



# *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

***January 2011***

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. January 13, 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

## December 9 2010 Meeting Minutes

For the January 13 2011 ICARS Meeting

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. Don then asked for introductions. There were 11 members and 9 guest's present.

**Minutes** – Don, W4DON asked if everyone had read the minutes as posted in the last Iredell Wireless. Don then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

**Treasurers Report**-John Lamson gave this written report:

**Old Business** – ICARS needs to replace the repeater antenna and feed line. Approximate cost of \$1855.39. Society needs to raise some money.

**Audit Committee:** W4ONS Jim, N2RMI Pat and KB3EMT Grant report due at

February 2011 meeting

**Budget Committee:** WB4WRY John, N4ACF Ralph, and W1HO Howard, report due

January 2011 meeting

**New Business** – Jeff Watts Jr. KJ4YZZ submitted an application for membership and dues payment for the rest of this year. Jeff application was approved and he was voted into the Society.

Don made a motion to raise money by donation to go towards the purchase of a new repeater antenna, feed line and installation costs. \$1855 Approximately. The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 9 to 1. Society will began taking donations in January 2011. Donations **MAY** be tax deductible.

Greg KJ4ENR substituted for Howard W1HO, Ham Of The Year for 2009 to present the HOTY award to W4DON Don Summers for 2010. Congratulations!

**The following amateurs were sworn in to their respective offices for the year 2011**

**President** – Don Summers, W4DON

**Vice-President** – Dennis White, N4WHK

**Secretary** – Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC

**Treasurer** – Rick McClure, KE4TEP

**Member at Large** – Ed Puckett, K4ELP was not present

Dennis White N4WHK provided the entertainment with his playing and singing of country and bluegrass music

Motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Tim Misenheimer* KC4MJC

Secretary

### **Reminder**

The Antenna Replacement Fund Raiser Project is now open for donations to raise \$1860.00 during January - March 2011. Recommended donation per member is \$60.00. This can be made with a single payment or up to three \$20.00 payments.

**Be sure the Treasurer gives you a receipt for you donation(s).** ICARS is a 501c3 approved organization.

2011 Membership Dues of \$24.00 are now Due. Rick, KE4TEP is the Treasurer. Payments by check can be mailed to:

**Treasurer, Iredell County Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 142 Statesville NC 28687**

### **Meeting Program**

The program for January is a video on Magnets. They touch our lives every day and every night.

From Howard W1HO

While searching for some info on the web, I came across this, which I think we need to be aware of. The situation described may be more common in older homes which have not had the electrical service upgrades, and thus no dedicated ground rod for the power drop, and use metal plumbing. But checking for live pipes before working on them anywhere probably makes sense. The article below is from an Australian newspaper:

### **Man killed while fixing burst water pipe**

January 24, 2005

A Sydney Water employee was killed when he was electrocuted while fixing a broken water pipe in Sydney's west. Police said the 32-year-old man was repairing a water main outside a home in Palmer Place, Emu Plains, when the accident happened about 10.30pm on Saturday.

It was not immediately clear how the man came to be electrocuted, a police spokesman said. The man's co-worker and ambulance officers tried to revive him but were unsuccessful. WorkCover is investigating the incident. The man's name had not been released.

In a statement, Sydney Water managing director David Evans said he was saddened by the tragedy and had offered his condolences to the employee's family and friends. The company was unable to say if his death was linked to the weekend's wet weather.

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An explanation of how this could happen is offered at <http://www.electronics-tutorials.com/basics/earth-dangers.htm>, ( a great electronics tutorial site) which is copied here. (Note that "earthing" is usually referred to in the States as "grounding", and "earth stake" = "ground rod".)

<snip>

This is an email I wrote to the QRP-L, the Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion group back on 24th October, 1999.

**Date:** Sun, 24 Oct 1999 08:16:25 +1000

**From:** "Ian C. Purdie VK2TIP"

**To:** Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion

**Subject: ELECTRICAL EARTH WARNING**

Guys and Gals,

I know this is quite basic but I have just concluded a discussion with a scout master re crystal sets (qrp!) and good earthing.

As most of you know I am a licensed Plumber here in Australia. In my time I have met many water services (copper or galvanized pipe) which were **DEADLY LIVE**.

Most of the electrical fatalities in NSW (my state) and presumably elsewhere are plumbers and electricians who were electrocuted by live earthing.

A typical scenario is this with M.E.N. systems (same in US and UK I believe):

Power is supplied to the site through a two cored cable (active and neutral here). At the metering box all neutral leads connect to a common neutral link, i.e. leads coming back from various power and light circuits etc. Also connected to this neutral link is the earth wire leading to a bulk connection of all other earth wires. A further earth wire leads off to the water service and, in the case of more modern homes now, a separate earth stake driven into the ground.

Taking the case where no earth stake exists, if the main neutral conductor coming into the house is interrupted (and often can be for a variety of reasons) then the only return path for electrical continuity is the earthing system, down through the water service, out into the street and back up through EVERYBODY'S water service / earth system.

Modern installations have (a) a separate earth stake in the ground AND (b) an insulating bush in the water service where it connects to the water main. Other areas / countries might well be different. Certainly millions of older installations world-wide are as described above.

How do I know a water service is live? Standard procedure (for those who follow rules and procedures - idiots don't) is to first connect, by way of proper earth clamp, an insulated earth wire of standard 4 mm size to the water service as it emerges from the water main. This cable is then run out to the meter box for connection to the neutral link. Many, many times I have scraped this earth wire down the side of the meter box to be greeted by a shower of sparks. At this point both the law and common sense compel me to cease all work and contact the electrical authority who will arrive within half an hour. Often the cause is simply a broken neutral at the point of attachment to the house (if the active broke you would have no power). Other times it has taken teams from the electricity supply several days to locate the source.

Strangely, I have been abused by consumers for "creating trouble", especially after the electricity supply have put up a ladder and cut the active line for "immediate" safety reasons.

Sorry it was long winded, but it is a VERY REAL hazard. Many a plumber has died by cutting through old galvanized pipes. One was charged with manslaughter (rightly so) after leaving an inexperienced apprentice alone on site with instructions to "start removing the old gal pipe - I'll get the materials".

Just be aware!

73's

Ian Purdie

VK2TIP "I'll give you the TIP mate"

QRP-L member #1978.

**REMEMBER: Only cats have nine lives!**

<endsnip>

I C A R S  
FM and HF Nets  
**JANUARY**  
**2011**

*Net Manager: W4DON*

2m FM Net 2100 L 146.685		10m SSB Net 2030 L 28.468 USB	
Date	NCS	Date	NCS
		1	KC4MJC
5	N4ACF	8	WB4WRY
12	KC4MJC	15	W4DON
19	KE4TEP	22	N4ACF
26	WB4WRY	29	W4DON

*Thanks for volunteering to be a NCS*

**The 10-meter SSB Net is now called at 2030 hours local**

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 with N4WHK**

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