



ICARC NEWSLETTER

April 30 2025

Thanks go to the ARRL
Foundation
for it's support of ICARC's
future tower and repeater
upgrades at it's remote site

Officers for 2025:

President – Craig Bigler, AB3XA
Vice President - Cass Fitzgerald-N3FLO
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Larry Freeman, N3LT

Additional Board Members for 2024

1. Bill Robinson-KC3ZAF
2. Stuart Younkin-WB3FBL
3. Phil Kopczyk -K3PJ
4. Robert Zugates-KB3JOF
5. Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman-N3LT

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Congratulations to Mr. Joe Rougeux on passing the Technician class examination at the April 19 testing session sponsored by the ARRL ICARC and the Indiana County Emergency Management Agency at their site. Joe, we offer you our hearty welcome into ICARC!!

The Last Saturday Event was another successful event that was interesting a great teaching event for several members of ICARC. A total of 9 people showed up and at least 5 of those did some soldering and six of us did some eating.

Many thanks to those who organized, provided equipment, and time for everything necessary to make this event work for us. Also, as at all ICARC events, there was food; hot dogs grilled over an open flame. They were great! A few random photos of the event follows.





As you can see in the final photo on this page below, ICARC got some nice cables out of this exercise.: one- 125 ft, three- 50 footers and two- 3 ft jumpers. These will be much easier to wrangle around than the large, bulky cables of the past.



The Photos below are from a project by ICARC member Walt Ligas, WA3BDR, which shows a DIY “drive-on” support for a vertical pole for antenna mounting made from scrap pieces of treated 2x8 lumber left over from a deck project. This thing is very rugged and is glued and screwed together; made to be driven upon. This is a great portable mount ideal for POTA and other outdoor operations where antenna supports are not readily available. Of course you could buy one but you'll pay an “arm and a leg” but I bet it won't be as heavy duty as this one. This will, also, be great way to create an extra “tree” to hang one end of a wire antenna upon. Thanks for the photos Walt. This can be a handy accessory for movable and fixed field operations.



Announcements:

The fifth formal meeting of the ICARC Grant Committee is scheduled for Tue, April 29, 2025. The fourth formal meeting of the ICARC Grant Committee happened on 04/22/2025. There were also two grant subcommittee meetings (03/01/2025, and 03/18/2025). Several major decisions have been made and some equipment has been ordered so things are starting to accelerate. There are still issues with the tower including the current tower removal.

If you are new at this and contemplating getting your ham radio license, check out the following web site <https://hamstudy.org/extra2024>

Reminder: If you haven't renewed your membership to ICARC for 2025 do it now! See the final page of this document for a renewal/application form. This form can also be found online at: <http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd>

Reminder: The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on each Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.91/146.31 Mhz. (ICARC is an ARRL affiliated club). In recent weeks it has also been repeated at approximately 8:45 PM on the new N3FLO repeater on 146.655/.055, tone of 131.8 Hz. Check it out. After the net a few operators hang around and carry on for a while on whatever topic of interest is brought up.

Reminder: The ICARC meetings are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month; next meeting is Tue, May 6, 2025, located at the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there. Also, in the same room, there is usually an informal breakfast each Saturday morning starting around 08:30 am. Come and join in the camaraderie, it's great fun.

Current Net Control Operators: Phil Kopczyk, Chris Edwards, Stuart Younkin, and Bill Robinson. We thank you fellows very much. We can always use more.

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading? Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Below are websites where you can look into testing online.

<https://wm7x.net/> One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.

<https://kl7aa.org/vec/remote-testing/>

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/remote> Lists remote and in person test sessions.

From the ARRL Members Only Bulletin:

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

Legislation Will Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities. Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

“Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death,” Senator Wicker said. “The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires.”

“When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn't be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies,” said Senator Blumenthal.

“Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times. My district is home to dozens of amateur radio operators ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency, and I am proud to lead this legislation,” said Congressman August Pfluger.

“As we know from recent natural disasters, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities' best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we've taken a strong step in that direction,” said Congressman Courtney.

Background:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station

antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban Amateur Radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases.

On behalf of America's Amateur Radio licensees, Rick Roderick, the President of The American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL's full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

The text of the House version can be found at this link: https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Advocacy/HR1094_House_Private_Land_Use_Bill.pdf?_zs=ab8xl&_zl=9xIE3

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ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio

Other Announcements of potential interest:

From the ARRL WEB Site: Grants to Amateur Radio Organizations: The ARRL Foundation grants program awards limited funding to organizations for eligible amateur radio related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting Amateur Radio activities. Youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical model three times a year.

2025 Grant proposals are accepted from:

- February 1 - February 28
- June 1 - June 30
- October 1 - October 31 _____

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@arrl.net or wd4hoz@gmail.com by the middle of each month. Preferred document format is ".doc", for editing purposes. **All submissions are subject to the approval of the editor.**

Summary Minutes of the March 4, 2025 ICARC Meeting

Attendance: AB3XA, K3FSE, N3LT, N3FLO, KA2YOS, K3PJ, N3ARA, KC3ZAF, KB3WG, W3CDH, KC3FVU, N3UDI, KC3FCF, E.J. Park (**discovered an error in attendance list . It is corrected in this document.**)

The President (Craig Bigler) called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours local time
The President led the group with the pledge of allegiance, and then the roll call was taken as usual.

Treasurer's Report: None provided due to illness of treasurer.

Secretary's Report: Secretary read the minutes from the February 4 meeting. No suggested changes. A motion was made to accept the report, Harry seconded . Voted and carried unanimously.

Trustee's Report: Trustee reported cleaning the 0.91 filter cans and how it improved the repeater function considerably. There were some questions and comments about the process.

Old Business:

A motion to donate money to QSL.NET was made. It was seconded. No discussion. It was voted upon and passed unanimously.

It was pointed out that Blue Spruce Lodge would cost more next year. A motion was made to rent it for Winter Field Day next year. It was seconded . No discussion . Voted and passed unanimously.

A report was provided on the progress made at the Grant Committee meeting on February, 25, 2025. There was some discussion of a few details. There was a report on the grant committee structure. Also, the Challenger program was mentioned as a possible outreach opportunity for the Fall of this year. A description of the progress on the construction underway for the program was also given.

New Business:

The possibility of a Fox hunt was brought up involving Troops 29, and 11. There was a description of what the club had done in the past. Michael Cidor, Laurel Highlands Council, District Director of the Boy Scouts of America was present and mentioned another possibility for Jamboree on the air Oct 17-19.

It was noted that there is a scheduled exam session for April 19, 2025, 10:00 am at the Emergency Management Agency.

Dave Steiner donated a fire resistant cabinet for ICARC records. He also picked it up and delivered it to the Rhine Rd. site.

The fact was mentioned that the club needs more coax like RG8x.

The testing of the Ghost Town trail for reliable communications was brought up as a "last Saturday" event also suggested as part of the Educational component of the ARRL Grant. The possible methodology was discussed. It was suggested that using stations at road crossings associated with the GT trail was appropriate.

It was decided that the Rhine Rd site entrance be readied for the tower removal. Sat., March 8, 2025 was the designated day; no later than 10:30 am. There were 6 volunteers for this.

The hat was passed and money was collected which goes into the maintenance fund.

The President adjourned the meeting at 19:21

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club

Membership Application

CURRENT DATE (M/D/Y): / / Membership Status(I,A,S,F): New _____ Ongoing _____

Individual Membership (I) — \$35.00 Associate/Student Membership (A, S) — \$20.00

Family Membership (F) – \$50.00 {Two voting members per family}

*** Please complete the applicable information below: ***

Name: _____ DOB: _____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: _____ FISTS: _____ ARES: _____ RACES: _____

Other: _____ DOB: _____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: _____ FISTS: _____ ARES: _____ RACES: _____

Other: _____ DOB: _____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL: _____ FISTS: _____ ARES: _____ RACES: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____ Other Email: _____

Do you belong to **A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S.** of another County, if so which one: _____

Is it OK to put your name onto the **R.A.C.E.S / A.R.E.S.** emergency call list? Yes _____ No _____

Are you a member of the ARRL? Yes _____ No _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form along with a check or money order payable to ICARC, to:

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 2020
Indiana, PA 15701

Date Received _____ Amount \$ _____ (Cash) (Check) (MO) Number _____

The club info & newsletter is available on our web site at: www.qsl.net/w3bmd