



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

MARCH 2008

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. **March 12, 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
February 12, 2009

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 7:00pm. There were fifteen (15) attending – eleven (11) members and four (4) visitors. Rick asked everyone to introduce him or herself.

Minutes- A motion to approve the January 8, 2009 minutes, as published, was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer John Lamson, WB4WRY, presented and submitted a written report dated February 12, 2009.

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

Field Day – Don, W4DON, reported for Dennis, N4WHK:

1. Please sign up for Field Day as soon as possible. Dennis needs the hours and bands you wish to operate.
2. Field Day will be celebrated on June 26 through June 28, 2009, at McClure Park.
3. Setup will begin on Friday morning, June 26. Operating will begin on Saturday, June 27.

Website – Tim, KC4MJC, reported:

1. Website working correctly.
2. Tim noted that many people forget the password to access the Members Only section of the website. Email Tim for the password and/or instructions regarding access.
3. Tim also asked for suggestions regarding information to include on the website.

Membership – Rick, KE4TEP, mentioned to John, WB4WRY, that the Membership Dues reminder letters need to be mailed after this meeting to those members who have not paid dues for 2009. John to notify Rick of the number of copies he'll need for the mailing.

Technical – Don, W4DON, reported:

1. The repeater is operating using a temporary antenna mounted close to the ground.
2. Gremlin is still present using the temporary antenna but not as bad as with the regular antenna.
3. Don is going to take the Mark 4 repeater out of service to repair the autopatch system and possibly replace the transmitter crystal which appears to be drifting off of frequency.

ARES – Don, W4DON, reported for Dennis, N4WHK:

1. The March of Dimes Walk America event is scheduled for April 4th. Please sign up with Dennis as soon as possible if you wish to participate.
2. Communications was tested from 23 of the Red Cross designated shelters in Iredell County on January 31st. We found that from some sites communications was difficult if not impossible, so more testing will take place in the spring from the northern and southern parts of the county.
3. Don recommends using a 2M beam antenna if deployed to a location that's more than 8 to 10 miles from the repeater antenna.

OLD BUSINESS

Boy Scouts – Howard, W1HO, reported:

1. Howard has been in contact with Debra, the Scout Master that previously came to an ICARS meeting. The Scout troop has been invited to our Field Day exercise to help them earn a Radio Merit Badge and an Emergency Preparedness Badge.

2. Howard volunteered to be in charge of setting up a station for the Scouts during Field Day. He will provide the radio and antenna materials and possibly have the Scouts set up the antenna themselves.
3. Don, W4DON, will send Debra a map with directions to McClure Park.
4. For them to earn the Radio Badge we will likely have to conduct some classroom training. Time and place to be determined.
5. ICARS will earn bonus points if the Scouts participate in Field Day.

Antenna Building – Rick, KE4TEP, invited all members to his home for an antenna building party, possibly in late March. Feedline and other parts are available.

Jim Kennedy, KD4IIQ, has donated a 40M antenna to the club. This antenna also covers some of the WARC bands and may be used during Field Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Rick, KE4TEP, noted that Bill & Gail Edwards have a 70cm frequency pair (444.700) that is not currently in use. Rick asked if ICARS would like to approach Bill & Gail about acquiring the frequencies and possibly any other repeater related hardware in the interest of putting up another repeater. This could be a backup to the 2M repeater or used in a voter type of system previously discussed.

The county owned Rhinehart tower in Mooresville is available to ICARS per Rick. This location has emergency power and is also used by the Sheriff's department.

A motion was made to pursue acquisition of Bill & Gail's 70cm frequency pair. Motion was seconded. Motion carried with 1 opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:44pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Cason, KJ4ENR
Secretary

Don't forget your 2009 dues!

Enriches Life For Blind

Radio Vital To Stiening

By GARY FREEZE

Well over five decades ago a young man gave a valedictory address to his fellow high school graduates in Pittsburgh, Pa., entitled "Wireless Telephone."

The instrument referred to in the speech was radio and to Fred Stiening, now age 70 and living in retirement in Statesville, that medium of sound is very important to his life.

Stiening is blind and has been most of his life. To compensate for the lack of one sense he has finely and acutely developed another, his sense of hearing.

Radio has been a vital part in his development of an appreciation for sound. "My ears want satisfaction since I can't see," he said in a recent interview.

His interest in radio dates back to its inception, as the subject of his commencement address shows.

In the 1920's, radio was a new-fangled and highly interesting electronic gadget. "A person told me about putting on ear-phones and being able to hear what was going on inside a church on the other side of Pittsburgh," Stiening related.

Those were the days of KDKA, the pioneer radio station in Pittsburgh which made history with its first broadcast of the 1920 presidential election returns.

"I got a crystal set and became glued to it from then on," Stiening said.

Not only did Stiening gain satisfaction by listening, but he

put radio to an advantage in his life. Overcoming the handicaps that blindness might bring him, he opened a radio shop in Pittsburgh, selling and repairing the instruments for a number of years.

Stiening also became well-known in many circles when he wrote a book for the blind, "Make Radio Your Hobby."

In the years since its publication in Braille, Stiening has received many letters from blind people thanking him for enriching their lives through the use of a sound medium.

Even today Stiening feels that too many blind people don't take advantage of enjoyment of sound.

One way Stiening gains a lot of pleasure with both his ears and his hands is by operation of a ham outfit.

He has two, one that is small and generally is operated in a 50-to-100 mile radius of his home on Kelly St. and another that puts him into contact with the world.

Stiening has found that the small set helps in making friendships with fellow ham operators in the Piedmont area.

With the outfit on the wall of his kitchen he can chat with housewives in areas like Granite Quarry or converse with travelers along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"With the ham I can bridge my communication difficulties and acquire new acquaintances," he explained. He and his wife Dorothy are planning to meet with "ham-made" friends soon.

The larger set, which contains many parts Stiening put together himself as long ago as the 1930's is still in fine shape and allows him to converse with the world.

He once contacted a ham operator in New Zealand, almost at the other side of the Pacific Ocean. "The fellow sent me a postcard with my call letters on it to verify that he was where he said he was," Stiening said.

Sound in general is a great love of Stiening and he made use of the tape recorder years ago when he would journey to the summer educational convocations at Chautauga, N.Y., recording mini-interviews with celebrities like Admiral Robert Byrd and Mrs. Thomas Edison.

But always Stiening returns to radio. He, more closely than most people in the nation, has

followed its evolution.

He has listened to both good and bad. Stiening prefers the older style of radio, back when stations carried stimulating talk shows, comedies and soap operas, and music that had a delicacy of sound rather than a loudness of beat.

"When KDKA started out people never realized that the commercial would sell over the air. Now that seems to be about all there is," he said.

Stiening does have a favorite station in the area. That's WFDD, the student station of Wake Forest University that is a national public radio affiliate.

The station emphasizes classical music and includes lively and interesting talk sessions in its format. There is also non "Top 40" rock in the morning and in-depth news programs in the evening.

"The original idea of the air-waves was that they belonged to the public. That doesn't seem to be as true anymore," he said.

Despite the fact radio may not be what it once was Stiening still listens. And is glad he does.

"I've often said that if I was to be blind I was lucky to have it happen when radio came along and gave people a chance to develop their ability to listen," he said.

de W4DON:

I first met Fred, K4EYQ in 1975 on 2 meters. We had many 2m QSO's during days and nights. I visited with him and Dorothy often in their home on Kelly Street just behind the old Long's Hospital. We went to Shelby and Durham Hamfests together.

His homemade transmitter is in top right of the photo on next page.

The unit to its left is a Central Electronics AM-SSB-CW exciter. Fred had a standing 75m schedule on 3815 with his former friends in Pittsburgh, PA. At times I would join in with my Ten-Tec Argonaut 5w SSB transceiver.

Dorothy was diagnosed with cancer. Fred and Dorothy moved back to Pittsburgh in the 80's but visited here one or two times. We corresponded using recorded tapes. My last tape came back undelivered. Package contained a note telling me that Fred had passed away. Broken heart from losing Dorothy earlier.

At one time his son, Fred Jr., and I had contact via e-mail. He was working on Wall Street. Dorothy and Fred Jr. had poor eyesight.

K4EYQ's photo on next page of this newsletter.

This August 19, 1975 article and photo are from W4DON's archives.

“Radio Vital to Stiening” continued

K4EYQ (SK)

Tuesday, August 19, 1975



AN AVID LISTENER — Fred Stiening, who has been a ham radio operator for many years, sends out his calling code over the ham set he built himself. With it, Stiening, who is blind and has written a book for the blind in using radio, can communicate with other operators across the world.

Fred was blind but his hearing and touch made up for that. Homemade transmitter at top right had no analog meters for tuning indicators. He could tell when properly tuned by listening to the buzzing sound of liminations in the power transformer. Minimum current (resonance) was indicated by adjusting excitation and tuning plate capacitor for minimum buzzing sound level.

When he went outside to work he posted an audio beeper near door so he could find his way back to house and the doorway. From that point he memorized proper directions and number of steps to reach a point around the backyard and house to do antenna work.

Oh yes, he could copy Morse as well. When he and Dorothy hit the road he was on his 2m FM mobile transceiver talking to hams from one end of the state to the other. They also took trips very often and would be gone for many days.

Back in 1975 there were only 3 to 4 hams in Statesville on 2m meters.

The End

I C A R S FM and HF Nets 2009

March

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 |
| 4 | KC4MJC | 7 | WB4WRY | 7 | W4DON |
| 11 | N4ACF | 14 | W4DON | 14 | N4ACF |
| 18 | KE4TEP | 21 | WB4WRY | 21 | N4WHK |
| 25 | KJ4ENR | 28 | N4WHK | 28 | KE4TEP |
| | | | | | |

Thanks for volunteering to be a NCS

Please call your Net on time

NCS please promote the following during your Nets in March:

- 1-Monthly Meeting March 12 thru March 11
- 2-Charlotte Hamfest at new location March 14 & 15.
www.w4fbf.org/hamfest2009/hamfest.html
- 3-Walk America April 4, register with N4WHK asap, open to all amateurs
www.marchforbabies.org/
- 4-Field Day 2009 June 26-27-28, register with FD Chairman N4WHK asap
www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/

**Please send all Net Reports, ICARS and ARES, to N4WHK
so he can keep tally of volunteer hours
and file with ARES Reports with his upline.**

**ARES Training Net each Monday at 2100 L
N4WHK is normally the NCS. Any ARES member may volunteer.**