



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:

Field Day Weekend:

Field Day is now over! Let us thank Ed Patterson for allowing us to use Blue Spruce Park, an historic first for ICARC!



The photo above left shows some antennas and the tower trailer just after it was set up on Saturday, June 27. There is a 2m jpole on top of the tower, courtesy of Terry Carnahan, KB3JOD, used for the cross-band repeater so that the 91/31 repeater could be used with handheld radios. The photo on the right shows the tower trailer after the antennas had been removed and the tower is stowed on Sunday. Extreme Kudos to the tower crew for all the very hard work that they did to get it going. Craig Bigler, AB3XA, Dave Steiner, KA3KFA, Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG, Joe Rankin, KC3CDG, Alton Strong, N3PHL and my apologies to anyone I forgot. Too bad the photos cannot show all the rain! Also, thank you Dave Steiner for the use of the horse trailer. It was a God-send and kept me dry!



The photo above left shows Craig Bigler operating in his van either extremely happy or nearly deranged from all the work he had to do to prepare for field day. I am truly glad that we have a president who gets involved! That is a serious PLUS for ICARC. The photo above right right Shows Elmer Sorisio operating out of the horse trailer along with his son, Chris, who, actually does have a head as I show in the photo below left. The photo below right shows Jerry Keihl, WB3DUD, operating out of Craig's van



It should be pointed out that Ian Bigler, KC3DTE, and Doug Fitzsimmons, K3LAB, also operated out of Craig's van. Unfortunately, there are no useful photos of operations out of the antenna trailer shed. I tried to take a few but they did not register well. Sorry Dave D., N3DZ, Dave S., KA3KFA, Paul Morris, K3VAR, and others who may have operated this station. It is particularly unfortunate because the lions-share of the total and nearly all of the cw contacts came out of this station.

Many thanks to you folks who helped set up and take down the antennas: Fred Maize, KM3M, Denny Preisser, KC3DTB, Terry Carnahan, KB3JOD, Ian Bigler, KC3DTE, Jerry Keihl, WB3DUD, Joe Rankin, KC3CDG, Craig Bigler, AB3XA, Ian Bigler, KC3DTE, Alton Strong, N3PHL, Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ, and all those folks whom I have forgotten. Special thanks to Fred, for organizing the antennas and making it possible for the setup to go as smoothly as it did. On a personal note to Fred and Denny from the editor of the Newsletter. Thanks for helping me get the lines over the trees for the inverted L, it would not have gotten done without your help. One other thing, at least the Police were good natured about our efforts and did not arrest us. Oh, if I decide to do a special antenna next year again, remind me to make an appointment with a local Psychiatrist, or just slap me "up side my head" and bring me back to reality.

Special thanks goes to those folks who spent the entire night on Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27 to oversee the equipment. I think on Friday, Craig and Ian B. were there as well as Joe R. and Dave S. On Saturday, I believe Jerry Keihl was added to the all-night crew. If I left anyone out, please let me know and accept my apologies, I will correct it in the next Newsletter.

Last but not least we must thank all those folks who brought the great food for the Pot-Luck pic-nic in the banquet building at Blue Spruce park. That was a wonderful gift and brought much sunshine to a fairly wet and glummy day. Our very heart-felt thanks to Ed Patterson for allowing us to use the building and to Denny P. for facilitating the operation at Blue Spruce.

Well, it was wet but it was a good Field Day for us with a total of 588 contacts for W3BMD and 50 for WB3CGY at the EOC operated by Doug Fitzsimmons, K3LAB, and Terry, KB3JOD. I think the latter operation was another historic first for ICARC.

Airport Festival Weekend:

What a weekend! Setup on June 12, went smoothly and our operations went very well. The log shows 203 contacts but there are a couple of duplicates so we contacted at least 201 people in the US, Canada, and 1 in Germany. It was a great couple of days and the photo above (Complements of Jessica Uptegraph at <http://uptegraphphotography.zenfolio.com/>) says it all. Thanks to all of those who helped arrange the operation and set up the antennas, antenna trailer and the generator. That would be Craig Bigler, Dave Steiner, Fred Maize, Elmer Sorisio, Joe Rankin, Phil Kopczyk, Alton Strong, Matthew Scott and several others. Also thanks to those folks who operated, two of whom are shown in the photo below (Elmer Sorisio, Ian Bigler (with headphones) with a proud father (Craig Bigler) pictured in the background. There were many other operators so it was definitely a team effort. We should remember that without the radio equipment none of this is possible so lets thank those who brought the stations to be operated.



We give our undying gratitude to those airport personnel who allowed and encouraged ICARC to participate in the Airport Festival and provide the necessary space and support when needed. They kept ICARC officers updated as to when their planning sessions were held and invited ICARC representatives to attend and participate. We could not have asked for more.

NATIONALEVENTS

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 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 lasts months Newsletter)

As published in the April issue of QST magazine page77: 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

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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:

July 7 meeting there will be a demonstration/education session on FLDIGI

Ham Radio Exam Session

Oct 3, 2015

N3QM, Bill McMillen 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) 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 may be subject to the approval of the author.

Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG indicates that all components of the repeater-controller combination are now functioning

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 June 2, 2015 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

Craig Bigler-AB3XA, President	Denny Preisser-KC3DTB	Fred Maize-KM3M
Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, V. Pres.	Dave Steiner-KA3KFA	Larry Freeman-N3LT, Secretary
Karl Hvozda-N3PIE	Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ	Alton Strong-N3PHL
Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG	Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ	Ian Bigler-KC3DTE
Roger Bartlebaugh-N3ULC	Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Denny Clark-KB3HZM
Jodi Bartlebaugh	Christine Bartlebaugh-KB3QJZ	Earnest Clark

Guests: Joe Shupieuis (W3BC) ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania, Herb Murray (W3TM)

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.

Craig Bigler, President, called the general meeting to order at 7:31 pm. He introduced Mr. Joe Shupieuis, W3BC, the ARRL Club Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania who gave a short presentation as to what the affiliation is and what it gets for the affiliated clubs. He indicated that ICARC is still an affiliated club but its status is currently inactive. He suggested that ICARC should reactivate its affiliation with the ARRL. All it takes is an email. He spent much time indicating the advantages of affiliation such as : A page on the ARRL website with our club information, free access to some legal services, club liability insurance at low rates, special deals on book packages, and having ICARC information in the Clubs section of the ARRL website. He pointed out that the ARRL is the only national organization that is fighting to prevent further municipal restrictions on amateur radio towers and antennas.

Secretary's Report

Larry, Secretary, asked that the previous meeting minutes be discussed and approved. He made a motion to accept the minutes and Doug Fitzsimmons, Vice President, seconded the motion. The Motion was carried unanimously.

Larry also announced that there is some radio equipment from Jimmy St. Clair available: Kenwood TS430S HF rig, microphone, automatic antenna tuner, and a power supply. Those who are interested contact him (wd4hoz@gmail.com).

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

Alton Stron, N3PHL, made the motion to accept the report and Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ, seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Repeater Update:

Elmer, KB3WG said that the new controller is installed and working but will be a work in progress for a while. Larry pointed out that if we are to access voltage and temperature readings we will need to fabricate some hardware.

Monday Night Net Update:

Dave Steiner, K3KFA, said the net was held successfully with 14 check-ins out of 24 on the roster. Roger Bartlebaugh, N3ULC volunteered to be net control for June. Volunteers are needed to take net control for July, and August. Dave also pointed out that there is an ARES net on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 AM on 3983 Khz and he would like to see more of us checking into it.

Monday Night NBEMS Practice Update:

Terry, KB3JOD, brought up the possibility of a digital net. There was some discussion of the idea and Terry suggested that the July meeting be used to present a training session on FLDIGI. He suggested that everyone download the current versions.

Old Business:

Airport awareness day will be pretty much the same as last year. We will be operating as a special event station and from 10:00-4:00 PM on June 14, and June 15, 2015. The generator and tower trailer will be available from the county EMA, and the same antennas from last year will be used. Two stations will be operating. The airport festival committee will be meeting on June 4, and we are invited to send representatives. Craig said that the airport would be giving us 800 Mhz radios that they got from the EMA to hold and keep charged.

Setup for Airport awareness will be June 12 at 5:00 PM and for Field-day June 27 at 3:00 PM. Respective tear-downs will be June 14 and June 28 in the afternoon.

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For Field Day the main operations will be at Blue Spruce park and we will be able to use the facilities at the main building some of the time. Also, Terry and Doug will operate at the county EMA building on Sunday under a different call sign, WB3CGY. It was suggested by Dave S., KA3KFA, that we contact Lloyd Roach, K3QNT, Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for the WPA Section of the ARRL, by email for Field Day publicity. W3BMD will be operating as Class 3A. We will be using the county antenna tower trailer and one of their generators. A "Get On The Air (GOTA)" station was also discussed. Denny, KC3DTB, said that we would have access to the boat building. Craig reminded us of the traditional pot-luck meal gathering and suggested 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 28, which was agreed upon. Questions arose as to security and who would be there all night Friday and Saturday. Craig, AB3XA, said that he and Ian, KC3DTE, would be camping there overnight Friday and Saturday. Denny P., KC3DTB, and Dave S., KA3KFA, said they would be there overnight one or both nights. There was also discussion about the power required from the generator and basically all felt that there would be no problem, power-wise, with either generator offered by the county. One is a bit noisier than the other.

There was discussion about the stations and it was decided to have a fourth complete station as backup, if necessary. Denny Pressier, KC3DTB, suggested a final meeting be held with Ed Patterson at Blue Spruce Park to work out the general details of the setup areas so there will be no surprises. Denny P., Fred M., KM3M, Elmer S., KB3WG, Roger B., N3ULC, and Larry F., N3LT, have tentatively scheduled the meeting for Tuesday, June 9 at 4:00 PM. It was decided to set up a cross-band 440 to 2m repeater for communications outside the park.

New Business:

There was a motion by Dave S., KA3KFA, to increase dues but it was rescinded due to the length of the meeting and the lack of time for discussion of the details.

Phil, K3PJ, brought up the topic of using Ubiquity routers for broadband networking in ham radio but the topic faded without significant discussion.

50/50 Drawing:

Terry Carnahan, KB3JOD

\$25.00 was collected and the drawing was won by Jerry Keihl who promptly donated his share to the club.

Craig Bigler (AB3XA), President, adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:20 pm, June 2 2015

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary (N3LT)