



IREDELL WIRELESS

Newsletter

W4SNC 146.685- Repeater

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](#)

AUGUST 2008

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. Thursday August 14, 2008. Come early (6:30PM) and eat or rag chew. The Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM. *All ICARS members and Families are encouraged to attend!*

**Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2008**

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House for the regular monthly meeting. President Rick McClure, KE4TEP called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves. There were fourteen (14) attending – ten (10) members and (4) visitors.

Minutes – A motion to approve the June 12, 2008 minutes as published was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, John WB4WRY presented and submitted a written report dated July 10, 2008.

Beginning Balance.....	\$357.30
Deposits...Donation JC Penny Dennis White ARES.....	\$250.00
Checks written.....	None
Ending Balance.....	\$607.30

John pointed out that this report does not include the expenditure for food for Field Day of about \$106.00. A motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion carried.

Technical – No report.

Field Day – Dennis N4WHK thanked everyone who helped to make a very successful field day. There was some discussion regarding the field day activities.

ARES – Dennis N4WHK reported that on August 1, there will be a simulated hospital emergency exercise. ICARS has been requested to participate. Iredell Memorial Hospital will conduct this simulation.

Old Business – This item is regarding the repeater voter system that is being studied. The plan is to use two telephone lines to each site – one line for control, and the other line for audio. As a starting point, Rick reported he has obtained a price to install one pair of telephone lines to each site from the telephone company. Installation will be \$1,557.56 for installation and \$264.50 per month rent. Rick is researching how others are handling voter systems and report back to the membership.

We are still affiliated with ARRL and still appear on their published list.

New Business – We have three applications for membership;

1. Greg Cason KJ4ENR
2. Chad H. Phillips KE4ZF

Greg and Chad were present and were voted into club membership. We extend our welcome to Greg and Chad.

3. Howard Hecht W1HO. Howard was not present. Rick will make contact with Howard and we will vote on his membership at the next meeting.

Message handling class -- Don W4DON will be teaching a class hopefully before August 1. Details will be announced.

Mid August, we plan to organize an antenna party for one of our members in the Mooresville area. Don will determine just what items will be needed.

Tim is attempting to provide a password for our website in order that we can protect items that are not suitable for the general public.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 14, 2008 at Julia's Tally House at 7:00 PM. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Secretary Jim Hoke, CPBE, W4ONS

I C A R S
FM and HF Nets
2008

August

Net Manager: W4DON

2m FM NET 2100 L 146.685		10m CW Net 2000 L 28.150		10m SSB Net 2100 L 28.468 USB	
Date	NCS	Date	NCS	Date	NCS
		2	WB4WRY	2	N4WHK
6	W4ONS	9	WB4WRY	9	W4DON
13	KE4TEP	16	W4DON	16	N4ACF
20	KC4MJC	23	WB4WRY	23	KE4TEP
27	N4ACF	30	W4DON	30	WB4WRY

Thanks for volunteering to be a NCS

Call your Net on time
If you're unable to call your Net find a replacement NCS
NCS please give a 5 minute notice before net time.

ARES Training Net each Monday at 2100 L

Do yourself a favor

After reading the minutes of last months meeting regarding the cost of the proposed voter system, it seems clear to me that a voter system is probably out of the question for ICARS use. There are other ways that you can improve your chances of using our repeater, and other repeaters, as well.

When I was licensed as an amateur radio operator way back in 1989, I was under the misimpression that all I needed, to talk anywhere I wanted on 2 meters, was an HT and Rubber Duck antenna. I had studied the license manuals, but still did not pay attention to what I had learned. I passed the Tech, bought an HT and was ready to go! WRONG! I could get into the ICARS repeater okay, living only a mile or so away, but when I moved around town or sometimes even here at home, I broke up.

It so happened that I had a scanner antenna on a CB antenna mast up about 30 feet. Antenna was the cheap Radio Shack \$10 ¼ wave ground plane, and I was using RG-58U coax. I plugged that into the HT, borrowed a SWR meter and checked the antenna. It had an SWR of 1.2! I thought now I am in business! WRONG AGAIN!

I started asking local hams what I was doing wrong. They started telling me what I had already read in the license manuals. I needed a better antenna and better feed line. This was around the same time ICARS had to move the repeater to the present location. After the move the club has some extra feed line for sale at a good price, so I bought 100 feet. I also bought the best Omni-directional Dual-band antenna I could afford. A group of local amateurs helped me lower the CB antenna mast and install the new feed line and antenna, then put the antenna in the air. WOW! I could not believe the difference. I was hearing repeaters all over the state. If I heard a station I could work them, all from my 5 watt HT.

I later bought a 2meter/ 440 rig and other equipment but I will say this, DO YOURSELF A FAVOR. BUY THE BEST ANTENNA AND THE BEST FEED LINE YOU CAN AFFORD! Install it as high as you possibly can on your home. A good antenna and good quality feed line will be one of the best amateur radio investments you can make. Same thing goes for your mobile rig also.

One other thing, don't be afraid to ask for help or advise on what to buy. Ask what works well for others. Most hams love to talk about their radio equipment! I bet you could get some help putting up your new antennas as well.

Looking forward to hearing MORE of you on the repeater.

73

Tim KC4MJC

Ms. Julia Ostwalt Shumake, 83, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 31, 2008 at her home on 325 North Main Street, Troutman, next to her beloved "Julia's Talley House", surrounded by her family and loving caregivers. Julia was best known for "Julia's Talley House", but she was also owner of Carlos' Ceramics in Troutman for 10 years. She had a sandwich shop in the mid '70's, known as "Julia's" on U.S. 21 north, to which she added a cafeteria line for the employees of that area, and for a short period, she operated "Julia's" in the old location of Josey's Restaurant on Salisbury Highway. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care of Iredell County, 2347 Simonton Road, Statesville, NC 28625, Help Ministries of Troutman, PO Box 484, Troutman, NC 28166 and Fifth Street Ministries, PO Box 5217, Statesville, NC 28677.

ICARS Website problems

As you probably noticed the ICARS website has been off the Internet for several weeks. I am having MAJOR problems with our website host, Internet America.

Chad Phillips, KE4ZF, has offered us a possible solution. I say possible because you need to know first, then ICARS needs to vote on it.

Chad has given us a portion of his web space to use for the ICARS website. He set us up with the address www.w4snc.NET to use for the present time. I have already put the website there and it works well. Check it out and see what you think. This address is for **TESTING PURPOSES ONLY** and the www.w4snc.org is still ours as long as we keep paying for it.

If/when we vote to keep this new location then we will change the web address to w4snc.org.

Let me know, or Chad know if you have any questions and we will try and answer them for you.

Thanks to Chad for making this possible for us, and thank you for your patience with me while the site has been down.

Tim
KC4MJC

Some issues have been resolved since I wrote this. The www.w4snc.org website IS now back on the web but I am unable to make changes to what is there. Maybe by the meeting Thursday I can get this resolved. Tim

30-31 Aug 2008	+	Shelby Hamfest Shelby Amateur Radio Club http://www.shelbyhamfest.com Talk-In: 146.880 (-600) Contact: Robbie Hamrick, WA4RH PO Box 1408 Ellenboro, NC 28040 Phone: 828-453-9121 Fax: 828-453-9121 Email: wa4rh@bellsouth.net	Dallas, NC Biggerstaff Park 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Highway Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina
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I C A R S FM and HF Nets 2008

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ICARS was organized on September 9, 1976
Nets have been running since 1977

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