

IREDELL WIRELESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IREDELL COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

Happy 35th Birthday, ICARS! September 9, 1976-2011

UPDATE ON THE REPEATER ANTENNA PROJECT

The repeater antenna project has been under way since the club's W4SNC repeater station took a lightning strike last summer. The antenna and feedline were damaged by the lightning strike, and replacement cost was figured at \$1855. Operation since then has continued on a substitute antenna of significantly lower height and geographical coverage.

The ICARS W4SNC repeater project is an important community service. The repeater is used routinely and freely by many amateur radio operators within Iredell County. ICARS uses the repeater to extend the range of mobile radios while providing com-

munications services for community events. The value of the repeater in an emergency situation affecting normal communication services is inestimable.

The project so far has involved considerable research, planning, and fundraising. The replacement antenna and other materials have been procured, and bids for the tower-climbing work have been collected.

The actual installation of the antenna and feedline on the tower is tentatively scheduled to occur in October. A ground crew of ICARS members will be needed on this exciting day. Details will be announced on the

nets, at the monthly meeting, and in the *Wireless*.

Don, W4DON, and Howard, W1HO, are working on the assembly and testing the antenna and feedline in preparation for its installation at full height on the tower.

The fundraising effort is still underway. Remember, ICARS is a 501c3 organization, so your donations in support of this valuable community service may be tax deductible.

It is hoped that support will continue to come from all hams in Iredell County, as well as any other community stakeholders who value the services provided by Amateur Radio. Stay tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Campaigning for Donations to Support the Repeater Antenna Project* (Ongoing, Please Help Now)
- *Repeater Tower Work GROUND CREW NEEDED* (Tentatively October, TBA)
- *ICARS Board Meeting* (Date and Time TBA)
- *JOTA Boy Scout Event at Van Hoy Campground* (October)
- *Field Day Results* (November)
- *ICARS Officer Elections* (November)
- *Christmas* (December)

Don says September and October will be very busy months!

More information on these upcoming events will be presented in the next Iredell Wireless.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

For the past eight and one half years this publication has been under the competent editorial care of Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC. Tim has decided to focus his talents on other projects, and I must say I am glad that one of these is the mentorship of his replacement.

Just a few facts about me: I have been involved with amateur radio since meeting some local hams in the electronics program at Mitchell Community College in the mid-90's. I live in the extreme northern hinterlands of Iredell County, and I commute every workday

to Greensboro, where I am an instructor of Telecommunications and Network Engineering Technology at Guilford Technical Community College. I look forward to participating in the *Wireless* tradition. Please send me your content ideas and comments. Thank you!

Chad Phillips, KE4ZF

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Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes

August 11 2011

For the September 8 2011 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. There were fourteen (14) attending – ten (10) members and four (4) visitors. Don asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Minutes- A motion to approve the August 11, 2011 minutes as published was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rick McClure KE4TEP presented the following report for the month ending July 31, 2011. He also submitted a written report.

Old Business – ICARS is tentatively looking to replace the repeater antenna and coax sometime in October.

New Business – Howard W1HO reported to the group that ICARS was, again this year, going to help the boy scouts during their Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). This year Jota will be held at VanHoy Campground, sometime in the middle of October (Maybe 15th). Howard say's he wants to utilize digital modes and he stated that CW was a big hit last time. More info coming at a later date. Contact Howard, W1HO and volunteer!

After the second half of the program, Dennis N4WHK briefed the Society about the McGuire FEMA exercise held earlier that week. Five or 6 Iredell ARES members helped with that event.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Misenheimer, KCAMJC

Secretary

I C A R S
FM and HF Nets

SEPTEMBER

2011

Net Manager: W4DON

2m FM Net		10m SSB Net	
2100 L		2030 L	
146.685		28.468 USB	
Date	NCS	Date	NCS
		3	W4DON
7	KC4MJC	10	WB4WRY
14	KE4TEP	17	KJ4YZZ
21	WB4WRY	24	N4ACF
28	KJ4YZZ		

Thanks for volunteering to be a NCS

Call your Net on time.

Maintain Net for minimum of 15 minutes

If you're unable to call your Net find a replacement NCS

NCS please give a 5-minute notice before Net time.

SHELBY HAMFEST ON 3RD & 4TH

The Granddaddy of all Hamfests

ICARS MEETING 7 PM SEPTEMBER 8TH AT TALLEY HOUSE

BUSINESS SESSION

PROGRAM: 2011 "SET" by N4WHK

Happy 35th Birthday

I C A R S

September 9

1976 - 2011

©ICARS

ICARS OFFICERS

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

ON THE WEB
W4SNC.ORG

W4SNC Repeater

146.685

A 77.00 Hertz CTCSS tone is required
to access the W4SNC repeater.

The *Iredell Wireless* is the monthly newsletter of the
Iredell County Amateur Radio Society.

P.O. Box 142, Statesville NC 28687

The cut-off date for submissions is the first Thursday
of each month. Please send news, notices of upcoming
events, and other items of interest to the editor at
the following address:

wireless@w4snc.org

All ICARS Meetings are held on the *second Thursday*
of each month at Julia's Tally House, HWY-21 South.

Come early (6:00PM) and eat or rag chew.

The Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM.

The public is invited to attend.

All ICARS members and families are encouraged to
attend.

HOW I ALMOST ELECTROCUTED MYSELF

Here is an account from
W3NP, a ham in West Vir-
ginia, about the dangers of
becoming complacent
around power amplifiers and
hi-voltage sources in general.
Dave shares this in the hope
we can learn something from
his experience:

Spent most of the day putting
the finishing touches on a
very nice SB-200 I just
picked up - had put the top
shield on and just had it on
the bench "burning in" this
evening as my family and I
had our Thanksgiving dinner
etc. I went downstairs to my
BA bench to give it a look
and for some reason I put my

right hand on the right side,
feeling for heat from the
bleeder resistors safely in-
side. My little finger must
have curled under a bit and
what happened next is just a
blur as it came in contact
with the 2400 volt runner on
the outside edge of the PS
board - felt like I had been
hit with a sledgehammer. My
right little finger split open
like an overcooked hotdog.
The amp sounded like fire-
crackers going off and fire
came from under the board -
I was in too much of a daze
to even turn it off - finally
tripped the breakers. After
returning from the emer-
gency room about an hour

ago, where I had a painful
session of having skin cut
away, etc., I checked the
amp out (yes, my wife could
not believe that either), run-
ners burnt open, most of the
bleeders open, meter pointer
bent -- all of this damage
caused by my skin sticking to
the board. . . I have been
working with this stuff for 39
years and I know better . . .
guess all of this low voltage
stuff can make us forget what
is just an inch away. I cer-
tainly am thankful to God for
sparing me this time, and I
just wanted to remind all of
you how easily and quickly
this can happen . . . 73, Dave



Just after the bandage was
removed.

This article is presented with permis-
sion from [http://www.w3np.com/
hvsafety.htm](http://www.w3np.com/hvsafety.htm).