



# RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club

[www.w9rca.org](http://www.w9rca.org)

DECEMBER 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9,  
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,  
2100 EAST 71<sup>st</sup>, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

## RCA ARC NEWS

**NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY** – Thanks to all who attended the November meeting. The meeting started as usual, approving the meeting notes as written in the Newsletter. Not really minutes of the meeting, just some notes on what transpired. We should be getting our yearly bill for the Club's insurance, get it approved by the membership and pay it. Also coming up in Feb., we need to pay the Indiana Repeater Council. A new ham radio magazine, SWR, has just published its first issue. You might want to take a look. [Editor's note: Issue #2 can be downloaded here:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/kqkyd/bmww/#p=1> ] Field day (2025) was discussed. Do we want to do it again? Several contests are coming up in the next couple of months. If this is your thing, get ready!

## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

**Date:** December 13, 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](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  
Dec 5-7 ARRL 160-Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>  
Dec 13-14 ARRL 10-Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>  
Dec 21 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>  
Jan 1 ARRL Straight Key Night  
Jan 3-4 ARRL RTTY Roundup  
Jan 3 ARRL Kids Day

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

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)

## ARRL VEC READY TO FILE 2,500+ HAM RADIO LICENSE APPLICATIONS; FCC EXTENDS RENEWAL FILING DEADLINE

Original story 11/18/2025 – Updated 11/20/2025 (FCC System Issues Affecting Application Processing)

The [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org) reports that the FCC has extended the filing deadline to March 5, 2026, for amateur radio licenses that otherwise were due to expire from October 1, 2025, to March 5, 2026. The announcement is included in an FCC Public Notice ([DA-25-943](https://www.fcc.gov/public-notices/da-25-943)) released on Monday, November 17, 2025.

The news follows the recent reopening of the federal government on November 13, following a lengthy 43-day shutdown. Since reopening, many federal agencies, including the FCC, have resumed activities, though reducing backlogs and rebounding to full operations may take some time. This includes significant delays in filing amateur radio license applications.

The FCC Public Notice includes:

*For personal radio licensees (i.e., Amateur, Ship, Aircraft, GMRS, and Commercial Operator Licenses), renewal filings originally due on October 1, 2025, through and including March 5, 2026, are now due on March 5, 2026. Further, we confirm that licensees whose licenses have expired and whose renewal filing deadlines have been extended above may rely on their timely renewal filing (by the extended deadline) to support continued operation pursuant to [section 1.62 of the Commission's rules](#).*

ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, explained that the announcement means that amateurs whose license expired, or will expire, between October 1, 2025, and March 5, 2026, may continue to operate upon completing a license renewal filing by March 5, 2026.

Somma added the FCC ULS systems are intermittently available again, which include the license manger system, FCC license search, and application search databases, as well as the CORES system.

### **FCC System Issues Affecting Application Processing:**

The FCC had also briefly resumed accepting application filings via its Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system on late Wednesday afternoon, November 19. "The EBF system is used by ARRL VEC and all VEC organizations to file exam sessions, new and upgraded licenses, as well as individual and club license filings, none of which are not being processed at this time," said Somma.

On Thursday morning, an official alert was posted to the FCC website about [FCC systems experiencing significant performance degradation](#). While some applications were successfully processed yesterday afternoon, it appears that currently the EBF system is **no longer accepting** applications.

According to the FCC's website there will be:

- Substantial delays in retrieving search results (searches may take several minutes or time out entirely)
- Slow or delayed processing of new applications, modifications, renewals, assignments/transfers, and other filings
- Intermittent timeouts during submission of applications or attachments

- General sluggishness when navigating pages, viewing license/registration details, or uploading documents
- Inability to complete application fee payments (reported by customers)

FCC technical staff and contractors are actively investigating the cause and are working to restore normal system performance as quickly as possible. This issue is being treated with the highest priority. The Commission will post additional notices when system performance has been fully restored or if additional information becomes available.

During the shutdown, the ARRL VEC urged its Volunteer Examiners to continue giving ham radio exam sessions (see important information below **For ARRL VEC exam candidates**). “We have over 2,500 license applications queued up,” said Somma. She noted that ARRL VEC has already started to file the backlog of applications. “At least for now, when the FCC again resumes processing, they are limiting each EBF user, like ARRL VEC, to upload no more than 75 applications per hour, to ensure the system is stable,” said Somma. Somma asks applicants to be patient as the FCC processes the backlog.

**For ARRL VEC exam candidates** who were unable to get an FCC Registration Number (FRN) while the FCC CORES system was unavailable, please follow these steps to ensure your license application is ready to be processed promptly once the EBF system becomes operational:

**1. Register for a CORES account** at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>, using your email address as your **username**.

**2. Verify your account**, then log in and obtain your **FCC Registration Number (FRN)**.

- Be sure to register as an **Individual**.
- Enter your personal information **exactly as it appears on your photo ID**.
- Once you receive your FRN, **save it carefully** -- this will be your permanent FCC identifier.

**3. Send your Name, Test Date, and new FRN** to the ARRL VEC. Email: [VEC@arrl.org](mailto:VEC@arrl.org)

See previous ARRL News: [Amateur Radio Licensing Update During US Government Shutdown](#) 10/1/2025

## SEVERAL PROMINENT HAMS AMONG 2025 RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA AWARDEES

Several well-known radio amateurs are among recipients of this year’s honors from the [Radio Club of America](#) (RCA), an organization of both professionals and amateurs that has been promoting advancements in wireless communication for more than 100 years. The awards were announced in the Fall 2025 issue of RCA Proceedings.

Among the amateurs recognized this year by RCA are:

Noted contester, former RCA President, and DX Engineering CEO Tim Duffy, K3LR, recipient of the Edgar F. Johnson Pioneer Citation for noteworthy contributions to RCA or the radio industry;

Chester B. Scholl, Jr., K3LA, receiving the Special Services Award for significant work to promote RCA’s goals and objectives;

Julio Ripoll, WD4R, longtime amateur radio coordinator at the National Hurricane Center, recognized for his service at WX4NHC with the Barry Goldwater Amateur Radio Award; and

Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT, this year’s recipient of the Carole Perry (WB2MGP) Young Professional Award. Collins is the Chief Operations Scientist for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station Network. She also voices announcements heard each hour on WWV and

WWVH as part of the WWV/H Scientific Modulation Working Group.

In addition, several hams were named as RCA Fellows, including:

AT&T executive Brian Daly, WB7OML;

- HamSCI founder and coordinator Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF;
- Radio historian Felicia Kreuzer, KA2GXL;
- Public safety communicator and former ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Monte Simpson, W7FF; and
- Angel Vazquez, WP3R, Head of Telescope Operations for the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico.

The awards were presented at RCA's annual Technical Symposium and Awards Banquet on November 22, 2025, in Washington, DC.

## ARRL 10 Meter Contest

The [ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#) runs the second full weekend of December, starting at 0000 UTC on Saturday, December 13, and runs through 2359 UTC on Sunday, December 14. This event allows you to make contacts CW or SSB or both (Mixed) categories. Using only the 28 MHz band, both phone and CW may be used to contact stations only once per mode (there are no Digital contacts counted in this event). See [10-Meter Contest Rules](#) for more details.

Contest exchange: All stations send a signal report. W/VE stations, including Alaska and Hawaii, send their state or province. District of Columbia stations send "DC." Mexican stations send their state or province. DX stations send a serial number. Maritime mobile stations send ITU Region (1-3).

This is an event for newcomers as well as seasoned contesters! The 10-meter band can offer many propagation surprises, including: The elusive sporadic-E (single or multi-hop); early morning meteor Scatter; Aurora and Auroral-E; TEP; Backscatter; and Groundwave out to several hundred miles. Conditions can be open to any direction, and rapid propagation changes are routine. All it takes is a small antenna and low to medium power (5-50 watts) at the right time to make great contacts on SSB or CW.

Don't forget the Club Competition: You can contribute your score to your ARRL Affiliated Club by selecting the club name when you upload your log. Club Competition rules are available [here](#). See the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for major ARRL upcoming contests.

## ARRL INTRODUCES NEW LIVE ONLINE COURSE FOR HAM RADIO LICENSING

The ARRL has introduced a new, fully-interactive two-day online course for ham radio licensing. The [ARRL Technician Class LIVE Video Course](#) includes everything needed to prepare for the FCC Technician Class amateur radio license exam. Enrollment is open now for the inaugural course, which will take place December 20 - 21, 2025.

Join ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, for this interactive online class. "We're going to have fun!" said Greene. "I'll guide you through operating your first ham radio to how to communicate through amateur radio satellites. We are going to get fully immersed in every question and answer with the info you need to pass the test!"

In addition to live instruction, course participants will receive the popular *Technician Class* prep book authored by ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, which has helped thousands of new hams get licensed with fast results. One-year of ARRL Membership is also included, ensuring these new hams will have quick access to all ARRL benefits, services, and programs.

Course Includes:

- **Two days of LIVE instruction** with expert ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF
- **Technician Class prep book** by Gordon West, WB6NOA
- One-year of ARRL Membership

Those who remember ARRL's recorded video courses of the past will recall how valuable it is to *see and hear* lively video instruction. This new course will ensure students have an even more personal, interactive experience. Greene will present the material in bite-sized sections, demonstrating just how much fun amateur radio is!

Visit the ARRL Shop to complete the [paid enrollment](#) for a special introductory price of \$99. Registrants will receive a follow-up email with instructions for registering for the live video course after completing your order. If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact the ARRL Education and Learning Department at 860-594-0285 or email [ead@arrl.org](mailto:ead@arrl.org).

## PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTER AGREES TO \$7,200 PAYMENT

The US Federal Communications Commission has announced that the government will be collecting a payment from an unlicensed radio operator in Massachusetts, settling an enforcement case from last year.

The operator of a pirate radio station in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, has agreed to pay \$7,200 to the US Treasury as part of a consent decree with the FCC. According to a recent report on the RadioWorld website, the FCC said that the radio operator, Robert Bellinger, had been broadcasting on 93.1 FM without a license. The payment, which is part of his consent decree, was substantially reduced from the agency's original proposed forfeiture of \$40,000 which it sought in 2024 in a notice of apparent liability. The RadioWorld report said that Bellinger responded to the notice at the time and told the FCC he was not able to pay the amount.

An FCC review of his finances resulted in an alternative solution -- a consent decree in which Bellinger admitted to his illegal broadcasts and a commitment to make the voluntary contribution specified. --Newsline, KC0DGY

## NEURAL CODEC CALLED 'MILESTONE' FOR DIGITAL VOICE

It's being heralded as a milestone in the long-overdue evolution of speech quality for land-mobile radio systems - the use of an adaptive neural network that replaces traditional signal processing.

A digital voice milestone was announced at the recent acoustics and speech conference in California when the Free DV Project's David Rowe VK5DGR copresented a paper describing a neural network that replaces traditional signal processing with machine learning.

In a recent post on the FreeDV website, David called the development: "the first known real-world deployment of a neural codec – an important milestone that the Ham community can be proud of." He and programmer Jean-Marc Valin presented the details to attendees at the IEEE Signal Processing Society conference where David said it was well-received.

Instead of using the fixed algorithms of traditional digital voice, the FreeDV Radio Encoder, known as RADE V1, employs fully adaptive machine learning, producing a higher-quality result, developed using open source software.

Writing as a guest contributor to the Amateur Radio Digital Communications website in October, David noted that the technology "provides unprecedented speech quality and robustness for VHF/UHF land mobile radio applications." The FreeDV project has been doing this work with grant support from ARDC. – Newsline, Andy Morrison K9AWM. FREEDV.ORG, STEVE STROH, N8GNJ, ARDC)

## ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT (SKN)

Each year from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC PM on January 1st, is an opportunity to participate in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN). This 24-hour event is not a contest; but rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on-the-air and simply make enjoyable, conversational, QSOs. There are no points scored, and all who participate are winners. The number of entries has grown almost every year, even with the elimination of CW as a licensing requirement in the US.

Participants have also used this popular annual event for more than just demonstrating their prowess while pounding a brass key. Numerous participants use SKN to test and "show off" their vintage equipment. Some will plug in their old CW "bugs" and join in the event. The common bond for all of them is to have fun in a more relaxed CW-enriched setting. You will even find CW enthusiasts do get on just to enjoy the rag chewing. --ARRL

## ANNUAL 'AM NIGHT' REKINDLES HISTORY FOR CINCINNATI HAMS

History itself will be getting on the air soon when the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association hosts its annual AM night.

Rigs of every vintage - and quite a few new ones - will be tuned to 1.936 MHz on December 18th for pre-net check-ins at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time. This will be a very special edition of the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association 1936 Net. It was, in fact, October of that year when the then-newly-formed association started hosting this regular net.

The popular on-air activity came to a halt with the start of second World War and did not resume until 1986 - the year that club members decided to revive it and mark the association's 50th anniversary. The net managers are Jay, K8CJY and Geoff W8GNM. Bill, NM4A, is the net control operator and an average of 65 stations check-in each week.

This special net is expected to last two hours. After pre-net check-ins, the net itself gets going at 9 p.m. Eastern.

Hams around the US are invited to fire up their rigs - any rigs. Tom KDØIEL told Newsline in an email: "This is a great opportunity to hear some classic AM rigs, heavy metal, military, broadcast AM transmitters, state of the art software-defined radio...and virtually any ham radio capable of AM mode." – Paul Braun WD9GCO.

## TECHNICAL

**RM NOISE AI NOISE FILTERING** – Check out the demos: CW and SSB AI Software filters  
<https://ournetplace.com/rm-noise/>

## SHORTS

**ARRL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES** – The deadline to apply for an ARRL scholarship to be given in 2026 is fast approaching. Applicants have until noon on December 30th.

The ARRL Foundation makes more than 150 scholarships available in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$25,000. Recipients must be active, FCC-licensed young radio operators.

Different scholarships have different criteria, however, and some awards, such as the Amateur Radio Digital Communications scholarships, are available to active licensed hams outside of the US.



There are also three 10-10 Scholarships available to all radio amateurs who are not necessarily US citizens, residents nor holders of a US license.

For descriptions of all the scholarships and an online application form, visit: <https://www.arrl.org/scholarship-descriptions>

**PROBE INTO COLLISION BETWEEN AIRLINER, WEATHER BALLOON** – In the US, the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the midair collision in late October between a United Airlines flight and a lightweight weather balloon over Moab, Utah that left the pilot injured and prompted an emergency landing in Salt Lake City.

According to a report on the KOMO TV News website, the Boeing 737 was flying at 36,002 feet when it crossed paths with a high-altitude balloon from WindBorne Systems of Palo Alto, California. News reports said that the lightweight global sounding balloon was launched a day earlier from Spokane, Washington. Global sounding balloons use radiosondes to transmit atmospheric conditions and other data gathered during their flights.

A statement on the WindBorne company website said that the incident was the only midair impact in the company's record of more than 4,000 launches. Media reports said the captain's right arm suffered minor cuts and some of the flight crew members were hit by glass from the first officer's shattered windshield. No cabin pressure was lost and the plane was landed safely without further incident. --KOMO TV NEWS, WINDBORNE SYSTEMS)

**FUNCUBE, SATELLITE AO-73, MARKS 12 YEARS IN SPACE** – The FunCube Cube Sat known as AO-73, is not quite a teenager - but it's getting there. It just marked 12 years in space. Launched from Russia in November of 2013, the small satellite carries a full-time UHF to VHF linear transponder with an output of 300 mW PEP. Hams have been making good use of the FunCube for both CW and SSB. Its orbit takes it over the British Isles and Europe six times a day - with three passes each in the morning and evening.

According to AMSAT News Service, more than 11,631,536 frames of telemetry have been collected by ground stations - in many cases, schools - since the satellite first went into service. Happy birthday, FunCube! -- AMSAT NEWS

**NASA STUDIES DISABLED DEEP-SPACE NETWORK ANTENNA** – The US space agency NASA is taking a close look at the serious damage that disabled the largest antenna at its Deep Space Network site in California two months ago. The 230-foot antenna, which tracks near-Earth asteroids and communicates with NASA's interplanetary spacecraft, has been out of service since the 16th of September. The antenna suffered an excessive rotation that strained its cabling and piping and damaged its fire-suppression system, which led to water damage and flooding, according to a report on the Gizmodo website.

The damaged antenna, prized for its sensitivity, received its first signal in 1966 from NASA's Mariner 4 mission. In preparation for Voyager 2's mission toward Neptune, NASA upgraded the antenna's width from 210 feet, or 64 meters, to 230 feet, or 70 meters. It communicated as well with Voyager 1 in 2012 following the spacecraft's entry into interstellar space.

Meanwhile, NASA relies on two other deep-space communication antennas. They are located in Madrid, Spain and near Canberra, Australia. – Ralph Squillace KK6ITB

**FCC EYES REALLOCATION OF UPPER C-BAND** – The Federal Communications Commission is exploring reallocation of part of the upper C-band in the US. In a unanimous vote at its November 20th meeting, the commission studied a draft version of a Notice of Proposed rulemaking which will guide its actions going forward. The FCC will be asking broadcasters and satellite users for comment on a number of options for reallocating 4.0 through 4.2 GHz before it moves to the competitive-bidding stage no later than July of 2027.

The FCC will also be inviting comment from other users of the C-band who may be using frequencies near the portion being eyed for reallocation.

When the lower half of the C-band was reallocated five years ago, its use was assigned for wireless services. Broadcasters' satellite services were moved from there to the upper half of the band. – Newsline, Jack Parker W8ISH.

**NEW MORSE CODE PRACTICE SITE AND HAS A GAME – <https://didah.app/>**

**NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) 2025 was cancelled .** The necessary time and resources required to plan a comprehensive national event for SKYWARN™ Recognition Day 2025 are not available this year. Thus, the difficult decision was made to cancel this year's event by the NWS.

The NWS will work with ARRL and SKYWARN™ spotters to brainstorm ideas to redevelop a spotter appreciation event in 2026.

***Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays!***

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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 SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.

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