

# **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

**April 2011**

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. April 14, 2011. 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!

*ICARS Website*

[www.w4snc.org](http://www.w4snc.org)

President: Donald Summers, W4DON~~Vice-President: Dennis White, N4WHK  
Secretary: Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC~~Treasurer: Rick McClure, KE4TEP  
Members-at-Large Greg Cason, KJ4ENR~~Ed Pucket, K4ELP

Wireless Editor, Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

Iredell Wireless submission cut off date is  
the first Thursday of each month.

## Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2011

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House for the regular monthly meeting. President Don Summers, W4DON called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were fourteen (14) attending – eleven (11) members and three (3) visitors. Don introduced Jennifer Menster from “The Mooresville News” and asked the others to introduce themselves.

**Minutes-** A motion to approve the February 10, 2011 minutes as published was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Rick KE4TEP presented and submitted a written report for the period ending February 28, 2011.

### **Old Business –**

W4DON asked Rick how much has been collected toward the Antenna replacement fund. Rick reported that \$656.00 has been collected.

Tim Slay N4IB reminded us that the 2011 Charlotte Hamfest will take place this weekend. Anyone who wishes to help out during the hamfest will be given free admittance.

### **New Business –**

Having met the requirements outlined in the society's **Major Project Guidelines**, it was moved, seconded and approved that the 50 foot tower discussed at the February meeting be purchased at the offered price of \$250. One half is to be paid by ICARS and one half is to be paid by ARES.

Stakes and rope for the tower are needed. Don announced that a wall bracket will be sold separately for \$66.

**Program** – The program was presented at this time.

Tim Slay N4IB, Telecom Director for DukeEnergy, presented a very informative program describing the new Duke Energy radio communications System, Harris “OpenSKY”.

After the program was completed, the meeting resumed.

## Committee Reports –

Howard W1HO gave details of the large Scouting Jamboree that will be held in Denton, NC on April 29, 30 and May 1. Due to safety concerns, there will be no towers erected. In addition to operators of the satellite station, greeters to greet scouts and parents will be needed. In order to earn a merit badge, a scout must maintain a ten-minute contact. Operators from home stations will facilitate these contacts. Several members volunteered to operate from home. Get in touch with Howard if you need further information.

- Program-- Dennis N4WHK The April program will feature a video about the Peter I DXpedition (3YOX) from Peter I Island.

The May program is the responsibility of Howard W1HO. "Working Amateur Satellites with Your Handheld Radio" will be presented from California by way of SKYPE by Clint Bradford K6LCS.

- Publicity—Howard W1HO stated that our meeting notice has been on public channel 20 and also in the newspaper for three days.

- Emergency Preparation -- The Walkathon is scheduled for next month on the sixteenth.

- The FEMA McGuire exercise is scheduled for August. An e-mail will be sent out with particulars.

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Jim Hoke, CPBE

W4ONS

Acting Secretary

## Boy Scout Camporee – ham radio opportunity

Old North State Council, BSA, is having a Council Camporee Apr 29 and 30 and May 1st. The ham radio community has been invited to provide a "Program Station". The theme is "The Next Hundred Years" as Scouting has reached the 100 year mark in 2010.

The camporee committee wants the hams to be looking to the future as we make plans to support making the camporee a success. A Special Event station, possibly using the call K2BSA, is planned.

The location for the Camporee is Denton Farmpark, Denton NC.

There will be 3500 Scouts and Scouters at this camporee. If we get to interface with only 10 percent that is 350 potential new Hams, of which most would be youth.

There is a lot of flexibility in the planning at this point, and ideas are being sought for what to include. Some suggestions are satellite, D-star, WinLink 2000, perhaps a FlexRadio, digital modes and of course CW and SSB HF and FM vhf. Also, Radio Merit badge, which would entail the Scouts doing some advance work and bringing their worksheets to the Camporee, and then taking part in a Radio Merit Badge class. When we did JOTA in 2009, CW and Winlink 2000 were both a big hit with the Scouts and the Scout leaders.

There will be a need for hams that can provide equipment and spend some time at the Camporee. There is a need for hams that can operate and explain the various modes, answer questions, check the merit badge worksheets, teach Radio Merit badge, operate the special event station, and also cooks. There are lots of opportunities to participate. There may be a need for a portable tower.

### **Introduction to Eastern Survey Article**

Those new to Ham Radio may not be aware of how prevalent the problem of TVI (television interference, or more correctly, television *interception* of unwanted signals). The early days of TV, and for the most part continuing up to the time cable and satellite became the "norm", were quite problematic for Hams, since analog TV's were not designed to reject unwanted signals. The rationale was that the very small cost would make a manufacturer "uncompetitive" with those who didn't put the 15 or 20 cents (which would add up to a dollar or two with the mark-ups in the distribution chain) worth of parts in their product.

With that background, I thought the following article from the VHF News of April 1949 would be of interest. Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, was the original "World above 50 MHz" columnist for QST (begun in 1939 with the title "On the Ultra Highs").

*Article on next page*

Howard  
W1HO

EASTERN SURVEY ON POLARIZATION

By Ed Tilton W1HDQ

Here it is, I hope, my last word on the polarization question!

I've just returned (March 20<sup>th</sup>) from a four-day trip during which I talked with hundreds of hams of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and assorted other states. The area covered probably accounts for a good third of the present population of the 2-meter band. This has always been hot vhf territory, and it is not likely to become less so in the immediate future, as the TVI situation is causing quite a few hams – who might not otherwise be interested in vhf – to turn to this field because of the possibility of escaping some of the trouble experienced when operation on lower frequencies is attempted. Not that 2-meter work is a cure for TVI, but there are numerous borderline cases where fellows can work on 2, successfully, in localities where frequencies are out of the question for the man who wants to remain on good terms with his neighbors.

For them, and for almost all of us, eventually, the importance of TVI transcends all other considerations in the polarization picture. It goes without saying that, in the case of the 2-meter band, the use of vertical polarization gives a fellow something like a 20 db head start in the avoiding of TVI. To me that clinches the argument for vertical. There is nothing on the horizontal side with anything like this weight. Since I doubt that this will cause many of our horizontal friends in the middle west to change to vertical, and because I would like to find out

whether there is any difference in the effectiveness of the two polarizations when it comes to working between the east and middle west (and over other long paths), I will continue to advocate the experimental use of horizontal polarization by those in the east who have the facilities (and freedom from neighbor trouble) to handle it. I erected a horizontal array for 144 Mc. recently, and I intend to keep one in business, so long as an appreciable portion of the middle west sticks with horizontal.

But, for the fellow in densely settled areas of the east, or other sections of the country where television is used widely, it seems only logical to recommend vertical – you'll probably have the TVI problem, eventually.

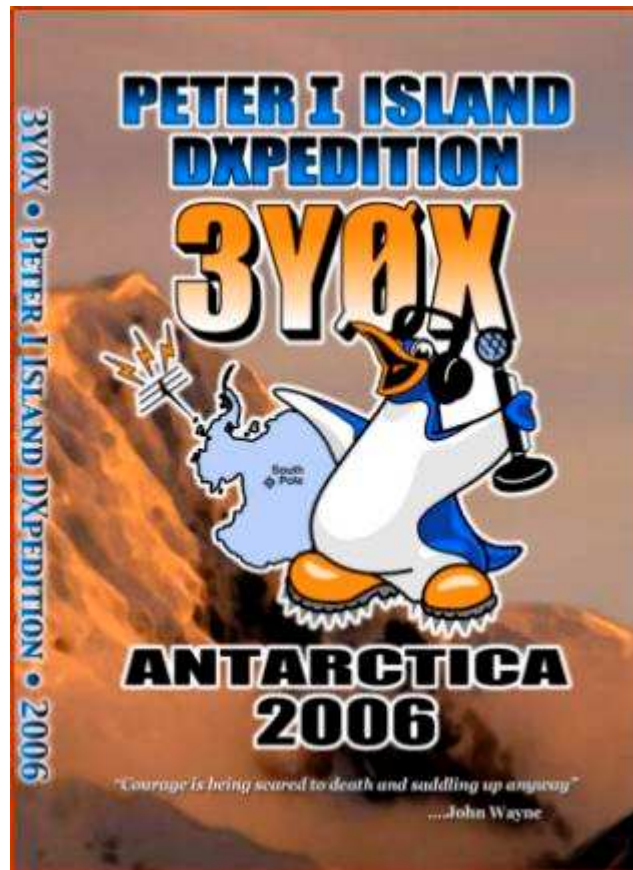
All this from one whose personal preference is for horizontal, principally from structural and esthetic reasons. It represents a carefully considered opinion, after years of reviewing all the evidence on both sides. For years, more than 15 years, in fact, we've looked for evidence which would clinch the argument, one way or another. Each polarization has its points, and I think they may be summarized as shown in the table. All but one of these (points) are minor considerations. To hundreds – thousands would be more correct – of urban amateurs who are battling for their very existence as active hams, only one of the arguments really counts. I feel that we would be doing Amateur Radio, generally, a dis-service if we failed to recognize the TVI angle as the clinching point in the whole polarization argument.

<u>Vertical</u>
General coverage with simple systems.
More effective mobile operation.
Dipole more effective in vertical position.
Stationary radiator may be used, rotating only parasitic elements.
Stacked collinear array builds up gain without directivity.
REDUCES TVI*

<u>Horizontal</u>
Simple parasitic arrays (not stacked) more effective when horizontal.
Lower response to most forms of man-made noise.
Generally simpler mechanically for same performance.
Looks better, especially when combined with lower-frequency arrays on some rotating structure

**\* This applies only to cases where radiation at the fundamental frequency, as picked up by the TV antenna, is the source of interference, of course. It should not be construed that 2-meter operation and vertical polarization are TVI cure-alls. E. P. T.**

Program for April 14th  
**The 2006 DXpedition to Peter I Island – 3YØX**



Peter I Island, 275 miles off the west coast of Antarctica and south of most of the Antarctic bases, was one of the most wanted DXCC entities -- until twenty-one international ham operators plus a non-ham world traveler took on the daunting task of mounting the most costly DXpedition in history.

Considered by some to be the DXpedition of the Decade, this 3YØX DVD brings the danger and excitement right into your living room. See the helicopter flights, hear the howling storms and incessant wind, and struggle along with the team as they erect shelters and antennas.

Hear the huge pileups as heard from the bottom of the world at the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

Watch the daring rescue of a team member and three ship's crew members as they remove the last gear from the island.

All this in an hour long drama. Don't miss this ICARS Meeting.

*ICARS Technical Committee*



# ICARS FM and HF Nets

YEAR  
APRIL

*Net Manager: W4DON*

2 METER FM NET 2100 HOURS		10 METER SSB NET 2030 HOURS	
WEDNESDAY		SATURDAY	
		2	W4DON
6	WB4WRY	9	N4ACF
13	KC4MJC <sup>1</sup>	16	NO NET <sup>2</sup>
20	KJ4YZZ	23	KC4MJC
27	N4ACF	30	WB4WRY

*Thanks for volunteering to be a NCS*

<sup>1</sup>Check in Net for WalkAmerica planning

<sup>2</sup>WalkAmerica – Saturday, April 16th, 2011

Meet at Mitchell College at 08:30, walk begins @ 10:00.

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

ICARS was organized on September 9, 1976

Nets have been running since 1977