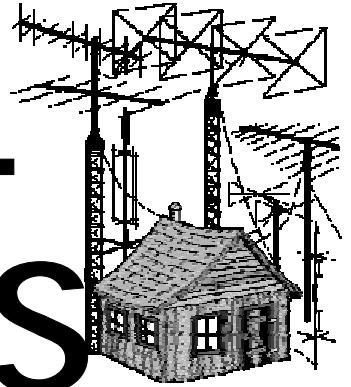




IREDELL WIRELESS



W4SNC

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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.

August 2004

*The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society will meet at
Julia's Tally House Thursday August 12, 2004.
Come and eat at 6:00pm. The meeting starts at 7:00pm.
Bring the family. Everyone welcome!*

2004 Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes July 8, 2004

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House for the monthly meeting. There were 7 members and 3 guests present. Treasurer John Lamson, WB4WRY called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, in the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary. John first asked if everyone received their copy of the Iredell Wireless newsletter. John then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of last month's meeting, as printed in the newsletter. The motion was made, seconded and approved. Next John gave the treasurers report. Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$616.35. 2 checks were written. One for \$37.00 for Postage. The other for \$150.00 for Field Day donation and Port-o-John. One deposit totaling \$15.00 from club dues. The ending balance for the month is \$444.35. John asked for a motion to accept the report. The motion was made, seconded and approved. Next a discussion of Field Day operations and setup with comments from Buddy Eaton, KG4DKN. Some discussion about awards for Meeting attendance, and net check-in followed. Matthew Carbone KC2JSR demonstrated his QRP rig for the program. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted John Lamson, WB4WRY, Acting Secretary, President and Vice President.

Cedar Rapids BPL Trial Ended

Cedar Rapids, IA - Jun 29, 2004 - According to BroadbandReports.com, a broadband over power-line trial in Cedar Rapids, IA, has been ended prematurely as a result of several interference complaints. The trial has been cited as one of the more well coordinated efforts between radio hobbyists and the energy industry working together to solve the problems with the technology.

Earlier in June 2004, the ARRL aided Jim Spencer, an amateur radio operator in Cedar Rapids, who operated very near some BPL-activated power lines, to resolve the interference that Spencer received from the BPL test. The ARRL filed a complaint with the FCC, but the FCC took no action.

Radio amateurs in the area are claiming a victory. The companies conducting the test state that their evaluation of the technology is complete, but admit that the complaints played a role in the early end date.

The efforts to eliminate interference issues are costly, so many power companies hope that they can get by without making the extra efforts. The costs to prevent interference – to amateurs, AM broadcast stations and possibly emergency communications – reduce the profit potential for the power companies so they are obviously not a welcomed step in the process.

Thanks to Jim Hoke, W4ONS for this article

Copied from, Monthly North Carolina Section News Summary

Some have been asking lately whether we need to continue to use formal traffic techniques over the air. The answer to that is most emphatically yes! Just consider how we communicate in our daily lives. Most of what we communicate can be done informally over the phone and via e-mail, but there is still a definite need for verified delivery of printed letters. Verbal contracts are fine for many situations, but how many of us would seek a mortgage or buy a house without a written contract? For some circumstances, there is no substitute for having it written down. The same applies to disaster communications for Amateur Radio. Most of our tactical traffic can be handled informally, but most messages that have to be relayed through multiple stations and important official requests (such as a request for supplies) should be handled in a structured format (which for us is the NTS format) and should bear the signature of the requesting official. This gives us an audit trail, and provides additional mechanisms to make sure the message is delivered accurately and completely, without any introduction of extraneous content by the radio amateurs involved. For some messages, this is extremely critical.

Regardless of which method is appropriate at the time, it is essential that we always strive to be accurate. We have a "highly survivable" form of communications that we can offer to our communities, but if we cease to be accurate, then there is no reason for us to be used.

Thanks to Don Summers, W4DON for this article

Losing Our Marbles

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement (radio) shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it.

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind, he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whoever he was talking to about "a thousand marbles". I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you are busy with your job and I'm sure that they pay you well but it is a shame that you have to be away from your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow would have to work sixty or seventy hours a week just to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital".

He continued, "Let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities" And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles".

You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on the average, folks live about seventy-five years.

Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900 which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. "Now stick with me Tom, I'm getting to the important part.

It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail" he went on and by the time I had lived thought over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays and I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy five, I had only about a thousand of them left to enjoy and I went to a toy store and bought every single marble that they had. I had to visit three stores to round up 1000 marbles and I took them home and put them inside a clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear. Every Saturday since then, I have, taken one marble out and thrown it away.

I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help you get your priorities straight.

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little extra time. So starting next Saturday, I'm going to add a marble every Saturday to help me appreciate the gift of time I've been given,"

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 75 year Old Man, this is K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, Good Morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on" she asked -with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids." Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we are out? I need to buy some marbles."

Give your child a hug for no particular reason, your beautiful wife/husband a compliment and your aging grandmother a phone call! They will all appreciate the moment and its value will be long-lasting!

Andbe careful out there, 'cause we are all losing our marbles!

Thanks to John Lamson WB4WRY for this article.

Given to John be Gene Medlin

For Sale ----GAP Eagle DX HF Antenna. 40 thru 10 meters.
\$150.00 Jim Hamilton, AC4AS 704-924-8247

Short editorial comment:

Many thanks to everyone who have contributed articles to the I redell Wireless recently.

This your newsletter and I want to include items that are of interest to you. Please keep the articles coming. If you have any suggestions for something you would like to see in the Wireless, let me know that as well.

Thanks Tim KC4MJC

	2 Meter FM		SSB Net
	Wednesday		Saturday
DATE	146.685 at 9:00 PM	DATE	28.468 at 9:00 PM
08/04/04	KG4SOE	08/07/04	W4DON
08/11/04	WD4LXC	08/14/04	KE4ERH
08/18/04	W4DON	08/21/04	KQ40
08/25/04	KC4KQC	08/28/04	AE4RL
09/01/04	W4RSD	09/04/04	AG4AU
09/08/04	KD4III	09/11/04	W4RTW
09/15/04	KG4WWQ	09/18/04	KC4MJC
09/22/04	KE4GEK	09/25/04	N4ACF
09/29/04	W4SDT	10/02/04	W4UFO

14 Aug 2004	+	<p>Cape Fear ARS</p> <p>Contact: David Cowart, KR4OE 637 East Raynor Drive Fayetteville, NC 28311 Phone: 910-237-9097 Email: kr4oe@nc.rr.com</p>	<p>Fayetteville, NC</p> <p>Div: Roanoke</p> <p>Sect: North Carolina</p>
4-5 Sep 2004	+	<p>Shelby ARC</p> <p>http://www.shelbyhamfest.com</p> <p>Contact: John Ledford, W4JL 9555 Knob View Drive Vale, NC 28168 Phone: 704-462-4910 Email: w4jl@shelby.net</p>	<p>Shelby, NC</p> <p>Div: Roanoke</p> <p>Sect: North Carolina</p>
2 Oct 2004	+	<p>York County ARS</p> <p>http://www.ycars.org</p> <p>Contact: Bob Bacharach, WA2EMF 1627 Bridal Trail Rock Hill, SC 29732 Phone: 803-327-2634 Email: wa2emf@arri.net</p>	<p>Rock Hill, SC</p> <p>Div: Roanoke</p> <p>Sect: South Carolina</p>