

June 30, 2016



ICARC NEWSLETTER

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:

Very sad news : Mr. David E. “Rusty” O'Donnell-WB3EUQ passed away on June 5, 2016 in Maryland. Over the years, Rusty contributed to ICARC in many different ways. Very significant to ICARC was the fact that Rusty was heavily involved with Emergency Services and eventually became a liason between ICARC and EMA. This of course contributed to the relationship that we have with EMA today. Of personal significant to the author was the fact that Rusty was the first non-university person that welcomed our family to Indiana in 1984 via ham radio. It was a casual mobile contact on 2m while Gloria and I were coming into town for the first time starting to look for housing in June of 1984. We met at the Indiana Mall and chatted for a long time and Rusty eased Gloria's concerns about the community because as we were getting into town along Wayne Avenue, she saw Kovalchick's “junk” yard and it really shocked her to the point of raising some doubts about the move to Indiana. After having a hearty chuckle Rusty assured her that there were many other very nice aspects to life in Indiana other than Kovalchicks.

The following quote from his obituary says it all: “As Rusty knows no strangers or enemies, you already know he was a strong man who exuded kindness and found great joy in helping anyone in need. From a stranger with a flat tire, to a friend in need of a full thanksgiving dinner for her family (anonymously given), Rusty was there without question or expectation of a return favor.”

This was always my experience with Rusty throughout the years that I was fortunate enough to know him. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Other Stuff:

Field Day (June 25-26) went very well this year with 545 reported contacts, a GOTA station and NO RAIN. Setup was relatively uneventful and went very smoothly. Many thanks goes to the folks who helped setup and take down antennas and equipment: KA3KFA, KC3CDG, KM3M, KB3WG, KB3JOD, N3PHL, N3DZ, K3LAB, AB3XA, KC3FLO, K3PJ, KC3FVX, WB3DUD, N3LT to mention a few. If I missed anybody please accept my apology. It was hot but you can't have everything. There was a very nice pic-nic with phenomenal food thanks to everyone who prepared the food and brought it to the event. We had fried chicken (Thanks Colonel!), Sloppy Joe's, Mac & Cheese, Beans, Salads, to mention a few items, along with many desserts including pies, cakes, brownie's, water-melon etc. Wow! What a spread. Special thanks goes to the County Emergency Services for providing the antenna trailer along with the Generator/Light trailer. We thank Dave Steiner (KA3KFA) for bringing the Horse trailer to use as a station site and, particularly, for cleaning it before bringing it! I am sure that Paul Morris, K3VAR, is very happy with you. Very Special Thanks to Mr. Ed Patterson and the staff of Blue Spruce Park for letting us use the park again this year.

Enough cannot be said about the operations. Nearly everyone who operated contributed contacts to the total but Dave Dzelsky, N3DZ and Paul Morris, K3VAR were exceptional in their performance, accounting for close to 300 of the 545 contacts. As a reference, the author made about 16 total contacts so the other operators made some rather significant contributions to the total. All in all it was a very productive field-day for ICARC thanks to you folks who operated so diligently.

On June 30 “proof of concept” testing started for the Crucible walk with mixed results. HF worked great on 80 m using an NVIS antenna while 2m simplex failed as did 40 m due to excessive band noise. However, from our locations at two consecutive trail heads with straight line separation of about 8.4 miles located near Seward, PA we were able to get into ICARC's 146. 91/31 repeater full quieting. There is no guarantee that we could do that from other locations. Nor did we test hand-held radio's. Further testing will be carried out along other segments of the trail on a later date.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, July 5, 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 ICARC dinner at Hoss' restaurant in Indiana on Saturday, July 9, starting at 6:00 PM. Try to be there, it is the first social event of the season. Also, ICARC can make a little money if you happen to show up.

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

Email: wkmcmillen@gmail.com

Possible upgrade class sometimes this year, so stay tuned....

OTHER INFORMATION

Read about the June 7 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 or 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.

ICARC Meeting June 7, 2016

Attendance:

KB3JOD Terry Carnahan, KC3FVX Ernest Clark, DB3HZM Dennis Clark, WB3DUD Jerry Kiehl, N3PIE Carl Hvozda, KA3KFA Dave Steiner, KC3FLO Cass Fitzgerald, K3PJ Phil Kopczyk, N3DZ Dave Dzelsky, N3PHL Alton Strong, KM3M Fred Maize, K3LAB Doug Fitzsimmons.

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Pledge of allegiance was said and roll call was taken.

Financial Report was given by KB3JOD Terry. N3DZ Dave made a motion to accept the financial report and KB3DUD Jerry seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

KB3JOD Terry encouraged members to log into Serve.PA.gov and register. By registering you are in no way committed to volunteering for anything.

The WPA EMCOMM conference at the UPJ campus on June 18 was also mentioned

KA3KFA Dave gave a summary of the PEMA conference that was held May 14th and 15th.

Repeater Update:

- ♦ the guy wires were tightened which helped in eliminating the intermod that the .91 repeater was experiencing.
- ♦ The Arcom controller is back in service.
- ♦ Another failure did occur (caused by a user trying to use the fusion digital mode). The remote controller radio work well for rebooting the repeater without a visit to the site.
- ♦ A PL tone of 131.8 will be effective on July 1st. Users are encouraged to program their radios accordingly.

Crucible Walk: a meeting with the organizers was setup for June 16th at Eat n Park to further discuss this event.

Airport Festival:

- ♦ Setup is set for Friday June 10th at 4pm.
- ♦ 2 Stations will be used.
- ♦ 3 antennas will be used (G5RV, 40meter End Fed, and a 40m – 20m dipole)
- ♦ Operating times will be from 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.
- ♦ Tear Down and cleanup will commence following the end of transmission on Sunday.

Field Day: Blue Spruce Park

- ♦ We will operate as Class 3A (3 stations with emergency power)
- ♦ A meeting was setup for June 13th at 6pm at Blue Spruce to discuss the antenna setup
- ♦ Porta John needs to be ordered for delivery on Friday June 24th.
- ♦ Setup will be on Friday June 24th at 3pm at Blue Spruce Park.
- ♦ Pot Luck Picnic will be held at 6pm Saturday 25th in Pavilion #4. (electricity is available there)

Rusty: With regrets we announce that Rusty WB3EUQ has joined the Silent Keys. We will gather as a group at the Rairigh-Bence Funeral Home in Indiana at 8pm on Sunday June 12th for visitation.

N3PHL Alton moved to adjourn the meeting and N3DZ seconded the motion.

K3LAB Doug adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm

Denny Clark donated a projector to the club. K3LAB will store it for the club.

A total of \$24 was collected as donations.

Minutes submitted by KB3JOD Terry.