



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club

www.w9rca.org

AUGUST 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

JULY MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the July meeting. Field Day was discussed and we concluded the results should be good! We of course won't know finishing positions until the results are published in the Dec. issue of QST. Unlike last year, the conditions on six meters were pretty good this year. We need a new computer for Echolink on the '88 repeater. \$300 was approved to purchase a new (refurbished) computer. John, KF9UH will handle it. \$ to pay the repeater council for three years was approved.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: August 8, 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.

Aug 7-23	1600Z-2359Z, Indiana State Fair W9ISF, Indiana State Fair ARC. 7.240 14.240 21.300 28.400. QSL: Ken Bandy, 7405 E County Road 900 N, Brownsburg, IN 46112. We'll be on as much as possible during the run of the Fair. ken.kj9b@gmail.com
Aug 8	Hendricks County Tailgate Fest Avon, IN ARRL Hamfest http://kc9sqd425@gmail.com
Oct. 10	The Hoosier Hills Hamfest Bedford, IN https://hoosierhillshamfest.com
Nov 21	Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Fort Wayne, IN

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

Steve Wendt, KB9RDS suffered a minor heart "difficulty" earlier this week.

He was seen at Community North who installed a stent and after a day sent him home to rest. Steve has mentored and helped a lot of hams get on the air. We all wish him well and look forward to seeing him soon. ...Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

16-YEAR-OLD ARRL MEMBER WINS 2026 STUDENT CODING COMPETITION

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is pleased to announce that member Ben Leovy, KC3ZPQ, of Ellicott City, Maryland, has been named the winner of the 2026 ARRL Student Coding Competition. Leovy, 16, recently completed his sophomore year at Howard High School. He designed a mobile application to help users prepare for their amateur radio license examinations.

Leovy will receive a \$5,000 prize awarded by ARRL. His project was selected by a panel of judges based on usability, clarity, stability, and code quality. The judges also recognized his enthusiasm for software development and creativity by awarding him a new MacBook Neo to encourage his continued exploration of programming and technology.

"The ARRL Student Coding Competition was created to encourage young radio amateurs to apply their skills to a real-world opportunity that will benefit the amateur radio community and future entrants," said ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "Ben's project demonstrated the kind of problem-solving skills and creativity that will help shape the future of amateur radio."

The judges were also impressed with the strength of Leovy's technical approach and the potential value of continuing its development. ARRL has offered him a consulting project this summer, to further refine and improve the application in collaboration with ARRL employees – an opportunity to gain professional experience. Upon successful completion of the project, Leovy will earn an additional \$5,000. He will also be eligible for a \$5,000 ARRL scholarship when he enrolls in college after high school.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to continue improving the application and working with ARRL," said Leovy. "I hope it helps more people, particularly students my age, to get involved in amateur radio and to join ARRL."

Leovy became interested in amateur radio through his grandfather and through friends involved with the scouts who shared an interest in the hobby. In addition to amateur radio and programming, Leovy participates in his school's robotics club and enjoys exploring technology through hands-on projects.

The ARRL Student Coding Competition was launched in January 2026 as part of ARRL's ongoing commitment to developing the next generation of radio amateurs. The competition encouraged ARRL Student members ages 21 and younger, who already have ham radio licenses, to combine their interests in amateur radio and software development.

"Programs like this help young people discover that amateur radio is more than a hobby — it is a pathway that inspires hands-on, practical, and technical experiences," said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. "By investing in students and their ideas, ARRL is investing in the future of amateur radio."

The competition is another ARRL program intended to develop student interest in future education and careers in STEM/STEAM fields. Other ongoing initiatives include the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program, and the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program.

The competition judges were ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX; Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD; previous Director of Education and Learning Steve Goodgame, K5ATA; ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM; and Education & Learning Support Specialist Max Freedman, N4ML. Additional support was provided by

past Pacific Division Director Anthony Marcin, W7XM.

Since 2024, ARRL Student Membership has been free for full-time students ages 21 and younger. This no-cost membership opportunity makes it easier for students to become involved in amateur radio and access ARRL resources while they explore radio, technology, and STEM-related learning opportunities.

For more information about ARRL Student Membership, visit www.arrl.org/student.

NAVIGATING AN HOA AND RETURNING TO HF

Fred Johnson, K6FRD, is an amateur radio operator in Riverside, California. Like many hams, he lives in an HOA-controlled neighborhood. For Johnson, finding practical, low-visibility, antenna solutions has become part of the fun over the years.

“For years I struggled to enjoy HF because, like many amateurs in an HOA, towers and conventional outdoor antennas simply aren't an option,” said Johnson. “I tried several radios over the years, but without an effective antenna I rarely heard much activity and had very limited success making contacts. A few weeks ago, I decided to stop chasing radios and instead focus on building the best stealth antenna I could.”

Johnson said that after returning to HF last year, he enjoyed experimenting with antennas, portable operating, FT8, and station design to see what's possible from a suburban backyard.

“The result is a simple 145-foot horizontal loop made from 14 AWG THHN wire, mounted on stainless cup hooks around the top of my backyard fences about six feet above the ground. The wire is insulated from the hooks with short pieces of clear vinyl tubing and is fed with a 4:1 current balun and approximately 25 feet of RG-8X coax. I also added ferrite chokes at both the antenna and radio ends of the feed line to help minimize common-mode current and noise.”

“The results have honestly exceeded my expectations,” he said. “My noise floor is typically only S1 to S2, allowing me to hear stations I would have completely missed before.”

ARRL Field Day 2026 gave Johnson a chance to operate entirely on battery power using his IC-7300 and his new antenna, making contacts on 10, 15, and 20 meters. Since installing the loop, he has worked 39 states, 24 countries, and stations throughout Japan, Hawaii, Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, South America, and across North America—all from his HOA backyard!

Johnson went on to say he hopes that sharing his successes, and the occasional lessons learned along the way, encourages other operators, especially those with HOA restrictions, to get on the air and enjoy this amazing hobby.

Johnson has created a Google photo album with all of the photos of his antenna design: photos.app.goo.gl/qeF1eToA4q7cAj5PA

Editor's note: Thanks to Fred Johnson, K6FRD, for sharing his story, his HOA-proof antenna, and his effort to return to amateur radio and Field Day!

COMMITTEE RE-EVALUATING RESULTS OF WRTC 2026 COMPETITION

This high-profile amateur radio competition is now taking an unprecedented move: Organizers are calling the final results into question and are re-evaluating competitors logs.

The WRTC Organising Committee has announced that they have found discrepancies contained in competitors' log files from the event, which was held in early July in the UK. Mark Haynes, MØDXR, organizing committee chairman, released a statement on the 27th of July saying that an emergency meeting had been held and the judging committee had

been instructed to conduct a re-analysis of the logs, since the findings could affect the teams' finishing positions. The statement appears on the event's website.

Mark said: "Whilst we do not want this to take a long time, I have instructed that this must be a thorough and complete re-analysis to enable the results to reach a position of absolute conclusion" [endquote] He added that [quote] "WRTC has no place for foul play." He was not specific about what suspected actions are believed to have interfered with the results. Discussion threads on the WRTC's groups.io reflector have said that pirated callsigns affecting multipliers are among the elements being scrutinized. – Newsline, G4NJH

MILITARY JAMMING EYED AS FACTOR IN FATAL PLANE CRASH

Many of us have experienced interference or even jamming, the kind that disrupt a QSO. US military jamming, however, is being studied as the source of the fatal crash of a medical transport plane into a New Mexico mountain.

Federal investigators are looking at the role that scheduled GPS interference testing at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico may have played in the deadly crash of a light medevac airplane, killing the two pilots and two nurses on board. The plane was en route to picking up a patient. Five minutes before its crash into a mountain on May 14th, one of the pilots alerted an air traffic controller that they no longer had GPS signals.

According to several media reports, an air traffic controller requested that the military cease its tests of GPS interference - and the military complied -- but testing resumed after the controller learned that the pilot was able to complete the flight visually. A report in the IEEE Spectrum said that the preliminary findings do not state whether the air-traffic controllers let the pilots know that the jamming had been halted - or that it had started up again.

These findings were contained in a preliminary report released in June by the National Transportation Safety Board. Investigators do not expect to reach any final conclusions until next year. The US Army site in New Mexico is known to conduct tests on spoofing and jamming systems and the US Federal Aviation Administration confirmed to an IEEE investigative reporter that jamming was also a concern during incidents in 2021 that led several close calls, or aircraft flying off course, in the region. – Newsline, KC0DGY

DX

W9DXCC CONVENTION COMING UP Coming up on **September 11 and 12** – The Northern Illinois DX Association will be presenting the annual W9DXCC Convention and University at the Chicago Marriott Naperville, 1801 North Naper Boulevard, Naperville, Illinois 60563.

The “University” will be held on Friday, September 11, and will cover subjects such as “6 meter DXing”, “Remote Radio Control for DXing and Contesting”, and “Running An Effective Field Day”.

The actual Convention will be on Saturday, September 12, running from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. A couple of the presentations are, “Youth, AI and Ham Radio in the Future” and “Fitting POTA / Contesting / DXing Together”.

There is a banquet Saturday evening. The “University” on Friday is an additional charge, as is the banquet on Saturday evening. For more information and to register, go to <https://w9dxcc.com/>

POLAR OBSERVATORY TO HOST HEISS ISLAND DXPEDITION – A half-dozen hams are making final preparations for their trip to a remote, uninhabited Russian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean - and have secured permission for accommodation.

The RI1FJL Russian DXpedition Team to Franz Josef Land has announced that they have

received permission from the management of the Ernst Krenkel Polar Observatory allowing the six operators to stay at the base on Heiss island during their activation. Heiss island, IOTA number EU-019, is the world's northernmost DXCC. The Franz Josef Land archipelago is in a glacial region about 870 kilometres, or 540 miles, from the North Pole,

Reporting on the DX World website, team leader Vasily, R7AL, said that the group now expects to depart on the 7th of August with an estimated arrival date on the island on the 15th. – DX WORLD

YOUNG OPERATORS TO LEAD 'MILESTONE' DXPEDITION TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND

– A DXpedition that is taking an extraordinary turn, as eight operators - all under the age of 25 - prepare to lead the activation of Christmas Island later this year.

Young radio operators will be planning, leading and operating the VK9XY DXpedition in November and December of this year through a partnership between the Pacific Islands DXpedition Group and Youth on the Air. Although young operators have been part of previous activations, including 3D2Y remote from Rotuma and PJ6Y on the island of Saba, the Pacific Islands group is calling this next operation "a milestone."

The lead operator will be Max Freedman, N4ML. Max and his team will have veteran DXpeditioners Gregg Marco, W6IZT and Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, as on-island advisors. Making the announcement on July 20th, the team said the young operators will include Connor Black, W4IPC; Tyler Schroder, NT1S; Lukas Bartkus, LY7J; and Urgent Jere, 7Q6UJ -- and that many of them were part of the two previous DXpeditions.

They will be on the air for about 18 days, starting around the 16th of November. – Newsline, VK4BB, (PACIFIC ISLANDS DXPEDITION GROUP)

TECHNICAL

'BROADCAST DATACASTING' EYED FOR DELIVERY OF US WEATHER ALERTS – In the US, the National Weather Service has its eye on the broadcasting spectrum as a possible avenue to ensure the delivery of weather alerts.

It's known as broadcast datacasting - the distribution of data using digital television - and it's showing promise for the National Weather Service as an alternative means of getting the word out.

According to a report on the tvtechnology.com website, the NWS is working with the broadcast datacasting specialist Spectra Rep, to evaluate how the technology can provide a redundant pathway for delivering NOAA weather audio and other data during emergencies.

The transmitted data would be undetected by viewers, according to the SpectraRep website.

Broadcast datacasting has been around for quite some time and originated with closed captioning that appears on many TV screens. Broadcast datacasting is also in some European countries although European TV employs different systems than those used in the US, such as Digital Video Broadcasting and Digital Audio Broadcasting.

NOAA said that the research will help strengthen Weather Radio and broaden access to its information across the country. – Newsline, (TVTECHNOLOGY.COM, SPECTRAREP)

SHORTS

ARRL CHANGES ARE PLANNED FOR THE CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM --"To encourage greater participation by Affiliated Clubs in the ARRL Club Commission Program, a new online membership form will be created to allow new and renewing members to select a participating club to receive credit for their ARRL membership. The motion also

increases the Club Commission for ARRL membership renewals from \$5 to \$10 each. Affiliated Clubs already earn a \$20 commission for each new ARRL Standard membership they sign."

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WILL BE BUSY IN AUGUST CHASING QSOS FROM LIGHTHOUSES...near and far! US National Lighthouse Day, unofficially held on August 7, is celebrated to honor the historic and cultural significance of lighthouses across the United States. This year the event will be August 8 – 9. International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend ([ILLW](#)) is normally held on the 3rd full weekend in August and will be held August 15 – 16. And in Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers, [ALK](#), conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the same weekend as the ILLW.

Hams will be operating special event stations near, and in, lighthouses for both events. Here are a few:

August 8 -9, 2026, The [North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club](#) (NOARC) Youth Lighthouse Activation Aug 8 - 9, 1300Z-0200Z, W8CSO, Grand Haven, Michigan will be active on 14.060, 14.237, 7.225, and 28.320 MHz.

August 15 (Rain date Aug. 16), 1000Z-2030Z, Fire Island Lighthouse, NAØ26. The [Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club](#), W2GSB, will be active at the lighthouse using CW, SSB, and digital modes on 14.245, 28.500, 21.325, and 7.275 MHz.

August 15 -16, 1200z to 2030z, the [Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club](#) in New Jersey, will activate special event station W2L from the Stony Point Lighthouse on the Hudson River in New York State, for both International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend and the 200th anniversary of the Stony Point Lighthouse.

August 15, 1400Z-2100Z, W8GNM/8, [Port Clinton Lighthouse Activation](#), Port Clinton, Ohio, using 7.225, 14.313, 21.350, and 28.600 MHz.

UK'S LEADING OBSERVATORY EARMARKED FOR SHUTDOWN – The home of the UK's largest radio telescope is facing shutdown after its funding was pulled for a major project.

The Jodrell Bank Observatory, which gathers data about the galaxy from seven radio telescopes across England, has lost government funding for the project and faces closure. The network, known as e-Merlin, is earmarked for shutdown following an announcement by UK Research and Innovation that it was ending financial support for the research and that all scientific work at Jodrell will be halted on the 1st of April 2028.

The observatory in Cheshire has also been home for seven decades to the massive 76-metre Lovell radio telescope. Jodrell Bank has been a foremost figure among astronomy centres worldwide and was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. --Newsline, G4NJH

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PURDUE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB W9YB for their 2nd place finish in the 2025 ARRL Phone Sweepstakes. The Purdue club was beaten out by the Hesston College Amateur Radio Club K0HC from HesstonKS. The Purdue club operators were AD9FQ, KD9ZJI, KE2FSX, KI5WLJ, W9CXR, and WP4TMF. Good job, Boilermakers! --Bob Burns AK9R -Indiana Section Newsletter



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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