



Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes for the meeting on December 3, 2013

President – ???
Vice President – Craig Bigler KB3LBU
Secretary/Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD

Board Members for 2013:

1. Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
2. Larry Freeman N3LT
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG
6. Craig Bigler KB3LBU
7. ???

Terry KB3JOD called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm local time.

Approval of meeting minutes for November 5, 2013:

Doug K3LAB Moved to accept the minutes as posted.
Larry N3LT Seconded the motion.
Motion was voted on and passed.

Financial Report:

Terry KB3JOD
Opening balance For November 2013 was *ANNOUNCED*
Electric Bill (for November) -\$42.00
50/50 drawing (for November) +\$20
Dues and Donation +\$40.00
Refund for parts not used on the tower repair +\$93.33
Closing balance for November is *ANNOUNCED*

Larry N3LT made a motion to accept the financial report
Dave KA3KFA seconded the motion
The motion to accept the financial report was passed

Monday Night Net update: (146.91MHz – 20:00)

If you are interested in being a Net Control Station, please contact the Net Coordinator Roger N3ULC.

Monday Nite NBEMS Practice: (146.91MHz – 20:30)

The NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) will be at 8:30pm, after the Monday nite net. Everyone is welcome to join in. We usually start with voice and then pass messages back and forth to each other. It's a great way to tune up your Fldigi and to gain experience in case there is an emergency. Don't wait until the last minute to figure out how to use Fldigi.

Information:

Rusty WB3EUQ – contact information

Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital.

He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for his room is **(814) 695-1635**. You may call at anytime. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone **(724) 388-1202**.

Rusty's mailing address is :

David O'Donnell *(David is his actual name)*

P.O. Box 319

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

When you go: when you come to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk – they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.

Larry N3LT would like to get a group together to go an visit Rusty. Maybe some Saturday after breakfast.

VE Testing:

The dates are listed on the ARRL web site.

There was a discussion about holding a class for the Tech class. We need more discussion on the subject.

Facebook page:

ICARC has a facebook page now. Search for Indiana County Amateur Radio Club on facebook and click on the Like button and or leave a comment. Facebook page address - <https://www.facebook.com/w3bmd>

Business:

Officer Elections:

Nominations were closed at the November meeting. Nominations were opened again due to the need of another Board Member. Dave N3DZ volunteered for the open Board Member position.

Phil K3PJ moved to close the nominations.

Larry N3LT seconded the motion.

The motion was voted on and passed.

President: Craig Bigler KB3LBU (nominated by Larry N3LT)

V. President: Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB (nominated by Elmer KB3WG)

Secretary / Treasurer: Terry Carnahan KB3JOD (recumbent)

Board Members: Phil Kopczyk K3PJ (volunteered)

Dave Dzelsky N3DZ (Nominated by Craig KB3LBU)

Phil K3PJ made a motion to close the nominations.

Larry N3LT seconded the motion.

The motion was voted on and passed.

Carl N3PIE moved to accept the nominees as the 2014 officers for the club.

Dave KA3KFA seconded the motion.

The motion was voted on and passed.

(note that only 9 members were present and a quorum of 10 members is needed to hold an official meeting, else no voting could be made. Therefore, Fred KM3M was called and he voted by proxy over the phone.)

Repeater Update:

The 440.975 repeater needs the preamp worked on. Elmer KB3WG has parts on order.

The 144.130 packet machine is up and running, but someone with packet capabilities needs to verify that it is indeed operational.

Fund Raisers:

Carl scheduled Saturday December 7th at the Indiana Hoss's to be our Christmas fund raiser. We will gather at 6pm in the Front Room.

Please see Carl N3PIE for the Hoss's ticket. You may use the ticket any time on Dec. 7th for the club to get credited for your purchases. If you would like, the club will gather as a group around 6pm in the front room of Hoss's for our Christmas party. Our club will receive 20% of your purchase for our fund raiser.

New Business:**ARISS (International Space Station)**

Fred KM3M received an email from Charlie the ISS coordinator asking us for suggestion on what the school district needs to do to get questions ready and to come up with a firmer date along with some deadlines. This is a possible way to keep a foot in the door. Because of the difficulty in getting information from the school district, we are no longer fully involved with their ISS contact.

Letter from Robert KB3JOF:

This coming February, Robert will be taking a missionary trip to Guatemala with a church group. He will be taking his Radio gear with him. So if someone needs credit for a contact in Guatemala, get in contact with Robert.

SDR Dongle;

Dave N3DZ moved to allocate up to \$50 to purchase a SDR Dongle to be used at the repeater site for tuning purposes.

Doug K3LAB seconded the motion.

The motion was voted on and passed.

Activities for 2014:

Craig KB3LBU ask the club members what activities should we pursue for the coming year.

He was asked by Keith Rearick, one of the board members from the airport, asking if we were going to continue participating in the Airport Awareness Day.

Other things we need to consider are Fund Raisers, 'serious' fund raisers. Or even a Hamfest. This is all up to discussion. Nothing has to be decided upon right away.

A potato cannon competition, open to the public, was also brought up. All brainstorming ideas are welcome for discussion.

Attending neighboring club's meetings to collaborate with other clubs, was also brought up.

HSMM networking was discussed.

Also brought up was discussion on alternate power to help reduce the electric bill, (solar panels).

(Information from current electric bill:

Service Charge (just for the electrical connection) \$28.50

Distribution Charge (kWh used X 0.017150) 160kWh used = \$2.74

Generation & Trans. Charge (kWh used X 0.083600) 160kWh used = \$10.63

Adjustment to match Rate Chart \$0.01

Total kWh used for last 12 months = 1440

Average kWh used for last 12 months = 120)

Presidential Report:

Report on I.C.A.R.C. activities for 2013

2013 was a year filled with the unexpected... A longtime club member, James St. Claire N3TQR passed away

on June 30, 2013. James was 59. The positions for club president and vice president became available prior to the completion of their term. A temporary vice president was appointed. Antenna and feed line problems plagued the repeater for several months.

The unexpected is not all bad, Jim Knox donated 2 commercial Station Master Antennas to the club. Over the course of several months Larry N3LT, Elmer KB3WG, and Phil K3PJ spent a good deal of time retuning and reconstructing the antenna to be used on 146.910. The other antenna was also modified to operate on the 440 band. Phil made room at the repeater site by purchasing an old tower that had been laying around for years.

The members of the club provided support for the M.S. Walk on April 28. Due to inclement weather, poor signage, and Murphy's Law, there was a bit of confusion as to the proper route. Thanks to the eleven I.C.A.R.C. operators present at the various locations along the route things were sorted out and no participants were lost during the walk.

The weekend of June 15-16 was scheduled for the club to operate and inform the public about amateur radio at Jimmy Stewart Airport during Airport Awareness Days. We set up our antennas and shelters on the 14th, completing our station set up on the morning of the 15th. Two HF stations were operated on 20 and 40 meters. 38 contacts were made using the club call sign. Our antennas were 2 dipoles supported on one end by a roof mount tower with a mast. The other ends were roped to the fence and building. A field expedient 80 meter vertical with 4 steel tape measures as ground radials allowed members to check into the 80 meter RACES net on the 16th. High quality QSL cards were made to confirm the contacts. ARRL brochures were available to the interested public. The airport manager and the airport board were very accommodating.

The last weekend in June was our club's participation in Field Day. The club uses the repeater site to operate from. This year, a newly constructed house reduced the available space to erect supports for antennas. In spite of this, a member with a bow and arrow was able to shoot lines into the trees for supporting the several dipole antennas. A 15 and 20 meter dipole shared a common support. An 80 meter dipole ran north to south. Dave N3DZ put up a tripod with a 6 meter beam. A G5RV was put up perpendicular to the 80 meter. Good planning in a tight location provided an interference free Field Day. Once again the use of the county generator was very much appreciated.

September 28 brought us a fox hunt and Elmer was the first to find the hidden transmitter. Greg and Laura also did well. Much was learned and will be applied in future fox hunts.

In August the club was approached by the Indiana School District Superintendent to provide support for an ARISS contact. Much time was spent trying to determine what was needed to make this contact. Several queries to the particular officials concerning access and coordination went unanswered. The club voted not to participate in the ARISS contact, but would be available for future amateur radio activities.

November was a good time to do antenna work on the I.C.A.R.C. tower. Elmer was able to order, assemble, and coordinate delivery of parts and direct the work. *Craig did a stellar job climbing the tower, multiple times(tlc).* Our ground team did a great job and the new antennas and new feed lines are up and functional

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Bigler KB3LBU
12-3-13

Programs / Presentations During 2013:

January presentation – none

February presentation – Robert KB3JOF – Ham Radio Apps

March's presentation – Phil K3PJ – Knots you ought not forget

April's presentation – Terry KB3JOD and Phil K3PJ – digital interfaces

May's presentation – open

June's presentation – Phil K3PJ gave a short presentation on ticks and their removal

July's presentation – G. Lehman, from the Indiana Red Cross

August presentation – Mr. Kirsch, the IASD superintendent speaking on the ARISS event

September presentation - ~~Gary Miller the Burrell township's EC~~

October presentation – open

November presentation – Phil K3PJ – HSMM-Mesh (High Speed Multi-Media-Mesh)

December presentation – open

If anyone would like to give a presentation during a club meeting, please contact any of the club officers.

December Birthdays:

Cliff Miller	KB3AGT	12/02
Alphonse Rister	N3ZFZ	12/05
Bill Wieserman	N3ZYK	12/09
Robert Zugates	KB3JOF	12/11
Bill McMillen	N3QM	12/29

(if your birthday is not listed here and you would not mind it being posted, please send your birthday (month / day the year is not necessary, I will not post the year) to carnahanterry@gmail.com.)

50/50:

Dave KA3KFA won the 50/50 drawing. A total of \$20.00 was collected.

Larry N3LT moved to close the meeting.

Carl N3PIE seconded the motion.

The motion was voted on and passed.

The meeting was closed at 9:15 local time.

Meeting Attendance:

- (X) Craig Bigler – KB3LBU (*Vice President*)
- (X) Terry Carnahan – KB3JOD (*secretary/Treasure*)
- (X) David Dzelsky – N3DZ
- (X) Doug Fitzsimmons – K3LAB
- (X) Larry Freeman – N3LT (*Board member*)
- (X) Carl Hvozda – N3PIE (*Board member*)
- (X) Phil Kopczyk – K3PJ
- (X) Elmer Sorisio – KB3WG (*Board member and Repeater Trustee*)
- (X) Dave Steiner – KA3KFA
- (X) *Fred KM3M by proxy over the phone*