



August 26, 2019

ICARC NEWSLETTER

Officers for 2019:

President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Vice President - Harry Dushac K3FSE
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Secretary - Chris Edwards N3VFK

Additional Board Members for 2019:

1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Craig Bigler AB3XA
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
5. Larry Freeman N3LT

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Next ICARC meeting is on September 3, 2019, at Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

Something to Think about:

Do we want to offer a radio class this year? Think about it.
Do we want to operate the PA QSO party as a club? Think about it.

Another reminder Some local hams may be planning to put up wire antennas this Summer or Fall so we should all be thinking about trying to help out when they are ready to start to work on them. A couple of brief site surveys have already been done and initial plans made. Just remember that some of the most fun in Ham radio is getting antennas into the air so that radios can actually be used. Will likely need several folks to help out with this so keep a few weekends open for it. I'm sure there will be further discussion and planning as time progresses. It's gonna be a barrell of fun!

Read the July meeting minutes of ICARC which appear at the end of this document (Courtesy of Chris Edwards, N3VFK)

Reminder: The new county repeater, WB3CGY, is operational. The frequency pair is 146.745/146.145 and the PL tone is 131.8. The repeater is now operating at high power, with a 1.5 s hang-time and a courtesy tone.

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

INTERESTING HAM RADIO NEWS

First ever transatlantic 2 meter QSO reported:...As reported by Newline, D41CV, the Manteverde Contest Team in the Cape Verde Islands used 500 watts and a half dozen stacked dipole antennas using the FT8 mode to contact FG8OJ in Guadeloupe who was using 100 watts and a 14 element Yagi

antenna. A distance of about 2398 miles was covered and this is longer than the distance between Ireland and Newfoundland.

New Ham Gear for the International Space Station: Kenwood has donated two TM-D710GA transceivers to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program in order to update the equipment on the space station and in the training facilities in Russia. One will replace the aging equipment on the station and one will be used as a backup for crew training on the ground in Russia.

QRZ.com Beefs Up its Security: QRZ is offering its online users enhanced security options. It is now offering registered users the ability to use a "two-factor authentication" (2FA) hoping to make it more difficult for password phishers and fraudulent posters. They are also going to require anyone marketing gear through the Swapmeet forum to enroll in its Verified User program.

Petition Seeks a New Amateur Band at 40 Mhz : Michelle Bradley, KU3N, a Maryland amateur has filed a petition for rulemaking with the FCC, seeking a secondary amateur frequency allocation at 8 meters in the 40-41 Mhz range. Michelle feels that the new spectrum would spark the next generation of 'Makers' in the fields of science, technology, education, and math ..etc... She notes that since there is currently no mass-produced equipment for this band that "makers" will have to make their own gear. **The petition number is RM-11843 and short comments are being accepted via FCC's Express Electronic Comment Filing Service.**

Comment on the previous item from the newsletter author: I support the fundamental idea of the petition and have, in the past, considered such a petition with the following restrictions: (a) no complete commercial equipment can be manufactured for amateur use or modified specifically for this band. This restriction includes the manufacturing of targeted kits. Makers will be allowed to strip mechanical and display components from scrapped commercial equipment to incorporate into their own designs. The internal RF electronics must be designed and fabricated from scratch by the maker or a group of maker friends. (b) RF energy cannot exceed a specified power (to be determined) into the antenna within the allotted bands. "No" RF radiation can be detectable outside the allotted band within a specified distance (to be determined) from the antenna. No RF interference to established electronic devices shall be allowed. "No" RF interference shall be detectable on commercial power lines.

(** The term "No" means: "within reasonable engineering limits". Generally the wording needs to be tweaked a lot and specific definitions created for the purpose.)

I have always liked the idea that there be a special spectrum segment restricted to the use of young and old experimenters with limited licensing requirements where commercial interests can have no influence. I wish that such a band had existed for me to use when I was a teenager because I had nothing, not even a ham radio mentor, available to me. A portion of the original Citizens Band could have been made into that but, unfortunately, commercial as well as power hungry regulating entities made that impossible.

What do other ICARC members think about this? Let the author know.

OTHER INFORMATION

If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let Larry Freeman know by email at: wd4hoz@gmail.com. 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.

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting July 2nd 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Club President Doug Fitzsimmons with the Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call.

Reports: The minutes of the June Meeting were read by Club Secretary Chris Edwards. They were accepted and approved. Club Vice President Harry Dushac read the financial report. It was also accepted and approved.

Monday Net: Doug would like a copy of who checks into the Monday net to keep the roster up to date.

Airshow: We made 233 QSO's. This total is up from the last few years. Last year we had 189. Harry thought next year we should be a little bit closer to the military table instead of near the kid section. We have received approximately 20 QSL's so far. We will give an update next meeting. We also discussed possibly designing a new card this year. Will discuss further next meeting.

Field Day: Club thanked Dave Steiner for the use of his residence for Field Day. Doug mentioned & thanked new members Gary & Mark for taking part this year.

New Business: Gary Miller would like club members to volunteer to operate for extended periods of time if needed in an emergency. We had a new attendee Jim Dyal who is interested in getting licensed for when he goes overseas. We will be having a Technician license class this fall.

End of Business: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting & the meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Attendance: 14

Alton Strong N3PHL
Cassius Fitzgerald N3FLO
Dave Steiner W3CDH
Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
Terry Carnahan KB3JOD (Tres.)
Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB (Pres.)
Harry Dushac K3FSE (VP.)
Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
Chris Edwards N3VFK (Sec.)
Fred Maize KM3M
Mark Strawcutter KC3MLA
Gary Miller KC3NHE
Jim Dyal