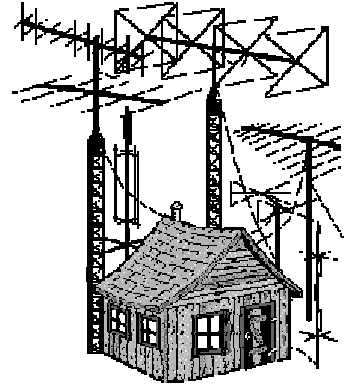


IREDELL WIRELESS W4SNC



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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: Rick McClure, KE4TEP~~Vice-President, Dennis White N4WHK
Secretary: Jim Hoke, W4ONS~~Treasurer: Matthew Carbone, K4NYP
Members-at-Large: Don Summers, W4DON~~David Damron, KI4CBZ

Wireless Editor, Tim Misenheimer KC4MJC

Special thanks to Mike Gaither, KC4KSX for printing the Iredell
Wireless.

MARCH 2007

This month's Meeting will be held at Julia's Tally House. Thursday March 8 2007. Come early (6:00PM) and eat or ragchew. The Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM. All ICARS members are encouraged to attend!

Iredell County Amateur Radio Society Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2007

The Iredell County Amateur Radio Society met at Julia's Tally House for the regular monthly meeting. President Rick McClure, KE4TEP introduced the speaker for this evening, Tim Slay, N4IB, Section Manager for ARRL. Tim made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the many functions of ARRL.

After the program, President "Rick, KE4TEP called the meeting to order at 8:03 PM. There were eleven (11) members and one (1) visitor present for a total of (12).

Minutes -- Secretary Jim, W4ONS added an additional statement, "The Audit/Budget Committee submitted a proposed budget for 2007.". A motion to approve the minutes with the addition was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report -- Treasurer, Matt, K4NYP presented and submitted a written report dated 02/08/07.

Previous Balance.....	\$374.08
Check to City of Statesville Parks for Field Day McClure Park.....	37.00
Dues and donations.....	115.00
Ending Balance.....	\$452.08

A motion to approve the report was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business --

Technical Committee -- Don, W4DON reported WSIC is cleaning out the engineering area where our repeater is located. New floor tile has been installed. He had a very good meeting with the new owner Billy Buck. WSIC is planning a 60th anniversary celebration May 3 and if anyone has relevant pictures, etc., please submit them to WSIC. Jeff, KC4DBZ stated he has been informed by the new owners that ICARS may continue to use their tower and engineering space at no charge.

Tim, KC4MJC is reworking the auto patch codes. There are many features such as modulation checks, state of touchtone pads, etc. available for use.

ARES may wish to knock down the repeater during a net in order to simulate a repeater failure.

Participants of the net would be expected to go simplex in order to continue net operations.

ARES -- Rick, KE4TEP announced that due to conflicts with other nets in area 11, ARES desires permission from the club to move the weekly net from Tuesday to Thursday. No one expressed an objection. This change will be effective the first Thursday in March. The time will remain the same -- 8:30 PM.

General -- Secretary Jim, W4ONS stated that there are a couple of items in need of closure from the January 11, 2007 meeting.

Jim made a motion that the Audit/Budget Committee's audit report finding accounting to be correct be adopted. Motion was seconded and carried.

Jim made a motion that the Audit/Budget Committee's Proposed 2007 Budget be accepted. Motion was seconded and carried.

Three Skywarn classes will be held Saturday, March 17 at the Agriculture Center building on Bristol Dr. Classes will begin at 9:00 AM with a break for lunch. Chili will be provided. Classes are expected to conclude about 3:30 PM. E-mail Cat, WB4CAT or Rick, KE4TEP if you wish to attend.

The next meeting will be March 8, 2007 at Julia's Tally House at 7:00 PM. With no further business, the meeting adjourned 8:15 PM.

Secretary Jim Hoke, CPBE, W4ONS

Copied, with permission, from Star-News, Wilmington, NC

No remorse for end of morse?

By Veronica Gonzalez

Staff Writer

veronica.gonzalez@starnews.com

Dots and dashes darted through the airwaves long before text or instant messages, even before e-mail, cell phones or phone lines.

While these new forms of communication conquered their predecessors, the rhythm of morse code's pulse persisted on amateur or "ham" radio.

Suddenly, an urgent signal - an SOS, if you will - is sounding for the code, created in the mid-1800s, as it appears to be going the way of Latin.

The last morse code certification class in Wilmington for ham radio operators will be today because the Federal Communications Commission will no longer require it for licensing after Feb. 23.

The FCC eliminated the requirement to prompt people to participate in ham radio and to encourage existing operators to upgrade their license, according to the commission.

That means those seeking certification to operate a ham radio will no longer be tested in morse code. The testing today takes place at 10 a.m. in UNCW's Cameron Hall, room 110.

While some consider it a travesty, many would-be ham radio operators are waiting until after the certification is not required to take the exam.

"There's a lot of people holding back because code is holding them back," said Bill Morine, a local ham radio operator and spokesman for the National Association for Amateur Radio. A ham radio examiner, he hopes to be one of the last people who administers the certification test requiring morse code chops.

Another local ham radio operator, Michael S. Hamby Jr., said he is waiting to take his certification test so he doesn't have to pass the morse code proficiency. Hamby is licensed to operate on lower frequencies, but to operate high band he needs to obtain certification.

But Hamby, who grew up with ham radio because of his parents' participation, has never quite captured the code.

"I probably would have done this a long, long time ago if morse code had never been involved in it," said the 27-year-old. "By the time I decipher what it is I'm hearing, a whole string of characters have gone by and I can't even write fast enough to try to figure out which is a dash, which is a dot. It's difficult if you don't know what you're listening to."

Morse code requirements for ham radio have been dwindling for more than a decade.

The FCC dropped the morse code requirement for the beginner's amateur radio license in 1993. In 2001, the speed requirement was downgraded. Previously, operators had to send and receive morse code at 13 words per minute or 20 words per minute for some higher-grade licenses; since 2001, they've had to cope with only five words per minute.

Abandoned by the Coast Guard, commercial ship captains - even the Boy Scouts - morse code may be on its way to becoming an ancient language. Underscoring that is the fact that SOS - three dots, three dashes, three dots - was retired as a distress signal, Morine said.

Finally, the International Telecommunication Union, a United Nations coordinating body of electronic communications policy, stopped requiring morse code proficiency in 2003.

"A lot of it has become redundant," Morine said. "Satellite communications, I think that's what really brought it to its knees."

Alternative forms of communicating through mediums such as cell phones and the Internet long ago replaced morse code.

"If there's no Roman Empire, what happens to Latin?" Morine asked. "I don't want to say it'll go the way of Latin, but its usage will slow."

But code is not dead - yet.

In the United States, 630,000 people operate ham radios, 18,000 of whom live in North Carolina, Morine said. Of those, about 1,500 reside in the lower Cape Fear Region and 500 live in New Hanover County, he said.

"For the guys who really want to try to communicate around the world, there's no substitute for morse code," he said.

For ham radio operators like Ham Hicks, a licensed operator for nearly 30 years, communicating in code is like doing brain curls.

"To me, it's like working a crossword puzzle," he said. "It really invigorates your mind."

Ham radio's reach around the globe varies from using it for fun to employing it for emergencies during tragedies such as the 2001 terrorist attacks or Hurricane Katrina.

Messages can be transmitted through voice or by tapping out morse code with a telegraph key, a glorified on-off switch that sends tones over the airwaves.

At Morine's house overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, signals that sound like they come from Mars stutter over the airwaves.

Like in e-mail and instant or text messages, abbreviations such as HHHI (meaning haha) make the conversation flow and give the idea that an operator is laughing.

And don't let dots and dashes deter you - it's all about the sound.

"As you would with any other language, you listen to the aural part of it," said Morine, a ham radio operator since 1970. "You don't think dot, dash. You think dit-dah."

Want more proof that morse is alive and well?

The opening credits of the CBS TV show *Jericho* are featuring a morse code contest where viewers must guess the end of a phrase: "It begins with six and ends with..." New episodes of the show begin Feb. 21.

"Will Latin go away? No," Morine said. "I think what you'll see is you'll still hear morse code operators."

Staff writer Ben Steelman contributed to this report.

Veronica Gonzalez:

My apologies to those of you who prefer the use of "dit's and dah's". I had to publish article " as is" KC4MJC

Call Sign	Name	Date Paid
KE4ERH	Lee McClure	1/11/2007
KE4TEP	Rick McClure	1/11/2007
KF4AEX	Russell Beck	1/11/2007
NG4X	Dale Bass	1/11/2007
W4ONS	Jim Hoke	1/11/2007
WA8JZW	Clarence Webb	1/12/2007
K4NYP	Matthew Carbone	1/16/2007
WB4WRY	John Lamson	1/16/2007
KD4III	James Kennedy	2/6/2007
AC4AS	James Hamilton	2/8/2007
AG4AU	Walt Schwarzl	2/8/2007
N4ACF	Ralph Sparrow	2/8/2007
N4IB	Tim Slay	2/8/2007
N9JL	John Larew	2/8/2007
KC4DBZ	Jeff Watts	
W4DON	Don Summers	

Congratulations to Rick McClure, KE4TEP and family on the birth of a new Daughter!

Kathryn Marie McClure arrived on February 22, 2007 at 9:38 AM. She weighed 5lbs 2oz and was 19 inches. Mother, Daughter, Brother and DADDY, are all doing well.

Rick is looking for NET CONTROL STATIONS for all nets. 2 Meter FM net on Wednesday night at 9:00 PM on 146.685 repeater. The SSB net Saturday night at 9:00 PM on 28.468, and the ARES net now on Thursday night at 8:30 PM on 146.685 repeater. Also check into the CW net on Saturday night at 8:00 PM on 28.150 Please help out and volunteer to be a NET CONTROL STATION

ICARS STILL NEEDS YOUR MONEY! \$15.00

We are approaching that time of year when severe thunderstorms can occur at any time. Be prepared to take whatever means necessary to keep you and your family safe.

The opinions expressed in the articles published in the Iredell Wireless, do not necessarily express the opinions of the EDITOR of the Iredell Wireless.

Dates	Type	Event and Contact	Location
10-11 Mar 2007	*	North Carolina Section Convention (Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair) Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society http://www.w4bfb.org/hamfest Talk-In: 145.290 - (no tone) Contact: Mary Hunt, N4MH 16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy. Huntersville, NC 28078 Phone: 704-948-7373 Fax: 704-948-7373 Email: n4mh@w4bfb.org	Charlotte, NC Charlotte Merchandise Mart 2500 East Independence Blvd. Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina
25 Mar 2007	+	17th Annual Down East Hamfest Down East Hamfest Association, Inc. Talk-In: 146.085/146.685 (PL 88.5) Contact: Jean DuPree, KB4OHX PO Box 1778 Kinston, NC 28503 Phone: 252-523-2703 Email: jeanhd@icomnet.com	Kinston, NC Lenoir County Fairgrounds NC Highway 11 South Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina
1 Apr 2007	*	North Carolina State Convention (35th Annual RARSFest) Raleigh Amateur Radio Society http://www.rars.org/hamfest Talk-In: 146.64 - (no tone) Contact: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF 2005 Quail Ridge Road Raleigh, NC 27609 Phone: 919-872-6555 Fax: 919-872-6555 Email: k4hf@arrl.net	Raleigh, NC Exposition Center, NC State Fairgrounds 1025 Blue Ridge Blvd. Div: Roanoke Sect: North Carolina
14 Apr 2007	+	Anderson ARC http://www.andersonradioclub.us Talk-In: 146.79 Contact: James M. Hampton, WA4JWS PO Box 606 5665 Hix Road Sandy Springs, SC 29677 Phone: 864-225-0567 or 864-287-3296 Email: brookele@brookelect.com	Anderson, SC Darwin Wright Municipal Park Manse Jolly Road/US-178 Intersection Div: Roanoke Sect: South Carolina