



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

January 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming:

February 10: Our annual report from CES, by Dave Arland. VIA ZOOM

March 10: ARRL Indiana Section Manager Bob Burns, AK9R.

April 14: Tim Duffy, K3LR, from DX Engineering presenting “Going forward for DXing Operations”

Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 pm by club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 46 in attendance. David talked about Winter Field Day, reminding everyone that the Indianapolis Radio Club would be joining the SATERN group at the Salvation Army EDS facility (see more info in this newsletter). David thanked everyone involved in the club’s Christmas party: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB, for overall organization; Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, for putting together and running the *Jeopardy!* game; Jim Rinehart, K9RU, and Bob Burns, AK9R, for prizes. David also announced that the club is receiving another check of just over \$27 from Kroger, as a result of those members that have selected the Indianapolis Radio Club as their choice of charity to be associated with their Kroger Plus card. As a reminder, the Kroger Plus card is absolutely free to get and use. Anyone that needs information getting signed up for the Kroger Plus card should contact club treasurer, Ken Bandy, KJ9B at treasurer@indyradioclub.org.

There were no announcements from the floor.

Next David introduced Kevin Zanjani, KI6DHQ, from Bioenno Power.

Bioenno is based in Santa Anna, CA. The company began in 2010. They have manufacturing plants in Santa Anna and Anaheim. They started manufacturing LiFePO₄ (Lithium Iron Phosphate, also known as LFP) batteries in 2012. The heart of any LiFePO₄ battery is the battery management system (BMS) with protection circuit module (PCM). This prevents overcurrent, overdischarge, undervoltage/overvoltage, and thermal problems. Kevin talked about the many governmental agencies that are Bioenno customers, and some of their applications. Kevin went over some of the several advantages of LiFePO₄ batteries over Lead Acid, such as weight, discharge curve, volatility, etc. Kevin showed some “Go Boxes” that have been constructed utilizing Bioenno products. He pointed out that chargers for LiFePO₄ batteries don’t need a “fancy balancing charger”, they just need a constant voltage, current limited power supply, supplying between 13.8 and 15 VDC, and current capability for the particular battery. Bioenno does offer reasonably priced simple chargers for their batteries. LFP batteries are capable of 2000 - 3000 charge cycles. Kevin said that recently Bioenno has expanded their solar panel lines, in response to customer requests.

After Kevin’s prepared talk, he fielded many questions from those in attendance. One of the more interesting questions was about what the next battery technology will be. Kevin said that there will be “solid state” batteries that will be capable of use down to -40C!

The meeting adjourned to casual conversation around 8:30 pm.

[The video of this meeting is available at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/np768jvqq7pk5jj/IRC%20presentation%20from%20Bioenno.m4v?dl=0> PDFs of Kevin’s slides can be found at https://indyradioclub.org/BIOENNO_POWER_PRESENTATION_2023.pdf]

Ham Radio News:

DUES PAYMENT INFORMATION UPDATE

A new PayPal account has been set up for the Indianapolis Radio Club as a proper not-for-profit business account. To simplify dues payments, you can click on the “Donate” button on the page at <https://indyradioclub.org/membership.html>. For the time being, both the new account and the old (treasurer@indyradioclub.org) account will be active, but eventually the “treasurer” account will be shut down. A nice feature of the

new account is you don't even need a PayPal account to use it. You can pay with any credit or debit card, if you prefer. Note that none of your card info is seen by the club.

Annual dues to the Indianapolis Radio Club are payable any time. If you are currently paid-up, any payment made now will extend your membership by another year. You can always check your current membership status by going to <https://tinyurl.com/radio-club-members>. Individual dues are \$20 per year, family dues (for all family members residing at the same address) are \$30 per year, Student membership (with valid student ID) is \$10. Dues can be paid by following this [link](#), cash at a meeting, or check (made out to Indianapolis Radio Club) either at a meeting or mailed to: Indianapolis Radio Club, 7405 E. County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112.

“VOTA” EVENT RUNNING ALL YEAR

If you enjoyed the ARRL's 2014 “Centennial QSO Party”, you're going to enjoy this year's “Volunteers on the Air” operating event. It runs all year, with ARRL appointees, volunteers, staffers, and members worth points (ranging from 300 points for the ARRL president to 1 point for ARRL members) in this year-long contest. Each state will be featured for two weeks during the year, with registered stations signing “W1AW/portable”. Indiana will be featured in July and December (signing W1AW/9). If you're interested in operating as one of the Indiana stations, contact Mark Williams K9GX at k9gx@thepoint.net or Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA at k9la@arrl.org to volunteer and coordinate your on-the-air time. For more information on the program, point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air>.

IN PERSON CLASSES

From our friends at the Indy ERC group comes news of some in person ham radio licensing classes:

1. A HAM technician class has been scheduled for Saturday January 21st and Saturday 28th at the Drexel Garden Christian Church, 2200 Beulah Avenue, Indianapolis from 9am to 4pm. No cost for class or test. The sign-up link is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cert-amateur-radio-technician-class-with-testing-tickets-488119387227>. Please address questions to Gordon Cotton at goblue1941@gmail.com.

2. HAM Technician classes will be Saturdays February 18th and 25th of 2023, at the North Stake Center next to the Indianapolis Temple, at 11565 Temple Dr Carmel IN 46032, from 9am to 4pm with Testing in the afternoon of the 25th. Tests will be offered for General and Extra levels as well. To register contact Bruce Enz at brucenz@gmail.com.

Also, the Hancock Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a Technician License course starting the second week of March, and lasting 6 weeks, with one 2 hour class meeting per week. The classes will be held in Greenfield. For more details, including a questionnaire and registration form, go to <https://w9atg.org/technician-license-class-2/> The classes will be free, but there are the normal charges associated with testing and licensing.

QRZ AND GIGAPARTS ANNOUNCE NEW HAM PROGRAM

You might remember the deal QRZ and GigaParts offered late last year to get a free radio to new hams. Well, the deal is back, basically. This time RT Systems has joined QRZ and GigaParts. The new ham (licensed for 6 months or less) gets the following for \$21.99: Explorer QRZ-1 Handheld radio, Programming cable, RT Systems Programming Software, Premium QRZ Subscription. That is over \$150 worth of stuff for just over \$20! The program is scheduled to go through the end of March. Complete details can be found at <https://www.gigaparts.com/qrzjumpstart>

LoTW ISSUES

If you are a user of ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system, you may have noticed that it was sporadically up and down for a week or so around the first of the year. After ARRL staff investigated the cause, they found that an update to the *GridTracker* software package had caused the program to issue a request for every one of the users' entire LoTW history to be downloaded as an ADIF file upon startup of the software or on demand. This sort of report takes time to assemble and deliver. To make matters worse, when the report was not delivered by the interval they set as their expectation, the software would request the report again, and again, every 500 msec. This essentially set up a "denial of service" scenario, tying up the system and making it unusable.

The author(s) of *GridTracker* were notified of the issue, and have issued an update to the application, but it is up to the users of the application to install the update. LoTW is

working much better now. *If you are a user of GridTracker, please make sure your software is up to date.*

FIRST HAMFEST OF YEAR IN HENDRICKS COUNTY

Coming up on Saturday, February 11, the Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society is once again sponsoring the Hendricks County Hamfest at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville, IN 46122. The Hamfest runs 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. There is plenty of free parking. Admission is \$7 and includes a door prize ticket.

Tim Gardner, N9LF, will be at the Hamfest checking cards for DXCC, WAS, VUCC awards, including 160 meter cards.

K9DC APPOINTED TO ARDC TAC

Our own Dave Gingrich, K9DC, has been appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee of Amateur Radio Digital Communications. Dave's role, as part of the TAC, will be to advise "the board and staff on 44Net technology, architecture, and policy." Congratulations to Dave on this appointment. To get more info on this, point your browser to <https://www.ampr.org/news-and-updates/>.

JOIN US FOR WINTER FIELD DAY

The IRC will once again be joining the SATERN group for WFD at the Salvation Army EDS Facility, 4020 Georgetown Road. We hope to see you on Saturday, January 28, starting at 2:00 pm. Come to operate, socialize, and EAT CHILI!

NEW VERSION(S) AVAILABLE FOR WSJTX

There is a new general release of WSJT, Version 2.6.0. Here's what K1JT, Joe Taylor, says about it:

The WSJT Development Team is pleased to announce the WSJT-X 2.6.0 General Availability (GA) release. Program changes from version 2.5.4, released one year ago,

are described in the Release Notes, found at https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/wsjt-x-doc/Release_Notes_2.6.0.txt

Shortly after 2.6.0 was released, a bug fix update was released: WSJT-X 2.6.1 General Availability (GA) release is now available for free download from SourceForge.

Version 2.6.1 is a bug-fix release. It corrects a flaw in Q65 mode that prevented display of the T/R period spinner, makes initialization of the decoded text font more robust, does more complete initialization when the program is started in FT8 Hound mode, and corrects a bug causing program crash with more than 100 decodes in a single FT8 sequence. Additional details can be found in the Release Notes: https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/wsjt-x-doc/Release_Notes_2.6.1.txt

Also, the WSJT Home Page has moved to <https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/>
Direct link to installation packages can be found at <https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/wsjt-x.html>

SWODXA DX DINNER ANNOUNCED FOR HAMVENTION

The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) will again sponsor the DX Dinner, held in conjunction with the 2023 Dayton Hamvention. This will be the 38th annual dinner, and will be held Friday, May 19th, 2023, at the University of Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409.

As usual, they will have another fantastic array of great prizes at the Dinner and the DX Forum on Saturday!

There will be a cash bar starting at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00. Following the event, there will be a separate room and cash bar available for more fellowship. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new hams and to renew old acquaintances as well as to learn about past DXpeditions and those in the planning stages. The keynote speaker for this year's DX dinner will be Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA.

You can book your tickets for the dinner now at <https://swodxaevents.org/>

MORE WAYS TO HELP THE CLUB

Don't forget, if you aren't an ARRL member, but want to join, or want to renew your membership, you can earn the Indianapolis Radio Club a "commission". Also, if you shop at Kroger or Amazon, the Indianapolis Radio Club is registered with both to receive donations based on your purchases. Contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B at treasurer@indyradioclub.org for details.

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

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: Jan 21 2023
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

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Jan 24 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
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <http://www.grantarc.org/>

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP
Date: Feb 11 2023
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James Kajder
(505) 228-3704
Email: jkajder@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Feb 21 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/>

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 January, 1953 AMA-CHEWER:

The state legislature is again now in session and any of you fellows who have been wishing for a bill to allow licensed hams to get their call-signs on their license plates will be interested to know that such plans are being formed again. Come on out to club meetings and contact club director Alvey Pittman, W9JJC for full details, and learn how you too, may possibly help put this measure across when and if help is needed.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hendricks County Hamfest: February 11, 2023, at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds Conference Center. Go to <https://n9hc.org/> for more information.
- Wabash Valley ARA Hamfest: March 11 at the Clay County 4H Fairgrounds, Brazil, IN. For more info, go to <https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.php>

2023 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – 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