



NEWSLETTER

Officers for 2015:

President - Craig Bigler KB3LBU
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 meeting Harry Bloomberg will be presenting on ARES and performing a demonstration with the broadband network amateur television. It should be very interesting.

Much activity during the latter part of March:

Thursday, March 19, An HF 80 m loop antenna was put up at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Indiana. Many Thanks to Craig Bigler, Fred Maize, Elmer Sorisio, Joe Rankin, Doug Fitzsimmons, and the EOC personnel for their efforts. (If I missed anyone please let me know.). There were some problems that were dealt with the following Sunday, March 22. The only remaining issue is that a lightening protection “gadget” (Polyphaser) designed for HF has to be put into the feedline.

On Wednesday, March 25 the Weather exercise at the EOC was held and again there was good turnout. Special thanks to the EOC for letting ICARC participate in the exercise. Thanks to Terry Carnahan and Doug Fitzsimmons for running the amateur radio operations from within the EOC. Thanks to the folks in the field for their efforts. This is summarized in the email sent by Terry Carnahan:

March 25th, 2015 Weather Exercise (8:30 to 13:00)

Ham Radio participants:

Craig Bigler KB3LBU, Dave Steiner KA3KFA, Joe Rankin KC3CDG, Alton Strong N3PHL, Carl Hvozda N3PIE, Elmer Sorisio KB3WG, Larry Freeman N3LT, Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB, Terry Carnahan KB3JOD.

Net Control was at the Indiana County EMA. NCS used the county's call sign, WB3CGY. Our main purpose was to check out the propagation throughout the northern tier of Indiana County. Three teams consisting of 2 ham operators were dispatch to the north. One team went up the 286 corridor. One team went up the 119 corridor. And one team went up the 954 corridor. One ham went south through Derry to Rt 30. We used the 146.910 repeater and the county A.R.E.S simplex frequency, 147.570.

Propagation was surprisingly good. There were some known bad spots such as main street in Clymer, where we could not establish communications. But moving up the hill towards the fire tower communications improved 100%.

Pine Grove prison – both repeater and simplex was good.

286 by Betty Lou's restaurant – repeater had a lot of hash and simplex was a no go.

Purchase Line High School the repeater was good while simplex was poor to fair.

Hillsdale – repeater was good while simplex was very choppy.

Glen Campbell was a no report.

Richmond Rd into Marion Center – repeater and simplex was poor.

Delancy – simplex was good (contact with WD3D).

McDonald's in Blairsville – repeater and simplex good.

Home, PA – Repeater good, simplex no contact.

Marion Center School – repeater good, simplex no contact.

Creskide – repeater breaking up, simplex no contact.

East Mahoning Township building – Repeater ok, simplex no contact.

286 & 119 – repeater and simplex ok.

Torrance State hospital – Repeater and simplex ok.

Long View Elementary School – Repeater ok, simplex no contact.

Derry – Repeater ok, simplex no contact.

Rt. 30 & Rt.217 – Repeater ok, simplex ok.

Rt. 210 Georgeville Cemetery – Repeater ok, simplex ok.

Ox Hill Fair ground – Repeater ok, simplex no contact.

Plumville – Repeater ok, simplex no contact.

Smicksburg – Repeater ok, simplex 1 way

The newly installed HF delta loop antenna was also exercised. HF contacts included Erie, KM3M, PEMA in Harrisburg. Once we discovered where PEMA was, we had no trouble contacting them.

The exercise wrapped up around 12:00.

OTHER NEWS NATIONALLY:

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.

OTHER STUFF:

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:

Ham Radio Exam Session

April 4 and Oct 3, 2015 at 1:00 pm

Indiana County Emergency Management

85 Haven Dr

Indiana, PA 15701

Contact: N3QM, Bill McMillen wkmcmillen@gmail.com

April 11, 2015 Pittsburgh Area Theater Organ Society (PATOS) program

Featuring: Jelani Eddington playing the "mighty" Wurlitzer at Keystone Oaks High School starting at 7:30 pm,

Tickets at the door \$20.00, in advance \$15.00

MS Walk April 25, 2015; Meet at Indiana Area High School, 1:00 PM registration, 2:00 PM start

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

Field-day: Last full weekend in June of 2015

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

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.

Meeting Agenda for April 7, 2015

Call to order:

Board Meeting started at:

General Meeting started at:

Presentation by Harry Bloomberg:

Secretary's Report: Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Financial Report

Repeater update:

Elmer, KB3WG:

Monday Night Net update: (146.91/31MHz)

Dave S., KA3KFA:

Monday Night NBEMS Practice update: (146.91/31 MHz @ 20:30 PM)

Terry, KB3JOD:

Old Business:

- a. Firm up location and set up times for Field Day operations. Will may need to take up a collection or charge a fee for operation to pay for the porta-johns ? The bottom line is that we need money to operate field-day. Also need to firm up the plans for a field day station at the EOC.
- b. List of operators and times for MS Walk.
- c. Airport Awareness Day planning meeting April 16 at 4:00 PM at the airport, size and scope of operation, list of help for set up and operations.
- d. Walkabout along the parade route for veterans day parade for possible simplex operation, HT use also.
- e. Firm up plans to operate on Field Day at the EMA.
- f. Denny has some sample letters tailored for specific businesses / groups. Also comments on wind / solar.

New Business:

50/50 Drawing:

Terry, KB3JOD

A total of \$_____ was collected.
_____ won the 50/50 drawing.

Meeting Adjournment:

Call for motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at _____pm local time

Minutes of March 3, 2015 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

K3LAB (Doug Fitzsimmons)
KB3JOD (Terry Carnahan)
KB3WG (Elmer Sorisio)
WB3DUD (Jerry Keihl)

KA3KFA (Dave Steiner)
KC3DTH (David Overdorff)
N3DZ (Dave Dzelsky)
N3PIE (Carl Hovzda)

KM3M (Fred Maize)
KC3CDG (Joe Rankin)
N3LT (Larry Freeman)

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. In particular, Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB) brought to the board the notion of using collected monies for the purchase of a new repeater for 440 Mhz in lieu of purchasing the planned repeater controller designated for the 2 meter machine. There was some discussion but the board membership decided to stay with the original plan.

Doug (K3LAB), the Vice President, called the general meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He asked for a motion to approve the February minutes .

Joe (KC3CDG) made a motion to accept the minutes. Terry (KB3JOD) seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Doug then asked for a financial report from the Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report:

Terry (KB3JOD), the Treasurer, made a detailed presentation of the financial situation which may be obtained directly from him.

Doug (K3LAB) asked about the insurance and suggested looking at Hayes Insurance Co. to replace Mercer if we can save some money.

Dave S. (KA3KFA) asked about the number of folks on the roster who have unpaid dues. Terry said that a little over half have paid their dues and that he keeps the unpaid on the roster for the contact information unless he is asked by the person to remove the name.

Doug (K3LAB) called for a motion to accept the financial report and Fred (KM3M) Moved to accept the report. Larry (N3LT) seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Repeater Update:

Elmer (KB3WG) said that he 440 repeater is still not working and thinks it was struck by lightning. Too much snow to get into the site right now.

Monday Night Net Update:

Dave S. (K3KFA) said the net was held successfully. He also says that he will eventually call for volunteers to canvas the county to find dead spots after the weather breaks so that we know where we can reliably operate in case we are asked to perform some service in the future.

Dave S. also indicated that Harry Bloomberg will be presenting next month (April) about ARES and also performing broadband video demonstration using the internet routers that can be made to operate in the ham bands

Terry (KB3JOD) volunteered to take the Monday night net during March and Doug (K3LAB) volunteered for April.

Monday Night NBEMS Practice Update:

Terry (KB3JOD) briefly described the activity using FLDIGI each Monday night after the net. He said that he and Phil (K3PJ) have been actively working on the NBEMS practice after the net and welcome others to join in to learn how to use the various features of FLDIGI.

Old Business:

It was agreed that the club would proceed with purchasing the ARCOM 210 repeater controller now that we have the funds. Elmer (KB3WG) agree to get a current price and get the information to Terry (KB3JOD) so that it can be ordered.

Doug (K3LAB) reminded us of our commitment to the Veterans Day Parade in November of 2015 and Dave S. (KA3KFA) said that at some point in time he Craig (KB3LBU) and Joe R. (KC3CDG) will walk the streets of Indiana to determine the dead spots of the 91 repeater when using hand-held radios for the Veterans day parade.

There was some minor discussion of setting up standing committees but no one seems interested.

New Business:

Carl (N3PIE) resigned his involvement in the Hoss' fundraisers. He said that he would act as an adviser to anyone who takes over the commitment. He also presented an envelope of materials related to such. In addition, Carl also indicated the appropriate managers to contact in order to keep the fund raising process alive. Fred (KM3M) commented on how easy Carl had made it for us to pick up the torch. The Club vigorously thanked Carl for his dedicated service over the years.

Terry (KB3JOD) pointed out that we have a tax ID number and Jerry (WB3DUD) also presented a copy of the articles of incorporation for the club which indicate that ICARC has always been a non-profit organization. This is now in the possession of the Secretary, N3LT.

Joe R. (KC3CDG) posed the question as to whether the club wants to get involved with Skywarn training. Terry (KB3JOD) pointed out that it is too late for this year.

Terry plans on being at the EMA center for the weather exercise of March 25, 2015

Dave S. asked about the times and Doug suggested that Terry email the times to all.

Fred suggested that the county EMA club call sign (WB3CGY, Rusty's O' Donnell's old county repeater) be used for the weather exercise.

Terry conducted the 50/50 drawing with \$17.00 collected. Joe R. (KC3CDG) won the drawing and donated his share back to the club.

Doug (K3LAB) adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm, March 3, 2015

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary (N3LT)

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