



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:

For those of you who missed the July 7 meeting of ICARC, you missed a great session with Terry, KB3JOD and Phil, K3PJ. They demonstrated the basic operation and showed us how to do some of the more essential operations of which the package is capable during emergency communications. It is a fairly sophisticated package and one session of instruction is definitely not enough. One will need to get hands dirty to truly understand the full scope and utility of FLDIGI. I now understand why Terry, Phil and others practice with FLDIGI every Monday evening after the ARES net on 146.91/31. Practice is really the only way to learn the software. With some luck maybe we can talk Terry and Phil into volunteering to do other programs on FLDIGI in the "not too distant future". It clearly takes some prodding from those "who know" to teach those who "don't know" and in this case the editor is definitely one of those who "don't know". However, as in every case of "learning" its up to the individual to get immersed in what is to be "learned". Instructors can only guide with their insight born from experience and other education. A most hearty thanks and commendations to Terry and Phil for their efforts to teach us something useful!

NATIONALEVENTS

QST August 2015 (p 75) by Rick Lindquist, WW1ME: **FCC Chairman, Lawmakers Agree to Scale Back Field Office Shutdowns**
"In June, leaders of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee reached agreement with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to amend the Commission's plans-announced in March- to close a number of FCC field offices. Under the revised plan, the FCC will keep 15 of its 24 field offices open."..."Under the proposals, initiated last fall, the Enforcement Bureau (EB) would have shuttered all but eight sites and cut the number of field agents nearly in half."..."The closure plans were revealed earlier this year via an apparently leaked internal FCC memorandum."

QST August 2015 (p79) by Rick Palm, K1CE there is another interesting article: Interfacing with Local Emergency Officials
The article is too extensive to reproduce here but it essentially provides a few tips that may help "get your foot in the door" at local emergency management agencies. It's worth reading.

The following is worth repeating from last months Newsletter.

Thanks to Alton Strong(N3PHL) and Fred Maize (KM3M) for the heads-up from the ARRL:

FCC Eliminating Vanity Call Sign Fee

The FCC is dropping the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order* ([MD Docket 14-92](#) and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014

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and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent *Report and Order (R&O)* last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its elimination.

(The following is also a reprint from last's months Newsletter)

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. Licensee's 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.

Thanks to Alton Strong for letting the editor know about the following useful information that was presented in the June issue of QST on page 24 under: Letters from Our Members , Paper Licenses, Continued:

The gist of the letter is that a US Licensee lives outside the US and requires an official paper copy of his license in order to be properly recognized as a US amateur radio operator in other countries. The printed reference copy is inadequate. In response, ARRL VEC Manager, Maria Somma, AB1FM says that there are a number of ways a license holder may obtain an official paper copy and she describes four methods. One that she describes suggests that licensee's may contact FCC support via the web, phone, or mail (I assume USPS) to request paper licenses. In her words "The official license will display the FCC logo and the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed across each page of an official authorization from FCC."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Eagle Project Antenna Test: Around 5:00 PM of August 3, 2015: Wesleyan Methodist Church near Dixonville, PA: Doug Fitzsimmons, K3LAB, Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ, Dave Dzelsky, N3DZ, Larry Freeman, N3LT. Any ham is welcome to help with the test.

Hoss' fundraiser Dinner, Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 6:00 PM Tickets will be available at the August 4 ICARC meeting.

Ham Radio Class for the Introductory License: Tentatively set for four sessions 6:00-9:00 PM Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 and alternate Nov 4, 2015. The exam will be given during the last session. (Remember, we had 100% pass rate last year with a similar schedule)

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

Contact: N3QM, Bill McMillen wkmcmillen@gmail.com

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The following information was received July 29 from Douglass Fitzsimmons, K3LAB who got it in an email from Joe Shupienis, W3BC: ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section 2015 Club Leadership Workshop. **Leading Your Club In The 21st Century: Saturday, August 22, 2015, 9am – 4pm, Sign in at 8 – 9am, Free Admission for Club Officers and Staff, Indiana Quality Inn, 1545 Wayne Avenue, Indiana, PA 15701.** ● Meet WPA Club and ARRL section leaders ● Exchange ideas and activity information Topics will include: ● 501(c)3 and Nonprofit information ● Fundraising and Small Games of Chance ● Membership recruiting and retention ● Public Relations, Newsletters and PIOs ● Licensing class strategies/success stories ● The Active Club ● Special Service Clubs ● ARRL Affiliation and Annual Reports ● ARRL - Services to your club ● Best Practices (group discussion), **For more information, contact WPA Affiliated Club Coordinator Joe Shupienis W3BC, 814-771-3804 w3bc@arrl.net**

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) 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. 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.

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Minutes of July 7, 2015 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, V. Pres.	Fred Maize-KM3M	Paul Morris-K3VAR
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA	Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ	Larry Freeman-N3LT, Secretary
Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG	Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ	Alton Strong-N3PHL
Joe Carpentieri-KA2BRH	Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Denny Clark-KB3HZM
Jerry Keihl-WB3DUD	Marcia Malcolm- KD4ITP	Earnest Clark
		Al Fister-N3ZFZ

Guests:

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, Secretary, asked that the previous meeting minutes be discussed and approved. Some discussion and corrections were made to be published in the revised June Minutes on line. Alton Strong made a motion to accept minutes and Terry Carnahan seconded the motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Terry, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report which included some dues from 2013

Larry Freeman made the motion to accept the report and Fred Maize seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Repeater Update:

Elmer, KB3WG: Nothing new. There are still some complaints 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.

Monday Night Net Update:

Dave Steiner: We had 14 check-ins as usual. Also, as usual, we need volunteers for net control.

Monday Night NBEMS Practice Update:

Continues after the Monday night net. Terry also pointed out that there is a demo tonight.

Old Business:

Coverage tests for the Veterans Day parade: ACommittee was set up to apprise the 2m handheld coverage along Philadelphia street in Indiana, PA. Larry Freeman, Dave Steiner, and Al Fister. Larry Freeman agreed to contact members for setting up tests. There was some discussion about the parade details.

There was considerable discussion of dues restructuring ending ultimately with a motion put forth by Alton Strong and seconded by someone: \$35.00-Individual membership with full voting rights, \$50.00-Family membership (Members must live in the same household) no more than two votes per family, \$20.00- Associate membership with no voting rights.

The Eagle Project was discussed: A Wesleyan Methodist church near Dixonville has been designated as a disaster center and the leaders would like ICARC to help set up a 2m antenna test to establish that reliable communicate through the 146.91/31 repeater from inside the church can be attained. The project is spearheaded by David Fyock an Eagle Scout and his father. Fred Maize gave a description of the results of a shelter drill from the location several years ago in which it was discovered that the church location was not conducive to mobile communications from within the church through the 91/31 repeater. The folks participating had to drive up a hillside near the church and set up a cross-band repeater operation to effectively complete communications with the 91/31 repeater with handhelds from within the church. ICARC has agreed to test an external antenna setup to help determine what is necessary for successful communication from within the church. We were first contacted in November of 2014 and David was to get in touch with us during the first part of the year 2015 but that got delayed until June 12, 2015. An email was sent to Fred apologizing for the delay and the request for help was renewed. Fred responded that June was a busy month with Airport Awareness and Field Day and that he would forward the email to the club officers and have discussions at the July meeting. Fred is willing to allow us to use his five

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element beam for the test. It was decided to proceed with doing a test and helping them decide what they need to effectively communicate from within the church. A committee was set up for the project: Doug Fitzsimmons, Dave Dzelsky, Phil Kopczyk, and Larry Freeman. Doug agreed to be the contact person and gave Fred permission to give them his email and home phone number. He also thanked all who helped with Airport Awareness and Field Day and pointed out that there were two hundred contacts at Airport Awareness, Five hundred and eighty eight contacts at Field Day, forty contacts from the EOC. The logs have been submitted.

Fred let us know that he is giving up the antenna caretaker and organizer job so someone else will need to take it over. Fred was given a hearty thanks and resounding round of applause for all the service to the club over the years. Larry F. was volunteered for the takeover and said he would think about it.

New Business:

Dave Steiner volunteered to check with HOSS' for a "fundraiser" dinner. The discussion focused upon August and September with a final date to be determined. A motion by Phil was made it was seconded by

Fall licensing class was also discussed. Some discussion about details of logistics came up but not discussed. Our main focus is to decide if we want to do it. Dave Dzelsky gave a list of three folks, with their contact information, who have shown interest from Airport Awareness weekend. Ernie Clark also indicated that he would be interested in taking the class. A motion was made by Phil Kopczyk. to have the class, it was seconded by Dave Dzelsky and the motion carried unanimously. A committee was setup to work out the details: Doug Fitzsimmons, Phil Kopczyk, and Larry Freeman. Alton Strong emphasized that we need to get the dates setup as soon as possible and communicate the testing date to Bill McMillen as soon as possible so that he can do all the official things that need to be done within 30 days of the exam. We assumed that the EMA center could be used and Terry Carnahan seems to think there won't be a problem but we must firm up that assumption.

Next there was discussion led by Fred Maize concerning the Airport Awareness QSL's. The discussion centered around whether we do them by hand or print up clear labels. He indicated that Craig agreed to cover the cost of the labels which is less than \$20.00. Doug also agreed to cover some of the cost if necessary. There was discussion about the size of the label and 15/16 inch by 2.5 inch labels was decided upon. Doug raised the question as to which would be easier, by hand or by computer printing. Based on previous difficulty and timing of getting people to correctly hand complete the cards, Fred convinced us that the simplest thing is to print labels for every contact from the log and place labels on the cards for those who request a QSL. Fred said that he would cover the cost of the cards. It was decided to use the labels. Doug said that he would take care of printing the labels as soon as he gets the .mdb log file from Larry F. The suggestion was made to put the labels on the cards Tuesday, August 4 before the meeting. Currently, there are approximately forty requests for QSL cards.

50/50 Drawing:

Terry Carnahan, KB3JOD

\$18.00 total was collected and the drawing was won by Larry Freeman who donated his share to the club.

Doug, Vice President, adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm and turned the floor over to Terry Carnahan and Phil Kopczyk for an FLDIGI demonstration/education session. It was a great session and very informative. Thanks Terry and Phil!

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary (N3LT)