

# ICARC NEWSLETTER

January 31 2025



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

## Officers for 2024:

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

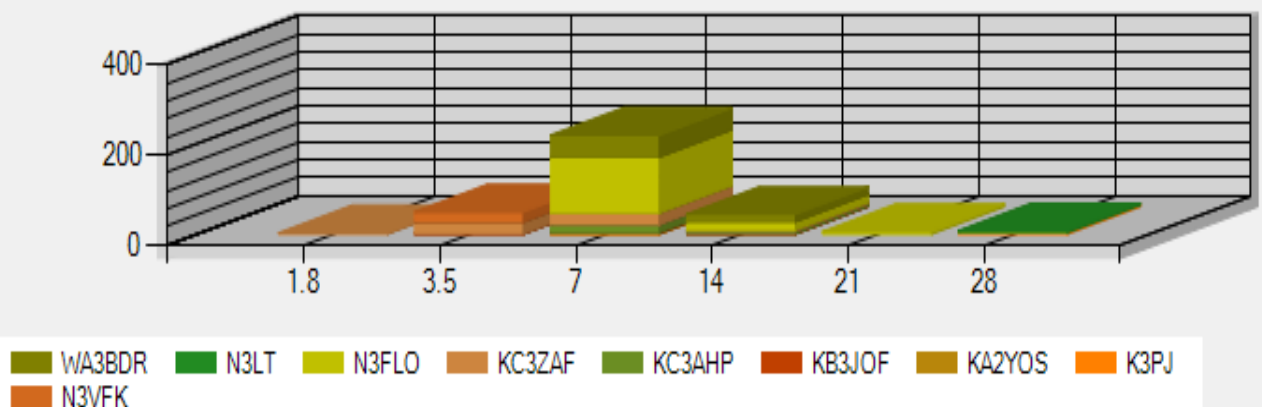
## Additional Board Members for 2024

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

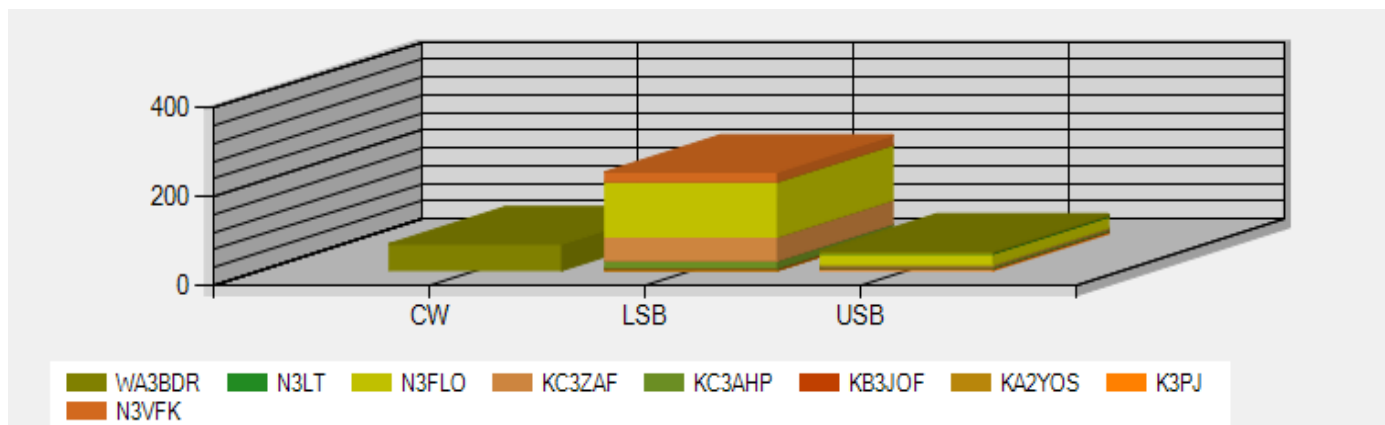
## LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

### Winter Field Day (WFD)

It was a great WFD for ICARC. A total of 327 contacts which is 56 more than last year. This includes 60 cw contacts and several phone contacts (4) by Walter Ligas -WA3BDR. The lion's share of the phone contacts were made by Cass Fitzgerald-N3FLO (150), with Bill Robinson-KC3ZAF (57), Chris Edwards-N3VFK(22), and Mark Longwell-KC3AHP (22) all making very good runs. Several other operators also contributed to the total contacts: Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ (5), John Kalicicki-KA2YOS (2) Robert Zugates-KB3JOF (3) & Larry Feeman-N3LT (2). The band break out is as follows: 160m (1.8MHz)=2, 80m (3.5MHz)=49, 40m (7.0 MHz)=223, 20m (14.0 MHz)=41, 15m (21.0 MHz)=5, 10m (28.0 MHz)=2. In other words, we made the 6 band multiplier, if the numbers hold upon analysis. The distribution is shown in the graphics that follow; the number of contacts is along the vertical axis.



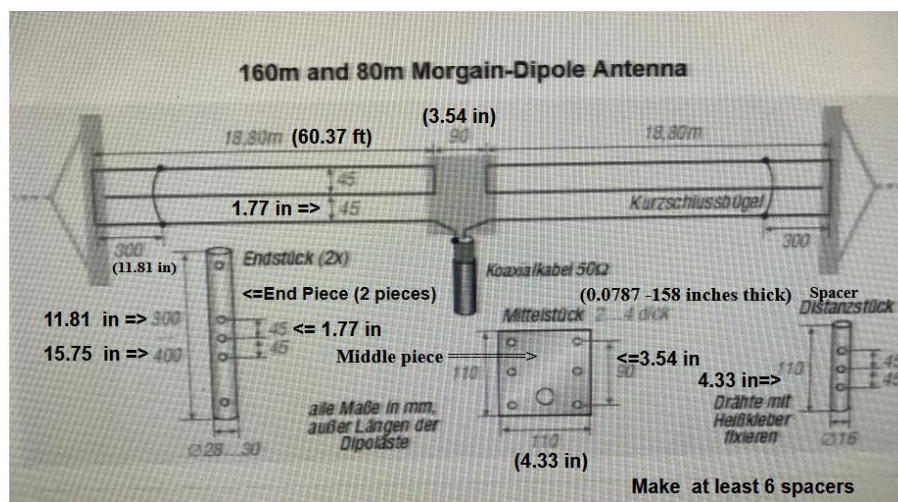




There were very few WFD contacts on 160 m because not many folks were operating there, due to the CQ 160 m CW contest that was also in full swing. The 10 m band did not start to open up until about 11:00 am on Sunday and even then it was very sparse.

We express our appreciation to Mr. Ed Patterson, County Parks Executive Director, and his staff for providing an environment in which we could operate unhindered, in warmth, and coziness.

We wish to thank all of you who participated and helped make the event so successful this year. A special thanks go to those who helped erect the three antennas (See the photo somewhere below): A 160 m “folded dipole” that took nearly 4 hours to get into the trees. It had a span of only 125’ but contained about 371 feet of wire which is very heavy. Two sections with 3 parallel wires approximately 61 ft long separated by 1.75 inches using 15 pvc spacers on each section. It was fed by 50 ohm coax, it is called a Morgain antenna, vintage 1950’s. The ends were at between 70 and 80 feet high while the center was between 40 and 50 in the air. There was also a G5RV and an end fed 40-10 m both of which were partially under the 160 m dipole oriented at appropriate angles. They all worked very well. (For those who may want to try the design see the following image.) Friday, January 24, 2025 was a long day in the cold and ice!



Also a special thanks to those of you who brought the necessary equipment and helped setup for this entire operation: N3FLO (Cass F.), WA3BDR (Walt L.), N3DZ (Dave D.), KC3ZAF (Bill R.), KB3JOF (Robert Z.), KA2YOS (John K.), K3PJ (Phil K.), N3LT (Larry F.). There were 3 radios; we operated class 3I (I for inside))

Of course none of this would have been possible if Mr. Craig Bigler (AB3XA), President of ICARC had not had the insite and made the arrangements with the County Parks Director (Ed Patterson), for getting this operational site. Thanks Craig for all your work on behalf of ICARC.

A very special thanks goes to Mr. John Kalicicki-KA2YOS for coordinating and preparing all the hot food and cold cuts on Saturday, and Sunday. The same thanks go out to all the other folks, ICARC members and non-members, who contributed other food and desserts that were enjoyed and greatly appreciated throughout the event. There was no lack of food and snacks for us to enjoy.



We would be amiss to not acknowledge the morale support and assistance provided by others who spent time on site during the day and evening like Mr. EJ Park, Jerry Kiehl (WB3DUD), Walter Schroth (KC3FVU), Bill Wieserman (K3ZYK), Sandy Bigler, and Craig Bigler (AB3XA). It was a very nice gathering of folks.

Many thanks to those folks who helped clean up and rip it all down and pack up on Sunday afternoon! The big antenna came down much faster that it went up!

Last but not least, the operators are owed a great debt of gratitude because we could not have improved so much over last year without their commitment and enthusiasm for the task at hand. There were nine of them: N3FLO (Cass F.), WA3BDR (Walt L.), KC3ZAF (Bill R.), N3VFK (Chris E.), KC3AHP (Mark L.), K3PJ (Phil K.), KA2YOS (John K.), KB3JOF (Robert Z.), & N3LT (Larry F.)

It was a good event for ICARC but we did have some problems. The antennas were very close together in that they crissed-crossed one under the other and this resulted in some overload interference. In one case the rf overload from one station would cause an automatic antenna tuner at another station to spontaneously reset its memory, detuning the antenna at that station. Although, there were band pass filters at each station, the proximity of the antennas made them ineffective for intense overload conditions. Cass found a novel solution for the case with the automatic tuner. He wound several turns of the antenna feed line around the metal leg of the table supporting the station, effectively making a common mode rf choke, hoping that it would reduce rf current on the outer surface of the coax shield, preventing rf radiation from the shield, and it worked. The other issue had to do with grounding. The stations were initially set up with no ground (Duh !!!) due to the back deck outside the building covering the ground. Once that was remedied and operational timing was utilized, it made things better. We were able to operate the stations throughout much of the night with at least one operating until after 0100 hours local time Saturday night.

Future operations should include common mode chokes near the feed point of each antenna as well as the same located as close as possible to the radio. That means two common mode chokes for each coaxial antenna feed line. Plans for effective grounding must always be implemented for clean operations!

The photo on Saturday by Phil (K3PJ) the early morning contingent of souls who braved the cold.



Left to Right: N3LT, N3FLO, N3DZ, KB3JOF, KC3ZAF, KA2YOS





The motley crew shown above who spent well over six hours, on Friday, in the cold (18-28F) erecting antennas

Photo above by N3LT: Left to Right: W3BDR, K3PJ, KC3ZAF, N3DZ with N3JOF kneeling in front.  
(HAMS are crazy!)

Photo below by N3LT shows N3DZ, KC3ZAF, KC3AHP, & KA2YOS at the station with the 160 m antenna





Photo below by N3LT shows KB3JOF (Robert Z.) admiring the station he provided and setup



Photo below by K3PJ shows the Morgain Antenna for 160 m. From the center insulator to the ground level is at least 45 feet. The ends are at 70-80 feet above ground.





**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, it usually ends with a round-table discussion between a few of

**Reminder:** The ICARC meetings are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month; next meeting is Tue, Feb 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.

#### **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.

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#### **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 for publication.**



# 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)