

IREDELL 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.

JUNE 2004

*The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society will meet at
Julia's Tally House Thursday June 10, 2004.
Come and eat at 6:00pm. The meeting starts at 7:00pm.
Bring the family. Everyone welcome!*

	2 Meter FM		SSB Net
	Wednesday		Saturday
DATE	146.685 at 9:00 PM	DATE	28.468 at 9:00 PM
06/09/04	KE4NUN	06/12/04	N1GC
06/16/04	KG4DKN	06/19/04	W4RTW
06/23/04	WA6KWW	06/26/04	N4ACF
06/30/04	WD4LXC	07/03/04	KC4MJC
07/07/04	N1GC	07/10/04	WD4LXC
07/14/04	N4ACF	07/17/04	AE4RL
07/21/04	KG4WWQ	07/24/00	W4RTW
07/28/04	KQ4O	07/31/04	KC4MJC

May 13 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 6 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. The motion was made, seconded and approved. Next Larry asked for the Treasurers report. John Lamson WB4WRY, Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$568.13. No checks were written. Two deposits totaling \$12.80. The ending balance for the month is \$580.93. John, WB4WRY did report that ICARS had bills to pay in the coming month. One to Don Summers for parts. Another to the US Post Office \$38.00 for the club PO Box. John noted that the bills would be paid ASAP. Larry asked for approval of John's Treasurer report. A motion was made to approve, then seconded. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Mike Bryan reported the Balloon Rally is the 4th, 5th, and 6th of June. ICARS has been asked to help. We need all the operators we can get. Bring HT's and extra battery's. Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC was asked if was handling Field Day this year. Tim said, as much as he would like to, he will not be able to attend Field Day this year. (*I will miss Field Day greatly. It is my favorite ICARS event.*) Tim next introduced Matthew Carbone, KC2JSR and Steve Speaks, KI4CGY. Both want to join ICARS. Tim made a motion to accept both amateurs into ICARS. They were both unanimously voted into membership. Glad to have you both! Margie Persons, KE4YWO announced to the club she now had jackets with the ICARS logo. She brought one to show. It looks great. The price is \$43.75. See Margie if you want one. The meeting was then turned over to Tim Slay N4IB and his service monitor, and Don Summers W4DON to test our rigs. Unfortunately, only 3 or 4 of us took advantage of this good opportunity to find out what our rigs would do. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

3 Jul 2004	+	Rowan ARS http://www.qsl.net/w4exu Contact: Ralph Brown, WB4AQK 1621 Emerald Street Salisbury, NC 28144 Phone: 704-636-5902 Email: rbrown@salisbury.net	Salisbury, NC Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina
17 Jul 2004	+	Cary ARC http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/ Contact: Herb Lacey, W3HL 1022 Medlin Drive Cary, NC 27511 Phone: 919-467-9608 Email: w3hl@arrl.net	Cary, NC Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina

March 26, 2004

Editor, The Wall Street Journal

Dear Sir:

Your front page article of March 23 "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans, New Use for Lines Sparks Tension With Operators" reads like a press release from those utility companies who wish to promote the questionable use of electric power lines for residential broadband internet service. Your attempt to denigrate this nations 700,000 ham radio licensees and their primary membership organization, the American Radio Relay League, is a pathetic piece of journalism and demonstrates a complete lack of effort to research the opposing point of view.

Your article portrays hams as an aging group holding on to an obsolete technology of "dots and dashes" and shows an extreme ignorance of all that modern ham radio has to offer. Today's hams are experimenting with digital communications modes, software defined radios and other cutting edge communications technologies. We have a far deeper and richer mastery of electronics technology than 99 percent of the computer programmers who inhabit the internet and who really have no understanding of the underlying electronic technology that their software runs on. Hams are also in general a nicer group of people than the hackers, spammers, scam artists, virus writers and pornographers who inhabit the internet.

Hams have built and launched more than 50 communications satellites into Earth orbit, the first of these in 1961, six months before the first commercial Telstar satellite. A subset of hams have mastered the technology needed to bounce radio signals off of the moon. There was a ham radio station onboard the Russian space station MIR and there is currently one onboard the International Space Station. A significant percentage of the US astronaut corps have ham licenses, including three of the seven astronauts who died aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia last year.

Amateur radio is not just a silly game. The contests and activities that hams engage in do have a serious side, they serve as practice anpreparation for the day when emergency communications services will be needed. A great many recent instances of natural and man made disasters have shown the ability of amateur radio communications to function when other systems fail. Cellular telephones and the internet depend on heavy infrastructure investments that can be overloaded or rendered inoperative in a major emergency. Ham radio, by its simple nature, is not dependent on complex and expensive infrastructure. Many cell phone towers do not even have emergency battery backup anymore, as a cost saving measure.

On September 11, 2001 the cell phone networks in New York and Washington crashed under the strain of heavy use. Ham radio operators were able to communicate. During last summers electrical blackout many cell phone systems were out of commission. Hams maintained communications during Hurricane Andrew and many other natural disasters. Hams have had a formal relationship with FEMA, its Civil Defense predecessors and the Red Cross for over 60 years.

Last year hams were extremely helpful to authorities in searching for debris from the Space Shuttle Columbia in remote areas of Texas. Their simple equipment could communicate in wilderness areas where more sophisticated police communications systems would not function. During the 1991 coup attempt in the Soviet Union, ham radio operators on the ground kept the MIR cosmonauts apprised of the true situation in their home country, when Soviet, Mission Control would not tell them any news because of political reasons. When Saddam Hussen's troops invaded Kuwait, many of the news stories "smuggled out of Kuwait"

were transmitted by ham radio operators in that country. This was kept secret at the time because hams worldwide were in fear for their colleagues' lives under Iraqi military occupation. When the US military invaded/liberated Grenada in 1983, our troops had to use commercial telephone calling cards to make contact with the Pentagon, while hams in Grenada kept the world informed. One ham's report was carried live on ABC's "Nightline".

In spite of this rich history, your writer chooses to remain ignorant of the facts and portrays us as a bunch of obsolete old fogies who can't adjust to changing times.

Measurements of radio interference in locations where Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) technology has been deployed clearly do show a harmful level of radio interference. Measurements made by companies with a financial stake in the deployment of BPL are far more suspect than our own measurements are. Interference from BPL in residential areas will affect not only licensed radio amateurs but also citizens band radio operators and anybody who listens to international shortwave broadcasts.

Your own article contradicts itself. The second and third paragraphs clearly indicate that your reporter observed harmful radio interference in an area served by BPL but then you go on to claim that interference is no problem and the hams are just complaining for the sake of making noise.

The fact that ARRL has raised \$300,000 from 5,600 donors would indicate an average donation of \$53 per person. This grass roots campaign is far more democratic than the much greater sum of money that will be spent to purchase influence in Washington by the companies who wish to promote their questionable technology.

We are not trying to stop the growth of the internet, but we ask that it be done in a responsible manner. Cable modems, DSL service and eventually fiber optic links can provide residential broadband service in a socially responsible manner without trashing the radio spectrum. I am sure that many products and services could be delivered to consumers at lower cost if environmental and pollution controls were lifted so that manufacturers could dump their waste products into the nations lakes, rivers and air without restriction.

Allowing BPL companies to pollute the radio spectrum that is shared by all citizens in the name of slightly cheaper internet service is not a defensible position. We feel that the FCC, like many government agencies today, has been co-opted by corporate interests and no longer works for the best interests of the citizens of this country. In contrast the communications authorities in Japan have decided not to allow BPL technology to be used in their country.

Simple economic theory taught in many schools indicates that it is not responsible behavior to shift costs to innocent third parties for the benefit of one particular group. We wish to preserve the existence of amateur radio in the 21st century so that it will be available to the younger generation when they grow tired of playing games and writing software on their computers and decide to seek out a real technical challenge.

Daniel Schultz
Burtonsville, Maryland

FCC assigned call sign:
N8FGV E-mail: [n8fgv@amsat.org]

Thanks to Mike Bryan, WA6KWW for this fine article. Sorry I did not have space to run it in last's months Wireless. Editor, KC4MJC

An ABC Guide to Field Day

- A** – Agencies... assisting those who serve when needed.
- B** – Bonus Points... plenty of them to broaden your Field Day experience.
- C** – Community Service... the core concept of Field Day.
- D** – Digital modes... a chance to experience new modes of communication.
- E** – Emergency Preparedness... what we practice.
- F** – FUN... need we say more?
- G** – GOTA... bring the hobby to the next generation.
- H** – Hungry Hams... what's Field Day without camaraderie?
- I** – Ingenuity... How you keep Murphy at bay.
- J** – Junk Box... there's an answer to just about any Field Day problem.
- K** – Kids... watch the face of a youngster making their first contact.
- L** – Lightning... safety is always a priority during the weekend.
- M** – Mosquitoes... citronella anyone?
- N** – Nets... traffic to make sure we get the message through.
- O** – Operators... the more the merrier.
- P** – Publicity... putting the face on what we do
- Q** – QSOs... making contacts and finding new friends.
- R** – Radios... the chance to try different models.
- S** – Solar power... alternate power “just in case”
- T** – Thunderstorms... Mother Nature has a tendency to play too.
- U** – Uplink frequencies... satellite communications.
- V** – Volunteers... How we are able to do what we do.
- W** – W1AW... don't forget the annual Field Day message.
- X** – “X”-bands... VHF / UHF / Microwave communications
- Y** – Yagis... we all need antennas
- Z** – Zzzzzzzz... the sleep that you get after a successful Field Day!