



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## October 2020 Newsletter

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### Upcoming Meetings:

November 13: Steve Herman, W7VOA. A veteran journalist for the Voice of America, currently serving as VOA's White House Bureau Chief. **VIA ZOOM**

December 11: Bob Heil, K9EID. "The Science of Audio" .... Very educational delivering information about audio, antennas, building and proper use of your station, all starting with a study of the 1920 study that Bell Labs did about articulation of the human voice. **VIA ZOOM**

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### Highlights from the October Meeting:

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 7:37 pm by club president David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 28 in attendance. Announcements: Club treasurer, Mark Burke, W9MGB, announced that annual club dues of \$20 are payable now. Send a check made payable to the Indianapolis Radio Club to Mark at 6347 Green Leaves Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46220. David announced that the club's Webmaster, Ron "Radar" Cooper, WB9DKL, is working on a facelift of the club's website to make it a bit more streamlined and appealing. We are all looking forward to the new and improved website! It was announced that the IRC is looking into doing Winter Field Day (January 30 & 31, 2021) possibly in conjunction with the Salvation Army club at the EDS site again. More to follow. David announced that elections for club officers will take place at the November meeting.

Next, David introduced Mark Smith, KR6ZY, to talk about Arduino building blocks for audio interfacing. Mark gave a well received presentation at the QSO Today Ham Expo 2020. Mark's nickname is "Smitty Halibut". He has been a ham since 1992. He joined college club W6BHZ in 1993. Mark has been on the "Ham Radio Workbench" Podcast many times. He has what he calls an "Accidental YouTube Channel". He refers to himself as a "Jack of all trades, master of none". Professionally, Mark works in Unix systems and IP Engineering.

The specifics of tonight's presentation are on making satellite contacts via handheld radios more convenient.

The video presentation on tonight's topic that Mark gave at the QSO Today Ham Expo is on his YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRsvs6W9eDE>

A PDF of the slide deck from this presentation is available at <http://halibut.com/~mark/Audio%20Building%20Blocks%20-%20Mark%20Smith%20KR6ZY.pdf>

Mark's email address is [mark@halibut.com](mailto:mark@halibut.com).

The meeting was adjourned to individual conversations at 8:45.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **FCC "SUNSETS" AMATEUR 3.5 GHz BAND**

Despite vigorous and continuing opposition from ARRL and others, the FCC has ordered the "sunset" of the 3.3 – 3.5-GHz amateur radio secondary spectrum allocation. The decision allows current amateur activity on the band to continue, "grandfathering" the amateur operations subject to a later decision. The FCC proposed two deadlines for amateur operations to cease on the band. The first would apply to the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz segment, the second to 3.3 – 3.4 GHz. The FCC will establish the dates once it reviews additional comments.

"We adopt our proposal from the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to remove the amateur allocation from the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz band," the FCC said in its R&O. "[W]e adopt changes

to our rules today that provide for the sunset of the secondary amateur allocation in the band, but allow continued use of the band for amateur operations, pending resolution of the issues raised in the Further Notice.”

For the complete explanation, go to

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-orders-amateur-access-to-3-5-ghz-band-to-sunset>

## **MESSAGE FROM ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR, KERMIT CARLSON, W9XA**

Dear ARRL Central Division Member,

Many Central Division members have contacted me in the past month about the FCC's proposal for a \$50 "application fee" for license applications in the Amateur Radio Service. The fees Notice of Proposed Rule-making was published in yesterday's Federal Register (<https://tinyurl.com/yyk8f2yp>).

The deadline for comments is was November 16, and the Reply comment deadline is November 30.

Since the "official" comment period is now open, now is the time to file comments against this proposal!

Below are some details to consider when filing comments to the FCC in response to the NPRM. Our thanks to Dave Siddall K3ZJ, ARRL Counsel, for these guidelines included below. Please be sure to carefully review the paragraphs; "Some Suggestions" as the information therein will assist with much of the applicable background.

This subject is critical, the timing is critical. I urge you to contact the FCC. Address and related information is contained in the article referenced in the Federal Register. Please use your own words to express your objections to the proposed fees.

(Good) Arguments Against FCC Fees for Radio Amateurs

Amateurs contribute to the public good. In many areas they provide an emergency communications backbone capability at no taxpayer cost. Consistently we have witnessed storms and natural disasters completely wipe out internet, cellular, and other means of communication. Radio amateurs often fill that void on an unmatched, flexible basis when needed. One recent example is the California wildfires.

Unlike operators in other FCC licensed services, Amateur Radio operators by law domestic and international -- must eschew using their license for any pecuniary interest. Amateurs are prohibited from earning or charging any money for any communications activity. The expenses for their equipment and activities come out of their own pockets, with no opportunity for reimbursement or payment of any kind.

The United States is experiencing a severe lack of RF engineers and expertise at the very time it is needed by the burgeoning wireless industries. Amateur radio is helping to meet the deficit, but much more is needed and youngsters (High School and College-aged) are least able to afford licensing fees. RF knowledge and related digital expertise is needed to maintain U.S. leadership in wireless industries.

At a minimum, young people (below the age of 26) should be exempt from the proposed license fees.

Amateur radio is self-regulating;

(a) Amateur examinations are written and administered by radio amateur volunteers.

(b) Examination results and paperwork most often are submitted electronically to the FCC. Electronic submission could be required if there would be a cost savings to the Commission.

(c) Amateur radio educational classes are conducted by volunteers who by-and-large do not charge fees or tuition for teaching.

(d) The amateur service, in cooperation with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has a volunteer corps that monitors the amateur airwaves and has programs that try to prevent their misuse before FCC involvement might be needed. The amateurs also observe non-amateur signals both within amateur spectrum and outside it, and report unusual or suspicious signals.

Amateur radio continues to be a source of significant technological innovation that should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Some Suggestions:

We do not recommend arguing that the \$50 fee every 10 years, which amounts to \$5.00 a year, will harm or "kill" amateur radio, even though as proposed this is for each covered application, which includes upgrade applications. Tech-General-Extra could be \$150. If exams [are] taken at different sessions this would be a substantial amount. But it is the wrong way to say the whole service turns on \$5/year for each licensee.

The Commission argues that the charges are required by the statute. The word used in the Congressional Act which directs the FCC to collect fees is "shall" , which is mandatory, not optional. But the statute does not set the amount, nor does it prohibit reasonable exceptions evidenced by the Commission's proposal to exempt from fees administrative update applications based on policy grounds.

There is a long history and precedent on charging fees for the licensing service involved, just as there is for passports, green cards, drivers' licenses (issued by states), etc. Better to make pertinent arguments on why the fees would impair the public benefits of the amateur radio service than argue that the whole service might die as a result of a fee that, in fact, is less than the fee many of us paid in the 1960's and 1970's.

For background: this proceeding is being handled by staff unfamiliar with amateur radio. It is being handled in the FCC's Office of Managing Director (OMD), not in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau where the amateur-specific Part 97 matters are handled. The focus of OMD is accounting budgets and the like for the entire Commission. The fee proposals cover every FCC license and service across the board and the consideration was directed by Congress. It is recommended that respondents keep "ham jargon" out of comments, which would not be understood by the intended recipients.

Thank you.

Kermit Carlson W9XA

## **ONLINE GENERAL CLASS AVAILABLE**

*The following was posted on the "Daily DX" newsletter:*

I am starting a General Class course on Zoom beginning Thursday, November 5, and running for 9 sessions. Due to holiday breaks, the course ends January 21. Sessions will start at 6:30 Eastern Standard Time (2330 UTC), and run 3 hours. No charge, of course. These are the classes sponsored by the National Electronics Museum that we have been holding for years. Please publicize this with anyone you know whom you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email me at [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net).

**UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS  
(check with sponsor before planning to attend)**

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Oct 20 2020  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Madison County EOC  
200 Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238

Columbus IN 47201-7477  
Sponsor: SCICSG  
Date: Oct 20 2020  
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Michael D. Tanksley  
(812) 350-5175  
Email: kd9eau@gmail.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Columbus Twp. Fire & Rescue  
935 Repp Dr  
Columbus IN 47201-7477

Rushville IN 46173-1846  
Sponsor: Michael Elder  
Date: Oct 24 2020  
Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
Contact: Michael Dwight. Elder  
(765) 389-0166  
Email: wj9e42@yahoo.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Rushville Public Library  
130 W 3rd St

Call 4-5days in advance  
to schedule appointment  
Rushville IN 46173-1846

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Nov 07 2020  
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 08-01 session full  
2420 E 3rd St  
Register at 11:30am  
Testing at 12 NOON  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-1100  
Sponsor: Hancock ARC  
Date: Nov 07 2020  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Jill Schaumloeffel  
(317) 363-4674  
Email: n2jlc@yahoo.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Park Chapel Christian Church  
1176 E McKenzie Rd  
Greenfield IN 46140-1100

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169  
Sponsor: Indianapolis RC  
Date: Nov 14 2020  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
Contact: Kenneth J. Bandy  
(317) 446-3312

Email: ken.kj9b@gmail.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
CALL AHEAD!!!  
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Nov 17 2020  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Stephen M. Riley  
(765) 425-4627  
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Madison County EOC  
200 Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238

Mooresville IN 46158-1333  
Sponsor: Formidable Amt Radio Team  
Date: Nov 18 2020  
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Bill Spann  
(317) 831-5582  
Email: wlspann@iquest.net  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Brown Township Government Ctr  
471 N Samuel Moore Pkwy  
also: 3176507528  
Mooresville IN 46158-1333

Franklin IN 46131-2443  
Sponsor: Mid-State ARC  
Date: Nov 21 2020  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)



Contact: Jacki M. Frederick  
(317) 432-7095  
Email: KI6QOG@yahoo.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Franklin Law Enforcement Center  
1 Caisson Dr  
Franklin IN 46131-2443 Enter at door next to the 90 foot tower

Spencer IN 47460-1740  
Sponsor: Owen County ARA  
Date: Nov 21 2020  
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Lisa M. Cooper  
(812) 361-4447  
Email: kd9nkk@yahoo.com  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Spencer Christian Church  
110 S Montgomery St  
Corner Market & Montgomery  
Pre-Registration Urged  
Spencer IN 47460-1740

## **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 October 1950 *Amachewer*:**

Sudden thought: How does a fellow operating mobile radiophone comply with the regulation concerning monitoring of percentage of modulation?

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### Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- October 16 - 18: BSA Jamboree on the Air. Go to <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/> for details.
- October 17: ~~Hamtober Fest, Lynnville, IN~~ **CANCELED**
- October 17 Shelbyville Tailgate Hamfest, Shelby Co. Fairgrounds. Go to <http://brvars.com/shelbyville-tailgate-2015/> for more info.
- November 7: Hoosier Hills Hamfest, Lawrence Co. 4-H Fairgrounds. Go to <http://www.w9qyq.org/pdf/hamfest.pdf> for more info.
- November 14 and 15: ~~Fort Wayne Hamfest.~~ **CANCELED**
- November 28: Wabash Valley ARA Turkeyfest, Clay County Fairgrounds. Go to [https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest\\_2020.pdf](https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest_2020.pdf) for more info.

### 2020 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [davids@mediamachine.com](mailto:davids@mediamachine.com)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [dm0584213@gmail.com](mailto:dm0584213@gmail.com)
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [kj9b@arrl.net](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - [w9mgb@arrl.net](mailto:w9mgb@arrl.net)
- Chief Operator: Quinton Ritter, KD9MVK - [qritter@ivytech.edu](mailto:qritter@ivytech.edu)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [W9TC@arrl.net](mailto:W9TC@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - [n9nic@arrl.net](mailto:n9nic@arrl.net)
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - [jr9554@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jr9554@sbcglobal.net)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [W9TC@arrl.net](mailto:W9TC@arrl.net)