

# IREDELL WIRELESS W4SNC

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](http://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

## DECEMBER 2008

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. **Thursday December 11, 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**  
**November 13, 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 7:00 PM. There were eleven (11) attending – ten (10) members and one (1) visitor.

**Minutes-** A motion to approve the October 9 2008 minutes as published was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer John Lamson, WB4WRY presented and submitted a written report dated November 13 2008.

A motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion carried.

**Technical** – Don, W4DON said he called Joe, the guy who climbed the tower, to see what he would charge to change the coax for the club. So far Don has not received a reply. Don said we are still experiencing intermittent “trash and static” from the AM signal.

**Web Site** – Tim, KC4MJC reported that he has put a Members Only section on the ICARS website. This section requires a username and a password to enter. Tim then gave the username and password to the members present.

**ARES** – Dennis, N4WHK reported that plans are still in the works for a To-Go-Kit. He also noted that ARES had acquired a J-Pole antenna. The antenna was donated by Jim Freeland, KD4III. Dennis next stated that he wants to test some of the emergency shelters that haven't been used in the past, to see what radio capabilities are possible from them.

**Honorary Member** – President Rick McClure, KE4TEP reported that he went by WSIC radio station to try and present Bill Blevins (Billy Buck) with an Honorary Membership. Due to a family emergency Bill was not there so Rick left the plaque at the station for him.

**Antenna Building** – Rick, KE4TEP invited all members to his home on Saturday November 29 2008 for an Antenna Building Party.

**Ham-Of-The-Year** – Dennis, N4WHK then handed out ballots for ICARS Ham-Of-The-Year. Don, W4DON requested that his name be removed from consideration. Winner to be announced at the December meeting.

**Nomination Committee** – John Lamson, Chairman presented the following list of nominees for office.

President.....	Rick McClure.....	KE4TEP	
Vice President.....	Dennis White.....	N4WHK	
Secretary.....	Greg Cason.....	KJ4ENR	
Treasurer.....	John Lamson.....	WB4WRY	
Member-At-Large.....	Tim Misenheimer.....	KC4MJC	2009
Member-At-Large.....	Howard Hecht.....	W1HO	2010

Rick then asked for any nominations from the floor. None were heard. Rick next asked for a motion to accept the total slate of nominees for their respective offices. A motion was made and seconded to accept. The motion carried.

The new officers will be installed at the December meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Meeting** – Topics discussed were, how to increase membership and sending letters to former members to invite them back to ICARS.

**Error Corrected** – It was discovered by one of the Executive board members that, according to ICARS By-Laws, the Treasurer and the President sign all checks written by the club. That error will be corrected and all future checks written by ICARS will contain both signatures.

**Audit Committee** – Rick formed an audit committee consisting of:

Greg Cason.....KJ4ENR.....Chairman

Dennis White....N4WHK

Rick McClure...KE4TEP

This committee will check the treasurer's records for accuracy and will form a budget for 2009.

**Reminder Letter** – As stated in the By-Laws, a reminder letter will go out after the February meeting to those members, who have not yet paid there yearly dues, asking for their continued support of the club. After April 1, if dues are still unpaid, then members name will be pulled from the list kept by the Secretary and no longer considered as a member in good standing. Rick KE4TEP is also going to send a letter to former members and other area hams encouraging them to consider joining the club. Rick noted that ICARS had the By-Laws and hasn't followed then too closely. He said we were going to start following the By-Laws closer.

**Programs** - Several members remarked on the need for programs for the meetings.

**Receipt from Treasurer** – All members paying dues will be issued a receipt. If one is not issued, ask for it.

ICARS will meet again on December 11 2008 at Julia's Tally House.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:57 PM.

Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

Acting Secretary

# The Simplified 2 meter J-Pole

By Michael Martens, KB9VBR

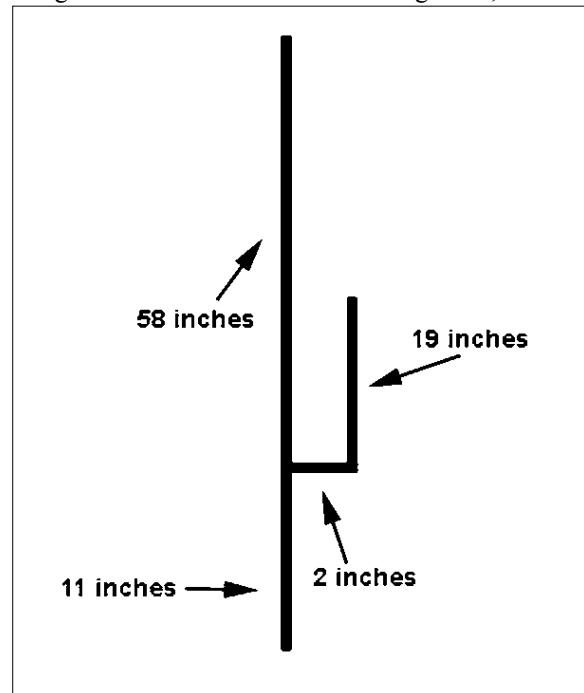
Many a new ham's first antenna has been the 2 meter J-Pole. Our club regularly has a J-Pole antenna party where the new hams can socialize with other hams and get a good antenna to boot. The J-Pole is an excellent antenna for working the local repeaters and 2m simplex voice and digital modes.

The J-Pole antenna can be best described as a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wave vertical with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave matching stub. Many old-timers call the J-Pole an end-fed Zep, as it is similar in design to the end-fed antennas of the 1930's; most notably the antennas used on the Zeppelin dirigibles. Average gain with a 2 meter J-Pole is about 3 db. Many like to compare the gain and antenna pattern to that of a Ringo Ranger. The biggest advantage of the J-Pole is that it is at DC ground, so it can be mounted just about anywhere and still work. Be aware, though, that the J-Pole will couple with nearby large objects or structures, so try to keep it at least 6-8 feet from buildings.

A highly durable J-Pole antenna can be built out of copper tubing very inexpensively. The only tools you need are a tape measure, hack saw or pipe cutter, propane torch, solder and flux. You will need the following materials:

- 1 10 foot piece of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch copper tubing
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch T connector
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch elbow
- 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch end caps
- 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 inch hose clamps for attaching coax

Cut the copper tubing into four pieces according to the diagram to the right. If you are mass-producing J-Poles, you will get four Js out of three 10-foot pieces of copper. Clean the ends of the tubing and the connectors with sandpaper. Apply solder flux and solder together according to the diagram. Use rosin core solder, acid solder won't hold up to the environment. Put end caps on the tops of the radiator and the stub, but leave the bottom piece open for moisture to drain.



Use the hose clamps to attach the coax to the J. The center should attach to the radiator and the braid to the stub. The hose clamps should be positioned about 2 inches up from the T connector, but you will want to use an SWR meter or antenna analyzer to find the best feedpoint with the lowest SWR. Once the antenna is tuned you should be close to 1.0:1 across the entire 2m band. Although slight variations in construction and placement will affect the SWR. You definitely should be able to get below 1.5:1 without any trouble. Tape or seal the coax so that water will not get into the foam dielectric.

For a more permanent feeding solution, you can solder an SO239 chassis connector to the radiator and run a piece of 12ga wire out of the center pin and solder it to the stub. Since this is permanent, use the hose clamp method to find the lowest point of SWR first. Be very careful in soldering the SO239, as it doesn't take much heat to melt plastic insulator. Tinning the SO239 and the pipe before soldering it to the antenna works the best.

Mount the J-Pole on a mast with at least 2 hose clamps or U-bolts. In these plans the mounting section is 11 inches long, but you can leave that part as long as you need it to facilitate mounting. Just make sure that the mounting mast does not extend above the T connector.

The copper J-Pole is extremely durable. I have one installed at home that has gone through two winters without any problems. These antennas can also be mounted on a mast and jammed into the ground for an emergency station. Local ARES groups could work with emergency government to place J-poles on the roofs of fire stations and shelter locations. These antennas require no maintenance and are inexpensive enough that they can be installed everywhere.



KB9VBR 2 Meter J-Pole

**I C A R S  
FM and HF Nets  
2008**

**DECEMBER**

*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
3	KE4TEP	6	WB4WRY	6	N4ACF
10	KC4MJC	13	WB4WRY	13	WB4WRY
17	W4DON	20	N4WHK	20	KE4TEP
24	<b>NO NET</b>	27	WB4WRY	27	W4DON
31	N4ACF				

*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

NCS's be sure to send your ICARS Net Reports to N4WHK

ARES 146.685 Training Net each Monday at 2100 L

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

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