



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

FEBRUARY 2011

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. February 10, 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

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

January 13, 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 7:08 PM. There were sixteen (16) attending – fourteen (14) members and two (2) visitors. Don introduced the two ladies present and asked the others to introduce themselves.

Minutes- A motion to approve the December 9, 2010 minutes as published was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer John Lamson, WB4WRY presented and submitted a written report for the period ending December 31, 2010.

Old Business –

Donations are being accepted for the proposed antenna project.

New Business –

- The required annual 501(c) (3) IRS Form 990-N for 2010 has been filed and accepted by IRS.
- The budget committee reported they have submitted a total budget of \$704 for 2011.
- Rick, KE4TEP reported he is contributing a refurbished rotor and control to ICARS.

Committee Reports –

-Program Committee Dennis, N4WHK No report.

Don asked Tim Slay, N4IB if he could supply a program for February, He replied that he could do so and would report to Dennis.

-Membership Committee Howard, W1HO. He has maintained contact with the gentleman in Mooresville who has expressed an interest in ham radio.

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-Publicity Committee Howard, W1HO. No report.

-Field Day Committee Dennis, N4WHK He asked whether the membership wishes to continue with the McClure Park location again this year. The response was in the affirmative.

-Audio Visual Ed, K4EI Ed is supplying audio-visual equipment for tonight's program.

-Directory Committee Don, W4DON. Don stated he continues to need several photos to fill in blank spaces. The directory includes a photo (mug shot) of each member. There are several who have not submitted photos. If you would like your photo to be included, please send it to Don.

-History Committee. No report.

-Technical Don gave a status report of the repairs he has made to the repeater. He repaired damages that were sustained as a result of a lightning hit last summer. The autopatch is now up and working if you desire to use it. The stand-by repeater performed properly while the main repeater was down.

-Community Activities Dennis, N4WHK The Walk-a-thon is scheduled for April 16, 2011 at 9:30 AM at the same place – Mitchell College.

Dennis turned to Grant, KB3EMT Grant mentioned several possibilities – one of which is located in Highlands, NC. A couple of the clubs in the area are participating and possibly sponsoring some activities during the year.

Program –

Don introduced a very interesting presentation on Magnets. This was a DVD program.

After the presentation, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at about 8:25 PM.

Jim Hoke, W4ONS

Acting Secretary

Thank you Jim for taking over Secretary duties in my absence last month. Jim KC4MJC

Remember, your ICARS are due now. \$24.00

The ICARS Antenna fund is still collecting donations! Support your club repeater!

Ham Radio iPhone Apps! (by J.D. Fulp K6RDO)

For those with iPhones, you may want to check this out. For those without iPhones who may have been considering one; this may be the nudge (or excuse...) you needed.

For me, this pairing of radio sport and smart phone was actually there at the beginning of my Ham career; which reaches way back to March of last year! Back in March I received a phone call from a Ham friend who told me about license testing at the Ord Community Center being held in conjunction with a Hamfest. The test was in two days, and he promised to give me one of his old HTs if I passed. I'm not a complete stranger to radio, but had done zero preparation for this exam.

I'd heard the "yep...there's an app for that" advertisement that touts the very large--and growing--collection of downloadable applets for the iPhone, so the thought occurred to me to search the iTunes app store with the search string "Ham Radio". Sure enough, I found the complete question set for the Technician ticket. With the push of a few buttons on my iPhone, the complete question bank was radio'ed to my iPhone for study at times and locations of my convenience. Sure, one could study from a book, but busy lives mean that little "pockets" of free time need to be capitalized on, and with my always-with-me phone I can study during those "pockets". I reviewed the entire question set twice, then passed the test. For my General ticket, I bought and studied the ARRL preparation book, but also employed the Gen Class iPhone app to review questions during sips of coffee at Starbucks. I now have the Extra class question bank on my iPhone, and look forward to mastering that material in pursuit of a license upgrade sometime in 2011.

In this rest of this article I'll quickly describe the eight Ham apps I deemed of sufficient utilitarian value to pay the nominal \$1-5 to download and use.

1. AA9PW Ham Morse: All you need to learn and practice the art of "dit-dah" based communication. Choose characters, numerals, punctuation, even select "Calls" to get simulated call signs; and choose your copy speed (5-50 wpm). The code you hear is displayed (letters & numerals) on the screen so you can check your accuracy. I've been using this quite a bit and can't think of a better, more convenient, way to practice with total control over the speed and length of your practice sessions.

2. BeaconAid-HF: I'm just getting started in HF (new Yaesu FT-450 was X-mas present to myself) and think that the worldwide beacons system (18 geographically dispersed HF beacons transmitting on 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20m) is a fantastic way to get empirical data concerning the band conditions to different locations and on different bands... in

near real-time! The app includes an option to select one of many worldwide monitoring stations (i.e., stations that monitor and report on signal strengths from each beacon), and you are then presented with some very detailed data. In addition, you are provided with Solar-Terrestrial Data including the Solar Number, A- and K-indices and band (80m-10m) day/night conditions. After a while, the 18 HF beacons become like the radioman's version of the primary stars used by celestial navigators of old to plot their location; well-known "friends" that are there to inform.

3. LocalFreq: Got a new HT that you want to put local freqs of interest into memories for scanning purposes? Then this app is for you. Basically, it's an iPhone window into www.radioreference.com. Once the connection is made, you can zero-in on any given locale, and look up the various frequencies in use by the local police, sheriff, fire, and EMS services, as well as the FAA's tower, approach control, etc. frequencies. I used this to set local freqs into a "chunk" of memories in my Kenwood F6A, and can quickly scan the "action" freqs when I feel like it.

4. FreqFinder: Similar idea as "LocalFreq", but this one is a U.S. database of repeaters for 10m, 6m, 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, and 33cm bands.

5. Ham I Am: Looking for a handy Ham reference book that "fits" in the cell phone that you're already carrying around? This app's for you. Here are the info tools found in the current version: Phonetic alphabet, Q-signals, jargon, Morse code, band plans, RST system, ARRL Radiogram, call sign allocation, RF spectrum ranges, electrical units, safe RF exposure thresholds, U.S. third party agreements.

6. Ham Utility: This app has some overlap with the "Ham I Am" app (Q-signals and band plans), but also includes a QRZ (call sign) search utility, an antenna length calculator, and a Solar-Terrestrial Data chart.

Sweet!

7. EchoLink: If you have an EchoLink account, you could use your iPhone to access EchoLink! Can anybody say "convergence"?

8. iCluster: Want to see where all the RF action is happening... as it happens? Then check this one out. And when I say "all the RF action", I mean everything from 160m up to 6m is tracked and reported. Further, you can filter to only see a particular band and/or a particular mode! As I write this article I'm looking at my iPhone screen that has iCluster running, and I'm seeing up-to-the-minute entries about contacts that are being made, to include actual messages being exchanged. Pretty neat toy!

Remember, "radio is a contact sport", 73 de K6RDO

ICARS
FM and HF Nets
2011

FEBRUARY

Net Manager: W4DON

2 METER FM NET 2100 HOURS		10 METER USB SSB NET 2030 HOURS	
WEDNESDAY		SATURDAY	
2	N4ACF	5	WB4WRY
9	KE4TEP	12	W4DON
16	KC4MJC	19	W4DON
23	WB4WRY	26	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.

Don't forget to file your Net Report to N4WHK

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

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