



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

SEPTEMBER 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8,
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

If you watched the news, 71st and Keystone Ave was flooded so I called the North Side Events to see what they had experienced. There was flooding at the pool and pool house but the building was OK and they confirmed our club meeting reservation was still good. – Jim K9RU

AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the August meeting. The '88 repeater is operating normally except for the lack of Echolink. John, KF9UH, will handle the installation of a new computer for Echolink. Jim, K9RU, will handle the renewal of the W9CA license. "All Star" was discussed. Editor's note [An **AllStar node** is an internet-linked endpoint running Voice over IP (VoIP) software that connects amateur radio repeaters, base stations, and hotspots to the global **AllStarLink** network.] Google "All Star Node." We also discussed RF relays. Think transmit/receive relays.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: September 12, 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.

Sept 12-13	WAE Phone - https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-
Sept 12-13	ARRL September VHF Contest https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf
Sept 19-21	ARRL 10GHz and up contest https://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
Sept 26-27	CQWW RTTY Contest https://www.cqwwrtty.com/
Sept 12,	MARC Tailgate Hamfest, IDNR Parking Lot, 7970 S. Rowe St., Edinburgh, Public Contact: Jim Adams KB9JMU, P Christ PresbyterianChurch, 7416 E. 109th Ave., Winfield, IN

Sep 26 (rescheduled from Aug 15), ARANCI Hamfest, Christ Presbyterian Church, 7416 E. 109th Ave., Winfield, Public Contact: Michael Swiader KA9E, Phone: 815-409-5070,
Oct 3, Shelbyville Tailgate, Shelby County Fairgrounds, 500 Frank St, Shelbyville, Public Contact: John Walker K9SVL

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

Jimmy Merry Jr. KC9RPX SK

Jimmy Merry Jr, KC9RPX was Indiana Section Manager from 2018 to 2022. Jimmy was most recently the Indiana Affiliated Club Coordinator and Monroe County ARES EC.

Jimmy died on August 5, 2026 and his obituary can be found here: <https://www.fergusonlee.com/obituaries/James-Lee-Jimmy-Merry?obId=49314510> -

Editor's note: I worked with Jimmy both as SCM and Indiana Affiliated club coordinator, great guy and friend. – Jim K9RU, Indiana Section Newsletter

Brent Walls, N9BA is the new ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Indiana Section.

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as the new **ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Indiana Section**. While the position has a specific role in supporting ARRL-affiliated clubs, I see the broader mission as helping strengthen **all amateur radio clubs across Indiana**, regardless of affiliation.

Local clubs are one of the foundations of amateur radio. They bring operators together, welcome newcomers into the hobby, provide mentoring and training, support public service and emergency communications, encourage experimentation, and create opportunities for people to get on the air and stay engaged.

My goal is to serve as a resource for clubs throughout the section and help build stronger connections between clubs, the Indiana Section, and the broader amateur radio community.

Some of the areas where I hope to provide support include:

- Sharing ideas and resources for **membership recruitment, retention, and engagement**
- Helping clubs develop **programs, training opportunities, activities, and events**
- Supporting **club leadership and organizational development**
- Connecting clubs with other clubs that may have faced similar challenges or developed successful programs
- Encouraging greater **collaboration and information sharing** throughout the section
- Helping clubs promote amateur radio and public service within their communities
- Sharing available **ARRL and Indiana Section resources** that may benefit clubs and their members
- Assisting clubs interested in learning more about **ARRL affiliation or Special Service Club status**
- Serving as a resource when clubs encounter challenges or are looking for new ideas

I also want this role to be more than simply administering the ARRL club affiliation program. There is a tremendous amount of knowledge, experience, and creativity within amateur radio clubs across Indiana. One of the greatest opportunities we have is to help clubs learn

from one another, share what is working, and build relationships beyond our individual communities.

Over the coming months, I hope to learn more about clubs throughout the section, attend meetings and events when possible, and better understand both the successes and challenges facing amateur radio organizations today.

If your club has developed a successful program, is planning an interesting event, has a story worth sharing, or is facing a challenge where another perspective or connection might be useful, I would like to hear from you.

Most importantly, I want clubs to view this position as a **resource, connector, and partner**. Whether your organization is large or small, long-established or just getting started, ARRL-affiliated or independent, we all benefit from strong and active local amateur radio clubs.

I look forward to meeting many of you and working together to strengthen amateur radio throughout Indiana.

73, **Brent Walls, N9BA**, ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator Indiana Section
INARRL_ACC@outlook.com Phone:317-557-7224 -- Indiana Section Newsletter

2026 ARRL National Convention and Huntsville Hamfest

Alabama's Huntsville Hamfest proudly promotes itself as "The World's Friendliest Hamfest!" It's been only a few days since the convention ended, and that sentiment is still resonating among those of us who attended the 2026 ARRL National Convention hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest, August 21 – 23.

ARRL's National Convention program on Friday drew attendees from 37 states. The day started early with three full-day workshops, each attracting a different slice of the amateur radio community. In Mini Contest University, organized by Tim Duffy, K3LR, and sponsored by DX Engineering, first-time and veteran contesters settled in together to learn, compare notes, and sharpen their skills. In the room next door, the Emergency Communications Academy brought together amateurs who volunteer when their communities need communications support, sharing experiences and practical lessons from the field.

Then there was the Portable Antenna Workshop, where ARRL author "Salty Walt" Hudson, K4OGO, teamed up with Michael Martens, KB9VBR, of YouTube's KB9VBR Antennas, and ARRL Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, W1DRF. It was the kind of session that captures what amateur radio does so well: take a popular activity, put a group of curious people in a room, and start figuring it out together.

Crowds flooded in when the doors opened on Saturday morning to the familiar sounds of a major hamfest – conversations, laughter, the occasional "Hey, good to see you!" and plenty of discussion about radios, antennas, operating, technology, and everything in between.

The energy was also evident throughout the sprawling ARRL EXPO. Attendees had the opportunity to talk with ARRL staff and volunteers, ask questions, learn more about programs and services, and put faces to the people behind the organization. For ARRL, being present at major conventions such as Huntsville is an important part of being a member association. We can communicate through QST, the ARRL Letter, email and social media, but there is something different about sitting across the table from a member and having a conversation. That was especially apparent in the area of the EXPO where ARRL Officers spent time meeting with attendees. President Rick Roderick, K5UR; CEO David Minster, NA2AA; First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and Second Vice President Rick Niswander, K7GM, spoke with hundreds of attendees who stopped by to ask questions, share ideas, or simply say hello.

The ARRL Lab tested over 100 handheld radios for spurious emissions during the weekend while also promoting the ARRL Technical Information Service. "The Lab booth had lots of traffic, and as usual, it was super fun," said Senior Laboratory Engineer Rick Ciervo, W1CIE.

The Friday evening dinner held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center was a fundraiser to support the ARRL Education and Technology Program.

ARRL Director of Education and Learning Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, delivered an inspiring message, sharing his lifelong journey as a radio amateur while highlighting ARRL's commitment to developing educators who can ultimately reach thousands of young people.

Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, encouraged additional [donations](#), noting that the cost to sponsor and cover all expenses for an educator attending the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is \$4,000

The evening also included special recognition of the Huntsville Hamfest Association for hosting the National Convention, with ARRL presenting a plaque to Chairman Mark Brown, N4BCD. - **Edited from the ARRL Letter**

ENTREPRENEUR AND AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR INVESTS IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF PROBLEM SOLVERS

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® announced today a historic and transformational \$1 million gift from Dr. James M. Galm, W8WTS. An entrepreneur and amateur radio operator who spent his career solving complex energy and engineering challenges, Galm is now investing in the next generation of problem solvers through his support of ARRL.

The gift will directly support ARRL programs and activities, including the ARRL STEM education initiative within the Education and Technology Program, and ARRL's work defending access to amateur radio spectrum through the Spectrum Defense Fund. He didn't stop there, however. Dr. Galm expressed how important ARRL is to the future of amateur radio by designating a significant portion of his gift as unrestricted support to the ARRL Diamond Club, which supports ARRL's general fund, and the Second Century Fund, ARRL's unrestricted endowment fund, which will be invested and support ARRL operations in perpetuity

James M. Galm, Ph.D., W8WTS, is from Chardon, Ohio and is a 50-year ARRL member, a member of the ARRL Legacy Circle, and an accomplished amateur radio contester. He frequently operates from PJ2T and has served as President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Caribbean Contesting Consortium, PJ2T. He also operates a popular and reliable DX Cluster at dxc.w8wts.net with both ARC 6 and CC Cluster nodes.

With his transformational gift, Dr. Galm will be inducted into the ARRL Maxim Society at the Millennium Class. He joins Margaret Valentine at this extremely generous level of giving. Valentine, along with her late husband Michael Valentine, W8MM (SK), made the first pledge of \$1 million to ARRL during the Second Century Campaign.

First licensed as WN8WTS in 1975, Dr. Galm has more than 40 years of experience in engineering, research, manufacturing and product development. He holds nine patents and has published many scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals

In 2001, Galm co-founded LayerZero Power Systems, Inc., which grew to become the world leader in ultra-reliable AC power management equipment for mission-critical applications, including AI and machine learning, hyperscale computing data centers, semiconductor manufacturing, and financial transaction processing. The two owners sold a majority interest in LayerZero to a global private equity firm in 2025.

Dr. Galm holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics, and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics from Case Western Reserve University. He is a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Ohio. Now retired, Dr. Galm serves on boards of directors for LayerZero and Type One Energy.

Galm's gift represents a significant investment in ARRL's mission by supporting initiatives that help develop students as innovators, protecting the future of amateur radio spectrum, and strengthening the organization for generations to come.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is a donor-funded professional development program designed to help classroom teachers elevate their STEM programs through the use of wireless technology. As a part of the ARRL Education & Technology Program, several sessions are conducted each year, and the program continues to grow. Teachers Institute educators participate in lectures, hands-on activities, and demonstrations so they can inspire their students through the use of tools and strategies to introduce basic electronics, radio science, antennas and radio frequency propagation, satellite communications, amateur radio, radio direction finding, weather science, microcontrollers, and remote sensors to their students. Teachers are provided with the equipment needed to take wireless technology to their classrooms.

10-YEAR-OLD RECEIVES HAM LICENSE AND MORE

A brand-new young ham in Arizona got more than he was expecting after passing his amateur radio Technician class license exam earlier this month. Along with getting his call sign, KM7HFU, from the FCC, 10-year-old Reynaldo Mangual was presented by the Maricopa Amateur Radio Association (MARA) with an almost-new Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF multimode transceiver, an LDG YT-100 automatic antenna tuner, and power supply. The station had been donated anonymously to the club with the stipulation that it be presented to a deserving young person upon successfully earning an amateur radio license. In addition the club reports that, in an effort to introduce him to Morse code, Reynaldo was also given a fully-restored World War II-era J-38 telegraph key by club member Steve Miller, W6DSM, who collects and restores historic keys.

Reynaldo joined ARRL this week! He is also a member of the Pinal County 4-H Amateur Radio Club, whose youth program is supported by 4-H, MARA, the Arizona 4-H Foundation, and a grant from the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona. Reynaldo is now MARA's youngest member. The Maricopa Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL-Affiliated Club.

ARRL offers a no-cost membership option for full-time students aged 21 years or younger. Free Student Membership is available at <http://www.arrl.org/student>.

YOUTH AND STEM EDUCATION LEADERS AT 2026 HAMX

The 2026 ARRL New England Division Convention was hosted by the **Northeast HamXposition™**, HamX™, August 13 – 16 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center in Marlborough, Massachusetts. One only had to walk a few steps into the convention to see the strong youth presence. ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, met students and advisors from **New England Sci-Tech** (NESci-Tech) throughout the weekend. NESci-Tech is a nonprofit STEM education center and makerspace dedicated to project-based, hands-on learning for youth and families across New England.

Among the NESci-Tech team was founder and President Bob Phinney, K5TEC. Phinney led a youth forum on Saturday afternoon, organized as a roundtable discussion. Young hams, along with some prospective young hams, shared the experiences that inspired their participation in amateur radio.

Inderbitzen invited the students to describe ways they could encourage their friends to become involved in amateur radio. He also encouraged the older students to stay involved as they look ahead to college and careers.

"What do you think many college students are thinking about as they look ahead to their futures?" Inderbitzen asked.

"Jobs," several students responded.

"Right," said Inderbitzen. He noted that experiences gained through amateur radio can help young people develop practical skills that can set them apart as they enter the workforce. Building and troubleshooting equipment, working with electronics and communications

technology, solving problems, collaborating with others, and taking on projects from concept to completion are all valuable experiences that extend well beyond the amateur radio station.

Many of the students also staffed a NESci-Tech exhibit in the convention lobby, where they demonstrated their projects. Displays included pyramidal horn antennas used to detect the 1.42-GHz neutral hydrogen line emitted by interstellar gas clouds in the Milky Way, as well as high-altitude balloons carrying electronic sensor packages and radio transmitters.

The Saturday morning keynote speaker was Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, an engineering and technology teacher at Staten Island Technical High School in New York. Henriques attended the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology in 2023 and 2024, and has served as a TI instructor.

“One of the brightest success stories of this program is right here with us,” said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, who introduced Henriques.

Henriques shared experiences from his work as a coach and advisor to the SITHS Amateur Radio League, WS1THS; a SeaPerch underwater robotics team, and the Seagull Solar Car Racing Team, WSØLAR.

Throughout his presentation, Henriques described the experiences that led his students to what he called “this moment” — the culmination and reward that comes from the hands-on hard work and learning that take place when students engage deeply in problem solving.

Henriques has helped license more than 600 student hams and teaches nearly 130 students each semester. His experience illustrates how amateur radio, when integrated with hands-on STEM education, can provide young people with opportunities to build technical skills, work as teams, solve real-world problems, and discover pathways to future careers.

The convention's Friday and Saturday evening banquets also featured young amateur radio leaders. Max Freedman, N4ML, delivered the keynote at Friday's DX and Contest Dinner. Freedman, who was licensed in 2016 at age 12, was part of the 3YØK DXpedition team to Bouvet Island in February and March 2026. Freedman is a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff.

Saturday's convention banquet featured keynote speaker Katie Campbell, KE8LQR. Licensed in 2019 at age 10, Campbell shared experiences of being mentored and encouraged by individuals and organizations. She also discussed the stark contrasts that can exist between younger and older radio amateurs – encouraging ways for young hams to be supported. Campbell is entering college at The Ohio State University.

ROUTE 66 ON THE AIR

Route 66 has been celebrating its centennial, 1926 – 2026, all year. The 100th anniversary still has [events scheduled across the country](#), and there is time left to join the fun...especially if you're an amateur radio operator!

Route 66 on the Air 2026 is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 to Sunday, September 20 ... a nine-day window for amateur radio operators to participate. Twenty-five special event stations under the 1×1 W6 call sign have been set up for this event.

The goal is to commemorate the history of the “Mother Road” connecting the eastern and western United States. Through stories, songs, and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the spirit of the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America.

Established on November 11, [1926](#), [Route 66](#) was part of the U.S. highway system and stretched approximately 2,448 miles, from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, passing through eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Known as the “Main Street of America” and later dubbed the

"Mother Road" by John Steinbeck in his 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, it became an iconic symbol of American mobility and opportunity.

However, the demise of Route 66 began in the 1950s as the U.S. began building the interstate highway system, and the highway was officially decommissioned in 1986. Today, small portions of the U.S. Highway 66 still exist in towns and rural areas in several states.

Much of the original Highway 66 has been rerouted into a fast-moving interstate, bypassing many of the small towns and interests of this nation. Every year, Route 66 on the Air takes place to remember, celebrate, and share the enthusiasm and memories that Highway 66 represented in its time... and even today.

To find stations participating in Route 66 on the Air, browse the calendar at www.route66centennial.org. The ARRL [Special Events Stations](#) database also includes listings. Search for the keyword "66".

ARRL EME CONTEST

Mark your calendars now. This year's second ARRL EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) Contest weekend is September 5 - 6, 2026, 0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday, and encompasses the bands 2.3 GHz and up.

The contest objective is to work as many amateur stations as possible via the EME path on the bands associated with the above weekend dates.

"Our goal is scoring – while grid squares are shown in the contest log upload for every QSO reported," said ARRL Radiosport and Field Services Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ.

"What is transmitted over the air to complete the QSO may simply be your 4-digit grid square, OR a report in any mutually understood format if station size or propagation prohibit grid squares from being exchanged (e.g., these typical exchanges have included, T/M/O {weak-signal CW}, RST {CW or voice}, or -R## {digital}). Then, when submitting your log to ARRL, you would enter your 4-digit-grid-square and the 4-digit-grid-square of the station you contacted," added Jahnke.

Beginning this fall, with all ARRL contests after September VHF, and for the future, all EME contest logs must be uploaded to the dedicated [EME Electronic Submission page](#). For those with electronic spreadsheets or paper logs, a utility for converting log files in non-Cabrillo format to Cabrillo is available at www.b4h.net/cabforms.

AST SPACEMOBILE'S TESTS ON 800 MHz END ON SEPT. 12

An FCC-approved test of direct-to-device satellite cell service is set to end in early September.

The Federal Communications Commission has given a Texas satellite communications company until the 12th of September to complete its trial use of the 800 MHz spectrum for direct-to-device cellular broadband service. AST SpaceMobile has been operating under a 30-day permit for delivery to mobile phones in Lanham [LANNUM], Maryland and near its own Midland, Texas headquarters. The direct-to-device trial is being run with consumers' everyday phones.

The regulator granted the approval in April for AST to use frequencies between 817MHz and 824MHz for uplink and between 862MHz and 869MHz for downlink. AST SpaceMobile has strategic partnerships with cellular providers Verizon and AT&T.

The Texas startup company is a rival of SpaceX, which operates the StarLink satellite constellation, which is also involved in direct-to-device operations. AST SpaceMobile

DX

stirred controversy earlier this year after the FCC granted it limited use of part of the secondary amateur band between 430 and 440 MHz for emergency telemetry, tracking and control of its satellites. The FCC has said in the past that interference with ham radio was “unlikely.” – Newline

THE J62K YOUTH ADVENTURE HAS ANNOUNCED THEIR SELECTION OF YOUNG HAMS FOR THEIR 2027 TRIP.

– The J62K Youth Adventure was Established to inspire and develop the next generation of contesters, the J62K Youth Adventure provides promising young amateur radio operators with the opportunity to participate in world-class DX contesting while receiving one-on-one mentoring from experienced international operators.

J62K is a contest station in St. Lucia doing some really neat initiatives to get the youth engaged. J62K Youth Adventure — 2027 Selection Announcement

TECHNICAL

Kopernik Observatory Seeks Amateur Radio Operators to Track August 19 Balloon Flight

– Amateur radio operators in western New York and other northeastern states have an opportunity to help track an educational balloon. Drew Deskur, KA1M, Director of the Kopernik Observatory, a public observatory and informal STEM education center in Vestal, New York, said the balloon was expected to be launched August 19 at 10 AM Eastern (1400 UTC) with Automatic Packet Reporting System (ARPS) and slow-scan television (SSTV) onboard. The flight should last about 2.5 hours. Amateur radio operators throughout the U.S. Northeast are asked to track the flight and send downloadable images and signal reports to k2zro@kopernik.org. With APRS (K2ZRO-11) for tracking, there will also be SSTV transmitting on 145.600 MHz using Martin 1 mode throughout the flight. The balloon should reach over 100,000 feet. Last year there were SSTV reports from New England, Canada, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. --ARRL Letter

Culture of Innovation, the Collins Legacy shows how his leadership encouraged creativity, research, teamwork, and technical excellence. Employees were challenged to think ahead of their time and develop solutions for future communication needs. This environment led to many technological “firsts” and established Collins Radio as one of the most respected engineering companies of the 20th century.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1239894481372956>

SHORTS

FCC takes action against a Georgia-based illegally linked GMRS repeater system

- The FCC rules for GMRS does not allow linking of repeaters by any means, RF, phone line or internet, there are a limited number of frequencies for repeaters.

The FCC rules defined GMRS for local use with an expected range of 25 miles.

The Federal Communications Commission has issued a notice of violation to the North Georgia GMRS network and its leadership and they had 20 days to respond to the agency’s allegations.

The action seems to be the first against internet-linked systems that tie together repeaters in a region or nationwide.

SKYWARN and ARES - There appears to be a misconception regarding the relationship between SKYWARN and ARES. To be plain, ARES and SKYWARN are separate programs, though many volunteers participate in both. SKYWARN was established by the National

Weather Service in the 1970s to gather critical weather data. Because the NWS owns the program, it establishes all standards for training, qualification, and reporting. Participation is open to anyone interested in public service—including public safety personnel, utility workers, and private citizens—and is not exclusive to amateur radio operators. Amateur radio operators acting as severe weather spotters should align their activities with NWS requirements. Ultimately, NWS is the primary customer for severe weather reports, and our mission should be to deliver the information they require. Most NWS offices have severe weather reporting info on their websites. - Indiana Section Newsletter

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.
