

# *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](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

## OCTOBER 2008

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. **Thursday October 9, 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 September 11, 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. There were twelve (12) attending – nine (9) members and three (3) visitors.

**Minutes** – A motion to approve the August 14, 2008 minutes as published was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer John, WB4WRY presented and submitted a written report dated September 11, 2008. John reported that he had inadvertently failed to include a check he had written in the amount of \$158 to pay for the ICARS insurance. A motion was made and seconded to amend the treasurer's report to include the \$158 check. Motion carried. Following is the report as amended;

Beginning Balance.....	\$629.30
Deposits.....	NONE
Checks written, Auto-Owners Insurance.....	\$158.00
Ending Balance.....	\$471.30

Money Earmarked for ARES....\$250.00 (This amount is included in the ending balance.)

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

**Technical** – Don W4DON reported that the repeater is still operating on two antennas. The transmit antenna is on the WSIC tower and the receive antenna is on a separate small tower about 25 to 30 feet above ground. He has checked the splices to the transmission line that are accessible. They appeared to be satisfactory.

**Web Site** – Tim KC4MJC was absent and submitted a written report that was delivered by Don. Tim's report follows;

“Tell the group that the w4snc.org website is working well. Chad KE4ZF paid to have the domain name (w4snc.org) moved to Dayanahost at a cost of \$12.95. Chad paid this from his own pocket for ICARS so now ICARS has the name ‘till Aug 2013. Chad wanted to do this for the club so ICARS owes no money.” ICARS wishes to express its appreciation for the donation and continuing assistance with the website. Tim requests suggestions as to what can be placed on the website. If anyone has suggestions, please contact Tim.

**Emergency Preparedness** – Dennis, N4WHK is working on several items, but has nothing to report at this time.

Mike, WA6KWW has resigned as DEC. Russell, KF4AEX is Assistant DEC and is acting DEC until a new one is appointed.

**Old Business** – The club's liability insurance has been paid. The term of the policy is 9-12-08 to 9-12-09.

Rick reported he is continuing to investigate the possibility of a voter system for the repeater. Tim Slay has suggested that we make a request for a grant.

**New Business** – Next month Rick will be appointing a nominating committee for the election of officers and member at large.

It was agreed that the Christmas party will be held at Julia's Tally House on the regular meeting night, December 11, 2008. Rick is firming up our reservation.

Ed Puckett, K4ELP has applied for membership of ICARS. A motion was made, seconded and approved that Ed be accepted into membership. Welcome to ICARS Ed.

President Rick, KE4TEP, wants the Net Control Stations to talk up an Antenna Party to be conducted in October or November. This antenna party would be for the purpose of fabricating our own 80/75 m and 40 m wire dipoles including coax cables, center connectors, etc. for FD use.

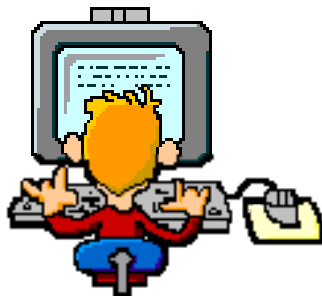
Don, W4DON made a motion that Bill Blevins "Billy Buck" be nominated to become Honorary Member of ICARS. The motion was seconded by Dennis N4WHK. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Thursday October 9, 2008 at Julia's Tally House at 7:00 PM.  
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

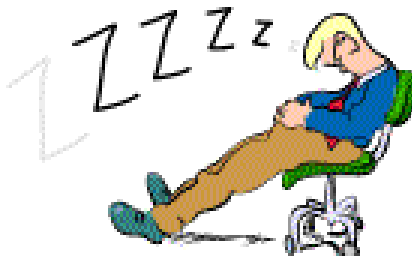
Secretary Jim Hoke, CPBE. W4ONS

### From the Editor

In a county with over 200 Amateur Radio operators, The newsletter editor should look like this!



*Instead he looks like this!*



I need your Amateur Radio articles. Better still, send me something that happened to you related to Amateur Radio. Tell me what first got you interested in ham radio. Did you have a particularly interesting Field day? We have several new hams in the club now. Be a reporter and interview one for the Wireless. The possibilities are endless, Be a reporter and get your editor back to work!

## VOLUNTEER MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT AND DEDUCTION

As the price for gasoline hits record highs, volunteers have cut back on their use of vehicles for charitable purposes - hurting the people they intend to serve and making it difficult for charities to recruit and retain volunteers. The impact of high gas prices on volunteerism is being exacerbated by two problems in current tax policy: 1) individuals must treat as income any mileage reimbursements by the charities in excess of 14 cents per mile, and 2) the rate at which volunteers may deduct the mileage they drive on behalf of a charity is fixed at only 14 cents per mile. Congress should take action to exempt reimbursement of mileage from income and raise the volunteer standard deduction to a reasonable rate.

Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and John Ensign (R-NV) have introduced legislation, S.3429, the Giving Incentives for Volunteers Everywhere (GIVE) Act of 2008, to address the impact of high gas prices on charitable volunteers. The bill does two things:

1. **Deduction Rate:** The bill would raise the volunteer standard deduction rate from the current 14 cents per mile to 70 percent of the standard business deduction rate. This would set the rate at 41 cents/mile and the rate would be adjusted annually.
2. **Reimbursement:** The bill would exempt from taxable income reimbursements from charities for mileage traveled by a volunteer up to the business rate (currently 58.5 cents/mile).

### **Background**

- **Taxing Reimbursements:** Current law allows charities to reimburse volunteers, on a nontaxable basis only, up to the charitable mileage rate of 14 cents per mile. Alternatively, volunteers are permitted to deduct their “out of pocket” expenses incurred in providing donated services — when those expenses are not reimbursed.
- **Volunteer Mileage Rate:** Congress first set at 12 cents per mile the statutory deduction rate for volunteers who use their vehicles for charitable purposes as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-369). The rate was slightly raised to 14 cents per mile under a provision contained in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-34).
- **Temporary Increase in 2005-2006:** The charitable mileage rate was raised temporarily in 2005 and 2006 to 70 percent of the standard business mileage rate as part of the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (P.L.109-73). The law also provided that mileage reimbursements up to the business rate to charitable volunteers could be exempted from income when service was related to hurricane relief. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) calculated the “cost” of these provisions at \$31 million.
- **Business and Moving/Medical Rate:** The IRS recently increased the standard mileage rate used to calculate the deductible cost of operating an automobile for business purposes to 58.5 cents per mile and 27 cents per mile for moving and

medical purposes for the remaining six months of 2008. Unlike the business and moving/medical rates which are variable and set by the IRS, the charitable rate is fixed by statute at 14 cents per mile under §170(i) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership (Center) strongly supports the GIVE Act of 2008 and asks that you do the same by signing onto a charitable community letter. A coalition of more than 100 charitable organizations sent a letter to Senators Schumer and Ensign on August 5 expressing support for the legislation. See below for how you can take further action today.

### **Take Action**

We encourage Center members to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge Congress to exclude reimbursements from income and to raise the volunteer mileage rate. Here are three things you can do to make a difference:

1. **Send a Letter to your Senators and Representatives**

Policymakers need to know that people back home really do care about issues, and a thoughtful letter with real life experiences is still one of the most effective ways of communicating with them. See **sample letter** at the end of this article that can be tailored to fit your organization. Please share with us any response you get.

2. **Talk to your Senators and Representatives**

A telephone call or in-person discussion with policymakers or their staff can help demonstrate the impact of gas prices on the work of volunteers and make clear the urgency on fixing the current tax law disincentives.

3. **Send us your stories on the impact of gas prices on volunteers**

Help us demonstrate how the high prices of gas adversely are affecting your ability to attraction and retain volunteers by emailing us at [info@cvn.org](mailto:info@cvn.org)

### **SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR SENATOR**

#### **Re: Gas Prices and the Impact on Charitable Volunteers**

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of [organization], I am writing to urge immediate action by Congress to enact S.3429, the Giving Incentives to Volunteers Everywhere Act of 2008 (GIVE Act). As the price for gasoline hits record highs, volunteers at our organization and many other charities have cut back on their use of vehicles for charitable purposes - hurting the people we want to serve and making it difficult for us to recruit and retain volunteers.

Skyrocketing gasoline prices are forcing many volunteers to cut back on delivering meals to seniors, taking patients to the doctor or doing other charity work that involves driving. Volunteers in rural areas, who travel long distances to deliver services on behalf of charities, are especially impacted by the high price of gas. Some charities are being forced to reduce the frequency of deliveries or the number of clients served as a result of a resulting decline in volunteerism.

*[Provide an example of how gas prices have impacted the willingness of volunteers to serve and/or an example of how your organization has had to change or cut back operations or adopt new incentives to address a decline in volunteerism.]*

The GIVE Act corrects these problems by allowing volunteers to exclude from income the mileage reimbursements that charities provide them up to the business rate. Furthermore, it raises the volunteer standard deduction to 70 percent of the business rate (an increase to 41 cents per mile) for those volunteers who are not reimbursed for their mileage, and makes the rate adjustable in the future.

In closing, I ask that you show your support for the volunteers in our state by becoming a co-sponsor of the GIVE Act and work for its immediate enactment into law.

Sincerely,

I C A R S  
FM and HF Nets  
2008

**October**

*Net Manager: W4DON*

<b>2m FM NET 2100 L 146.685</b>		<b>10m CW Net 2000 L 28.150</b>		<b>10m SSB Net 2100 L 28.468 USB</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>NCS</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>NCS</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>NCS</b>
1	W4ONS	4	WB4WRY	4	W4DON
8	KE4TEP	11	WB4WRY	11	N4ACF
15	KC4MJC	18	W4DON	18	WB4WRY
22	W4DON	25	WB4WRY	25	KE4TEP
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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