



ICARC NEWSLETTER

May 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:

Fox Hunt, Saturday May 11, 2024

A couple of ICARC folks (Cass Fitzgerald and Craig Bigler) arrived before 0700 and started to cook breakfast, which was delicious. After breakfast, Craig hiked up the trail to set the Fox.

Scouts and leaders from two troops started to show up shortly before 0900. A total of seven in the scout groups along with several other ICARC members participated in the event starting around 0930.

A brief demonstration was given concerning the use of the antennas and the radios by setting out a weak signal radio source and letting the scouts listen and observe the directionality characteristics of the antennas being used. There was a brief back story concerning the general area of interest in the search for the device (Fox). The Scouts were instructed to return to the starting point by noon for lunch, whether or not they had located the Fox. The weather held up very nicely and all participants found the Fox before Noon!

Turned out to be great fun with a more than normal amount of exercise from walking and we all enjoyed ourselves with very good results for everyone (one group of 4 and one group of 3 and 3 separate individuals)

Many thanks and kudos to John Kalicicki, who cooked our delicious lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers/cheeseburgers, and bratwurst which was served and devoured with great vigor and delight, as predicted. Also, thanks to Craig Bigler, for preparing a great breakfast! He too is a good cook. Also, a special thanks to Mrs. Bigler for the divine cupcakes she baked for desert.

We should also give special thanks to those who helped make this event possible by participating in the previous two antenna test sessions at Blue Spruce park and providing the necessary radios and antennas that made it all possible.

It really could not have been much better. This event has paved the way to rejuvenating the historical, collaborative relationship between ICARC and the local Boy Scouts that was interrupted by the pandemic. This is a good restart.

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

HAMVENTION:

Xenia, Ohio: Organizers of the largest amateur radio convention/hamfest in the world have indicated that this year's Hamvention was a record-setter. A total of 35,877 people attended Hamvention from May 17-19, setting a new record, according to Hamvention General Chairman Jim Storms.

It should be pointed out that our own Ian Bigler was invited to attend the Hamvention by the ARRL Foundation as part of a recognition event for those recipients of an ARRL Foundation Scholarship the previous year. Kudos! To Ian for all of his hard work. A few photos of Hamvention are shown below taken on Friday when it rained. (A cardinal rule of Hamvention weekend is that it must always rain!)



It is the largest flee-market that you will ever see!

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: ICARC meeting are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month: *June 4, July 2, August 6, 2024 at the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there. **The meeting on June 4 is very important. Field day will be discussed and decisions made. Also, other important issues related to the Rhine Rd. Site will be explored.**

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

OTHER HAM RADIO NEWS OF INTEREST:

As you may know from experience in your DX communications attempts, the Sun has recently been putting out some serious flares so for an excellent explanation of what is going on with space weather, visit Dr. Tamitha Skov's Space Weather Woman YouTube page.

Here is her video from May 28th:

<https://youtu.be/O2Y9QGLMvsc?si=eqryTsGfn03LMthw>

She also recaps the previous solar storm/aurora and it's effects on ham radio communication, GPS, Space X satellites and farmers. Very interesting video. Watching her Geochron screen showing ham propagation during the previous storm really showed the effect to ham communications

As you all probably know by now, the final version, reinstating the ham radio exemptions, to SB 37, Distracted Driving Bill, passed the PA Senate on 05/08/2024 and the vote count was 126 yea, 74 nay. We all are, undoubtedly pleased to know that there is a majority of, sensible politicians in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who see the value of having trained and experienced amateur radio operators who are allowed to practice their skills continuously; not just in a major emergency situation as the need arises. All of you who participated in bringing the previously proposed ignorance and mindlessness to an end by contacting your representatives and making your voices heard in unison, in very civil tones, are to be congratulated upon your, most positive, impact. It certainly would not have happened without your vigorous input!

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.