The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

Summer 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

August 29: Club POTA activation. Noon at Fort Harrison State Park.
September 11: IRC meeting at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility. N9WF on CW.

Highlights from the Picnic:

Our 4th Annual IRC "Picnic and POTA" event was a great success! Thanks to Bob "POTA Bob" Konkel, KD9TQH for once again heading up the grill duties. We had 54 club members, guests, and family members in attendance. The weather turned out to be very nice, after a couple of showers in the early afternoon. We had 2 HF stations set up for those wanting to make POTA contacts. Nine operators made just over 160 contacts on the stations. At the top of the next page is the group photo from the day. Click here to see more picnic photos.

The same shelter has been reserved for the same weekend next year: July 24, 2027.

Ham Radio News:

NEXT CLUB POTA OPERATING EVENT AUGUST 29

Coming up on Saturday, August 29, 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!

JOHN PORTUNE, W6NBC - SK

John Portune, W6NBC, of Santa Maria, California, passed away on July 6, 2026. You might remember John from his Zoom presentation on magnetic loop antennas for our club just this past May. John was 88 years old and a prolific author and antenna designer. He was a longtime member of ARRL and contributor to *QST* and *On the Air* magazine. John's website (https://www.w6nbc.com/) will continue to be sponsored by the club of which he was a member, Satellite Amateur Radio Club, W6AB. John is survived by his wife Rebecca Humes, KF6OEB, three children and 12 grandchildren.

BILL LEAHY, K9RFK - SK

Bill Leahy, K9RFK passed away on July 10. Bill was a long-time member of the IRC's VE testing team. According to ARRL records, Bill had been an accredited VE for almost 30 years and had taken part in over 170 testing sessions. Bill's obituary can be found here.

IRC VE TEST SESSION RESULTS

3 candidates attended the Indianapolis Radio Club sponsored VE testing on 7/11/2026. 2 new hams earned their first license. 1 ham upgraded. Thanks to Steve Tharp K9MD, Jim Rinehart K9RU, Jim Adams KB9JMU, Ken Bandy KJ9B, Chris Ellison N9CEI, Dave Jarvis N9KZJ, Frank Kalisz W9PXV, Dave Rogers KB9YYM, and Jim Kajder AC9ZL for their help as volunteer examiners!

NEW ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR

With the resignation of Brent Walls N9BA as Central Division Director, Vice Director Josh Long W9HT was moved up to Director. To fill the position of Vice Director, Robert Ronk W9AP of Winneconne WI has been appointed. This appointment was made by ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR. Ronk will complete the term which expires December 31, 2027.

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.

W9DXCC CONVENTION COMING UP

Coming up on September 11 and 12, the Northern Illinois DX Association will be presenting the annual W9DXCC Convention and University at the Chicago Marriott Naperville, 1801 North Naper Boulevard, Naperville, Illinois 60563. The "University" will be held on Friday, September 11, and will cover subjects such as "6 meter DXing", "Remote Radio Control for DXing and Contesting", and "Running An Effective Field Day". The actual Convention will be on Saturday, September 12, running from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. A couple of the presentations are, "Youth, AI and Ham Radio in the Future" and "Fitting POTA / Contesting / DXing Together". There is a banquet Saturday evening. The "University" on Friday is an additional charge, as is the banquet on Saturday evening.

For more information and to register, go to https://w9dxcc.com/.

IRC 2026 - 2027 MEETING LINEUP

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

- Sept. 11: Bryce Wolf, N9WF* will talk about his journey into CW.
- 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: *TBA* **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?

If you're wondering what ARRL membership can do for you, the following was in a membership renewal reminder email:

> In 2024, more than 500 ARRL members called the Technical Information Service (TIS) and another 912 members emailed the ARRL Lab to find solutions for their technical problems.
>
> The ARRL Laboratory provides valuable resources for members just like you, including product review testing, our Clean Signal Initiative (CSI), matters relating to Radio Frequency Interference (RFI), and research and development for spectrum protection.
>
> For more information about the Technical Information Service (TIS) and the ARRL Lab, visit https://www.arrl.org/mission-statement.
>
> At ARRL, support from our team of skilled engineers for all your amateur radio technical questions are part of your membership dues.
>
> You can reach ARRL's Technical Information Service (TIS) by email at tis@arrl.org or by calling 1-888-277-5289 during regular business hours.

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

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club

Date: Aug 08 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 Amatuer Radio Club
Date: Aug 15 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: Aug 18 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/

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Sep 05 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

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock ARC
Date: Sep 05 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: Sep 12 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: Sep 15 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 June, 1982 Newsletter:

In the interest of quality over quantity, it has been proposed that IRC adopt a “once a month” meeting schedule, starting in Sept. ‘82. A vote will be taken at the June 25th meeting. Come and vote but if you can’t make it vote anyway by mail (or send comment) to Secty. Wade Kingery, W9JGZ, 4845 Kesslerview Dr. 46220. Mark envelope “IRC”. Votes and comments will be opened at the meeting. A preliminary

indication supported “ONCE A MONTH” but some members recall “once a week” with fondness. Voting on June 25th.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hendricks County Tailgate Fest: August 8 at Avon United Methodist Church, 6850 East Hwy US 36, Avon, Public Contact: Kenneth Kayler KC9SQD, Phone: 317-874-7068, Email: kc9sqd425@gmail.com
- ARANCI Hamfest: August 15 at Christ Presbyterian Church, 7416 E. 109th Ave., Winfield, IN. More info at https://aranciradio.com/wp/2006-hamfest/
- MARC Tailgate Hamfest: September 12 at the Atterbury State FWA DNR Office parking lot. More info here.

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: