The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

October 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

October 24: Club POTA activation. Noon at Fort Harrison State Park.
November 13: IRC meeting at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility. Ryan Rather, AB9VM Communications Systems Manager, IDHS
December 11: Annual Holiday pitch-in dinner. **6:30 pm** at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility (note earlier start time)

Highlights from the October Meeting:

Club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. There were no new hams or upgrades in attendance. David recognized new club member Marvin Pribble, KC1WAH. Next, David gave a recap of the last club POTA activation, reminding those present of the next POTA activation on October 24. He reminded those present about the radio club clothing, for which orders are currently being taken. Jeff Hammer, N9NIC spoke about the Tecumseh Trail Challenge, and Gravel Grovel Bike Race events that are coming up requiring amateur radio support. David also reminded everyone about paying their club dues and other ways to support the club financially. He also stressed to everyone the importance of having a plan for "final arrangements" for their radio gear, telling of how he has been involved with clearing out SK ham gear and the cost involved in that when advance plans aren't made.

Next, David introduced our presenter for the evening, Dave Gingrich, K9DC to talk about the ARDC's "44Net Connect" program. Dave became a ham at the age of 12 in 1965 and

has held his current callsign since 1977. In his professional life, Dave was a telecommunications engineer, primarily working on Cisco networks. Dave said "44net Connect" is a valuable tool available at no charge to licensed amateurs that can be used for a number of networking applications, such as Packet radio (TCP/IP over RF), Wi-Fi on ham bands, Repeater backbones (linking repeaters over real IP networks), Node hosting (servers and nodes for networks such as IRLP and AllStarLink), Home Labs (you can have a static IPv4 address that belongs to you), and getting around CGNAT restrictions (you can get a fixed public address even behind carrier NAT used by your ISP). Dave explained how Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) came to be when KA6M requested a block of addresses in the fledgling internet for amateur radio use in 1981. In 2019, part of that range of addresses were sold for conventional use, with the proceeds going to ARDC.

Dave explained that it is relatively easy to get started with 44Net Connect. You just register by going to https://portal.ampr.org/. After registering and callsign verification, you can request address space or join 44Net Connect. The slide deck from Dave's presentation that has all the details and potential uses of 44Net Connect can be found here.

Ham Radio News:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

The Indianapolis Monumental Marathon will be on Saturday, November 7th, and ham radio is once again being asked to support this race. There are 26 stations to be staffed for the 5k, half marathon, and full marathon routes. To volunteer for this event, click here.

A new event for amateur radio volunteers is the "Gravel Grovel Bike Race", held in Hoosier National Forest on Saturday, November 21. Volunteers for this event will need to be self-sufficient, able bodied (ie can get around on trail heads, and moderate areas) and have a good antenna/radio set up. To volunteer for this event, contact Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, at n9nic@arrl.net.

INDY RADIO CLUB GARMENTS AVAILABLE

The Indianapolis Radio Club is making 3 items available for purchase:

- Hats similar to the ones we sold in 2023, with the IRC logo on the front and your callsign on the back.
- Shirts the same as what we had 2 years ago, with the IRC logo and your name and/or call on them.
- A new item we're going to make available this year is a "packable" ¼-zip pullover (**example pictured below**). This pullover will also have the IRC logo and your name and/or call on the front.

You can place your order for the items of your choice by completing the form found at this link. Once you place your order, you will be invoiced. Orders need to be received and paid by November 1. The bulk order for the garments will be placed the first week of November so orders will be available for pickup at our Holiday pitch-in on December 11. Shipping of orders will be available for an additional charge.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Our friends with the LDS Em-Comm group will be hosting Technician and General classes on October 24 and 31 at their Greenwood, Stop 11 Center. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Bruce Enz, W9ENZ at bruceenz@gmail.com

IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

2 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 10/10/2026. 1 new ham earned their first license. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Jim Adams KB9JMU, Frank Kalisz W9PXV, Jim Brown W0RLD, Steve Tharp K9MD, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING

If you want to take a leadership role by serving as an officer of the Indianapolis Radio Club, send your name and callsign to board@indyradioclub.org. We will send out a roster of candidates later to be voted on at the November 13 meeting. We will also entertain nominations from the floor at the meeting.

NEW WSJT-X RELEASE CANDIDATES AND BETAS

If you want the latest and greatest release candidates and betas of WSJT-X, point your browser to https://github.com/WSJTX/wsjtx/releases When checking today, I found Release Candidate WSJT-X v3.2.0-rc1 as well as 2 betas: WSJT-X 3.3.0-beta1 and WSJT-X 3.3.0-beta2. You may find a bug that no one else has found yet.

VE2FK RETIRING FROM MAINTAINING CALL HISTORY FILES

If you have been even a casual contester, you have probably benefitted from the work of Claude Duberger, VE2FK. For 20 years, Claude has maintained the call history files for N1MM+. Quoting from an email from Tom Wagner, N1MM, "On behalf of the entire N1MM Logger+ community, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Claude for his many years of dedication and service. His contribution is greatly appreciated, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

We do not yet have a replacement in place. Work is underway on an automated website intended to make maintaining and distributing the call history files easier going forward. Until that effort is completed, the future process for maintaining the files remains to be determined. We will share more information when we have it."

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.

NEXT CLUB POTA ACTIVATION IS OCTOBER 24

Come join us at Fort Harrison State Park on Saturday, October 24 for another Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event. We 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 have 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 stations 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 October 24. 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. The bands should be busy with the CQ Worldwide SSB DX contest, so it should be fun!

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.

EBAY RESTRICTS LISTINGS OF RADIO EQUIPMENT

In response to new FCC rules that took effect this week, eBay imposed new restrictions on listings of radio transmitting equipment, but this new policy won't apply to gear that operates exclusively on amateur radio frequencies.

Click here to get the specifics on the new FCC rules.

To see ARRL's article on this go to
https://www.arrl.org/news/ebay-restricts-listings-of-radio-equipment-but-exempts-ham-band-only-gear

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

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State Amatuer Radio Club
Date: Oct 17 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: Oct 20 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:Â 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: http://www.andersonrepeater.club/

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Oct 31 2026
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: joe.march@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
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: Nov 07 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
Please pre-register ahead
Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Website: https://hamstudy.org/sessions/47401/inperson

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock ARC
Date: Nov 07 2026
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Sean Waltz
(317) 753-8846
Email: harcexams@gmail.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock County EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Website: https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club
Date: Nov 14 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
Website: https://www.indyradioclub.org/testing.html

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Nov 17 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:Â 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: http://www.andersonrepeater.club/

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 October, 2006 *Amachewer*:

After the introductions, Chuck, W9IH, introduced Bob Demuth from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Bob has been with the IDHS for 14 years in Emergency Response. Bob had a very interesting talk, complete with support from a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that the purpose of the IDHS Emergency Response Division is to support the counties. Normally, the IDHS will not get involved unless the county requests it, after depleting their local resources. The Emergency Response Branch is currently divided into 2 areas: Operations, and Mitigation/Recovery. Soon, a third area will be added: Logistics.

The IDHS uses hams in the EOC and Mobile Command Center, as a backup communications resource. As Bob put it, "If you don't know what you're getting into, you have to take what's going to work – HAMS." When normal communications resources fail, there has to be a backup.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hamtober Fest: October 17 at Lynnville Community Center. More info at http://hamtoberfest.com/
- Fort Wayne Hamfest: November 21 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Details at https://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/
- Wabash Valley ARA Turkeyfest: November 28 at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds. More info at https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.php

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: