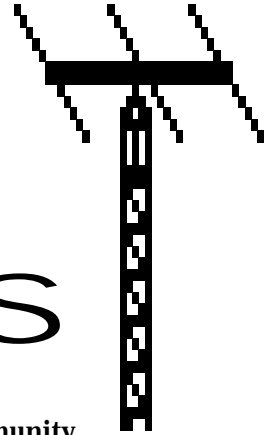




W4 SNC Iredell Wireless



www.icarsonline.org

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By the Iredell County Amateur Radio Society (ICARS)
P.O. Box 142 Statesville NC 28687

August 2003

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Special thanks to Mike Gaither, KC4KSX for printing the Iredell Wireless

*The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society will meet at
Julia's Tally House on August 14, 2003.
Come and eat at 6:00pm. The meeting starts at 7:00pm.
Bring the family. Everyone welcome!*

Where are the Nets!

It's Wednesday (or Saturday) night and you turn your rig on to the 146.685 repeater or (28.468 SSB) and get ready for the net at 9.00 PM. 9:00 comes and goes, the net does not appear. You think to yourself "*where's the net*"? After listening a few minutes you either turn to another frequency or turn the rig off. Did you think, maybe I could run the net?! Next time you don't hear a net control station at the appointed time, give about 5 minutes time for one to come and if a NCS does not show, call it yourself. You don't have to have a "Official" net format sheet, make up one. If you want one go to the ICARS website and download a copy. If you want to, or would volunteer for, a NCS position for either net, let Tim, KC4MJC know. If you don't want to take a full month, take a couple weeks. I will bring a sign up sheet to the next meeting split up in weeks. Please put your callsign in numerous times. I want to pick on someone now. We should all try to be more like him. When an ICARS net is called he is there. In the few times he does miss a net he has a good reason. He is either eating or visiting one of his Sons out of town. Yep, you guessed. John WB4WRY. I have been in ICARS almost 14 years and very few times can I remember him missing a net. You miss much club information when you miss the nets not to mention, we also have a lot of fun on the nets. ICARS needs you to support your club and your nets. Remember as the old saying goes, **If you don't use it, you might loose it.**

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House on July 10, 2003 for the July meeting. There were 12 ICARS members and 3 visitors present. Larry Earle, WD4LXC, ICARS President, opened the meeting. He then asked if everyone received their copy of the Iredell Wireless. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting as printed in the June Iredell Wireless. A motion was made, seconded and the minutes were approved. Next Larry asked for the Treasurers Report. John Lamson, WB4WRV, Treasurer reported that ICARS had a beginning balance of \$638.02. One check written for Field Day expenses totaling \$135.00 \$100.00 to Tom Allison and \$35.00 for Port-a- John. Another check for \$62.00 for Field Day groceries. ICARS had 2 deposits one for dues and Winston Hamfest Table assets. The next deposit for \$20.00 for Field Day expenses donation. That left the club with a ending balance of \$624.52. Next order of business Lee Schierbaum AE4RL asked what was the status of the club tee shirts. Next Larry said there Will be a program next month, just not sure what it will be. Many possibilities were discussed. After that the meeting was adjourned.

John Lamson WB4WRV
Acting Secretary

Thanks for taking over for me John. Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

30-31 Aug 2003 + Shelby ARC

<http://shelbyhamfest.org>

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Radio Through The Years

August 15, 1794 – First semaphore-telegram announces victory of France over Austria

August 22, 1922 – WEA, NY airs first paid commercial "message"

August 27, 1910 -; McCurdy sends first aircraft-to-ground wireless message

September 9, 1958 – Stereo records and phonographs introduced.

The 147.045 repeater is being repaired. The transmitter section is operational but at last report, they were still waiting on parts to arrive to complete the receive portion. The ICARS antenna is still on the WFMX tower and I have no word on when that may be coming down. I will keep you posted on any progress made. 73 Tim KC4MJC

Page 5 of the Iredell Wireless is to be posted somewhere in your shack.

Useless Trivia Department: Thomas Edison named his two eldest children Dot and Dash. Dot was a girl and could probably get away with pretending her name was short for Dorothy, but I wonder how Dash explained his name.

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 8, 2003--Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. The League has filed a 120-page response--including studies--in response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in ET Docket 03-104, published May 23. The NOI asking how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception. "This interference potential, as a matter of both law and fact, disqualifies access BPL as a potential future competitive broadband delivery system."

How will the radiation from BPL wiring affect other systems, such as telephone or cable TV?

So-called "access BPL" would use existing overhead medium-voltage power lines to distribute Internet and broadband services to homes and businesses. Another form of BPL, "in-house BPL," uses electrical wiring inside a building to distribute digital signals. The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

In announcing its BPL initiative earlier this year, members of the FCC could barely contain their enthusiasm for the technology. The League's comments point out, however, that the FCC had acceded to the utility industry by citing potential interference to and from unlicensed power company PLC power-grid control systems in turning down ARRL's petition for a 136 kHz allocation. ARRL had asked that hams be permitted to transmit on 136 kHz at less than 2 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP); the FCC had proposed 1 W EIRP.

"Yet, the same industry, together with BPL manufacturers, is apparently contending now that at HF and VHF, where the power lines are better antennas than they are at LF, that BPL can co-exist with amateur stations using more than 10,000 watts EIRP," the League said. "Both arguments cannot be valid."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 33.7 dB to 65.4 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

One technical issue involves the best method to bridging or bypass the typical step-down pole transformer to deliver BPL from the power grid into an office or dwelling.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is fair to say that power line interference to Amateur Radio has been a substantial regulatory burden to the Commission," the ARRL said. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix."

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies. In addition, the ARRL said, spurious emissions from BPL facilities must be substantially attenuated below current Part 15 requirements.

ARRL's complete filing in response to the FCC's NOI is available on the ARRL Web site. The complete NOI is available on the FCC Web site.

Reply comments in this proceeding are due on or before August 6, 2003. Interested parties may submit electronically filed comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). Under ECFS Main Links, click on "Submit a Filing." In the "Proceeding" field, enter "03-104" and complete the required field. Comments may be typed into a form or you may attach a file containing your comments. Comments also may be submitted via e-mail, per instructions on the ECFS page.

The ARRL has initiated an important Spectrum Defense Fund campaign to support activities to educate government officials on the potential threat that BPL poses to Amateur Radio. To find out more, or to support ARRL's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site.

Related Story: "Understanding the FCC's Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry"

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You might be a Ham if.....

You have ever taken radios and control heads with you while car shopping to make sure everything fit before you made a purchase.

You continue to drive that old 70s or 80s land barge - It's ugly and guzzles gas, but there are plenty of good antenna locations, and a real metal bumper for the HF antenna

You have ever bought a present for the XYL on the way back from a hamfest - something to keep her distracted while you sneak that new rig into the house.

You've spent an evening trying to explain to your wife all the neat stuff that the new hand held you want does so much better than the one you bought just last year.

NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSED AS _____ BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON, DC. BEFORE YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

- 1) The total cost of the equipment cannot be discussed here as it creates marital conflicts.
- 2) No, we cannot send a message to your brother in Hong Kong. We suggest you contact Western Union.
- 3) This is strictly a hobby; we do not have the facilities or the time to fool around with TV sets, radios or hi-fi. We suggest that you contact a serviceman.
- 4) Yes, the antenna in the back yard is essential to the operation of the equipment.
- 5) The farthest station we have contacted is Ubangiland.
- 6) The cards on the wall are called QSL cards. They are confirmation of contacts we have made with other stations.
- 7) It is technically impossible for this station's equipment to interfere with television reception, telephones or stereo equipment. Any interference problems of that nature are caused by design flaws in the home-entertainment devices themselves.
- 8) An Amateur Radio Station may be operated only by a highly qualified, technically skilled electronics expert. It takes dedication, training and intelligence to reach the level of competence that justifies one to be licensed by the US Federal Government. Therefore, it is not considered inappropriate to show proper awe, respect and general obsequiousness when I discuss my hobby or operate the controls.

FURTHERMORE...

IF YOU ARE GRANTED THE EXTREME HONOR OF BEING INVITED TO SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- 1) Speak in a low and soothing tone.
- 2) Do not disagree with me in any manner.
- 3) Say no bad words and tell no off-color jokes.
- 4) It is customary for guests to make complimentary remarks about this station and its licensed operator when talking to other hams on the air.

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING, TURN ANY KNOBS, SIT ON EQUIPMENT, ETC. I HAVE LOST SEVERAL VISITORS BY ELECTROCUTION IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS!!!

Thanks for your cooperation.