



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

OCTOBER 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8,
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the September meeting. The general topic was DXing. The features and uses of Club Log were discussed. On FT8, Fox and Hound (F/H) were discussed as were some details on Super Fox mode. No problems were reported with the '88 repeater operation. Jim K9RU, and Dick W9ZB called attention the VHF contest(s). K9RU reported he already has seven people signed up for the next test session. He (Jim) will miss the next meeting as he helps his brother harvest corn!

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, October 12, 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 NCVET 605 license application form.

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.

Oct 5 Shelbyville Tailgate, Shelbyville, IN <http://www.brvars.com>
Oct 12 Hoosier Hills Hamfest, Bedford, IN <https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>
Oct 26-27 CQ World Wide SSB <https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>
Oct 21-25 ARRL School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
Nov 2-4 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>
Nov 9 Indy Monumental Marathon, <https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/>
Nov 16-17 Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo,
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com/>
Nov 16-18 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MONUMENTAL MARATHON – The Monumental Marathon is approaching on November 9th and ham radio is once again being asked to support this race. There are 26 positions to be staffed for the 5k, half marathon, and full marathon routes. To get details and to register, go to <https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/>

HELENE - STORM UPDATES

Monday, September 30, 2024, 3:30 PM Eastern Update: ARRL leadership has been engaged throughout the weekend with key volunteers in the southeast, especially in hard hit North Carolina, to facilitate any support headquarters can provide to the impacted area. The devastation is widespread and greater than many seasoned emergency responders have ever seen before.

There are ad-hoc health and welfare nets that have popped up, parallel to official emergency communications efforts. Amateur radio operators in the area that have the means to communicate have been facilitating some level of traffic on several repeaters located on mountaintops in North and South Carolina.

High frequency (HF) ham bands are also being used, specifically 7232 KHz and 3923 KHz.

There are amateur radio operators working with several aviation relief organizations which mobilize general aviation aircraft donated by private owners to ferry in supplies. The challenge is widespread devastation of road networks to get anything in to the “last mile” of distribution.

ARRL remains ready to mobilize HamAid equipment as needed. HamAid is a supply of deployment-ready amateur radio gear that can be dispatched across the country within hours, providing amateur radio communications when local equipment has been lost or damaged due to a disaster.

ARRL SECTION MANAGERS GATHER FOR TRAINING AT HEADQUARTERS

The ARRL Field Organization is [divided geographically into 71 sections](#). A key volunteer that members in each section elect is the [Section Manager](#). These ARRL member-volunteers take a critical role in being the front line of the organization to members.

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, 13 ARRL Section Managers gathered at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, for training. ARRL staff members gave them a detailed overview of what the association does on a daily basis, and how the resources from HQ can serve members out in the sections.

ARRL Field Service Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, serves as the point of contact for Section Managers. “These folks have taken on a tremendous responsibility to serve ARRL members and ham radio in general. They’re the ones who facilitate the work of ARRL in the field, and we want to make sure they have every tool available to them,” said Walters.

After a day of hard work in the conference room, the group of volunteers activated [W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station](#).

Section Managers in attendance include: Scott Bauer, W2LC, of Western New York; Matthew Crook, W1MRC, of Santa Clara Valley; Carmen Greene, KP4QVQ, of Puerto Rico; Steven Keller, KC3DSO, of Delaware; Bruce Krypton, AG6X, of San Diego; Alan Maenchen, AD6E, of Pacific; Jon McCombie, N1ILZ of Eastern Massachusetts; Antonis Papatsaras, AA6PP, of San Francisco; Houston Polson, N5YS, of Louisiana; Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, of Oregon; Douglas

Sharafonowich, WA1SFH, of Connecticut; and Chris Van Winkle, AB3WG, of Maryland-DC. Also in attendance was ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY.

GET READY FOR JOTA/JOTI

[Jamboree On - The - Air \(JOTA\) and Jamboree On - The - Internet \(JOTI\)](#) is the world's largest digital Scout event using amateur radio and the internet. The event, to be held October 18 - 20, 2024, connects scouts worldwide for a full weekend of online activities that promote friendship and global citizenship.

Millions of scouts participate and during the 2014 event, worldwide Scouting participation included 1.1 million Boy Scouts and 200,000 [Girl Guides/Girl Scouts](#), for a total participation of over 1.3 million--the largest Scouting event in the world.

Amateur radio operators use their stations to allow the scouts to make contacts. While many scouts are licensed radio operators, the majority participate in JOTA/JOTI through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

Throughout the years, JOTA/JOTI amateur radio stations have been set up in unusual locations including the top of a mountain or on a boat. The event also features a variety of informal education activities, including webinars, global campfires, talent shows, live shows, fun challenges and more through an interactive 3D campsite.

More information about JOTA/JOTI, including rules, regulations, callsigns and worldwide frequencies can be found at [Jamboree on the Air \(JOTA\) \(arrl.org\)](#). Additional information is available in the [JOTA-JOTI Ham Radio Handbook](#).

VOLUNTEERS – THE HEART AND SOUL OF ARRL HEADQUARTER

ARRL is quite privileged to have the service of many member-volunteers. Your national association could not function without the tens of thousands of dedicated hams who give freely of their time and talents to serve the greater amateur radio community.

The ARRL Field Organization is comprised entirely of volunteers – Section Managers, Affiliated Club Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and all other positions are all filled by those who have stepped up for the task. In central Connecticut, where ARRL is based, we enjoy a dedicated group of volunteers who come to ARRL Headquarters to serve.

“The volunteers really keep this place functioning,” said ARRL Member Services Representative Chanel Holley. Holley coordinates the volunteers in her role as ARRL's receptionist. “They're always happy to be here and bring so much dedication to their service,” she said

ARRL is sincerely grateful to the HQ volunteer team. If you come to visit ARRL Headquarters, and the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, join us in thanking this great crew who serve in many different functions including W1AW, ARRL Library, QSL Bureau, and the ARRL Lab.

ARRL SYSTEMS SERVICE DISRUPTION

[Editor's note: The following seems to be a rebuttal of comments made by an unidentified “ARRL Director” which were critical of the ARRL's computer systems, backups, etc., and were circulated on line recently.]

Updated 9/25/24

Two major systems that have not been returned to service include DXCC and our accounting system. Most other systems have returned to full service, and we are working to clean up the stragglers.

DXCC® System

Our DXCC software was written some 20 years ago. Although an attempt was made 8 years ago to reprogram it to function in a newer environment, that effort was unsuccessful, so the old system remains running today. The complication with bringing it back to service is that it runs on an older version of Windows that is not supported, and more importantly, we cannot purchase adequate protection to return it to service on an internet-based network.

We have created an air-gapped network to run the system on and have it operating in a test, using a different method for connecting it to Logbook of The World® and online DXCC -- the web service that runs the online DXCC application. This configuration is being tested and we expect it can go into production soon. We will work to process the backlog as quickly as possible.

New DXCC?

There were statements made by an ARRL Director about work on a new DXCC system. That is not factual. While we have ideas for merging DXCC and LoTW® into a single ARRL Radiosport platform, this concept has not been fully spec'd out or put into development.

ARRL Financials

The system we use for accounting was hit hard by the cyber-attack. Currently, the system is fully operational and the ARRL Foundation books are in place. ARRL's corporate books are current as of 6/30/23, and we are working to load the balance of the data through 12/31/23. Once we are certain that the books tie to the audited 2023 financials, we will move to load the 2024 transactions, which are in digital and paper formats. That will take some time, but we will have all the data current in time for the 2025 Annual Meeting and the annual audit

Backups

Another statement made was about ARRL's backups of our IT environment. There was an effort last year to move all of our backups into the cloud. That was completed mid-2023. There was a routine discipline of backups that went through mid-May 2024 when the cyber attack occurred. Unfortunately, the entire cloud infrastructure was penetrated, and all of the environments were deleted. Not encrypted. This caused us to revert to other backups that had been made and stored in other places. As a result, we were largely able to continue all of our major services especially publishing our 4 magazines and keeping book projects, like ARRL Handbook 101, on schedule.

Today, ARRL is using a proprietary system to backup systems and data locally and to the cloud. We are also continuing to use air gapped, off-site backups in specific areas and are expanding that for disaster recovery purposes. The new IT environment is currently being rolled out, so the assertion that there is something wrong or staff are incompetent is not factual.

We appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

This story will be updated with new developments.

ARRL VEC Updated 9/3/2024

As previously reported, the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Program continues to operate during the systems service disruption.

ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. We are able to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, and ship out exam materials. International Amateur Radio Permits and License Class Certificates are being created and shipped.

We are unable to create Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed at this time. Additionally, the VE session counts webpage data entry programming has been unavailable since May 12th. It will be updated with new data as soon as we are able.

A comprehensive update on the status of all ARRL VEC services is available [here](#).

This story will be updated with new developments --ARRL Letter

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH - GET INVOLVED

All September, the [ARRL® Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) has been promoting readiness and resilience for [National Preparedness Month](#). As we come to the end of the month, a hurricane is churning in the Gulf of Mexico, with forecasts of up to 20 feet of storm surge expected to impact large portions of Florida.

This underscores the need to be prepared. Even experienced hams and those who have been through many disasters have to continually work on their resilience plans.

While we have discussed some very basic preparedness tips this month, ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, hopes you will put your skills, equipment, and other resources to use in a group that can make a difference in your community. "If you have the ability, get plugged into a local ARES group. Using your resources to assist local responder agencies, volunteer groups, public service events, and other areas of need are a prime use of amateur radio," he said.

ARES members will soon great way to practice those skills in controlled situations such as Simulated Emergency Tests or local communications exercises.

On October 5 - 6, Sections will hold a SET, so get involved in your local drill and make a difference in your community through amateur radio.

AMATEUR RADIO AND ROBOT PLAY BALL!

The Staten Island Technical High School Robotics Team, in Staten Island, New York, took its knowledge and skills to the baseball diamond.

The team created a robot that was capable of throwing a ceremonial first pitch and, in early September, the members were invited to showcase and execute their robot at a Staten Island FerryHawks minor league game. But Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, engineering and technology teacher, said there was a major league snag.

"Approximately 30 minutes before 'showtime,' the team discovered a number of hardware issues that occurred during transport, followed by the complete destruction of the main servo wiring system during a subsequent test," he said. "Cell phone calls and texts could not handle the communication chaos, and we had to resort to our established amateur radio simplex frequency to coordinate equipment and logistics in those final minutes. The team was spread out between the field, stands, and merchandise table in the upper deck area. Without radios, there likely would not have been enough time to coordinate efforts to get the job done...but in the end, the team was able to pull it off."

You can watch the robot's first pitch on the school's Facebook page.

All 26 members of the robotics team hold amateur radio licenses, with 2 Extra Class and 3 General licenses in the mix.

"Cool stuff," responded ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, to the robot's ceremonial first pitch.

Staten Island Technical High School is the first New York City school to receive a grant from ARRL. Goodgame said ARRL has been working with the school to build and equip an amateur radio station, to test and license students, and to put science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) kits in the classroom, thanks to a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC). Henriques attended the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology earlier this year. The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology. --ARRL

ESTATE PLANNING FOR HAMS (WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL YOUR STUFF?)

Make a Plan

- Everyone's situation is different
- Have a plan to dispose of your hobby stuff
- Maximize return or be generous?
- Choose a friend
- Have a meeting
- Document your plan!
- Club member assistance
- Club formal/semi-formal committee



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Some estimates show that nearly two-thirds of Americans don't have a plan. For some, it's procrastination. Others don't know where to start. "So many times we hear from the family of a Silent Key who are overwhelmed with what to do with a lifetime worth of amateur radio gear," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "Simply thinking through what needs to be done ahead of time can prevent the stress on our loved ones after we are gone."

On the ARRLHQ YouTube channel, you can see a [replay of the 52-minute presentation](#), along with the question-and-answer section at the end.

"Your station is an asset, just like anything else you've built and put resources into. Deciding now what happens when you become a Silent Key can help solidify your legacy to ham radio," said Beal. [The ARRL Legacy Circle](#) recognizes the generosity of individuals who have planned support for ARRL through wills, trusts, life insurance gifts, and other ways. The ARRL Legacy Circle ensures that ARRL and amateur radio will continue to thrive for generations to come.

Many clubs are IRS 501 C3 and can accept donation and give tax credit.

If you are required to take a MRD, Minimum Required Distribution from your IRA, you can make a QDC, Qualified Distribution Contribution that is tax deductible from your MRD for IRS 501 C3 organizations. --ARRL

ARRL ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH GROUPE

This partnership allows us to connect more people who share a passion for amateur radio...

The ARRL® pleased to announce 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 that support staying active and engaged.

Guided by its mission of encouraging healthy living through meaningful social connections, Grouper connects its members to benefits that cREAD PRESS RELEASE (PDF) over costs associated with group activities. By joining Grouper and staying connected through amateur radio, ARRL members who are 65+ and have participating Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plans can unlock the activity benefit offered by these plans and receive a check in the mail to support their membership dues.

"Grouper is thrilled to help support ARRL members by offering access to an activity benefit that encourages social connection," said Doug Wenners, Grouper's Chief Executive Officer. "This partnership is a natural fit because both organizations understand that social connection builds relationships, encourages involvement, and enhances our communities."

Grouper supports ARRL members who are eligible for the activity benefit by helping to offset membership dues and the participation costs associated with their amateur radio activities. Members are then encouraged to remain active so they can receive ongoing activity benefits.

"ARRL is excited to partner with Grouper to expand opportunities for connection and learning within our community," said ARRL Membership Manager Marc Spardello, W1NJ. "This partnership allows us to connect more people who share a passion for amateur radio through ARRL membership and ARRL Affiliated Clubs. We'll also reach other Grouper members, inviting them to explore radio communications through ARRL and our engaged community of members."

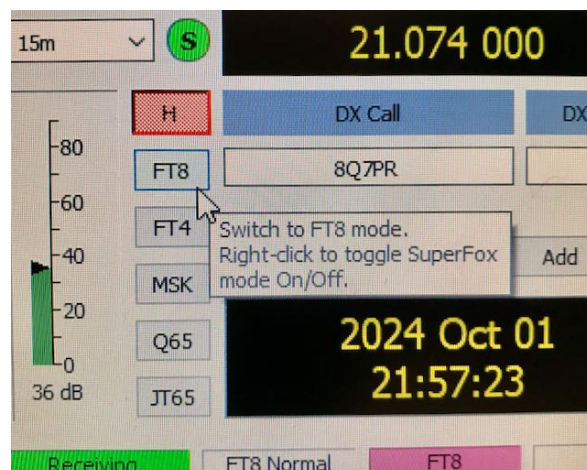
ARRL Members: Check Your Eligibility for Grouper! To find out if you qualify for the activity benefit administered by Grouper and to join the social fitness movement, visit <https://hellogrouper.com/arrl>.

About ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio is among the largest and most influential organizations of radio amateurs (or "hams") in the world. ARRL's mission is to promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. Founded in 1914 as The American Radio Relay League, ARRL supports members with opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve your local community. For more information about ARRL and amateur radio, visit <https://www.arrl.org>.

About Grouper Grouper partners with health plans that offer their members activity benefits. Grouper helps you connect to social activities that match your passions. As you stay socially active and participate in qualifying in-person activities with your group, Grouper works with your health plan to support the cost of your membership dues and make other benefits available to you related to your social activity. For more information about Grouper, please visit <https://hellogrouper.com>. --ARRL Letter

SHORTS

FT8 Operators, Here is a tip you may not have discovered –In F/H mode, (v2.7.0-rc6) you can easily switch between the original Hound mode and SuperHound mode by RIGHT clicking the FT8 box as shown below.



DX LAB SUITE PRESENTATION ON YOUTUBE, the “DX Mentor” podcast hosted Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, the author of the Suite to talk about some of the most useful features of the Suite for the DXer. To see the presentation, directly from the source, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0q3lJS65ds>

POTA and Contesting: A Great Combination - Seasoned contester and chairman of the California QSO Party Dean Wood, N6DE, and passionate Parks on the Air (POTA) activator and contester John Owens, NN6U, joined Kevin Thomas, W1DED, for an interview on his YouTube channel, W1DED Worldwide Ham Radio.

Dean and John discuss how portable operations such as POTA are breaking down traditional barriers to contesting. State QSO parties, like the California QSO Party, are encouraging POTA activators to participate, offering special awards and incentives.

The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuPezzuTDZ0>. –Thanks to Dean Wood, N6DE

THANKS FOR READING

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.
