



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

"The oldest continuously operating Amateur Radio Club in the United States"

April, 2007 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

May 11, 2007: D-Star digital radio presentation

June 8, 2007: Annual equipment auction

Highlights of the April 13, 2007 meeting:

This meeting started off with a special tour of the WISH-TV facilities, arranged and hosted by Jack Parker, W8ISH. Jack and Tom Weber, KC9GMJ, from WISH-TV's engineering department, gave us a brief talk about the station, and what the future holds as it relates to digital TV. The large group from the Radio Club (numbering around 40) was then broken down into groups of 10 to 12 for the actual tour. The tour guide of my group was John LeSage, KB9TSG. John is one of the 10 or so hams that are currently on staff at WISH, and is the main live truck operator. John gave us a very thorough and informative tour of the station, from the newsroom, to the studios, through the engineering department, and the master control hub, where 12 LIN owned television stations are controlled from. These other stations are located in Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Lafayette, and several out of state locations in Ohio, New York and Rhode Island. John did a very good job answering all of our questions, and there were many! He also showed us the live truck that he operates on a regular basis. It has both terrestrial microwave and satellite uplink capability. WISH currently operates two of these trucks, the one John uses, and a larger one that is not used as regularly.

After the tour, everyone went up the road to the Training Center for special refreshments (including Long's donuts), and an abbreviated meeting. IRC President Tom Chance, K9XV, was out of town, so Vice-President Dave Miller, K9RTT, officiated at

the meeting. Dave had everyone introduce themselves, talking about any awards (continuing the theme from last month's meeting) they had acquired, and if they had recently completed any upgrades in their license.

After the introductions, Mike Palmer, N9FEB, Marion County's ARES EC, talked to the group about the "Ardent Sentry" exercise coming up May 10 - 13. This will be the 7th "Ardent Sentry" exercise, but the first to involve amateur radio. It is going to be a large scale disaster scenario, covering Marion, Jennings, and Johnson counties. Mike stated that any ham who wants to participate in the exercise should contact him as soon as possible. He also stated that any ham that participates needs to have completed the NIMS 100 and 700 courses at a minimum. This will be a "continuous play" 72 hour long exercise. Mike anticipates lots of media coverage for this event.

Next, Ron Cooper, WB9DKL, and Chuck Crist, W9IH, talked about the Hilltopper contest coming up on Saturday, April 28. As far as could be determined this is probably the first time the Indianapolis Radio Club has sponsored a contest. The contest runs from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, on the 28th. Ron requested that participating stations use the log sheet that is available on the web site at <http://www.indyradioclub.org/irchilltoplogsheet-gen-1001.pdf>. At present time, there will be 10 stations operating from hill tops, mostly in Central Indiana. There is also a need for stations operating from other than hill tops (home and mobile). All participating stations get a certificate. Part of the exchange is the elevation of the hill, which is not published. Ron and Chuck stated that this was conceived as a short and fun event, kind of acting as a "warm up" to the Indiana QSO party and Field Day. Complete information is available at <http://www.indyradioclub.org/irchilltopotae2007.htm>.

Next, Chuck asked for a show of hands to see how many are interested in a Field Day site being sponsored by the Indianapolis Radio Club, using the club's call, W9JP. There was a decent response.

Finally, tickets were drawn for the door prizes, including some even nicer than usual ones, such as a wireless computer keyboard and mouse.

Before adjourning, Dave mentioned that the May meeting would be on digital radio, primarily D-Star, with 1 or 2 presenters, June's meeting will be the annual equipment auction, and then August brings the annual picnic/swapfest, complete with the drawing for 2 radios and an antenna analyzer.

Ham Radio News:

AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITY SHUT DOWN IN IRAQ

Iraq Amateur Radio Society (IARS) President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, has informed ARRL that all Amateur Radio activity in Iraq has been suspended until the security situation there improves.

Sayah says the suspension affects both Iraqi citizens as well as any foreigners, including military personnel and contractors -- who have been on the air from Iraq identifying with YI9-prefix call signs. It does not affect the operation of Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) stations, however, since they operate on military frequencies, not amateur frequencies. The IARS is informing its member to stay off the air, although some Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) modes like IRLP and EchoLink still are okay to use, as long as they don't involve transmitting a signal over the air.

Welcome New Members:

The Indianapolis Radio Club would like to welcome new members Bret Boyd, K9NBR, and Dan Greil, AE9K.

FCC NOW POSTING AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Amateur Radio enforcement correspondence -- with some exceptions -- now is available to the public on the FCC's "Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions" Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/Welcome.html>. The listing will be cumulative, and Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth anticipates updating it every 7 to 10 days.

The site will not be a comprehensive listing of enforcement correspondence. For example, it will not include letters requiring retesting pursuant to §97.519(d) of the FCC's rules, letters regarding radio frequency interference to amateur licensees and letters requesting an initial response to a complaint.

Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division fccham@fcc.gov .

2007 IRCC Technical Excellence Nominations are Open

Spring is almost here and it's time for all Indiana amateur radio clubs and organizations to consider one of their own as a nominee for the 2007 IRCC Technical Excellence Award.

For the past six years the Indiana Radio Club Council has selected one Hoosier Amateur Radio Operator to receive this prestigious award during the July Indianapolis Hamfest at Camp Sertoma.

To nominate an individual for this award send a detailed explanation of how this person uses their technical abilities to help their club, community or other amateur radio operators. This award is for the unsung heroes that continue to give of their time, talents and technical expertise to make a difference in amateur radio. Please be as detailed as possible when writing the candidates qualifications. Remember the committee will only have what you have written on which to evaluate the nominees.

Deadline for entries is Midnight Friday June 8, 2007. E-mail your entry to: W9EEU@arrl.net or mpgadams@aol.com

A bogus email warning from ARRL

Do not follow instructions in bogus e-mails: The ARRL is alerting members -- and especially users of the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service -- about bogus e-mails that claim to be from the "arrl.net user support team." There is no such entity, and the messages do not originate with ARRL but appear to be coming from outside the US. Recipients should not follow the instructions in the e-mail, which reads, "We have received reports that your e-mail account has been used to send a large amount of unsolicited commercial email messages during this week. We suspect that your computer had been infected by a recent virus and now contains a hidden proxy server. We recommend you to follow our instructions in order to keep your computer safe." Following the instructions will have the opposite effect, however, infecting your computer with the MyDoom Trojan worm and making it part of a spamming network. The League urges all members to invest in and use anti-virus software.

TSA Wants Staffers as Amateurs

From the April 18 ARES E-Letter:

I think we are seeing an increase in the speed with which our federal government is formally adopting Amateur Radio as their supplemental and backup communications service, and their intent to use government employees as the primary operators. The camel has more than just his nose under the tent.

From an ARES EC who attended a Houston, Texas, Amateur Radio club meeting Monday night April 9: "We had an unusual guest at the ECHO [Society] meeting tonight. The 'Assistant Federal Security Director' for the TSA, as in Homeland Security, was there gathering assistance and information on establishing training, licensing and mentoring TSA employees to get their ham tickets. It would appear that they are setting up HF/VHF stations at all 27 key Gulf Coast airports."

On March 28, Army MARS conducted a regional communications exercise, with stations operating at the Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth airport TSA offices, FEMA Region 6

HQ in Denton, Texas, Texas state operations center in Austin, and 5th Army HQ in San Antonio. This EC's report hints at TSA's Amateur Radio infrastructure and resource expansion beyond the Army MARS-TSA agreement. Perhaps TSA recognizes the limited Army MARS resources and facility access obstacles. --Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, SEC South Texas

IRC Hilltoppers On The Air contest coming up!

Don't miss out on the fun! Saturday, April 28, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, local EDT, will be the first Hilltoppers contest! At the present time, there are 10 hilltops registered to participate. We also need any fixed or mobile station that can try to contact these hilltops. It's going to be a fun event, and everyone who participates gets a certificate! If you want to operate from a hilltop, you need to get registered, but hurry up, time is drawing short! Contact Chuck Crist at indytrax@core.com to get registered. You can go to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/irchilltopotae2007.htm> for more information.

Free VE exams at Dayton Hamvention®

This year, license exams will be administered by volunteer examiner (VE) teams with Laurel VEC. Laurel VEC does not charge for license exams so there will be no fee for the exams at Hamvention®. Admission to Hamvention® is not required to take an exam. If you want to take an exam but do not wish to attend Hamvention® let the security person at the gate know that you are there for an exam and someone will escort you to the exam site and back out after the exam. Parking is not provided for Hamvention® and you will be responsible for parking fees at the nearby lots. For additional information, point your browser to <http://www.hamvention.org/exams.htm>

ARRL, NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL INK PACT

ARRL and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) <<http://www.npstc.org/>> have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). The League is an NPSTC member organization, and the MoA culminates efforts begun in 2003 to formalize the relationship between the two organizations.

"This agreement promotes the concept of strength in unity," the MoA says. "Speaking with one unified voice provides a clear and strong message from the public safety community." The MoA also aims "to promote a consensus input decision-making process." The NPSTC has been among the organizations that have asked the FCC to thoroughly explore the potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems.

A federation of public safety organizations, NPSTC serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications in the US and abroad.

In addition to the ARRL, the Council's 13 member organizations include the American Red Cross, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials -- International (APCO), the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors.

Kim R. Miles, N9IS, SK

We are sad to announce that on March 27, Acute Leukemia claimed the life of Kim R. Miles, N9IS, of Greenwood (New Whiteland), Indiana. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Indiana QSO Party is on May 5

The annual Indiana QSO Party is set for Saturday May 5, 1600 UTC to 0400 UTC May 6 (noon to midnight EDT).

Indiana amateurs are encouraged to get on the air and make sure the rest of the world hears (and works) Indiana. They will be looking for each of the 92 counties on 80/75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, CW and SSB.

Local clubs are encouraged to round up their new "HF hams" (and some of their less active members) and give them a chance to experience the receiving end of a pileup. It's great practice for June Field Day, and some clubs are planning to set up Field Day portable operations in some of the "rarer" counties.

There are plaques for top mobile, fixed, portable and out-of-state scores, but there are certificates, too, that don't require a 12 hour effort to win.

There's also a chance to get started on the Worked All Indiana Award for confirming at least 60 Indiana counties.

Details on INQP and the Worked All Indiana Award are at <http://www.hdxcc.org/>
Anybody interested in operating can contact Mel KJ9C, e-mail: kj9c@iquest.net
who is coordinating mobile activity

Let's make this the best INQP yet and show the world that a little state can make a lot of noise!

Tim N9LF, Mel KJ9C

ARRL SAYS KNOW YOUR PRIVILEGES! MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUND REGARDING TECH HF PRIVILEGES

Some Technician licensees who gained new privileges February 23 remain unaware or uninformed as to what they may and may not do on the HF bands, says ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND. In addition to all Amateur Radio operating privileges above 50 MHz, Technicians who never passed a Morse code test now have CW privileges on certain segments of 80, 40 and 15 meters plus CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on certain segments of 10 meters. And that's it. "Know your privileges <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.html>>,"; Henderson advises all Amateur Radio licensees. He says some Technicians apparently believe their new HF phone privileges go far beyond what they really have.

"Technicians have no phone privileges on any HF band other than 10 meters, period!" Henderson emphasizes. "That's the bottom line. If you want to operate phone on the other HF bands, you'll have to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra class."

On 10 meters, Technician and Novice licensees have CW, RTTY and data privileges from 28.000 to 28.300 MHz, and CW and SSB privileges from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz. "We're sorry that the sunspots aren't favoring 10 meters at this point in the sunspot cycle, but they will in a few years," Henderson allowed.

In addition, Technicians and Novices have CW -- and only CW -- privileges from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz on 80 meters, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz on 40 meters and 21.025 to 21.200 MHz on 15 meters.

GET YOUR BLIND DRAW DONATION TICKETS!

For only \$10 per ticket, you can get a chance to win one of the following great prizes:

1st prize – Kenwood TS-570D (radio only)

2nd prize – Yaesu FT-857D (radio only)

3rd prize – MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer

Drawing will take place at the Indy Radio Club's K9OOA Broad Ripple Swapfest on August 4, 2007. You don't need to be present to win! There will only be 300 tickets sold, so the chances are good! You can buy your tickets at an IRC meeting, at the Swapfest, or from an officer of the club.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kc9glq@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the April, 1958 Indianapolis Radio Club *Amachewer*:

News from the Clubs:

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: The RCA club just missed being the newest club in the County by a very few days. The organizational meeting was held March 25 with officers elected: W9HKZ Pres; Kn9KJE, Vice Pres; W9CMQ, Sec-Treas; W9BUQ, W9HRA, W9JUT and W9SJQ were elected Directors. The club will meet on the 1st Wednesday and the 3rd Thursday of each month. A constitution and by-laws were adopted at this meeting. Again, IRC wishes the best of success for this new club...W9TQC

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- **IRC "Hilltoppers On the Air" event**
Saturday, April 28, 8:00 – 12:00 local time
Go to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/irchilltopotae2007.htm> for more info.
 - **Indiana QSO Party** Saturday, May 5, 2007
 - **Bus Trip to Dayton "Hamvention"**
Saturday, May 19 Tickets for the bus trip are \$25, and non-refundable. They are available at the club meetings. NOTE: This only covers the cost of the trip, tickets for the show need to be purchased separately. Point your browser to <http://www.hamvention.org/> for ticket information.
 - **Indy 500 related events**
Mike Palmer, N9FEB, is filling slots for volunteers for Race related events. Go to Mike's web page at <http://indyhams.org/seg/events> for details.
 - **USS Indianapolis "Museum Ships OTA" Station**
June 8 – 10 (local) Stations will be set up close to the USS Indianapolis Monument, same location as last time. Go to <http://www.indyradioclub.org/ussindy.htm> for more information.
 - **Indy Hamfest** Saturday, July 7
Go to www.indyhamfest.com for more info
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Current IRC Officers:

- President: Tom Chance, K9XV - ..EMAIL k9xv@arrl.net
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - ..EMAIL dmiller@ivytech.edu
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KC9GLQ - ..EMAIL kc9glq@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Judy Gardner, AA9GW - ..EMAIL aa9gw@juno.com
- Chief Operator: Dave Craig, N9QVO - ..EMAIL slough@svs.net
- Dir. at large: Bob Osterhous, W9PSE - EMAIL rosterhous@iquest.net
- Dir. at large: Tom Price, WB9UNG – EMAIL pricetr@comcast.net
- Dir. at large: Hank Wolfla, K9LZJ – EMAIL hwolfla@insightbb.com