



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

JUNE 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

RCA ARC NEWS

MAY MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the May meeting. The status of the '88 repeater was discussed. It is operating properly, although we haven't an operational camera on-site for almost a year. Jim, K9RU, is working a couple of pieces of equipment which have been donated, a Collins 30S1 and a Drake R4C. Annual Field Day planning meetings have started. It will be a class 4A operation with everything pretty much as last year. Dave, N9KZJ, commented on the recent Armed Forces Day Crossband Test.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: June 13, 2026
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.

Jun 13 Monroe County Hamfest, Community Building, Monroe County
Fairgrounds, 5700 W Airport Rd, Bloomington, IN
Jun 13-15 ARRL June VHF Contest <https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>
Jun 26-28 ARRL Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

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

RCA ARC AT THE HAMVENTION

There was a good crowd at the Hamvention on Friday. Weather was good with only a little light rain in the afternoon.

The commercial buildings were packed, ICOM had the prototype of their new HF radio, but not many details. A lot of stuff to look at and you could see inflation has had an impact on the prices.

The flea market was good, but there were a few open spaces. I did manage to find a few deals and things I needed.

We did have a good turn out for lunch with Larry Olson, W9INE, Harold Smith, KE6TI and Glen Marquis, N2KMK, and AF9A, N9KZJ, K9RTT, WB9FAX, and K9RU.

AF9A, N9KZJ, KC7UI, K9RTT, WB8FAX, and K9RU attended the dinner get together after the Hamvention at Nick's. --K9RU

FIELD DAY OPERATION WITH INDY UNITED

W9SU will be operating from the Victor Conservation Club south of Mooresville, 6675 Red Day Rd, Martinsville, IN 46151. This is a joint effort of several Indianapolis clubs under the Indy United banner.

There will be four HF stations, one on SSB, one on digital FT8/FT4 and two on CW. A GOTA SSB station will be operating as **W9RCA**, and a 6 meter station mainly FT8. Setup starts Friday afternoon, June 26th continuing Saturday morning at about 10 AM.

Field Day officially starts on June 27 at 2 PM local, Saturday ending at 2 PM on Sunday, June 28th.

Tent camping is allowed Friday and Saturday.

There will be food available, but they ask for a \$20 donation for the weekend or \$5 a day. Cathy, W9SS, handles the food and it has been quite good, with hamburgers and hot dogs Friday evening, sloppy Joe or pulled pork and fried chicken on Saturday evening. There is also breakfast and lunch Sunday.

The RCA ARC will have the responsibility for setting up and manning the 6 meter station. The same setup that we used last year, with a ICOM IC-756 Pro III and a 4 element beam at 30 feet. Six meters is usually a daytime band, not much in the evenings. We are still looking for 6 meter operators, let me know if you can help out.
-- Jim K9RU k9ru@arrl.net

REPORT FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST HAMFEST

Radio amateurs from around the world descended on Xenia, Ohio, on May 15th for Hamvention® 2026. The three-day event featured five indoor exhibit halls for vendors and organizations, four parallel tracks of forums, and a massive flea market that filled the infield of a horse racing track and spilled over into surrounding areas. In addition, Hamvention served as the anchor for a variety of outside events, from deep-dive conferences to both formal and informal dinners for hams with shared operating interests.

Setup at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center began on Thursday, May 14. Nearby, [Contest University](#) drew hundreds of beginners and advanced contesters for a full day of training and knowledge sharing taught by veteran contesters, and QRPers networked at the Four Days In May conference. ARRL hosted its annual Donor Recognition Reception, thanking those who have generously supported the association and invested in the future of amateur radio. This year's reception had a red, white, and

blue theme reflecting ARRL's participation in the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence – and the contributions of radio amateurs to the American story. "Even at 112 years old, ARRL embodies a distinctly American tradition: free individuals, driven by curiosity and service, advancing the art of radio for the benefit of all," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, in his address to the guests.

When the fairground gates opened on Friday morning, Hamvention was jammed with enthusiastic hams, some looking for bargains in the flea market, some coming to see the newest offerings from both large and small manufacturers, and others looking to learn from experts at the dozens of forums offered throughout the weekend. For example, Jim Winfrey, KJ4SBG, of Jacksonville, Florida, said "I want to talk with AMSAT and see what's up with satellites," while Brian Steinebach, W8KHZ, of Kingsley, Michigan, noted that "I spend all my time in the flea market, looking for antiques." Roy Ashkenaz, K2RMA, of Morganton, North Carolina, said his motivations for coming are "seeing a bunch of people, seeing the big vendors, seeing the new radios, getting away for a few days." Hamvention is also a major social event, as Angel Vazquez, WP3R, the former head of telescope operations at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, explained. "Friends," he said. "I can see all the stuff on the internet. It's just seeing all the friends I've made over the years."

In the sprawling ARRL Expo area, attendees interacted with program representatives, Field Organization volunteers, and leadership officials, including ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and President Rick Roderick, K5UR. Emergency Communications and Field Services Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, and several volunteers promoted ARRL's "[Year of the Club](#)" program, sponsored by [Icom America](#), and the organization's participation in [America250](#). Visitors were invited to share the variety of ways their radio clubs help to grow amateur radio.

In the ARRL Lab booth, Senior Lab Engineer Rick Ciervo, W1CIE, tested handhelds for spurious emissions while Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, W1DRF, demonstrated the new QST Product Review Comparison Tool that — starting June 1 — will allow ARRL members to access Lab measurements on various aspects of reviewed radios and amplifiers online and compare them with each other. The Lab staff also highlighted CSI, the Clean Signal Initiative, which has introduced benchmarks and standards for transmitted signals which are now reflected in the Lab's published test results.

ARRL educators treated young hams (and future hams) to supervised soldering practice, opportunities to decipher Morse code messages, and to answer the question, "What advice would you have for older-generation hams?" At the adjacent College Amateur Radio Program (CARP) booth, student leader Tyler Schroder, NT1S, and a team of volunteers, including Ally Brawner, KR4GVZ — a Ph.D. student at Clemson University — and recent Clemson graduate Cade Braxton, KO4VDX, greeted visiting college students and shared campus radio club experiences. The ARRL Youth Rally on Saturday afternoon featured a variety of outdoor activities, and even extended into Sunday, when young participants had the chance to make contact with Carlos Felix Ortiz, K9OL, as he operated parachute-mobile from above the fairgrounds.

Other ARRL booths included the VEC, Great Lakes Division, Development and Foundation, and Radiosport — supported by DXCC Card Checking volunteers. Plus, there were book signings by authors Glen Popiel, KW5GP ([Digital Networking for Ham Radio](#)), and "Salty" Walt Hudson, K4OGO ([Salty Walt's Next Level Portable Antenna Sketchbook](#)). Walt's forum drew nearly 200 fans, packing the Hamvention's largest forum room. Nearby booths were supported by representatives for the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL), the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), and the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

On Friday night, ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, spoke at the FlexRadio banquet, highlighting ARRL's work and that of the wider amateur radio community to encourage pathways for youth that lead to further education and careers in wireless technology. "You do not need to create a new technology to make a lasting contribution," said Inderbitzen. "Sometimes the most important innovation is

simply creating an opportunity for someone else.”

Saturday's ARRL Membership Forum was led by Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, with presenters President Roderick and CEO Minster. Foundation President and Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ, presented scholarships to several students who were present.

ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ, presented 2026 scholarships to (left to right) Tyler Schroder, NT1S; Lily Leslie, AD2FJ; Andrew Johnson, N4HFR, and Grace Papay, K8LG.

[Hamvention](#) 2026 ended at 1 PM on Sunday with the awarding of major prizes. Next year's show will be held in the same location on May 21-23, 2027.

See video highlights from Hamvention on ARRL's YouTube channel, [ARRLHQ](#).

See ARRL's Hamvention 2026 [Facebook photo album](#).

CANADA'S CHU WILL GO SILENT ON SHORTWAVE ON JUNE 22, 2026

Canadian shortwave station(s) CHU is scheduled to go off the air on the 22nd of June and this will bring an end to a famous piece of Canadian radio history.

CHU was known for its distinct voice announcements in English and French, as well as its digital time-code signals. Its high-frequency signals were widely used by shortwave listeners, amateur radio operators, and scientific researchers to synchronize clocks and test equipment.

The station delivers the nation's official time from a transmitter site southwest of Ottawa, broadcasting on 3.33, 7.85 and 14.67 MHz.

Canada first began transmitting the time under the CHU callsign in 1938. The station began its transmissions earlier in the decade as VE9OB. Its announcements are in Coordinated Universal Time, a change made in 1990 after decades of transmitting in Eastern Standard Time.

In making the announcement of the station's shutdown, the NRC said that official time-keeping will be delivered instead by three more modern methods - via its telephone talking clock and, using the Internet via its Network Time Protocol and its web clock.

For many listeners outside of the amateur radio and the SWL community, this may seem like an insignificant footnote in a world dominated by smartphones, GPS timing, and internet-connected everything. But for those of us who have spent decades tuning the HF spectrum, stations like CHU and WWV are far more than the typical broadcasts.

In the United States, [we narrowly avoided losing WWV nearly a decade ago when funding for the station was threatened](#). Thankfully, enough support emerged to keep it alive.
--ARRL

SENATOR TED CRUZ PRAISES AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Senator Ted Cruz, [in a strong pre-Memorial Day message](#), publicly highlighted the critical role that Amateur Radio Service volunteers play during disasters, praising and thanking ham radio operators who provide essential communications when storms and emergencies knock out power and cellular networks and communities are cut off. Sen. Cruz observed that in these emergencies it is ham radio operators who step forward, bringing with them the tools, expertise, and the commitment to reconnect people when it matters most. He noted this dedication was clearly demonstrated in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey's catastrophic flooding devastated communities across Texas and that it was

demonstrated again more recently in the horrific Camp Mystic floods. He emphasized that as the Nation prepares for yet another summer storm season, ham radio's role remains just as vital as ever.

Watch video now at youtu.be/4ZNeMXyCQ7Y

Stating that while future emergencies will come, Sen. Cruz pointed out that so would Amateur Radio — ready to respond, ready to serve, and to make a difference. He ended his statements, thanking ham radio for its courage and commitment, noting that Amateur Radio's work strengthens our communities.

Senator Cruz is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. His comments align with the ARRL's ongoing efforts to strengthen and protect Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications.

His comments also reflect growing Congressional recognition of the value Amateur Radio Operators bring to communities across the country. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® continues to advocate for legislation that protects and strengthens Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications.

ARRL's nationwide grassroots campaign supporting the bipartisan [Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act](#) has generated more than 155,000 letters to members of Congress in support of H.R. 1094 and S. 459. The legislation seeks to ensure that Amateur Radio Operators can install and maintain effective outdoor antennas at residences where private land-use restrictions might otherwise prohibit them, helping communities maintain resilient emergency communications capabilities during disasters.

ARRL Legislative Committee Chairman and West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, said the continued outreach effort has required "long hours on the ground and an uncountable number of personal meetings with Senators, Representatives, and their staffs" to raise awareness of the importance of Amateur Radio to the nation.

"The most recent proof that those efforts have, and are, increasing Congressional support for Amateur Radio is evidenced by the decision of Chairman Cruz to publicly share his personal views on the value and importance of Amateur Radio to the Nation," Stratton said.

ARRL encourages Amateur Radio Operators to participate in our letter writing campaign, located at Send-A-Letter.org/HOA, in support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act and to share information about the public service role Amateur Radio plays in communities nationwide.--ARRL

13 COLONIES EVENT RETURNS WITH CHANGES

The 13 Colonies Special Event held annually during the first week of July has been undergoing significant changes. One of them will make it a lot easier to get the coveted, colorful certificate awarded to chasers.

Ahead of its 18th year of operation, the 13 Colonies Event organizers will change distribution methods for certificates for making contacts with stations in the original colonies, as well as England, France, and Philadelphia.

Bob Josuweit WA3PZO, is managing director of the newly formed 501c3 charitable organization, 13 Colonies Amateur Radio Association. He says the group has decided to simplify and speed-up the process: The certificates can now be downloaded, once ordered on the 13 Colonies website or sent by traditional mail to a US Post Office box.

You'll still have to prove you made the contacts. Josuweit says a database will be available on the website to help you to verify those contacts. If you prefer, you can continue to fill out a paper log or print out your individual log from your computer and mail it.

This year's QSL cards will pay tribute to the 250th anniversary of America's birth and the Declaration of Independence. "This year we're featuring on most cards a theme of where the Declaration of Independence was first read in their particular state." Philadelphia played a huge role as the birthplace of American liberty, and that city's WM3PEN station QSL card will honor that history. "Since the Declaration was created here, we're actually showing a picture of the assembly room in Independence Hall where the Declaration was written and voted upon."

There is more for stations contacting WM3PEN in Philadelphia. He says the city is among major US cities hosting a series of World Cup soccer tournament matches through July and there will be on-the-air recognition of that event as well. Those stations working WM3PEN in Philadelphia will be able to get two QSL cards – one for the soccer event and one for 13 Colonies. So, two cards for the price of one contact. --Mark Abramowicz (Abram-oh-vich) NT3V, AR Newsline

TECHNICAL

DAVID SPOELSTRA, N9KT AND THE INDIANAPOLIS RADIO CLUB have been interested in building and launching a Pico Balloon. To gain more experience he precipitated in a balloon launch with using his callsign. It has now completed about 1 ½ orbits of the earth.

The goal is for the Indianapolis Radio Club to build and launch their own Pico Balloon. If you are interested in this project contact David, N9KT

Tracking the N9KT PICO Balloon with WSPR

https://wsprtv.com/?cs=n9kt&ch=z0&band=20m&start_date=2026-04-28

Pico Balloons are miniature, solar-powered high-altitude balloons used by amateur radio operators to circumnavigate the globe. Weighing around 10 to 20 grams, they carry ultra-lightweight tracking payloads that transmit GPS telemetry to global, ground-based ham radio networks. The balloons are about the size of a party balloon.

Because these balloons ride prevailing stratospheric winds (often between 30,000 and 45,000 feet) for weeks or even months at a time, they offer a thrilling way to combine meteorology and amateur radio.

How They WorkThe Payload: A tiny, incredibly lightweight custom tracker board (often built around microcontrollers like the Raspberry Pi Pico) powered by paper-thin solar panels.

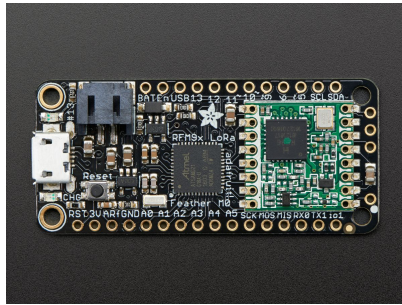
Global Tracking: Since standard batteries would freeze in the stratosphere, the tracker turns off at night and powers back on to transmit location, speed, and altitude data as soon as the sun rises.

Radio Frequencies: Trackers typically use digital, low-bandwidth, long-range modes like **WSPR** (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) and **APRS** (Automatic Packet Reporting System).

Licensing Requirements: To legally operate the transmitter on the amateur radio bands used for long-distance balloon telemetry, you generally need to hold an amateur radio license (usually a **General class or higher** in the US, depending on the specific HF frequency being used)

Tracking the Balloon Flight: You do not need your own satellite network to track your balloon. Instead, worldwide networks of ham radio operators receive your balloon's WSPR/APRS signals and upload them to the internet. You can actively monitor the real-time location, flight path, and altitude of active pico balloons using public community platforms like APRS.fi or HabHub

Pico Balloon PCB



SHORTS

INTERVIEW WITH THE ARRL CEO: REMOTE OPERATING – ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, and Dick Strassburger, N9EEE, Editor of *Solid Copy*, the monthly newsletter of CWops, were guests on episode 94 of [The DX Mentor](#) (May 15, 2026) for a discussion about remote operating. The show is hosted on YouTube by Bill Salyers, AJ8B.

Strassburger led the discussion, which included Minster describing the contest station he frequently operates on the Caribbean island of Bonaire, built by Noah Gottfried, K2NG/PJ4NG, as well as the remote station Minster has helped configure and assemble.

The video interview is available on YouTube at youtu.be/EZFQqMejB0Y.

FCC RENEWS EXPERIMENTAL HF STATIONS LICENSES --The FCC recently renewed the licenses of several shortwave stations believed to be connected with high-speed automated trading. These experimental stations are authorized to operate in multiple HF bands with effective radiated power levels up to 1000 kW (1 MW).

Licensees renewed include 3DB Communication, 10Band, Toggle Communications, Farside Communications and RCA Telecom.

The FCC formerly allowed these types of stations to avoid sending station identification. As covered in [ERN issue 14](#) and [Radio World](#), the FCC later removed that mysterious exemption.

ARISS ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR MOON-BASED HAM RADIO – The Morse Code transmitted more than two years ago by JS1YMG, the lunar ham station of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, is apparently just the beginning. Attendees at a Hamvention forum hosted by ARISS recently learned about a moon-based project called CAVIAR. That's an acronym for "Communications, Audio, Video and Imaging using Amateur Radio." The feasibility of CAVIAR is being studied by ARISS and AMSAT through a partnership known as AREx, for Amateur Radio Exploration.

According to the early information being discussed publicly, the station could have support for voice, digital and video - with 10 GHz and 5 GHz links supported by a network of stations on Earth. More far-reaching goals can be found on the ARISS website, which describes AREx as an "international effort to develop and operate amateur radio systems for deep space, starting at the moon and later to Mars." – ARISS, Amateur Radio Daily

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.
