



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club

www.w9rca.org



NOVEMBER 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the October meeting. We had a relatively small group as some of the “regulars” were absent. Field Day 2024 was discussed keeping in mind that the results are published in December QST. DX is good! If you haven't been on the air much, now is a good time to do it. The solar cycle is at it's peak. Check the internet for current and future DXpeditions: https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/Newsletters/. The Indianapolis Monumental Marathon is Nov.9. They need more ham volunteers.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, November 9, 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

Nov 9-10 **WAE DX Contest, RTTY**

<https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/>

Nov 16-17 **Ft Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo**

9AM -4 PM Saturday and 9AM -2PM Sunday. Admission \$8 Sat & Sun, \$4 Sun only, \$8 Parking. Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Nov 16-18 **ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB** <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Nov 23-24 **CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW** <https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

Dec 6-8 **ARRL 160-Meter Contest** <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

Dec 14-15 **ARRL 10-Meter Contest** <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

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

HELLO, INDY UNITED FIELD DAY TEAM!

As they say in Formula One racing, we're back on the podium ... which is another way of saying that we again finished in the Top 3 – 3rd place to be exact. But not by much! We edged the 4th place club by only 15 points, or the equivalent of four CW QSOs. –And, two other teams fell just short of our 20,915-point total.

Here's the Top 10 as compiled by Brian, W9IND (The ARRL no longer publishes the Top 10 scores, so now it's a DIY assignment.) If you have an ARRL membership, you can double-check my numbers by accessing the current issue (December 2024) online. But I don't think I overlooked any of the leaders.

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

Note that the two highest-scoring clubs had at least three times the number of transmitters that we did. There's no way we're ever going to defeat a 13-transmitter team that can put 36,000 points on the board. However, our dedicated crew – including our solid GOTA Team – managed to outgun the rest of the competition, even teams with nine and 10 transmitters.

So take a bow, everyone, whether you got on the air, helped with set-up/teardown, loaned us equipment, sent us a donation or supported us in any other way. It took every one of you to maintain our status as one of the elite Field Day teams in North America.

Congratulations to all! And, mark your calendar for Field Day 2025 on June 28-29.

73, Brian, W9IND, Indy United ARC

ARRL MEMBERS RAISE \$47,000 FOR STEM EDUCATION IN ONLINE AUCTION

[ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) is pleased to announce that the 19th annual ARRL Online Auction, sponsored by [RT Systems Inc](#), raised \$47,000 for amateur radio STEM education.

The event was held from October 18- 24, 2024. In addition to hundreds of views, the auction saw 329 individual bidders vying for equipment, vintage books, “mystery junk boxes” from the ARRL Lab, and more.

There were 206 items up for bid and more than 1430 bids were recorded with 40 items finishing in overtime bidding. This year's ARRL Online Auction grossed more than \$47,000.

Top three items with the most bids were, both with 25 bids each, Mastrant rope and ARRL Field Day Cooler Bag surprise, and with 24 bids was one of the mystery junk boxes.

Proceeds from the yearly ARRL Online Auction go directly to ARRL's education programs, including promoting activities to license new hams, strengthening amateur radio's emergency service training, offering continuing technical and operating education, and creating instructional materials.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology trains educators to incorporate amateur

radio and wireless communications into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) lessons. This is creating a real impact on the number of new hams across the country. See more about the program at www.arrl.org/TI.

ARRL VEC SERVICES UPDATE DURING SYSTEMS DISRUPTION

Updated 10/30/2024

ARRL [previously reported](#) that we are 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. We are able to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, we continue to 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 and VE Session Counts Webpage. We are processing Amateur Radio License applications to the FCC. This includes applications for new and upgrade licenses, individual applications, and club license applications. The VEC exam session upload webpage was not affected by the incident. The VE session counts webpage data entry programming had been unavailable since May 12th. That part of our program's systems became operational again mid-October. However, there is a 5 to 6 month backlog of session and VE participation data to enter into the system. It will take some time for the session counts page to reflect the data correctly but will be updated as quickly as we are able. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding, as we work our way through the backlog.

VE Accreditations, International Radio Permits and License Class Certificates. As of mid-October, we are able to create Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and accreditation renewals are also being processed at this time. International Amateur Radio Permits and License Class Certificates are being created and shipped.

VE Newsletter VE-List Server. The VE Newsletter email program has been unavailable since the security incident in May. New subscribers cannot be added and existing information cannot be updated. Please check back in with us when we have access to that program system.

2024 – 2028 Extra Class Exam Booklets. A previous version of this story indicated that the ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE team leaders with the new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June. Due to ARRL's recent system disruption, the shipment was delayed. The exam booklets were shipped out July 8 and should have been delivered before August 1. VE Teams may contact the ARRL VEC to receive instructions on how to print new Extra exams in the interim. The newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. Exam designs based off the previous pool are no longer valid. The outdated versions of the Extra exams should be destroyed or thrown away to avoid a mix-up at the testing session.

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.

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.

DREAM RIG CONTEST UNDERWAY

The 5th annual Youth "Dream Rig" Essay Contest has begun to accept submissions.

The contest is sponsored by [The Intrepid-DX Group](#), a U.S.-based 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that promotes amateur radio activities around the world and recognizes the importance of including youth in the amateur radio hobby.

Contestants must be USA or Canadian amateur radio license holders aged 19 or younger. All contestants must be in the U.S. (including territories) or Canada. They must write a two-page essay answering the following question: "What do you see as ham radio's place in society? How can it benefit our society, and at the same time, become attractive to others your age?"

The essay, in plain text, PDF or MS Word attachment, should be sent to intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com or mailed to: The Intrepid-DX Group, 3052 Wetmore Dr, San Jose, CA 95148, USA. Entries must be postmarked by November 30, 2024.

Those who have previously submitted an essay may still compete in this year's contest as long as all other criteria are met.

The first place prize is an ICOM IC-7300 transceiver. Second place prize is an ICOM ID5100AD dual-band mobile radio with D-Star, and the third place prize is an ICOM IC-T10 dual-band handheld. All entrants and winners must promise to keep the radios for one year, without flipping, trading, or selling them, and to use the radios on the air.

TECHNICAL

HANDBOOK 101: A NEW GENERATION OF AMATEUR RADIO

- A new section on batteries and battery safety. [ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) is pleased to announce the next generation of *The ARRL Handbook*.
- *The ARRL Handbook* is your complete guide to wireless technology, experimentation, practice, and development – capturing the state of radio science and technology in one authoritative work for nearly 100 years. Use its more than 1,200 pages of amateur radio know-how to delve into radio electronics, circuit design, digital modulation techniques, and equipment construction.
- The 101st edition proudly introduces a new editor, Gregory D. Lapin, Ph.D., PE, N9GL. Greg and his team of subject matter experts in the community bring a fresh perspective and new outlook on the future of amateur radio. They have revised entire chapters on radio fundamentals, transmission lines, general safety, assembling a station, and more. Major updates to Handbook 101 include:
 - Information on electromagnetic analysis and inexpensive tools for modeling circuits, antennas, and propagation.
 - New material on higher-level modeling of transmitters and receivers.
 - A new section on preparing your station for emergency operations.
 - Radio astronomy receiver and antenna design information.
 - A new section on NEC4 and the antenna modeling software built on it.
 - New material on SWR meters and related tests.
 - The latest on RF safety and compliance with FCC exposure regulations.

Handbook 101 comes with a bonus e-Book download. The download contains a wealth of online content and includes the fully searchable digital edition of the printed book, plus

expanded supplemental content, software, PC board templates, and other support files.

Whether you're an experienced ham or new to the hobby, you'll find information you can use in *The ARRL Handbook*. Like *Handbook* editor Gregory Lapin, N9GL, said about the first *Handbook* he owned, "That edition was half the size of the current *Handbook* and I was never able to read it from cover to cover. I have had many editions since then and ... have never read every word in [it] until this year. Regardless, it has always been one of the great references on my bookshelf; I refer to it often... I hope you enjoy the 101st edition and gain lots of knowledge to help our hobby continue moving forward into the next century and beyond."

The ARRL Handbook is available in a [six-volume set](#) and [softcover book](#) from the ARRL Store or your ARRL dealer. Handbook 101 six-volume book set, ARRL Item No. 2073, ISBN 978-1-62595-207-3, is \$69.95 retail. Handbook 101 softcover book, ARRL Item No. 2011, ISBN 978-1-62595-201-1, is \$69.95 retail. To order by phone, call (860) 594-0200 or, toll-free in the US, (888) 277-5289. Contact ARRL Publication Sales for more information.

SHORTS

VETERANS DAY 2024 SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS: On November 11, 2024, The American Legion Post 275 Amateur Radio Club, N3TAL, will operate a special event station to commemorate Veterans Day. The station will operate from 1800Z - 2100Z on 7.275 MHz (+/-) LSB. To receive a QSL card after working N3TAL, please send a S.A.S.E. to: American Legion Post 275 Amateur Radio Club, 8201 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway, Glenarden, MD 20706.

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club, KA4TAL, Horry Post 111, in Conway, South Carolina, will operate a special event station in honor of Veterans Day 2024 on November 11. The station will operate from 1500Z - 2000Z on 14.255, 7.264, 14.275, and 7.185 MHz. For a special e-certificate, e-mail Henry Chinery, President, at talarc.ka4tal@gmail.com.

Veterans Day 2024 will be celebrated from the National D - Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. The New River Valley Amateur Radio Club will operate special event station W2B from 1500Z - 2020Z on 14.275 MHz. To receive a QSL card, contact Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Dr., Christiansburg, VA 24073, or e-mail dannywylam@gmail.com.

2025 ARRL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH JAN 6, 2025 The 2025 ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program will begin accepting applications on October 30, 2024. Applications will be accepted through January 6, 2025.

More than 100 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 will be awarded. All applicants must be active, FCC-licensed amateur radio operators.

Information, along with the link to the online application, can be found on ARRL's website: <https://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>.

QR CODES ARE MORE COMPLEX THAN YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5ebcowAJD8>



PICO BALLOON BREAKS ITS SILENCE OVER THE ANTARCTIC – A hydrogen balloon from Arizona has ended its months of silence with transmissions that were picked up by a ground station in Antarctica.

Many months after it marked its first anniversary of orbiting the Earth, the WB6RER Pico Balloon was spotted over the Antarctic. Germany's Antarctic station Neumayer III, DPØGVN/1 provided the good news following a period of concern when the balloon appeared to have gone silent for five months. The October 15th spot by the Antarctic scientific research station showed that the balloon was flying at an altitude of 45,735 feet, with its solar panel measuring 3.88 volts.

Weighing 11 grams, the hydrogen-gas-filled balloon was launched in May of 2023 from Golden Valley, Arizona by the Hualapai Amateur Radio Club. One of its greatest challenges during its year in orbit has been to overcome damage to its 20m dipole antenna. --VK4JJW
Newsline

INTERNET ARCHIVE UPDATE – 2 NOV 2024 –_Access to *Internet Archive* has been restored and the past editions are available. However, new uploads are still currently unavailable or intermittent. Attempts to upload currently cycle back to the main page.

We will continue to monitor for upload capability, but for now files from Edition 1337 to present are housed in a temporary location until Internet Archive is fully restored.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to provide continuing access to our podcast.

We also want to thank [Internet Archive](#) for their hard work and transparency in handling this issue.

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.
