



ICARC NEWSLETTER

DEC 31 2024

Happy Newyear Everybody!!

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

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Our Current Vice President, Dylan Curtis' Grandfather, Tom Ringler (WA3W), former ICARC member for many years, has serious medical problems. Please read the flyer at the end of this newsletter and support the family by participating in this event.

ICARC: Club Officers are elected for 2025: President- Craig Bigler (AB3XA), Vice President- Cass Fitzgerald, Secretary- Larry Freeman (N3LT), Treasurer-Chris Edwards (N3VFK). Board of Directors for 2025: Stuart Younkin (WB3FBL), Bill Robinson (KC3ZAF), Phil Kopczyk (K3PJ), Elmer Sorisio (KB3WG Repeater Trustee), Robert Zugates (KB3JOF), the four officers are also members of the board.

Reminder: ICARC yearly dinner is scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2025 at Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Indiana, PA, at 5:00 PM

Reminder: Winter Field Day Will be at the Blue Spruce Park Lodge; Starts 1600 UTC Saturday January 25th Ends 21:59 UTC Sunday Jan 26th. Note: The hours have been extended beyond the usual 24 hour to a 30 hour operation.

Reminder: ICARC membership renewal time is upon us at the end of December. See final page of this document for a renewal/application form. This form can also be found online at: <http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd>

Reminder: The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.91/146.31 Mhz. (ICARC is an ARRL affiliated club). In recent weeks it has also been repeated at approximately 8:45 PM on the new N3FLO repeater on 146.655/.055, tone of 131.8 Hz. Check it out.

Reminder: The ICARC meetings are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month; next meeting is Tue, Jan 7, 2025, the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there. Also, in the same room, there is usually an informal breakfast each Saturday morning starting around 08:30 am. Come and join in the camaraderie, it's great fun.

Current Net Control Operators: Phil Kopczyk, Chris Edwards, Stuart Younkin, and Bill Robinson.
We thank you fellows very much. We can always use more.

ICARC has been awarded a grant from the ARRL Foundation Grant Program to help improve amateur radio communications throughout Indiana County.

The President's End of Year Report:

Members:

This report for 2024 highlights a very busy, active and productive year. After fixing a number of problems left behind by the previous administration, the club moved forward with scheduled 2 meter nets, VE sessions and monthly meetings.

Our first activity was Winter Field Day at Dave Steiner's pavilion. Those that participated endured quite the operating adventure! The Saturday operation was quite productive. It was an exercise in keeping things from blowing away in the very high winds, especially as set up was being done. In spite of the conditions this was our most productive WFD! Special thanks to Dave for wrapping the pavilion in tarps to keep us all out of the weather; with very special thanks to Marge for providing us with some hot food!

Later after winter passed we got around to completing most of the sheet metal work on the ham shack at the Rhine Road site. Many thanks to those volunteers who donated the materials and did the actual work required. It was not a trivial task, and the work will extend the life of the building.

The Club's next activity was an ambitious plan to first build antennas, then test in the field, and then finally host a Fox Hunt with members of two local Scout troops. This event was held at Yellow Creek State Park and was followed with an onsite cookout. Those involved in the planning and execution of this event spent numerous weeks in the lead up to the actual Fox Hunt. Without this dedication and effort, the activity would not have been as successful as it was. A thank you to the members and officers that made this possible.

Several members of the Club made a trip to Xenia Ohio for the ARRL Hamvention (formerly held at Dayton Ohio). It was something to behold! Hams from near and far chatting about radio and equipment. Vendors from all over selling their wares. And also, the famous flea market with anything and everything radio... A trip well worth the effort.

Throughout the rest of the year the Club had several hot dog cookouts at the Rhine Road site. These were coupled to antenna projects, antenna testing (NVIS style), and some HF operation. The club also found time to write and submit an ARRL Foundation grant proposal.

The Club successfully assembled and deployed a 2-meter repeater that is currently under test. Our repeater Trustee, successfully, troubleshot a noise source that had been plaguing the previous machine. The current repeater (under test) is operating better than its predecessor. Thanks go to those who donated the equipment and successfully fabricated and implemented the repeater system.

The Club's annual summer Field Day exercise was another fun time with several club firsts! We set up stations on both sides of the lake and had an extensive wireless network to support our logging efforts for the event. We operated an exclusive digital station during Field Day. A 43' vertical antenna with a wire fence ground plane being utilized for the antenna. Contacts were made, our usual and customary dinner was held, and another successful Field Day was achieved.

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading? Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Below are websites where you can look into testing online.

<https://wm7x.net/> One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.

<https://k17aa.org/vec/remote-testing/>

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/remote> Lists remote and in person test sessions.

Other Announcements of potential interest:

From the ARRL WEB Site: Grants to Amateur Radio Organizations: The ARRL Foundation grants program awards limited funding to organizations for eligible amateur radio related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting Amateur Radio activities. Youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical model three times a year.

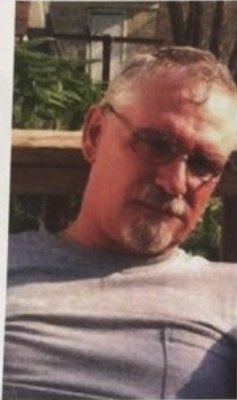
2025 Grant proposals are accepted from:

- February 1 - February 28
- June 1 - June 30
- October 1 - October 31 _____

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@arrl.net or wd4hoz@gmail.com by the middle of each month. Preferred document format is **.doc, for editing purposes..** All submissions are subject to approval for publication by the editor.



To help with medical expenses for Tom Ringler.



January 18, 2025

1pm - 5pm

St Johns Hall

125 Blackberry Rd
Clymer, PA 15728

Adults \$10

Children (12 & under) \$5

Takeout Available

Dinner will include:

Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Roll, Dessert, & Drink

25 Basket Raffle Tickets for \$5

Drawing will begin at 4:30pm

(Winner does not need to be present)

If you would like to donate a basket or a desert contact

Pam Barr 724 541-4802 or Jen Curtis 724-549-7121

Wendy Sexton (330) 727 -1912

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Membership Application

CURRENT DATE (M/D/Y): / / Membership Status(I,A,S,F): New _____ Ongoing _____

Individual Membership (I) — \$35.00 Associate/Student Membership (A, S) — \$20.00

Family Membership (F) – \$50.00 {Two voting members per family}

*** Please complete the applicable information below: ***

Name: _____ DOB: _____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: _____ FISTS: _____ ARES: _____ RACES: _____

Other: _____ DOB: _____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: _____ FISTS: _____ ARES: _____ RACES: _____

Other: _____ DOB: _____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: _____ FISTS: _____ ARES: _____ RACES: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____ Other Email: _____

Do you belong to **A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S.** of another County, if so which one: _____

Is it OK to put your name onto the **R.A.C.E.S / A.R.E.S.** emergency call list? Yes ___ No ___

Are you a member of the ARRL? Yes _____ No _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form along with a check or money order payable to ICARC, to:

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 2020
Indiana, PA 15701

Date Received _____ Amount \$ _____ (Cash) (Check) (MO) Number _____

The club info & newsletter is available on our web site at: www.qsl.net/w3bmd