field Day, just held in the winter time. For those of us that don't really relish the idea of communing with Frozen Mother Nature, we will be operating from the warmth of the EDS building (the same

place our meetings are held). We plan on being on the air around 2:00 pm. So, come and join us for some radio activity, fellowship, and Bert Williams' famous chili!

JANUARY 17 IS THE NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT

The next Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event will be Saturday, January 17 at Fort Harrison State Park. We will plan to be on the air by noon with 2 HF stations. We will be set up at our normal spot, in front of the Visitor Center. If you have heard of the POTA program, but not been able to take part, this is your chance! Even if you're not licensed for HF, there will be control operators on site to help get you on the air. Both radios will have 2 positions, one for the operator and one for a logger, in case you need help logging. As usual, we will be using the club's callsign of W9JP, but if you're registered with the POTA system, you will get credit for the QSOs you make. So, if you're new to HF or POTA, or even if you're an experienced operator, stop by on January 17. We'll try to make sure the new operators get a chance to get on the air, but with 2 radios, anyone that wants to get on should be able to. We will be using the tent supplied by the Brocks, KD9RUD and KD9RUE, as well as a heater, so we should be comfortable, regardless of the weather conditions.

This event is open to everyone, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC to attend. As usual, we will have coffee, donuts, and water available for refreshments. Even if you don't want to operate, just stop on by to chat with everyone.

AREA HAM RECOGNIZED BY HURRICANE WATCH NET

From IN Section News:

The Hurricane Watch Net (<https://hwn.org>) has recognized Jeanmarie Kane KD9UGB for her consistent dedication, support, and professionalism in net operations, particularly during Hurricane Melissa. Jeanmarie received a certificate from the HWN leadership as a thank-you for her contributions to the net. Jeanmarie operates a simple 100 watt station from her home using a vertical antenna.

IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

6 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 12/13/2025. 5 new hams earned their first license and 1 ham upgraded. Thanks to Rich Mullen

WD9HCP, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Jim Brown W0RLD, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

UPCOMING CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

Locally, Tech and General classes sponsored by the LDS emcomm group will be held on Jan. 24 and 31 in Southport. Contact Bruce Enz, W9ENZ at bruceenz@gmail.com for info and to register.

Online, a free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time and will also be recorded. These are the classes that have been held for years sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum.

Note: Attendees should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

CHANGES COMING TO 60-METER BAND

As you have probably seen elsewhere, the FCC has released information adopting a new allocation in the 60-meter band for amateur use. Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. These new rules will go into effect 30 days after their publication in the *Federal Register*. It appears that publication date is still to be determined. All the details on this 60-meter allocation, as well as some updated 420 to 450 MHz coordination information can be found [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS GOING AWAY COMPLETELY

Those of us that have sent or received international QSL cards directly may remember using IRCs. The international reply coupon (IRC), introduced in 1907, has enabled global postage payments for over a century, symbolizing universality and cooperation among UPU member countries. At the 28th Universal Postal Congress in September 2025, members decided to discontinue the IRC as of December 31, 2026, reflecting a shift toward digital postal services. In the US, IRCs have not been available to purchase since January 27, 2013. According to information found on the [USPS website](#), IRCs

purchased in other countries are exchangeable at US Post offices for foreign postage if they're not expired.

Most countries have already stopped using IRCs, but if you're holding any current IRCs, you need to cash them in soon.

ARRL SECTION CONVENTION COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

The ARRL Indiana Section Convention will be held on Saturday, February 7 at the Hendricks County Hamfest. The Hamfest will be held at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville. For more information, go to <https://n9hc.org/>

AN HISTORIC LOOK AT IRC MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Continuing a feature started in the October 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
1928	Merchants Power & Light Company (or "Daylight Corner") & Century Building, S. Pennsylvania St. <i>First IRC sponsored Central Division convention held at the Indianapolis Hoosier Athletic Club. Also first listing of IRC being incorporated.</i> <i>By now, the club is well known as "Indianapolis Radio Club".</i>
1929-32	Club remained at the Century building until 1932 <i>W9JP operates portable at club outings (CW only). Then silent till 1935!</i> <i>First club equipment auction held in 1930 (unknown location).</i>
1932-35	Met in Peoples State Bank Building. Outdoor activities reached a peak.

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)

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Jan 03 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: Jan 10 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

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Jan 24 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 December, 1965 *Amachewer*:

WHY? WHY? WHY?

Why is it that some guys insist on making up facetious phonetics for their call letters? I suppose they are trying to demonstrate their wit, and many succeed half way. The only effect on me is to induce a reverse peristaltic contraction of the esophagus.

ARRL has a perfectly good phonetic list made up of words that are easily understandable, and suggests that all voice-operated stations use a standard list as needed.

So use an accepted phonetic list when needed on the air, and reserve the funnies for eyeball contacts. Ugh, makes me want to spit on the cat.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hendricks County Hamfest and ARRL Indiana Section Convention: February 7 at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Center. Go to <https://n9hc.org/> for more information.
- LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest: February 28 at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. Go to <https://lpcarc.org/hamfest/index2026.html> for more information.

2025 and 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:

