

APRIL 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

RCA ARC NEWS

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the March meeting. The quantity of DX occurring on FT8 was discussed. "Good work" Greg, K0GAH, who just got his 99th toward DXCC. Dave, N9KZJ, announced there will be a POTA operation from the Indiana War Memorial, downtown Indy. Any RCA ARC member wishing to do a POTA event using the W9RCA call sign should contact Jim, AF9A. Reminder there is a one day tech license review and testing session sponsored by the IRC coming up. The tornado test drill, or the lack of sirens in some areas, was discussed. We are planning have dinner, Friday, May 16 4:30PM, after the Dayton Hamvention at Nick's again this year, The plan is to make reservations after the April RCA ARC meeting. Jim, K9RU is handling the reservations and needs to know who plans to attend. There are 7 signed up so far.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date:	Saturday, April 12, 2025
Time:	Starting at Noon by appointment only.
Location:	Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
	Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact:	James Kajder (505) 228-3704
Email:	testing@indyradioclub.org
Required:	FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 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 Hz

April 5	Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Columbus North High
	School,1400 25th St, Columbus, Contact: Mike Idlewine WE8MI,
	Phone: 812-521-6206, Email: <u>idlewine@comcast.net</u>
April 13	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB
April 17	ARRL Frequency Measuring Test, Thurs. 04/17 in North America
	https://fmt.arrl.org/docs/FMT-202504-Notice.pdf
April 18	ARRL Open House centered around World Amateur Radio Day
	intended to show our communities how innovative and state of the
	art amateur radio is.

April 26 North Central Indiana Hamfest, Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds 1029 W. 200 North, Peru, Lindsay Hamaker KD9WAI, 765-251-8305

May 3	Indiana QSO Party 11AM to 11PM EDT
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <u>https://www.contestcalendar.com/</u> Visit the **ARRL Special Event Stations database** at <u>www.arrl.org/special-event-station</u> 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 AREA EVENTS There are several great opportunities coming up where you can use our hobby to benefit some popular events in Central Indiana. To volunteer for the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, 500 Festival Parade, along with several other area events, go to <u>https://www.mcinares.org/publicservice/</u> and find the event you're interested in. You'll be able to practice your communication skills and have fun at the same time! -W9SOX

INDIANA QSO PARTY COMING UP MAY 3

The 2025 Indiana QSO Party is coming up Saturday, May 3, running from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm, Indianapolis time. This is a great time to get on the air, because everyone will be looking for Indiana stations. Several plaques and certificates are available for many categories for both in-state and out-of-state stations. Once again this year, there will be 10 "rare" counties (Brown, Cass, Clinton, Wabash, White, Morgan, Shelby, Miami, Carroll, and Switzerland) that will qualify for additional information the INQP plaques. More on can be found at http://www.hdxcc.org/ingp/index.html -HDXCC

FCC INITIATES INQUIRY ON RULES TO DELETE OR AMEND

A Public Notice titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete," issued on March 12, 2025, is soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified "for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens. -ARRL Letter

ARRL RESPONSE TO FCC'S "DELETE, DELETE, DELETE" DOCKET

In a Public Notice titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete," issued on March 12, 2025, the FCC is soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified "for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens." This is the latest in a series of similar proceedings going back to 1996, when the Communications Act was amended to require the FCC to periodically review its rules. The ARRL, through its Executive Committee and FCC Counsel, is conducting a review of the provisions in Part 97 and other related rules that apply to radio amateurs. ARRL is also soliciting feedback from its members.

Rules identified as outmoded, obsolete, or that for other reasons should be repealed or modified, will be included in ARRL's filing to be submitted no later than the FCC deadline of April 11, 2025. The dead line for filing reply comments is April 28, 2025. It is expected that the Commission will incorporate suggestions that it decides worthy of its consideration in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that could be issued later this year. There will then be an opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes for deletion or modification.You can read the FCC docket here: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-219A1.pdf ARRL form for member comment: https://www.arrl.org/fcc-public-notice-march-2025 ARRL Letter

AN INTERVIEW WITH ARRL CEO DAVID MINSTER, NA2AA

A 2-hour interview with ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, is available on The DX Mentor Podcast, hosted by Bill Salyers, AJ8B. Minster was elected by the ARRL Board of Directors as CEO in 2020, and has led the association's operations since.

Minster talked about a wide range of topics from how he got started in amateur radio as a shortwave listener, to the importance of mentoring new licensees. He also answered many questions from Salyers about ARRL membership, matters involving the Board of Directors, and last year's cyber-attack which disrupted many systems and services. Minster also talked about and the organization's work promoting and protecting amateur radio in Washington, D.C., and ARRL's new strategy to develop the next generation of hams and to inspire youth.

The DX Mentor can be found on your favorite podcast platform, and on YouTube. -ARRL Letter

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ARRL YOUTH RALLY AT DAYTON HAMVENTION!

ARRL is inspiring the next generation of radio amateur with a full day fun, learning, community building, and on the air activity.

Registration is now open for the ARRL Youth Rally at Dayton Hamvention[®]. This amazing event is set to be a great day full of hands-on radio activities for people aged 11 to 21.

Join fellow young people who are interested in ham radio, led by volunteers from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program, as they make a fun day out of getting to know radio – and each other. There will be an on-the-air sprint, contacts with a parachute mobile station, a kit built in the youth lounge, and a fox hunt!

While Hamvention offers free tickets for youth aged 12 through high school, **advance registration** for the Youth Rally is recommended. The Youth Rally registration fee is \$20 and includes a tee shirt (to wear on Saturday), badge, lanyard, and reusable tote bag.

The event is led by ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, a former teacher. Young people are empowered to take leading roles in the hobby by participating in the ARRL Youth Rally. In 2024, then-sixth-grader Cameron Frey, KD9VGV, talked about his success as a Parks on the Air® operator. "I've done more than 100 activations, and more than 40 different parks. I've also hunted more than 700 different parks," he said.

The ARRL Youth Rally is always a day full of smiles, fun, and empowerment — make sure your young ham joins us in Dayton! -ARRL Letter

"RADIO CONNECTS" IS 2025 ARRL FIELD DAY THEME

ARRL has released the logo and theme for this year's Field Day, June 28 – 29, 2025.

The theme for 2025 Field Day is "Radio Connects" — highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far. The event is part picnic, campout, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from remote locations.

Ham radio provides a connection — both for practical communications and to form relationships with fellow radio amateurs. No matter who you are, or what your background or interests are, if you have an interest in radio and wireless technology, radio connects you with

others.

The theme is universal, says ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "Local amateur radio clubs bridge generations. Contacts made across town or around the world allow cultural exchange, right over the air. In times of crisis, radio connects those in need with information. The whole point of amateur radio is to connect, both literally and figuratively," she said. Amateur radio also inspires the next generation of technical leaders by providing a hands-on sandbox where students can gain experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Make your plans to connect with radio for ARRL Field Day. Use the Field Day site locator to find a site near you. Clubs planning to host a site may list their event information there, as well.

Don't Forget the Swag! 2025 ARRL Field Day <u>Radio Connects merchandise</u> is available for preorder from the ARRL Store. All the fan-favorite gear is back: tee-shirts (complete with ARRL Sections checklist on the back!), mugs, and pins are available for shipping in late April 2025. *Please note: any orders from the ARRL Store that contain 2025 ARRL Field Day merchandise will be held for shipping until the Field Day items are available in late April.* -ARRL Letter

DAYTON HAMVENTION® 2025 AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The recipients of the 2025 Hamvention Awards were announced on March 11, 2025. "The selection process was highly competitive, given the outstanding quality of nominations submitted this year. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners for 2025," said Dayton Hamvention Awards Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI.

Amateur of the Year: Neil Rapp, WB9VPG

Club of the Year: RV Radio Network (RVRN)

Technical Achievement Award: Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT

Special Achievement: Julio Ripoll, WD4R

Read the full story on the hams selected for these prestigious awards on ARRL News.

The <u>2025 Hamvention</u> will be held Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio. -ARRL Letter

76TH INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION APRIL 11 – 13 IN VISALIA, CA

Join DX enthusiasts from around the world as they gather for the 76th International DX Convention in Visalia, California. The popular event runs April 11 – 13, 2025. This ARRL convention will feature several days of exciting programming, forums, and seminars. It is sponsored by the Northern California DX Club.

On Friday, April 11, a full-day track of the Next Generation DXing Program will feature the latest in how DXpedition leaders are planning missions, using innovative technologies like Radio In a Box (RIB), providing data links in extreme and remote conditions, and building teams to deliver incredible numbers of contacts with hams around the world.

ARRL representatives will be on hand for the event, and to document some of the seminars on video for the ARRLHQ YouTube channel and the ARRL Learning Center. ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Ned Stearns, AA7A, is among the co-chairs who have organized the convention. There will be on-site DXCC card checking. An exhibit hall will let attendees visit with manufacturers and retailers of amateur radio gear. Other exciting learning opportunities include a Contest Academy and DX Academy. More information about the event, including registration and accommodations, can be found at www.dxconvention.com. Preregistration rates are valid until April 3, 2025. -ARRL Letter

ARRL HAM RADIO OPEN HOUSE CONTINUES TO GROW

Dozens of amateur radio clubs have made plans to host an ARRL Ham Radio Open House in April. The nationwide event is centered around World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. 2025 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

While we've been using radio for well over 100 years, amateur radio operators continue to be on the cutting edge of innovation in electrical engineering. Modern weak signal modes, digital modulation schemes, and software defined radios show that ham radio is a vibrant and modern hobby. For many students, it also provides a pathway toward being the technology innovators of the future.

ARRL Ham Radio Open House is a time to show our communities how modern and innovative amateur radio is, and to welcome them to be a part of it. ARRL, HamSCI, and SciStarter are encouraging clubs to have visitors to their sites participate in hands-on activities that can count toward the nationwide goal of documenting 1 million acts of science in April – which is Citizen Science Month.

The ARRL Public Relations Committee held a live webinar on March 19 to help clubs form and promote their ARRL Ham Radio Open House. A recording of the event can be seen on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel.

The publicity kit is also available at this link. Find an open house (or list yours) at www.arrl.org/open-house. Learn more at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day -ARRL Letter

HAM RADIO, STUDENTS AND SCIENTISTS AT THE 2025 HAMSCI WORKSHOP

Some 175 scientists, students, professors, and amateur radio operators from around the world gathered in person and virtually on March 14 and 15 to share research, educate each other, and network at the annual <u>HamSCI Workshop</u>. HamSCI, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation program, aims to promote collaboration between science, amateur radio, and education. The 2025 workshop was hosted this year by the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. The program featured 30 talks and two dozen poster presentations, many focused on the HamSCI community's research activities during the 2023 annular and 2024 total solar eclipses and its ongoing programs to involve amateur radio operators in collecting data for research on space weather and its impact on the ionosphere.

See a short video of the workshop's poster session on ARRL's YouTube channel.

"I believe the workshop went very well," said HamSCI Lead Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, a professor at the University of Scranton. "There were many stimulating presentations and discussions, and the workshop did an excellent job bringing together amateurs, students, and scientists from near and far."

Among the presenters was Space Science Institute researcher Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT, the 2025 recipient of the Dayton Hamvention® Technical Achievement Award. Collins demonstrated how interactive data visualization software can be used as a platform for HamSCI work, including visualization of data amassed from the Personal Space Weather Station (PSWS) project. Owen Ruzanski, KD3ALD, an undergraduate at The University of Scranton, co-authored, "Development of a Contesting and DXing Dashboard for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station." Citizen scientist Mindy Hull, MD, KM1NDY, researched the "Effect of near total solar eclipse on radio propagation of HF, Weak-Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) transmissions."

ARRL was well-represented at the conference, with a team led by Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R — who was also the keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet — and Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD. Inderbitzen focused his remarks on amateur radio's unique status as a technological "sandbox" for exploring and developing new communication technologies. He also highlighted ARRL's commitment to growing the Amateur Radio Service through programs like the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology which prepares schoolteachers and college professors to develop student interest and skills in radio communications and technology.

"Last year, the ARRL Board of Directors established a road map for a bold, new strategic direction," said Inderbitzen in his address. "For 110 years, you might sum up the organization's purpose as promoting and protecting amateur radio. But last year, ARRL's mission was expanded ... to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. And to be even more deliberate, a new advocacy was established: to inspire youth." Inderbitzen also led a meeting of the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program at the end of the workshop. -ARRL Letter

IN EARLY APRIL, AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WILL HAVE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN PARKS ON THE AIR (POTA) EVENTS.

The third annual Geogia Parks on the Air will be held April 5 - 6, 2025, hosted by the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL). Last year, 51 out of 52 parks were activated with over 400 hunters and nearly 12,000 QSOs. More information and updated rules are available at 2025 Georgia State Parks on the Air (POTA) - NFARL. On April 12 from 1300 to 2259 UTC (8:00 AM - 5:59 PM CDT), the Jackson County Amateur Radio Association in Mississippi will host the third annual Mississippi State Parks on the Air. Modes of operation include SSB, CW and FT8/4 or any other legal mode. Any ham radio band that is legal in POTA may be used. Also, VHF/UHF simplex on 2 meters and 70 centimeters is acceptable. Visit MSPOTA (Mississippi Parks On The Air) – Jackson County Amateur Radio Association for additional information. Finally, beginning Saturday, April 12: 8:00 AM CDT (1300 UTC) through Sunday, April 13: 7:59 PM CDT (12:59 UTC), the Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub in Colony, Texas, will activate Texas state parks in honor of member Tom King, WK5DX (SK). For rules and frequencies, go to TX State Parks on The Air - About. -ARRL Letter

VHF/UHF SPRING SPRINTS

The 144 MHz Spring Sprints, sponsored by the Central States VHF Society, begin at 2300 UTC on Monday, April 14, and conclude at 0600 UTC on Tuesday, April 15. The 144 MHz Spring Sprints are the first of five events, each focusing on specific bands. Note the start and end times for the 144, 222, and 432 MHz Sprints have changed from local time to UTC. Participants may operate for no more than four hours beginning at their first contact. For all sprint events other than the Microwave Sprint, a station may be worked once on SSB, CW, FM or AM (analog) and worked again using a digital mode for a total of two contacts per band.

The other dates are as follows:

222 MHz - Tuesday April 22, 2300 UTC - Wednesday April 23, 0600 UTC 432 MHz - Wednesday April 30, 2300 UTC - Thursday May 1, 0600 UTC Microwave - Saturday May 3, 0800 local time - 1400 local time 50 MHz - Saturday May 10, 2300 UTC - Sunday May 11, 0300 UTC For rules and more information, visit

sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2025-information. -ARRL Letter US GOVT TO SHUT VOA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICES The US Agency for Global Media has been marked for defunding. Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Asia and Radio Marti are among the international news services that the White House says it is preparing to dismantle.

Voice of America, a shortwave service launched in 1942 during the Second World to bring news to countries under authoritarian control, is among US-based news programming for overseas audiences targeted in a deep cut by the Trump administration. According to various media reports, VOA employees have been notified that they were all being placed on paid administrative leave with full benefits - effective immediately.

Cuts to VOA, as well as Radio Free Europe, Radio Free Asia, Radio Marti and others are the result of reductions taking place inside the US Agency for Global Media, where these programs originate. These cuts are part of the ongoing down-sizing of the US government. The agency operates with congressional funding to deliver news in 64 languages to listeners around the world via six networks, some of which were created during the Cold War. VOA's first broadcast, made in 1942, was in German and was transmitted to German listeners to counter Nazi propaganda.

The Agency for Global Media's mission statement reads "to inform, engage and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy."

On Friday the 15th of March, Trump signed the executive order for the cuts, noting in the language of the order itself that the services earmarked for reduction have been deemed "unnecessary." --Kent Peterson KCØDGY, Newsline -ARRL Letter

VOICE OF AMERICA MUSEUM REASSURES VISITORS

Although the US administration is making cuts to the parent agency of Voice of America and other international news services, the Voice of America Museum in West Chester, Ohio is assuring visitors that it is not affected by these government decisions. The museum is a standalone not-for-profit entity that relies on support from the public - not federal funding.

The museum's executive director, Jack Dominic, released a statement reassuring concerned hams and other callers that the museum will continue to tell the story of the Voice of America, even as the news agency itself goes silent. As always, the museum looks forward to seeing ham s from around the world during Hamvention this coming May. Museum hours during Hamvention will be from noon to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday - that's May 15th through to May 17th - and on Sunday, May 18th, from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door. Amateur radio station WC8VOA will be on the air so bring a copy of your license. – JACK DOMINIC, VOA MUSEUM via Newsline

TECHNICAL

The Search for MH370 is Back ON! What's changed?! Wikipedia: The disappearance of <u>Malaysia Airlines Flight 370[a]</u> led to a multinational search effort in Southeast Asia and the southern <u>Indian Ocean</u> that became the most expensive search in aviation history.[2]

Despite delays, the search of the priority search area was to be completed around May 2015. [3] On 29 July 2015, a piece of <u>marine debris</u>, later confirmed to be a <u>flaperon</u> from Flight 370, was found on <u>Réunion Island.[4][5][6]</u>

On 20 December 2016, it was announced that an unsearched area of around 25,000 square kilometres (9,700 sq mi), and approximately centred on location <u>34°S 93°E</u>, was the most likely impact location for flight MH370.[7] The search was suspended on 17 January 2017.[8] In October 2017, the final drift study believed the most likely impact location to be at around <u>35.6°S 92.8°E</u>. The search based on these coordinates was resumed in January 2018 by <u>Ocean Infinity</u>, a private company; it ended in June 2018 without success.

In December 2024, it was reported that Ocean Infinity would resume the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 under a \$70 million 'no find, no fee' agreement with the Malaysian government.[12]

A recent video on the Youtube channel "Mentour Now," may be of interest to radio amateurs as it covers the use of **WSPR** (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter), one of the suite of programs in the **WSJT-X** package. A really "long shot" but interesting. Start at about 17:00 into the video.. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIuXEU4H-XE</u> BTW, if you haven't experimented with WSPR, give it a try. Let it run all night and see all the weak signals it decodes. --AF9A



Bob Inderbitzen, operating as PJ4/NQ1R in Bonaire while attending the 2025 HamSCI Workshop in Newark, NJ. [Rich Moseson, W2VU, photo]

While eating breakfast last Saturday morning at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, ARRL staff member Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, was also on the air from Bonaire, remotely working a pileup from a station he visits often on the island. Physically in Newark, New Jersey, for the annual HamSCI Workshop, Bob had his Wi-Fi-connected laptop on the table in front of him, controlling the station in Bonaire as PJ4/NQ1R, and responding to FT8 calls in between bites of breakfast! Increasingly popular remote operating will be the focus of an upcoming special edition of the National Contest Journal. -ARRL Contest Newsletter

SHORTS

NEW CENTRAL DIVISION DIRECTOR AND VICE DIRECTOR – ARRL Central Division, of which Indiana Section is a part, elected a new Division Director and a new Vice Division Director last fall. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, who had been Central Division Director, elected to not run again. Brent Walls N9BA (<u>n9ba@arrl.org</u>), who had been Central Division Vice Director, was nominated for the Director position and Josh Long W9HT (<u>w9ht@arrl.org</u>) was nominated for Vice Director. Both candidates were unopposed and were declared elected. --ARRL

ONE DAY LICENSE REVIEW AND TESTING WAS A SUCCESS! The class started around 9:30 am, and was a joint effort with the Salvation Army and the Indianapolis Radio Club.

Overall, it was a success. Eight people were in attendance for the session. Due to the Friday night storms, some that had originally signed up were deployed and could not make the session.

David Spoelstra, N9KT taught the class, working with Jim Rinehart, K9RU and Bert Williams, KC9TQA, from the Salvation Army, who helped organize the class and test session.

Four of the attendees earned a Tech license, including an 11 year old girl. A few of the others just missed by a question or two and are planning to take the exam at a later test session.

Coffee and doughnuts were provided before the class and pizza was furnished for lunch. In the week leading up to the session, some of the students had trouble accessing the FCC site for getting FRN numbers.

However, the site came up in time for the testing session, luckily. Testing was completed at 6:15 pm.

Thanks to the VEs that helped out with the test session: Jim K9RU, David N9KT, Dave N9KZJ, Dave KB9YYM, Jeff KE9AJF, and Jim W0RLD. _K9RU

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.