



IREDELL WIRELESS

Newsletter

CLUB CALL SIGN

W4SNC

Published monthly as a service to the Iredell County Amateur Radio Community
By the Iredell County Amateur Radio Society (ICARS)
P.O. Box 142 Statesville NC 28687

www.w4snc.org

Click to go to ICARS Website

President: Rick McClure, KE4TEP~~Vice-President, Dennis White N4WHK
Secretary: Jim Hoke, W4ONS~~Treasurer: John Lamson, WB4WRY
Members-at-Large: Don Summers, W4DON~~Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC

Wireless Editor, Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

APRIL 2008

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. Thursday April 10 2008. Come early (6:30PM) and eat or ragchew. The Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM. All ICARS members and Families are encouraged to attend!

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE PAID DUES FOR 2008

AG4AU X Walt Schwarzl
KC4DBZ W Jeff Watts
KC4MJC X Tim Misenheimer
KD4IIQ X Jim Kennedy
KE4ERH X Lee McClure
KE4TEP X Rick McClure
KG4DKN X Buddy Eaton
KI4CGY X Steve Speaks
KI4YV X Bob Southworth
N4ACF X Ralph Sparrow
N4IB X Tim Slay
N4KYV X R. Kevin Combs
N4WHK X Dennis White
N8RDP X Harlan Cooley
N9JJL X John J. Larew. Jr.
W4DON L Don Summers
W4ONS X Jim Hoke
WA8JZW X Clarence Webb
WB4WRY X John Lamson
 N/A X Robert Lynn Shoulders

X In this column denotes ICARS dues have been paid for 2008.

L In this column denotes ICARS Life Member. Dues waived.

W In this column denotes dues waived.

20 Number of members paid to date for 2008.

I C A R S NET ROSTER

FM and HF Nets

2008

APRIL

Net Manager: W4DON

"Thank you for volunteering"

2m FM Net 2100 L 146.685		10m CW Net 2000 L 28.150		10m SSB Net 2100 L 28.468	
Date	NCS	Date	NCS	Date	NCS
2	N4KYV - Kevin	5	W4DON - Don	5	AG4AU - Walt
9	W4DON - Don	12	WB4WRY - John	12	K4GSD - Gary
16	KC4MJC - Tim	19	WB4WRY - John	19	W4DON - Don
23	N4ACF - Ralph	26	WB4WRY - John	26	N4ACF - Ralph
30	KF4AEX - Russ				

If you're unable to call your Net find a replacement NCS

NCS please give a 5 minute notice before net time. Call your Net on time

ICARS REPEATER INFORMATION

Repeater Timer/IDer

VHF Engineering repeater 3-minute timer does not reset until the repeater carrier drops. Presently the timer is set for 180 seconds. The courtesy tone is sent 1 second after user releases their PTT switch. Repeater carrier will remain (hang) on for an additional 5 seconds and then drops. That's when the 3-minute timer will reset.

This will require users to pause between transmissions long enough to allow time for someone to enter conversation or has an emergency and timer to reset.. If users fail to allow carrier to drop the timer continues to time from the last time it was reset.. If the timer times out during a user's transmission the IDer will send "TOT W4SNC/R" then drop the carrier. Just remember to let repeater carrier drop before next transmission begins.

The courtesy tone **length** is variable. It's presently set to a time period equal to three dits at 20 wpm.

The "hang time" is variable. Presently it's set to 5 seconds.

The required ID time is set to 600 seconds or 10 minutes. **W4SNR/R**

The Beacon ID is set for 3600 seconds or 60 minutes. **W4SNC/R AR**

This \$20.00 ID-O-Matic Timer/IDer is still being beta tested and upgraded by designer.

There's no autopatch on the VHF Engineering repeater that's in use presently.

The Mark 4CR repeater is operational but is not being used because it can't handle the desense / noise problem as well as the VHF Engineering repeater.

Repeater antenna replacement project

ICARS officers are waiting for an experienced and insured climber to climb and permission from tower owners to put climber on tower. More stringent RF exposure rules may dictate all transmitters be turned off **unless** climber has proper protective clothing.

Presently ICARS is the only repeater system antenna mounted on tower. WSIC carrier power is 1000 watts unmodulated and 4000 watts PEP when 100% modulated. There is a UHF TV antenna mounted on the tower to radiate 800 watts visual and 800 watts aural transmitter powers. There are some paging transmitter antennas on the tower.

The higher the frequency, power and antenna gain the more critical exposure limits become. Amateurs should keep their controlled and non-controlled exposure limits calculations updated and filed. Changes in either frequency, power, antenna height, distance and antenna gain dictates that both exposure limits be recalculated. Neighbors can sue station owners and operators if exposure limits are exceeded based on variables listed within this paragraph.

The ICARS officers have discussed the installation of a backup low height antenna at repeater site. ICARS will have to get permission from WSIC owners to do that if it's technically possible.

My own experience with RF exposure when no rules existed

[I began working at radio stations in March of 1956. 1000 watt radio transmitters and antennas in military from 1958 till 1962. From 1963 until 1968 I worked as a transmitter technician within and near an operating 50,000 watt AM transmitter having a 3-tower directional array. The PEP power was 200,000 watts when 100% modulated. I went into the antenna area/farm when transmitter was on the air to take tower base current readings daily. The RF field strength level was one volt at one mile distance from antenna. That field strength continues today in the Arrowwood Rd and Nations Ford Rd area just south of Charlotte, NC. There was and still is a public school within that one mile distance. I'm still here today and don't know of any health compromises due to those RF radiation exposures. I've never felt anything. In the mid 1960's all three directional towers were prepared and painted by painters while the 50 kW was on air at 100% modulation. No one was injured and transmitter was not turned off for men to get on or off towers. They used a dry wooden ladder and grabbed hold of tower and climbed on. Tower B had 12 amps of RF base current and 20 amps of loop current at mid point. The A & C towers had 3.5 and 8.5 amps of RF base currents when operating directional pattern. My former supervisor at the 50 kW station, other technicians and engineers working there from 1920's through 1980's died of old age complications. Some are still living.]

ICARS repeater, simplex and HF standard operating procedures

This information is for new members and new users. **Do Not** use the word "**BREAK**" to enter a conversation on any repeater or get permission to call another station. After you hear the courtesy tone press your PTT switch simply **give your call sign** and then release PTT. You should be acknowledged but not necessarily get use of repeater immediately.

If a repeater is in use and you come upon or have an EMERGENCY and need to get IMMEDIATELY recognized **DO** use the word "**BREAK**" after you hear the courtesy tone.

The use of "**BREAK**" should not be used on HF bands to enter a conversation between transmissions, but you will hear it, unless you have an emergency to report. Again, simply **give your call sign** and standby.

Edited by W4DON for **ICARS Wireless** publication only.

CATAWBA VALLEY HAMFEST

www.cvhamfest.com
4895 Karen Court
Morganton, NC 28655

Dealer Information & Ticket Orders

Michael Fox, KF4MWX
kf4mwx@bellsouth.net
828-437-2787

CQ,CQ,CQ de Catawba Valley Hamfest

The eleventh annual Catawba Valley Hamfest will be held at the Burke County Fairgrounds near Morganton, NC, on April 19, 2008.

We are looking forward to this year's hamfest and are expecting a good dealer turnout. In addition to our dealers, we will have VE testing by WCARS and basic and advanced Skywarn training classes.

We are pleased to announce that our Grand Prize for 2008 is Yaesu FT-897D transceiver (based on availability). In addition to the Grand Prize, we will have two main prizes and an early registration prize. Additional, discounted, prize tickets will be available for purchase inside the fairgrounds on the day of the hamfest. Drawings for additional prizes will be held throughout the day. Please see our website (www.cvhamfest.com) for up to date information on prizes, forums, map, directions, ticket order forms, etc. As usual, there will be Bingo with lots of prizes, and many opportunities to meet and socialize with friends.

In addition to three covered buildings, we have acres of flea market space-free with paid admission. You are welcome to bring a trunk, truck, or trailer full of your equipment to sell in the flea market-no extra charge for space-just your admission ticket. Last year, we had the biggest and best flea market in the history of our hamfest and we're hoping for good weather so that it can be even bigger and better this year. In case of inclement weather, there is a covered, paved arena located behind the lower building which can accommodate approximately twenty vehicles on a first come, first served basis. (An additional fee may be required for the covered flea market spaces.) We have plenty of free parking and can accommodate a number of self contained campers and RV's. (Free overnight camping-Sorry, no hookups, but restrooms will be open overnight.)

Please use the enclosed billfold calendar cards as a reminder of our hamfest.

We want to thank all of the hams who have supported our hamfest in past years. We look forward to seeing you again in Morganton on April 19.

73,
Don Beam, KK4NI

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ARES Training Net each Monday at 2100 L