Email: w3bmd@qsl.net
Website: www.qsl.net/w3bmd
Emergency Simplex: 147.570 MHz

Facebook: Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
REPEATERS: 146.910- PL: 131.8
444.975+ PL: 131.8/DMR CC1 TS2
TG 313037(Local), also TG 3142, 31422

ICARC NEWSLETTER

Sept 25, 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:

September 21 2024: County wide Fox Hunt
The fox was located near the North shore boat launch and five people located the fox. There were ten people involved 6 of which searched for the fox. Kudos to Bill Robinson KC3ZAF for being the first to find the fox location. Other participants were Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO, Elmer Sorisio,KB3WG Beverly Sorisio, David Sorisio, Bill Menk, W3LAB, Stephen Lowther, KC3TUU, Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ, EJ Park, Larry Freeman, N3LT. Many thanks to Phil for taking the lead and organizing this event and thanks to Beverly for bringing a nice healthy container of mixed fruit. Of course there was standard picnic food like hot dogs, brats, polish sausage, and hamburgers cooked by Larry, N3LT. There was also a very tasty hunter's stew brought by Phil and he assured us that it was delicious because his wife prepared it. All in all it was a very good time, especially since the rain held off until it was all packed up. Check out the photos below, most of which were provided by Cass Fitzgerald.

Stephen showing the map he used   **A view of the pavilion**

**Group Photo of most participants
KC3TUU, KC3ZAF, KB3WG, W3LAB
David S., K3PJ, N3LT**

The Fox Ammo Box

Phil & Larry fixing the grill

Cass taking down the Fox Antenna

**Stephen posing with his fox
antenna, much of which
was 3d printed.**

Cass taking the group photo

**Stephen, Bill R and Bill M.
admiring the fox antenna**

**Stephen, Elmer & Bill M.
enjoying the food**

Another vies of the antenna

Congratulations go to our own, Mr. Ian Bigler (KC3DTE) who was awarded an ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications) scolarship for the current academic year. This is part of the ARRL Foundation Scholarship program. Ian just started his second year at Penn State University focusing on Nuclear Engineering. He has been a longtime member of ICARC dating back to his preschool years and is currently the ICARC Webmaster. We are all very proud of what he has accomplished. Ian has always been very active in ICARC and much credit must go to his parents, Craig, and Sandy Bigler who raised him from an early age as an intimate part of our amateur radio community. (Photo Courtesy of ARRL QST, Sept. 2024 p. 88)

Ian Bigler,
KC3DTE
The Amateur
Radio Digital
Communications
(ARDC)

Very Sad News another Silent Key: Henry A. Hobart (N3LVF)
Henry was a longtime member of ICARC and a good friend to all of us who knew him. He will be missed.
Henry is survived by his wife of 37 years, Emma M. Hobart, his four children and his extended family.
Friends will be received on Saturday October 5, 2024 from 1:00 pm until the Memorial Service at 4PM at
Bowser Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., Homer City, PA

From the obituary: "Please consider making a donation to raise much needed funds to support the family at
this difficult time. No donation is too small and your support would be greatly appreciated. Visit
bowserfh.com to sign the online guestbook, make a donation or (to get) directions to the funeral home."
(The full obituary may be seen on line at the bowserfh.com website.)

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 affliated 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 October 1, 2024
at the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

Other Announcements of potential interest: (Reprinted from August newsletter)
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 or John
Geiser, AB3OV via 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 10:00 AM, ICARC will hold a VE Test session 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 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 Examanees will need to provide a valid photo id issued by a state or government agency such as your state
drivers license.

Some Hamfest Information courtesty 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

OTHER HAM RADIO NEWS:

From the: ARRL Member Bulletin (August 21, 2024) **Reprinted from the August Newsletter**

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.

<center>ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio</center>

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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@arrl.net or 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