



## ICARC NEWSLETTER

### Officers for 2015:

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

### Additional Board Members for 2015:

(Officers are automatically board members)

1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

The August 4 meeting of ICARC, went smoothly with discussion of various items of interest to the club: PAQSO party, the August 8 fundraising dinner at Hoss' restaurant, Outcomes and recommendations of the Eagle Project antenna testing at the Church in Dixonville. The complete discussions on all topics are summarized in minutes presented at the end of the Newsletter. One of our members, Greg Kerr, who is about to become an expatriot of Indiana by moving to Florida, visited with us at the meeting. He said that he wanted to thank those who helped take the tower down from his home. He will be selling the home so he can make the final move. Greg, a former president of ICARC, brought a nice collection of articles and photos; a real blast from the past. As you may be able to tell from the two photos below many of us have changed rather significantly between the mid nineties and now.



(Indiana Gazette Photos by Cathy Planisky, 1996) Seated from left: Linda Robison, Twila Kerr, Standing from left Tom Ringler, Greg Kerr, Gary Robison, Randy Krofick, Fred Maize. Photos taken at the home of Greg and Twila Kerr. Photos are part of an article by John Como about ARES Skywarn from February 25, 1996.

# Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

August 28, 2015

**The Eagle Project Antenna Test** on August 3, 2015 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church near Dixonville, went off without a hitch. The Photo on the right, taken by Dave Dzelsky, shows the general location and layout of where the antenna will eventually be mounted (Just around the corner that is shown in the photograph). Much thanks to Dave Dzelsky, Doug Fiyzsimmons, and Phil Kopczyk for providing support and equipment for the test. Larry Freeman was also there along with the Fyocks (Father and Son). It was a very efficient afternoon spent at the church. The results indicate that with a pole or tower mounted antenna, there should be no problems in maintaining reliable communications between the church and the w3bmd repeater during emergency operations.



**Hoss' fundraiser Dinner**, on Saturday, August 8, 2015 went very well. Thanks to Dave Steiner, and all who showed up it was a great success. There were approximately 30 folks attending and ICARC made \$100.00. Again, thank you Dave for making all the arrangements.

**The ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section 2015 Club Leadership Workshop: Leading Your Club In The 21st Century: Saturday, August 22, 2015, 9am – 4pm. Joe Shupienis W3BC, 814-771-3804 [w3bc@arrl.net](mailto:w3bc@arrl.net).** Joe did a particularly nice job in that two of the scheduled speakers had to beg off for one reason or another and He was able to present their programs very effectively. It was an interesting and worthwhile meeting which left us with much to think about. There were three of us there from ICARC, Doug, Terry, and Larry. There will likely be some discussion of the event at the September 1, meeting of ICARC.

## INTERESTING TIDBITS IN SCIENCE:

Astronomy is sort of in the forefront of scientific development these days and there are some interesting upcoming happenings therein. Some newly planned ground based telescopes will make it possible to actually resolve some of the earth-sized planets being discovered outside our solar system at distances as near as 25 light years. (A light year is the distance that light travels in one year at a speed of 186,000 miles per second.) Its highly likely that within the next five to ten years there will be three new super large earth based telescopes constructed and operational. (Currently the largest ground based telescope is about 34 feet in diameter in LaPalma, Spain.) The European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT), the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT) and the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT). The E-ELT is the largest of the scopes at 39 meters (about 129 feet) in diameter and will consist of a primary mirror made up of nearly 800 smaller hexagonal mirror segments put together like tiles. It will be located in northeastern Chile. The GMT is about 24 meters (approximately 80 feet) in diameter and is also a segmented mirror telescope and it will also be located in Chile. The TMT is nearly 100 feet across and like the others it will also be comprised of segmented mirrors. It will be located in Hawaii on Mauna Kea. The main problems so far encountered involve opposition by environmentalist and local people because of the necessary excavations in what are considered to be sacred places. All three super scopes will use "adaptive optics" to compensate for atmospheric distortions. Medium power (about 20 Watts) lasers will be used to analyze atmospheric distortions and various actuators will be used to bend the individual mirrors to offset the atmospheric distortions. It should be an interesting decade or two for optical telescopes on the Earth's surface.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Ham Radio Class for the Introductory License:** Is now confirmed for four sessions 6:00-9:00 PM Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 with an alternate on Nov 4, 2015. It will be held at the EOC building on Haven Drive in Indiana, PA. The exam will be given during the last session. Remember, we had 100% pass rate last year with a similar schedule so, hopefully, we can do it again!

There is a tentative schedule for an Exam session on October 3, 2015.

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

## 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)) The only caveats are: The editor reserves the right to alter the format for publication purposes. The content may also be modified contingent upon accuracy and appropriateness of the contained material. The latter would, of course, be subject to the approval of the author.

Walter Dzelsky-W3NFY a founding member of ICARC, is currently in Scenery Hill Manor nursing home under Hospice Care. Our best wishes and prayers go with him.

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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.*

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# Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

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## Minutes of Aug. 4, 2015 ICARC Meeting

### Attendees:

Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, V. Pres.	Fred Maize-KM3M	Larry Freeman-N3LT, Secretary
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA	Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ	Denny Clark-KB3HZM
Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG	Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ	Earnest Clark
Jerry Keihl-WB3DUD	Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Greg Kerr-N3PHF
Carl Hvozda-N3PIE		

Guests: Mike Biconik, potential new ham

### 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. The time was also used to set up audio equipment.

Doug Fitzsimmons, VP, called the general meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

### Secretary's Report

Larry Freeman (N3LT), Secretary, asked that the previous meeting minutes be discussed and approved. Some discussion and corrections were made to be published in the revised July Minutes on line. Dave Dzelsky (N3DZ) made a motion to accept minutes and Denny Clark (KB3HZM) seconded the motion. The Motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Terry, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report.

Fred Maize (KM3M) made a motion to accept the report and Phil Kopczyk (K3PJ) seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

### Repeater Update:

Larry F. : There are still some issues about clipping of voices. Larry pointed out that there is a 1.5 second delay between press of PTT and transmitter being on so that the ID messages can be sent without clipping (most of the time) so we must all learn to delay a couple of seconds after pressing PTT before starting to talk. Also, the issue of a regular "click" noise seems to be in the receiver chain. Don't know if its internal or not. Must keep an ear on this and troubleshoot. Doug, suggested putting an independent receiver in the shack to see if it can hear it. This will be brought to the attention of Elmer, the repeater trustee.

### Monday Night Net Update:

Dave Steiner: We had 15 or so check-ins as usual with a couple of new ones. Also, as usual, we need volunteers for net control.

### Monday Night NBEMS Practice Update:

Not much done lately. Terry asked if we would like to start a Digital net. Some interest was expressed, but the suggestion was made to do it later when more folks will be around to participate. Possibly in the Fall.

### Old Business:

It was decided to table the fundraising letter written by Denny Preisser until we have an electronic copy available to all for examination. Also, as Doug F. pointed out, there is a Leadership Workshop scheduled for August 22 in Indiana and some feel that it may be prudent to wait until after it is done. Who knows, something useful may be learned there. (See below under New Business) There was minor discussion of the batteries at the repeater site but no one knew anything about them except that they were donated by Gary Robison many years ago and still going strong even though they are not standard car type lead-acid batteries.

Fred Maize reported that the Airport Awareness QSL's are done. He brought in the ones received and passed them around for inspection. Doug F. printed the labels and Fred sent them out. Many thanks to you both for the work in getting those done.

Coverage tests for the Veterans Day parade: Nothing done yet on this but Larry hopes to start tests next week. He will contact committee members Dave Steiner and Al Fister about setting up the test.

The dues structure issue was discussed again when Larry F. brought up potential ICARC By-Law violations with the new structure put in place at the previous meeting. Article Two, Section 4 relates to members being dropped because of to non-payment of dues. It was decided that there is no violation by the new structure. Article Two, Section Six relates to Student membership. The new structure eliminated the student membership which is in violation of this by-law. Dave Steiner, KA3KFA made a motion to modify the new dues structure to include "Associate/Student" membership instead of just "Associate". The motion was seconded by Dave Dzelsky, N3DZ.

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It was voted upon and carried unanimously. The new application form will be created by the secretary.

Larry F. reported that on Monday, Aug. 3 2015, the "Eagle Project" antenna testing went well at the Wesleyan Methodist church near Dixonville. A J-Pole omni-directional antenna was used at a height of approximately 22 ft. Tests were performed at 5, 20, and 40 watts with successful communications at all power levels. In the final setup their antenna will be 8 to 12 feet higher because their local fire department is donating a "30 ft." tower and installing it for them. The test was performed with a mobile TM241 two meter transceiver and fifty feet of RG8x mini transmission line. The signals received were not full quieting at any level but more than adequate for reliable communications. Dave Dzelsky also did much research into viable equipment (See the Appendix at the end of this document). He presented print-outs of an itemized list including costs of individual items and available vendors. Based upon the discussions tonight and the work of Dave D., the secretary will prepare a report of our test findings and suggestions to be sent to the contact person for the church. It has been made clear to the contact person for the church that the purchase and installation of all equipment hardware is the responsibility of the project participants from the church. ICARC personnel will help only in setting up and testing the equipment as a need arises. Concern was expressed about the security of the equipment and use by unlicensed personnel. It was pointed out that the proposed location for the equipment is in a lockable closet and it is the responsibility of the project personnel to maintain security.

Phil Kopczyk pointed that John Fyock, is not yet an Eagle Scout and that this project is part of what he will be doing to become an Eagle Scout. He is just in the planning stage and has much paper work to do before anything physical can be done. It is a long time between initiating the project and implementation. It may be several months.

Licensing class update : The class is a go. A Phone meeting between K3LAB and N3LT set dates and times at Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:00-9:00 PM with an alternate on Nov. 4 at the same times. The location is at the EOC. Much thanks to Craig Bigler for getting these dates, times and location approved by John Pividori at the EOC. John P. did request an email reminder as the date approaches.

Phil Kopczyk gave a brief summary of his presentation at last years Cook Port fair, which turned out to help get a couple of folks for last years class. He is planning on doing something similar this coming year. Well done and thanks, Phil!

## New Business:

Greg Kerr attended tonights meeting and brought several bits of documentation and photographs from the past. It was very interesting but his main intent is to thank those folks who helped take down the tower from his home: Craig Bigler, Joe Rankin, Elmer Sorisio, et. al.

Dave Steiner set up the Hoss' fundraiser for August 8, at 6:00 PM and he has the tickets with him tonight. Remember you need the tickets in order to give credit to the club. One ticket per check and you can eat at anytime during the day. You are not restricted to the scheduled time.

There is a Club Leadership Workshop sponsored by the ARRL and given by Joe Shupienis (W3BC) ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania to be held at the Quality Inn on Wayne Avenue in Indiana, PA on August 22, 2015 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

There was also discussion concerning the PAQSO party. Doug suggested that a small group be formed to start to plan. Larry F. expressed his personal concern about the amount of work required if we try to do what we did last year. He is not really interested in that level of effort. He, personally, would like to keep it simpler. Dave Steiner pointed out that we did what we set out to do, operate like a mini field-day. Blue Spruce Park was mentioned as a possible location and Dave S. offered his place again from which to setup and operate. The plus in this is that he already has power and several antennas and also the pavilion area. Fred M. posed the thought as to whether we want to be public or private. There is much to be discussed.

## 50/50 Drawing:

Terry Carnahan, KB3JOD

\$20.00 total was collected and the drawing was won by Ernie Clark who donated his share to the club.

Motion to Adjourn: Fred Maize, Seconded: Jerry Kiehl. Adjournment vote was unanimous.

Doug Fitzsimmons, Vice President, adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary (N3LT)

## APPENDIX

### Dixonville Wesleyan Church - Ham Equipment

Unit	Model ( <u>Vender's</u> part #)	Price	Vendor
Coax Cable	TMV-LMR-400ULTRA 60 ft x 1.49	89.40	DX Engr
UHF connector	Amphenol crimp x1 AMP-182130-10	4.50	DX Engr
N connectors	Amphenol crimp x3 AMP-172102H243	12.87	DX Engr
Lightning Protector	Alpha Delta ALF-ATT3G50 <u>w/N-conn.</u>	59.95	DX Engr
Antenna	Diamond DIA510HDN <u>w/N-conn.</u>	179.95	AES
Power Supply	Samlex SAMSEC1223BBM	144.95	AES
Radio	Kenwood TM-V71A KENTMV71A	364.95	AES
Coax Seal	Universal coax seal UNV104	3.95	AES
Total		860.52	

DX Engineering [dxengineering.com](http://dxengineering.com)

AES Amateur Electronic Supply [aesham.com](http://aesham.com)

Grounding Wire

Grounding Rod

Grounding Clamp

fabricate a Tower upper section to Bldg support