



**President's Message**

The Palestine, Ohio train disaster has affected their soil, air, wood, waters, and wildlife. All areas important to IWL. Locally, we focus on clean water, with our SOS program and monitor our local streams, and maintain our woods and the wildlife that reside within. We also have a railroad track that abuts our property. What happens if there is a train derailment? Maybe we should be proactive and put an emergency plan in place.

Susan Cassell

**IWLA Fun, Simple, Family Game Night**

Join our Game Night on March 4th from 7pm-10pm. We will have a great mix of games. Board games, card games, and group games, such as; Great Minds Think Alike and some mystery games. We will supply water/sodas and some munchies. Please feel free to bring a snack or dessert to share. To sign up, go to the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4CA4A6292-iwla6>

**Do you have an interest in archery?**

We invite you to expand your knowledge and skills! Earn your Level-1 USA Archery certification.

This certification allows you to help coach IWLAR's summer archery program or other beginner archery programs.

Certification is open to ages 15-1/2-adult. The certification program consists of two parts:

- 1) Self-paced online course and test (approx 3 hours). Must be completed by April 16, 2023
- 2) Practical course: In-person at IWLAR's archery range-Sunday, April 23, 2023 | 1:00-5:00 pm

Fees:

- 1) Online course: \$40 + tax paid directly to USA Archery
- 2) IWLAR registration and practical: \$45

Registration instructions: Complete the online registration form using the link below. You will then be sent a PayPal invoice for the IWLAR registration. After payment is received you will receive a link and information on how to register to take the online course.

For more details and to register go to: <https://form.jotform.com/230076216868056>

Questions: Contact Martha Patterson at [archery@iwl.org](mailto:archery@iwl.org)

**March Speakers Focus**

This month's presentation will be a two-fer. Al Taylor will talk about Winter Field Day (see article on p. 2) and the mission of emergency communication organizations such as MCACS and Jim Alyanak will discuss Radio Operations in Extreme Locations.



*Al Taylor and Jim Alyanak*

Al Taylor is president of the Montgomery County Auxiliary Communications Service, a group of volunteer communicators, mostly licensed Amateur Radio operators, who train on a regular basis to provide communications following disasters. Al is an electrical engineer by training, with extensive experience designing mission-critical electronic equipment. At least two products that he had a hand in developing have been exhibited at the Smithsonian, making him a certified dinosaur. He spent the latter half of his career overseeing the medical electronics and software engineering laboratory at FDA, retiring from federal service about two years ago. More importantly, for the purpose of tonight's talk, Al has been a ham radio operator since he was in the 8th grade in Arlington.

Jim Alyanak (born 'Cemil') followed his construction engineer father to the four corners of the world. His young years were spent in the Arctic, the Sahara, as well as some other countries mostly throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. In later years, Jim's work took him to over 150 countries in various capacities, most notably to extreme locations in the high Arctic, in the driest deserts, the most dense and remote jungle regions, as well as numerous conflict theaters. Jim has passions and a background in military service both in the air and on the ground, volunteerism with both veteran and emergency communication organizations.

## **Trailpalooza**

All is on track to correct the stepping hazard and drainage issues on the trailhead of the Emma King Nature Trail. The first option, to relocate the upper portion of the trail and remediate the abandoned trail, requires remedial measures for the abandonment of the existing trail to return it to its natural state. The 2nd option is to totally reconstruct the existing area which has the added benefit of avoiding altering the natural habitat with a new trail. An Eagle Scout candidate, Andrew Milam, has accepted the project. Scoutmaster Nathan Bidwell, Troop Eagle Project Coach Nick Birck, and our Chapter Representative Keith Angerman will be supporting the scout.

Keep an eye on the Google group for an invite from Isaac Paez for work parties to replace the upper bridge on the EK Nature Trail in March. Many volunteers will be needed to help with cutting lumber, taking the old bridge down, moving the new and old lumber and assembling the new bridge. Cold days are best for moving the lumber, to reduce damage to our tractor roads and trails. Think of all those volunteer hours you can earn.

Stream Clean-up and Hike along the Greenway Trail from 355. We are looking for a coordinator for our annual spring stream clean-up and hike on April 14 from 10am to 12:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our connections with Seneca State Park staff and volunteers, as well as Seneca Creek Watershed Partners. We first did this in 2008 as part of the annual Alice Ferguson Potomac Watershed Cleanup, and have done it most years since. The coordinator will review safety protocols and make sure bags are distributed to volunteers, volunteers sign in, SSL forms are signed and filled bags are picked up. Volunteers to coordinate and prepare a lunch for the group are also welcome. A sign-up Genius to help predict numbers will be going out soon. Contact Cindy Stevens if you are available to coordinate, cook or set up the Sign-up Genius.

Other Conservation Activities & Forest Management news.

An Introduction to our Lake Bluebird Trail walk is scheduled from 1-2 pm on 3/11 and will be repeated on 3/12. Meet at the lake pavilion.

Boundary Walk: On 3/18/23 from 3 - 4 pm there will be a Boundary Walk to inventory the conditions of our signage. Steve Adah will work with us on ordering replacements, then we'll set a date to install them and do any other determined maintenance. Contact Cindy Stevens if you want to join us.

## **Project ideas needed, big and Small**

We now have another Boy Scout looking for an Eagle project, and the Girl Scouts are looking for projects too. Please contact Kevin Kasprzak with ideas. Kevin is our topnotch coordinator for all things scouting. Contact Cindy Stevens for more info.

## **Winter Field Day 2023**

On January 28-29, the Montgomery County Auxiliary Communications Services (MCAS) held its Winter Field Day at our lake. The MCAS is comprised of amateur radio operators that offer communication services during national and regional emergencies. The Winter Field Day is one of several events held during the year that the group uses to prepare for an actual emergency. The event requires that all communications facilities, antennas, and infrastructure for communications be setup within 24 hours and demonstrate an ability to communicate within other operators on a variety of frequencies over another 24-hour period. The event was a success, with a great turnout, fantastic site, weather that was milder than we had any reason to expect in January, and there were smiles all around at the end. Tom Vegella, IWLAR Lake Chair, coordinated the visit.



Two stations were setup in tents under our pavilion. One station was kept on the air throughout the 24-hour period of the event. The second station was on the air for all but a few hours before dawn Sunday. MCAS volunteers made contacts on the five traditional high frequency (HF) bands (80 through 10 meters). Information was exchanged with stations in 42 U.S. states and 7 Canadian provinces. After removing duplicate contacts, MCAS determined that they had 590 valid contacts for the event.

Several MCACS members got their first experience operating in the HF environment and were ably coached by the more experienced operators. It's harder than it might seem to make contacts on HF, and those who have been doing it for a while tend to forget how steep the learning curve is. Some of our IWLAR members dropped by for a visit and we had five high school students from our Chapter who earned SSL hours by helping with event setup and teardown (Luke Wang, Clarie Wang, Edwin Robinson (KC3JBY), Zachary Robinson (KC3JKL), and Nayher Tesfay). Finally, a few Scouts who were participating in an unrelated activity nearby stopped by to see the operation. Some of the more courageous visitors got on the air to make a contact. MCAS estimated at least 30 folks either participating or visiting.

### **Winter Field Day 2023 (continued)**

Amateur Radio operators have been heavily involved with a number of our national emergencies including: Texas/Oklahoma Flooding 2015, Boston Marathon Bombing - April 2013, Superstorm Sandy 2012, Shuttle Columbia recovery effort - February 2003, and the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks - September 2001.

### **2023 Summer Archery Program**

If you or your kids want to learn the fundamentals of archery or improve your skills, IWLAR's Summer Archery is the program for you!

You'll learn proper shooting form and fundamentals in a safe and family-friendly environment from our USAA-trained instructors. All equipment is provided. The program will run on Sundays June 4-July 16, 2023 (no session on July 2) from 12:30 to 2:00pm. The cost for IWLAR Members will be \$55/person. IWLAR Members can register their children ages 10-18 and member adults. IWLAR Member registration opens March 1, 2023

Find out more and register: [www.iwlar.org/archery/](http://www.iwlar.org/archery/)  
For more information, contact [archery@iwlar.org](mailto:archery@iwlar.org)

### **New Members Recently Inducted**

JR Catilo	Rockville
Ken Choi	Derwood
Anthony Derbah	Rockville
Zak & Asma Khan	Germantown
Justin & Jennifer Sumner	Montgomery Village

A warm welcome to all!

### **Ike's Want Ads**

Glock Model 43 Subcompact handgun with two Glock magazines (one is extended to make a "longer" hand grip) and one aftermarket extended magazine. It has the OEM Glock sights.

The gun is in excellent condition and has not had many (probably less than 150) rounds shot through it. Sells for around \$460. Asking \$380. Happy to meet at IWLAR range to show it.

Please contact Mark Lombard.

**To Place a non-commercial ad**, write to the Chapter's PO Box, or contact Todd Anderson. Ads must be submitted by third Friday of the month.