



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

September 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

September 19: Club POTA activation. Noon at Fort Harrison State Park.

October 9: IRC meeting at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility. K9DC on 44net.

Highlights from the September Meeting:

Club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. David recognized new hams in attendance: Ben, KE9FUW, Jess, N9TXN, and George, WA9HQB. He also recognized Kyle, KC9GLR, for his upgrade to Amateur Extra. David recognized new club members Barb and Brian, who are studying for their licenses, Ed, KF9R, Steve, KB9RPG, Greg, KC9PFX, and Ron, AB9MX. Next, David called for a moment of silence in memory of the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Next, David recognized all of the club officers that were present at the meeting. He also gave a recap of the last club POTA activation, reminding those present of the next POTA activation on September 19. He also mentioned that the club is going to be placing another IRC clothing order if there is adequate interest shown. David also mentioned the upcoming events that are requesting support from amateur radio, including the Indy Half Marathon, Tecumseh Trail Challenge, and Gravel Grovel Bike Race.

Next, David introduced our presenter for the evening, Bryce Wolf, N9WF for his presentation on CW, or Morse Code, operation. Bryce summarized the path he chose to study CW operation and demonstrated some of the learning aids and tools he had on display. He started in the [CWops CW Academy](#) in the spring of 2025, and has had great success with that program. Bryce operates CW for POTA (Parks on the Air) activations,

as well as some contesting. He noted that CW is much more “spectrum efficient”, requiring a fraction of the bandwidth needed for SSB, or voice operation. CW is also essentially a “universal language”. Bryce talked about what had worked for him in learning. He said that you need to keep active in it to avoid losing it. He talked about words per minute (WPM) ratings. WPM is derived from how many times in a minute the word “PARIS” is sent. Bryce said that it is best to practice at no less than 20 to 25 WPM to keep from counting dits. He noted that the website <https://morsecode.world/international/timing/> is great for demonstrating WPM. He also noted that there are several free websites available for learning CW, one of which is <https://lcwo.net/>

At this point, Bryce introduced Jim Brown, W0RLD to compare two very popular on-line CW instruction programs: [Long Island CW club](#) (LICW) and [CW Academy](#) (CWops). Jim said that LICW has great software and very flexible schedules. LICW is “straight key focused”. Jim said that there is not much “accountability” in LICW instruction. Speaking about the CWops program, Jim said that it offers structured courses, with homework and accountability. He said the CWops program is more “paddle focused”. One thing that both Bryce and Jim stressed was not to send faster than you can copy.

After the great presentation on CW, the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate door prize was won by Charles, KE9BNN. The meeting adjourned around 9:00 pm.

Ham Radio News:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Amateur Radio operators are needed for the 2026 Indy Half Marathon at Ft. Ben, coming up on Saturday, October 3. For this event, amateur radio operators will be stationed at all the water stops and other strategic locations. To volunteer for this event, follow [this link](#).

Also, radio operators are needed for the [Tecumseh Trail Challenge](#), held in Yellowwood State Forest on Saturday, October 17. Tecumseh Trail Challenge Marathon is famous for its point-to-point, epic route through the hills and hollers of Brown County, Indiana in its 24th year! 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.

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. Operator requirements for this will be similar to those for the Tecumseh Trail Challenge. To volunteer for this event, contact Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, at n9nic@arrl.net.

INDY RADIO CLUB GARMENTS AVAILABLE

It’s been a few years since we ordered IRC hats and shirts. In 2023, we made hats available, but the vendor we were working with at the time didn’t have the capability to personalize them. This time, we are using a different vendor that **will** be able to personalize them. We are also going to be making available the same shirts that we had 2 years ago. A new item we’re going to make available this year is a “packable” ¼-zip pullover (**example pictured below**). We will be emailing order forms out in the next week or so.



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

4 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 8/8/2026. 1 new ham earned their first license, and 3 hams upgraded. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Jim Adams KB9JMU, Paul Brandenburg KB9MEG, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Frank Kalisz W9PXV, Rich Mullen WD9HCP, Chris Ellison N9CEI, Steve Tharp K9MD, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

3 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 9/12/2026. 2 new hams earned their first license, and 1 ham upgraded. Thanks to Ken Bandy KJ9B, Kyle Bandy KC9GLR, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Steve Tharp K9MD, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

POPULAR AE7Q CALLSIGN SITE REPLACED

After many years, Dean, AE7Q had decided to retire and stop maintaining his popular callsign search site. W5YI has been working with Dean to migrate the code and databases for several months and has now released the production site. The new site can be found at <https://callinfo.w5yi-vec.org/query/>

WD4DAN.NET FREE UTILITIES

You have probably seen some of Dan Muntz's (WD4DAN) handiwork embedded on POTA enthusiasts' QRZ.com pages. I just recently found that he has several other free to use utilities available on his website at <https://wd4dan.net/>. Check them out, and if you enjoy using them, I'm sure he would appreciate your support. ***Standard disclaimer: My only connection with WD4DAN is as a user of his utilities.***

DXCC UPDATE

Nauru has officially adopted the name Republic of Naoero (pronounced "Now-roo"), aligning with the spelling and pronunciation in its national language and marking a return to its traditional identity. In June, the United Nations updated the name on its website.

The change will also update the country's international code from NRU to NRO, and its citizens will be known as dei-Naoero rather than Nauruan. This will not change the current DXCC status of C2, just the name.

IRC 2026 - 2027 MEETING LINEUP (UPDATED)

Here's a run-down of what's planned for the 26-27 season for the IRC:

- Oct. 9: Dave Gingrich, K9DC* will talk about the ARDC 44net and its uses.
- Nov. 13: Ryan Rather, AB9VM, from IDHS will give a presentation about the AuxComm Team and State EOC auxiliary communications.
- Dec. 11: Annual IRC Holiday Pitch-In. **6:30 pm**
- Jan. 8: Kay Savetz, K6KJN, Internet Archive Program Manager, will give a presentation on Special Collections at the Internet Archive, **via Zoom.**
- Feb. 12: Dave Arland will give his annual club favorite review of the Consumer Electronics Show.
- Mar. 12: Greg Mihran, KJ6ER will give a presentation on his famous "POTA Performer" and other antenna projects, **via Zoom.**
- Apr. 9: Jim Rinehart, K9RU* and Jim Brown, W0RLD* will talk about kit building.
- May 7: Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP will give a presentation on the Flex Aurora series, incorporating a new transceiver design, **via Zoom. NOTE EARLIER MEETING DATE DUE TO HAMVENTION.**
- June 11: Annual Club Auction

* Denotes IRC members. All meetings except as noted are held at 7:30 pm at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Road.

WHAT DOES THE ARRL DO?

Continuing on a theme started in the Summer *Amachewer*, here's some information on the ARRL Radiosport team:

The Radiosport team processed and delivered more than 12,000 awards in 2025, keeping the competitive world of ARRL's Radiosport Program moving forward! ARRL managed more than two dozen international and domestic contests in 2025, receiving over 30,000 contest log entries, which were processed, adjudicated, and reported on in contest scoring and results articles in ARRL media.

Our QSL Bureau shipped an incredible over 1,000 lbs. of QSL cards last year - that is approximately 170,000 cards!

The Radiosport team also supports the ARRL Volunteer Monitoring Program. Our volunteer monitors listened over the airwaves for more than 20,000 hours in 2025! Their collective efforts with the larger ham radio community reporting on-air potential violations yielded 100 advisory notices in the past year alone.

In addition to all this work, the Radiosport team also provides support for Logbook of The World®

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

Indianapolis IN 46254

Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Oct 10 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

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amateur 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: 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>

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 September, 2001 *Amachewer*:

FCC REGISTRATION NUMBER BECOMES MANDATORY IN DECEMBER

Get ready (again) for the FRN! Although the FCC has slipped the deadline before, the Commission said this week that, starting December 3, 2001, everyone doing business with the FCC--licensed or not--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number--or FRN. The FCC called the move "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) were assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System--or CORES--in a one-time cross-registration last year and notified by mail.

Details to implement CORES for the Amateur Service are still being worked out. Steve Linn of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said just how CORES and ULS will work together remains up in the air. "CORES is not replacing the ULS database," he explained, "but there are a lot of questions as to how it is to be integrated." A final implementation with respect to Amateur Radio is "yet to be determined," he said. Under the most likely scenario, however, CORES registration will supplant ULS registration for those who do not already have an FRN. Those without an FRN will be required to register and provide one before transacting business with the FCC, whether or not a fee is required. An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN. The requirement to obtain one extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. CORES registrants will be required to supply a Taxpayer Identification Number-- or TIN--typically a Social Security Number (SSN) for an individual. The FCC says CORES information is not made public.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- ARANCI Hamfest: September 26 (rescheduled from August 15) at Christ Presbyterian Church, 7416 E. 109th Ave., Winfield, IN. More info at <https://aranciradio.com/wp/2006-hamfest/>
- Shelbyville Tailgate: October 3 at Shelby County Fairgrounds, 500 Frank St., Shelbyville. More info [here](#).
- Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest: October 10 at Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds. More info at <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>
- Hamtober Fest: October 17 at Lynnville Community Center. More info at <http://hamtoberfest.com/>

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:

