



December, 2023

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

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Very sad news: Dennis (Denny) J. Clark (KB3HZM) former longtime member of ICARC, passed away Friday, December 15 at his home in Blairsville, PA after a long illness. Dennis was very active with ICARC for many years until he became disabled. Although he is now a Silent Key he will long be remembered by those of us who knew him as a kind and generous gentleman. The family requests that memorial donations be made to any equitable Veterans support organization.

Annual Report from the President of the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Everyone,

I must say 2023 has been a tough year for me-both professionally and personally. Amateur radio has not been free from these challenges. Coming to a head at the Tuesday, December 5, 2023. For those club members who were not in attendance, the annual meeting saw the resignation and walk out of the sitting president of the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club along with the Treasurer and few other ICARC members. I was there and it was something of a shock. Not just that it happened but in the manner it happened. I experienced the event as surreal.

With the resignation of major officers I, as the acting President, felt compelled to continue the meeting. As I sat there in shock I realized that it was only a few who walked out with many more people left behind. We had a secretary, several board members and myself, the vice president of the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club. Therefore, I then made sure that each of the remaining members had a chance to speak. To those of you present at the time I now apologize because I do not remember your names. In your words you made it clear you wanted ICARC to continue. By a roll call vote you made it clear that you wanted ICARC to continue. Let me make this clear, By name and call sign each member present chose one of three options. To Continue, To Abstain from voting, or To Dissolve the club.

With Just two Abstaining from the vote we had 15 members choosing to continue and push forward with ICARC. In other words **ICARC will continue!**

As has happened before, our fellow members have stepped into positions which they did not seek. We have a new President and Vice President. We have many new board members. We have plans for events in 2024. The holiday dinner will happen and so will Winter Field Day. Other events to look forward to in 2024 are ARRL Field Day and the Jimmy Stewart Airport Festival and more to be determined.

Since I am now the out-going president I would like to thank Jeffrey Tobin for his service to the club and Gary Miller for his tenure with ICARC. With that said I would like to welcome longtime member Craig Bigler who will serve as President, and new member Dylon Curtis who will serve as vice president.

No, I have not resigned my membership in ICARC my dues are paid till the end of the year and will renew. It is true I had to withdraw from the running for office and plan to turn over the trusteeship to another member when able too.

So until I see you all in 2024

Newsletter Editor's note:

I was at the meeting mentioned above and the walkout event was, obviously, a pre-planned, choreographed event that exhibited high **drama** and **theater**. It was interesting but mostly it was just unprofessional. I guess it's to be expected since we are, after all, just "Amateurs" right? This action seems to reinforce that notion! Just one person's opinion.

The new ICARC repeater trustee is Mr. Elmer Sorisio (KB3WG), former ICARC member and now a renewed member. The webmaster is now Mr. Ian Bigler (KC3DTE)

Unfortunately, the "bombshell" email sent out, shortly after the walk out event, by the former president contained three significant errors in that he named three other individuals who he indicated had resigned from the ICARC but in fact, had not done so.

As you all likely know by now, on or about December 8, 2023 the W3BMD website appears to have been vandalized by the unauthorized act of deactivation. According to the service provider (QSL.NET) webmaster email, a request for deactivation of the W3BMD website was apparently made by someone using the address icarc73@gmail.com. The QSL.NET webmaster responded to the same email address with a confirmation email that the site had been deactivated. The W3BMD website is a copyrighted site so this is a fairly significant happening. In any case by Sunday, December 10, the site was back on line thanks to the quick actions of Craig Bigler, and Chris Edwards. The site is now again under the control of ICARC with new credentials and a new email address. We prefer to think that this infringement was accidental but be assured, that if any future act of intentional vandalism occurs there will be consequences for the instigator(s).

For the record, it is a point of fact that, no government, state, local, or federal agency is issued an Individual amateur radio licensed call sign by the FCC. The agency may own the hardware but the license/call sign is assigned to an individual. Another point of fact is that the ARRL recognizes and sanctions all emergency and public service activity by individual hams and club organizations; not just those affiliated with the ARES training group. The ARRL encourages individual hams to join ARES and/or RACES. There are no ARRL sanctioned repeater groups or clubs other than, possibly, W1AW. There are ARRL affiliated clubs and ICARC is one of those. It is suggested that ICARC members and others read page 5, particularly the last paragraph of the ARRL Public Service Communications Manual <https://www.pwcares.org/doc/pscm.pdf>. It will also be helpful to take a look at the flow chart on page 6 of the manual.

There is a new radio club operating on the WB3CGY repeater at 146.745/146.145 Mhz. We wish them well and hope to have cordial and cooperative interactions in support of our community in all ways possible.

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 on January 2, 2024 at Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 7:00 PM Hope to see you there.

Reminder: ICARC Holiday Season Dinner at Hoss' Restaurant in Indiana, PA on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Reminder: ICARC Winter Field day on the last weekend in January: January 27-28, 2024. Will be discussed at the January 2 meeting.

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

The Shack at the Rhine Rd site is now fully covered with steel siding. There is still some trim work and painting to be done in the Spring or as weather allows over the Winter. See the photo of one side below:



OTHER INTERESTING HAM RADIO NEWS

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=e7ef0d6b58661256b29e87e29b9e47f9840fd070410a9512cbf54bf5032d0f1&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.