



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club

www.w9rca.org

OCTOBER 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13,
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the September meeting. Jim, K9RU, has renewed the W9RCA license for another 10 years. We need a copy of the new license to post at the repeater site. John, KF9UH, will be selecting a new (used) computer to run Echolink at the repeater site. Dave, KC7UI, is looking to buy a 2m amp capable of 150 watts. Anyone have one they want to sell? Dick, W9ZB, reminded us of the upcoming VHF contest next weekend.

W9RCA '88 REPEATER PROBLEM...On Friday morning, Oct. 2, the W9RCA '88 repeater was observed transmitting a continuous unmodulated carrier. Actually it wasn't unmodulated, it was transmitting the 88.5 Hz tone, it just would never shut off. It appears the "old repeater computer" was hung in the boot up process. On Sunday, Oct. 4, the Yaesu DR-1X Fusion Repeater was configured to run as a standalone repeater and remains as such as of this writing. The repeater power output is the same as the previous configuration and on the same transmit antenna. However, on the receive side, the voter hardware is dependent on the old computer. Therefore, the Yaesu repeater is receiving off a single antenna on the top of the tower at the repeater site. Receive range as not as good as with the voter. It seems this problem originated at approximately the same time as the AC power was off due to some power line maintenance that was in progress. – AF9A

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: October 10, 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.

Oct 10 Hoosier Hills Hamfest, Lawrence County Fair Grounds, 11265 US 50
West, Mitchell, IN 47446, from 8am to 1pm Eastern.
<https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/>

Oct 24-25 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB, <https://www.cqww.com/>

Nov 13 ARRL Frequency Measuring Test <https://fmt.arrl.org/>

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

INDIANA NEWS

UPCOMING TECHNICIAN AND GENERAL CLASSES

The LDS Em-Comm group will be hosting Technician and General classes on October 24 and 31 at their Greenwood, Stop 11 Center. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Bruce Enz, W9ENZ at bruceenz@gmail.com --IRC Newsletter

Walter A. Breining, N9WB, SK The ARRL Indiana Section Newsletter mentioned Walter A. Breining, N9WB of New Castle as a silent key. I met Walt at an Indiana Repeater Council, but talked with him on my trips to Hagerstown on his repeater.

We link the W9RCA repeater with his repeater in New Castle for coverage for the ham travelers during the Dayton Hamvention which allowed coverage from Indianapolis to about Richmond along I-70.

We experimented with this for a couple of years and it worked better than expected. --Jim K9RU

TECUMSEH TRAIL CHALLENGE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 Radio operators are needed for the Tecumseh Trail Challenge held in Yellowwood State Forest on. Tecumseh Trail Challenge Marathon is famous for its point-to-point, epic route through the hills and hollers of Brown County, Indiana in its 24th year!

Volunteers for this event will need to be self-sufficient, able bodied (ie can get around on trail heads, and moderate areas) and have a good antenna/radio set up.

To volunteer for this event, contact Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, at n9nic@arrl.net. --IRC Newsletter

MONUMENTAL MARATHON NOVEMBER 7th Hey Folks! The Indianapolis Monumental Marathon is Saturday November 7th and YOUR help is needed for amateur radio support for this years event. I am looking for volunteers to provide communications support at this event. The on location time is 07:30 EST and the event ends around 15:30 with volunteers being released as the tail end passes their Events like this are a great way to get real-world experience with directed communications, messaging and working an assigned location as part of a larger coordinated operation.

If you can volunteer please use the link at : www.mcinares.org/publicservice/

You do not need a lot of public experience to participate. We will provide assignment information, operating details, and additional instructions as we get closer to November 7th. Feel free to share this opportunity with your club or circle of amateur radio friends. All amateurs regardless of experience are welcome to volunteer for support of this event. If you have any questions, please let me know. Matthew Bechdol, W9SOX

GRAVEL GROVEL BIKE RACE NOVEMBER 21st A new event for amateur radio volunteers is the "Gravel Grovel Bike Race", held in Hoosier National Forest on Saturday, November 21. Operator requirements for this will be similar to those for the Tecumseh Trail Challenge. To volunteer for this event, contact Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, at n9nic@arrl.net.

65TH ANNUAL HOOSIER HILLS HAMFEST OCTOBER 10th Hello fellow hams of the **RCA ARC**. I wanted to take a moment to personally invite you and your ham radio club to my club's 65th annual Hoosier Hills Hamfest, in Lawrence County, Indiana, near Bedford, this coming October 10th. It's looking to be a large show, and we'd love to have you visit, or even attend as a vendor. All ham radio clubs get one 10x10 booth space free, which comes

with chairs and a table. People from all over the midwest have been traveling to our event the last few years, and we'd love to see you as well!

We've got some cool displays and events this year:

- A forum on weather balloon sonde tracking and recovery
- Try your hand at 2 meter transmitter hunting on the fairgrounds
- HF station operating throughout the day on our club call
- A vintage/antique broadcast radio receiver display (with working radios!)
- Vintage/retro arcade video game display (playable!)
- The best breakfast sandwiches and smash burgers from Buzy B'Z's food truck
- Grand Prize Giveaway: Icom IC-V3500B Black Edition 2-meter mobile radio (must be present to win)

...plus the shopping and treasures you've come to expect from any great hamfest!

Visit <https://www.hoosierhillshamfest.com> to find out more or reserve a booth space. I've also attached our traditional hamfest flyer. We continue to build one of the best hamfests in the state, and eventually in the country!

Even if you cannot make it here on October 10th, I hope you would be so kind as to let those in your region know via email, social media, on your local nets on air, etc. I really appreciate it!

Hope to see you there! Look me up and say hello! Tim Wray, KB9SNL, President Hoosier Hills Ham Club, Inc PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421

WATCHING THE GULF (10/06/2026)

The [Hurricane Watch Net](#) (HWN) is closely monitoring **Invest 92L**, which is expected to become **Tropical Storm Isaias** in the next 24 hours. According to HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, the potential area of concern for this storm is a wide swath of the Gulf coast, extending from Louisiana to Florida. Graves says there is **no** HWN activation at this time, but the net will go into operation if official hurricane watches or warnings are issued, "or should conditions otherwise warrant activation under HWN policy." If activated, the net meets on 14.325 MHz USB during daytime hours, until propagation fades, and on 7.268 MHz LSB starting at 1900 EDT and continuing overnight as propagation permits. Amateurs in the possibly threatened areas are encouraged to follow official information from the [National Hurricane Center](#) and local emergency management agencies, and to check for HWN updates at www.hwn.org and on the net's Facebook and X pages. ARRL will also provide updates as conditions warrant. --ARRL

GET READY FOR JAMBOREE ON THE AIR OCTOBER 17th

"We've got scouts, we've got a special event call sign, and we'd love as many hams as possible — near and far — to come find us on the air." That's how Sal Mancuso, W6SAL, is promoting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2026 on behalf of the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). JOTA is an annual worldwide event, on the air and on the internet (as JOTI), with the goal of promoting friendship and global citizenship via amateur radio and the internet. This year's event will be held from October 16-18, and now is a good time for radio clubs and individual hams to reach out to local scout units to set up JOTA experiences.

For Mancuso, it has meant getting a special event call sign — K6S — and setting up a public demonstration station on October 17 for scouts from throughout the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council. The council serves 10,000 youth across Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties in California. "We'll have approximately seven licensed operators of varying license classes (Technician through Extra) on hand, running HF, VHF, and UHF simultaneously, all signing K6S," explains Mancuso. "Scouts will be hands-on at the mic and keyboard the whole time — this is their event, not just something

they're watching ... We'll be active on HF SSB and FT8, with packet possible as well." Planned HF SSB frequencies are 7.090, 14.290, 18.140, and 28.990 MHz, but Mancuso noted that "We'll also be posting our actual live frequencies on [Spotted Hams](#) as the day goes, since real-world band conditions may shift our plan a bit."

More information on setting up a JOTA/JOTI operation may be found at www.jotajoti.info. ARRL has resources to assist volunteers who are working with scouts, including a flyer promoting [Radio Communications for Scouts](#) (PDF) and the ARRL [Radio and Wireless Technology Patch Program](#). For additional ideas, visit www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-and-scouting.

YEAR OF THE CLUB ... KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

One way to introduce people to amateur radio is to link it with other interests and activities. The Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum in Colonial Heights, Virginia, already has a [ham station as part of its permanent exhibit](#), and this summer, volunteers from six area radio clubs joined museum volunteers to present a Radio Day, during which visitors not only learned about radio history, but were introduced to modern-day amateur radio.

The museum's exhibit is built around the extensive antique radio collection of John DeMajo, K5HTZ (SK). His daughter, Kathleen DeMajo Adams, now holds that call sign and is known around the museum as "The Radio Lady." She explained how his collection fit in with the trucks and tractors. "There were several institutions interested in my dad's radio collection," she said, "but ultimately it was the character of the people at Keystone that made it feel like the right home for it. They value American ingenuity, mechanical knowledge, preservation, and keeping old technology alive and working rather than simply displaying it. I felt very strongly that my dad would have respected that."

Adams said Radio Day demonstrated that "radio history is not something locked behind glass," but rather an experience that can still be "heard, touched, and explored." She also pointed out that radio continues to be very important to farmers while working in the fields. And truckers, of course, rely heavily on radio while on the road.

At the August 8 event, Adams explained, visitors "tried Morse code, studied antique equipment, watched live amateur radio demonstrations and learned how radio supports emergency communication. Children followed a scavenger hunt, designed imaginary antennas and discovered that signals are moving invisibly around us all the time."

Participating clubs included the Richmond Amateur Radio Club, Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society, and Powhatan Area Radio Club — all ARRL Affiliated Clubs — plus the Hanover Virginia Amateur Radio Club, Lower Appomattox Regional Radio Club, and the Central Virginia 6 Meter Group.

[THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF AMATEUR RADIO & COMMUNICATIONS](#)

(DLARC) has recently uploaded over ten thousand manuals donated from the now-defunct Manuals Plus company. Curator Kay Savetz, K6KJN, says: "Big news: the Manuals Plus project is done. Like, done done, put a bow on it. This massive manual scanning project started more than a decade ago, in 2015 when a company called Manuals Plus went out of business and donated pallets of rare manuals to Internet Archive. Then, a couple of years ago, DLARC scanned four pallets of the radio-related manuals. In September 2025, I announced in this space that we were back for another bite of the apple, with nine more pallets of tech manuals going to the scanning center. There was no way to know ahead of time what products the manuals were for: some would be for radio-related equipment, some wouldn't. Internet Archive scanned it all, then we separated out the material relevant for DLARC. More than [10,600 manuals](#) were deemed "DLARC-worthy" out of a [total collection of 13,046 manuals](#). You'll find manuals for rare amplifiers, radios, and all sorts of tools and test equipment. My colleague Jason Scott wrote a blog post titled [Manuals Plus: The Wrap-Up](#) that nicely summarizes the whole adventure." --ARRL Contest Newsletter.

TECHNICAL

THE ARRL IS FOLLOWING TWO NEW FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) EXPOSURE. On September 17, 2026, the FCC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiated parallel comment periods on RF safety issues. Neither inquiry changes the current FCC RF exposure rules that apply to all radio amateurs but could lead to changes in later proceedings if the current rules are found to be deficient.

The FCC's [Public Notice](#) is narrowly focused on specific RF exposure issues remanded to the Commission in 2021 by the U.S. Court of Appeals. The Commission emphasizes that it will give particular weight to submissions reflecting specialized expertise in health and safety matters. The HHS [Request for Information](#) (see also HHS [press release](#)) broadly seeks evidence and information concerning the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMFs), RF radiation, and wireless technologies.

Comments on the HHS inquiry are due October 21, with comments on the FCC issues due by October 22.

The current rules governing RF exposure took effect on May 3, 2021, and are discussed in the [September 2021](#) and [May 2023](#) issues of QST. The ARRL website features additional information, including an RF exposure calculator, the RF Safety section from the 100th Edition of *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications*, an explanatory video, FAQs, and more. ARRL has made these resources available to everyone in the amateur radio community without regard to membership. ARRL urges all licensees to stay compliant and safe.

WILL RADE BE THE NEXT SSB? It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech. According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2 dB. Its design also addresses spectrum use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF."

Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be downloaded and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available from and on the ARDC website.

A NEW ERA IS DAWNING! WSJT-X IMPROVED IS BECOMING THE "WS - DIGITAL MODE SUITE", commonly referred to as "WS" or "WS Suite". This rebranding was done so that there's no longer any risk of confusion with Joe's version of WSJT-X, which appears to be important to him. But this also gives me and my team more freedom of operation.

The **WS Suite** consists of three programs: **WS** (the main program), **WS-MAP** (wideband Q65 monitor) and **EME65** (wideband JT65/Q65 for EME). The **WS main program** supports **FT8, FT4, FT2, JT4, JT9, JT65, Q65, FST4, MSK144, WSPR, FST4W, and Echo**. The WS main program is still available in three different GUI versions: WSJT-X style, AL, and widescreen. I recorded a video on YouTube in [English](#) and [German](#) where you can find more information. (YouTube has created several additional audio tracks so that the English video can also be played in German, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish; and the German video can also be played in English.)

Our new WS Suite picks up right where WSJT-X Improved 3.2 left off. Changes compared to WSJT-X Improved 3.2.0 260908:

•**Rebranding to the new WS Suite:**

- The **WSJT-X Improved main program becomes WS**.
- Our latest **1.0 improved PLUS edition of QMAP becomes WS-MAP**. Currently, WS-MAP is a wideband Q65 monitor, primarily meant for EME communications. However, we have plans to use WS-MAP as a more general wideband receiver (for SDRs).
- Our nice **4.0 improved PLUS edition of MAP65 now becomes EME65**. It still offers the great option of using the WS main program to handle the QSO. A few minor inconsistencies have been fixed.
- To ensure a smooth transition, **the logbook and settings from your previous WSJT-X or WSJT-X Improved installation will be automatically imported when you first launch the program. In addition, the files CALL3.TXT, comments.txt, and ignore.list will be copied to the new log directory.**
- Please note that the new **WS Suite can be installed and run alongside WSJT-X**.

•**Support of multiple languages:**

- More languages are now supported (**German and French**).
- **You can now switch the language of the Graphical User Interface (GUI) directly from the new "Language" menu in the WS main program.** It is no longer required to start the program with the old --language=XY parameter.
- If you have selected a language other than English, **the new WS User Guide will also be displayed in that language.**
- **Note:** The quality of the translations is in your hands. For this 3.2.0 release, we used AI to add the many words that were previously missing. Please send me corrected .ts files, if necessary.

•**Improved installation routine:**

- **The installers now support version control.** This means **you can uninstall specific versions** (e.g. "3.2.0") without touching the others (e.g. a future "3.3.0" build).
- As an option, **the installer can automatically uninstall the old version when installing a new one**, so you can keep things organized.
- **But of course, you can still simply install the new version over the old one.**
- Added an option to highlight all messages.** To be honest, I don't really recommend it myself, but several of you had asked for it. Please use this responsibly! Usually, you shouldn't call a station that is still in the middle of another QSO.
- Various minor code optimizations.**
- Updated to Hamlib 4.7.3 (rc).**

Notes:

- The new WS Suite should be compatible with most third-party programs. We've tested GridTracker, JTSync and some loggers, and they all worked perfectly.
- If issues arise, try the "WSJT-X Compatibility Mode" in the UDP settings. However, use it only if your third-party software does not yet support WS.

•Laurie, VK3AMA, has kindly released a [new version of his JTAlert program that supports our new WS Suite](#). So JTAlert now also runs flawlessly with WS.

All [installation packages are available on the WS Download Page](#).

Note: If someone receives a virus warning when downloading from my SourceForge page, it is almost certainly a false positive. In such a case, please contact the provider of your antivirus software. That's the best way to get rid of those annoying false positive virus alerts.

Enjoy the new WS Suite! **Thanks to everyone who contributed!** My special thanks go once again to **Andreas N6NU**. 73 de DG2YCB, www.qrz.com/db/DG2YCB

SHORTS

IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH ! ... When you were a kid, did you listen to AM radio at night? If so, you might find this interesting. You'll hear some names out of the past that we all still remember. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoxP9CDu81k&t=114s>

AE7Q POPULAR VANITY CALLSIGN SEARCH SITE REPLACED - After many years, Dean, AE7Q had decided to retire and stop maintaining his popular callsign search site. W5YI has been working with Dean to migrate the code and databases for several months and has now released the production site. The new site can be found at <https://callinfo.w5yi-vec.org/query/>

WD4DAN.NET FREE UTILITIES - You have probably seen some of Dan Muntz's (WD4DAN) handiwork embedded on POTA enthusiasts' QRZ.com pages. I just recently found that he has several other free to use utilities available on his website at <https://wd4dan.net/>. Check them out, and if you enjoy using them, I'm sure he would appreciate your support. Standard disclaimer: My only connection with WD4DAN is as a user of his utilities. --KJ9B, IRC Newslette

"Watch Duty" is a real-time wildfire and flood tracking alert app with active reporting in all 50 states. ARRL Idaho Assistant Section Manager Dan Marler, K7REX, brought it to our attention, along with a [video explaining how it works](#) that's posted to the [RATPAC YouTube channel](#). (RATPAC is the Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee.) For more information on the free Watch Duty app, visit watchduty.org.

Kit building == Quentin Schultze W8QS and Tom Dulisch WA9TDD of the Ham Radio Perspectives YouTube channel have put together a text presentation about ham radio kits. They've also assembled a list of ham radio kit suppliers. You can see their document here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12rgPCQgS4FBjVgcHTZ3tmS5S9XGjTM6O/view?pli=1>

You are Emitting RF. Devices Like Signal-Trace Tracks Your Signature – Something I predicted in the past is now moving into production use. And that is the use of sensors to detect each of your individual RF signatures. Creating a dense network using ALPR Cameras equipped with RF detection devices, a map of frequencies can be developed to find anyone. [YouTube video](#) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G59mot-nao>
--Rob Braxman Tech

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.
