

February 27, 2016



ICARC NEWSLETTER

Officers for 2016:

President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Vice President - Ernest Clark KC3FVX
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Secretary - VACANT

Additional Board Members for 2016:

(Officers are automatically board members)

1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Craig Bigler AB3XA
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman N3LT

Remember to get your dues paid (There are 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 form.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

The February 2, 2016 meeting of ICARC went smoothly with discussion of various items of interest to the club. The meeting was by led by ICARC President, Doug Fitzsimmons. Even with the excellent program presented by Joe George, it was probably the shortest meeting in the past ten or fifteen years. Way to go Doug!!!

As most of you may know by now Rusty O'Donnell-WB3EUQ is not doing so well. Our prayers and best wishes are with him and his family. Also Twila Kerr, N3SJR, had a very close call with her medical issues. She spent considerable time in the hospital and is doing much better now. She and her husband Gregg are now in Florida for the winter. They will be coming back to Indiana from time to time so we should get the opportunity to see them before the move is permanent. Our prayers and best wishes are with them both.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, March 1, 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. Doug reports that there will be a special program by Mike Sapp, WA3TTS and Bill Koch, W2RMA, and they are presenting a program on their 10GHz activities. This will include somebasics on microwave propagation, video's of some of their activity, and a demonstration of their low power 10GHz equipment. Mike may also talk a little about his VLF work as well.

Possible upgrade class sometimes this year, so stay tuned....

Other Stuff:

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME reports in the February issue of QST p. 86 that there is a new ham in the US House of Representatives: Rep. Steve Pearce, KG5KIQ, (R-NM) is now the third ham. The others are Rep. Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI) and Rep. Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR).

Also from the February, 2016 issue of QST p.13 Harold Kramer, WJ1B, reports that the ARRL Foundation provides over 80 scholarships annually to eligible radio amateurs. They range in value from \$500 to \$5000. More information may be found at www.arrl.org/summary-of-scholarship-requirements.

Finally, scientists have come up with a mathematical treatment for Procrastination! From the pages of the February, 2016 issue of Physics Today, page 11, Dr. Tomasz Durakiewicz of the National Science Foundation (NSF) proposes "A universal law of procrastination" based upon the following functional equation: $N(t)=M/(D-t+C)-M/(D+C)$ where $N(t)$ is the

number of objectives completed by time, t . M is the total number of objectives completed by the deadline time D , D being a constant number in time units determined before any objective is completed by the participant in the activity. C is another constant with the same units of time and is used to correct for a small number of objectives and depends upon D and is given by $C = \{\text{Sqrt}(D) \times \text{Sqrt}(4+D) - D\} / 2$ where $\text{Sqrt}(\dots)$ means "the square root of whatever number is within the parentheses", \times means "multiplied by", and $/$ means "divide by" note: these are just common mathematical operations. **Example:** suppose I have 20 things I need to get done in a month (30 days), then M is 20, D is 30, C is $\{5.477 \times 5.831 - 30\} / 2 = \{31.937 - 30\} / 2 = .969$ days. The equation becomes $N(t) = 20 / (30 - t + .969) - 20 / 30.969 = 20 / (30.969 - t) - .658$ and " t " has to be in days or fractions of a day. Note that if one puts in 30 days for the time, according to this I should have 19.982 things done in 30 days. Round-off error plays a significant role when the things to do are too few. So ladies (or gentlemen) you should give your significant others a very large number of things to do if you hope to get a useful number completed!! The moral is: Wives keep your husbands busy (or the corollary: wives, don't expect your husbands to ever get all the things done!): **Reality check:** Dr. Durakiewicz developed his equation based upon NSF deadlines and proposals that are submitted to the NSF. He noticed that, for any particular project, the number submitted tends to increase rather dramatically as the deadline approaches and assures us that the equation (a modified hyperbolic) is very useful in predicting the expected time line for NSF proposals to be submitted by academics and other research scientists. The Newsletter author has taken some (not so serious) liberty in attempting to apply the law to everyday activities around the house. I must admit that my presentation here is to be mostly taken "tounge in cheek".

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 INFORMATION

(If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let Larry Freeman, N3LT, know by email at: wd4hoz@gmail.com or wlf@auxmail.iup.edu) 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 are 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.

Summary of February 02, 2016 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

Craig Bigler-AB3XA	Bill Wieserman-K3ZYK	Dave Overdorf-KC3DTH
Carl Hvozda-N3PIE	Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ	Ian Bigler-KC3DTE
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA	Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG
Larry Freeman-N3LT	Ernest Clark-KC3FVX, Vice President	Alton Strong-N3PHL
Bill McMillen-N3QM	Bill Menk-W3LAB	Mike Biconik-KC3FVU
Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, President	Denny Clark-KB3HZM	John Bertolino-KC3FVT

Guests: Mark Henck, Joe Shupienis, W3BC (ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania), and Joe George, N3YN who presented the program for the evening

Call to Order: Doug Fitzsimmons (K3LAB)

The "Board" meeting started at about 7:00 PM. The time was used for general discussion and to eat.

Doug called the general meeting to order at 7:30 pm and turned it over to Mr. Bill McMillen, N3QM to introduce our evening's speaker Mr. Joe George, N3YN who presented the program involving ADS-B receiving systems, APRS, and several antennas that he fabricated for 978 Mhz and 2.0 Ghz.

After the program ended, Doug ask for the various usual reports from the Treasurer and others.

Treasurer's Report: Terry Carnahan, KB3JOD, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report through January. A motion was made to accept the report and seconded. The report was voted upon and accepted.

Repeater Update: Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG and Doug Fitzsimmons, K3LAB reported that new firmware was installed in the repeater and that work continues to be done on determining the problem with the controller and/or repeater. There have been no new repeater resets required since the ARCOM controller has been disconnected. Doug currently has the controller at his home and is learning the programming and how an additional radio may be connected in order to do independent remote control for the repeater system. This will allow a remote repeater reset if required.

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

Dave reported that there were twenty two check-ins on the Monday night net, on February 01, 2016.

ACS and Monday Night NBEMS Update: Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD) reported that there were three folks on the fldigi net after the ARES net: Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ, Dave Steiner, KA3KFA , and Dave Hunter, N3YFO from Johnstown.

Business: There was some discussion of a few changes that may happen at Airport days resulting from the meeting on January 28, 2016 at the airport festival committee meeting which was attended by Doug, Ernie, and Craig.

Also, there was some discussion of winter field day held at the EOC this past weekend (Jan 30-31). There was good turn out with six operators Terry Carnahan, Craig Bigler, Ian Bigler, Doug Fitzsimmons, Joe Rankin, and Dave Steiner. There were well over a hundred contacts. Very nice work.

Donations: \$29.00

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made and accepted. Doug Fitzsimmons adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 pm.