RCA Amateur Radio Club
Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club

www.w9rca.org

NOVEMBER 2026 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all those who attended the October meeting. Jim, K9RU, commented that it is getting harder and harder to find (interesting) news stories when putting together our Newsletter. Some members are having a problem of WSJT not transmitting. (Hint: Restart you computer, check audio output devices in Windows). The '88 repeater is still running on the Yaesu repeater and does not have the system that votes the three receivers. Field Day official results will be in the Dec. issue of QST which comes out in November. Discussions ensued relating to digital voice (DV) and the proper ways to ground your tower and equipment.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date:	November 14, 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.

Nov 7	MONUMENTAL MARATHON - looking for volunteers to provide communications support at this event. The on location time is 7:30 and the event ends around 3:30 PM with volunteers being released as the tail end passes their assigned location.If you can volunteer please use the link at : www.mcinares.org/publicservice/
Nov 7-	ARRL SS CW https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
Nov 13	ARRL Frequency Measuring Test. Thursday evening Nov. 12, in North America. https://fmt.arrl.org/
Nov 14-15	WAE RTTY https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/
Nov 21	GRAVEL GROVEL BIKE RACE - a new event for amateur radio volunteers 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 Hammer, N9NIC, at n9nic@arrl.net.
Nov 21	Ft. Wayne Hamfest Venue Expo Center. Ft Wayne, IN 9 AM - 5:PM
Nov 21-23	ARRL SS SSB https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes
Nov 28-29	CQ WW CW https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm

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

UPCOMING GENERAL CLASS

Ready to take your amateur radio journey to the next level? The ARCNEM General Class License Course is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 and run thru January 5, 2027 (9 sessions).

Classes are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum.

Upgrading from Technician to General is the single biggest leap you can make in amateur radio, granting you access to the High Frequency (HF) bands.

Why Upgrade? ---- The Power of HF Privileges

While Technician privileges keep you mostly local on VHF/UHF, a General Class license unlocks over 80% of the amateur radio spectrum. With HF privileges, you can:

* Communicate Worldwide: Bounce signals off the ionosphere to talk across continents and oceans without relying on internet-linked repeaters or infrastructure.

* Master the Solar Cycle: Experience the thrill of peak solar activity on the 10, 15, and 20-meter bands, where even low-power (QRP) stations can achieve global reach.

* Activate Parks on the Air (POTA): Take your station into the great outdoors! General HF privileges allow you to easily hunt or activate state and national parks, a massive and highly active global community.

* Chase DX & Awards: Participate in international contesting, hunt rare DX stations, and work toward prestigious milestones like DXCC (DX Century Club) and Worked All States (WAS).

* Explore Diverse Modes: Dive deep into long-distance single sideband (SSB) voice, traditional CW (Morse code), and advanced digital weak-signal modes like FT8.

* Enhance Emergency Capabilities: Provide resilient, long-range emergency communications that can bridge gaps across states and countries when local infrastructure fails.

Course Schedule & Details

* Start Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2026

* Format: Weekly 3-hour sessions held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM Eastern Time

* Platform: Online via Zoom (links will be sent to registered participants)

* All sessions will be recorded and available on YouTube

How to Register

Contact Tom K3YH at **tom.christovich@gmail.com**

Don't let your amateur radio journey stop at the local repeater. Join us starting November 10 and unlock the true, global potential of your station.

eBAY RESTRICTS LISTINGS OF RADIO EQUIPMENT, BUT EXEMPTS HAM-BAND-ONLY GEAR

ImageOnline marketplace eBay has imposed new restrictions on listings of radio transmitting equipment in response to new FCC rules that took effect this week, *but responded to ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® that its new policy will not apply to gear that operates exclusively on amateur radio frequencies*. The FCC's rules are intended to use its equipment authorization program to protect against "national security threats to the communications supply chain" and cover a wide variety of products.

In its Third Report and Order issued on July 23, 2026, the Commission makes clear that online marketplaces share in the legal responsibility to assure that unauthorized RF devices are not offered for sale on their platforms. The rules took effect on October 13. Moving forward, equipment subject to FCC authorization must have its FCC ID number submitted to the marketplace and posted with its listing. There are exemptions for posts already online, "small sellers," and used equipment, but initial messages to sellers from eBay suggested that an FCC ID would be required in order to post a listing for any equipment that transmits RF energy.

In response to a request from ARRL for a clarification relating to amateur radio equipment that does not require FCC authorization, an eBay spokesperson provided the following statement:

eBay allows the sale of devices capable of operating only on frequencies that the FCC has allocated for use by Amateur Radio Service licensees. As these devices do not require FCC equipment authorization, FCC IDs will not be required for these listings as an amateur licensee may use his or her license to operate such radios.

However, two-way VHF/UHF radio equipment capable of operating outside of the amateur frequency bands cannot be imported, advertised, sold, or operated within the United States, including on eBay, without an FCC equipment certification.

If eBay inadvertently takes action against listings for devices that don't require FCC IDs and are otherwise authorized, the affected seller should inform eBay and we will assess whether to remove restrictions from the listing.

It should be emphasized that the FCC did not change its underlying equipment authorization rules. Amateur radio equipment, except for commercial HF amplifiers, continues to not require FCC authorization. --ARRL Letter

AN INVITATION TO RCA AMATEUR RAD CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS FROM THE NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

I am writing on behalf of the National Amateur Radio Alliance to invite your club to learn more about NARA and the resources we are developing to support amateur radio clubs and operators across the country.

NARA is a national membership organization focused on four key areas: resources, engagement, outreach, and advocacy. Our mission is simple: Empowering hams, supporting clubs, promoting amateur radio, and protecting our spectrum.

We are developing several resources and programs that may benefit your club and its

members:

National Club Map: Clubs can add or update their listing so amateur radio operators can find clubs, meetings, contact information, and activities in their area.

Hamfest and Event Map: If your club is planning a hamfest, swapmeet, or other amateur radio event, we invite you to add it to the map and help operators discover events near them.

National Presenters Panel: Club members with knowledge or experience to share can apply to become presenters. The panel helps clubs find speakers who are willing to present virtually on technical topics, operating, preparedness, club leadership, youth engagement, and other areas of amateur radio.

Regional Club Councils: NARA is forming Club Councils to bring neighboring clubs together, improve communication, share resources, encourage cooperation, and help identify unmet needs within local amateur radio communities.

WhatIsHamRadio.com: This resource is being developed to help clubs introduce amateur radio to the public and provide prospective operators with a clear and welcoming place to begin learning about the hobby.

NARA Ham Radio Wiki: Our growing wiki provides practical information about getting started, licensing, operating, station building, emergency communications, technical topics, rules and regulations, clubs, and other areas of amateur radio.

NARA Club Week: Club Week is coming November 1 through 8. This national on air event gives clubs an opportunity to make contacts, share what makes their club unique, and build connections with other clubs and operators. It is designed around friendly, conversational contacts without logs, points, or competition.

The best thing your club can do today is get on the national club map. We've already pre-filled the form with W9RCA's public information, so all you need to do is add any additional details about your club and make sure your contact information is up to date.

Please feel free to share these resources and opportunities with your club members. We would also welcome your feedback about the resources, programs, and support that would be most useful to your club.

Thank you for everything your club does to support amateur radio in your community. We look forward to learning more about your club and finding ways to support its continued success.

LATEST COLVIN GRANTS ASSIST YOUTH-FOCUSED DXPEDITIONS

Two upcoming DXpeditions with a focus on young operators are the latest recipients of Colvin grants from ARRL. The grants, funded by an endowment established by noted DXpeditioner Lloyd Colvin, W6KG (SK), are intended to support amateur radio projects that promote international goodwill in the field of DX.

The latest recipients are the upcoming VK9XY DXpedition to Christmas Island, south of Indonesia — scheduled for this November 16 through December 4 — and the VPØSG expedition to South Georgia Island, in the South Atlantic, planned for March 2027.

Ten of the 12 VK9XY operators are under age 26, and the team leader is ARRL Education and Learning Support Specialist Max Freedman, N4ML, already a veteran DXpeditioner at age 22. But the truly unique aspect of this expedition are plans for up to 40 young hams to operate the station remotely from various parts of the world, using an internet-linked "rig in a box," or RIB.

"The VK9XY team would like to sincerely thank ARRL granting us the Colvin Award," said Freedman. "It is only with this collective support from groups like NCDXF, DX Engineering, ARRL, and the community at large that we are able to bring the next generation of radio amateurs right to the bleeding edge of DXpeditioning."

The VPØSG team will also include three (on-site) young operators and will be the first

amateur radio activation of South Georgia since 2016. (One young operator, Violetta Latham, KN2P, is part of **both** the VK9XY and VPØSG teams!) In addition to the challenges associated with getting to and operating from a sub-Antarctic island, the team also has to negotiate very strict environmental regulations. According to the team's website, the group is committed to "operating with the highest possible standards of environmental responsibility" while maximizing the number of unique contacts to give smaller stations a better opportunity to work South Georgia. --ARRL Letter

PILOT DIES IN FATAL CRASH INTO FLORIDA HAM TOWER

A veteran helicopter pilot was the only one aboard when, authorities said, his helicopter struck a 150-foot-tall tower in back of a ham radio operator's home in Myakka City, Florida. The 63-year-old pilot had just completed a route of spraying for mosquito control shortly before 9 p.m. when he was killed in the Oct. 15th accident in Manatee County, A spokesman for the county sheriff's office told local media that firefighters pulled the pilot from the wreckage as it burned. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The guyed tower - the tallest of three on the property - collapsed.

The Wireless Estimator, a website for the wireless infrastructure industry, identified the property owner as Daniel Street, K1TO, who is also the owner of an antenna installation company, A1 Tower Service. The website noted that towers standing under 200 feet are not required by the Federal Aviation Administration to be lit or to be registered with the FCC's Antenna Structure Registration System. The Wireless Estimator said that according to the public record, the towers were in compliance with those rules.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the incident and typically issues a preliminary report within about 30 days after a crash.--Newsline

PRIVATELY DEVELOPED CUBESAT TRANSMITS AI EXPERIMENTS

The October 1st launch of a 2U CubeSat on a ride share mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California has distinguished itself in a number of ways.

Guan Hao Chan, KO6IKZ, is being celebrated by many in the CubeSat community following the launch of KENSAT, a sun-synchronous satellite he designed and built as a private individual, creating such support systems as the ground station software. The radio amateur, who is from Malaysia, has taken an uncommon route, not relying on any government or big corporate funding.

The CubeSat's payload includes what is being called an unusual artificial-intelligence experiment in space: Using a neural network, KENSAT conducts machine learning, downlinking the results via UHF to amateur ground stations. According to the KENSAT website, the satellite is using a language model known as Gemma 3 which "thinks in space and beams the answer back to anyone listening."

The IARU coordinated a downlink of 437.080 for the CubeSat, which is using the same US callsign: KO6IKZ. The downlink uses GFSK modulation with AX.25/G3RUH framing.

Chan said he hoped KENSAT would inspire other experimenters to attempt independent CubeSat development. He also said he hoped hams would be listening for the UHF transmissions as KENSAT makes its way in low-earth orbit. --AMSAT NEWS, KENSAT.COM

HOA LOBBYISTS GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO HALTING ANTENNA BILL

In the US, lawmakers have not yet scheduled a vote on a measure that would protect amateur radio antennas from the restrictions or bans imposed by private homeowners associations, but a powerful nationwide lobbying group representing those associations is

strengthening its opposition to the measure.

The Community Associations Institute met recently in Washington, DC, and announced it was giving top priority to fighting the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, which has support of both parties. Last year, ARRL launched a nationwide grassroots campaign in support of the legislation. -- AMATEUR RADIO DAILY, ARRL

'PAYMENT LABYRINTH' CALLED OBSTACLE TO LICENSE RENEWALS

If you're needing to renew your FCC license soon - or have tried but been unsuccessful in paying the $35 fee - you're not alone. Andy Morrison K9AWM tells us about a study of FCC data that turned up hundreds of failed amateur radio renewals - and lost callsigns.

Rob Rosenberger, K4HST, calls it the FCC's "payment labyrinth" -- and he believes it is responsible for the failed attempts by 1 in 18 hams to complete their payment of the $35 license-renewal fee. He came to his conclusions after analyzing the FCC's downloadable, publicly accessible two-year archive starting in 2024.

In the US, the $35 fee applies to new license grants as well as renewals, vanity call signs and any modifications.

Rob, who is a retired systems analyst, said that his study shows that some hams have actually had repeated failures to make their payments - some as many as seven times. He said, however, "nine out of ten folks who stumbled into the labyrinth decided not to map it out a second time." In the period he analyzed, he said, 3,901 hams successfully renewed their callsign each month -- but another 783 simply did not bother trying again and were lost to attrition.

Rob said the numbers point out the need for clubs and others, such as the ARRL, to focus on the hams who fail the payment process in the ULS system before they lose their callsign after the FCC's two-year grace period. He said the solution begins at the local level - and ham radio clubs can reduce the failure-to-pay rate through outreach to those who may need assistance. His study has enabled him to produce free downloadable PDFs that list all operators, sorted by city and state, who are within three months of losing their callsign.

https://daily.hamweekly.com/2026/10/1-out-of-18-hams-fail-to-renew-at-the-payment-point/ – Andy Morrison K9AWM

AUSTRALIAN MOON ROVER MAKES DEBUT

Australia's moon rover is a work in progress and it made its debut recently in Queensland. Graham Kemp VK4BB tells us what's next for this important space explorer.

Australia's first lunar rover -- that would be the Roo-ver -- met the public recently during World Space Week at the Queensland University of Technology’s Lunar Testbed and Space Lab. Plans are to land the semi-autonomous vehicle at the lunar South Pole in 2030.

The trip will take place under NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services program. Roo-ver will make its journey aboard an Intuitive Machines lander and then conduct studies relevant to eventual human exploration under the Artemis program. It is being designed and created by an industry consortium comprising universities, researchers, major companies and startups. --AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY; AMSAT NEWS SERVICE

CLAUDE VE2FK IS RETIRING AFTER 20 YEARS OF MAINTAINING THE N1MM LOGGER+ CALL HISTORY FILES

After 20 years of maintaining the N1MM Logger+ call history files, Claude VE2FK is retiring from this important volunteer role.

Claude traces the beginning back to 2006, when it all started with a CWT file. At Larry

K8UT's (SK) request, he began uploading his files directly to N1MM. What started as a simple contribution grew into a service that has benefited thousands of N1MM Logger+ users over the years.

Maintaining the call history files is a substantial, ongoing job. It requires attention to detail, consistency, and a willingness to keep at it year after year. Claude has provided that service faithfully since the early days of N1MM Logger+, helping make call history a useful part of the contesting experience for all of us.

On behalf of the entire N1MM Logger+ community, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Claude for his many years of dedication and service. His contribution is greatly appreciated, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

We do not yet have a replacement in place. Work is underway on an automated website intended to make maintaining and distributing the call history files easier going forward. Until that effort is completed, the future process for maintaining the files remains to be determined. We will share more information when we have it.

Claude, thank you for everything you have done for N1MM Logger+ and the contesting community. You have certainly earned a well-deserved retirement!

73, Tom N1MM

VOYAGER 1, ONE LIGHT DAY FROM EARTH

In less than a month, a machine built in 1977 will be ONE LIGHT-DAY from Earth.

On November 18, 2026, Voyager 1 will be about 25.9 billion km away so far that a radio signal at the speed of light takes 24 hours to reach it. Every conversation with it now takes two days.

It was built to last 5 years. It has lasted 49. Volcanoes on another world, the Pale Blue Dot, the first trip outside the Sun's bubble and a computer repaired from 24 billion km away. Here's the whole story, in 22 minutes. Best with sound on.

https://www.facebook.com/reel/29012688241696178 -- Noblexplains

TECHNICAL

PoPping In to 44Net Connect Back in the earliest days of the internet, a whole block of IP (internet protocol) addresses — beginning with 44 — was set aside for amateur radio use. Most of that block of addresses is still there and is managed by ARDC, Amateur Radio Digital Communications. In December of 2025, ARDC launched 44Net Connect, a service intended to make it easy for hams to begin using 44Net addresses for such things as experimenting with digital modes, improving repeater infrastructure, setting up a home lab, and more. In the ensuing months, more than 2000 users have signed up and ARDC is now expanding access by doubling its number of “points of presence,” or “PoPs” around the world, adding new ones in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Sydney, Australia (current ones are in Frankfurt, Toronto, and Dallas). A PoP is a physical access point that connects different networks. “The additional PoPs will expand network capacity and bring nodes closer to users in different parts of the world,” explained Rebecca Key, KO4KVG, ARDC’s Communications Manager. “This can shorten the distance data travels, reducing latency, and improving the overall experience.”

“44Net Connect gives licensed hams a simpler way to get a static 44Net IP address without a complicated setup,” adds Key. “We’re seeing it used for everything from personal tinkering to club projects, education, and EmComm.”

You can find more information about 44Net Connect, including how to get started, in ARDC’s introductory blog post.

SHORTS

The FCC will allow amateurs to communicate with two military stations aboard museum battleships in connection with National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 5-7, 2026. The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association received a waiver on October 14, permitting short-term crossband communications between amateurs and military stations NEPM aboard the Museum Battleship Iowa (transmitting on 6.989, 14.375, 18.036, and 21.856 MHz), and NEMW aboard the Museum Battleship Alabama (transmitting on 3.347, 7.463, 14.7615, and 18.060 MHz). The military station operators will announce the amateur frequencies on which they will be listening. Read the complete FCC order (PDF).

DIGIKEY – Many of have bought electronic parts from Digikey. A Thomson and Technicolor we ordered stuff from Digikey all most daily. Here is the surprising history of the company: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbXx4Ozau_M

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.