



February 29, 2020

## ICARC NEWSLETTER

### **Officers for 2020:**

President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB  
Vice President - Harry Dushac K3FSE  
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD  
Secretary - Chris Edwards N3VFK

### **Board Members for 2020:**

1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Craig Bigler AB3XA
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
5. Larry Freeman N3LT

### **LOCAL HAPPENINGS:**

Next ICARC meeting is on March 3, 2020, at Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

Doug Fitzsimmons presented an excellent program on the digital mode FT-8. It was very thorough and should be helpful to all of us who hope to play with this mode in the future.

Read the January 2020 meeting minutes of ICARC which appear at the end of this document  
(Courtesy of Chris Edwards, N3VFK)

The new county repeater, WB3CGY, is still operating nicely. The frequency pair is 146.745/146.145 and the PL tone is 131.8. The repeater is now operating at high power, with a 1.5 s hang-time and a courtesy tone.

**Reminder: Several ICARC members meet every Saturday morning for breakfast in the back room of the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant normally starting between 8:30 and 9:00 AM**

### **INTERESTING HAM RADIO NEWS**

From page 77 of the February issue of QST we noticed that University of Scranton Professor Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, has won a \$1.3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. Nathaniel, will be studying weather effects in the ionosphere by leveraging a network of ground-based amateur radio stations. He is designated as the Principle Investigator (PI) and will implement his Distributed Arrays of Small Instruments (DASI) project over three years. As PI, Nathaniel (a space scientist) will head a collaborative team that will develop ground-based space science observation instruments and the necessary software. Nathaniel is also known and respected in the ham radio community as the founder of HamSCI, the Ham Radio Citizen Investigation initiative. It was an honor and pleasure to have Nathaniel and his family visit the ICARC site at the Jimmy Stewart Airport Festival for the past two

years. In fact he operated one of the stations last June at the 2019 event. Hopefully, we will see him and his family again this coming year at the event.

February QST on page 75 reports that the FCC is amending the RF exposure safety rules for amateur radio. {Under the revised Section 97.13(c): (1), "In lieu of evaluation with the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in Section 1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household," the amended rule says.

"RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general/uncontrolled exposure limits. Appropriate methodologies and guidance for evaluating Amateur Radio Service operation is described in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Bulletin 65, Supplement B," The revised rule concludes.

Meeting with FCC OET Chief Julius Knapp and senior staff in early November, ARRL asked the FCC to make available on the internet a calculator to facilitate making the correct calculations the rules require.}

Note that all text between the curly brackets represents the exact text of the QST article including all grammatical rules and punctuation infractions therein. Do you all remember when sentences were supposed to be short and to the point?

**First ever transatlantic 2 meter QSO reported:**...As reported by Newsline, D41CV, the Manteverde Contest Team in the Cape Verde Islands used 500 watts and a half dozen stacked dipole antennas using the FT8 mode to contact FG8OJ in Guadeloupe who was using 100 watts and a 14 element Yagi antenna. A distance of about 2398 miles was covered and this is longer than the distance between Ireland and Newfoundland.

**New Ham Gear for the International Space Station:** Kenwood has donated two TM-D710GA transceivers to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program in order to update the equipment on the space station and in the training facilities in Russia. One will replace the aging equipment on the station and one will be used as a backup for crew training on the ground in Russia.

**QRZ.com Beefs Up its Security:** QRZ is offering its online users enhanced security options. It is now offering registered users the ability to use a "two- factor authentication" (2FA) hoping to make it more difficult for password phishers and fraudulent posters. They are also going to require anyone marketing gear through the Swapmeet forum to enroll in its Verified User program.

**Petition Seeks a New Amateur Band at 40 Mhz :** Michelle Bradley, KU3N, a Maryland amateur has filed a petition for rulemaking with the FCC, seeking a secondary amateur frequency allocation at 8 meters in the 40-41 Mhz range. Michelle feels that the new spectrum would spark the next generation of 'Makers' in the fields of science, technology, education, and math ..etc... She notes that since there is currently no mass-produced equipment for this band that "makers" will have to make their own gear. **The petition number is RM-11843**

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let Larry Freeman 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 original author.

Please thank Jeffrey Tobin, KC3NJE, for the following heads-up to an event at the Indiana Free Library (<http://www.indianafreelibrary.org/node/17549>)

### **Introduction to Raspberry Pi Part 1 (Registration is Required)**

Date:

Monday, March 23, 2020 - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Introduction to Raspberry Pi

Details:

The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into your TV and a keyboard. It is a capable little computer which can be used in electronics projects, and for many of the things that your desktop PC does, like spreadsheets, word-processing and games. It also plays high-definition video.

Topics covers will be:

- Introduction to the Raspberry Pi hardware
- How to load and install different images available for the Raspberry Pi
- Installing updates from both a command line interface and Graphical User Interface (GUI)
- Will touch on introductory programming concepts.

No prior programming experience is required. This program is aimed at exposing participants to embedded computing platforms and will provide real world examples of using the Raspberry Pi to interact with physical devices.

Space is limited and registration is required. Ages 12 and up. For more information, call 724-465-8841

Contact Info: Lauri Fletcher

## **Indiana County Amateur Radio Club**

### **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting 01/07/2020**

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Club President Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB with the Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call. The minutes of the November Meeting were read by Club Secretary Chris Edwards N3VFK. They were accepted and approved. Harry Dushac K3FSE read the Financial Report. It was accepted & approved.

The 2020 Agenda was discussed. A consensus was reached that a Technician Class will be scheduled in the fall. An Extra License Class was also discussed as a possibility. Possible publicity was discussed such as advertising through other clubs, online, other media such as radio stations, at the local campus...etc.

Also discussed was moving the repeater from the current location to the 911 Center. The club talked about participating in Winter Field Day but it was decided that it was too short of a notice to prepare. Going to an Altoona Curve baseball game was mentioned as a possible summer activity. Will be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

#### **Attendance: 18**

Alton N3PHL	Bill N3QM
Chris N3VFK	Craig AB3XA
David D. N3DZ	David S. W3CDH
Doug K3LAB	Ernest KC3FVX
Harry K3FSE	Jerry WB3DUD
Larry N3LT	Mark KC3MLA
Paul K3VAR	Phil K3PJ
Terry KB3JOD	Walter KC3FVU
Gary KC3NHE	Joseph KC3ONZ