

December 30, 2015



## 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

Note: the newsletter is a tad late due to my laziness at Christmas!

**Remember to get your dues paid (No dues this coming year for those of you who attended the class in October 2015 and received a new license as a result)! There is a new dues structure: \$35 for an Individual membership, \$50 for a Family (two voting members in the same household), and \$20 for a Student/Associate membership. Please visit the W3BMD website and download the application under the Club Info. Tab. If you don't regularly attend the meetings just mail the completed application along with payment (no cash, make checks payable to ICARC) to the address given on the application.**

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

The December 1 meeting of ICARC went smoothly with discussion of various items of interest to the club and election of new officers for 2016: Doug Fitzsimmons is our new President, and Earnie Clark is the new Vice President. Terry Carnahan, is remaining as the Treasurer. The Secretarial office is currently vacant, however, Larry Freeman volunteered to record the January meeting of ICARC. A temporary secretary will be appointed for each meeting by the President. Carl Hvozda stepped down from the Board and Earnie Clark, as VP, automatically, becomes a board member. That is the only change in the board because Craig and Larry agreed to stay on the Board since no one else indicated interest.

December 14, 2015 Walt Dzelsky – W3NFY one of the founding members of ICARC was honored at Scenery Hill Manor for his service in WWII with an American flag pin and an engraved plaque. The photo below left shows the pin and the photo below right shows Walt and Dave, his son, N3DZ displaying the plaque that was presented to him. The plaque was made by Laurel Mountain Laser and was presented to Walt by its owner Ed Mihalacki who is active in veteran's affairs. The plaque is made of hard wood and is engraved using a high power laser. It's very impressive work. Walt was the Chief radio man on the medical



ship Wisteria; even though he was an Army man he ended up on a ship. Talk about Serendipity! He was in charge of all radio communications and was a close intimate of the Captain and often was the primary link in the navigation of the ship. Keep in mind that Walt was still a teenager at the time and had several other men under his charge. He was and still is an expert at CW

and was also required to know how to use code lights and semaphore flag communications, which he was called upon to perform from time to time. ICARC club members were well represented at the ceremony as can be seen in the photo below right. The photo below left shows many of the Staff and residents of the facility. As can be seen the room was full. It was truly a grand occasion and much thanks to the Hospice folks and the support of the staff at Scenery Hill for the event. It was a wonderful gesture on their part.



December, 19 2015 ICARC held its annual Christmas dinner (it was also a fundraiser) at Hoss' restaurant in Indiana, PA. The dinner was a great success and all had a good time. There were approximately thirty five folks attending.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 ICARC meets in the back room of Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant. The board meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the general meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Possible Winter Field Day in late January, 2016.

#### **INTERESTING TIDBITS IN RADIO NEWS**

December 4, Joe Taylor, 1993 Nobel Laureate and ham radio guru (K1JT), appeared at the University of Pittsburgh in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the campus amateur radio club (W3YI). There was a nice luncheon, a tour of the amateur radio facility, and a most interesting public lecture (DXing with Weak Signals) mostly on hamradio and the software that he has developed for weak signal communications. He started the lecture by briefly talking about the work that led to the Nobel prize in Physics that he and his graduate student Russell Hulse (and co-recipient) performed. It was very interesting. One of the highlights of the lecture occurred when Joe passed his Nobel Medallion around to the audience (over one hundred folks) so that everyone could see and handle it (See the photo). The author has been to three Nobel lectures over the years but that was definitely something new and amazing. Joe Taylor is an easy going person who interacts very well with folks and particularly the students. His lecture was very engaging and thoughtful. He spent a few minutes at the beginning talking about the work that led to the Nobel Prize. It involved discovering and making weak signal radio measurements from a Pulsar orbiting a star (binary pulsar) and using the information obtained from the measurements to provide some of the first material proof of the existence of the gravitational waves predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity. He went on to discuss his work in developing much of the software used by Hams using digital modes in doing meteor scatter and Earth Moon Earth (EME). It is all contained in the WSJT software package suite which is open source and free to all. For example JT65, which is not a conversational mode, is good for EME. Of particular interest is the fact that many of the applications that he has developed are capable of "digging" signals out of the noise that are up to 30 db below the noise level. To me that is amazing! Many thanks go to K3ZYK for getting the author an invitation to the luncheon and taking the above photo



**The Ham Radio Class for the Introductory License for 2015 is now history and we have seven NEW hams. Congratulations!!** Maybe our next class should be an upgrade class sometimes in the Spring or Summer. Think about it.

**Repeat:** From CQ we learn that the ARRL is increasing its annual dues by \$10. This will make the dues \$49 and take effect at the beginning of 2016. Also, an FCC decision now elevates the Amateur radio service from being a secondary to being the primary service across the 160 m band. The upper part of the band 1900-2000 kHz had been the primary domain of the radio-location service but has not been used for that purpose for years. In addition the frequency range has been authorized for the use on offshore buoys used by commercial fisherman. The latter has been going on, illegally, for many years with no

significant complaints to the FCC therefore they decided to make it legal rather than force the fishermen to install new buoys. These changes were put into effect on August 6, 2015. **CQ Reports that the ARRL Board of Directors Adopts a New HF Band Plan change for 75/80 meters** at their July meeting. The ARRL will petition the FCC to reduce the phone portion of the band by 50 kHz and add 50 kHz to the CW/RTTY/DATA segment of the band. It will also seek to get RTTY and data privileges on the band for Novices and Technicians. The 3600-3650 kHz segment, currently restricted to Extra Class phone, will be open to all for CW, RTTY, and data under the proposal. The petition will also seek RTTY/data privileges for Novice and Technicians on 15 meters. There are a few other issues in the petition related to frequencies for automatically controlled data stations. **FCC Field Office closures:** Radio World reports that the FCC field office closures will include: Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Seattle, and Tampa. Operations will continue in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia (MD), Dallas, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland (OR), and San Francisco. In addition, there will be two Enforcement Bureau, rapid-response teams that work from the Denver, and Columbia offices. All field agents will now be required to be electrical engineers. **(The author comments about this latter requirement: This seems, in my opinion, to be a foolish requirement in that you really need experienced, practical folks working in the field and excluding some of the older, more experienced field agents based upon their formal education seems to me to be a serious mistake. )** On the enforcement side of radio things, CQ reports that the FCC has proposed a \$22,000 fine against Michael Guarnsey, KZ8O, of Parchment, Michigan for repeated interference with other amateurs and failing to identify. Apparently, the infractions go back more than a decade and he ignored repeated written warnings. Additionally, the FCC proposed fining David Telassi, W4BHV, of Ringgold, Georgia, \$1,000 for, repeatedly, failing to identify. There is bound to be a moral to this but just remember to treat others with respect and courteousness or as you would like to be treated over the air. **On the bright side,** CQ reports that, fifteen year old, Anna Veal, W0ANT, of Littleton, Colorado has been named both, the Newsline Young Ham of the Year and the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim awards recipient for 2015. Both of her parents are hams and she was first licensed at age 8 years. She currently holds a General Class license. **So for all you young folks out there, you don't have to be an old crumudgeon to enjoy the benefits of amateur radio!**

#### **Other Stuff:**

Hey Folks, please send in some interesting tidbits or write an article!!!

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#### **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-W3NFI, a founding member of ICARC, is currently in Scenery Hill Manor nursing home under Hospice Care. Our best wishes and prayers go with him.

Rusty O'Donnell-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 December 1, 2015 ICARC Meeting

### Attendees:

Bigler-AB3XA, President	Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ	Carl Hvozda-N3PIE
Jerry Kiehl-WB3DUD	Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ	Walter Schroth-KC3FVU
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA	Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG
Larry Freeman-N3LT, Secretary	Ernest Clark-KC3FVX	Alton Strong-N3PHL
Bill McMillen-N3QM	Joe Rankin-KC3CDG	Al Fister-N3ZFZ

Guests: NONE

Call to Order: Craig Bigler (AB3XA)

The "Board" meeting started at about 7:01 PM. The time was used for general discussion and to set up audio equipment.

Craig Bigler called the general meeting to order at 7:31 pm. He then read the yearly President's report which is added to the end of this document.

### Secretary's Report

Larry Freeman (N3LT), Secretary, asked that the previous meeting minutes be discussed and approved. Larry F. (N3LT) made a motion to accept the minutes and Joe Rankin (KC3CDG) seconded the motion. The Motion was voted upon and carried with one nay vote.

Treasurer's Report: Terry, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report and Al Fister-N3ZFZ made a motion to accept the report and Phil Kopczyk- K3PJ seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried with one nay vote

### Repeater Update: Elmer Sorisio (KB3WG)

Elmer indicated that the repeater shut itself down again last month. He also suggested that it may need to be sent back to Yaesu after some troubleshooting is done on the strange "click" noise that is heard through the receiver chain. Elmer agreed that the next step is to remove the new controller in order to possibly rule it out as the culprit. Dave Steiner (KA3KFA) noted that at times there is some sort of double tone when the ptt is released. There was also some discussion of the warranty on the system with the conclusion that the warranty has expired.

### ARES and Monday Night Net Update: Dave Steiner (KA3KFA)

Dave reported the good news that there were six new check-ins on the Monday night net, November 30, 2015. There are forty on the list and an average check-in number of 17. Dave also reports that Harry Bloomberg found someone to become the District EC for all of Western Pennsylvania.

### ACS and Monday Night NBEMS Update: Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD)

Terry reported nothing new for ACS.

### Old Business:

Craig Bigler (AB3AX) and Larry Freeman (N3LT), each, reminded everyone that they had notified the membership at the November meeting of their decisions not to seek reelection to their respective offices, President and Secretary.

A Motion was made by Dave Steiner (KA3KFA) and seconded by Joe Rankin (KC3CDG) to decree the election of the unopposed candidates for President (Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB)), Vice President (Ernie Clark (KC3FVX)), and Treasurer (Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD)) determined at the November meeting. No other members expressed interest in being an officer or serving on the board of directors. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously. No Secretary was elected. Bill McMillen (N3QM) suggested that the new president could make a temporary appointment of a Secretary for each meeting. This was acceptable to all present. Carl Hvozda (N3PIE) stepped down from the board of directors and Craig Bigler said that he would be willing to remain on the board. This was acceptable to all present since no one else wanted to be on the board. Larry Freeman also agreed to stay on the board and continue to edit the Newsletter.

### New Business:

Ernie Clark (KC3FVX) had reviewed the ICARC by-laws and indicated that he felt that there were conflicts between the bylaws and the new dues structure and that he could find no discussion of the issue in the July minutes. Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB) pointed out that there was considerable discussion of apparent conflicts between new dues structure and the bylaws at a subsequent meeting leading to a consensus of members concluding that the new dues structure does not violate the bylaws.

But it was agreed that any confusion can be alleviated by reviewing the by-laws and make revisions as necessary. To that end it was decided by the membership to task the Board of Directors to thoroughly review and propose necessary changes to clarify and update the ICARC bylaws.

Donations: \$29.00

Adjournment:

Larry Freeman (N3LT) made a motion to adjourn and Dave Dzelsky (N3DZ) seconded the motion. Craig Bigler, President (AB3XA) adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm local time.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary, Larry Freeman (N3LT)



I would like to review some of the activities that the ICARC participated in during the previous year.

The Club's repeater was coupled with a newly purchased Arcom controller. Thanks again to all the members who contributed time and money toward this project. Adjustments and updates are still being made to improve the performance.

Members of the club erected, installed and tuned an 80 meter loop antenna at the Indiana County EMA. Additional equipment was purchased (by the county) to make the HF station at the EMA more flexible. A voice card and an auto tuner ( which makes the loop capable of tuning much of the HF bands), greatly increases the usefulness of the station. Equipment and facilities are still generously made available by the county and gratefully utilized by the club throughout the year. The club uses the facilities for classes and testing of the new hams. The antenna trailer, light plant, and 70 KW generator are a sample of the equipment the club has access to. The club greatly appreciates the ability to use these resources now and in the future.

The new high visibility vests that some of the members purchased were used during the MS Walk that the club provided radio support for. The event went smoothly. We enjoyed good food and pleasant weather. Also during the same month, a licensing test was held. The exam session yielded 5 upgrades and 2 new Technicians.

Two HF stations were set up at the Jimmy Stewart Airport during the Airport Awareness Days. Contacts were made, QSL cards were received and ours were sent using computer printed labels.

Field Day was held in a public venue for the first time. We held the event at Blue Spruce Park. Set up of the antenna tower, light plant, and variety of wire antennas was eased by mild weather conditions.

During operations however, the amateurs endured a steady rain during the bulk of the operating hours. Despite the less than ideal conditions, the club surpassed the previous year's results (1976 points, 550 QSO's , 5A). We submitted 588 QSO's, for 1988 points operating 3A. Another first was having the station at the EMA operating during Field Day. Using the callsign WB3CGY the operators scored 130 points as a 1F station making 40 QSO's.

The PA QSO Party was another club sponsored event. The operators made 115 contacts during that time.

Members of the club also participated in 2 Scouting radio events. In September the Fall Camporee was attended at Camp Seph Mack. Dozens of Scouts had the opportunity to make contacts on the Ham

Bands, with demonstrations on VHF , cross band UHF - VHF , Digital, and also HF. Patient operators made this a worthwhile experience. The other Scout event that some of the members held was the Jamboree On The Air or JOTA. Several Scouts and their leaders attended. Several other JOTA stations were contacted. One Scout was able to complete the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge.

A second License Exam session followed a 4 part technician class/review in October. Another success. There were 7 new Hams and 1 upgrade. Well Done!

As always , none of these events and their successful outcomes would be realized without the participation and focused work by the club members willing to volunteer. Time , talent, and gear brought together for all of these activities are greatly appreciated. Many of our members both new and longstanding contribute to the Club's continued success.

Thanks and continue the good work,

Craig Bigler AB3XA  
11-30-15