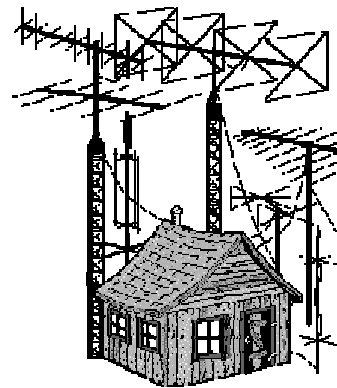


IREDELL WIRELESS W4SNC



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: Margie Persons, KE4YWO~~Vice President: Mike Bryan, WA6KWW
Secretary: Jim Hoke, W4ONS~~Treasurer: Matthew Carbone, KC2JSR
Members-at-Large: Walt Schwarzl, AG4AU~~David Damron, KI4CBZ

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

January 2006

This month's Meeting will be held
at Julia's Tally House
Thursday January 12 2006
Come early for rag chew or to eat

Net operators needed!

**We are looking for volunteers to be Net Control for the 2 Meter FM, 146.685
Wednesday night net, and the Saturday night SSB net on 28.468**

January Net Control Stations

2 Meter FM Net—Jim W4ONS 10 Meter SSB Net—Matt KC2JSR

February Net Control Stations

2 Meter Net—Mike WA6KWW 10 Meter Net Ralph N4ACF

December 10, 2005
Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at The Golden Corral for the regular monthly meeting. President Margie Persons, KE4YWO, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 15 members and 3 visitors present. Margie then asked if everyone had received a copy of the minutes of last month's meeting. Everyone agreed they had received a copy. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report - John Lamson, WB4WRY, Treasurer presented the treasurer's report dated 11-12-05. The beginning balance was \$487.80. A check for \$25.00 was written for a memorial for Mark Levan. A check for \$41.20 to Honor Craft for the Ham of The Year Plaque. A deposit of \$45.00 from dues/fees. The ending balance is \$466.66. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded. Motion carried. A written report was submitted.

Old Business – President Margie Persons, KE4YWO then asked for any old business. Don Summers W4DON reminded everyone that he was making a club directory and needed everyone's help. Then Don and Margie presented Jim Hoke W4ONS with the ICARS Ham Of The Year award.

John Lamson, WB4WRY, Nominating Committee Chairman Introduced the new ICARS officers for 2006:
President – Margie Persons, KE4YWO
Vice-President – Mike Bryan, WA6KWW
Secretary – Jim Hoke, W4ONS
Treasurer – Matthew Carbone, KC2JSR—not present
Member-at-Large – Walt Schwarzl, AG4AU
Member-at-Large – David Damron, KI4CBZ---not present
The new officers were then installed.

Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC has agreed to be ICARS Trustee and Iredell Wireless Editor for next year. Tim will also be webmaster for the ICARS website.

Larry Earle, WD4LXC said the club needed to find a new place to store the club's beams and other equipment he has because he has to move in the next few months. Buddy Eaton, KG4DKN said he might have a place to store the items and is going to look into it.

After some rag chew, the meeting was adjourned. Happy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC Secretary

Start the new year out right.
Time to pay dues!
\$15.00

SUBJECT: Alternate **ICARS** Frequency List first established in 1982

Its been well over 20 years since this Frequency List was published in the Newsletter. We need to publish it again in the Wireless Newsletter. Most are just **suggested frequencies** while others **are firm and well established**. One was changed from 28.685 mHz to 28.468 mHz to accommodate Technicians. Other changes and additions may be necessary. We need to review and update as needed or disband. Below is the List (Revised).

<u>Mode</u>	<u>Primary Use & Frequency (mHz)</u>	<u>Code Nr.</u>	<u>Alt. Frequency (mHz)</u>
VHF FM	2 Meter Repeater Pair 146.085/685	FM 1	None
	Should Repeater fail	FM 2	146.685 Simplex
	As needed	FM 3	146.550 Simplex
	As needed	FM 4	146.580 Simplex
	As needed	FM 5	6 meters
	As needed	FM 6	29.600 Simplex (New)
HF FM			
HF SSB	ICARS SSB NET 28.468	SSB 1	Any below (Prev. Change)
	As needed	SSB 2	28.700 USB
	As needed	SSB 3	12 meters
	As needed	SSB 4	21.385 USB
	As needed	SSB 5	17 meters
	As needed	SSB 6	14.285 USB
	As needed	SSB 7	7.285 LSB
	As needed	SSB 8	60 meters
	As needed	SSB 9	3.985 LSB
VHF SSB	As needed	SSB 10	6 meters
	As needed	SSB 11	144.285 USB
HF CW	ICARS CW NET 28.150	CW 1	Any below
	As needed	CW 2	28.185
	As needed	CW 3	12 meters
	As needed	CW 4	21.185
	As needed	CW 5	17 meters
	As needed	CW 6	14.185
	As needed	CW 7	7.125
	As needed	CW 8	3.725
VHF CW	As needed	CW 9	6 meters
	As needed	CW 10	144.100

Questions:

- 1- Do we need to add a 60 meter SSB channel frequency?
- 2- Do we need to add a 30 meter CW frequency list?
- 3- Do we need to add a 17 meter CW and SSB frequency?
- 4- Do we need to add a 12 meter CW and SSB frequency?
- 5- Do we need to select any different alternate frequencies?

What are your suggestions or ideas? We need stay clear of **national calling** frequencies. I think we have one or two on the lists??? Don

Helpless Hams

Here's one you can discuss -- what do you do with hams who, in spite of your showing them how to do something repeatedly, show up at your doorstep asking you to repeat the same lesson over and over and over? I'm going to make a poorly humorous attempt to describe these various hams. If you see yourself, please just laugh and move on....

Ham #1: Enjoys buying broken stuff, and brings it to you because you have repair skills. Scanners, old TV antenna rotators, pocket radios, even cordless drills! If it runs on electricity, you can make a safe bet that they'll buy it at a yard sale and the item will show up on your doorstep for repair. Of course, you do the repair for free because they're "your friend."

Ham #2: Likes to use computers, has been using one for years, but when it breaks, is totally lost on how to repair the problem! It makes no difference that they can buy a repair manual at the local Barnes & Noble, it's easier (for them) to pack up the whole computer in the car and drop it off to you to fix their problem for them. It doesn't matter that you've told them you don't have the time or room to work on it, and your wife told you no more junk can enter the door of your house, they won't listen. You tell them they'll have to hang around while you work on it so they can take it when they leave, but after the first hour, they have to leave. Your wife comes home 5 minutes after they leave to find computer parts all over her dining room table. Guess who gets blessed out? Not your buddy who dropped the computer off! But they're your friend, and again, expect the work to be done at little or no charge.

Ham #3: This fellow has been bringing stuff to you that needs to be soldered for years. A soldering iron is less than \$10 at Radio Shack, even cheaper at many yard sales, but for whatever reason, they won't buy one. When you offer to teach them how to solder, they refuse, citing some reason that sounds plausible. "I can't see up close", "my hands are too unsteady", "I don't have the room to do any work". I've heard them all.

Ham #4: Hardly ever comes around, but when they do, they have a doozy of a problem! They've made an attempt to fix the problem, and failed. Or couldn't find it. They're fun to work with, eager to learn and can implement your teachings, but most of the time are too busy to hang out while you fix the problem. They refuse to let you do any repairs for free, and will hide money in your house for you to find later if you won't take it from their hand! Really, please hang around! I'll put on some coffee and listen to what cool DX you've been working before your radio broke! I don't really want your money! Don't stop in for a visit if you can't stay for a while.

Ham #5: The most desirable ham. Exchanges repair information and ideas. You fix things he can't fix, and he fixes things you can't. Never brings anything for you to repair, always makes an attempt after learning as much as he can before tackling a repair. Usually just stops in for a visit and asks a few questions. Together, there is nothing you can't repair! You happily sponge off of each other's knowledge, and you have such enjoyable discussions that you always learn something, even from a short visit.

Darn it, we're ALL hams here! We should ALL know how to do simple electronic repairs when something breaks, or make an effort learn how. Non-hams come to us to get things repaired because we have a mystique about us that we can fix or do ANYTHING! (My kids, all adults now, call me for chainsaw repairs, how to cook stuff, how to spell words, satellite dish repairs, car repairs including brake jobs, motor rebuilding, stereo installation, plumbing repairs, etc. I don't know how they're going to survive when I pass on to the next world!) I can completely understand if someone has a physical disability. But each and every one of us HAS the mental ability to do many simple repairs to our radios and computers, or we would not have been able to get our amateur radio licenses! If someone has to show us how to do something, we should pay close attention so we can do it ourselves the next time we run into the same problem. We should ALL be experts in how to solder, NO EXCUSES! If you can't put a coax connector on, or do simple repairs that require little to no troubleshooting, it's time to find a class and learn how.

Make an effort to learn what the correct size wire is for your application. Do the math so you know what size power supply to purchase. Subscribe to QST and read the Helpful Hints and Technical Tips articles. If you don't understand them, read them over and over until you do. Discuss your problems on your local 2M nets so that others will learn from your mistakes. Spread the education. Buy the ARRL amateur radio handbook and antenna handbook. These two books are indispensable to a ham operator's library! Make an effort to look up information before you ask others. It's ALL in print if you're not too cheap to buy the books. Even if you're on a fixed income, save \$5 a month and buy the books after 6 months. Don't be too cheap to buy basic tools.

Tools you're likely to need if you're going to stay in this hobby are a good digital multi-meter, some jeweler's screwdrivers, and a pair of surgeon's forceps, flush-cutting diagonal pliers, needle nose pliers, regular pliers, and a set of nut drivers. Keep a fit-all (crescent) wrench on hand to tighten up loose SO-239 connectors. It won't hurt to own a pair of scissors (useful for trimming coax braid). Keep a large but sharp sewing needle on hand for picking out coax braid and separating multiple wire conductors. You'll need a 25 to 40 watt pencil iron for working on microphone connectors and the internals of radios, and a big 100+ watt gun for installing PL-259's. Throw a roll of electrical tape in your box. Buy the good Scotch brand stuff, it's only \$3.00 a roll but much easier to work with than the 79 cents a roll stuff. And it won't get gooey as quickly. Get some self-vulcanizing rubber tape for sealing connectors that are used outdoors. It's hanging next to the electrical tape at Home Depot. Also put some jumpers with alligator clips on your shopping list. Buy them at a local Hamfest for about \$5 a dozen. I'm sure there's other stuff I haven't thought of. This is, after all, a spur-of-the-moment article.

I don't mean to step on anyone's toes or make anyone feel unwelcome who comes to visit me. But please, let's make your visits more fun by not making every visit a WORKING visit! Just come by to chat sometimes instead of bringing a project with you. Come over and we'll work some DX together. My shack stays a mess, but I'll make room for an extra chair or two. Bring a non-ham and we'll both talk them into getting their license!

Some things that I feel ALL hams should be able to do after 5 years in the hobby:

1. Install a microphone or coaxial connector.
2. Make low-voltage measurements.
3. Replace fuses, even if inside a piece of gear.
4. Check coax for shorts and opens.
5. Check SWR and make antenna adjustments.
6. Should know resistor color code like the back of your hand.
7. Should know how to test diodes and capacitors.
8. Should be able to identify all internal components of a radio (i.e. transistor, resistor, capacitor, potentiometer, etc.)

Do I think less of you if you can't do the above? To be truthful, yes, I do! (Just kidding...)

Sure, I'll be there when you need me. I feel obligated since we both have ham licenses and you've asked for my help. But please, do me a favor -- make an effort to do stuff for yourself sometimes. Buy your own basic tools and use them instead of depending on me every time you need something done. Please? Pretty please?