



# The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

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## *November 2024 Newsletter*

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

**November 23:** Club POTA outing at Fort Harrison St. Park. Noon.

**December 13:** Annual Club Holiday Party Pitch-In. **Dinner at 6:30 pm.**

**January 10:** Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, Co-Founder of Elecraft (via Zoom).

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### **Highlights from the November Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by club Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Bandy, KJ9B. There were 30 in attendance. Among those present was new ham and club member, Brett Hollifield, KE9BOS, as well as Eric Zimmerman, KC9KBS, who is returning to the hobby after a few years of inactivity. After recognition of guests and new Hams, Ken went to the election of officers for the club. With no nominations from the floor, Ken presented the proposed slate of officers:

- David Spoelstra, N9KT - President
- Jim Brown, WØRLD, Vice President
- Ken Bandy, KJ9B - Secretary/Treasurer
- Jim Rinehart, K9RU - Director
- Dave Miller, K9RTT, Director
- Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - Director
- Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - Director

The proposed slate was voted in by a unanimous show of hands.

For announcements, Ken brought Jeff Hammer, N9NIC up to solicit help for the Monumental Marathon, on November 9, and the Thanksgiving morning Wheeler Mission “Drumstick Dash”, working with REACT. Contact Jeff at [n9nic@arrl.net](mailto:n9nic@arrl.net) for more information. Ken reminded those present of the annual Holiday Pitch-In being held in lieu of next month’s meeting, on Friday, December 13, with dinner at **6:30 pm**. The club will furnish fried chicken, plates and utensils. Watch your email for the RSVP form. Responses need to be in by November 29. Ken announced the club is planning on another POTA event on November 23, starting at noon at Fort Harrison St. Park, in front of the Visitor’s Center. N9KT and K9RU are planning on doing a one-day Technician course in the first quarter of 2025. The course and testing will be held at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility (same place as our meetings). More information will be forthcoming. Ken also reminded those present of the Polo shirts for which the club is currently taking orders. The window for the first batch of orders will be closed on Wednesday, November 20, in order to get the shirts in time to be distributed at the December 13 pitch-in.

Next Ken introduced our presenter, Steve Van Frank, W9TN to talk about Space Weather, or Solar Weather. He started with a comparison slide showing Earth superimposed on the surface of the Sun, which graphically showed that very often, sunspots are around the size of Earth. He showed a photo of a magnetic “hoop” coming from one of these sunspots. A Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) occurs when one of these “hoops” break. Dan showed some graphics showing how Earth’s Magnetosphere is bent by solar wind. That Magnetosphere, or Magnetic field is what protects the earth from solar radiation. He showed slides explaining the layers of the ionosphere. He said that Low Earth Orbiting (LEO) satellites are in the “F layer”. The “D layer”, which absorbs lower frequencies, is closest to earth and only present in daytime. Dan said that the highest layer, the “F2 layer”, is present only in the daytime. He said that a very useful tool is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, available at <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/> The site has tons of useful information and predictions about Solar Weather. Steve also talked about the measurements that affect propagation most: Solar Flux Index (SFI), K index, and X-Ray Flux. He talked about Solar Flares. Solar Flares contain no mass. They’re electromagnetic radiation, traveling at the speed of light, and take 8 minutes to reach Earth. They only occur in daytime when “earth directed”. Often a CME is associated with a flare. Steve said CMEs take 2 to 3 days to reach earth.

Steve’s presentation was well received with several good questions at the end. His presentation was recorded, and will be available with his slides superimposed at some point. Send a note to [ken.kj9b@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kj9b@gmail.com) if you are interested in the recording.

## **Ham Radio News:**

### **ARRL PARTNERSHIP WITH *GROUPE*R**

In September, ARRL announced a partnership with Grouper, the national leader in activity benefit administration. The collaboration between ARRL and Grouper aims to enhance the health of ARRL members by providing access to benefits when they stay active and engaged. Grouper encourages those of us 65 and over to remain active and connected with others. And what better way to encourage that than with money?! That's right, if you're 65 or over and participating in Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans, you can unlock the activity benefit offered by these plans and receive a check in the mail to support your membership dues. I signed up for the program, and shortly after being approved, received a check in the mail for \$50, no strings! According to the plan, by staying engaged, such as by going to club meetings, you can receive an additional \$20 check every three months. For complete information on the plan, as well as information on how to sign up, go to

<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-partnership-with-grouper>

### **IRC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PITCH-IN COMING UP**

Coming up December 13 will be the Club's annual Holiday "Pitch-in", held at the Salvation Army EDS Training Facility. Dinner will start around 6:30 pm. The club will furnish fried chicken, plates and utensils. There will be drawings for door prizes, with a grand prize of a \$100 gift certificate from DX Engineering! An RSVP form has been distributed, but if you can't find it, go to <https://forms.gle/W1egjm7Evt7ZAhDb7>

### **INDY RADIO CLUB DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW**

Don't forget to pay your Indianapolis Radio Club dues. Individual dues are still only \$20 per year. The easiest way to pay is to go to use the PayPal widget at <https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Be sure to include your callsign with your submission. Remember that you can pay multiple years if you would like. Your dues enable the club to continue activities such as VE testing, new Amateur outreach, and club POTA events.

## **W9JP CLUB POTA ACTIVITY NEWS**

Coming up on Saturday, November 23, plan to come to Fort Harrison State Park for another Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air activation. We will plan on being on the air by noon and going for 2 or 3 hours, probably. We will be set up in front of the Visitor's Center, as usual. It will be a little cooler, but I'll have a propane heater, coffee and donuts, and we might even have an enclosed tent. At least, as of now, it looks like it should be dry. We plan to have 2 HF stations on the air, so we should be able to have some fun!

Remember, these are great opportunities for folks with little or no HF experience to get on the air. Don't worry if you're not licensed for HF, as there will be control operators present.

## **INDY RADIO CLUB POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE**

By now, you should have received an order form via email to order your IRC Polo shirt(s). The response has been great! The prices range from \$30 to \$35, depending on size. I'm going to be placing the order with the supplier around November 20, in order to have them available at the December Holiday Pitch-In. If you haven't ordered one, but want to, send a note to me at [ken.kj9b@gmail.com](mailto:ken.kj9b@gmail.com) and I'll send you an order form.

## **2025 HAMVENTION UNVEILS THEME AND LOGO**

The theme for the 2025 Hamvention is "Radio Independence".

According to the Hamvention [website](#), "Our theme this year highlights the freedom, resilience, and endless possibilities within amateur radio. As our world grows more connected through POTA, SOTA, YouTube, and international communications, radio is breaking through traditional boundaries like never before. Historically, radio has been regulated—even banned in some places—but today, we have the freedom to explore, communicate, and innovate without limits. At Hamvention, we're proud to champion this Radio Independence."

In case you don't have it on your calendar, Hamvention this year is May 16 - 18, and tickets are available NOW!

## **INDY UNITED FIELD DAY TEAM PLACES THIRD**

In the "Contest that's not a Contest" known as Field Day, the Indy United Team, which many IRC members are a part of, placed third overall. Notice in the top 10 scores, as compiled by team leader, Brian Smith, W9IND, that the two clubs that scored higher than Indy United were running at least 3 times more transmitters than Indy United:

1. Potomac Valley RC (W3AO/KE3Q) 13A 36,542 MDC
2. West Valley ARA (K6EI/W6ZZZ) 12A-Battery 23,690 SCV
3. Indy United ARC (W9SU/W9RCA) 4A 20,915 IN
4. Mike & Key ARC (K7LED/AE7G) 6A 20,900 WWA
5. Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont (W1NVT/W1PU) 2A 20,662 VT
6. Brazos Valley ARC (KK5W/KT5TX) 10A 20,604 STX
7. Raleigh ARC (W4DW/N4RAL) 9A 19,742 NC
8. Orange County ARC (W6ZE/W6NGO) 6A 19,409 ORG
9. South Jersey Radio Assn. (K2AA/W2EA) 6A 18,198 SNJ
10. North Fulton ARL (K4JJ/NF4GA) 3A 16,234 GA

**WAY TO GO, INDY UNITED!**

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

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid State Amateur Radio Club

Date: Nov 16 2024

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

Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick

Email: [vetestingmarc@yahoo.com](mailto:vetestingmarc@yahoo.com)

VEC: LAUREL VEC

Location: Johnson County REMC

750 International Dr

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Lafayette IN 47901-1141  
Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team  
Date: Nov 16 2024  
Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Elizabeth M. Flowers  
Email: [tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com](mailto:tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com)  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: The Bindery Artist Studios  
Pre-Registration Required  
Visit Website to Pre-Register  
511 Ferry St  
Lafayette IN 47901-1141  
Website: <https://www.tcvet.info/>

Anderson IN 46016-2238  
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club  
Date: Nov 19 2024  
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: Jeffrey L. Dyer  
(317) 775-3415  
Email: [k9dyr@arrl.net](mailto: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: Nov 26 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson  
(765) 517-1581  
Email: [k9nqw1979@gmail.com](mailto:k9nqw1979@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/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155  
Sponsor: GCARC  
Date: Nov 27 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson  
(765) 517-1581  
Email: [k9nqw1979@gmail.com](mailto:k9nqw1979@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/>

Lafayette IN 47901-1141  
Sponsor: Tippecanoe County VE Team  
Date: Dec 04 2024  
Time: 6:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Elizabeth M. Flowers  
Email: [tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com](mailto:tippecanoeveteam@gmail.com)  
VEC: LAUREL VEC  
Location: The Bindery Artist Studios  
Pre-Registration Required  
Visit Website to Pre-Register  
511 Ferry St  
Lafayette IN 47901-1141  
Website: <https://www.tcvet.info/>

Bloomington IN 47401-5337  
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc  
Date: Dec 07 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: William F. Wootton  
(812) 327-5457  
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: Dec 14 2024  
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: James K. Rinehart  
(317) 721-1458  
Email: 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: Dec 17 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: Dec 24 2024  
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)  
Contact: Lynn B. Nickerson



(765) 517-1581  
Email: k9nqw1979@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/>

## **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 November, 1964 *Amachewer*:**

**Excerpt from “IRC GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MEETING”:**

September 25, 1964, was a gold letter day for the Indianapolis Radio Club. That was the date of the club’s 50th anniversary meeting, which was in IPALCO Hall, with an attendance of nearly 200. Most were from the Indianapolis area, but a few came a hundred miles or so, and Joe Brand, K6OJC, a former Indianapolis resident, came all the way from his home in Pomona, Calif.

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

- Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo: November 16 & 17 at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Go to <https://fortwaynehamfest.com/> for details.
- Wabash Valley ARA TurkeyFest: November 30, go to [https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest\\_2024.pdf](https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest_2024.pdf) for details
- Hendricks County Hamfest (ARRL Indiana Section Convention): February 8, at Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds. Go to <https://n9hc.org/hamfest/> for details.

### 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)

### 2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – [president@indyradioclub.org](mailto:president@indyradioclub.org)
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - [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: Dave Miller, K9RTT – [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:**

