RCA Amateur Radio Club
Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club

www.w9rca.org

MAY 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

RCA ARC NEWS

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the April meeting. Jim, K9RU reported he is repairing Collins radios and will be selling them when he is finished. Additional operators are still needed to volunteer to work at the Mini Marathon on Saturday, May 2nd. Our 146.88 will be one of several repeaters supporting the event.

The Field Day site, Victor Conservation Club, has been reserved. Setup will start on Friday afternoon, there is room for overnight tent camping. There will be food available. Cookout Friday evening, coffee and donuts Saturday morning, lunch, and dinner. Sunday breakfast and lunch. Donation for food $5 or $20 for all weekend. Our Club will manage the 6m station as we have done in previous years.

Jim, K9RU, is making a list of those who plan to attend dinner after the Hamvention on Friday at Nick's. He will make reservations. Locations are Nick's, 1443 N Detroit St., Xenia, OH 45385. Seven signed up at the meeting: AF9A, N9KZJ, KC7UI, K9RTT, WB8FAX, K9RU and K0GAH

Otherwise, a free-for-all discussion about transceivers, amplifiers, antennas, etc. closed out the meeting.

Jim Haussin WB9YNM, SK – Jim Haussin, a long time member of our Club, passed away Saturday, May 2, 2026. He was 87. He started work with RCA in 1967 and got his amateur license in 1975,

RCA ARC AT THE HAMVENTION, Xenia, OH – If you're planning to go to the Hamvention**,** our Club lunch get-together is Friday, May 15, at noon. Grab something from the food vendors and meet in the grandstand. **We will be monitoring 144.43 MHz**.

We have reservations for Friday May 15h 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.

We have a reservation for eight and have seven signed up for dinner at Nick's: . We can add one more, if interested. contact Jim K9RU – k9ru@arrl.net

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

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: June 13, 2026 – There is no test session in May.
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.

May 15-17 Dayton Hamvention 2026 is coming up May 15 through 17 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Tickets for this year's Hamvention are available now by going to https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/. Tickets are $30 each.

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

FCC APPROVES LIMITED EMERGENCY USE OF 70 CM BAND BY AST SPACEMOBILE SATELLITES OUTSIDE THE US

On April 21, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted AST SpaceMobile limited authorization when not over the United States to use five 50-kHz channels in the 430–440 MHz secondary amateur band for emergency Telemetry, Tracking, and Control (TT&C) operations for its planned satellite constellation (DA-26-391 Docket No. 25-201). The authorization applies only for communication with five specified earth stations, each located well outside of the United States and for which the foreign administration with jurisdiction also must separately authorize the communications.

More than 2,500 comments were filed during the proceeding including filings from ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® and other member societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), AMSAT, and individual radio amateurs worldwide.

After considering the filed comments, the FCC narrowed the requested authorization to emergency TT&C only and further provided that:

Use of these frequencies is permitted only in emergencies when no other spectrum is available

Each emergency event is limited to no more than 24 hours

Transmissions are restricted to five specific center frequencies (430.5, 432.3, 434.1, 435.9, and 439.5 MHz), each with no more than 50 kHz bandwidth

In an April 29, 2026 statement, the IARU expressed concern with the FCC's use of Article 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations, which allows administrations to authorize non-standard frequency use under certain conditions. The IARU stated that other frequency bands allocated for satellite TT&C should have been used instead of amateur spectrum and encouraged amateurs to report any interference to their national regulators.

ARRL filed comments (see ARRL News) in July (PDF) and August 2025 (PDF) opposing the application, arguing that:

The request represented an unprecedented use of secondary amateur spectrum for an unallocated use by a large commercial satellite constellation

Such operations could cause harmful interference, particularly to amateur satellites in the 435–438 MHz subband

The FCC should avoid authorizing non-allocated uses that could impact primary allocations for amateur services in other countries.

While the FCC ultimately granted the authorization, it imposed the above significant limitations in response to these concerns that reduce the likelihood of interference.

In the US, reports of suspected interference to amateur spectrum can be shared with the ARRL Regulatory Information Manager, email reginfo@arrl.org.

ARRL will oppose any similar unallocated uses of spectrum used by amateurs that might cause harmful interference to amateur services and in particular will monitor this situation.

AMATEUR RADIO TO PARTICIPATE IN DOD ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST ON MAY 9, 2026

Amateur radio operators will participate in the Department of Defense's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test on May 9, 2026. The annual event will not impact any public or private communications.

For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have participated in this interoperability exercise between the amateur and government radio services. The AFD Crossband Test provides a unique opportunity to conduct two-way communication between military communicators and stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests present both opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® hails the Armed Forces Day Crossband Test as an example of the core principles of the US Amateur Radio Service, with its volunteers contributing technical proficiency and readiness in support of public service and national needs.

Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies they are monitoring. All times are ZULU (Z), and all frequencies are upper sideband (USB) unless otherwise noted. An AFD message will be transmitted using the Military Standard (MIL-STD) Serial PSK waveform (M110), followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. Technical information regarding these waveforms is available at **drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pYDj7kQbm-QAyY4RPtx0dOXKohjaEjq9?usp=sharing**.

To document your contacts with a QSL, visit: **www.usarmymars.org/events-and-announcements** and complete the request form.

The US Naval Academy Amateur Radio Club, W3ADO, will activate the historic NSS call

sign during the Crossband Test. Several Naval Academy midshipmen and members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), including team leader Frank Donovan, W3LPL, will be operating on the grounds of the former US Navy radio transmitting facility in Annapolis, Maryland. *PVRC is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

In June, radio amateurs in the US and Canada will participate in ARRL Field Day, the largest annual demonstration of the Amateur Radio Service. Amateur stations will be set up in public places such as a town parks to practice emergency preparedness and acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio. ARRL Field Day will be held June 27 –28, 2026, and this year's theme is **Amateur Radio: A National Resource**. For more information, visit **www.arrl.org/field-day**.

NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED -- EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026

This announcement was originally published in the ARRL Letter on December 18, 2025.

--- On December 18, 2025, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) released the revised 2026-2030 Technician Class (Element 2) question pool. It will be required for all Amateur Radio License exam sessions beginning July 1, 2026. The new pool includes 409 questions (27 new, 30 removed, and about 155 modified), compared to 412 in the prior pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions.

This updated question pool incorporates significant changes compared to the prior pool. The questions were checked for technical accuracy and relevance to current amateur radio practices, as well as for grammar, syntax, format, clarity, and for redundancy within and between the pools.

VECs and Volunteer Examiners must use test designs based on the new pool starting on July 1, 2026. Current ARRL VEC Technician Class exam booklets (2022 series) and computer-generated Technician Class exams created from the 2022 question pool are valid until June 30. After that, old versions should be destroyed.

ARRL will have new editions of Technician Class study materials, including *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, *Gordon West Technician Class License Prep* book, and *ARRL's Tech Q&A*, by May 2026.

View all question pools on the NCVEC website.

The NCVEC is a not-for-profit voluntary association, with membership comprised of the various Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certified Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). --ARRL Letter

2025 BILL ORR, W6SAI, TECHNICAL WRITING WINNERS AWARDED

The ARRL Foundation's 2025 Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award has been awarded to Dr. Ethan Miller, K8GU, and Dr. Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF, for their August 2025 *QST* article, "About Traveling Ionospheric Disturbances."

The editors of *QST* nominated Miller and Frissell in August 2025, the ARRL Foundation Board approved the awards in January 2026, and the award plaques were distributed to Dr. Miller and Dr. Frissell last week. The award is an annual honor presented by the ARRL Foundation to recognize outstanding technical writing in the amateur radio community.

"I was so excited and surprised to receive the Bill Orr award last week," said Frissell. "It was a great honor, and one that means a lot to me. I am very glad to be able to contribute to *QST* in this way. It is very exciting for me to have the opportunity to share my research

work with my fellow amateurs."

Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, is an Associate Professor of Physics and Engineering at The University of Scranton. He founded and now leads the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) citizen science collective and is the advisor for the W3USR University of Scranton Amateur Radio Club. He is a winner of the 2017 Yasme Foundation Excellence award, the 2019 Dayton Amateur Radio Association Amateur of the Year Award, a 2021 inductee into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, and is the recipient of the Orlando HamCation® 2026 Carole Perry Educator of the Year award.

Dr. Ethan Miller, K8GU, earned his doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois and has been an amateur radio operator since he was a teenager. He has been involved in HamSCI since its beginning and currently works for a national security technology company.

"I'm honored and humbled to receive the Bill Orr Award," said Miller. "It's rewarding to be part of a long line of authors of ARRL publications from whom I've learned so much in my ham career."

William I. Orr, W6SAI, was an engineer, educator, and communicator of extraordinary ability. Over a period of 40 years, he wrote and edited scores of technical books and articles of interest to amateur radio enthusiasts. His topics ranged from basic electronic theory to microwave communications and the theory, design, construction, and magic of antennas. Whether explaining electronic theory or the intricacies of a microwave amplifier for EME communications, Bill had the ability to use a simple, plain language. He wrote about technical subjects in a way that naturally attracted amateurs who had an interest in the topic but lacked a technical background in the area. --ARRL

DAYTON HAMVENTION® 2026 OFFERS FORUMS FOR EVERY HAM

Dayton Hamvention 2026 features a wide range of forums to appeal to amateur radio operators of all interests, experience levels, and ages. The Hamvention Forums Committee has assembled a diverse lineup covering technical topics, operating skills, and emerging interest areas.

On opening day, Friday, May 15, there are 22 forums beginning at 9:15 AM with **HamSCI: The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation**. Learn about the Large Scale Traveling Ionospheric Disturbance Project, a version of the Personal Space Weather Station that you can build from scratch, Meteor Scatter QSO Party Results, and an upcoming collaboration with a NASA mission. The moderator is Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF**.**

Another forum on Friday morning is **Lightning Protection, Generators, Inverters and RFI,** moderated by Jim Bacher, WB8VSU, and Gary Bishop, NQØV.

At 11 AM, ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is sponsoring **Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Forum**. "Salty Walt" Hudson, K4OGO, will cover simple, effective, antennas you can build and take to a park, beach, or summit, and make contacts around the world! He'll also be signing copies of his newest book in the ARRL exhibit area.

Among the other forums on Friday is **TAPR - Topics in Digital Radio**, the **Antenna Forum** moderated by Tim Duffy, K3LR, and **Arduino and Microcontrollers - Going the Distance,** with popular ARRL author Glen Popiel, KW5GP.

Young hams will want to start off Saturday morning with the **Youth Forum**, sponsored by the Radio Club of America, at 9:15 AM. Student presenters include Webelos Scout Adam Grubb, KF8EKW, who is currently building a 70-centimeter EME station for his school science project. Carsten Glasbrenner, KQ4SJM, will share his interests in satellites, home brew antennas, and simple soldering kits. Other young presenters and panelists include Haley Pendell, KE2EVX; Maggie Dill, KR4FTN; Anderson Ray, K4RAY, and Violetta Latham, KN2P.

Young hams can also join in some Saturday afternoon fun with the **ARRL Youth Rally Activities** scheduled from 1 – 4 PM. Advance registration is recommended for those students ages 11 to 21 who want this year's Youth Rally T-shirt and badge. An **ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Meetup** will follow the Youth Rally at 4 PM.

An **ARRL Membership Forum** on Saturday at 11 AM will include updates on outreach to students and educators, momentum behind the Year of the Club, ARRL's partnership with America250, and current legislative advocacy efforts shaping the future of amateur radio. The forum will be moderated by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, with presentations from ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA.

A handful of DX-themed forums on Saturday include **The 3Y0K Bouvet DXpedition**, **Desecheo 2026 DXpedition: First All Solar-Powered Unattended DXpedition**, and a forum with Brian Bathe, AD8FD, and Paul Ewing, N6PSE, exploring the lessons learned from DXing in adverse conditions.

Among the forums on Sunday is **POTA Hacks: Little Things Add Up to Big Success**, moderated by Michael Martens, KB9VBR, who will share some of his favorite Parks on the Air operating tips and hacks. Other forums will cover 3D printing for ham radio uses, the HF digital modes, and mastering CW.

Hamvention 2026 runs May 15 – 17 in Xenia, Ohio, and many more forums are spread throughout the weekend. See the entire lineup and schedule at **hamvention.org/event-details/forums**.

The ARRL Events app will include the full Hamvention program by the end of the month. Use it to browse the schedule of forums, find affiliated events, and preview the extensive list of exhibitors. Get ready by downloading the app at **www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl** or use the web version.

See what ARRL has planned for exhibits and activities at Hamvention at **www.arrl.org/dayton-hamvention-2026**.

FREE ARRL EVENTS APP NOW LIVE FOR 2026 DAYTON HAMVENTION®

Make the most of your time at Dayton Hamvention® with the free ARRL Events app. Hamvention is the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs, and will be held May 15 – 17 in Xenia, Ohio. There is a lot to do and see. Use the ARRL Events app to make sure you don't miss a beat and plan out your visit now.

The ARRL events app is produced by ARRL The National Association® for Amateur Radio in partnership with Dayton Hamvention.

The app includes Hamvention's full program, so you can browse and schedule forums, preview the extensive list of exhibitors, and find affiliated events. During the event, attendees can use other app features to follow the hourly prize drawings conducted by the Dayton Hamvention Prize Committee and browse building and site maps.

Those going are also encouraged to tap on the MyProfile icon in the app to add their name and call sign, email address, and any additional information they would like to share with other Hamvention guests. The MyBadge icon displays a QR code of your event badge that can be scanned by another attendee or exhibitor using the Scan Badge icon – instantly connecting shared contact information with other hams at the event.

The app is available for Apple and Android smart devices. You may also access the web browser version, which is optimized for nearly any browser or other type of mobile device.

Download the app at www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl (or use the web version).

For more information about 2026 Hamvention, visit hamvention.org.

INDIANA COMPANY TO MANUFACTURE HY-GAIN AND CUSHCRAFT ANTENNAS

In his pickup truck on the way back to Indiana from Starkville, Mississippi, ITU Corporation President and Founder David Carpenter, KC9ATG, told the ARRL Letter his company will indeed begin building Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antennas.

Carpenter became interested last year in purchasing the antenna lines from Martin Jue, K5FLU, retired owner of MFJ Enterprises. “We were not able to make the deal last year,” said Carpenter. “But I called him a few weeks ago and,with a handshake, the deal was done.”

ITU, which currently sells ham and CB gear, as well as training products for multiple industries, has also purchased the former Linton National Guard Armory, which will become the new manufacturing hub for these legendary US antenna brands.

Carpenter said his company will soon begin moving the manufacturing equipment from Mississippi to Linton, Indiana, and start taking orders by the 4th quarter of this year. The new operation is expected to employ a staff of 20 initially, and then up to 50.

“These antennas will be American-made,” said Carpenter.

Martin F. Jue, founder of MFJ Enterprises, was quoted as saying he expressed confidence that Hy-Gain and Cushcraft, renowned for their robust design, high gain, and worldwide use by radio operators, will continue living up to their legacy under ITU’s American-made engineering and customer-focused approach.

With existing brands like TekShack and LearnLab already in its portfolio, ITU is positioning the Linton, Indiana, site as a center for high-performance antennas, rotators, and accessories used by hams and professional stations.

STEPPIR RETURNING TO AMATEUR MARKET

After exiting the amateur radio market in June of 2025, SteppIR appears to be making a limited return. According to a "splash screen" on the amateur section of their website (https://consumer.steppir.com/), "Thanks to some recent (and continuing) exciting developments on the commercial side of things, SteppIR will now be able to guarantee future sales of our consumer product line via online web sales!" However, once again according to their website, their product offerings will be limited to the Urban Beam Yagi 40m to 6m, 3 element Yagi 20m to 6m, 4 element Yagi 20m to 6m (with the 40/30 loop option available for both the 3 element and 4 element antennas). The site says they will also be selling the SmallIR vertical 20m to 6m, and the BigIR vertical 40m to 6.

TECHNICAL

WSJT-X VERSION 3.0.0 RELEASED On April 8, Joe Taylor, K1JT and the WSJT Development Team released the first General Release version of WSJT-X since version 2.7.0. The new version can be downloaded from https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/ Scroll down the page to select the proper download for your computer environment. Complete release notes, highlighting the differences between the new version and previous versions, can be found at https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/Release_Notes.txt

ON THE AIR LIVE – [Editor's note: Your ARRL user name/password will likely not work on this site. Just create a new account login and password.]

On the air LIVE-ARRL podcast with ARRL's Education Specialist Wayne Greene,

KB4DSF, as he discusses and demonstrates how to use Software Defined Radios. Whether you are curious about using the SDR to explore the RF spectrum or looking to integrate them into your home station, this session will break down the basics and show you how to get started. He will demonstrate how to monitor the amateur bands, air band, and some very interesting things you can monitor on the HF bands. You can watch current and past “On the Air Live” (search for SDR) on the ARRL's learning center, https://learn.arrl.org/

DX

HONORS FOR DXPEDITIONS FEATURING REMOTE ACTIVATIONS --Two recent DXpeditions that featured remote radio operations have been recognized by the Northern California DX Foundation, which is presenting both activations with the DXcellence Award, now in its fifth year.

The criteria included the DXpedition's complexity, its impact on its "Most Wanted" ranking on ClubLog and, of course, overall performance.

The foundation's board of directors chose the KP5/NP3VI Desecheo DXpedition and the PJ6Y Youth DXpedition to Saba Island. Both adventures included remote radio operations. The KP5 operation was 100 percent remote as well as being solar powered. The team's media officer, Steve N2AJ, said in a press release that having the first fully solar-powered, fully remote DXpedition was a "groundbreaking achievement" adding that "advanced technology and careful planning can deliver the world-class results while maintaining an exceptionally low environmental footprint." The team of operators was required to follow strict guidelines from the US Fish & Wildlife Service to ensure a minimal impact on the environment. That means no generators, no amplifiers and no traditional beam antennas.

The PJ6Y Youth DXpedition was chosen for its involvement of young operators from around the world who spent two weeks on the island of Saba. This more traditional style activation featured some first-time DXpeditioners. It was supplemented with radios operated remotely by as many as 30 young amateurs from around the world. The technically complex arrangement was considered a success on many levels, most especially as an investment in the future of amateur radio for the next generation. -- DX-WORLD.NET, Newsline

WORLD OF DX – In the World of DX, the Emirates Amateur Radio Society will be on the air through to the 31st of May as part of the national pride campaign known as "Proud of UAE." The main callsign is A6ØPE although some operators may add /Ø, /1 and other numerals to the suffix.

Harry, JG7PSJ is operating through to the 4th of May as JD1BMH from the Ogasawara Islands, IOTA Number AS-031. Listen on 40-10m where he will be using CW, SSB and RTTY.

The Antwerp Port Contest Club is using the callsign OT26EPIC to promote the Antwerp Port Epic Cycling Race. The club is on the air and will finish their activation on race day, which is the 25th of May.

Listen for Holger, ZL3IO, operating as ZL7IO from Waitangi, Chatham Islands, IOTA Number OC-038 from the 25th of May through to the 3rd of June. He will be operating CW, SSB and digital on 160-10m. Holger will also participate in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest.

For QSL and other operating details, see each station's listing on QRZ.com. -- 425 DX BULLETIN, DX WORLD

SHORTS

AMSAT'S CUBESAT UPDATES AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE --If you weren't able to attend the 23rd annual CubeSat Developers Workshop held in early April in California, you can still catch up with an important presentation about amateur radio in space, delivered by AMSAT president Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA.

Drew gave a progress report on the 3U CubeSat project known as the GOLF-TEE mission. GOLF-TEE is expected to carry a 30 kHz wide linear transponder for ham radio communications as well as a 10 GHz high-speed experimental downlink and improved three-axis attitude control. This project is targeted for completion by early next year. He also provided an update on the Fox-Plus series of CubeSats, which blend commercial hardware with radio payloads developed by AMSAT.

To see the presentation: http://www.youtube.com/live/p5GHRMOr8tk --AMSAT NEWS

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.