

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: Greg Cason KJ4ENR~~Treasurer: John Lamson, WB4WRY
Members-at-Large: Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC ~~Howard Hecht W1HO

Wireless Editor, Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

AUGUST 2009

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. August 13, 2009. 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 9, 2009

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House for the regular monthly meeting. Vice President Dennis White, N4WHK, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. There were thirteen (13) attending – ten (10) members and three (3) visitors.

Minutes- A motion to approve the June 11, 2009 minutes, as published, was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – John Lamson, WB4WRY, presented and submitted a report dated July 9, 2009.

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

Technical – Don, W4DON, reported:

1. The number of contacts made using the dipoles as inverted V antennas needs to be compared with the number made using the dipoles installed horizontal last year to determine which configuration/location worked best.
2. The 40 meter CW station produced significant interference on the 40 meter phone station likely due to the center point of the 40CW dipole being supported from the tower close to where the 40PH dipole was installed.
3. The 75/80 meter phone station produced significant interference on the 20 meter phone station likely due to the center point of the dipole being supported from the tower where the 20 meter beam was installed.
4. The 40 meter and 80 meter dipoles both need center insulators and feedline.
5. Don volunteered to mend our ARRL flag.

ARES – Dennis, N4WHK, reported:

1. On Saturday, August 1st, there will be an exercise involving Iredell Memorial Hospital and Alexander County. The anticipated start time is 8:00am.
2. It is not know at this time whether this will be a table-top exercise or there will be deployments.
3. We may be able to refurbish/repair the antennas that were donated by Don, K4ZA, for use during this exercise.
4. On Tuesday, August 18th, there will be an exercise with The McGuire Nuclear station. There will be no pre-staging for this exercise. This exercise should last from approximately 8:00am until 1:00pm.
5. Per Don, the Red Cross usually opens at least one shelter.

Field Day – Tim, KC4MJC reported:

1. The 2 contacts Howard's made on 40 meter phone were not on the backup disk and did not get included in the log.
2. There was considerable discussion on whether to include the GOTA station as such or count the contacts made from that station as Youth Participation.
3. Since the contact was made using Howard's call sign then it should be counted as a contact made from a GOTA station.

4. We were not able to pass messages this year. One of the Nets would not accept it due to the volume of messages. Dennis to alert Tim Slay, N4IB of the problem.
5. Two contacts had to be omitted from the total count. One was recorded incorrectly and the other was for a person that was also operating at one of our stations.
6. Perhaps next year various people need to be assigned a message to be sent or received.

Howard, W1HO, reported that the Scoutmaster sent him a note to say that Troop 171 had a great time at Field Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Howard asked whether anyone was involved in Fox Hunting or knew someone who was. He would like to introduce the Scouts to the activity.

At Field Day all of the Scouts were able to make a 10 minute QSO towards earning their Radio Merit Badge.

W4ONS reported on ongoing problems with the digital TV transition. People are having problems receiving the digital signal. The FCC has decided to give certain stations authority to increase their transmit power. There may also be problems associated with the receiving capabilities of the old analog antennas that are still in use.

Dennis reminded the Board members present that a Board meeting needs to be scheduled.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:20pm. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Cason, KJ4ENR
Secretary

This is an amateur radio station. With it I can communicate around the world and help foster goodwill with other countries. I can provide emergency communications during natural disasters and provide public service communications. In order to operate this station I had to learn the Morse code and pass a difficult written exam to obtain a license from the Federal Communications Commission. There is a strict set of federal regulations that I must adhere to in order to continue operation of this station. I have been issued a callsign from the FCC that is unique; no other station in the entire world has this same callsign. In other words, I did a lot in order to be able to do a lot, **SO DON'T GIVE ME ANY GRIEF ABOUT HOW MESSY THIS PLACE IS!**

While assigned to Laon Air Base (TAC) in Laon, France I came across a very odd call sign on 20m CW on May the 20th, 1960 at 0353 GMT. It was RAEM . . . a call without a numeral. I knew RA was in Russia. Sometimes Soviet spies would try to contact our military radio operators and even us hams. If I remember correctly I called him because of his operating characteristics and manners. Using my WWII J-38 key I sent RAEM RAEM de F7GW F7GW K. He came back and as usual in those Cold War Days exchanged only my RST, his name and his location. . . in or near Moscow. Few weeks later the QSL, shown below, arrived via the F7 QSL Bureau located at SHAPE Headquarters near Paris.

Eleven years later I read in a QST issue that Ernst T. Krenkel had passed away at age of only 68. His age was 57 when I worked him. Well who was Ernst T. Krenkel? Why did he have that odd call sign? Read below and find out who and why!

Krenkel Radioclub of Russia: Ernst Krenkel

Ernst T. Krenkel*

(1903-1971)

Radio amateur call sign RAEM



Famous polar investigator, doctor of geography, and tireless radio amateur Ernst Krenkel is the name sake of the Krenkel Central Radio Club of the Russian Federation.

Beginning in 1924, Dr.Krenkel was a pioneering member and main radio communications operator of many Russian Arctic winter research expeditions, as well as a veteran of Russian Arctic polar station "North Pole-1" and numerous other Arctic marine expeditions.

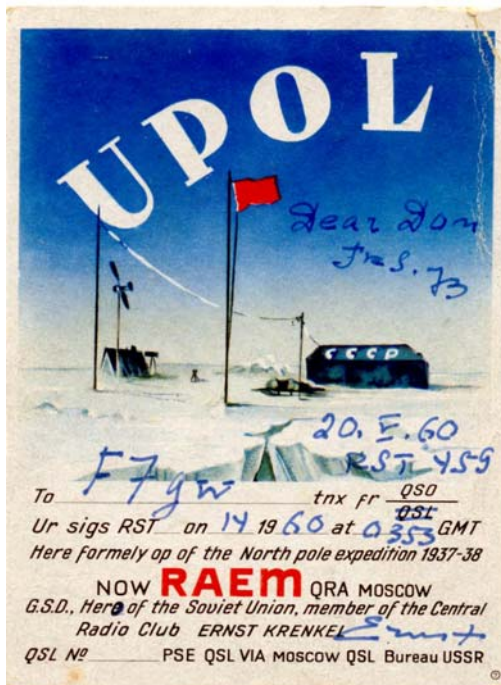
In 1934 Krenkel was the chief radio officer behind the rescue of the crew of the ill-fated icebreaker *Cheliuskin*, which ran into disaster after running afoul of a massive ice floe in the Arctic Ocean. While the whole of Russia and the international community listened on with trepidation and concern, Dr. Krenkel fought valiantly to save each of the lives of the 104 crewmen which were at stake. A massive rescue operation was undertaken; guided solely by Dr. Krenkel and his team of radio experts, the last of the crewmen was rescued two months later. In honor of Dr.Krenkel's brave and humanitarian efforts, the call sign of the *Cheliuskin* (RAEM), was later awarded to Krenkel's amateur radio station.

On January 12th, 1930 the world once again found Dr.Krenkel taking part in another landmark accomplishment, as a radio operator of the Otto Schmitt scientific wintering team in Franz Josef Land (R1FJ). There, the world high frequency distance record was set by the Schmitt team, having established two-way radio contact with an American Antarctica expedition led by Admiral Robert Byrd. The distance between the two polar expeditions was in excess of 20,000 kilometers. Dr.Krenkel utilized a 250 watt transmitter and a three tube receiver of his own design, while the American team made use of an 800 watt transmitter. The communication link lasted for 1.5 hours, and was another shining accomplishment in the spectacular radio career of Dr. Krenkel. You can read the words of Ernst Krenkel about this event.

Dr. Ernst Krenkel was a radio pioneer of the first order, sharing much in common with another famous radio pioneer & experimenter, Hiram Percy Maxim. Dr.Krenkel made many personal sacrifices and expended vast amounts of time, talent and energy to open the world of amateur radio to all of Russia, serving as the first chairman of the Russian Radio Sport Federation. In commemoration of Dr.Krenkel's efforts, the RAEM contest is held every year in December in the Russia, and a special RAEM operating award is available to radio amateurs who establish radio contacts with Arctic Circle stations.

* After W.A. Bourland, *E.T. Krenkel*, Moscow, CRC USSR (1973).

http://www.mai.ru/~crc/crc_e/kr_bi_e.htm Thursday, May 03, 2001 1:47:33 AM



On ham radio we meet Kings, Heros and even talk to our advisaries. The former King of Jordan picked himself a good call, JY1. He could be heard working stations on SSB often. I never had the opportunity to work him.

There were three of us Airmen that held a French amateur radio license. F7DB, A/2c Doug Blakeslee from CT, MSgt Dee Hallman, F7GD from Kansas and myself F7GW. After serving in Air Force Doug worked at ARRL for a while. Later he started his own business in another state. 10 or more years back QST reported that Doug had died. I could never get any details on his death even after writing to his home and sending a photo of Doug. Must've been in his 50's. MSgt Hallman died only a year or two ago. His wife, Wanda, is still living near one of her daughters in Utah. French PTT officer came by every year and checked and signed our logs. I still have my logs. He always wanted to know what kind of "ground" I was using. I always told him, "A very good one". de W4DON for the ICARS Wireless

Submitted by ICARS Members

Keep them coming folks! Thanks KC4MJC

I love the ingenuity and know-how of the ham community. Need to estimate how much cable is on a spool? Try this [online calculator](#) courtesy of KG6D, but if you can't acquire the diameter A for that method, N6RK contributes an SWR-analyzer-based method. First, determine the cable's velocity factor with a one-meter piece of cable, attached directly as possible to the analyzer. Find the frequency, f, below 75 MHz at which the meter reads zero ohms. Velocity factor = $f / 75$. Now measure the spooled cable with an ohmmeter to determine if the inner end is shorted or open. Tune the analyzer to its lowest frequency, then increase frequency until you find an impedance minimum. If the inner end is shorted, this is the frequency at which the cable is $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength long and if open, $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength long. Increase frequency until you get to the next impedance minimum. The electrical length of the cable in feet is 492 divided by the difference in the two frequencies. The physical length equals the electrical length multiplied by the velocity factor. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

POWER OUTAGES

Some excerpts from an article that appeared in the Monday 18 August 2003 issue of the Wall Street Journal. The WSJ points out: "the unreliability of cell phones in a major emergency", of which we are all aware. But they also point out some interesting things that you may not realize:

- Automatic toilets and sinks don't work without power.
- Many gas stoves have no pilot lights and need power to operate.
- While the landline phone network stayed up, PBX's and many fancy home phones need power to operate. Make sure you have one old-fashioned analog phone and line that doesn't need a power supply.
- Electronic locks in hotels don't let folks into their rooms.
- Electronic phone directories don't work.
- Even if you can make a purchase with cash at a store with malfunctioning electronic cash registers, you may still need a mechanical scale to weigh things.
- Gas pumps need electricity.
- Pay phones can't accept credit cards without power.

Conclusion: Look at each device that uses electricity and ask how can I continue without it. One Pizza place (in NYC) had a gas stove, analog phones and flashlights. But they couldn't make pizza because they only had an electric cheese grater!



I C A R S FM and HF Nets 2009

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
		1	WB4WRY	1	W4DON
5	KC4MJC	8	W4DON	8	KF4AEX
12	KF4AEX	15	WB4WRY	15	W4DON
19	KJ4ENR	22	W4DON	22	WB4WRY
26	W1HO	29	WB4WRY	29	AG4AU

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

Don't forget to file your Net Report to N4WHK & W4DON

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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