



## ICARC NEWSLETTER

February 28 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:

Winter Field Day logs have been submitted: Note the certificate of participation at the end of the this newsletter.

The ICARC Grant Committee met on 02/25/2025. Things are moving along.

**Reminder:** ICARC membership renewal time is upon us, don't forget to pay dues and receive a membership card for 2025. See 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 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, March 4 2025, 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 Court.

### **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=9xlE3](https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Advocacy/HR1094_House_Private_Land_Use_Bill.pdf?_zs=ab8xl&_zl=9xlE3)

Copyright © 2025 American Radio Relay League, Incorporated. Use and distribution of this publication, or any portion thereof, is permitted for non-commercial or educational purposes, with attribution. All other purposes require written permission.

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](mailto:n3lt@arrl.net) or [wd4hoz@gmail.com](mailto: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 of the Minutes of Jan 7, 2025 ICARC Meeting

**Attendance:** N3DZ, K3FSE, N3VFK, N3KMA, N3FLO, N3LT, KA2YOS, WB3DUD, K3PJ, N3ARA, K3VAR, KC3ZAF, KB3WG, W3CDH, WB3FBL, KB3JOF

The Vice President called the meeting to order at 1831 hours.

The VP led the group with the pledge of allegiance, and then the roll call was taken as usual

The VP welcomed us all looking forward to a productive new year.

The 2025 officers and Board members were named for the record: \*=New officers or board members

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

Board members: Bill Robinson – KC3ZAF\*, Stuart Younkin – WB3FBL\*, Robert Zugates – KB3JOF\*, Phil Kopczyk – K3PJ, Elmer Sorisio – KB3WG. (The officers are also members of the board.)

**Trustee's report-** Elmer Sorisio indicated the clock was no longer working on the N3FLO repeater. Larry Freeman stated that the clock function had been disabled on the repeater so we need no longer worry about it. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded, and voted on, and unanimously passed.

**Secretary's report-** Larry Freeman Brought up the Tom Ringler Benefit and it was generally agreed that a donation should be made. The details to be taken up by the Board of Directors. The ICARC Grant Committee continues to gather information necessary to complete the proposed work at the Rhine Rd. site.

Attendance sheet was passed around. The ARRL Foundation money has been received and deposited in the First Common Wealth Bank in Indiana. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, voted on, and unanimously passed.

**Treasurer's report-** Chris Edwards indicates that the REA is raising their rates and changing their billing procedures. Access Fee of \$50.00 will be shown as well as the usage fee which was around \$69.16 for the past month. He also provided a detailed report on the current budget. The “Pass the Hat” donations tonight totaled to \$93.00. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, voted on, and unanimously passed

### Old Business:

Chris Edwards read the minutes from the December 2024 ICARC Meeting.

The cost of the Blue Spruce lodge is \$170.00 and has been paid.

### New Business:

Discussions on Winter Field Day WFD:

Three people volunteered to lead the operations: Setup- Larry Freeman, Operations- Bill Robinson, Food- John Kalicicki, Transport of Club materials- Larry Freeman and Bill Robinson.

The VP mentioned that food budget should be kept as low as possible (less than \$100.00)

After some discussions, Stuart made a motion to operate 3 Stations to run mode 3I. It was seconded and voted, unanimously, to be accepted.

Three people volunteered to bring radios: Robert Zugates- HF and supporting equipment, Stuart Younkin- HF and supporting equipment, Chris Edwards - HF radio and supporting equipment. Other backup radios will also be on site.

Some discussion on VEC exams: Based upon his discussions with Bill McMillen, Stuart Younkin suggested that April may be a reasonable month to do that at the EMA building.

Larry Freeman led a short discussion on logging using N1MM+ with a one page handout for the latter and also a multi-page handout on rules for WFD.

**Meeting adjourned at 1915 hours.**

# Winter Field Day 2025

## Certificate of Participation

presented to Amateur Radio Station

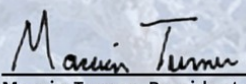
### W3BMD

for their active and invaluable participation during the 2025 Winter Field Day Event.  
The WFDA, gratefully thanks you for your effort and recognizes your dedication to improving  
your operating skills, which may be crucial during an emergency event.

Contacts Logged: 337



We passionately believe that Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns. WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in subpar conditions.

  
Marvin Turner, President  
Winter Field Day Association

# 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](http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd)