

IREDSELL WIRELESS

W4SNC

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

ICARS WEBSITE www.icarsonline.org

President: Larry Earle, WD4LXC~~**Vice President:** Margie Persons, KE4YWO
Secretary: Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC~~**Treasurer:** John Lamson, WB4WRY
Members-at-Large: Lee McClure, KE4ERH~~Mike Bryan, WA6KWW

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

March 2004

*The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society will meet at
Julia's Tally House Thursday **APRIL 8, 2004.**
Come and eat at 6:00pm. The meeting starts at 7:00pm.
Bring the family. Everyone welcome!*

FOR EMERGENCY DIAL 911, THE TIME IS...

We have all heard this announcement on the 146.685 repeater for years. In the last few years, if you have tried to use the autopatch to dial 911 or to make other calls, you have heard WSIC radio station on the repeater phone line. The repeater has had major RFI from the station making autopatch use almost impossible. Well thanks to the efforts of W4DON Don Summers and KC4MJC Tim Misenheimer, the RFI is no longer a problem! W4DON bought a RFI filter with 50db. Filter coils for the club and KC4MJC installed the filter so now we have a CLEAR autopatch line. I realize that many of you have cell phones and the autopatch is not necessary, but many folks don't. This is still a very important tool to have in emergency situations.

A number of ICARS members have a personal extended autodial number. They are now operational again for paid up members. If you wish to know the status of your number, or would like to have an extended autodial number, (for you newer members) see Tim KC4MJC, Trustee and he will be glad to help you.

March 11 2004 Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House for the monthly meeting. There were 11 members and 2 guests present. President Larry Earle WD4LXC called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Larry first asked if everyone received their copy of the Iredell Wireless newsletter. Larry then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of last month's meeting, as printed in the newsletter. Mike Bryan, WA6KWW had a correction from last month's newsletter. Russell Beck's call sign is KF4AEX and not KF4AEW. The correction was noted. A motion was then made to accept. It was seconded and then approved. Next Larry asked for a report from John Lamson, WB4WRY, ICARS treasurer. John reported a beginning balance of \$472.13. One check was written to W4DON, Don Summers for a RFI Filter for the phone line on the 146.685 repeater, in the amount of \$42.00. ICARS had 4 deposits totaling \$185.00. The club now has an ending balance of \$615.13. Larry asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. A motion was made, then seconded. The report was accepted by the membership. Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC reported that he installed the RFI filter on the phone line for the 146.685 repeater. WSIC is no longer interfering with the autopatch phone line. He also noted that he was working to get paid up members extended autodial numbers working again. Tim also said that he would like to have all the levels on the repeater turned up to match those on other area repeaters. Mike Bryan WA6KWW asked for the floor. He announced that there would be an ICARS table at the Charlotte hamfest again this year if anyone had items that they wanted to sale. Tim Slay, N4IB said he had pre-reregister hamfest tickets for sale. Price \$6.00. Mike then announced the March-of-Dimes WalkAmerica on March 27th. And asked for help with that. Mike then said the Red Cross had moved to a new building and they had a nice room there for meetings if we needed a place for one. He also said the EOC conference room was available for meetings. Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC announced that he had put an AMBER ALERT on the www.icarsonline.org website. Tim Slay, N4IB was asked and he agreed to hold a "clinic" at the May meeting to "CHECK ONLY" 2 meter rigs for the club. Mike WA6KWW also reminded us of the Balloon Rally, June 4th, 5th and 6th. He said don't forget Field Day June 26th and 27th. Herman Speese KU4AM asked for the floor then. He spoke about the ARRL. After some discussion about the ARRL Herman said that The ARRL wasn't perfect but they were all we amateur radio operators had to protect us and our rights. After that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC Sec.

If you have a 2 meter rig you wish to have checked, see the sheet on the back page of this newsletter. The sheet will also be printed in the May Iredell Wireless. *Bring those rigs in so we can get everyone sounding their best!!*

Tim, Please pass this on to the club and others. We need to encourage everyone to comment on the FCC's new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Broadband over Powerline (BPL). The ARRL is NOT exaggerating the threat this technology poses. If not deployed properly, these systems could destroy HF amateur radio as we know it. The thousands of comments sent by hams and lobbying from ARRL has been very effective raising this issue with the FCC and from what I hear the commission is genuinely sensitive to amateur concerns. We need to keep up the pressure by responding to the FCC's NPRM. The deadline to file comments is May 3. This NPRM is separate from the "Notice of Inquiry" hams may have already commented on, so if you've already responded to the NOI you also need to comment on the NPRM. Comments are accepted on the FCC's web site at <http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>. More info is also available at www.arrl.org.

My take on the NPRM is that, under the circumstances, it was fairly well balanced and sensitive to the concerns expressed by licensed users. The FCC affirmed the Part 15 emission limit of 30dBuV/m at 100 ft. Note this would still create a 16dB over S9 signal on an HF receiver! But the good news is that the FCC didn't bow to industry pressure and raise the limit. They also will require systems to have adaptive interference mitigation technology, such as notch filters. And fortunately for us, the FCC affirmed Part 15's requirement that an unlicensed emitter must not interfere with a licensed service and if interference is created the unlicensed user must cease operation. How well this is enforced and who will define "harmful" interference is not determined.

My comments to the FCC will include the following:

-HF radio is a precious natural resource. Despite advances in technology, HF radio is still the only means of communicating long distances with no infrastructure. During major disasters, HF continues to play a strong role as a back-up communications method. Since long distance signals are often very weak, amateurs and other HF users utilize sensitive receivers and high-gain antennas. Even low levels of interference on these frequencies can severely hamper HF operation. The FCC recognizes that it will be particularly challenging to deploy BPL systems that do not interfere with amateur radio operations. This risk of interference would be reduced if the FCC required that BPL systems avoid the amateur HF bands by using deep notch filters or dropping carriers within the ham bands. The amateur HF bands occupy 3.7MHz, or less than 14% of the entire HF spectrum. It's reasonable to assume that the amateur bands could be notched with little impact on the performance of BPL systems.

-The FCC must be committed to strictly enforcing the Part 15 requirement that BPL installations do not create any interference to licensed users. We should applaud the FCC's efforts to establish a BPL frequency database accessible to the public.

-The NPRM does not address the concerns expressed by ARRL that the field strength of BPL signals are likely higher above the power line than below. The FCC should require measurements to be taken above the power line at the height of a typical amateur radio tower (60-80ft) to determine if BPL systems are within Part 15 emission limits.

When submitting a comment or viewing filed comments, ECFS users should type "04-37" (without quotation marks but including the hyphen) in the "Proceeding" field of the ECFS on-line form. Do not use the NPRM's FCC document number when filing or searching for comments. The ECFS permits attaching a file containing detailed comments prepared off-line.

Very 73,

Tim Slay, N4IB

Dates	Type	Event and Contact	Location
17 Apr 2004	+	Catawba Valley Hamfest McDowell ARA & Western Piedmont ARC http://cvhamfest.org Contact: Larry Withrow, AF4HX 2583 Nix Creek Road Marion, NC 28752 Phone: 828-652-4195 Email: af4hx@arrl.net	Morganton, NC Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina
24 Apr 2004	+	Chesapeake AR Service http://www.qsl.net/cars Contact: Ruth Bigio, KB4LIF PO Box 6867 Chesapeake, VA 23323-6867 Phone: 757-483-1703 Email: Ruthis23505@yahoo.com	Chesapeake, VA Div: Roanoke Sect: Virginia
1 May 2004	*	South Carolina Section Convention Blue Ridge ARS http://www.upstatehamfest.org Contact: John Hoyt, W5UGD 125 Wyatt Oaks Court Easley, SC 29642 Phone: 864-859-8316 Email: hamfest@brars.org	Greenville, SC Div: Roanoke Sect: South Carolina

	2 Meter FM		SSB Net
	Wednesday		Saturday
DATE	146.685 at 9:00 PM	DATE	28.468 at 9:00 PM
04/07/04	KG4JRF	04/10/04	W4RTW
04/14/04	W4RTW	04/17/04	KC4MJC
04/21/04	AG4AU	04/24/04	N4ACF
04/28/04	W4SDT	05/01/04	W4UFO
05/05/04	WB4WRY	05/08/04	WD4LXC
05/12/04	KC4MJC	05/15/04	W4DON
05/19/04	KG4YVZ	05/22/04	KE4ERH
05/26/04	KE4NUN	05/29/04	AG4AU

ICARS CLINIC

Thursday - May 13, 2004

Transceiver Measurement Report

Guidelines and Instructions:

1. Only measurements will be taken on your transceiver. No adjustments will be made.
2. No adjustments will be made to your transceiver due to time element, etc..
3. Your HT batteries should be fully charged.
4. You will provide power supply for fixed and mobile type transceivers.
4. Maximum of one repeater pair will be measured. Example: 146.085/685 mHz
5. You must supply necessary cables:
 - a. from antenna jack to service monitor including any adapters needed.
 - b. from audio out jack to service monitor if SINAD test is desired.
 1. otherwise only threshold sensitivity measurement will be made.
6. Do not disturb Technician(s) while measurements are being made.
7. Only one transceiver per person UNLESS time permits more.
8. Use this form to register your transceiver and record measurements..

Name: _____

Date: _____	Callsign: _____	
Make: _____	Model: _____	S/N: _____

Receiver Frequency and Sensitivity Measurements (Choose one)	
THRESHOLD: Squelch set to just quiet receiver. RX Frequency _____ mHz Sensitivity _____ microvolt(s)	12db SINAD: Audio out required. Squelch set maximum CCW or open. RX Frequency _____ mHz Sensitivity _____ microvolt(s)

Transmitter Power, Frequency and Modulation Deviation Measurements			
TX Pout: _____ Watts	TX Freq: _____ mHz	TX Speech Dev. _____ kHz 5 . 0 kHz Maximum	TX TTPad Dev. _____ kHz 3 . 5 kHz Maximum

Comments _____
