



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

NOVEMBER 2008

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. Thursday November 13, 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 October 9, 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 and asked everyone to introduce themselves including the date they were first licensed. There were eleven (11) attending – eight (8) members and three (3) visitors. Our guest this evening was Mrs. Deborah "Debbie" D'Auria, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 171/CS Pack 316.

Debbie spoke to us about the upcoming JOTA-JOTI event October 18/19, 2008. JOTA is World Scout Jamboree On The Air, an event where Scouts can communicate with each other over amateur radio frequencies with the assistance of a local amateur radio crew. JOTI is World Scout Jamboree On The Internet. Information concerning these scouting activities can be seen at www.joti.org. During her discussion, she passed out information concerning the merit badge award for amateur radio. She asked how ICARS might assist them in learning about amateur radio. Discussion ensued as to how we might conduct classes. This would be an excellent way to cultivate new young blood into the world of amateur radio. We also discussed how the Scouts could learn from Field Day exercises.

Minutes – Secretary Jim W4ONS stated that Don W4DON requested that the last two sentences of his September technical report be stricken and "The ground tap point and splice point will be checked as soon as weather permits." be inserted. A motion to approve the September 11, 2008 minutes as published and amended was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer John, WB4WRY presented and submitted a written report dated October 9, 2008. A motion was made and seconded that the report be accepted. Motion carried.

Technical – Don W4DON presented and submitted a written report. Following is Don's written report;

"Technical Committee Report October 9, 2008

Regarding intermittent noise problem on repeater which began in spring of 2007 it appears that we've finally discovered the major culprit.

Two weeks ago I inspected the repeater coax grounding tap about 15 feet above base of WSIC tower. After removing the wad of weather seal and electrical tape I discovered that the tap point was hot with RF energy. It was also mechanically loose and therefore no ground was established.

1-I established a new ground tap point on coax just at base of tower where it could be reached by standing on the ground. This point was then connected to the copper grounding buss on tower base.

2-I removed the old ground tap and sealed the tap point with electrical tape.

3-Then I reconnected repeater duplexer to the tower antenna. I immediately noticed that repeater squelch control could remain at normal setting, as set when receiving on lower temporary test antenna.

4-Finally I removed the temporary antenna, its mast and coax from the site and returned them to my home.

Repeater is now performing very good from test I've conducted while mobile and listening to stations checking into our Nets. Mobile tests from I-40 west to Hickory and beyond. Salisbury at their Mall on 70W and at I-85-Jake Boulevard intersection. KG4DKN is now able to get in from Elkin.

I see no reason for fixed stations and mobiles not being able to get in from south Iredell using properly installed outside antennas. Next time I go to Exit 18 on I-77 south I will check that direction and distance.

This past weekend, Oct. 3, 4, 5 and 6, we experienced intermittent noise again and squelch setting problems. Monday night Jeff Watts informed us that the WSIC antenna needed repairs and a tower crew hopefully repaired the problem Monday the 6th. Intermittent noise problem has disappeared.

We have plans to directly ground the repeater coax at duplexer end.
More grounding of abandoned coax cables is planned at repeater site.”

Web Site – The members discussed the desire to provide a pass-word protected portion of the web site where such items as the Club Minutes could be placed. During the discussion it was agreed that until a protected area is available, the Treasurer’s Report will be removed from the minutes before they are uploaded to the web site.

Emergency Preparedness – Dennis N4WHK discussed the participation in the Saturday morning October 4 simulated emergency exercise. There were fourteen participants. He thanked those who participated and assumed the role of net control. Don pointed out the importance of keeping a muster log. With the changing of net control operators, it is important that information be passed forward. Dennis stated that a new antenna will be erected at the EOC when the tower crew comes. The ARES “To-Go Box” has been completed. A check to cover the cost of the box will be requested from the ARES funds. He reported that a communications test from all twenty-nine shelters will be conducted soon. Dennis is working on an application to Penney’s for a \$250 contribution. It is possible that he will qualify for the full \$500 this year.

Old Business –

Earlier, ICARS made a memorial gift in honor of Ouida Watts. Jeff expressed his thanks and appreciation.

New Business –

- Rick appointed John WB4WRY chairman of the Nominating Committee. Committee members are Jim W4ONS, Don W4DON, and Rick KE4TEP.
- Operator of the year Dennis N4WHK will take a vote by secret ballot at the November meeting.
- The antenna construction party for the purpose of constructing antennas for field day exercises will be held at Rick’s house Saturday, November 29.
- The Audit committee will be appointed at the November meeting.
- A board meeting will be held at EOC 8:00 AM, Saturday, November 8, 2008.

The next meeting will be 7:00 PM, Thursday, November 13, 2008 at Julia’s Tally House.
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Secretary Jim Hoke, CPBE, W4ONS

Please post in the next ICARS newsletter that we will have the antenna building party at my home on November 29th at 10am. We can work on the antennas indoors if needed due to weather. I have enough materials to build 2 antennas. If we choose to build more supplies will be needed. Missed you last night. Hope all is well. Thanks.

Rick McClure
410 Beverly Dr
Statesville, NC 28625

ICARS TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

ICARS will elect officers for the 2009 year at the November 13 2008 meeting. Here is the slate of Nominees for office for 2009. Nominations will also be taken from the floor prior to the election.

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

A vote for Ham Of The Year will also be taken at the November meeting.

Come and make your vote count!

*At least there won't be any **MUD SLINGING** Like we just through!!!*

WHAT IS YOUR LOCATION?

An EM basic studies training module by D. W. Thorne, K6SOJ

If you hear someone ask: "What is your location?" or say: "Say your location" (on phone) or send: QTH? (on CW); how do you reply? The correct answer will vary based upon the time, place, and situation. To effectively and appropriately "state your location" takes knowledge and experience in proper operating procedures plus a little "common sense".

If I break a pile-up working a DXpedition Station I would say to the DX: "You are 59 in northern California." That is all that is necessary (or desired). If I say much more, I will probably be ignored (or worse), and run the risk of being labeled "a lid". However, "armchair DX operators" (casual QSO) in other countries may be interested in knowing what county or city I live in, or some other geographical or historic information about the area in which I live. E.g. - "I'm 40 miles northeast of Mt. Shasta which is 14,192 high." VHF and UHF operators are often interested in knowing from what grid square your signal is originating. E.g. - (On phone) "I am in Siskiyou County, California, CN91."

Most stations *in a public service net* need to know a station's approximate location since they may have message traffic to a certain general area. Say your location in a manner that most people will recognize *about* where you are. When working DX or stations around the U.S., I usually say my location as: "I am located in northern California, 10 miles south of the Oregon border". (The reason I add the second clause is because many people think of Sacramento and San Francisco as "northern California", and I am actually 300 miles north of those population centers!) I might also add, "200 miles inland from the Pacific Coast", and/or add "Siskiyou County", or the name of my nearest town..."Macdoel". It all depends upon the type of contact.

In EMCOMM work, whether it is local VHF, or in wider area HF nets and contacts...the guidelines change. Things must be more specific! When reporting an EMERGENCY incident (e.g.- a automobile accident, or some lost hikers just found in the woods and urgent help is needed) all of the examples given above are useless to first responders!

Once contact with another station is established, the location being sent must be accurate and SPECIFIC. It must be stated in such a way that rescuers can find it and in such a way that the location stated CANNOT be mistaken for ANY OTHER PLACE! It must also be sent in a way that the receiving station and/or agency will recognize any landmark references you are saying. (Of course **you** must know where you are!) When reporting to a station who will be relaying the message to local authorities who (hopefully) are familiar with local roads, landmarks, and other topographical features. Here are some examples of "**How to "say your location"**"-

- "I am reporting a house fire at 811 North Flame street, Belltown. Cross street 8th Ave."
- "The accident is on HWY 97, approximately 14 miles south of Midland."
- "I am on HWY 39 one quarter mile north of mile marker 14 in Cormorant County."
- "The smoke is on the west side of Sheep Mt. at about 5500 ft. elev."
- "I am broke down east of Interstate 5 approximately 20 miles in, on forest service road 46N32W in the Goosenest Ranger District."

Suppose you are enjoying a boating vacation and are called upon to make a distress call from somewhere on the shores of Lake Powell. Your home is far away and you are not familiar with the area. After calling MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY on 20M, you establish contact with a capable station in Palm Beach, Florida, you say:

• "I am reporting an EMERGENCY on Lake Powell in Utah. Houseboat explosion with 14 injured persons." <pause> "Notify Utah State Police." <pause> "We are six miles northeast of the fuel dock at north end of lake." <pause> "I am standing by for your reply." The receiving station then confirms that the information has been received and understood.

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As long as the signals are sufficiently readable, the receiving station MUST maintain control of the frequency. If other stations "break", he/she should say: "I am handling EMERGENCY traffic. All stations please stand by and monitor unless called." I was once in the process of handling an actual emergency situation and had to ask five stations, all of whom "wanted to help", to please stand-by. Good intentions and a willingness to help...MAY delay a rescue. If you hear actual emergency traffic in progress: LISTEN CAREFULLY, WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING YOU HEAR, AND STAND BY IN CASE YOU ARE NEEDED.

The receiving station would then call the Utah State Police direct, or call their own local or state police, or even the Coast Guard, confirm to the calling station that the incident has been reported to a competent authority, and provide an ETA if appropriate.

The calling station and the receiving station should maintain contact until help has arrived. Possibly even after first responders are "on scene". (They may not have contact with the dispatch center.)

If you are low on battery power, minimize your transmissions, ask the receiving station to maintain a radio watch (and keep the frequency clear) and make a schedule as to when you will call again. E.g. - "I will call every ten minutes"; or, "I will call you at the top and bottom of each hour."

Other traffic from the reporting station might include: "We will signal with smoke or aerial flare when rescue craft are spotted." And, if you have a GPS receiver: "Our position is 37 degrees 30.3 minutes North by 110 degrees 28.7 minutes West." (ECWB #176 covers how to send geographical coordinates.) <http://www.emcomm.org/svares/archives/number176.htm>

How you reply to the question "Say your location" will vary depending upon the time, place, and situation. To effectively and appropriately "say your location" takes knowledge, experience, and (most important)..being able to THINK clearly under pressure!

How NOT to "say your location":

Here are a few actual voice replies to the query: "What is your location?"...actually heard on the air. Sadly, some of these were during actual emergencies.

"I'm at home." (I guess this person believes that he is so well known that everyone must know where he lives!)

"I'm on the highway...just past the SPEED LIMIT 55 sign."

"I'm near the big green gate."

"I don't know. Honey, where are we?"

"I'm in bed." (Probably better if you just let that one go.)

"I'm on Interstate 5." (That's a long road. But that does narrow it down to about 2000 miles. Might as well have said "I'm on Main St.")

"I'm at the college." (Too bad you never attended.)

One day as I was serving as net control for a regional net. A station checked in, and identified as being in northern California. I was interested in knowing more and asked, "Can you be more specific as to your location?" He replied by saying the name of a mountain peak (with which I was not familiar). I queried the operator again who replied by giving his "lat/long". Well, I guess I got what I deserved! But, without having a map of his area handy (with latitude and longitude lines), a ruler, and maybe a divider...I still had no clue as to his location. So...be careful what you ask for...and be ready for it!

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www.emcomm.org and www.wrri.org.

Thanks to Howard Hecht W1HO for submitting this article to the Iredell Wireless.

I C A R S
FM and HF Nets
2008

REVISION 1

November

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
		1	WB4WRY	1	W4DON
5	WB4WRY	8	WB4WRY	8	KE4TEP
12	W1HO	15	W4DON	15	N4WHK
19	KE4TEP	22	WB4WRY	22	W4DON
26	KG4DKN	29	N4WHK	29	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.

ARES Training Net each Monday at 2100 L

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

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