

THE WIRELESS

Published Monthly by the Iredell County Amateur Radio Society

OFFICERS ELECTED!

Next Meeting

The next ICARS Meeting will be on Dec 10th at 6:30pm. It will be at Fat Boys Restaurant, 114 Days Inn Dr., Mooresville, NC.

December Program

This December we will have a Holiday meal and Social Hour together. Come and meet everyone, and enjoy the camaraderie. A short Business meeting to install new officers will follow.

January Program

The Program for January will be "2016 Planning Session". Be sure and come so your voice can be heard. Don't be a "Hitch Hiker"!



Your New President - Rick McClure KE4TEP

November Election Results

2016 marks the 40th anniversary of ICARS, so those elected will be a part of ICARS history!

President: Rick McClure, KE4TEP

Vice President: Ben Perry, W4BGP

Treasurer: Johnny Levan, KC4KQC

Secretary: Buzz Borries, KD3QO

Member at Large (2 yr term): Mark Hartline, KJ4ZEG

Member at Large (1 yr term): Dennis White, N4WHK

Club License Trustee (2 yr term): Tim Misenheimer, KC4MJC

Congratulations to all!



November Birthday

Clarence Webb, Nov 24, WA8JZW

I always had an interest in science and math in school. In high school I had a growing interest in ham radio but never pursued a license.

My father was an electrician and he was developing an affinity for the hobby. While I was a married college student my dad notified me one day that he got his novice license. This piqued my interest further. It resulted in receiving my novice license, WN8JZW, on July 26, 1963. In those days we lived in Michigan.

My dad and I would communicate on the two meter band when we lived in range of each other. Eventually the hobby moved to the back burner in my schedule. The typical concerns of a job and raising seven children (kudos to my wife) were at the forefront of my time.

Now that our kids have scattered to five different states, I want to contribute more to amateur radio. Unfortunately, my wife's health problems (Alzheimer's) prevent me from giving the hobby as much as I would like.

I appreciate the ICARS and ARES organizations. I hope to be more active with them again.

2015 A look Back

What a year we have had! A number of changes have kept this year interesting. We have moved to a new venue for the meetings, which has provided us with a better location for our programs, and a little more privacy. We changed where we setup for Field Day, and learned a few lessons that will improve our 2016 field day preparations and contacts. We went through a Bylaws revision and saw the publication of the ICARS Policies. We had a facelift to the Wireless, and acquired six new members. And we have an up-to-date, new Repeater. We have learned a lot through it all, though there were some rough spots that we all had to go through. Overall, we all should be proud of where we are and how we got here. So, what are we going to do in 2016? Check in next month to get an update.

Extra, Extra, General too!

Isn't it time you took that EXTRA step? A little study, some review and a notification that you are ready are all it takes. You no longer need to study morse code to 20wpm. You no longer have to research or wait to find a testing time. You will no longer have to check to make sure you were within the General bands. Do some practice tests on the web, and get away from your procrastination and get that license you have been wanting for all these years. Also, the Extra exam changes next year, so if you have the book, you will need a new one next year.

Oh, and what about you Techs going for GENERAL? The question pool changed in July, so you will have to make sure your practice tests have questions from the new pool.

Your VE Team is planning a test session soon, but you don't have to wait. Contact Ed (K4ELP) or Buzz (KD3QO) to get a session set up just for you when you are ready.

The Boards have met!

The incoming and outgoing Boards have met and turned over the documentation needed for managing ICARS. With the new Checklists, we hope the turnovers in the future will continue to be easier every year. The incoming Board thanks the outgoing Board members for the good job they did last year, and hope that the incoming Board will be able to continue improving ICARS in 2016.



December Birthdays

Jeff Watts Sr., Dec 4, KC4DBZ

The reason that I got a license was very simple.

Don, W4DON, shamed me into doing it better than 20 years ago.



Ben Perry, Jr, Dec 16, W4BGP

December 16 is a day that will go down in history. This was the day the Germans launched their last major offensive of World War II. It was called the "Battle of the Bulge" so called because the Germans created a "bulge" around the area of the Ardennes Forest in pushing through the American defensive line. 250,000 Germans marched against 80,000 Americans while one really sweet lady fought her own battle of the "bulge" at the old Rex Hospital in Raleigh. She won that battle and brought me into the world. Thank you Momma!

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE : never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL: offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE: with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station, and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY: slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED: radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

PATRIOTIC: Station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

-The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

Anderson Power Poles for DC power

Howard Hecht W1HO w1ho@arrl.net

Anderson Power Poles (PP) are a popular means of connecting power to ham gear. They are relatively easy to install correctly and provide a standardized connector for all your DC operated gear. Using a standardized connector means you always have the correct mating connector when hooking up gear in the shack or away, assures you connect with the proper polarity, and allows easy introduction of new equipment into an existing setup.

(continued on page 4)

Many ARES/RACES organizations have adopted PP as a means of assuring that equipment deployed for an event will be able to be powered without needing special connectors.

PP are “genderless”, so a standard for installing the connectors is important. Use of red for positive and black for negative is a long accepted standard for low voltage DC power connectors. But in what order do we connect the genderless PP? There are lots of sites on the web showing proper orientation, but this picture offers an easy memory aid. Red Right, Tongue Top (RRTT).



Installing PP CORRECTLY isn't difficult, but some attention to the process guarantees a successful, long lasting, dependable installation.

PP connectors are intended to be crimped, not soldered. Many folks use an inexpensive crimping tool which requires 2 or 3 steps to accomplish the crimp, and usually results in an “acceptable” installation. Long term reliability of this method is suspect, and has led some to solder the connections after crimping. While proper soldering will assure a good electrical connection, soldering should not be relied upon for a good mechanical connection. And soldering can add bulk to the connector, which has very close tolerances for insertion in the housing, leading to difficult final assembly of the connectors.



Use of a proper ratcheting crimping tool makes the job of installing PP connectors reliable and easy. Also, selection of the correct size of connector is necessary, as the housings support connectors for 15 amp (20 -16 gauge wire), 30 amp (14 & 12 gauge wire) or 45 amp (10 gauge wire). 10 gauge in a 30 amp connector, and 8 gauge in a 45 amp connector can be done with some care. The pictured tool can also crimp Molex as well as insulated and non-insulated wire terminals. By changing the crimping die, coax connectors designed for crimping can also be handled.

Installing PP to the existing power cord for your gear, which incorporates fusing, is a simple way to standardize connectors and keep the fuse protection. If you're making up “jumpers” with power poles, consider adding fuse protection commensurate with the wire size and expected load, especially if you're not utilizing a fused PP supply, like the Rig Runner shown here.

Properly installed PP require little maintenance. Unplugging and re-plugging the connectors a couple of times a year will keep the mating surfaces from oxidizing, causing poor power transfer.



Sources of PP, PP accessories and install directions are many. Two which I have used successfully are Quicksilver Radio (qsradio.com/) who you've probably seen at hamfests as John is at most of them, and PowerWerx which has an installation page (<http://www.powerwerx.com/assembly.asp>).

Events in Radio

1906, 24 December – [Reginald Fessenden](#) makes the first radio broadcast: a poetry reading, a violin solo, and a speech.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2 meter net every Weds @ 9:00pm Local 146.685 -600 77Hz tone

75 meter net every Sat @ 8:30pm Local 3.972Mhz

2 meter ARES Training net every Mon @ 7:30pm Local 146.685 -600 77 Hz tone