

August 17, 2016



## ICARC NEWSLETTER

(slightly abbreviated)

### Officers for 2016:

President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB  
Vice President - Ernest Clark KC3FVX  
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD  
Secretary - VACANT

### Additional Board Members for 2016:

1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Craig Bigler AB3XA
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman N3LT

### Local Happenings:

Since the last Newsletter, there have been three more Crucible Walk tests: August 6, August 9 and August 14.

On August 6, more thorough testing of 75/80 m mobile and fixed vertical antennas were tested with great success. 10 m FM failed to work well so 6 m FM was not tested. 10 m SSB had been tested previously with weak results. This test was also between the Alpha and Charlie sites, as were the previous tests. Also Terry Carnahan and Joe Rankin tested 2m operations from the actual trail at the Bravo site and Joe went mobile to test the ability to access other repeaters. This was very enlightening in that it seems that several repeaters can be accessed.

On August 9, Dave Steiner's truck was loaded with Doug Fitzsimmons, and Joe Rankin and they took to the road to checkout each rest site for the walkers. Unfortunately, the gates were closed on several access roads but they were able to locate all the sites and do a more thorough test on various 2 meter repeaters.

On August 14, the test was essentially a repeat of August 9 except that all operators were present along with Mr. Dan Blevins who is one of the walk officials. This trip verified that the use of repeaters is likely to be possible through most of the walk. With the creative use of cross-band repeating it may be possible at all sites. The only short fall, again, was that the Rangers, failed to open the gates on the access roads. In any case we all got a taste of what we are facing and that was valuable experience. The ICARC participants were: Terry Carnahan, Craig Bigler, Dave Steiner, Ian Bigler, Doug Fitzsimmons, Cass Fitzgerald, Dave Dzelsky, Joe Rankin, Earnie Clark, Denny Clark and Larry Freeman. It was about a 13 hour day for the participants. (A little longer for some of us who "lost our way" going home!)

On August 16, both the repeater committee and the Crucible Walk Operators met at Doug Fitzsimmon's home to discuss and establish a few priorities for the repeater maintenance and to work out the details and assignments for the walk. Meetings started at 6:00 pm and both were done by about 8:30 pm. Pizza and drinks were provided by the hosts. Greatly appreciated! By the way, we now all think we know what we are doing. There will be five vehicles and one will be a roamer to take a "walk official" from site to site. Five sites will be covered on days one and two, one for each vehicle with the roamer doing all five sites. The third day will see four sites covered with two vehicles at site India which is not reliably repeater accessible due to the low altitude and high surrounding terrain. One vehicle will go low and the second will be at the top either relaying or cross-band repeating from the vehicle at the bottom where the rest area happens to be. 75/80 m coms will be available at this site also. All in all it seems to me that the roamer has the hardest and most challenging job. Sure hope it doesn't rain at the tail end sites! Its clear that September 9, 10, and 11 are going to be long days for the roamer station.



The photo from the first test in the series (Courtesy of Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD) shows the typical setup for the NVIS (white pole) and the 2m antenna at site alpha. Doug is sitting at the table and the radios are provided by Terry C.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 ICARC meets in the back room of Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant. The board meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the general meeting begins at 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

There is a scheduled Licensing Exam session for October, 2016. For more information contact Mr. Bill McMillen, N3QM (724) 397-2702

Email: [wkmcmillen@gmail.com](mailto:wkmcmillen@gmail.com)

NEW DEVELOPMENT!! There will NOT be an Amateur radio license upgrade class this Fall. It turns out that we cannot get the necessary space in the required time slots at the EOC. The class will be postponed until the spring of next year.

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#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

Read about the August 2 meeting of ICARC in the meeting summary/minutes at the end of this document.

(If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let Larry Freeman, N3n 1972LT, know by email at: [wd4hoz@gmail.com](mailto:wd4hoz@gmail.com) or [wlf@auxmail.iup.edu](mailto:wlf@auxmail.iup.edu)) The only caveats are: The editor reserves the right to alter the format for publication purposes. The content may also be modified contingent upon accuracy and appropriateness of the contained material. The latter would, of course, be subject to the approval of the original author.

## Summary of August 2, 2016 ICARC Meeting

### Attendees:

Attendees:	Adeline (Addy) Carpentieri	Jodi Bartlebaugh
Doug Fitzsimmons-K3LAB, President	Ian Bigler-KC3DTE	Jerry Kiehl-WB3DUD
Craig Bigler-AB3XA	Alton Strong-N3PHL	Phil Kopezyk-K3PJ
Dave Steiner-W3GDH	Fred Maize-KM3M	Walter Schroth-KC3FVU
Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer	Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ	Keith Rearick-KC3FVZ ?
Ernest Clark-KC3FVX, Vice President	Roger Bartlebaugh-N3ULC	Larry Freeman-N3LT
Joe Rankin-KC3CDG		
Joe Carpentieri-KA2BRH		

The business meeting started at about 7:00 pm. It was primarily used to complete QSL cards for the Airport Festival contacts. Much thanks to Fred Maize and Doug Fitzsimmons for getting everything ready.

The regular meeting was started by Doug Fitzsimmons at 7:30 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited by all. A verbal roll call (call sign and first name) was taken for those present.

Terry provided the financial report and it was voted upon and accepted by the members with the one exception of the club contrarian.

Dave Steiner reported that we did not meet the threshold amount for the Hoss' restaurant fundraising dinner. He also indicated that there were 10 check-ins for the ARES Monday night net on Aug. 1.

Doug indicated that Joe Rankin has stepped up and taken the Repeater Trustee position. Doug expressed our appreciation to Joe. He also indicated that a Repeater Committee has been appointed with members: Joe Rankin, Doug Fitzsimmons, Craig Bigler, Terry Carnahan, Dave Steiner, and Larry Freeman

Thursday, August 4, is designated as a repeater site workday. There were several volunteers: Dave Steiner volunteered to bring his tractor to do the major mowing, Craig Bigler to bring a small push mower to trim, and Larry Freeman to do some fine trimming around the building.

Doug pointed out that the ARRL equipment insurance does cover lightning strike damage. It costs about \$1.40 per \$100 equipment value. There was a motion by Joe R. to buy the insurance. It was seconded and approved.

There will be a Licensing course in October and it will be an upgrade course for the General class license. A committee was formed with members: Doug F., Ernie C., Phil K., Craig B., and Larry F. Meeting time to be determined.

There was some discussion of the next Crucible walk test on Aug. 6 to refine some mobile and base issues on 75/80 m, 10 and 6m. There is a tentative sched with one of the organizers of the walk, Mr. Dan Blevins, to meet with the operators on Aug. 14, 2016 for the final test sequence and to familiarize the operators with the full course including access roads etc.

Keith Rearick reported on a very interesting fly-in event hosted by the Collins Foundation to occur at the Jimmy Stewart Airport on August 17 (2:00-5:00 pm), 18 (9:00 am-5:00pm), and 19 (9:00 am -12:00 noon) Four restored (not replicas) bomber and fighter aircraft of WWII will be visiting the airport. It is part of the "Wings of Freedom" tour. It should be very exciting. All are encouraged to attend.

Doug F. Adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm