



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *March 2024 Newsletter*

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### **Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:**

**March 23:** Indy Radio Club POTA event. Noon at Fort Harrison State Park.

**April 12:** ARRL Panel presentation & discussion. AK9R and others. 7:30 PM at Salvation Army EDS.

**May 10:** Presentation on High Altitude Balloons. 7:30 PM via Zoom.

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### **Highlights from the March Meeting:**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Club President, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 35 in attendance.

Barry Stern, W9OAA was recognized as a new member, and for his recent upgrade to Extra. Rich Mullen, WD9HCP was recognized as being new to the area and attending his first IRC meeting. Guests Dwight Kellams, N9DEK and Jeanmarie Kane, KD9UGB were also welcomed.

David reviewed the ways everyone can help benefit the club financially. He also reviewed the club's February POTA activation, and announced our next one, coming up on March 23. David also reminded everyone of the Indiana QSO Party coming up on Saturday, May 4. *[more info on all of these items in this newsletter]*

Next, Jeff Hammer, N9NIC talked about the plans he's working on for Field Day, coming up on May 22 & 23. Details will be forthcoming.

David reminded everyone about the total solar eclipse coming up on April 8, and talked about some of the Ham Radio events planned around it.

David told everyone about the club's April meeting, which will feature an ARRL panel and a very special presentation planned for longtime IRC member and Volunteer Examiner Bob Begeman, W9KVK, who is celebrating his 100th birthday and 73rd year in ham radio this year!

Next David introduced the program for tonight's meeting "Considerations for Station Installation", presented by Jim Rinehart, K9RU, Steve Wendt, KB9RDS, and Ken Bandy, KJ9B. They covered many aspects to be considered when installing your station, including how to figure out what type of station you want to install, things to think about when installing antennas, how to route cables into your shack, and others. They presented several ideas to those present, as well as some photos showing particular installation ideas. There was a fair amount of discussion on the all-important topic of station grounding. There were several good questions and pointers from those present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm with Jim Kajder, AC9ZL, winning the \$25 DX Engineering gift certificate.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP MAY 4**

On Saturday, May 4, Indiana gets to be a "center of RF activity" for the Indiana QSO Party. This is when all the hams in the world (more or less) are wanting to make contact with all 92 Indiana counties.

The INQP runs from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm local time (1500 to 0300 UTC). Get on the air on SSB or CW on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands to make as many contacts as you can. Remember, if you are a Technician class operator, you can still operate SSB on the lower part of 10 meters, as well as CW on parts of 15, 40, and 80 meters. If you are a Parks on the Air fan, this is a good opportunity to "kill two birds with one QSO", activating a POTA park while working INQP. Once again, the HDXCC (the club that sponsors the INQP) has designated 10 counties as "Rare Counties", giving the opportunity to get special plaques for operating from these counties that haven't had

too much activity in past INQPs. There are also lots of other plaques and certificates available for several different categories.

Don't worry if you don't have much contesting experience. State QSO Parties are great places to "get your feet wet" in contesting. The INQP is one of four QSO Parties going on May 4th, so there should be lots of activities on the bands. Don't forget that it's also "Star Wars Day"!

Go to <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html> for all of the details on the INQP. Even if you only make a handful of QSOs from your home station, be sure to submit your log, and put "Indianapolis Radio Club" as your club, and maybe we can give the Fort Wayne club a run for their money (or at least make the list....).

## **IN PERSON TECHNICIAN CLASSES COMING UP**

If you or someone you know is interested in getting licensed, there will be a two-day in-person class on April 13 and April 27, with testing after the class on the 27th. This class will be hosted by the LDS Church ERC group. The class will be held at 201 Eastview Drive, Franklin, IN 46131. Contact Bruce Enz, W9ENZ, at [bruceenz@gmail.com](mailto:bruceenz@gmail.com) to register and for more information.

Putnam County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will host a Technician class May 4th and 18th, at the Putnam County EOC, 1600 W CR 225S, Greencastle. Class will be from 900a-300p on May 4, and May 18 900a-100p, with testing at 200p. Those who would like to upgrade to General or Extra may show up for testing on May 18. For information or to register, e-mail Jeff Wonser at [JWonser@gmail.com](mailto:JWonser@gmail.com), or call him at 317-955-5645.

## **BOB HEIL, K9EID, SK**

Bob Heil, K9EID, passed away on February 28, after a year long battle with cancer, at the age of 83. Bob made a couple of very good presentations on how to get better audio out of your station, as well as lots of interesting facts and demonstrations for the Indianapolis Radio Club. More information on Bob and his legacy can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/news/bob-heil-k9eid-silent-key>

## INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB POTA EVENT NEWS

We had another fun Parks On The Air (POTA) Indianapolis Radio Club activation of Fort Harrison State Park on Saturday, February 24. We had 14 operators attend, and of those, 8 operators made 198 contacts using 2 HF stations on a total of 3 bands. Even though there was a chilly breeze at times, we all were very comfortable thanks to Gordon and Ellen Brock's (KD9RUE and KD9RUD) enclosed tent.

We have another activation scheduled for Saturday, March 23, starting around noon at the same place, in front of the Visitor Center at Fort Harrison State Park. We will plan on having at least 2 HF stations on the air, and will have the Brock's tent available, if needed. We will have our standard "POTA Fuel" of donuts and coffee on hand, too!

As on any club activation, everyone will use the club's call (W9JP), but anyone that is registered in the POTA systems will get credit for contacts they make. If you're new to the POTA program or new to HF this is a great chance to get some experience. If you are currently a Technician, or not even licensed, come on out. There will be control operators at the radios to help you out.

## 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 (\$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, 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](mailto:treasurer@indyradioclub.org).

## HELP NEEDED FOR LOCAL EVENTS

With Spring comes events that need Ham Radio volunteers. Here is a listing of the events that need our help (in chronological order, with links):

1. [Sam Costa Half Marathon](#) (March 23)
2. [Owen Putnam 50/50](#) (March 23)
3. [Carmel Marathon](#) (April 13)
4. [500 Festival Mini-Marathon](#) (May 4)
5. [500 Festival Parade](#) (May 25).

Consider volunteering for any of these events that you can.

## LOTS OF HAM RADIO INTEREST IN SOLAR ECLIPSE

Coming up on Monday, April 8 will be a total solar eclipse, and central Indiana is going to be in the “path of totality”. Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) is asking Hams across North America to participate in a study about how the ionosphere functions by getting on the air to help scientists in a series of ionospheric experiments. HamSCI will be giving a couple of Zoom presentations on March 27 to explain what they’re looking for on April 8. To get all of the details on this and other eclipse related events, go to <https://www.arrl.org/news/solar-eclipse-one-month-away>

## HAMVENTION TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Hamvention is almost right around the corner. That’s right, Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19, arguably the largest hamfest in the US, Hamvention will be taking place just 2 hours east of Indianapolis, in Xenia, OH. Advance tickets are available now for Hamvention for just \$26 each, a savings of \$4 each over purchasing at the gate. Tickets can be purchased online by going to <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/>

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

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid State Amateur Radio Club

Date: Mar 16 2024

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

Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick

Email: ki6qog@yahoo.com

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: Johnson County REMC

750 International Dr

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Sponsor: Hancock County ARC

Date: Mar 16 2024

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: David Keiser

(317) 440-8486

Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Hancock EMA EOC

640 South Franklin St

Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Anderson IN 46016-2238

Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club

Date: Mar 19 2024

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Jeffrey L. Dyer

(317) 775-3415

Email: k9dyr@arrl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Madison County EMA EOC

200 N Delaware St

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Sponsor: GCARC  
Date: Mar 26 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller  
(765) 661-5893  
Email: [mitchmiller55@gmail.com](mailto:mitchmiller55@gmail.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: EMA Building  
3921 S Garthwaite Rd  
Pre-register only, contact ahead  
Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Apr 06 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: William F. Wootton  
(812) 876-8689  
Email: [KC9ACL@ARRL.NET](mailto:KC9ACL@ARRL.NET)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19  
2420 E 3rd St  
Register at 11:30am  
Testing at 12 NOON  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169  
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP  
Date: Apr 13 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: [testing@indyradioclub.org](mailto:testing@indyradioclub.org)

VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility  
4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Apr 16 2024  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Jeffrey L. Dyer  
(317) 775-3415  
Email: k9dyr@arrl.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Madison County EMA EOC  
200 N Delaware St  
Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Sponsor: Mid State Amateur Radio Club  
Date: Apr 20 2024  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick  
Email: ki6qog@yahoo.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Johnson County REMC  
750 International Dr  
Franklin IN 46131-9733

Noblesville IN 46060-1624  
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES  
Date: Apr 20 2024  
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Joseph March  
(317) 224-9433  
Email: jmarch54@att.net  
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>

Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Sponsor: GCARC  
Date: Apr 23 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller  
(765) 661-5893  
Email: [mitchmiller55@gmail.com](mailto:mitchmiller55@gmail.com)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: EMA Building  
3921 S Garthwaite Rd  
Pre-register only, contact ahead  
Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Website: <https://www.grantarc.net/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: May 04 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: William F. Wootton  
(812) 876-8689  
Email: [KC9ACL@ARRL.NET](mailto:KC9ACL@ARRL.NET)  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19  
2420 E 3rd St  
Register at 11:30am  
Testing at 12 NOON  
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC  
Date: May 04 2024  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: David Keiser  
(317) 440-8486  
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: Hancock EMA EOC  
640 South Franklin St  
Greenfield IN 46140-9654  
Website: <https://w9atg.org/ve-testing2/>

Franklin IN 46131-9733  
Sponsor: Mid State Amateur Radio Club  
Date: May 18 2024  
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick  
Email: ki6qog@yahoo.com  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: Johnson County REMC  
750 International Dr  
Franklin IN 46131-9733

## **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](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](mailto:kj9b@arrl.net)

## **Signals from the Past:**

### **From the April 1974, Indy Ham Radio Newsletter:**

Many local Amateur Radio Operators pitched in to help on the emergency communications needed in the recent storm damage. Gary Hughes, K9LNX advised 15 or more hams went to Kennard in Henry County and set up a link between various fire and police, it seems they were all

on different frequencies and could not talk to each other and thus Amateur Radio provided the link on the same frequency.

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### **Upcoming Area Radio Events:**

- Indy Radio Club POTA event: March 23, Noon at Fort Harrison St. Park (in front of Visitor Center)
- Wabash Valley ARA Spring Hamfest: March 30, 8 am to noon, at Clay County Fairgrounds more info at [https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest\\_2024.pdf](https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2024.pdf)
- Indiana QSO Party: May 4, 11:00 am to 11:00 pm. Details at <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

### **2024 Officers:**

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - [vp@indyradioclub.org](mailto:vp@indyradioclub.org)
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - [secretary@indyradioclub.org](mailto:secretary@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - [board@indyradioclub.org](mailto:board@indyradioclub.org)
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - [w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org](mailto: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:**

