



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

---

## *June 2025 Newsletter*

---

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

**June 21:** W9JP Indianapolis Radio Club POTA operating event at Fort Harrison St. Park

**July 26:** 3rd Annual “Picnic and POTA” at Fort Harrison State Park.

---

### **Highlights from the June Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 42 in attendance, including guests. Robert Fay, KD9WOF was recognized as a new member of the club. David reminded those present of the Welcome Net - Indy, held on the 146.97 (107.2 tone) repeater on Wednesdays at 8:00 pm. David also mentioned the upcoming club POTA activation coming up on June 21. He also announced that Don Kirk, WD8DSB is soliciting hams to help with a tandem bicycle event coming up on Labor Day weekend *[more info in this newsletter]*. Also, David announced the club’s 3rd annual “Picnic and POTA” event coming up July 26. Steve Wendt, KB9RDS recognized Mike, KD9YOO for some recent contest placements, including #2 Single Operator Assisted Low Power in Indiana for the CQ WW 160-meter contest and #5 Single Operator Low Power in call area 9 for the CQ WPX contest. Those are great accomplishments for a relatively new amateur (licensed in March of 2024)!

Next, David started the club’s annual equipment auction. He did a great job as auctioneer, utilizing some techniques he picked up from the Mecum® auction he attended, but on a smaller scale. All in all, it was a successful auction, with very few of the hundreds of items not being bought. There were 13 sellers and 22 buyers. Total sales were just over \$1800 and over \$300 of those proceeds were donated to the club.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **JUNE 21 IS THE NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT**

The next Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event will be Saturday, June 21 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 June 21. 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.

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.

### **CLUB PICNIC AND POTA JULY 26**

The Third Annual Indianapolis Radio Club "Picnic and POTA" is coming up on Saturday, July 26. Once again, we will be in the Cherry Tree Shelter at Fort Harrison State Park. The club will again furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, ice, and condiments. We'll also plan to have a couple of HF stations on the air to make some POTA contacts. Please complete the RSVP form at <https://forms.gle/6GQ9rDX8Q8DAfSMZ7> by July 19. The picnic is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy some time in the park. Remember, our picnic is open to anyone, club membership is not required. However, there will be a receptacle for donations available.

Remember also that unless you have an annual State Park pass, there is an admission charge of \$7 per vehicle or \$2 per person on foot or bicycle as established by Indiana State DNR.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE IRC

You can support the Indianapolis Radio Club in any, or all, of these four ways:

1. Join the club. Your annual membership dues (\$20 for an individual, \$30 for a family (in the same household), or \$10 for a student, with valid ID) help support the club in its mission to promote our hobby by sponsoring monthly VE testing sessions, reaching out to new licensees, and welcoming them to the hobby. The easiest way to join is to go to <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment> and complete the process through PayPal.
2. Pay your ARRL membership dues through the IRC, utilizing the Club Commission program. The club will get a \$5 commission for renewals, or a \$20 commission for new memberships. Fill out the form available at <https://tinyurl.com/ARRL-membership-form> and send it, along with payment, to club treasurer, KJ9B. Or fill out one of the forms at an in-person meeting.
3. Join the Kroger Community Rewards program (it's free!) by going to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and designating the Indianapolis Radio Club as the charity you want to support. The club then gets a quarterly donation from Kroger based on a percentage of the amount spent by those supporting the club.
4. If applicable, donate part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to the Indianapolis Radio Club, a 501(c)(3) charity.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B, at [treasurer@indyradioclub.org](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org).

## AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BICYCLE EVENT

Looking for volunteer ham radio operators to support the Midwest Tandem Rally 2025 which is being held in Westfield, Indiana over the Labor Day weekend. There will be approximately 200 to 250 Tandem Bicycles (400 to 500 people) riding one of at least 3 different available distances (typical distances 28 to 65 miles each day).

I still need to fill the following positions on Sunday, August 31, as shown below:

- Need 1 more ham radio operator on Sunday to be a roving SAG driver and he/she needs a vehicle that can carry a Tandem bicycle in case the need to transport arises (need a pickup truck or large SUV with seats that can be removed or that fold down flush to the floor).

- Need 1 more stationary ham on Sunday (located at the net control station at the Wyndham Hotel at Grand Park to work alongside N9BA, no Net Control experience required).

We will be using a 2 meter repeater and you will need to supply your own 2 meter gear.

Roving SAG vehicles will be compensated for their mileage at the event at \$0.50 per mile (but not to and from their home to the event).

Free volunteer T shirt and free lunch provided to all volunteers. More info on the event can be found at <https://mtrally.org/>

If interested please contact Don Kirk (wd8dsb) at [wd8dsb@aol.com](mailto:wd8dsb@aol.com) Don would really like to fill these positions by the first week of July if at all possible.

## **HAMVENTION ATTENDANCE RECORD SET**

The Dayton Hamvention saw an attendance of 36,814 individuals this year. In 2024, the event attracted 35,877 attendees, while in 2023, there were 33,861 participants. Mark your calendars for next year's Hamvention on May 15 - 17, 2026.

## **STEPPIR DROPPING CONSUMER LINE**

News broke a couple weeks ago that SteppIR is dropping their Consumer (Amateur Radio) line of antennas. On their website at <https://consumer.steppir.com/> is the following:

“Due to several emerging factors, SteppIR will cease production of consumer antennas and accessories on August 31, 2025....”

## **ARRL RESUMING LIFE MEMBERSHIP SALES**

After pausing Life Membership sales for a few months, the ARRL Board resumed accepting those memberships using a graduated scale ranging from \$3,333 for those under age 30 to \$960 for those over age 70. For more information, scroll to the bottom of this page: <https://www.arrl.org/membership>

## **TWO ARRL STUDENT MEMBERSHIP RATES AVAILABLE**

The ARRL has two reduced-cost or no-cost memberships available to young members:

- The Full Student Membership is \$30/year and is available to U.S. amateur radio licensees who are under the age of 26 years and a U.S. resident. A Full Student Member can vote in elections for Division Director, Vice Director, and Section Manager.
- The Free Student Membership has no cost and is available to U.S. amateur radio licensees who are under the age of 21 years and a U.S. resident. This is an associate membership without voting privileges.

For more information, point your browser to <https://www.arrl.org/student>

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

ranklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Date: Jun 21 2025

Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

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/>

Lafayette IN 47901-1141

Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team

Date: Jun 21 2025

Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Charles Schwarz

(765) 558-2838

Email: tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: The Bindery Artist Studios  
511 Ferry St  
Lafayette IN 47901-1141

Greencastle IN 46135-7587  
Sponsor: PCAUXCOM  
Date: Jun 28 2025  
Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: George E. Edenfield  
(765) 721-1771  
Email: Gedenfield@yahoo.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Putnam Cty EOC  
1600 W County Road 225 S  
TECHNICAN TESTING ONLY!!!  
Bring pencils & calculator  
Greencastle IN 46135-7587

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Jul 12 2025  
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 - 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 46254  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Jul 12 2025  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James Kajder  
(505) 228-3704  
Email: [testing@indyradioclub.org](mailto: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: Jul 15 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: [wa9cwe@arrl.net](mailto: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: Jul 19 2025  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
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/>

Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC  
Date: Jul 19 2025  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Sean Waltz  
(317) 753-8846  
Email: waltz1972@msn.com  
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: Jul 26 2025  
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>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Aug 02 2025  
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 - 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 46254

Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Aug 09 2025

Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: James Kajder

(505) 228-3704

Email: [testing@indyradioclub.org](mailto:testing@indyradioclub.org)

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility

4020 Georgetown Rd

Register or Call ahead

Indianapolis IN 46254

## **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 June, 2005 *Amachewer*:**

### **Planning for Radio Commemorative to USS Indianapolis**

A committee has been formed to coordinate a radio tribute commemorating the 60th anniversary of the USS Indianapolis. It will be part of a special operating event called "Warships on the Air." The USS Indianapolis Special Event Station will operate on Saturday and Sunday, July 16th and 17th. This is a joint operation by the Indianapolis Radio Club, the Indianapolis Radio League, and RCA Radio Club. Operating modes will be: CW, SSB and AM on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter bands. Operating slots will be 2 hours long with up to 4 hours consecutive

operation permitted. Please let us know if you can help operate the station so that the USS Indianapolis Special Event Station can be on the air the entire 48 hours of the special event.

---

### **Upcoming Area Radio Events:**

- Amateur Radio Day Tailgate: June 28 at Camp Louis Ernst, 9139 SR 7, Dupont, IN (about midway between North Vernon and Madison on SR 7). For more info contact David Redding Jr. N9VDT, phone 812-341-4202, email: [dave@n9vdt.com](mailto:dave@n9vdt.com)
- Van Wert (Ohio) Hamfest: July 20 at Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH. More info at <https://w8fy.org/>
- East Central Indiana Hamfest: July 26 in Portland, IN. More info at <https://sites.google.com/view/ecindianahamfest/home>

### **2025 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:**

