



# NEWSLETTER

## **Officers for 2015:**

President - Craig Bigler AB3XA  
Vice President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB  
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD  
Secretary - Larry Freeman N3LT

## **Board Members for 2015:**

1. Craig Bigler KB3LBU
2. Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
3. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
4. Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
5. Larry Freeman N3LT
6. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
7. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
8. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
9. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG

## **LOCAL HAPPENINGS:**

At the April 7 meeting Harry Bloomberg-W3YJ gave a nice presentation on ARES and performed a demonstration with the broadband network amateur television. It was all very interesting.

On April 4 a licensing exam was given at the EMA building and it went very well. There were eight candidates and all passed something. Two new extra class licensee's: Craig Bigler, and Dave Steiner, Four new general class licensee's: Dave McFarland, Chris Sorisio, Joe Rankin, one other person and Two new technician class licensee's: Matthew Scott, and one other person.

April 25, MS Walk starting at Indiana High School: It was a cool, partly sunny day with no rain and there were approximately 169 walkers. The ICARC team is shown below. Many thanks to these folks and double kudos to those on the team who manned two stations, Alton, Fred, and Jerry (They were able to do this due the laws of Quantum Physics!(this is supposed to be humorous) ) Additional thanks to Terry and Doug for manning the control station. The setup team: Terry, Craig, Fred, Ian, Joe, and Larry also deserve thanks for coming down early to get the site prepared. Thanks to you Dave D. for donating the EASY-UP canopy, it really was easy! (Of course, I just watched, so it was really easy for me!)

Participants(left to right):Top row: Bigler-AB3XA, Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ, Alton Strong-N3PHL, Joe Rankin-KC3CDG, Middle Row: Ian Bigler-KC3DTE, Fred Maize-KM3M, Jerry Keihl-WB3DUD, Bottom Row: Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG, Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, and Loreda, Not shown: Larry Freeman-N3LT and Lucy



The photo below shows many of the MS walk participants wandering around and listening to a DJ and (loud) music prior to the event. There was food from Pizza Hut, 9<sup>th</sup> Street Deli, and Arby's provided by the organizers for the walkers and ICARC personnel after the event.



There was also a semi-pro football game going on at Indiana HS along with the MS Walk and it made the parking a little tighter but no significant problems arose. It was a true miracle that no people or animals were injured during this event! (He writes with "tongue in cheek")

## **OTHER NEWS NATIONALLY:**

(Reprint from last months Newsletter issue)

As published in the April issue of QST magazine page 77: The FCC's "Paperless" License Policy is in Effect The FCC will no longer routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The official Amateur Radio license is the electronic Universal Licensing System (ULS) record. Licensees will be able to printout an official authorization as well as an unofficial "reference copy" from the ULS License Manager. A new license applicant who has an FCC registration number (FRN) and a valid email address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official ULS-generated authorization via email. New applicants lacking an FRN will receive one in the mail as well as a temporary password in order to access the Commission Registration System (CORES). No one will automatically receive a license document.

## **OTHER STUFF:**

(Reprint from last month's issue of the Newsletter) An interesting article from Rick Palm, K1CE, April Issue of QST page 81: Practical Operating Tips from the Field. Some words of advice for the public service operator:

Below is a summary of a few suggestions:

Golden Rules:

(a) Know and be familiar with the protocols and their proper use before you get on site. (b) During an exercise, think about the next time. You will almost always find that something is broken or missing or not working as planned. (Remember Murphy's law)

Net Operating Tips:

- (a) If you are asked a question, give a short simple answer or say "I don't know". Do not add qualifiers.
- (b) The Net Control Station (NCS) should keep instructions simple and easy to understand.
- (c) If the NCS should ask a question he or she should wait a few seconds (at least 5 sec) before continuing.
- (d) The NCS should identify regularly for the benefit of late comers especially for HF nets that are nationwide.
- (e) Operators should listen carefully to what the NCS is saying.
- (f) Operators and NCS should refrain from over explaining things. Keep it quick, no superfluous comments.
- (g) NCS and operators should not provide speculative information, especially for emergencies.
- (h) There should be no emotional phrasing used in the communications.
- (i) Do not use Q-signals in your communications; they are used in Morse Code. Speak clearly and slowly.
- (j) Transmit message traffic exactly as received. Do not alter it in any way.
- (k) Do not use vox (voice activated transmission).
- (l) It would be good to have an alternate radio in case the primary fails.
- (m) Use all resources as necessary UHF as well as VHF. Use HF if you have it and it's necessary.
- (n) Know the repeater that you are using. Wait for the ID and/or the "tail" to stop before transmitting.
- (o) If you are heavily into emergency services in the field, make yourself a "go kit".
- (p) Know how to use your radio and know what you are doing and be able to explain it to others.
- (q) ALWAYS REMEMBER MURPHY'S LAW

The above list is not exhaustive and does not involve equipment or deployment tips etc. but it gives you an idea of some things to think about.. You are encouraged to read Rick's article in April 2015 QST for more details.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

# Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

April 30, 2015

Ham Radio Exam Session

Oct 3, 2015

N3QM, Bill McMillen [wkmcmillen@gmail.com](mailto:wkmcmillen@gmail.com)

**Airport Awareness Weekend:** June 13 and June 14, 2015 Jimmy Stewart Airport, Indiana, PA

**Field-day:** Last full weekend in June of 2015, Note, The ICARC leadership is exploring the possibility of having field day at The Blue Spruce park.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

(If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let the ICARC Secretary know by email at: [wd4hoz@gmail.com](mailto:wd4hoz@gmail.com))

Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG indicated that as of Saturday, April 25, some other materials for the repeater controller has been shipped by ARCOM.

Walter Dzelsky-W3NFY a founding member of ICARC, is currently in the IRMC. Our best wishes and prayers go with him for a speedy recovery.

## **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

If you go to see Rusty: When you get 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.

## **Minutes of April 7, 2015 ICARC Meeting**

### **Attendees:**

Craig Bigler-KB3LBU  
Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB  
Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD  
Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG  
Jerry Keihl-WB3DUD  
Bill Wiserman-K3ZYK

Dave Steiner-KA3KFA  
Marcia Malcolm-KD4ITP  
Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ  
Bill McMillen-N3QM  
Denny Preisser-KC3DTB

Fred Maize-KM3M  
Joe Rankin-KC3CDG  
Larry Freeman-N3LT  
Alton Strong-N3PHL  
Ian Bigler-KC3DTE

### **Guests:**

Harry Bloomberg-W3YJ (WPA Section Emergency Coordinator and tonight's Presenter), Matt Scott (KC3ETO-new ham), Dave McFarland-N3LVD, Randy Thompson

### **Call to Order:**

The "Board" meeting started at about 7:00 PM. Folks used this time to order food, eat, converse and discuss many general items of interest to the club at large. Primarily the time was used to set up audio and video equipment for the presenter

Craig Bigler-KB3LBU, President, called the general meeting to order at 7:38 pm. Before turning the meeting over to our speaker he made a few brief announcements concerning the March 25 weather exercise and the exam session of April 4. Both were very successful and he let the new ham upgrades (April 4 exam session) introduce themselves: Matt Scott (no license to Technician), Dave McFarland (Technician to General), Joe Rankin (Technician to General), Dave Steiner (General to Extra), and Craig Bigler (General to Extra). Craig then turned the meeting over to Harry Bloomberg-W3YJ, WPA Section Emergency Coordinator. It was a very interesting presentation on ARES and the broadband ham-net with much encouragement for us to continue doing great events like the Weather exercise. He also mentioned Saturday May 30 as the date for the annual EMCOM conference and he needs presenters for that meeting. He also mentioned that next Saturday April 11 he was going to Titusville to meet with WM3G to learn Win-Link which allows one to send emails over the appropriate amateur radio frequencies including HF. He wants the expertise to do this to exist in Western PA. He encouraged us and the new hams to get and stay involved with emergency services and to learn FLDIGI and NBEMS which are officially used to send emergency traffic in proper form format over the radio using digital modes. He is willing to provide a training session if the club members so desire. He also did a demonstration of broadband ham-net and showed some of the hardware that is necessary. He touted the fact that it is very fast and allows data and video transfer at high rates. However, Harry also reminded us that it is line of sight therefore short-ranged but can, in some situations, be used over several miles. As an aside at the end of the presentation he mentioned that operators are needed for the Pittsburgh Marathon in early May. The overall presentation was very interesting and provided us with much food for thought. Craig continued with club business by passing around a sign-up sheet for the MS Walk on Saturday, April 25.

He then asked for a secretaries report from Larry.

## **Secretary's Report**

Larry announced that there is now a Newsletter for the club and that it would continue as a monthly on-line publication and asked for contributors.

Craig then asked for the Treasurer's report from Terry.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Terry (KB3JOD), the Treasurer, made a detailed presentation of the financial situation.

Craig backed up and asked for a motion to accept the March minutes: Marcia Malcolm made the motion and Jerry Keihl seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Craig then asked for a motion to accept the financial report from the treasurer.

Joe Rankin made the motion and Larry Freeman seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **Repeater Update:**

Elmer (KB3WG) said that he still does not have all the materials necessary to install the new controller and indicated that the necessary items should be mailed by the upcoming weekend. Craig noted that the 440 repeater is now working and thanked Elmer for his efforts there and at the EMA Center to get the new antenna connected with the N-connectors.

## **Monday Night Net Update:**

Dave S. (K3KFA) said the net was held successfully. He said that there are 29 folks on the list and there

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were 14 check-ins last night (Monday). He also said that the average number of check-ins is about 20. Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB) volunteered to take the Monday night net during April. Dave also needs a volunteer for May.

### **Monday Night NBEMS Practice Update:**

Terry (KB3JOD) indicated that he has not been doing it due to lack of participation.

### **Old Business:**

Craig brought up two issues for field-day: Where are we holding it this year and will there be donations to cover the expense of the portable toilets? Dave Steiner (KA3KFA) said we could do it at his place again. Craig suggested the we could explore doing it at a park. Other location suggestions were: The EMA center, a high school, the Jimmy Stewart airport. Denny P. (KC3DTB) suggested Hemlock Lake (near Rochester Mills) which is part of the county parks. He said that he could talk to Ed Patterson who is the Director of the County Parks. Marion Center park was also suggested as a possibility. Before anything was settled Craig pointed out that we should have a couple of operators at the EMA center for field-day. The county call sign will need to be used at this station. This was generally agreed upon since the station is already set up there. On the issue of location, the suggestion for investigating Hemlock Park seem to be at the top of the list and a show of hands indicated a high level of interest in this idea. Craig gave Denny some guidelines for his pending discussions with Ed Patterson. The general consensus was to make a final decision at the May meeting after getting more information.

Craig directed the discussion to getting operators for airport awareness day on June 13, and 14. There is a planning meeting at the airport on April 16, 2015. Set up will be on June 12 in the afternoon. We will do two stations again this year. Fred has put the ad for it into ARRL.org as a special event station. A sign up sheet was passed around for set up and operations. The issue of antennas came up and the antenna trailer was discussed. Larry wants to keep it simple but pointed out that the advantage of the trailer is that it is a good anchor point for a couple of antennas. Also with using poles for support instead of the trailer, leads to more guy lines.

Suggested antennas are G5RV, end fed 40 m and a third antenna being a 20 m dipole. Larry asked "does putting the antenna trailer up make it easier or more difficult for us?" One comment was that "it is just different". Those who did the work of erecting the trailer indicated that it did produce a bit more work but it also provided secure storage and rain shelter. Dave Steiner, indicated that if the trailer is pulled in and leveled properly without using the outriggers it is not as bad as in the past utilization. The outriggers can only be used as stabilizers after the initial primary leveling. It was decided to get the antenna trailer and a generator from the county to alleviate any power problem that might occur.

Denny P. passed the solicitation letter that he constructed around and asked for comments and corrections for later discussion. He chose one letter instead of multiple for obvious practical reasons.

Craig asked if anyone wanted to take Carl's place as the fundraiser coordinator. Think about it.

### **New Business:**

none

Terry conducted the 50/50 drawing with \$25.00 collected. Dave Steiner won the drawing and donated his share back to the club.

Craig Bigler (KB3LBU) adjourned the meeting at 10:13 pm, April 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary (N3LT)

