



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

May 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

May 23: Club POTA activation. Noon at Fort Harrison State Park.

June 12: Annual IRC Auction at Salvation Army EDS Facility.

July 25: 4th annual IRC "Picnic and POTA" at Fort Harrison State Park.

Highlights from the May Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT via Zoom. There were 30 in attendance. There were no new hams or upgrades present. New club member Paul White, KA9WPR introduced himself and was welcomed by David. David gave a synopsis of his experiences at the recent 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, where he assisted with an unconscious runner and was instrumental in getting medical transport arranged for the runner. David also summarized upcoming club meetings and events, including the next IRC POTA event on May 23, the annual club auction on June 12, and the club's "Picnic and POTA" event on July 25.

Next David introduced Jim Brown, W0RLD, who introduced the presenter for the evening, John Portune, W6NBC for his presentation on magnetic loop antennas. John started out showing several different Mag Loop Antennas, including some commercially available ones. He said the main factor to remember in designing Mag Loop Antennas is the ratio of the size of the antenna related to the diameter of the conducting elements of the antenna. That ratio is 24:1. In his example, he showed his 48" square antenna that is made of 2" aluminum pipe. He also recommended square loops over octagonal or round

designs, citing ease of construction and potential for blending in with landscape features. John went over what materials work better than others for these antennas. He also cautioned against using a loop in a horizontal configuration. The complete video of the meeting, including John's presentation can be found [here](#).

Ham Radio News:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Coming up on May 23rd is the 500 Festival Parade. This is a fun event where you get to see the iconic parade while providing a public service.

A completely different type of event is on June 5 and 6, in the Morgan Monroe Forest 100K (MOMOFO). It is a two-day 100K endurance race and a 20K "fun run" that will require several hams to cover 3 shifts at 4 locations.

To get details and volunteer for these events and to see other events that Marion County ARES is involved with, go to <https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/>

INDIANA QSO PARTY LOGS DUE JUNE 1

If you participated in the Indiana QSO Party on May 2, even if you only made a few contacts, don't forget to submit them by the deadline of June 1. Cabrillo format logs are to be sent via email to inqplogs@fastmail.com. If you logged to paper, as Mel, KJ9C pointed out, there is a handy tool available at https://www.b4h.net/cabforms/7qp_cab.php that will generate a valid Cabrillo log file. Finally, if you submit a log, unless you have already committed to another club, designate your club as "Indianapolis Radio Club". If you have already submitted a log without noting a club and would like to update your entry, just submit your log again. The most recent entry will supersede older ones.

NEXT W9JP POTA OPERATING EVENT MAY 23

Coming up on Saturday, May 23 (that's right, the day before the Indy 500). We will be meeting for a club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event. We'll be set up in our regular location in front of the Visitor Center at Fort Harrison State Park. We plan to

have 2 HF stations on the air by 12:00 noon, and will probably go for 2 or 3 hours. These are great opportunities for folks to get a taste of HF operating and to see what the POTA program is all about. As usual, we will be using the club's callsign of W9JP, but if you are registered with the POTA program, you will get credit for contacts that you make. If you're not licensed for HF operation, don't worry, we will have control operators on hand to get you on the air.

We will have coffee, donuts and cold water. So come on out! THIS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC!

GET READY FOR FIELD DAY!

Coming up on June 27 and 28 is ARRL Field Day, one of the largest operating events in the US. Field Day is not only an opportunity for hams to make contacts via any mode or band, but it's also an opportunity to show the public what ham radio is all about and maybe even recruit some new hams! While the Indianapolis Radio Club has no specific Field Day site this year, several IRC members, as well as members of other clubs in the area will be joining forces to operate as the Indy United Field Day team. The Indy United group sets up a major operation in Morgan County, and will have several stations on the air, including a GOTA (Get On The Air) station, which is limited to new operators or operators who have been inactive for a few years. The Indy United team hosts training sessions for their potential GOTA operators. If you're interested in becoming involved with the Indy United group, either as an experienced operator or as a GOTA operator, contact Brian Smith, W9IND at bdsmith@indy.net

For more information on Field Day in general, including Field Day site locators and rules, point your browser to <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>

CLUB "PICNIC AND POTA" COMING JULY 25

The Fourth Annual Indianapolis Radio Club "Picnic and POTA" is coming up on Saturday, July 25. 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. Watch your email for an RSVP form that will be coming out in June. 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 of \$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, you can 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.

NEW HAM RESOURCES

We all remember what it was like when we first got licensed, some of us more vividly than others. We all had thoughts like, “What’s a net and how do I check in?”, or, “I don’t want to make a fool of myself, so I’ll just put this radio in the drawer, IN CASE OF

EMERGENCY.” Well, if you’re a new ham, you can relax, and know that there are several resources available on the internet, and locally, to help you get over those “newbie jitters”. The ARRL has a series of 17 podcasts called, “So Now What?”. These podcasts are available to everyone, whether you’re a member of the ARRL or not, at <https://www.arrl.org/so-now-what>. They run from 18 to 45 minutes in length, and cover such topics as Safety, Calling CQ, Finding the Right Club (but hopefully you don’t need that one 😊), Field Day, “Ham” Lingo, and others. Of course, the college of YouTube has a multitude of Ham Radio tutorials, some better than others.

Locally, your Indianapolis Radio Club sponsors the “Welcome (to Amateur Radio) Net” - Indy. The Welcome Net - Indy meets every Wednesday at 8:00 pm local time on the 146.97 W9ICE repeater. The repeater requires a 107.2 Hz tone to access it. The Welcome Net is a “conversational net”, where after the initial check-ins, a topic for conversation is posed by the Net Control operator, and a “round table” type discussion is held on that topic. Newly licensed Amateurs are always given the first opportunity to check in and participate. A neat feature of the Welcome Net is several of the Net Control operators and Loggers are relatively new hams themselves. The Welcome Net is always looking for new Net Control operators and Loggers, and offers a great support system to help new folks get started. Send an email to elmer@indyradioclub.org if you are interested in getting more involved in the Welcome Net.

Another local opportunity for new (or not so new) operator help is the above mentioned email address: elmer@indyradioclub.org. An email to that address goes to Ken, KJ9B, and if Ken knows how to help with your topic, he will help. If he doesn’t have a good answer, he will find someone who does.

The best local resource for new hams is a local club. While we would love for all new area hams to join the Indianapolis Radio Club, we know that might not be feasible due to location, etc. To find a club in your area, go to <https://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>

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

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Date: May 16 2026

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

Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building
Register at Website
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: May 19 2026
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
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION: 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Jun 06 2026
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
2420 E 3rd St
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Jun 13 2026
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James Kajder
(505) 228-3704
Email: 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: Jun 16 2026
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
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: Jun 20 2026
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building
Register at Website
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: <https://midstatehams.org/>

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 May 1956 *Amachewer*:

The amateur in 1990 may be working on his WAP (Worked All Planets) Certificate. He will be in communication with the Moon and the Planets in the not too distant future if the present space travel program activity is kept up. Scientists are confident that during the International Geophysical Year (18 months) they will crash the space barrier and launch an observable satellite. The National Academy of Scientists has asked the Naval Research Labs to organize radio amateurs all over the world to aid in tracking the Earth Satellite. The satellite is a metallic sphere, 20 inches in diameter and weighs 22 lbs. It will radio to Earth information about Ozonosphere and the Ionosphere and other high altitude phenomena. The minitrack transmitter on the satellite is a transistorized transmitter of 50 milliwatt input and operating on a frequency of 108 Megacycles using battery and solar energy for operation.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Monroe County Hamfest: June 13 at Monroe County Fairgrounds. More info coming at <https://bloomingtonradio.club/>

2026 Officers:

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

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone:

