



## ICARC NEWSLETTER

Aug 31, 2024

### Officers for 2024:

President – Craig Bigler, AB3XA  
Vice President - Dylon Curtis KC3WMN  
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK  
Secretary - Chris Edwards, N3VFK

### Additional Board Members for 2024

1. John Kalicicki KA2YOS
2. David Steiner W3CDH
3. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
4. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman N3LT

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

#### **August 11, 2024: New Repeater at the Rhine Road Site**

A new DIY repeater system has been installed at the ICARC remote site on Rhine Rd. It is made up of two mobile radios, an old Arcom 210 controller, and a “4 Can Duplexer” owned by ICARC President, AB3XA. The radios are owned by club members KB3WG and N3LT. Repeater Parameters: Call sign: N3FLO OUTPUT: 146.655 MHz INPUT: 146.055 Access tone is 131.8 Hz

As one can see it is a standard duplex(-) with the standard 600 KHz offset frequency. To program your radio set the duplex to – and the offset to 600 KHz. Set the tone to 131.8 Hz

The first full on the air check was done on August 11 in the evening after the normal ICARC Service and Information net on Monday night using the W3BMD repeater. There were 11 checkins for the test and contacts from the East West, North, South. The Farthest distance to the West was just West of Elderton off hwy 422 at a bit over 17 miles as the crow flies. The signal report was very strong. Also, to the North edge of White township in Indiana, the signal report was good from a handheld radio running 5 Watts. Had excellent signal contacts out to Nolo and Penn Run as well to Blairsville.

On August 25, for the first time, the ICARC Monday night net was run twice; the usual net on W3BMD at 2030 hours which had 17 check-ins and a second immediately following on the N3FLO repeater. Will likely keep on doing this dual net because it will allow more distant hams and ICARC members to check in if so desired. The ground level at the Rhine Rd. site is 1770 ft above sea level where as the EMA location of W3BMD is at 1240 ft above sea level.

August 24, 2024 Last Saturday Event. There was great attendance and the food and camaraderie was great. See the following photos Courtesy of Cass Fitzgerald, and Craig Bigler.

Earl Morning: It's beautiful!



Early Morning: It's empty!



What's Craig Pointing at?



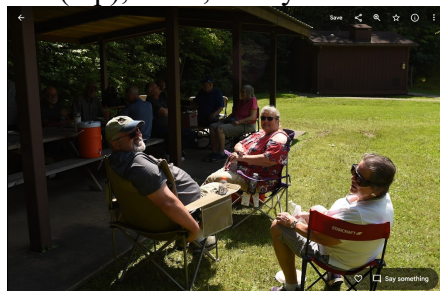
He and Phil are putting a line through a tree for an antenna.

Learning about Fox Hunting:



Phil admiring Mike's new Antenna

Bev(top), Janet, Kathy & Stu

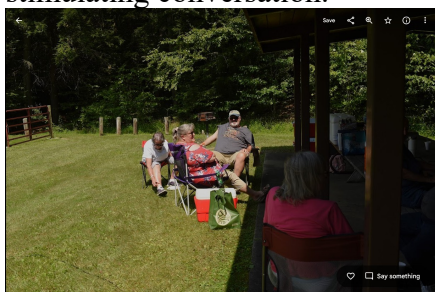


There really is radio happening:



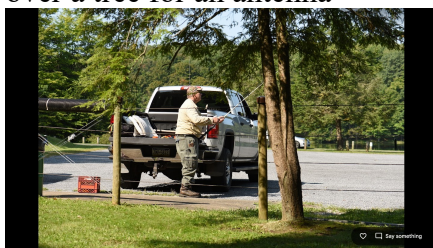
Cass working KS & OH QSO Party. Elmer from behind.

Sum folks enjoyed the Sun and stimulating conversation.



Others love the shade and cool!

Craig preparing to throw a line over a tree for an antenna



Wonder if he is as good a fisherman as antenna raiser?

Marge sure seems in a hurry!



The Food must really be good!

What ever it is, it looks like Craig, Marge, Phil, Mike & Dave



are intensely at it.

The Fox in a Box!



Mike & Larry discuss Jerry's Location.





Mike enjoying the food. Larry's



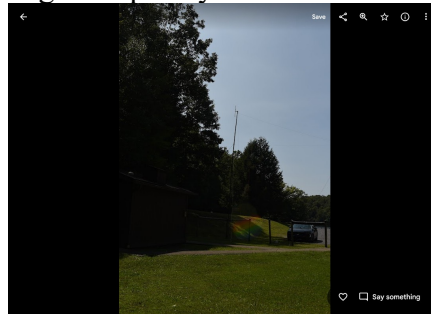
on the phone. Who let him bring a phone?

Dave and Elmer (back showing)



sure seem to be laid back and relaxing!

There really is an antenna in the air for the Fox and another for High Frequency communication.



See, there is an HF antenna hanging in the air somewhere.



A Problem with the Fox. There was a soldering iron available.








Phil helping get a line through a tall tree across the entrance road.



All in all the event went very well culminating, for a few of us being led by EJ in a five car convoy back to Indiana using 146.910 MHz simplex to communicate between the vehicles. It was great fun! Many thanks to the participants for showing up and special thanks to Craig Bigler, Cass Fitzgerald and Phil Kopczyk for organizing, planning and supplying the food, equipment, and antennas to make the event so successful. We were able to make contacts in the Kansas and Ohio QSO parties as well as play around with a new fox hunting antenna and offset attenuator brought by Mike Schmaus to the event. It was very nice to see everyone there. Attendees: Craig Bigler, Cass Fitzgerald, Phil Kopczyk, David Steiner, Marge Steiner, Stuart Youngkin, Janet Youngkin, Beverly Sorisio, Elmer Sorisio, EJ, Mike Schmaus, Kathy Lute, Jerry Kiehl, and Larry Freeman. I was also nice to have late visitors inquiring about the nature of hamradio and the sort of things that are done by folks who are engaged in the hobby.

**Dateline August 30, 2024:** New storage shed installed at the Rhine Rd remote site. This will allow the freeing up of much space in the repeater shack. The new shed is a highly appreciated gift from the Indiana Emergency Management Agency. A little work needs to be done on it but that will not be much of a difficulty. As it stands now it is water tight. Many thanks go to the efforts of Craig Bigler, Dave Steiner, Bill McMillen, Phil Kopczyk, John Kaliciki, Deryl Mack, and Larry Freeman for getting the work done for this installation. Special thanks go to David Steiner for supplying and preparing the wood foundation material and to Bill McMillen for using his skid steer to grade the site, which saved a lot of hard physical work that, otherwise, would have had to be done by several old guys. Both of these fellows used their own equipment for this work. Last but not least it must be remembered that Deryl approved this endeavour on his property and for that ICARC offers its utmost gratitude. This new storage shed will certainly become a valued addition to this site. See the photos on the following page courtesy of Craig Bigler.

<p>Foundation job well done!</p>  <p>David S. Craig B, Deryl M.</p>	<p>Dave, Larry, Deryl</p>  <p>Photographer: Craig Bigler</p>	<p>Dave Steiner, transporting the</p>  <p>shed to the Rhine Rd. site.</p>
<p>Unloading the shed. After some effort by Craig B. &amp; John K. it looked perfect like the next photo.</p> 	<p>Finally in place!</p>  <p>Looks great!</p>	<p>I Ran out of photos that I could get to fit this space without a lot of convolutions and I got tired of messing with it so this is blank intentionally.</p>

**Reminder:** The ICARC Public Service and Information Net will continue on Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.91/146.31 Mhz. (ICARC is an ARRL affiliated club)

**Reminder:** The ICARC meetings are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month; next meeting is September 3, 2024 at the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

### **Announcements of potential interest:**

#### **Upcoming Volunteer ham radio Examinations (VE) in Cambria and Indiana Counties**

Courtesy of Tom Brew, K3WS: Hopefully, you all received his email to the ICARC mailing list.

As Tom points out this VE Test is free (no test session fee) but you must pay the FCC licensing fee of \$35.00 directly to the FCC. Testing Information:

Where - John P Murtha, Johnstown Airport (KJST) in the conference room

Date - Friday, Oct 18, 2024

Doors Open: 17:00 hours (5:00 pm)

Testing Begins - 18:00 hours (6:00 pm)

Classes offered – Technician, General, Extra

To pre-register or for any questions, contact Dylan Beaty on Facebook or by email via [dylan@kc3dvr.com](mailto:dylan@kc3dvr.com) or John Geiser, AB3OV via [ab3ov@yahoo.com](mailto:ab3ov@yahoo.com) 1(814) 410-7739 Start studying for free at <http://www.hamstudy.com> now!

## **Upcoming VE Exam in Indiana County; Courtesy of Bill McMillen (N3QM)**

One can also find this information on the W3BMD website <https://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/>

On Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11:00 AM, ICARC will hold a VE Test session (tentatively) at the Indiana County Emergency Management Agency conference room (The site of the Indiana County 911 Center) located at 85 Haven Dr in Indiana. There will be a test session fee of \$15 which goes to the ARRL (not ICARC) and the \$35 licensing fee paid directly to the FCC. Contact: N3QM, Bill McMillen 724-397-2702 or [n3qm@comcast.net](mailto:n3qm@comcast.net) 24 hour Pre-Registration Requested

For current hams upgrading to a higher class you will need your Federal Registration Number (FRN) and a copy of your current License or a copy of the Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE)

For non hams testing for the first time you will need to obtain a Federal Registration Number by applying to the Cores system at the following link. (Click on the link below to get there)

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

All Examinees will need to provide a valid photo id issued by a state or government agency such as your state drivers license.

## **Some Hamfest Information courtesy of Craig Bigler:**

The HatFest

THE HANCOCK AUXCOMM TEAM WILL BE HOLDING IT'S  
SECOND ANNUAL HAM FEST ON  
SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2024.

AT THE CHESTER CITY PARK, 375 W Carolina Ave, Chester, WV 26034  
FROM 10:00AM till 4:00PM.

For additional information and advanced tickets

Call 304-277-7552

or call 11337 on Hamshack Hotline

EMAIL: [HATFEST@wv8hat.org](mailto:HATFEST@wv8hat.org)

## **OTHER HAM RADIO NEWS:**

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### **From the: ARRL Member Bulletin (August 21, 2024)**

#### **ARRL IT Security Incident - Report to Members**

Sometime in early May 2024, ARRL's systems network was compromised by threat actors (TAs) using information they had purchased on the dark web. The TAs accessed headquarters on-site systems and most cloud-based systems. They used a wide variety of payloads affecting everything from desktops and laptops to Windows-based and Linux-based servers. Despite the wide variety of target configurations, the TAs seemed to have a payload that would host and execute encryption or deletion of network-based IT assets, as well as launch demands for a ransom payment, for every system.

This serious incident was an act of organized crime. The highly coordinated and executed attack took place during the early morning hours of May 15. That morning, as staff arrived, it was immediately apparent that ARRL had become the victim of an extensive and sophisticated ransomware attack. The FBI categorized the attack as "unique" as they had not seen this level of sophistication among the many other attacks, they have experience with. Within 3 hours a crisis management team had been constructed of ARRL management, an outside vendor with extensive resources and experience in the ransomware recovery space, attorneys experienced with managing the legal aspects of the attack including interfacing with the authorities, and our insurance carrier. The authorities were contacted immediately as was the ARRL President.



The ransom demands by the TAs, in exchange for access to their decryption tools, were exorbitant. It was clear they didn't know, and didn't care, that they had attacked a small 501(c)(3) organization with limited resources. Their ransom demands were dramatically weakened by the fact that they did not have access to any compromising data. It was also clear that they believed ARRL had extensive insurance coverage that would cover a multi-million-dollar ransom payment. After days of tense negotiation and brinkmanship, ARRL agreed to pay a \$1 million ransom. That payment, along with the cost of restoration, has been largely covered by our insurance policy.

From the start of the incident, the ARRL board met weekly using a continuing special board meeting for full progress reports and to offer assistance. In the first few meetings there were significant details to cover, and the board was thoughtfully engaged, asked important questions, and was fully supportive of the team at HQ to keep the restoration efforts moving. Member updates were posted to a single page on the website and were posted across the internet in many forums and groups. ARRL worked closely with professionals deeply experienced in ransomware matters on every post. It is important to understand that the TAs had ARRL under a magnifying glass while we were negotiating. Based on the expert advice we were being given, we could not publicly communicate anything informative, useful, or potentially antagonistic to the TAs during this time frame.

Today, most systems have been restored or are waiting for interfaces to come back online to interconnect them. While we have been in restoration mode, we have also been working to simplify the infrastructure to the extent possible. We anticipate that it may take another month or two to complete restoration under the new infrastructure guidelines and new standards.

Most ARRL member benefits remained operational during the attack. One that wasn't was Logbook of The World (LoTW), which is one of our most popular member benefits. LoTW data was not impacted by the attack and once the environment was ready to again permit public access to ARRL network-based servers, we returned LoTW into service. The fact that LoTW took less than 4 days to get through a backlog that at times exceeded over 60,000 logs was outstanding.

The board at the ARRL Second Board Meeting in July voted to approve a new committee, the Information Technology Advisory Committee. This will be comprised of ARRL staff, board members with demonstrated experience in IT, and additional members from the IT industry who are currently employed as subject matter experts in a few areas. They will help analyze and advise on future steps to take with ARRL IT within the financial means available to the organization.

We thank you for your patience as we navigated our way through this. The emails of moral support and offers of IT expertise were well received by the team. Although we are not entirely out of the woods yet and are still working to restore minor servers that serve internal needs (such as various email services like bulk mail and some internal reflectors), we are happy with the progress that has been made and for the incredible dedication of staff and consultants who continue to work together to bring this incident to a successful conclusion.

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The following is a reprint from last months Newsletter:

**SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB015**

**ARLB015 ARRL Urges Protecting the Amateur Radio 902-928 MHz Band**

**ZCZC AG15**

**QST de W1AW**

**ARRL Bulletin 15 ARLB015**

**From ARRL Headquarters**

**Newington CT August 15, 2024**

**To all radio amateurs**

**SB QST ARL ARLB015**

**ARLB015 ARRL Urges Protecting the Amateur Radio 902-928 MHz Band**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) accepted for public comment a Petition for Rulemaking filed by NextNav Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to completely reconfigure the 902-928 MHz band and replace the LMS with high-powered 5G cellular and related location services.

The FCC Notice requested comment on the effects that NextNav's proposals would have on amateur radio operations in the band. ARRL is preparing comments urging protection of existing and future amateur uses in this band and urges all amateurs to file their own comments describing their activities in this band and the expected effect of the proposed changes. [Click here for a guide to filing comments.](#)

NextNav currently holds licenses in the 900-MHz band that authorize it to provide services limited to determining the location and status of mobile radio units. NextNav ties its request to provide high-power broadband, cellular and location services to the vulnerabilities of the current satellite-based GPS system and argues that implementation of its proposal would complement GPS by providing an alternative nationwide terrestrial location system in addition to cellular and broadband services. Under its proposal, NextNav would be designated the sole nationwide licensee for this spectrum in exchange for its more limited licenses.

The new nationwide license would authorize NextNav to provide much higher-powered traditional broadband and 5G cellular services as well as the related location service occupying 15 of the total 26 megahertz available in the band. The reconfiguration proposed by NextNav would create a 5-megahertz-wide uplink subband at 902-907 MHz paired with a 10-megahertz downlink subband at 918-928 MHz. The 5-megahertz uplink subband would be limited to use by mobiles with a maximum of 3 watts ERP. On the 10-megahertz downlink subband, up to 2000 watts ERP would be permitted in rural areas and 1000 watts ERP in urban and suburban areas, radiating from tower structures that could reach 1000 or more feet above average terrain. These configurations reflect the FCC's rules for standard cellular configurations that have been adopted to govern a number of other bands used for similar 5G and like services.

Although uses by the Amateur Radio Service in this band are secondary to LMS, NextNav is proposing substantial technical and use changes that would completely alter the foundation upon which the current rules and spectrum sharing arrangements rely and undercut shared use of the band by amateurs as well as a variety of other users. In addition, NextNav proposes deletion of a specific interference provision in the Commission's rules that was adopted to encourage and protect continued sharing with amateurs and other secondary users.

NextNav, in its petition, argues without evidence that the changes that it proposes to the 902-928 MHz band "will not impede amateur operations." In an 8-page description of NextNav's proposal released by the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the FCC staff asks a series of questions that would clarify the proposal and help the Commission ascertain the likely effect of the proposed changes on existing users if the requested changes were adopted. Comment was specifically requested on the extent of amateur operations in the band, the potential impact of the proposed changes, any other spectrum options that may exist, and the costs for relocations if other options exist.

ARRL is preparing comments urging protection of existing and future amateur uses in this band. ARRL urges all amateurs to study the proposal and file their own comments describing their activities in this band and the expected effect of the proposed changes. The filing deadline is September 5, 2024. Replies to comments are due by September 20, 2024. Information on how to file comments can be found here: [www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-)

fcc

<<https://arrrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMTEwMDUwJnA9MSZ1PTUyMDMzNzUyMiZsaT0zNDcwMjgzMA/index.html>>.

NNNN

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Attention: If other ICARC members would like to contribute to this Newsletter, please contact or submit articles to the Newsletter editor, N3LT via email at [n3lt@arrrl.net](mailto:n3lt@arrrl.net) or [wd4hoz@gmail.com](mailto:wd4hoz@gmail.com) by the middle of each month. Preferred document format is **.doc** . All submissions are subject to approval for publication by the editor. SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB015