



January 31, 2024

ICARC NEWSLETTER

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:

Two significant ICARC events occurred during the week starting January 22, 2024.

January 23: Meeting between Indiana County Emergency Management Agency (ICEMA) officials and ICARC representatives

Tom Stutzman, Director and John Pividori, Deputy Director of the ICEMA met with ICARC President, Craig Bigler, and Board member, Larry Freeman to discuss the on-going relationship between the two organizations. The conversation was very frank and meaningful in that Mr. Stutzman made it clear that the county will continue to support ICARC with equipment and material as needed. He also indicated that ICARC will be the group called upon to deploy to remote sites in the event of a serious local or wide spread disaster situation when auxiliary communication is needed.

ICARC members should continue to be proud of our heritage in building a functional, continuing relationship with ICEMA. Members should also be proud of the fact that ICARC is the only amateur radio club in our local area that has, in the past, deployed members into actual emergency situations under unpleasant conditions.

Winter Field Day is now history and it was a great success! Many thanks to those who participated and brought snacks and made it all happen. We managed to get a total of 2 high frequency (HF) antennas in the air as well as two 2m band antennas: a vertical for FM simplex and/or digital modes, and a horizontal dipole for ssb phone and/or digital modes.

We had good turnout with thirteen folks participating in preparations and set up so that we were able to start making contacts on schedule at 1400 hours (local time). That doesn't happen very often these days. Good food was available and the covered shelter was wonderful, thanks to Dave Steiner's considerable efforts in wrapping tarps around the whole structure. Thank you Dave!! Outside it was cool, wet, and extremely windy and considerably less so within the shelter. Two radios were operating nearly continuously from 1400 hours on Saturday to after 0130 hours and through the night until approximately 0600 hours Sunday morning. A total of 271 contacts were logged. That number may go down by a few points as the logs are analyzed and any mistakes ironed out sponsoring group. There were 31 cw contacts on the 80 and 40 meter bands and a total of 240 single side band phone contacts on the 80,40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. The 160 m band was attempted but every readable station was working the CQ Worldwide 160 CW contest. Called CQ a few times but no one answered. There was also an attempt at 2 m simplex, both ssb and FM but no one responded at all on the band. The logs will be submitted during the coming week.

There were as many as eight operators so it was easy to keep the radios buzzing. The camaraderie was very pleasant and welcoming. However, there were difficulties, in that the wind speed got up to 30+ mph in the early morning and the tarps survived with a lot of individual effort from the folks present at the time, but alas, the long wire 160 m band antenna did partially fall but was still somewhat functional. However, the Indiana County Emergency Management (ICEMA) generator that the county folks delivered to the site failed in the early morning hours so it was decided to shut down earlier than expected rather than go onto commercial power or dig out another generator. That was the only real glitch in the whole operation and according to some of the folks who had never done winter field day, it was very educational and worth doing again in the future. Everyone felt that this was a very good exercise in preparing communications for extreme situations. After all that's what Winter Field Day is about.

A special thanks to the Bigler and Steiner Ladies for preparing and presenting some great food (Kielbasa, franks, kraut, chili, Broccoli-cheese soup, jalapeno flavored chocolate/coco-nut creme eggs, cookies, hot drinks, cold drinks..etc). Also, a special thanks to ICEMA for their continuing support of ICARC and other amateur radio emergency related operations.

Of course the Biggest Thanks goes to David and Marjorie Steiner for allowing ICARC to invade their space in a most vigorous manner!

Folks involved in preparations, setup, and operations: Sandy Bigler, Marge Steiner, David Steiner, Craig Bigler, Dave Dzelsky, Cass Fitzgerald, Paul Morris, Chris Edwards, Dylon Curtis, Robert Zugates, Jerry Kiehl, John Kalicicki, Stuart Younkin (wb3fbl, visitor), Larry Freeman
(The following photos courtesy of Cass Fitzgerald; any distortions are due to formatting issues imposed by the newsletter editor, not the photographer.)



Part of the crew contemplating the next steps minutes before the contest begins

Left to right: Stuart Younkin (WB3FBL), Dave Dzelsky (N3DZ), John Kalicicki (KA2YOS), David Steiner (W3CDH), Craig Bigler (AB3XA)



Suart Y. & Dylan C. operating



Dave D. & Paul M. operating



Craig B. & David S.
working on 2m vertical



Craig B. & Dylan C. operating



Jerry Kiehl, Craig B. & Robert Z.
working on 2m dipole Saturday morning



Cass F. & Dylan C. operating

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: Next ICARC meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024 at Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM Hope to see you there.

Reminder: Several ICARC members and others 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

Other Event Reminders:

TWO RIVERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AMATEUR RADIO/COMPUTER SHOW
SUNDAY APRIL 7th, 2023-8am to noon. Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall – 101 South 1st Ave- Elizabeth, PA (located off PA Rt 51 in the city of Elizabeth) Directions and Mobile Check-in: 147.12 (PL 131.8)
Contact information: JohnMoskala K3CRO: 412 951 1332 or Bill Powers KB3WP: 412 260 5699.
or EMAIL: hamfestchairman@trarc.net

Delmarva Hamfest in Georgetown, Delaware, APRIL 20, 2024. Tailgating is open for business at 7:30. There will be golf cart transportation from the parking lot to the front door and back to the parking lot. The on-site cafe will be open. To register for free VE testing, email: herbquick55@gmail.com.
For Information Contact Jamie, W3UC (410) 202-7690 or email: hamfestdelaware@gmail.com
HAMFEST LOCATION: Cheer Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Rd., Georgetown, DE 19947
Talk-in on SARA Repeater: 147.090 Mhz (PL: 156.7)

OTHER INTERESTING HAM RADIO NEWS

(Editors note on the following email: As you read the following you will come to understand that no organization is immune to tension caused by serious differences of opinion within the membership and the, perceived or appointed, ruling authorities.)

A portion of the most recent Email from ARRL Members Only Division, 12/30/2023

(introductory sentence deleted by the editor) With the new year right around the corner, I wanted to give you a peek into some of the more weighty issues facing the League, and seek your feedback.

Before we dive into 2024, please join me in congratulating Marty Pittinger, KB3MXM, for his election to the Atlantic division Vice Director position for a full 3-year term, beginning January 2024. I know Marty will continue to provide the excellent service to the League as he has done in the past. Also, let us thank his challenger Robert Weinstock, W3RQ, for stepping up to run for the seat. We are stronger when our members are actively engaged in the League.

January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors will have it's first meeting, starting January 18th. For your convenience, I have summarized, what I consider, some of the most significant motions to be presented at the meeting, with my insights and thoughts following. All director motions known thus far are posted on the front page of the Atlantic division web site. [www.atldiv.org] . I encourage you to review these documents and provide any questions and feedback to me prior to the meeting. An easier read PDF copy of this message is also on the Atlantic Division

web front page.

- Restore the balance of QST print magazine subscription for those who accepted the discount offer for 3-year renewal
- Provide reduced membership fee for students
- Impose a Code of Conduct on directors which is the equivalent of a loyalty, confidentiality and obedience pledge to the League, further limiting transparency for ARRL members

My Thoughts

QST Print Magazine Subscription - For those of you who accepted the discount offer for 3-year renewal, only to be subsequently denied the balance of your QST print magazine subscription, I have sponsored a motion to restore your rights to receive the magazine. I am uncertain if any board members, other than those who joined the motion, will support it. It is highly likely to be opposed by management. However, I think it's the right thing to do.

Reduced Membership Fee for Students - Another motion proposes to provide membership to certain students and young folks at a reduced cost - likely half the adult fee. I believe this has merit and would go a long way to attracting younger members to ARRL. I am certainly leaning toward voting in support of this, and would love to hear your thoughts.

Code of Conduct - Finally, the most significant motion on the agenda is a newly proposed Code of Conduct, which I believe is the equivalent of a loyalty, confidentiality and obedience pledge to the League itself and not to the members that elect us. This is a rerun of the 2017 fiasco. It will further limit transparency for ARRL members, and seriously affect the way ARRL operates. I strongly oppose it and here's why.

I consider the proposed Code of Conduct to be the most intrusive change that I have seen in my 10+ years on the board. An onerous Code of Conduct was passed in 2017, which includes a gag order section. It was suspended in July 2017 based on overwhelming membership outrage. The new directors elected in 2019 repealed it after membership outrage sent incumbents packing in four divisions. Another group, choosing to ignore the membership uprising in 2017 and 2018 is again attempting to impose a Code of Conduct intending to punish those directors who do not fall in line with the majority. The new language offered is an attempt to appear beneficial to the members so as not to alarm us. Don't be fooled.

This new Code of Conduct puts directors at the whims of the appointed ethics committee, and allows directors to be censured and recused by the board by a simple majority vote of the other directors (e.g., 8 to 7 vote) or dismissed from the board with a super majority vote (e.g., 10 to 5 vote). Sounds reasonable. What's not to like about rules and restrictions on directors that will impose ethics standards? Until you consider that there are no definitions of what constitutes objectionable behavior. It is purely subjective, opening the way for political maneuvering for control.

In the past, criticism of management or the board has been frowned upon. This new move is an administrative tool meant to act as a gag order, suppressing dissension. I invite you to read the motion in full. Read it

very carefully and let me know what you think. I intend to vote against it. If Atlantic division members feel strongly about I, tell me why as I want to know. It is unlikely I will sign the required statements limiting my rights to represent your interests.

I believe that the ARRL exists for the members, not the other way around. As your representative, I intend to continue to express criticism when necessary to benefit ARRL members and Amateur Radio as a whole.

I have practiced non-profit corporate law since 1979, helping many radio clubs and other non-profits such as public-safety emergency response volunteers along the way. I have some significant concerns about the future of our League in this regard. Your League is a Membership Non-profit corporation, not a more common closed-board, appointed and replaced by internal director votes. The difference is significant under law.

Directors have a fiduciary duty to represent the best interest of the members electing them while executing those duties with honesty and loyalty to the League's mission in alignment with the best interest of its members. Your representatives must treat the members with respect and undertake loyalty to them, not to the League itself - indifferent to the legitimate interest of League members. This difference may seem subtle - it is not.

Our League is not a private club nor a piggy bank for pursuing projects and matters that are clearly not in the best interest of the membership, and run at the whims of directors (who in their own words believe they are on a pedestal).

This upcoming meeting promises to be contentious. If the new Code of Conduct passes, which I believe it will, directors and vice directors must sign the loyalty and obedience pledge immediately. The consequence of not doing so would be to resign or be thrown off the board. This motion would take the power to choose your director out of your hands and put it in the hands of an elite few. It was tried before.

The proposed Code of Conduct is engineered to try to sidestep the protection the law provides for an elected director. It was drafted last summer but was postponed to avoid the fall elections. Last time this was tried, all 5 directors seats next up for election were contested, with 4 out of 5 incumbent director seats changed. Historic for our ARRL. Nevertheless, I will NOT vote for this Code of Conduct unless I receive rational feedback from you as to why this proposed Draconian code is a good idea for our members.

Some of the motions passed in July 2023 were a mere lead up to this Code of Conduct. As with this new motion, the ones passed in July were drafted to appear mundane. Their effect was to increase the power of the management, to raise the level of board confidentiality, and decrease transparency to the members. The CEO was granted power to increase confidentiality as he sees fit, denying information to some directors suspected of leaking information to members. Role call votes were made harder to require, hiding who voted for what. Why?

I cannot answer many of the questions you have asked me or reveal things you need to know even though you essentially own your League. For example, I am not permitted to send you ARRL's financial statements as

some of you skilled in such matters requested. They are marked confidential and, while that is legal, in my view it is unethical. Unless the board of directors were to vote to provide that sunshine, which they have thus far been against, it will not happen. The IRS 990 tax return is not the same as financial statements, but it is all you can find. It discloses no useful details.

I know this was a long missive. Thank you for reading to the end. It is a reflection of my passion around these issues. Once again, I urge you to review the full text of these documents (posted on the front page of the Atlantic division web site. (www.atldiv.org) . I am available to answer your questions and invite your opinions and insights. I regard myself as your representative, elected to do your will. After the next meeting I may not be. Please provide me with your feedback before the January meeting so that I may properly and fully represent you.

As always, 73 and I will see you on the radio.

Bob Famiglio, K3RF
ARRL Atlantic Division director
610-359-7300

ARRL Atlantic Division
Director: Robert B Famiglio, K3RF
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The following email reprinted from the December, ICARC Newsletter.

Email From the ARRL 12/12/2023

SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB035
ARLB035 Bandwidth Limits Replace Symbol Rates on the HF Bands, Other
Bands Open for Comment

ZCZC AG35
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 35 ARLB035
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT December 11, 2023
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB035
ARLB035 Bandwidth Limits Replace Symbol Rates on the HF Bands, Other
Bands Open for Comment

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published new rules adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

Please see
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/07/2023-26770/amateur-radio-service-rules-to-permit-greater-flexibility-in-data-communications>
for further details.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those

authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because "without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes."

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the Federal Register.
NNNN

If you want to read more on the subject, go to the following link, It is a good read:

https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/headlines/fcc-replaces-amateur-radio-symbol-rate-limits?utm_term=76C930CC-27B5-4FCD-8928-D29FAD70CCBE&lrh=e7cf0d6b58661256b29e87e29b9e47f9840fd070410a9512ebf54bfb5032d0f1&utm_campaign=0028F35E-226C-4B60-AC88-AB2831C8A639&utm_medium=email&utm_content=FADE96AF-327F-4029-A4E1-3E624E75B81D&utm_source=SmartBrief

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@gmail.com by the middle of each month. Preferred document format is **.pdf**. All submissions are subject to approval for publication by the editor.