



RCA Amateur Radio Club Indianapolis, IN



ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

JULY 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, JUNE 9th
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

JUNE MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the June meeting. Field Day was discussed as the final FD planning meeting before the event will be held on Zoom, June 13. Our Club will be responsible for the 6m station. Propagation recently on 6 hasn't really been great. In preparation for FD, a training session for the GOTA operators was held on June 8th at Fort Harrison State Park. This was a POTA event to give the operators some experience in a "contest like" environment. The W9RCA callsign was used, with permission, since that will be the call of the GOTA station on FD. They made 89 contacts with other POTA stations in about a 2 hour period. If anyone in the Club wants to do a POTA activation using the RCA callsign, contact Jim, AF9A. The '88 repeater was reportedly doing fine, but it would be nice to find another (easy to get to) site for a remote receiver since we already have the hardware. The air conditioner, donated by Jon, KC9GUM, several years ago is still working! Thanks, Jon.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: Saturday, July 13, 2024
Time: Starting at Noon, **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: Jim Rinehart (317) 721-1458
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 605 license application form.
ARRL Test Fee: \$15

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 Hz

07/27/2024 East Central Indiana Hamfest, Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E.
Votaw Street, Portland, IN 47371, Jeremiah Cromis ,
KD9CCW
08/10/2024 Hendricks County Tailgate Fest, Avon United Methodist Church,
6850 E. US Hwy 36, Avon, IN 46123, Kenneth A Kayler , KC9SQD
10/12/2024 Hoosier Hills Hamfest, Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds, 11265
US-50, Bedford, IN 47421, Tim Wray , KB9SNL

10/19/2024 Shelbyville Tailgate, Shelby County Fairgrounds, 500 Frank St.,
Shelbyville, IN 46176, 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

Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

INDY UNITED FIELD DAY – W9SU and W9RCA GOTA – Big thanks to all of you for being a part of another successful Field Day!



The RCA ARC was responsible for the 6 meter VHF station and manning it. Thanks to: Jim Wolford, WB8FAX, Dick Davis, W9ZB Jim Keeth, AF9A, Tom Carrol, W9CSX and Jim Rinehart, K9RU for their time operating and putting up the station.

Setup was done on Friday and it was hot and putting up the antennas was a challenge. Like last year conditions on Friday and Saturday morning were great. The band was open and we managed to work a CT3 and about 100 stations before the start of FD. And like last year band condition deteriorated by the start of FD. Condition were better than last year, but still a disappointment compared to the pervious Field Day conditions.

The 6 meter station was used to exchange the FD messages worth bonus points and AF9A did copy the field message for bonus points. – Jim K9RU

Now, Field Day as a whole from Brian, W9IND..... Let's get right to the question that's on everybody's lips: "How did we do?"

Well, I don't have the final score yet and probably won't for at least another couple of weeks. We count everything carefully, including 6-meter FT8 contacts that were successful, but not apparent at the time.

But suffice it to say that neither rain, nor heat, nor thunderstorm, nor gloom of night could stop us from scoring more than 20,000 points for the second straight year.

Will we beat our 2023 Indiana record total of 21,066? It's going to be close, but possibly not. If we do, it won't be by much.

Early Sunday we seemed to be running ahead of our all-time mark, along with an even bigger one – Around 3 a.m., I checked our QSO count and discovered we had more than 3,000. Our total for last year was 4,873, so we still had nearly half the event to go.

Sunday morning a thunderstorm passed through, taking us off the air for about an hour and then Ol' Sol zapped us with a solar flare just after 9 a.m. (1300 UTC). In more technical terms, here's what happened with a region of the sun: "Old region 3664/3697 — the source of multiple Earth-directed CMEs and G5 – Extreme geomagnetic storming in May, has returned to Earth-view with a strong M9.3 solar flare at 13:01 UTC on June 23, 2024."

You can read more about it here: <https://watchers.news/2024/06/23/old-region-3664-returns-with-m9-3-solar-flare/>

Solar flares are not the best friends of HF radio signals, and it's obvious that the playing field changed dramatically between then and the 2 p.m. end of Field Day. Just ask any of us who were struggling to make 20 QSOs an hour on Sunday afternoon (and bewildered that hardly anyone would answer our CQs).

And the W9RCA GOTA Team, you represented us well, whether you were on the air for 15 minutes or 2 hours. Now go out and enjoy your new hobby.

But if it was tough for us, it was tough for other teams too, and I would bet that we'll still end up in the Top 5 – and probably the Top 3 – whether we surpass our 2023 score or fall just short of it.

So ... congratulate yourselves on another stellar year despite natural events that were beyond our control.

Brian, W9IND, Field Day Chairman, Indy United ARC – Edited K9RU

INTRODUCING THE SUPERFOX WSJT-X V2.70-RC5



The Jarvis Island DXpedition, N5J, will be using the SuperFox Feature for the first time ever. Here are frequently asked questions (and answers) about [WSJT-X](#) SuperFox and SuperHound Modes.

1. What is SuperFox mode in WSJT-X? SuperFox mode allows an expedition to make digital QSOs at rates higher than possible with previous versions of WSJT-X. In previous versions the Fox would transmit up to 5 streams, with each stream being 50 Hz wide.

The SuperFox transmits a full power constant-envelope waveform 1512 Hz wide. The

SuperFox may send reports or RR73s to as many as nine SuperHounds simultaneously. Importantly there is no reduction in received signal strength to do so. A SuperHound will experience the same received signal strength regardless of the number of Hounds being contacted by the SuperFox.

In addition, the SuperFox transmits a digital signature of authenticity. This signature allows the SuperHound to verify the legitimacy of the expedition, thereby reducing or eliminating piracy. This is covered in more detail soon.

2. Do I need special software? Yes, both the SuperFox and SuperHound need to run [WSJT-X version 2.7.0-RC5](#) or newer (expect the release around July 1).

3. Do I need to set my receiver or transmitter to a certain bandwidth for SuperFox decoding? No, as the SuperFox transmits a signal 1512 Hz wide, using the same settings you use now with WSJT-X will work fine.

The above information is from the Jarvis Island, N5J, web site. Check out the details at: <https://jarvisisland2024.com/operating/super-fox-mode>

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD RETURNS TO SERVICE

Effective 12:00pm ET / 16:00 UTC on July 1, the Logbook of The World® (LoTW®) returned to service.

As work progressed on the network, some users encountered LoTW opening briefly during which some 6600 logs were uploaded. The logs were not processed until this weekend as we tested that the interfaces to LoTW were functioning properly.

We are taking steps to help manage what will likely be a huge influx of logs. We are requesting that if you have large uploads, perhaps from contests or from a DXpedition, please wait a week or two before uploading to give LoTW a chance to catch up. We have also implemented a process to reject logs with excessive duplicates. Please do not upload your entire log to "ensure" your contacts are in LoTW as they will be rejected. Lastly, please do not call ARRL Headquarters to report issues you are having with LoTW. You can contact support at LoTW-help@arrl.org.

Through the end of the year, you may experience planned times when LoTW will be unavailable. We have been using this time to evaluate operational and infrastructure improvements we would like to make to LoTW. Those times will be announced.

We appreciate your patience as we worked through the challenges keeping LoTW from returning to service. We know the importance of LoTW to our members, and to the tens of thousands of LoTW users who are not ARRL members. LoTW, just behind QST, is our second most popular ARRL benefit. --ARRL

ARRL VEC SERVICES UPDATE DURING SYSTEMS DISRUPTION

07/02/2024

ARRL [previously reported](#) that we are responding to a serious incident involving access to our network and headquarters-based systems. Several services have been affected, including those administered by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC).

Exam Registrations and Materials. ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. While we are unable to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, we can ship out exam materials. Please remember that most exam materials are available on our website (www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves).

Processing Applications to the FCC. We are processing Amateur Radio License applications to the FCC. This includes applications for new and upgrade licenses, individual applications, and club license applications. The VEC exam session upload webpage was not affected by the incident. The VE session counts webpage data entry programming has been unavailable since May 12th. It will be updated with new data as soon as we are able.

VE Accreditations, International Radio Permits and License Class Certificates. We are currently unable to create International Amateur Radio Permits, License Class Certificates, and Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed at this time.

2024 – 2028 Extra Class Exam Booklets. A previous version of this story indicated that the ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE team leaders with the new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June. Due to ARRL's recent system disruption, that date is now to be determined. Supplies will be sent as soon as possible. VE Teams may contact the ARRL VEC to receive instructions on how to print new Extra exams in the interim. The newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. Exam designs based off the previous pool are no longer valid. The outdated versions of the Extra exams should be destroyed or thrown away to avoid a mix-up at the testing session.

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program | FCC Application Fee Reimbursement Information. ARRL is continuing to accept [reimbursement forms](#) to cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years of age for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL VEC. Reimbursement checks may take longer than normal to be processed at this time.

We appreciate your patience as ARRL continues to work on restoring access to affected systems and services. --ARRL

ARRL CLUB GRANT PROGRAM — APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

Now is the time to gather your club members and start thinking about how you can make your community a better place through amateur radio — and we have funding available to help!

The ARRL Foundation is pleased to announce the return of the Club Grant Program for 2024. This is an opportunity for clubs to apply for grants up to \$25,000 to fund projects in their community, with an emphasis given to projects that are of a “transformational” nature. Consider applying TODAY to support a project or activity from which your club and community would benefit.

Can your club create a plan to improve the community through education and training in, recruiting for, and promotion of amateur radio? This is for you! The application period is NOW OPEN and runs through Friday July 26, 2024 at 4:00PM Eastern Time. Clubs across the country are encouraged to apply, even if your club is not an ARRL Affiliated Club or not a 501(c)(3) organization—all are welcome to apply.

Grant recipients will be required to share progress reports and updates with ARRL. Information about the Club Grant Program can be found at: www.arrl.org/club-grant-program.

ARRL Club Grant Application, Submission Deadline: July 26, 2024, Apply now at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program

ON LINE THIS MONTH

Indy United FD video – Rufus Hardeman, NE9T, who hauls in and assembles our GOTA station every year (along with his associate, Dan Morel) and essentially serves as GOTA station manager, has put together another great video of our Field Day experience.

But this time he focused on W9RCA, our GOTA operation. You can view his YouTube video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc3zuEvuopg> And thanks for all you do, Rufus.

2024 ARRL National Convention Forums Available on YouTube – The [2024 ARRL National Convention](#) included a track of forums featuring a variety of engaging topics of interest to amateur radio operators. If you didn't make it into the packed house of Forum Room 3 during the three short days of Dayton Hamvention®, or perhaps you did and would like to see the material again, the content is available on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel.

A [playlist of many of the ARRL forums](#) is available. The programs were professionally produced in HD and feature topics such as the **ARRL Membership Forum**, **"Five Steps to a Successful POTA® Activation,"** **"Ground is a Myth!"**, **"Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Technician Class License Can Take You,"** and much more.

"The content and programming is just too good to not share with ARRL members who couldn't make it to Hamvention," said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "There's something for every interest and experience level. I learned a lot while we were recording them! I hope our fellow hams find the playlist to be a valuable reference for years to come," she said.

SHORTS

News, Press Releases, and Special Interest – CQ World Wide Contest Director, Bud Trench, AA3B, Resigns Bud Trench, AA3B, has resigned as director of the CQ World Wide WPX contest. Randy Thompson, K5ZD, will become the interim director until a permanent replacement is named.– Thanks to Tim Duffy, K3LR

Get ready for the 25th anniversary of Route 66 On the Air. – The 2024 event will start Saturday, September 7 and run until Sunday, September 15. The event, sponsored by the [Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club](#), celebrates the "Mother Road," U.S. Highway 66, which was established in 1926 and was the first major roadway improvement to link the West Coast with the nation's heartland. Joining the celebration for the 18th year will be the [Barstow Amateur Radio Club](#) with special event station W6E. There will be 21 (1x1) special event stations along the route from Santa Monica, California, to Chicago, Illinois. In 2023, there were 77 such stations, making a total of 623 contacts during the 9-day event. Email route66ota@yahoo.com with questions or for additional information.

Team J62K promotes Youth on The Air – Team J62K is looking for "first time travelers" between the ages of 18-30 to experience operating in a multi-operator category environment during the 2025 CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest from March 25 - April 1, 2025. Participants must be willing to work as a team and hold a valid amateur radio license and passport. If interested, applications are available at <http://j62k.com>. – Thanks to Kyle Chavis, WA4PGM/J68K

New Director of CQ World Wide VHF Contest Announced – The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) has announced that John Golomb, N2NC, has been named as Director of the [CQ WW VHF Contest](#). "John possesses a unique combination of technical and operating skills at the highest level of radiosport. He has also demonstrated tremendous leadership capabilities that, in total, make him the perfect leader for the CQ WW VHF contest," said WWROF Chairman Tim Duffy, K3LR. "My sincere thanks to John Kalenowsky, K9JK, for his past service to the CQ WW VHF contest and its participants," Duffy, K3LR added.

The 50th Anniversary K7UGA Special Event Activity is tentatively scheduled for Monday – Friday, October 7th through 11th, 2024 with CADXA using the K7DPS call sign while operating as a Special Event Station in the Arizona QSO Party on Saturday, October 12th. (They made more than 4,100 contacts in their last Special Event Week!!) Additional details to follow soon. – KB8NW

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.
