



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

JUNE 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, JUNE 11th
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

MAY MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the May meeting. Greg, K0GAH, gave a treasurer's report, commenting on the fact that the Club had not been billed for our domain name registrations (W9RCA.org and W9RCA.com) since Jan. 2018 and we will be paying for that now as well as repeater council dues. Web hosting and email reside on Clarence's (W2PGS) servers, services he donates to the Club. Thanks Clarence! We donated \$50 to the Field Day effort. It was also pointed out that our FD group (Indy United) would like those who are staying at the FD site overnight or for several meals donate \$20 to the cause. \$5 if you're staying for only one meal. Dave, N9KZJ, reminded us of the Museum Ships on Air event the first weekend of June. Aurora and other geophysical activities were discussed.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024
Time: Starting at Noon, **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: Jim Rinehart (317) 721-1458
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 605 license application form.
ARRL Test Fee: \$15

Laurel VEC test sessions: <https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Open Net, Thurs. 7PM, W9RCA repeater, 146.88 MHz, tone 88.5 Hz

June 8 POTA activation at Ft. Harrison State Park, 12 pm until 4 pm EDT.
Training session for Indy United FD GOTA operators. Will be using
the W9RCA callsign.

June 8 Monroe County Hamfest, Community Building, Monroe County
Fairgrounds, 5700 W. Airport Rd., Bloomington, Public Contact: Tom
Henderson W9YW, Phone: 317-250-4646, Email: W9YW@arrl.net

June 8 - 10 [ARRL June VHF Contest \(CW, phone\)](#)

June 12 VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest (FT8)

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

Visit the **ARRL Special Event Stations database** at www.arrl.org/special-event-station to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

RCA ARC AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION --Weather was great, near 80 degrees after the morning rain and the sky cleared off by about 9:30 AM. The flea market proved to be a bit muddy, but later in the day they brought out mulch to fill in many of the muddy spots.

The Hamvention had a good turnout [editor's note: A record attendance of 35,877] and the flea market was filled up, larger than we usually see it, but prices seemed to be a bit high, but most were willing to bargain.

MFJ and R&L did not attend, but this was announced in advance.

We had a good turn out at noon in the grandstands that gave us a chance to talk about what we had seen and purchased and as well as catch up on what we were doing. It is always good to see Lyle Juroff, K9FIK, and Harold Smith, KE6TI.

After the Hamvention we met for dinner at Nick's Restaurant, which is almost within walking distance of the fairgrounds. We had reservation for the patio and 8 attended.

Food and service was excellent. We had a great time comparing what we had seen and bought and telling stories. We'll be returning next year. --Jim K9RU

FIELD DAY OPERATION WITH INDY UNITED – W9SU will be operating from the Victor Conservation Club south of Mooresville, 6675 Red Day Rd, Martinsville, IN 46151. This is a joint effort of several Indianapolis clubs under the Indy United banner.

There will be 4 HF stations on SSB and CW. A GOTA SSB station operating as **W9RCA**, and a 6 meter station mainly FT8. Setup starts Friday afternoon continuing Saturday morning. FD starts at 2 PM local Saturday ending at 2 PM Sunday.

Tent camping is allowed. There will be food available, but they ask for a \$20 donation for the weekend or \$5 a day. Cathy, W9QKR, handles the food and it has been quite good, with hamburgers and hot dogs, sloppy Joe or pulled port and fried chicken on Saturday evening. There is also breakfast and lunch Sunday.

The RCA ARC will have the responsibility for setting up and manning the 6 meter station. The same setup that we used last year, with a ICOM IC-756 Pro III and a 4 element beam at 30 feet. Six meters is usually a daytime band, not much in the evenings. We are still looking for 6 meter operators, and are trying to schedule operating time, so everyone is not there at one time. Let me know if you can help out. -- Jim K9RU k9ru@arrl.net

PARKS ON THE AIR (POTA) <https://parksontheair.com/> If you'd like to activate a park and use the W9RCA callsign, contact Jim, AF9A, af9a@arrl.net.

GET READY FOR 2024 ARRL FIELD DAY, JUNE 22 - 23

2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22 – 23. The annual operating event is part contest, part emergency communications exercise, part public relations and outreach activity, and often a social highlight of the operating year.

Many ARRL Affiliated Clubs will be set up in visible locations to get together, get on the air, and to get the public involved in amateur radio. Find a location near you via the ARRL Field

Day Site Locator. It's ham radio's open house!

The theme for 2024 ARRL Field Day is "Be Radio Active." On-air activity has been especially strong thanks to the rising Solar Cycle 25, which is still yet to peak. The theme encourages hams to get out and get involved. There has never been a better time to be active in amateur radio!

Proclaiming Field Day!

Cities and states across the country have made special proclamations for Field Day. In Ohio, Iowa, New Hampshire, and other areas, the Governors have issued formal declarations honoring the community service provided by radio amateurs through programs like the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). Share Field Day proclamations with ARRL at news@arrl.org.

Field Day PR Webinar

The ARRL Public Relations Committee is offering Field Day PR and outreach training webinar live on Zoom to interested public information volunteers. Learn how to engage your local media and local officials and get tips for effective social media strategy. The third and final live session is scheduled for Wednesday, June, 5, at 8 PM EDT (5 PM PDT). Registration is required and may be completed at [this link](#).

How to Find a 2024 ARRL Field Day Site (or list yours)

ARRL's Field Day locator -- at www.arrl.org/field-day-locator -- is an interactive tool to help you find a Field Day site near you, or to list your club's Field Day location so that members of the public and the media may attend.

Populating your group's information into the database is easy. ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says social media should also be used to let interested people know where you're going to be. "Use social media before and during 2024 ARRL Field Day to help people find you. Let them know what your plans are, who is going to be there, and what they can expect if they visit," he said.

Welcome Visitors

Making newcomers feel welcome and getting them involved is important. "Get them on the air! Show them how to make contacts with the GOTA (Get on the Air) station," encouraged ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "People may not remember what you show and tell them, but they will always remember how you made them feel welcomed and involved by allowing them to participate. Your time in showing a newcomer what radio is all about is an investment in the future of ham radio."

To encourage visitors to come to the event, Jahnke recommends contacting local dignitaries or served agency partners who frequently attend Field Day events.

For complete rules and promotional materials for 2024 ARRL Field Day, visit the Field Day landing page at www.arrl.org/field-day. We hope to hear your club on the air! --ARRL

ARRL SYSTEMS SERVICE DISRUPTION

Updated 6/6/2024

We are aware that certain members believe we should be openly communicating everything associated with this incident. We are working with industry experts, including cyber crime attorneys and the authorities, who have directed us to be conservative and cautious with our communications while restoring the ARRL network.

ARRL's association membership system was not impacted by this attack. Members can

renew online at www.arrl.org/join or by phoning ARRL. Additionally, the online ARRL Store is operating as normal. ARRL Field Day merchandise is still available for immediate shipping. Please see this latest [news](#) story about ARRL Field Day.

We have been diligently assessing each system to ascertain the extent of compromise. For example, while the **Logbook of The World®** server and related user data were unaffected, we have taken the precautionary measure of keeping the service offline until we can ensure the security and integrity of our networks. Similarly, access to Online DXCC is unavailable, although individual award data remains secure.

The [digital edition](#) of the July 2024 issue of QST will be available as scheduled, on Friday, June 7. The print edition will go to press on Monday, June 10. Members may also access digital editions of QST dating back to 2012, and current and previous issues of *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ* magazines back to 2020.

As previously reported, the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator is processing Amateur Radio License applications received from Volunteer Examiners who completed candidate exam sessions. As of June 6, our staff are processing applications from exams given on May 22.

As previously reported, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station is [fully operational](#) with voice, CW, and digital bulletins, code practice, and [qualifying runs](#). The station continues to welcome [visiting operators](#) during normal visiting hours.

The [ARRL June VHF Contest](#) is June 8 – 10, 2024. Online log submission will be supported as usual. The log submission function was similarly supported for the recent [ARRL Digital Contest](#), held June 1 – 2.

The publication of most ARRL e-newsletters, including the weekly ARRL Letter, has resumed with minimal disruption to regular schedules. A new platform for emailing newsletters has been implemented, leading to some variations in layout.

ARRL previously reported that they were responding to a serious incident involving access to our network and headquarters-based systems. Several services have been affected, including those administered by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC).

Exam Registrations and Materials. ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. While we are unable to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, we can ship out exam materials. Please remember that most exam materials are available on our website (www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves).

Processing Applications to the FCC. We have resumed the processing of Amateur Radio License applications with the FCC. This includes applications for new and upgrade licenses, individual applications, and club license applications. Exam sessions will be submitted to the FCC in chronological order, from earliest test dates to the latest. Please allow additional time for our processing as the exam session backlog is cleared.

International Radio Permit and License Class Certificates. We are currently unable to create International Amateur Radio Permits, License Class Certificates, and Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed at this time.

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program | FCC Application Fee Reimbursement Information. ARRL is continuing to accept reimbursement forms to cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years of age for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL VEC. Reimbursement checks may take longer than normal to be processed at this time.

ARRL VEC cannot be reached by telephone at this time. We appreciate your patience as ARRL continues to work on restoring access to affected systems and services.

This story will be updated with new developments. --ARRL, Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin

2024 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION HOSTED AT DAYTON HAMVENTION CONCLUDES

The 2024 ARRL National Convention hosted at Dayton Hamvention is a wrap! The final half day on Sunday morning is a slight departure from the thrilling bustle of Friday and Saturday. Radio Amateurs were making a final effort to get by and see everything on their list – a tall order with five exhibit halls full of vendors.

The weather gave a break from Saturday's scorching heat. A sunny, cool, breeze through the fairgrounds giving comfort to the last minute con-goers.

Inside Forum Room 3, the ARRL National Convention track presentations continued to engage members. Sunday started with ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters', W8ZY, **Tips for Successful Radio Clubs**. Amateur radio clubs are constantly adapting to challenges with recruiting and maintaining membership, and the exchange of advice between clubs have become essential.

This talk was followed by **The ARRL Contest Program Update** presented ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke W9JJ. They overviewed several new changes to ARRL's on-air operating events, including limited antenna overlay being added to HF contests, a youth overlay being added to all contests, and overlays being added to certificates. Additionally, changes were made to the 10 GHz and Up Contest rules. Proposed dates to the upcoming 2025 Earth-moon-Earth (EME) Contest have been released as well.

The forum schedule concluded with ARRL Lab Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, W1DRF presenting **Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Tech License Will Take You**. This compelling presentation features many of the under-utilized activities that Technician-class operators should take advantage of like UHF and VHF operation, EME, and digital packet radio.

Tech-class hams took notice of all the activities they may have not known were possible with their license privileges. These presentations will be archived on the ARRLHQ YouTube in the 2024 ARRL National Convention playlist.

As Solar Cycle 25 continues to peak, the activity on the 6- and 10-meter bands offers a lot of potential DX to Technicians. The new ARRL Momobeam Dual Band Beam antenna is a good tool for Techs seeking to extend their reach. More information is available at www.arrl.org/beam.

Look for more coverage from the 2024 ARRL National Convention hosted at Dayton Hamvention® this week on ARRL News. You can see a photo album of all the action you may have missed on the ARRL Facebook page.

2024 ARRL YOUTH RALLY A SUCCESS AT DAYTON HAMVENTION

The second day of the 2024 ARRL National Convention, hosted at Dayton Hamvention® was a success and attendee turnout is impressive. The chilly, cloudy morning soon gave way to mostly blue skies and scorching sunshine.

The heavy attendance was especially apparent in the expo buildings, as hoards of hams flocked to the manufacturer booths – not only to escape the heat outside, but to browse the huge variety of equipment. The aisles are flanked by exhibitors like FlexRadio, ABR Industries, Begali Keys, Icom, GigaParts, DX Engineering, Ham Radio Outlet, and many more big names in amateur radio manufacturing.

At the ARRL exhibit booths, Eric Stoddart, K8ERS, stands aside the ARRL Momobeam Dual Band Antenna he had just purchased. "Looks like it's going to be a good antenna! Hopefully it will perform as well as it looks, and that in the next few weeks it'll be on the air," he said before disappearing back into the sea of other hams, most of whom were also carrying new

purchases.

The antenna is perfect for hams with limited space who would like to take advantage of the global operating opportunities propagation is affording near the peak of Solar Cycle 25. It features an integrated 10-meter Moxon and a 6-meter yagi.

Back in Forum Room 2, Carole Perry, WB2MGP, kicks off the highly anticipated ARRL Youth Rally headed by ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, by thanking all those who helped make the rally possible. She told the audience – made up of young hams, their parents, sponsor representatives, and plentiful volunteers -- “They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, look around this room. It takes a team to support this youth forum.”

The first youth presenter out of many was sixth-grader Cameron Frey, KD9VGV. In only 2 years since being introduced to amateur radio, he has become a General-class, fully fledged Parks on the Air® fanatic, and that’s just part of his ham radio repertoire. “I’ve done more than 100 central activations, and more than 40 different parks. I’ve also hunted more than 700 different parks,” Frey said with pride.

The Youth Rally continued for most of the day with a slew of activities planned for the young hams. To break the ice, the young people were encouraged to catch a satellite pass outside of the forum room that just happened to be overhead at the start of the rally’s next phase.

The Youth Rally was capped off with a forum about the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program www.arrl.org/wewantu featuring speakers from many of the participating colleges and universities.

Another jam-packed Hamvention Saturday is in the books, and the final day of the event will surely be one to remember. --ARRL

ARRL LEARNING CENTER FEATURES TWO NEW EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION TRAINING COURSES

ARRL has released two new courses to train emergency communications (EmComm) operators for volunteering within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®). Both courses are within the ARRL Learning Center.

The Basic EmComm course is designed to get a new volunteer started. It provides basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer and contains three modules and 11 topics, including required prerequisites. It's expected to take approximately 10 - 20 hours to complete.

The Intermediate EmComm course builds on the lessons learned in the first course and equips volunteer radio amateurs with the tools needed to thrive in the fast-paced environment of public service communications and to understand the legal rights and responsibilities of working with a served agency, as well as teach them and how ham radio fits into the broader incident command (IC) structure.

The new courses replace the previous EC-001 and EC-016 programs, however, certificates of completion earned for the previous courses are still valid. "Training is not a one-and-done thing. Throughout my firefighting and emergency management career, we were constantly taking new courses to reinforce existing knowledge and introduce new concepts," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Engaged volunteers should want to stay up to date on advances in the science of emergency communications. I'd even encourage veteran operators to take the new courses."

In 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revised the Guide for National Emergency Preparedness to specifically include amateur radio. ARRL and FEMA entered into a new Memoranda of Understanding in May 2023 that outlined the importance of trained radio amateurs within the response ecosystem.

"Amateur radio is as important as ever in emergency management," said Johnston. "The new courses will keep hams trained to serve effectively."

The ARRL Learning Center at learn.arrl.org is a member benefit and features many ways to get the most out of your amateur radio license. The Basic and Intermediate EmComm courses are available to anyone with a free www.arrl.org account. Users must log in to the ARRL Learning Center with this account, and functionality of the site relies on cookies being enabled. --ARRL

ON LINE THIS MONTH

2024 ARRL National Convention Forums Available on YouTube – The [2024 ARRL National Convention](#) included a track of forums featuring a variety of engaging topics of interest to amateur radio operators. If you didn't make it into the packed house of Forum Room 3 during the three short days of Dayton Hamvention®, or perhaps you did and would like to see the material again, the content is available on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel.

A [playlist of many of the ARRL forums](#) is available. The programs were professionally produced in HD and feature topics such as the **ARRL Membership Forum**, **"Five Steps to a Successful POTA® Activation,"** **"Ground is a Myth!"**, **"Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Technician Class License Can Take You,"** and much more.

"The content and programming is just too good to not share with ARRL members who couldn't make it to Hamvention," said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "There's something for every interest and experience level. I learned a lot while we were recording them! I hope our fellow hams find the playlist to be a valuable reference for years to come," she said.

2024 Dayton photo gallery, by K8CX, is now up with 413 photos: <http://hamgallery.com/dayton2024/>

What's inside of a modern day cell site? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPPrdE05XPc>

How NASA upgraded the moon TV to color – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msWnY2zKS9o>

How to Control Your Ham Radio Station with Node Red
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrgySa9TcXo>

SHORTS

DX Audiobook is out – Thanks to voiceover artist - Josh Pierce, KM4UOL the audiobook version of "Ham Radio DX: A Complete Guide" is now available. There have been many requests for this to come out in the audiobook format and I finally decided to hire someone to handle this for me. At the time of purchase, there is a PDF available to download containing all the photos and illustrations from the book. The book came out to 15.5 Hours! Josh has an amazing voice and he did an absolutely amazing job. Not just saying that because it is my book, but I really mean it. If you are interested in the audiobook version, you can get a copy at: <https://w6aer.com/audiobook>

In fact, you can get it free with a trial of Audible using this above link. For the paperback version, please visit and support DX Engineering at: <https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/vdx-dx-guide>

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THANKS FOR READING

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