



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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

Reporting news from the Indianapolis Radio Club meeting held on Friday, January 13, 2005 and other items of possible interest to amateurs.

Meeting Highlights:

January's Meeting was held at the ITC Training Center, 2820 N. Meridian Street, January 13, 2005 at 7:00PM. We also held the First Annual Chili Cook-off. We had 4 contestants with differing types of chili. Everyone tested the chili and voted while socializing from 7pm to 7:30pm.

- Program topic: "Echo Link" – by David Spoelstra-N9KT.
- Awards for 1st and 2nd place on the chili cook-off were given out.
- Awards for homebrew and DX were given out.

Attendance at the meeting was 50. Current membership is 125. Life membership is 27.

Unfinished Business:

- The board members need to select a club President for 2006.

Club Station Report:

Our club station Chief Operator is Trevor Fulk (N9YM), who maintains the club station. He reminds you to check the club website at <http://www.indyradioclub.org> for information on upcoming events and contests.

The club station equipment is located on the first floor of the Indianapolis Training Center. The antennas are located on the roof of the building. The station transceiver is a Yeasu HF unit, and the antenna is a directional beam for 10-15-20m that is mounted on a small tower and rotor on the building roof. That makes its height about 150 feet above ground. Tours of the club station are available following most Indianapolis Radio Club meetings. The club station call is W9JP.

Next Meeting:

The next club meeting will be held on February's 10th at 7:00PM at the ITC. The program will be by Mike Goode-N9NS and the subject will be "DXpedition planning".

Announcements:

The club theme for 2006 is "Give back to Ham radio; our 92nd year". To kick off that theme I am giving away a Gordon West Technician Class exam study book to any potential ham that is brought to a meeting. The condition that I am setting is that the book is passed on to another potential ham after the test is taken and passed. The book is theory only (technician no-code). Email me at mnewman6221@comcast.net for further information or see me at the next meeting.

There are many ways to get a free email address if you want one. There are also very inexpensive ways to get internet service for your home computer. For further information see me at a meeting. I will do what I can to help anyone wanting to learn more, because having an email address makes it easier for me to send you the newsletter.

News & Links:

[Amateur Radio News line](#)

[Repeater Search Database](#)

[Indianapolis-Marion County Ham Radio](#)

[Digital Radio Experimenters Group](#)

[Internet Radio Linking Project Homepage](#)

[Electronic QSL Card Center](#)

Items of Interest:

FT-60R YAESU VHF/UHF 5 WATT HAND HELD REVIEW

By Bob Osterhaus (W9PSE)

Having been a ham since 1950 and not having a "Handheld" I started looking around a few years ago and began studying the various choices. Because I was going to CAP (Civil Air Patrol) meetings I ran across a deal that could not be refused.

At that time AES in Milwaukee was running a special for \$ 79.99 on a VX-150 5 watt Hand Held two meter that could be converted to work on the CAP frequencies and the local group had the know how and information. The result was I purchased (2) VX-150 and got into using a handheld. This unit has served me well, never failed and works great. In the mean time I

purchased a factory DC cable with whine filter and a remote speaker mike for the VX-150. All useful items as I did have alternator whine in one car on a home made DC cable. (Get the factory DC cables and filters on all mobile rigs to save trouble).

Now on to the FT-60R; one minor consideration was that all of my above DC cables and the speaker mic would fit the new FT-60R. Second the VX-150 was rugged had a nice belt clip and so has the newer FT-60R. Thus it gave me dual band 144/440 coverage with 5 watts for a reasonable price. The choice of the FT-60R proved great for me and this newer unit works fine.

The FT-60R has great receive and TX audio and I currently use it as a mobile with the DC/filter cable and an MFJ-310S SMA to SMA window mount with 10 ft. of small coax. The one end fits the rig and the rubber duck screws onto the SMA on the window mount giving good coverage with 5 watts in the Indy metro area with this simple outside car antenna.

The FT-60R has wide band coverage for VHF-UHF –TV, VHF AM Aircraft and commercial and public safety frequencies. It has automatic ID function to transmit your call sign and is designed to work with the WIRES Vertex system and is good for campers and outdoor types.

Features that work best for me include:

- APO (Auto power off)
- TOT (TX time-out timer) and
- Programmable squelch.

The unit is easily programmed from the keyboard and very similar to my VX-150 with which I was accustomed. A clone cable is available to transfer freq settings from one rig to another and software is also available to program from a computer.

Some settings on the 440 repeaters do not automatically give the proper offset and must be programmed manually; all 2 meter frequencies do give the proper offsets. As with most handhelds just go to VFO mode, enter the RX frequency then save it to memory with any tone required and you are in business. Making a chart with memory numbers and looking at the local frequency list will help you work out your system of channel choices. We made a chart on our computer for all our VHF/UHF rigs and use the same system on all our VHF. Thus all units have the same memory number for the same frequency on any rig.

If your looking into handhelds or other rigs go to the manufacturers web site and you will probably be able to download the owners manual to study the features and see if you like the rig before your purchase. Also this gives you a heads up, when you get the rig and programming and use is easy with a final reading when you open the box on your new rig.

(www.vertexstandard.com for Yaesu site)

I always carry a handheld with me in case of emergency as well as a cell phone to help in some unforeseen emergency. Good luck with you new handy...mine have served me well. We rate the FT-60R a 9/10 and recommend it highly.

Monthly Awards:

The monthly award winners can now be found on the IRC website at <http://www.indyradioclub.org/awards.htm> in order to save space in the newsletter.

Health and Welfare:

There are no new health & welfare items to report. Please send any known health and welfare updates to IRC Vice President Mike Henney (KE9YA) at his email address of mickyh@peoplepc.com.

Additional News Items:



Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Elected ARRL's 14th President (Jan 20, 2006) -- ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past.

Contacts & Contributions:

Club Webmaster:

Brian Stone (KC9GSA) is the manager of our Indianapolis Radio Club web site (<http://www.indyradioclub.org>). If you have content ideas or suggestions for the site, please contact Brian using his email address of labradog@speakeasy.net.

Club Newsletter:

Mike Newman (KA9ZKV) is the Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter Editor. Any items of interest or changes in your email address or contact info can be forwarded to his email address at mnewman6221@comcast.net.

Contributions by:

- Bob Osterhous (W9PSE), Assistant Editor