



# RCA Amateur Radio Club

## Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club  
[www.w9rca.org](http://www.w9rca.org)

MAY 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 13,  
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,  
2100 EAST 71<sup>st</sup>, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

### RCA ARC NEWS

**APRIL MEETING SUMMARY** – Thanks to all who attended the April meeting. K9RU reported he has “refurbished” and sold a couple of radios which have been donated to the Club for in excess of \$450. Field Day, similar to the last couple years, we’ll be responsible for the 6m station. Most all the 6 meter traffic (there isn’t much) uses FT8. We’ll need operators. There will be a donation requested to partake of the food provided. Good food, it’s worth it! Jim, K9RU, will be making reservations for dinner after the Hamvention, Friday, May 16, at Nick’s. Some of the various FT8 “look alike versions” presently available were discussed. Radio testing by Rob Sherwood was discussed.

### AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

**Date:** No Test Session in May – Next one is June 14th  
**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](mailto: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  
May 16-18 Dayton Hamvention  
May 24-25 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW <https://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>  
June 14-16 ARRL VHF Contest <https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>  
June 28-29 ARRL Field Day <https://www.arrl.org/field-day#rules>

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

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

**Hamfest or Convention:** [www.arrl.org/hamfests](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests)

**Find a license exam in your area:** [www.arrl.org/exam](http://www.arrl.org/exam)

**ARRL Home:** [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

**RCA ARC AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION** – If you're planning to go to the Hamvention, our Club lunch get-together is Friday, May 16, at noon. Grab something from the food vendors and meet in the grandstand. **We will be monitoring 144.43 MHz.**

We have seven signed up for dinner after the the Hamvention at Nick's: AF9A, N9KZJ, KC7UI, K9RTT, WB8FAX, K9RU and K0GAH.

We have reservations for seven, Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> at **4:30 PM** at Nicks Restaurant on the patio. Nick's is on Hwy 68 basically just North the fairgrounds at 1443 N Detroit St., Xenia, OH 45385. East side of the street.

I made the reservation the day after the April meeting and they were already booked up, but did get us in. The reservation is in Jim's name and RCA Amateur Radio Club.

This is the same place we have met at for dinner the last couple of years. They have a good selection and their prices are reasonable.

If you park at the Xenia High School (recommended), 303 Kinsey Road and use the bus to go to the Hamvention which makes it easy to get to and from. Nick's is only a few blocks away.  
--K9RU

## CLOCK IS TICKING DOWN TO 2025 HAMVENTION

We're under two weeks away from Dayton Hamvention®, held May 16 – 18, 2025 in Xenia, Ohio. [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) invites all radio amateurs attending Hamvention to stop in to our large exhibit area. We'll be located in our usual spot, in the Tesla Building.

As we all enjoy the peak of Solar Cycle 25, there's never been a better time to step up your radiosport game. The ARRL Radiosport Forum this year is entitled "Level Up!" and is scheduled for Sunday from 10:30 – 11:30 AM in Forum Room 2.

ARRL Radiosport leaders will share an update on 2025 contests, award hunting, and other radiosport activities like the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) 100th anniversary activity and 2025 ARRL Field Day (June 28 – 29). Also learn how to find a contest club in your area to get a seat on a winning team.

There are many other ARRL-sponsored forums at Hamvention. Find more information at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo). Get tickets for Hamvention at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org).

## ARRL EXHIBITS AND FORUMS PLANNED FOR 2025 HAMVENTION

ARRL welcomes members and all radio amateurs to visit us at the 2025 Dayton Hamvention®, May 16 —18 in Xenia, Ohio. The event features three days of fun activities, ham radio programming, and plenty of opportunities to engage with ARRL.

Saturday's [ARRL Youth Rally](#) will be a fun day of ham radio discovery and friendship for young people aged 11 to 21. Among the team leading the Youth Rally will be volunteers from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP), who are also exhibiting and presenting at Hamvention.

In addition to the CARP forum, ARRL has many other exciting forums planned at Hamvention. Start off Friday with a surfside lesson on portable antennas with "Salty Walt" Hudson, K4OGO, of the popular Costal Waves and Wires YouTube channel. Salty Walt's forum is Friday, 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM, in room 3.

The ARRL Membership Forum is on Saturday.

There are many other great ARRL forums for you to attend. See the whole list at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo).

You can also visit ARRL's large exhibit area in the Tesla Building. All the great things you expect from ARRL will be there, including a chance to get some ARRL merch and publications, plus your free 2025 ARRL button. The ARRL VEC will be on site to help hams renew their licenses; you can visit with ARRL leaders face-to-face and learn about how to get involved in your local ham community (and much more).

You can also see the [ARRL Sweepstakes](#) Icom Dream Station on display.

You asked, we listened: The ever-popular on-site radio emissions testing by the ARRL Lab returns this year. Have your handheld tested to make sure the output is clean. Expert engineers will be on hand to do it right in front of you.

Find ticket information at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org). Download the [ARRL Program Guide \[PDF\]](#) which includes a map of the ARRL exhibit area.

We'll see you in Dayton Xenia! --ARRL

## DOWNLOAD THE ARRL EVENTS APP

The app includes Hamvention's full program, so attendees can browse and schedule forums, preview the list of exhibitors, and navigate the fairgrounds with site maps. During the event, follow the hourly prize drawings, connect with other attendees, and more.

Download the [ARRL Events App](#) now. Available for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices, or use the [browser version](#).

## HERITAGE CQ AMATEUR RADIO HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES NAMED

The Heritage CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, created by longtime amateur radio publisher Richard Ross, K2MGA (SK), will continue to honor amateur radio operators on a new section of the [Hamgallery.com](http://Hamgallery.com) website.

CQ magazine ceased publication in October 2023. Ross died on April 27, 2024, and the change was made with the permission of his widow, Cathy.

The Heritage CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors licensed amateur radio operators, and non-licensed individuals, who have made significant contributions to amateur radio, their professional careers, or to another aspect of world affairs. A select and diverse group of amateurs will administer the new website and review submissions.

The 2025 inductees are:

**Professor Jim Breakall, WA3FET.** Dr. Breakall's work has been instrumental in amateur radio antenna technology development for decades. Dr. Breakall has authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles and books. He is an IEEE Life Fellow, a Radio Club of America (RCA) Fellow, and has been awarded the Sarnoff Award, the Dr. Ulrich L. Rohde Technical Award, at the RCA, and the Technical Achievement Award at the Dayton Hamvention®.

**Angel M. Vazquez, WP3R.** Vazquez graduated from the City University of New York. He worked at WNYC as a radio engineer before moving back to Arecibo, Puerto Rico and taking a job at the Arecibo Observatory in 1977, rising to become head of telescope operations. He has presented numerous talks on the Arecibo Observatory and his amateur radio experiences at the Dayton Hamvention® Antenna Forums, RCA Speaker series, HamSci conventions, and multiple amateur radio clubs around the world. He was awarded Puerto Rico Amateur of the Year in 2017.

**Wayne Overbeck, Ph.D., N6NB (SK).** Overbeck was co-inventor of the Quagi antenna, which is part quad, part Yagi. He was active in amateur radio for over 68 year, was a

communications law professor and textbook author as well as an accomplished DXer and tester.

The nomination deadline for 2025 has passed but information can be found at [Nomination Process for Heritage CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame](#).

## 630-METER BAND WORKED ALL STATES AWARDS ISSUED

Eric Tichansky, NO3M, of Saegertown, Pennsylvania, has been issued the first [Worked All States](#) award from [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) for the 630-meter band. He picked up the award at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on April 21, 2025. That was the culmination of years of study, work, and experimentation.

Tichansky had a draw to 160 meters early in his ham radio career and was active in contesting and DXing on top band. When he moved to his current home, he was able to experiment with LowFER operation. When [630 meters opened to amateur use](#), he got straight to work. "It seemed like an unreachable goal at the time, but patience and persistence as well as gaining more and more of an understanding of the capabilities of the band over the years proved otherwise," said Tichansky.

His transmit antenna system has been a journey in trial, error, and fire – he's a member of what he calls the "Hall of Flames." He says he "definitely learned that good quality insulators do make a difference." After years of work and refinement of matching and loading techniques, his 67-foot vertical with 8 sloping toploading wires as a wire skirt over a large radial field have proven to be the ticket to success. "For reception, I have always used dedicated receive antennas which have included phased Beverages, a full-sized 8-circle vertical array, and various others like a terminated loop," said Tichansky.

As news of the award achievement spread in the amateur community, even many long-time hams with little or no experience on 630 meters wondered how it worked. Tichansky says Alaska and Hawaii proved especially challenging. "(The states) were certainly a challenge, Alaska perhaps moreso. However, both locations had excellent resident operators and stations and through persistent attempts and the right conditions, two-way QSOs were completed. I have a few CW QSOs with K9FD/KH6 (SK) which still stand as the distance record on 630 for CW. I also have the overall distance record for a QSO with VK4YB via JT9 which took a long time and many attempts, finally finding success on a morning (US side) near the equinox," he said.

Tichansky says there are several other operators right behind him, with WAS almost completed. In fact, ARRL Awards Branch Manager Sharon Taratula announced today that Edward Gray, WØSD, of Salem, South Dakota, has been awarded 630-meter WAS #2.

Most of the contacts on the band happen just like any other band, says Tichansky, from getting on and calling CQ or replying to one. Very few of his contacts on there were scheduled.

It takes an experimenter's mind and a lot of patience to be successful on the band, but like with any other operating specialty, there is a community ready to help. "The 630-meter community is very diverse, but there are a number of members that come from particular backgrounds including microwave operations, EME, topbanders and other weak signal communications. The thing we have in common is that we are experimenters and enjoy a bit of a challenge!" exclaimed Tichansky.

He currently has a DXCC total of 17 on the band. Tichansky plans to contribute technical articles about operating on 630-meters to *QEX* magazine in the coming months. All ARRL members have access to *QEX* and [three other high-quality publications digitally](#). --Sierra Harrop, W5DX, ARRL Letter

## ARRL FILES COMMENTS RESPONDING TO FCC REQUEST FOR INPUT

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® filed comments \[PDF\]](#) with the Federal Communications Commission in response to its request for public input on alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens by deleting or modifying rules, [In the Matter of Delete, Delete, Delete](#). Implementing ARRL's suggestions would promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and enhance the development of the next generation of radio amateurs.

In response to ARRL's request, over 200 members submitted suggestions that were reviewed when considering what rules should be deleted or modified. ARRL will continue to engage with members and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service.

In its filing, ARRL asked the FCC to delete or amend the following rules:

### **Delete the LF and VHF/UHF Symbol (Baud) Rate and Bandwidth Limitations.**

ARRL supports the deletion of these restrictions as proposed by the Commission in late 2023. Doing so would enhance Amateur experimentation with digital technologies.

### **Update and Modernize Entry Level Technician Class License Privileges.**

ARRL reiterated its earlier proposal for extending additional limited privileges for Technician class operators. Adopting its proposal would provide new licensees an introductory window to HF data and phone communications that are at the core of the Amateur Radio experience and serve to incentivize the next generation of technical leaders just as Novice CW HF privileges did for earlier generations of operators.

### **Modernize 80/75 Meter Subband Divisions.**

ARRL requested action on an earlier proposal that would make more efficient and intense use of the 80/75 meter band. Changes in technology and modes since band usage was last addressed have resulted in overcrowding in one band segment that would be alleviated by adoption of ARRL's proposal.

### **Delete and Replace Obsolete Digital Code Limitations.**

ARRL also asked the FCC remove provisions that refer to digital codes that today are obsolete and permit Radio Amateurs to experiment freely with new digital codes, so long as such codes are publicly documented and decodable over the air.

### **Implement Changes to Third Party Rules Adopted Internationally at WRC-03.**

Although the United States fully supported changes to the ITU Radio Regulations in 2003 that removed a treaty requirement for third-party messages, there is no record of this change having been considered and the FCC's rules were never conformed to the new provision. Being the only nation known to continue to require a formal treaty for such purposes has resulted in no new such treaties for since the treaty changed more than two decades ago. Thus ARRL asked the FCC to Implement rules that are consistent with those internationally agreed to align with the rest of the world.

Delete Amplifier Drive Limitation.

ARRL requested that the Commission act favorably on a pending proposal to remove limits HF amplifier gain that add to Amateur equipment cost and impede use of new efficient amplifier technology.

### **Remove Non-current Personal Information in Amateur ULS records.**

ARRL requested that the FCC complete a rule making in which it proposed that only current licensee information to be visible in the public (ULS) database. Right now, if an amateur changes their address to a Post Office Box to shield their home address, the previous address remains visible. ARRL advocates for protecting the privacy of radio amateurs.

## Delete Obsolete Identification Requirement for Special Call Signs

Users of special event call signs are required to identify with the FCC-issued responsible call sign at least once each hour. This can be confusing, especially on data and CW modes. ARRL proposed reliance on the web-based database that clearly identifies each special event call sign and authorized period of use.

## Delete Obsolete Paper License Replacement Provision

The FCC no longer mails physical copies of amateur radio licenses, so ARRL suggested deleting the rule that provides for sending paper replacements as obsolete.

The [FCC notice](#) [PDF] generated a lot of interest among radio amateurs, with hundreds of Amateurs submitting comments directly to the FCC as well as responding to ARRL's request for suggestions.

The FCC deadline for filing reply comments was April 28, 2025.

It is hoped that the Commission will incorporate worthy suggestions in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) later this year. At that time there will be a new opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes to delete or modify.

## PAUL "TAD" COOK, K7RA, SK

Paul "Tad" Cook, K7RA, passed away on April 13, 2025.

For 36 years, Cook wrote the weekly W1AW Propagation Forecast Bulletin and the K7RA Solar Update for the *ARRL Letter*. He retired in January 2025, citing a recent ALS diagnosis and on March 8, Cook received the [ARRL President's Award](#) presented to him by ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mark Tharp, KB7HDX.

Several weeks ago, Robin Amundson, WA7CPA, and Western Washington DX Club President Rob Fanfant, N7QT, sat down with Cook to talk about his life and amateur radio, and he shared several interesting stories. One of his fun ham experiences was road-tripping the western United States in a 5-speed stick-shift while making CW QSOs on his Drake TR-7 radio and logging on a legal pad, with Hamsticks for antennas on top of the car.

About 15 years ago, Tad discovered a dance subculture on Capitol Hill in Seattle, getting hooked on traditional blues dancing. He danced at the Capitol Hill Dance Underground and Waves, a Haitian restaurant. He danced with every woman featured on a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) "All Things Considered" segment on blues dance, including the host. Tad also played guitar in Danny Eskanazi's, K7SS, Lamar Harrington Band. Their 1975 single, Oom Cocka Mau Mau, is still available for sale. In addition, Tad worked as a roadie for one of the most iconic rock bands of that generation, Iron Butterfly.

Cook admitted he led a life of calculated risks fueled by a deep personal conviction and a desire to make the world a better place. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced at a later date.

*Watch for the full story in an upcoming issue of QST magazine. --ARRL Letter*

## TECHNICAL

If you're interested in SDR.... If not skip it. I've had no experience with either of these products, but the what caught my eye that this Web-888 SDR uses a 16 bit analog to digital (ADC) converter. You can use an SDR receiver along with your conventional transmitter. You need the 16 ADC for the high dynamic range. <https://elekitsonparts.com/product/web-888-16bit-sdr-receiver-64mhz-bandwidth-openwebrx-pre-installed-hf-vhf-gps-sdr/>

If you're going to do this you'll also probably need an antenna transmit/receive relay. Remember the old days when we had separate receivers and transmitters! It just happens



## SHORTS

**ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST, May 10<sup>th</sup>** – One of the more unique annual operating events is coming up on May 10. The annual “Armed Forces Day Crossband Test” is a fun event where many bases of the Armed Forces will be transmitting on Department of Defense allocated frequencies (out of the amateur bands) and listening in the amateur bands, on frequencies they announce, for us to contact them. Some unique confirmation cards and letters are often available from the Armed Forces stations. Click [here](#) for all the information, including a list of planned participating stations.

**Amateur Radio Helps 2025 Boston Marathon** --Over 280 amateur radio operators volunteered during the 129th running of the Boston Marathon on April 21, 2025.

Operators were working at virtually every location connected with the race, including the starting line, the entire course, the finish line, transportation, and various operations centers including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the State EOC Unified Command Center (UCC), and the BAA Race Operations Center (ROC) in Boston. Combined, they performed communications duties that included logistics support as a primary function and backup support for medical and other public safety requests for the race as needed.

“This is one of the largest public service events amateur radio supports in the United States and planning started over 6 months in advance,” said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, of the Boston Athletic Association Communications Committee.

**ARRL DXCC Statement on Mount Athos Operation SV1GA/A** – The ARRL DXCC Desk has determined that the operation by a DXpedition team from Mount Athos meets the [DXCC](#) award program’s accreditation criteria. Contacts with the team, which operated in January 2025 using the call sign SV1GA/A, will therefore count toward DXCC. Additionally, due to actions taken by local authorities that resulted in the early termination of the operation, any future operations by this team from Mt. Athos will require additional documentation for securing accreditation for DXCC credit.

Mount Athos is an autonomous region of northeastern Greece, governed by the monastic community, and is an entity on the DXCC List.

**Effort to Save Marconi Towers in Canada – Public Invited to Vote on Project** – There’s an effort underway to save some of Marconi’s original towers, and an [online poll is open for people to vote](#) on it being a restoration project through the “Next Great Save” project from the National Trust for Canada.

Some of Marconi’s first messages were received and transmitted using the Battle Harbour Marconi Towers, thought to be the last of their kind standing in North America. News of Admiral Robert Peary’s 1909 North Pole expedition was transmitted by these towers. After 100 years, the twin towers are in need of repair.

To honor 150 years since Marconi’s birth, there are a number of events planned around the world to observe Marconi’s birthday and International Marconi Day.

In the United States, from the Port of Baltimore, Maryland, the Nuclear Ship Savannah Amateur Radio Club will operate K3S on April 26 from 1330 - 2100Z. Check spotting networks for frequency. See QRZ.com info for Savannah Award [qrz.com/db/k3s](#). A QSL card is available by contacting Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd, Odenton, MD 21113.

The [Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club](#) in Babylon, New York, will operate W2GSB from

the Babylon Village Historical Society Museum for Marconi Day on April 26, 1300 - 2030Z.  
Frequencies include 28.340, 21.250, 14.246, and 7.245 MHZ.

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***THANKS FOR READING***

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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  
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