



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

November 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

December 13: Holiday Celebration Meeting, Pitch-In desserts, “Ham Jeopardy”, Radio give-away, general fun and frolic!

January 10: Test equipment demos.

February 14: Annual CES show report with Dave Arland.

Highlights from the November Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 by club president David Spoelstra, N9KT.

There were around 45 in attendance.

There were 3 new hams in attendance, plus NN9D, who was attending his first Indianapolis Radio Club meeting.

Officer Elections were next. The 2020 officers will be President, David Spoelstra, N9KT, Vice-President, Dave Miller, K9RTT, Treasurer, Mark Burke, W9MGB, Secretary, Ken Bandy, KJ9B, Directors, Jim Rinehart, K9RU, Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, Jay Kraus, W9TC, and George Taylor, KC9IKD.

Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, gave run-down of plan for December meeting:

There will be ham related videos, Jeopardy with prizes: Cantenna, 24 hour clocks
50/50 drawing with prizes of: FTM-100DR, MFJ tuner, cash!
Food: Chili, meat and cheese tray, veggie tray, pitch in desserts

Upcoming meetings:

January - test equip

February - CES show review with Dave Arland

March - Public Service panel

April - ARRL report with Central Division Director, Kermit Carlson, W9XA

May - INQP May 2 (Saturday) at W9IVY station

June - auction

Upcoming Events:

12/14 ARRL 10m contest at W9IVY

Winter Field Day 1/26, 27 at Salvation Army

May 2 - INQP

Field Day June 27, 28

The current plan is for the club meetings to be in room 101/102 of IVY Tech building IFC through January. (This is the room where this November meeting was held.)

Next David introduced Clint Bradford, K6LCS, (via video conference) for his presentation on working the satellites.

Clint's presentation was informative and entertaining, focusing on how to work the satellites with a handheld radio and minimal antenna.

Clint suggested the web site <https://www.ariss.org/> for all sorts of info on Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

Clint said to be aware of Doppler shift on UHF when working satellites (acquire a little high, then toward lower in frequency as it goes away)

Three basic types of satellites: LEO Low Earth Orbit (most amateur satellites), HEO High Earth Orbit, and GEO geosynchronous.

AO-91 2 meter down, 440 up always

AO-92 switches modes

Clint mentioned some apps for smartphones, including Pocketsat and GoSat Watch for iOS. Clint's web site, <http://www.work-sat.com/Home.html> has lots of reference material and hints.

After Clint's great presentation, David asked for technical questions from the floor, where there were a couple relating to transceivers that were not working as desired.

The meeting was dismissed at 9:00 pm.

Ham Radio News:

W9ICE SYSTEM UPDATE

After hearing reports for a while that the Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters, the group that owns and maintains the W9ICE repeaters is in the process of curtailing operations, I wanted to find out first hand what the story is. To do this, I contacted one of the principals of the operation, Bill Akin, K9YDO, who put me in contact with Dale Schieman, WB9YCZ. Bill's and Dale's replies confirmed that most of the remaining systems will be removed from service "probably before Christmas". They stated that the Freetown remote base for Skywarn was dismantled around the end of September, as was the 441.350 used for the 220 repeater system interconnect. Access to the 1293.500 and the 224.980 is problematic, since they are located in the penthouse of the City/County Building downtown, and there is a lot of coordination involved in finding a time that works for all parties to access that gear. As a note, there has been interest expressed by another local ham group in the purchase of the 1.2 GHz system. However, it would not be downtown. The D-STAR systems have been taken out of service as of November 1. Once again, there has been interest expressed by another local ham in the purchase of the D-STAR stack, but no definite plans have been put together. The 443.9 repeater, which primarily serves as a link to the area 900 MHz repeaters will be removed from service soon, leaving those currently linked repeaters operating as stand alone repeaters.

There is late-breaking news (officially released Nov. 3) regarding the 442.65 repeater. According to a release sent out by Rick Viehe, KM9E, the 442.65 will remain on the air at its current location. To the user, there will be no apparent change in the operation of the 442.65. The only change will be that it will now be under the KM9E/R callsign with a different RF package. See more information in a separate article regarding more work on Rick's systems.

More relatively good news in all of this is regarding the 146.97 repeater. Quoting Dale, WB9YCZ, here: “Now as far as 146.97 goes ... Frank (WB9OPR) & I have decided to keep it on For Now since it is the heart of the Skywarn network. I have been talking to several other groups around Indiana to help in keeping this network operational in the future and removing our presence. I have people in Jennings Co. that are going to be relocating one of their repeaters in the Freetown site that will be linking back to Indy during Skywarn operations and do what the link did we removed. Also since we will continue to operate 97 .. this means that the APRS node and the 927.9875 repeater can stay on the air with the 900 systems being stand alone since all that equipment is in the same room, combined on 3 antennas, and just kind of makes sense with one site for us to deal with.”

After over 40 years of operation of arguably the state’s most innovative amateur repeaters, it is no doubt sad to see this happen, but it is an unfortunate reality of the hobby. Let’s face it, we have an abundance of amateur repeaters in the central part of the state, with not a lot of them getting much use, save for drive times, or during weather events. Also, none of us are getting any younger, and unfortunately others haven’t stepped up to help in the operation of these systems, both physically and financially.

KM9E REPEATER SYSTEM UPDATES

Keeping with the theme of local repeater news, following is information released by Rick Viehe, KM9E. The first item was in the W9ICE article. Note that this was released prior to the scheduled work on 11/5:

“Well, the agreements have been reached & we can now make the announcement public! As many of you are aware, the trustees of the W9ICE repeater have put many years of hard labor into the 11 or 12 repeaters they once operated. A decision was made by them to pull all their systems down except 146.97. There have been many rumors as to what the future would bring.

Let's put those all to rest tonight.

1. 442.65 will remain on the air at it's current location. The only change will be that it will now be under the KM9E/R callsign with our RF package. We are going to reprogram the repeater, the PL tone to 77.0 Hz, and retune the duplexers to turn this into the 442.65/R system. No one will have to change anything who currently uses 442.65.

2. On Tuesday, 11/5/2019 I am pulling the 443.25/R down to prepare it for the move on Thursday morning. We have everything ordered to rebuild the 443.25, with hopes that it will be back on the air at its new, nearby location within 30 days. It will at that point be a single-site system (no voting receivers). I believe the coverage will remain the same or slightly better coverage). We will have the two meter remote base at that site to link to 146.76 for Severe Weather nets in Marion County. The City of Lawrence has been a wonderful host over the years, however they are leveling the fire station and tower site in the spring of 2020 to rebuild.

Dale (WB9YCZ), Bob Burns (W9BU), & I have been working on this for over a month. I'm sorry we could not make things public until now, however, the final approvals & agreements were just reached at 7:00PM this evening. Releasing any info prematurely would have been irresponsible. I hope you all understand that this was a very complex & difficult situation to work through by all parties.

Last I would like to thank Bob Burns (W9BU), [Chairman of the Indiana Repeater Council], for all the hard work he has gone through to put this all into place.

If you are interested in helping to support these two systems & help procure the new RF package for 443.25, the information to donate is on the KM9E.org website. Checks can be made payable to: Harrison UHF ARA, PO Box 443, Fortville, IN 46040. We appreciate any donations to this massive project!"

One last update on the KM9E systems, as of Saturday, November 9:

"On Saturday 11/9/19, Dale & I put a temporary Kenwood repeater with a mobile duplexer on 443.25 (100Hz PL) the air at its new site . It is running only 9-10 watts into the feed line. We hope to receive the equipment for the new 443.25 & interface it by 12/1/19.

The sister repeaters, 442.65 & the 443.25, are being built up to be twin RF packages by 1/1/2020. This will simplify maintenance & needing fewer spare parts for any needed repairs in the future. Both systems will end up with the following equipment: Kenwood NexEdge NXR-810 Dual-Mode Repeater (Will be programmed for Analog Mode only) Arcom RC-210 Repeater Controller ARR GasFet UHF Amp & Splitter for Control Receiver Henry C200D10R Repeater amp TX/RX Systems 28-70-04 duplexers w/two additional TX/RX Pass cavities

Hopefully these two systems will serve Indy well for many years to come."

As a reminder to anyone that uses a repeater, please remember to make a monetary donation, if you can, to the organization that operates and maintains that repeater.--KJ9B

MORE REPEATER NEWS, THIS TIME FOR K9IP SYSTEM

With the news regarding the W9ICE systems, Dave Gingrich, K9DC, presented some good news regarding the re-purposing of one of the former W9ICE antennas for use on the K9IP IRLP repeater:

“As you may know, the Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters (W9ICE) for some months have been trying to reduce their footprint and the number of systems and sites they maintain in the area. One of the systems they have decided to take off the air are the D-Star repeaters in Central Indiana. As a result of this, a very nice UHF antenna became available at the West 79th street location, where K9IP also happens to hang out.

As a result, and with ICE’s blessing, I switched over to using this antenna. It is a Celwave PD-455-5 Stationmaster, at 750 ft above ground level, fed with 1.625 inch heliax cable. It is mounted off the southwest leg of the tower, azimuth roughly 210o. The antenna is rated by the manufacturer to provide 10 dbd (12.1 dbi) of omni-directional gain. Previously (and for years) K9IP was on a similar antenna off the east side of the tower at just 260 feet AGL. While it’s sad to see the D-Star systems go away, this antenna switch has made a tremendous difference in the coverage of the UHF IRLP repeater. K9IP: 443.425, +5 MHz offset, DCS code 043 required, or PL 94.8. The repeater transmits DCS 043.”

For more information on the K9IP IRLP Repeaters, and how to join (free), simply send an empty email message to irlp-info@k9ip.net

YET MORE LOCAL REPEATER NEWS

As copied from Tony Tolbert’s, W9AMT, Facebook post, with his permission:

“Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been a while since I've posted anything really lengthy or directed, so I apologize to you all for my silence. I have been fairly absent from the hobby and especially my main focus, DMR. You see, for the past year, I have been reevaluating my involvement with the hobby and it has given me clarity to realize where I need to better focus my time. Ham radio will always be a hobby of mine, but I do need to continue to keep it on the back burner somewhat and not allow it to consume every waking moment of free time I have. I would never say I've "wasted" lots of time with this hobby, I just have not properly allocated the time I spend, and as a result, I have neglected other aspects and people in my life.

All that being said, I have decided to withdraw from the component of being a repeater owner and trustee for my DMR systems. Man what a roller coaster it has been, but overall it has been extremely fun for me. It's just time to move on. So, as I see it, I have two options here. Ultimately, I would like for someone (or a group of individuals) to take these systems over, including all spare repeater equipment, along with the administration of the Hoosier DMR social media sites as well as hoosierdmr.net for a total cash buyout of my investment. My other option would be to pull everything and sell it off piece by piece. Obviously, that is not my wish, as these systems serve a community of DMR enthusiasts who would otherwise be left with unusable equipment. I've always felt the Indy UHF system to be the nucleus to the Indiana DMR network, and the system that caused the firestorm of expansion between 2013-2016. It would be a complete disservice to see it just die, but if that is its fate, along with my Indy VHF and the Muncie system, so be it. Rest assured, I am not pulling these off the air tomorrow, as I would like to find the "right fit" for their future, but I do have a timeline in my head of 2-4 months for a final decision. Should it come to the decision of all these systems and equipment being sold, that timeline will allow for disassembly, deprogramming, and readying the equipment for resale at the 2020 Dayton Hamvention. I will be sure to keep all social media and email groups expeditiously up-to-date with any changes as they happen.

If this is something you, or your group, would be interested in discussing, please email me w9amt.us@gmail.com, and we can discuss terms and conditions.

HOTSPOT FREQUENCY RECOMMENDATION FROM IRC

As hotspots have become more and more popular, requests to the IRC [Indiana Repeater Council] as to where in the band they should be placed have continued to increase.

In an effort to address these inquiries, the IRC reached out to our surrounding coordination bodies to inquire as to how they were handling these requests. None of them had anything in place to address hotspots.

With the recent issues surrounding Pi-Star based hotspots operating in the Satellite portion of the band, an issue that has been addressed by the author of the software, we've decided to make the following recommendation. Please note that this is not an official policy, but merely a recommendation. Amateurs should continue to operate in a respectful manner and avoid causing interference to other operators as we endeavor to share the spectrum.

The 438.000-439.000 is part of the band that our existing policy reserves for FM/DV Auxiliary Links (25 kHz channels). It is our recommendation that hotspots operate in this area. Since the average person likely only has one or two hotspots there should be plenty of bandwidth. As an example, hotspot #1 can operate on 438.100, hotspot #2 on 438.200, etc.

Please note that this recommendation is not meant for a hotspot connected to any sort of amplifier or an outside antenna. Such a configuration amounts to creating a repeater and would require coordination.

UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Nov 19 2019
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: smriley@hughes.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EOC
200 Delaware St
Anderson IN 46016-2238

Columbus IN 47201-7477
Sponsor: SCICSG
Date: Nov 19 2019

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Michael D. Tanksley
(812) 350-5175
Email: kd9eau@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL MD
Location: Columbus Twp. Fire & Rescue
935 Repp Dr
Columbus IN 47201-7477

Mooresville IN 46158-1333
Sponsor: Formidable Amt Radio Team
Date: Nov 20 2019
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Bill Spann
(317) 831-5582
Email: wlspann@iquest.net
VEC: LAUREL MD
Location: Brown Township Government Ctr
471 N Samuel Moore Pkwy
also: 3176507528
Mooresville IN 46158-1333

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Dec 07 2019
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 876-8689
Email: wfwootton@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

West Lafayette IN 47907-2076
Sponsor: W9YB Purdue University ARC
Date: Dec 07 2019
Time: 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)
Contact: Nicholas T. Hyer
(765) 490-1785
Email: nicholashyer@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL MD
Location: Jerry S. Rawls Hall
100 S Grant St
Room 2079 2nd Floor
West Lafayette IN 47907-2076

Indianapolis IN 46254-2407
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club-W9JP
Date: Dec 14 2019
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: James K. Rinehart
(317) 721-1458
Email: k9ru@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis IN 46254-2407

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 November, 1979 *Amachewer*:

On October 12th, about 30 members and guests were entertained by a report from K.D. Lerner, K9PVW concerning the new Phase III developments for Oscar 9. Mr. Lerner, who resides in Kokomo was well informed on the latest progress of the new Oscar satellite, having recently returned from conferences and inspection trips... Lowell Lowary, W9BZ, followed with a talk about the practical side of the use of the Oscar functions. Lowell pointed out that the equipment needed to use the satellite is neither exotic or unusually expensive, and is available.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- November 16 & 17, 2019: 2019 ARRL Indiana Section Convention/Fort Wayne Hamfest. Go to <http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm> for more information.
- November 30, 2019: 2019 TurkeyFest & Computer Expo at Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds. Go to https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/turkeyfest_2019.pdf for more info.
- February 8, 2020, 8:00 - 1:00: Hendricks County Hamfest at Hendricks County Fairgrounds.

2019 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – davids@mediamachine.com
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - dmiller@ivytech.edu
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - w9mgb@arrl.net
- Chief Operator: Jace Thompson, KD9BIG - kd9big@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – k9ru@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Dave Michaels, N1RF - dw_michaels@comcast.net
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - n9nic@arrl.net

- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - W9TC@arrl.net

2020 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – davids@mediamachine.com
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - dm0582413@gmail.com
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - w9mgb@arrl.net
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- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - n9nic@arrl.net
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- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - W9TC@arrl.net