



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

JULY 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, JULY 14
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the June meeting. The fact that Canada's CHU stations are shutting down was discussed. As pointed out, there was talk of turning off WWV stations sometime in the past but it didn't happen obviously. For the Indy United Field Day operation, POTA and 6m stations will be as usual. Four HF stations will be SSB, CW, and FT8 or FT4). [Actually, it ended up being a 5A operation.] Some discussion was had on the technology of high altitude balloons since the Indy Radio Club is getting involved in this. Dave, N9KZJ, filled us in on the recent "Ship's events." Also, the ARRL VHF contest is coming up June 13 - 15.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: July 11, 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.

Jul 11-12 IARU HF World Championship <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

Jul 8-13 WRTC Operates with the IARU HF Championship, www.wrtc2026.org/

Jul 18 Auburn Hamfest, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, 1600 Wayne St,
Auburn,

Jul 18 LaPorte Tailgate Hamfest, 3354 W Shultz Rd, LaPorte,

Jul 25 East Central Indiana Hamfest, Jay County Fairgrounds, Phone: 765-977-

Aug 1-2 ARRL 222 MHz and up Contest

<https://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>

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 2026 INDY UNITED FIELD DAY: The RCA ARC was part of the INDY UNITED Field Day effort again this year and as in the past we were responsible for the 6 meter station and operation.

Setup was on Friday afternoon in the rain and when we got on the air 6 meter band conditions were bad, which was discouraging. Saturday 6 meters opened just before the start of Field Day and was open during the event.

List of the operators: Jim WB8FAX, Tom W9CSX, Dick K9ZB, John KF9UH, Jim AF9A, KD9V Nick and Jim K9RU. We made 174 QSOs and the 6 meter station handled the messages for the FD bonus points. This is the best we have done on 6 meters in several years. AF9A also copied ARRL Field Day Bulletin which counted for 100 bonus points.

[Editor Note: I busy most of Saturday fixing Field Day problems, the rest of the group was responsible for our results. Jim K9RU]

FROM BRIAN W9IND, INDY UNITED ARC FD CHAIRMAN: FIRST OF ALL, A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT EFFORT YOU PUT FORTH IN THE 2026 INDY UNITED FIELD DAY

After losing 2nd place by only 24 points in 2025, we decided to do something new this year – compete in Class 5A, 5 transmitters instead of the 4 we had last year. And 24 more hours for our operators to cover ... a total of 120 hours for the 5 main stations.

With 2 stations on SSB and 2 stations on CW and 1 on Digital FT8 / FT4.

Plus a GOTA and 6 meter stations, with a total of 7 station set up.

We had snafus along the way, starting with the pouring rain on Set-up Day (Friday). But the weekend gave us a break on the weather: Saturday was pleasant with cloudy skies and a high around 80 and was a great evening for camping if you wanted to stay.

Sunday was a different story, with a heat wave held that hit in the morning and peaked in the afternoon. That made tear down tougher and took longer than in the past plus we had more stuff.

Band conditions were good with 15 Meters open most of Field Day, 20 and 40 meters were good also.

So ... after all that, how did our plan go?

We have been totaling numbers but will not know for sure until November, when the December issue of QST comes out, whether our 5A strategy carried us to 2nd place. --W9IND

NEW TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL TAKES EFFECT JULY 1

On July 1, 2026, a new Element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for license examinations. VECs and VEs must have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The newly revised pool, released in December 2025 (updated and re-released on February 19, 2026) by the Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)), must be in use starting July 1. There are 409 questions in this pool, down slightly from 412 in the previous pool. The pool also includes three

diagrams used for some of the questions. View all current question pools on the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, advises that the ExamTools examination system will automatically switch to the new pool and exams on July 1. For ARRL-VEC VE teams using online exams at in-person sessions or for remote video-supervised sessions, no action is required.

“VE teams using paper exams must discard all older Technician tests and print new versions from [ExamTools](#),” said Somma. “ARRL-supplied 2022 series Technician exam booklets and exams generated from the old pool are valid only through June 30; after that date, they are no longer valid.”

New editions of ARRL licensing publications for the 2026-2030 Technician pool, the 6th edition of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, the 9th edition of *ARRL Tech Q & A* and 11th edition of Gordon West’s Technician Class study guide will be available starting this month, for exams taken on or after July 1, 2026.

YOUNG HAM RADIO OPERATOR SUPPORTS THE AMERICA250 CELEBRATION

While many teenagers spend their evenings playing video games or scrolling social media, 14-year-old amateur radio (also known as “ham radio”) operator Micah Sandoval, KB4MPS, was busy this past week making radio contacts across the US. Sandoval participated as part of a special event station supporting the [ARRL America250 Worked All States \(WAS\) Award](#) program, a year-long operating event celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States. [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio® is a Supporting Partner of [America250](#) the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that marks America’s Semiquincentennial.

Operating alongside his mentor, James Hooper, K9QJS, Sandoval logged over 150 ham radio contacts. The event has attracted the participation of ham radio operators from across the country, and even around the world.

Sandoval’s amateur radio journey began when he was just nine years old. Inspired by his grandfather, Philip Wagner, WA6NER, who would bring a handheld radio during visits, Sandoval became fascinated by the hobby. That early interest turned into a passion for amateur radio when he earned his Technician Class license in October 2022, upgraded to General Class in June 2025, and achieved the highest amateur radio license level, Amateur Extra, a month later at the age of 13.

Asked whether he encourages other young people to explore amateur radio, Sandoval said, “Yes, I do talk to them and recommend they at least look into it and the things it can teach you.”

Sandoval continues to learn about amateur radio, communications, public service, and emergency preparedness. He is also involved with a faith-based youth leadership and outdoor adventure program, teaching and inspiring the next generation about ham radio.

Throughout 2026, ARRL has assigned the iconic W1AW call sign to stations nationwide, activating each state twice during the year. W1AW is a memorial to ARRL’s Founding President, Hiram Percy Maxim (1914-1936). Sandoval’s participation with the W1AW/4 activation showcased not only the technical side of amateur radio but also the value of mentorship. With guidance from James Hooper, Sandoval gained valuable operating experience while contributing to a successful special event activation on the airwaves.

The ARRL America250 WAS event runs through December 31. Ham radio operators can pursue the award by making contact with other hams in all 50 states and confirming their contacts through the ARRL [Logbook of The World® – LoTW®](#). A process for ordering the award certificate and endorsements will be available soon.

Three separate endorsements can be earned by confirming contacts with all 50 states on CW (Morse code) and phone and digital modes for a Triple Play; by contacting the W1AW/portable station activations in all 50 states, or by contacting ARRL-affiliated radio clubs in all 50 states.

For more information about the ARRL America250 Worked All States Award, visit www.arrl.org/america250-was. See also “ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation’s 250th Anniversary” at www.arrl.org/america250.

FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE IN VENEZUELA, RADIO AMATEURS ASKED TO KEEP FREQUENCIES CLEAR

This news item was published by International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1. www.iaru-r1.org/2026/venezuela-earthquake-25th-june-2026-frequency-clearance-requested/

Venezuela Earthquake — 25th June 2026 Frequency clearance requested

Jun 25, 2026 · Emergency Comms · Greg Mossop, G0DUB

Following the fatal earthquake in Venezuela on Wednesday at 5:04 PM local time (10:04 PM UTC), local radio amateurs have asked that that all amateur radio colleagues in the Americas and the rest of the world protect the following frequency used by Venezuelan amateur radio operators:

40 m: 7135 kHz.

Domingo L. Hernández Lima, YV5IZE, director of the Venezuelan Radio Club’s National Emergency Network reports that a large part of the capital is without electricity and communication systems are operating on battery power. They were already activating their emergency shortwave (HF) frequency and also using digital frequencies and communication modes.

At the same time, the emergency communications coordinators of amateur radio operators from Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and other countries in the region, as well as members of the Board of Directors of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 (IARU R2), remain on standby to provide any assistance that may be needed.

Information received from Carlos Alberto Santamaría González, CO2JC, Emergency Communications Coordinator, IARU R2.

See also: [Earthquakes in Venezuela Prompt Request for Clear Emergency Frequencywww.arrl.org/arrlletterissue?issue=2026-06-25](http://www.arrl.org/arrlletterissue?issue=2026-06-25)

FIND THE RIGHT RIG: NEW COMPARISON TOOL FOR ARRL MEMBERS

The [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org) is pleased to introduce a new member benefit: the [QST Product Review Comparison Database](#). This online tool makes it easier to compare amateur radio transceivers, receivers, amplifiers, and transmitters by allowing users to sort and filter equipment based on their own selection criteria.

“This tool, introduced by the ARRL Lab, offers a familiar experience for anyone who has shopped online in recent years,” said ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS. “For decades, the Lab has been making standardized measurements that are published in QST Product Reviews. While those reviews have long been available online, finding and comparing products often required knowing exactly what you were looking for. The new database makes it much easier to discover and evaluate equipment based on the

characteristics that matter most to you.”

The comparison database includes every ARRL Lab-tested device in the previously listed categories, dating back to 2012. Users can apply filters to narrow results to specific types of equipment and then sort products using select specifications and laboratory measurements. Multiple products can be selected and compared side by side, making it easier to evaluate options before making a purchase decision.

The tool has a lot of flexibility in the ways you can sort the data. Options include sorting the product name chronologically from newest to oldest published, and alphabetically. The data columns can be sorted by performance metric, and columns can be easily rearranged to display information in the order most useful to the user. If you know the name of the device you'd like to view, there is a search field available as well. When two or more products are selected for comparison, the results open in a new browser tab, allowing users to keep their place in the main database.

Whether you're purchasing your first radio or considering an upgrade to your current station, the QST Product Review Comparison Database provides an objective, data-driven, customizable way to evaluate equipment. A companion guide explaining the various measurements and specifications is also planned to help members better understand the technical data when making an informed purchasing decision.

To access this new member benefit, members should log in to the ARRL website and visit [compare.arrl.org](https://www.arrl.org/compare).

Join ARRL – ARRL membership gives you access to the complete archive of QST Product Reviews and Lab test results, the new [QST Product Review Comparison Database](https://www.arrl.org/compare), and the ARRL Technical Information Service, where experts can answer your operating and technical questions by email or phone. Learn more and join at www.arrl.org/join.

CANADA REVIEWING POLICY ON ANTENNAS, TOWERS

Ham radio operators are among the interested parties weighing in with Canada's radio regulations agency, which is seeking comment until the 16th of July on proposed changes to policies covering antennas and towers. Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Federation of Radio Amateur Clubs of Quebec have responded in support of many of the changes and are pressing the agency known as Innovation, Science and Development Canada to modify an existing rule concerning maximum antenna and tower height. Current law requires consultation with local authorities when antenna and tower heights are above 15-meters, or roughly 48 feet. The two amateur radio groups have asked that the height threshold be raised to 20 meters, or roughly 65 feet, to qualify for the exemption from consultation.

The joint RAC/RAQI position of support on the changes was explained recently by Dave Goodwin, VE3KG, the RAC's regulatory affairs officer, in a YouTube interview with Stuart Crawford VE9CF. Dave told Stuart that the added height would [quote] "give us that much more latitude" [endquote] in putting up antenna structures. He said that a new 20-meter threshold would cover almost all amateurs.

In Canada, federal policy has final say on antennas, towers and related structures but under current policy, local land-use authorities and neighbors must still be informed. The amateur groups also asked for a decrease in the size of the zone within which hams must respond to neighbors' concerns.

Dave told Stuart that although ISED [Eye Said] is proposing these and many procedural changes primarily to make things easier for commercial wireless services, the regulations and any benefits would apply to radio amateurs as well. The RAC has been encouraging amateurs in Canada to submit their feedback to the agency. Newsline, N3ILS.

RESEARCHERS CREATE SPACE 'WALL' TO WEAKEN SOLAR STORMS

Imagine, for a moment, if we could actually repel those severe solar storms that knock out our ability to communicate? Researchers at Boston University have already simulated that scenario - with success.

Researchers believe they have developed an effective line of defense against geomagnetic storms that would protect radio communications, GPS systems, electrical grids and satellites from disruption. It's not quite a vaccination against storms, but it provides what the scientists are calling a bold line of defense. The system, known as StormWall, has emerged from research and computer simulations by a Boston University team led by associate engineering professor Brian Walsh.

Using computer modeling, the researchers said they have found a way to fortify earth's natural magnetic defenses against geomagnetic storms by deploying a half-dozen spacecraft in geosynchronous orbit. The six spacecraft would be used to release sodium, calcium, lithium, barium and other materials into space for ionization by the sun, creating an artificial cloud of electrically charged plasma. Writing in the journal *Space Weather*, the team said that process would slow the storm's rate of penetration into our planet's magnetic shield, reducing its power by more than 50 percent.

StormWall, of course, resides only in theory at the moment but the researchers believe it shows promise globally. They said the risk of contamination from the released chemicals would be insignificant because solar wind would disperse the material within several hours, preventing any entry into the Earth's atmosphere. --Newsline, KCØDGY.

GLOBAL REGISTRY BEGINS VERIFICATION OF DMR IDS

As DMR radio grows more popular each year, the registry in charge of users' ID numbers has launched a verification process that it hopes will ultimately avoid a shortage of available numbers. Jeremy Boot G4NJH explains.

Faced with managing a finite universe of digital radio ID numbers, the global registry RadiolD dot net (RadiolD.net) has begun contacting users to verify their assigned IDs. An announcement on the registry's website said that the verification process, which began on the 1st of July, is expected to lead to the deactivation of ID numbers for account holders who do not respond to emails sent to them annually on the anniversary of an account's creation.

Ultimately, deactivated IDs will be marked for removal from the database and will then become available for reassignment to new users.

For more details about the process, read the community notice posted at RadiolD dot net (RadiolD.net) -- Newsline G4NJH

FCC'S \$3.5 BILLION SPECTRUM AUCTION IS 1ST IN FOUR YEARS

The FCC held its first spectrum auction in four years and Jack Parker W8ISH is here to tell us about it.

With an estimated 800 MHz of spectrum earmarked for auction by 2034 by the Federal Communications Commission, the agency recently completed its first auction in four years. According to news reports, the total value of the bids exceeded \$3.5 billion.

The offering was for four licenses in three major US cities - two in Chicago and one each in Boston and New York. The competitive bidding that concluded on the 23rd of June was designed to ensure commercial use for these parts of the spectrum. The frequencies are part of the Advanced Wireless Services, or AWS-3, bands used by the major mobile

carriers.

The agency is now preparing to accept bids next year for at least 100 MHz in the Upper C-Band, from 3.98 GHz to 4.2 GHz. – Newsline, Jack Parker W8ISH.

IN THE UK, BBC LONGWAVE WAVES FAREWELL

You can still hear BBC Radio 4 programs on FM radio, DAB digital platforms, where the sounds are clearer and do not suffer from any of longwave's notorious noise. To amateur radio operators, however, the scratchy sound emanating around the Droitwich transmitting station's signal was part of the long wave station's charm.

Preparing for the loss, hams at the Radio Society of Great Britain and the BBC Amateur Radio Group activated special event stations during the week leading up to the final shutdown.

Appearing on BBC One's morning TV show, BBC Breakfast, the RSGB's Nick Totterdell, G4FAL, told the programme hosts that it was the older technology's ability to function reliably that appealed to so many radio amateurs. Nick said that many hams would, for example, use the longwave transmissions' precise frequency as a frequency reference when they were building test equipment.

To hams, BBC Radio 4 was less about progress in the modern world than endurance through the decades. The only thing that endures - for now - on 198 kHz is silence. – (BBC BREAKFAST) Newsline G4NJH

THREE SATELLITES TO BE 'FIRE TOWERS IN THE SKY'

The trio of satellites are called FireSats are set to launch this summer with a special mission.

This summer, three new satellites are expected to be launched to serve as the equivalent of fire towers in the sky, Three FireSat satellites are being readied by the nonprofit Earth Fire Alliance and its wildfire-detection program, which is satellite-based. The three FireSats have received support from a \$26 million grant from the Bezos Earth Fund. The initiative also has the support of Google.

The FireSats are expected to monitor for wildfires in critical and sensitive areas at least twice a day, with a special emphasis on the Amazon Basin, which is known to be particularly vulnerable.

The Earth Fire Alliance released a statement saying that it hopes to have more satellites in place to assist with such monitoring so that every point on the planet will be seen every 20 minutes. – (AXIOS, AMSAT NEWS SERVICE) W2DIY

COSTLY ANTENNA REPAIRS FOR NASA'S DEEP SPACE STATION

The US Space Agency NASA is facing a repair bill of between \$4.1 and \$4.6 million for Deep Space Station 14, its 70-meter RF antenna near Barstow, California - all because of what it has found to be inadequate procedures and inadequate training of workers. A report recently released by the agency said that its investigation found a number of primary causes, including human error, weaknesses in software and an undetected failure in the antenna's hydraulic limit system, which is its final mechanical safeguard.

The incident that took the antenna out of service occurred last September as it was tracking the Juno mission for deep-space exploration focused on Jupiter. The antenna over-rotated, adding stress to structural supports and cables and damaging water lines

feeding the antenna's fire-suppression system. An article on NASA's website states that investigators concluded that operators felt compelled by "workplace culture" to work as quickly and efficiently as possible "often stretching beyond their usual roles, expertise and training to keep the antenna operating."

NASA considers these findings to be its final report. The antenna, a key part of the Deep Space Network, is expected to be out of service until October of 2028. --Newsline, KCØDGY

TRANSIT 5B-5 AND OTHER ZOMBIE SATELLITES

There is a single satellite launched by the US Navy in 1964 that is still in orbit, still transmitting, and still being used by amateur radio operators around the world — and nobody at the Navy has been in charge of it for decades.

On December 28, 1964, a Thor-Able-Star rocket lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and put a small US Navy satellite into a low polar orbit.

The satellite was called Transit 5B-5. It weighed about 70 kilograms. It was part of the first satellite-based navigation system in human history — the predecessor to GPS, designed to help American submarines fix their position anywhere in the world. It was given a working lifetime of a few years. Maybe five, if everything went well.

That was sixty-one years ago.

Transit 5B-5 is still up there. It's still in orbit. It's still transmitting. And somewhere right now, an amateur radio operator with a backyard antenna is listening to a signal that was first beamed down from space when Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

Nobody at the US Navy has been in charge of this satellite for nearly thirty years. The program that launched it was officially retired in 1996, when GPS took over the job. The Navy walked away. The satellite did not stop working.

How it's still alive – The reason Transit 5B-5 has lasted this long is genuinely remarkable.

Most early satellites ran on chemical batteries or basic solar panels that degraded quickly. Transit 5B-5 carried something different: a SNAP-3 radioisotope thermoelectric generator — a small nuclear power source that converts the heat from decaying plutonium-238 into electricity.

Plutonium-238 has a half-life of about 88 years. That means a SNAP-3 RTG launched in 1964 should still be producing somewhere around 65% of its original power output today. The satellite isn't using sunlight. It isn't using a battery. It's using a small lump of slowly decaying radioactive material that simply continues to give off heat, year after year.

The radio transmitter on board doesn't need much power. Just enough to keep broadcasting a signal at around 136.65 MHz — a low-frequency telemetry beacon that, against all reasonable expectation, has never stopped.

There are no moving parts left to wear out. No fuel to run dry. No on-board computer to crash. The whole satellite is essentially a power source connected to a transmitter, drifting along in an orbit that itself doesn't require maintenance. It just works. It has worked for sixty-one years.

What it actually sounds like – If you tune the right radio receiver to the right frequency at the right time, you can hear it pass overhead.

Amateur radio operators describe the signal as a faint, rhythmic warble — telemetry data encoded as audio tones. With the right software, those tones can be decoded into actual numbers: information about the satellite's onboard systems, its temperature, the state of its hardware. Sixty-year-old engineering, still phoning home.

The amateur SDR (software-defined radio) community treats these old satellites as a kind of living museum. Receiving Transit 5B-5's signal requires no special permission, no military access, no expensive equipment — just a basic SDR dongle costing about thirty dollars, an antenna, and patience.

The Navy is no longer involved in any of this. The institutional memory of how Transit worked has been preserved largely by hobbyists.

The man who tracks the zombie satellites. A Canadian amateur radio operator named Scott Tilley has become something of a folk legend in this niche.

In 2018, he discovered IMAGE, a NASA satellite that had been declared lost in 2005 — picking up its signal from his backyard in British Columbia. In 2020, during pandemic lockdown, he tracked down LES-5, a US military satellite launched in 1967 that everyone had assumed was dead.

Tilley calls these “zombie satellites” — spacecraft that were supposed to be silent decades ago but are still, somehow, broadcasting. When NPR asked him in 2020 which was the oldest he'd ever heard, he didn't hesitate. “The oldest one I've seen is Transit 5B-5,” he said. “A nuclear-powered U.S. Navy navigation satellite that still circles the Earth in a polar orbit, long forgotten by all but a few amateurs interested in hearing it sing as it passes overhead.”

He said *sing*, not broadcast. The satellite produces a specific pulsing tone that, to those who know how to listen for it, is unmistakable.

What this story is actually about. There's something quietly beautiful about a piece of Cold War hardware that's outlived its mission, its program, and its handlers — and continues to do exactly what it was built to do, with no one giving it instructions, for sixty-one years. By [Space Daily Editorial Team](#) · [Editorial process](#) Published May 20, 2026

WRTC UK 2026 JULY 8th-13th

Every 4 years, much like the Olympic Games, the World Radio Sport Team Championship, known as WRTC, relocates itself to a new host nation.

The United Kingdom was selected as the the hosting nation for the 10th WRTC taking place from 8th-13th July 2026.

WRTC is a radio contest event, designed to provide a platform for high-achieving ham radio contesters to compete on a level playing field in the same geographic region using identical antennas, output power and other operating conditions.

Each team will have had to qualify over a significant period of time by participating and scoring extremely well in a collection of HF radio contests from October 2023 to March 2025.

In July 2026, 50 qualifying teams, comprising of 100 operators will come to the UK from all over the world and will represent their home countries, much like the style seen in the Olympic Games. Each team of two will be assigned a Referee, for which there will be an application process. The team draw their operating site, their referee and callsign and then they all go off and operate the 24-hour IARU 2026 Contest. We will have live scoreboards available which will add to the excitement of this competition.

TECHNICAL

SigDigger Open Source Digital Spectrum Analyzer for SDR | RTL-SDR HackRF SDRPlay SigDigger is a Qt5 digital signal analyzer written in C/C++ that runs in GNU/Linux, macOS and Windows. Unlike existing alternatives, SigDigger is not based on

GNU Radio. Instead, it uses its own DSP library (sigutils) and a realtime signal analysis library (Suscan) that exploits multicore CPUs to distribute load. Also, SigDigger supports most SDR devices in the market thanks to SoapySDR, Sigutils, Suscan and SigDigger are software libre, licensed under the terms of the General Public License version 3.

Link for Download: [https://github.com/BatchDrake/SigDigger...](https://github.com/BatchDrake/SigDigger) – [Muhammed Mustaqim](#)

[Editor's note: Is anyone on our RCA ARC Newsletter distribution interested in this kind of technical stuff? If so, there are lots of technical videos out there which are available which we could link to. Tnx de AF9A af9a.jimk@gmail.com]

SHORTS

New ARRL Central Division Vice Director [ARRL](#) The National Association for Amateur Radio® has announced the appointment of Robert Ronk, W9AP, of Winneconne, Wisconsin, as Vice Director for the ARRL Central Division. The appointment, made by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, fills the vacancy created in April when former Vice Director Joshua Long, W9HT, assumed the office of Central Division Director. Ronk will complete a term that expires December 31, 2027.

The Central Division includes Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. ARRL is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years.

See also [ARRL Announces Change in Central Division Leadership](#) (ARRL News 4/10/2026).

The [Struthers Regional Operators of Amateur Radio \(ROAR\)](#) will operate special event station K8R celebrating the historic visit of the legendary Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 locomotive to Struthers, Ohio. The Union Pacific Big Boy is the world's largest operating steam locomotive and one of the most recognized railroad icons in history. K8R will operate Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM EDT and Sunday, July 12, from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EDT. The station will be located immediately adjacent to the train stop location, allowing visitors to experience both the historic locomotive and amateur radio operations. Operators will be active on 40-meter SSB, 20-meter SSB, and 15-meter SSB and FT8 digital. Frequencies will vary, based on band conditions and operator availability. A unique commemorative K8R Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 QSL card will be available. For more information, visit [QRZ.com](#).

Checkout SWR Magazine it is a free publication created by radio amateurs for radio amateurs, focused on education, experimentation, and strengthening our global community. You can read the magazine and subscribe for free here: <https://swrmagazine.org/>

THANKS FOR READING

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