

CARS CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

November 2006 Newsletter



CARS Web Site --- <http://www.wa4usn.org>

*The CARS club meets the second Monday of each month at Ryan's Steak House on Highway 61.
The next club meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Monday, November 13, 2006*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, I wrote about the importance of our ability to support increasing public service roles. There are always wrinkles in every story, and this one is no different.

Recently, ARRL President Joel Harrison (W5ZN) urged Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now apparently will require for volunteers and staff members. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a statement October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect (see URL <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/RC-Background-Checks0610.pdf>).

The above said, I think we need to work through these issues in order to focus on our main role – communications, specifically in the form of traffic handling. These skills began in an organized way in 1914 when the ARRL was founded, and the National Traffic System (NTS) network first emerged as a structured way to pass information. Today the ARRL manages and operates the National Traffic System (see URL <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/>) to assure a continuing and reliable structure to handle formal message traffic in the US. Many other countries participate in the system as permitted by treaty or convention. CW, Voice, and digital modes are all employed to assure the use of all Amateur Radio resources in this public service effort. However, we have not had much practice locally in participating in this system. Nor have we trained in a

focused way to support this national system. To this end, I hope to engage the help of our faithful net control operators, who volunteer to keep our local nets running each week. I would like to see a dialog on the potential for introducing these formal procedures into our local VHF networks to enable us to broaden our skills. This will be good preparation for the day when our VHF capabilities will literally span the state – which is not far off from the progress on the HEARTS repeater network. This capability will clarify our role as communicators for the public and our served agencies. They will appreciate our ability to send formal written message traffic efficiently and accurately. When we combine our traffic handling, radio and net operating skills to fill the gaps when all else fails, we will gain their trust, and define with clarity what we do and do not bring to the table in an emergency.

Please join me on November 13th at Ryan's Steak House on Highway 61. We have some fun activities planned for the next couple of months, including our annual Holiday Party. You'll want to hear all about them!

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

OCTOBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 10/1/06	\$1,847.14
Cash Receipts:	
October Raffle	48.00
Jenny Myers	130.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers- Sept & Oct Newsletter	(101.25)
Jenny Myers- Office Supplies/Copies	(75.04)
Jenny Myers - Xmas Party Advance	(200.00)
ARRL - Bo Moss, KE4HZG - Raffle	(39.00)
Bell South	(36.91)
Ending Cash - 10/31/06	\$1,572.94

Savings HT \$ 26.85
Savings ST - CD \$1,306.45

Linda NeSmith - K4MPY

MINUTES of OCTOBER MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, October 9, 2006 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Kenneth Bible, AF4ZV, at 7:30 PM on October 9, 2006 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 29 members and 11 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by Doc, W4MUR, and second by John, WA4GPS, the September 2006 meeting minutes were approved as published in the October 2006 CARS Carrier. Tracey then read an e-mailed letter from William Quednau, KI4LGD to the club noting the "dedication and support" of CARS club members and expressing how much he enjoyed the Hamfest and the meetings. Mr. Quednau has moved to Florida and looking to find another Radio club to join.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The Treasurer's report was accepted as information as published in the October 2006 CARS Carrier.

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Activities are on schedule with the annual plan.

Field Day: Doc W4MUR

No new information to report.

Museum Ships: Ed KQ4DC

No new information to report.

Emergency Prep: Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNC, Dorchester; Vince KI4AOC, Berkeley
Bill WA4WGP introduced a guest speaker from the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Division (EPD): Mr. Rick Vien, Supervisor of Communications.

Mr. Vien explained that he had just recently joined the Charleston County EPD and wanted to reach out to

the Amateur Radio community to find ways to improve operations and the partnership between volunteer operators and the EPD. To this end Mr. Vien offered to host quarterly club meetings at the EPD office and make opportunities available for club members to learn about specific equipment or other supportive technology. Mr. Vien noted the need for volunteers to assist with communications at emergency shelters when these facilities are opened. Mr. Vien's contact information: 745-2320 or via e-mail at rvien@charlestoncounty.org.

John W4HNC reported that a drill is planned for October 18th. He also stressed the importance of volunteers, who wish to assist during emergencies, completing the ICS training offered through FEMA's web site. Further, John noted the recent legislation "21st Century Emergency Communications Act" signed into law by President Bush on October 4th. This law formally states that regional Dept. of Homeland Security offices shall coordinate with the Amateur Radio community through Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups.

Next, the club recognized a second guest speaker from DHEC. Sandy KG4ECX introduced Brenda "Ben" Tolomea, Program Director for DHEC's Public Health Preparedness department. Ms. Tolomea announced an event planned for October 28th to conduct a mass flu vaccination at the N. Charleston Convention Center. The event is also an opportunity for DHEC to assess its ability to reach the community in the event wide-spread inoculation/vaccination is needed due to an emergency such as a flu pandemic. DHEC is seeking volunteer Amateur Radio operators willing to participate. Anyone interested was advised to contact Sandy KG4ECX for further information.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce reported that some interference has been noted on the 146.790 Yorktown repeater and the 145.410 Seabrook repeater has been unlinked until interference in that location can be resolved.

NETS: Linda K4MPY - Newcomers Net; Susannah KE4RVF - ARES Net

The list of Nets with times and frequencies may be found on the CARS web site. Linda noted that net control operators are needed for the Thursday night Newcomers Net.

Races: Ken AF4ZV

Ken reported that the IOP Connector run, held Saturday October 7th, was a successful event. Race Director, Jim Boyd, expressed thanks to the CARS Club for its continued communications support for the event.

Interference: John W4HNK for Glenn WB4UIV
No additional information to report.

Newsletter/CARS Carrier: John WA4GPS

John noted that he is getting several e-mail bounce backs when sending out the club newsletter via the internet. Please be sure to send any e-mail address updates by visiting the new club web site address at www.wa4usn.org and click on the "e-mail webmaster" link at the bottom of the page.

Web Page: John WA4GPS

Ken provided an overview of the establishment of a new web address for the CARS site, courtesy of SAM KX4SAM. There is no cost to the club; however, the domain name "wa4usn.org" had to be secured. Members noted how quickly the new site loads and the speed with which pictures and other large files may now be viewed. Due to the large number of QSL cards with our old web address, we will need to keep this site address with a redirect link to the new site. There was also a recommendation to post a reminder for those seeking QSL cards from CARS to include SASE [self addressed stamped envelopes] in their request to CARS.

Education and VE Testing: Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

VE Testing will be held at Trident Hospital — check with the front desk for room location. The schedule for regular ARRL VE testing occurs on the second Saturday of even numbered months. The next test session is to be on the second Saturday in October. Cost is still \$14 and 2 forms of ID [one with picture] are required. Contact Sheila at 871-4368 or Linda at 552-3106 for more information or visit the CARS web site.

School Programs: Alene KG4NKD - DuBose Middle School Radio Club - K4DMS

Alene reminded everyone of the upcoming School Club Roundup event, which runs from Monday, October 16th through Friday, October 20th. The

DMS Radio club will be staffing its station in two shifts most days. The club came in 3rd place for the event last year and is hoping to do even better this year. Please support the club by planning a contact with the group.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Sandy McNeil, KG4ECX
Tom McNeil, W4TEM

2nd Reading: Alvin Anderson, KI4QFQ

Associate Membership: Avery "AJ" Hill, Jr – not yet licensed

In a motion by Bob, W4HGW, seconded by Bryce, K4LXF, Alvin Anderson KI4QFQ was approved for membership as a CARS Club Regular member and AJ Hill, Jr. was approved for associate membership.

Old Business:

JOTA - Jamboree on the Air: David, KI4FSC and Doc, W4MUR will be located on the Yorktown and at Laurel Hill, respectively. There are still volunteer opportunities to assist the Boy Scouts in this annual special event.

2006 Coastal Carolina Fair - Linda K4MPY reminded club members of the upcoming fair and the CARS booth that will need to be staffed throughout the event. The Exchange Club allows CARS to have the booth for free, but we must keep it staffed at all times. Volunteers are needed to work the booth in 3-4 hour shifts. Volunteers will receive free admittance and parking into the fair. Please contact Linda for more information and to sign up.

New Business:

Holiday Party – Jenny WA4NGV – It's that time of year again. Jenny checked with the Omar Shrine club near Patriots Point and the regular club date of December 11th is available, should the club vote to have a holiday party in 2006. The cost would be \$12.50/person or \$25/ couple if the club continues the tradition of covering a portion of the dinner. The total cost per person is \$14.70, with the club covering

\$2.20 for each attendee. There is a \$200 deposit to book the date.

In a motion by David, KI4FSC, second by Avery, W4QYV, the club approved having the annual holiday meeting/party at the Omar Shrine Temple on December 12, 2006, with \$250 appropriated to cover the deposit and that the club keep the cost per person to \$12.50.

In a motion by David, KI4FSC, second by Bob, W4HGW, the club approved keeping the menu the same as last year. [Menu includes: Ham, Turkey, sweet potatoes, vegetables, pie, rolls with butter, tea and coffee]

DHEC Request for Assistance: Based on the presentation from Ms. Tolomea, the club discussed how best it might support DHEC in this event. Sandy, KG4ECX, was asked to coordinate those who wish to volunteer. It was recommended that the CARS booth at the Coastal Carolina fair be used as a means to share and disseminate information.

After discussion ended, in a motion by David, KI4FSC, second by Bryce, K4LXF, the club agreed to support the October 28th event. Members able to participate should contact Sandy for more information.

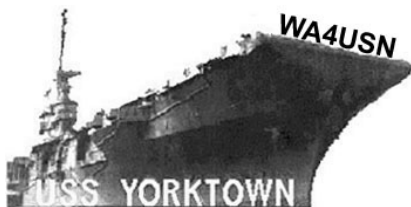
Announcements:

Jericho – look out for the new television drama that includes a ham radio operator in the plot.

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Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beaufort Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989



2006 Elections for Vice Director of Roanoke Division – ballots went out to ARRL members and includes two candidates running: Patricia Hensley, N4ROS and Les Shattuck, K4NK

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Bo Moss, KE4HZG.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce, W4PUX, and seconded by David, KI4FSC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.



CARS booth at 2006 Coastal Carolina Fair
Color photos of the CARS Fair booth and the IOP Connector run are on the CARS Web Site “Club Event Photos” page at www.wa4usn.org