



February 29, 2024

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

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

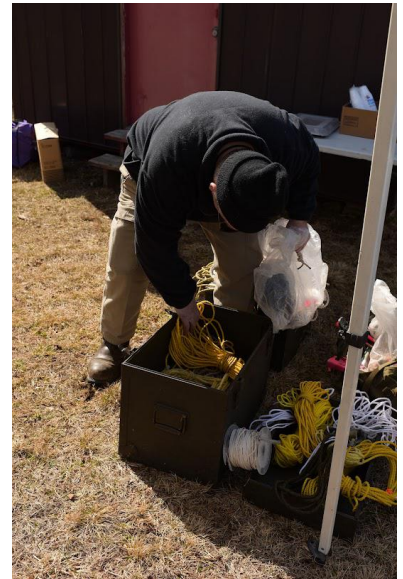
Jerry Kiehl has been awarded The ARRL 50 year membership Certificate of recognition. Jerry was first licensed in 1974 and has been an active ham since then and still the most experienced member in ICARC. He just spent a short stint in the hospital and then a week or so at the Indian Haven rehab facility. Good to have you home Jerry and a hearty congratulations on the recognition, so well deserved. A short story about Jerry's stay at Indian Haven; he got so bored that he started giving piano concerts to the folks there and he was such a hit that they offered motivations to keep him there, like all the ice cream he could eat at birthday parties folks conjured up almost every day. Well Jerry, we all are so happy that their attempt at bribery failed! It truly is good to see you out and about again!



ICARC Antenna Event Saturday, February 24, 2024

The Antenna/radio setup activity on Saturday, was a refreshing event reminiscent of years past when ICARC was very active in outdoor adventures. The goal of the event was to set up at least one hf antenna and one vhf antenna along with one hf station under a portable shelter. It was envisioned, primarily, to test ICARC's ability to field enough folks to erect antenna's without the use of trees or building structures and to setup hf and vhf operational stations. It was expected that five or six folks might show up but there were a maximum of fourteen who showed with twelve being there throughout the actual work time. We identified some strengths and weaknesses of the process and learned how to adapt for the future. For example, it was possible to speed up the process of antenna erection by using at least four folks on each end pole, simultaneously, for erecting the hf dipole antenna (G5RV), which allowed the use of only two guy lines for each of the two end poles; the antenna, itself, being the third guy line for each pole. If there had been only four persons present, a minimum of three guy lines would have been required on each end pole so that each pole could stand independently before pulling the antenna up. The latter would have doubled the time required for erecting one antenna. It should be added that there was no detailed pre-planning of the process or gathering of antenna materials for the event, other than bringing an external hf rig to the site. The goal included finding what resources were available on-site at this time in order to learn whether or not it was even possible for the exercise to succeed. Everything that was needed for the antenna work was on site. After the antennas, shelter and radio were setup and working there was homemade chili and brownies, with lots of chocolate (Thank you Mrs. Bigler!). Also there were hot dogs and chocolate chip cookies and plenty of fluid. We, heartily, give thanks to those folks who contributed time and resources to make this happen. The Photo by Bill Menk, W3LAB (to the right) shows a typical group setting up one of the end poles. There is a similar group of folks at the other end pole out of view of the camera. There was also a group setting up a 2m antenna on a pole. See the following array of photos taken by Cass Fitzgerald to get a sense of the activity at the site.





It truly was a very enjoyable day on the hill!

A Ham Radio Motivated Communications Trailer Build for Emergency Operations

Des Warzel, ND3L

I bought a Homesteader 6' x 12' trailer. My son (N3HCC) and I removed the plywood wall covering, installed foam insulation. The roof had no plywood so we installed foam insulation and covered with luan board. We installed three dual LED ceiling lights and switches at the door. Addition of two windows with screens was supplied by Dave, N3YFO, as well as some antennas and physical labor. There are two lead acid batteries to power most of the electronic and LED lights. The laptop and TV are 110 vac, but there is an inverter to power them if no AC available. There is a 3,500 watt generator to power the trailer. We also have 3 - 120 watt and 1 - 180 watt solar panels (though not hooked up yet).

If deployed for an emergency we have several hand held radios for both licensed and non-licensed personnel. The TV can be used to monitor local stations within range. As well as computer can give internet access for emergencies as well as for things such as POTA, SOTA, JOTA etc. In addition the trailer is equipped with a GMRS portable 35 watt repeater. Trailer is also equipped with a cell phone range extender (booster) that doubles both transmit and receive. Plans under way to add a wi-fi hotspot. Trailer has 6000 BTU air conditioner. We are still looking at options for heat. Also putting together a manual with all the equipment operating manuals, emergency frequencies etc. Trailer is still a work in progress and we are always looking for suggestions for improvement.

Following is a list of installed equipment:

AL-811B amplifier

DX-70 (10 or 100 watts) thru a MFJ 949 tuner to Diamond ant.

FT-450D thru AL-811B (800) watts thru a MFJ 989 3 KW tuner to a Eagle One multiband antenna.

MD-9600 DMR radio.

ICOM 2820H Dual band 2m / 70cm radio.

ICOM IC F420-10 GMRS radio

6 RETEVIS H777 FRS radios w/chargers

GMRS repeater aftermarket (Motorola radios) 35 watts after duplexer.

Baofang tri-band 5 watt radio.

2 FT-50R dual band handi-talkies

TYT DMR and Analog MD-UV380

Radio Shack PRO 25 Scanner

Lenovo computer with wireless mouse and keyboard.

32" flat screen TV with antenna

1 Sure Call cell phone range extender.

2 meter G.P. antenna

2 meter/440 G.P. antenna

½ wave GMRS antenna

5/2 wave GMRS Ground Plane antenna

HTRC 23 amp smart charger

2 12V lead acid batteries

1 HY-939-146 trickle charger

1 Everstart 400 watt inverter

Whirlpool 6000 BTU air conditioner.

Dorm size refrigerator.



1100 watt microwave.
Keurig coffee pot.
Toolbox with assorted tools.
Toolbox with assorted antenna hardware.
Assorted lengths coax cable, plus 500' roll RG8X cable.
500' roll #12 gauge stranded wire.



(All photos in this article were provided by Des Warzel and have been scaled to allow for publication.)

The above two photos show the GMRS repeater on the left and, on the right, the box (sitting atop of a small freezer) containing it and the duplexers, controller, and power supply. Repeater Specs: 50 watts before duplexers and 35 watts after duplexers Frequency 462.650 + (5Mhz) PL 123.0
Temporary GMRS repeater location: 2 Mi West of Revloc on Hwy 422.

Post Script by the editor: In addition to this great article one should go to Des' QRZ listing and read about him. It is a very interesting read and will give you serious insight into his dedication to ham radio and emergency services. As you will see, he is a very active and a highly accomplished Amateur Radio Operator.

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 scheduled for March 5, 2024 at the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM Hope to see you there.

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

Other Event Reminders:

TWO RIVERS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AMATEUR RADIO/COMPUTER SHOW

SUNDAY APRIL 7th, 2023-8am to noon. Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall – 101 South 1st Ave- Elizabeth, PA (located off PA Rt 51 in the city of Elizabeth) Directions and Mobile Check-in: 147.12 (PL 131.8) Contact information: JohnMoskala K3CRO: 412 951 1332 or Bill Powers KB3WP: 412 260 5699. or EMAIL: hamfestchairman@trarc.net

Delmarva Hamfest in Georgetown, Delaware, APRIL 20, 2024. Tailgating is open for business at 7:30. There will be golf cart transportation from the parking lot to the front door and back to the parking lot. The on-site cafe will be open. To register for free VE testing, email: herbquick55@gmail.com.

For Information Contact Jamie, W3UC (410) 202-7690 or email: hamfestdelaware@gmail.com
HAMFEST LOCATION: Cheer Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Rd., Georgetown, DE 19947
Talk-in on SARA Repeater: 147.090 Mhz (PL: 156.7)

OTHER INTERESTING HAM RADIO NEWS

From Des Warzel:

Amateur radio operators have the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of the launch of the USS Midway. On March 9, 2024, from 1700Z - 2359Z, the ship's radio station will operate as NI6IW on 7.250, 14.320, and 14.070 MHz, as well as on PSK31, D-STAR, and the [PAPA](#) repeater system. The USS Midway is located in San Diego, California, at the USS Midway Museum. It was launched on March 20, 1945, and decommissioned on April 11, 1992. Commissioned 8 days after the end of World War II, Midway was the largest warship in the world until 1955. A QSL card is available for the special event by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope with your QSL card to USS Midway CV-41 COMEDTRA, 910 N Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. A complete history of the ship can be found at [USS Midway: A Navy Battle 'Aircraft Carrier' with An Armored Flight Deck | The National Interest](#)

From the January i2024 ssue of QST magazine for those non subscribers:

Those of you who are looking to upgrade your Amateur Radio license to Extra Class may already know that the question pool for Element 4 (Extra Class) amateur examinations has been revised and will be used starting July 1, 2024. As a result of the revisions, 100 question were eliminated from the previous pool while 83 new questions were created, thus reducing the total number from 622 to 605. Approximately 350 questions were modified.

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.