



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

President: Larry Earle, WD4LXC~~Vice President: James Hamilton, AC4AS  
Secretary: Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC~~~Treasurer: John Lamson, WB4WRY  
Members-at-Large: Lee McClure KE4ERH ~ Ralph Sparrow, N4ACF

Wireless Editor Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC  
Special thanks to Mike Gaither, KC4KSX for printing the Iredell Wireless

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March 2003

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## MEETING MARCH 13, 2003

Julia's Tally House Hwy. 21 S. Troutman NC

**6:00pm. To 7:00pm. Eat and Ragchew 7:00pm Meeting starts**

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at the usual place for the February meeting. There were nine members and three visitors present. President Larry Earle, WD4LXC welcomed everyone. He then asked for approval of the minutes of last months meeting as printed in the Iredell Wireless. The minutes were seconded and approved. Next order of business was the reading of the Treasures report. John Lamson, WB4WRY, Treasurer reported that we had a beginning balance of \$204.52. Two checks written, one for club insurance in the amount of \$133.00, the other for SERA repeater dues in the amount of \$20.00. ICARS had three deposits. Two for dues totaling \$135.00, the other a \$15.00 refund from the insurance company for overpayment. This brought the ending balance to \$201.52. The report was seconded and approved. John then read a note from Bob Southworth KI4YV. Mike Bryan, WA6KWW then brought a suggestion to the club, He suggested ICARS have a "Club Table" at area hamfests. Any member could bring items to sale with a portion of the sale price (10% was suggested) going to ICARS. Club brochure and membership applications available were also suggested for the table. After some discussion, it was decided to try it at the Elkin Hamfest. Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC then told the club, they had received a letter from the insurance company stating that, some acts of terrorism were covered under the current policy. (Secretary note: I have no idea what this means but that is what it said). Next Tim brought two applications for membership to the group. Mike Norman KG4WWQ and Walter Schwarzl AG4AU. They were unanimously voted in to ICARS. Tim Slay, N4IB next told us that if any club member worked security or sold tickets for two hours, they could get into the Charlotte Hamfest free. Lastly, Mike Bryan informed the group of upcoming events. Larry Earle WD4LXC turned the floor over to Jim Hamilton AC4AS for the program. Jim Showed his "K2" rig he built from a kit, along with several additional upgrade boards for the rig. Great work on the rig Jim!

Respectfully submitted  
Tim Misenheimer, Secretary

The following people have paid dues for 2003.

Larry Earle	WD4LXC	Tim Misenheimer	KC4MJC
Buddy Eaton	KG4DKN	James Hamilton	AC4AS
Lee Schierbaum	AE4RL	Ralph Sparrow	N4ACF
Bob Southworth	KI4YV	Jim Hoke	W4ONS
John Lamson	WB4WRY	Mike Bryan	WA6KWW
Debbie Freeze	WOCJV	Jim Kennedy	KD4IIQ
Mike Norman	KG4WWQ		

If you haven't paid your 2003 dues you can mail them directly to John Lamson WB4WRY or to the ICARS PO Box. ICARS P.O. Box 142 Statesville NC 28687

#### HAMFESTS

March 23, 2003 Kinston NC Down East Hamfest Association  
Contact Doug Burt, W4OFO PO Box 1778 Kinston NC 28503  
Phone 252-524-5724

April 13 2003 Raleigh NC Raleigh ARS  
Contact Chuck Littlewood, K4HF 2005 Quail Ridge Rd.  
Raleigh NC 27609 Phone 919-872-6555

April 19 2003 Catawba Valley Hamfest Morganton NC McDowell ARA <http://cvhamfest.org>  
Contact Larry Withrow, AF4HX 2583 Nix Creek Rd. Marion NC 28752  
Phone 828-652-4149 E-mail [af4hx@worldnet.att.net](mailto:af4hx@worldnet.att.net)

### **Editorial Comment**

ICARS needs you! We have had only 8 or 10 ICARS members present at the last few club meetings. This represents the active body of ICARS! We need everyone that can attend, to please come to the meetings. I know we have lost valuable members this past year and it hurt us but we need to keep going. The club participates in many events through the year so there is something for everybody. Remember we have the March of Dimes Walkamerica, the balloon rally (at the end of May this year) Our biggy, Field Day June 28-29 (8 people can't begin to pull off the big event we always do) and ARES activation's we don't know about yet. Each and every one of you is important to ICARS and the Community. There is a lot of work involved with the club but I haven't mentioned the FUN and Enjoyment we get from participating in these activities. Please come, bring your family and friends and GET INVOLVED AGAIN WITH AMATEUR RADIO. JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT!

# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C.

Dear Citizens,

We live in a different world than we did before September 11, 2001. We are more aware of our vulnerabilities, more appreciative of our freedoms and more understanding that we have a personal responsibility for the safety of our families, our neighbors and our nation.

*Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness* provides practical information on how your family can prepare for any disaster. It includes up-to-date hazard specific safety tips and information about preparedness and protection. In addition to information on most natural and technological disasters, there are new chapters on "Animals in Disaster," "Extreme Heat-- (Heat Wave)," "Landslide & Debris Flow (Mudslide)," "Emergency Water Shortages," and newly updated information on terrorism.

We know that disaster preparedness works. We can take action now that will help protect our families, reduce the impact an emergency has on our lives, and deal with the chaos if an incident occurs near us. These actions are at the heart of everything we do at FEMA, and they are the reason President George W. Bush established Citizen Corps, a nationwide initiative encompassing public education, citizen training and volunteer programs. FEMA's vision of a nation prepared is best achieved by your participation in community and family preparedness so that we are all better protected for every disaster.

Contact your local emergency management office for information about specific hazards in your area and to volunteer to help make your community better prepared.

We know that disaster can strike at any time. We all have a personal responsibility to be ready.

Sincerely,

Joe M. Allbaugh

Director

## **ARE YOU READY**

**Are you ready**, as the above letter says is a citizen's guide to emergency preparedness. I found this website [www.fema.gov/areyouready/](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/) quite by accident. As *Amateur Radio Operators* and *Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)* members, this book is something we all need. It covers all major disasters that might hit our area including winter storms, Thunderstorms, Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Extreme heat and even Earthquakes and Volcano's! It has now been upgraded to cover terrorist attacks. The book tells us what we need to include in a "survival pack" in case we have to leave home or have to do without electricity for several days.

I ordered a supply of these books for the club, which I will bring to the March meeting. I have talked with our DEC Mike Bryan WA6KWW and he agrees with me that we could all benefit from this publication. If you wish, you can order a copy for yourself from the above website or pick up one at the next ICARS meeting. I will also have some ARES registration forms if you want one.

This is something I hope we **NEVER** have to use but would be a big help to us if we do.

Tim KC4MJC Assistant EC Iredell County ARES

## Radio Through The Years

March 19, 1928 – Amos n' Andy debuts on WMAQ, Chicago  
March 20, 1902 – Stubblefield demonstrates ship-to-shore broadcast multiple receivers  
March 22, 1997 – Digigram intros PCXpocket, first pro laptop sound card  
March 26, 1975 – The first Altair 8800 personal computer ships  
March 27, 1899 – Marconi transmits across English Channel  
March 28, 1987 – Harris intros digital amplitude modulation (DX-10)  
  
April 3, 1973 – Comrex develops 450MHz wireless microphone for ENG  
April 5, 1964 – First official SBE meeting held in Chicago  
April 6, 1875 – Bell granted patent for multiple telegraph

## Nets

2 Meter FM net 146.685 repeater Wednesday at 9:00 PM  
147.045 77.0 pl Backup repeater  
March NCS John Lamson WB4WRY  
April NCS Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

10 Meter CW Net 28.150 Saturday at 8:00 PM  
John Lamson WB4WRY NCS  
Tim Misenheimer Backup NCS

10 Meter SSB Net 28.468 Saturday at 9:00 PM  
March NCS Ralph Sparrow N4ACF  
April NCS TBA

If you would be willing to be Net Control Station for either net Contact Tim at [kc4mjc@icarsonline.org](mailto:kc4mjc@icarsonline.org) or Tim @ PO Box 142 Statesville NC 28687

Also:

If you have articles, comments or suggestions for something you would like to see in the Iredell Wireless send them to the address above. Cutoff date for the April Wireless is MARCH 31 2003.

If you haven't been to a club meeting lately, or ever, we would like to see you there.

We meet at **Julia's Tally House** in **Troutman** always on the second Thursday of the month. If you're coming from Statesville it's Hw. 21 south ¼ mile past Food Lion, on the right. Coming from the south it's ¼ mile or less from the Troutman red light on the left. Come and eat at 6:00 PM, the food is quite good. The meeting starts at 7:00PM. We need everyone's help to make ICARS the best club it can be. If you have never been to a meeting then you don't know what you're missing. We always have fun and much enjoyable fellowship. Best of all we usually learn something new. Pass this along to your friends. Everyone is welcome whether you are an Amateur operator or not.

**You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat.**  
*Albert Einstein (1879-1955), when asked to describe radio*

**Electricity originates inside clouds. There, it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity... where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a 'circuit.'**  
*Dave Barry*

## The "ACCIDENT"

### An Insurance Claim Explanation

This story has circulated widely in the ham community. I have no idea who originally wrote this, but it has become a classic.

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my insurance claim. In block #3 on the accident reporting form I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following details will be sufficient:

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools. You will note in block #11 of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 lbs.

Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20-lbs. I refer you again to my weight in block #11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

This encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools; and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80-feet above me -- I again lost presence of mind. I let go of the rope.