

CARS



CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

March 2008 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, March 10, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last meeting of the CARS club reminded me of what a great leadership team we are blessed with for the CARS club. I was asked to travel for work the Friday before our February meeting, and sent out a request for help in running the meeting, and ensuring a couple of items of business were covered. Bill (WA4WGP), our VP, stepped in seamlessly to lead up a record crowd of over 50 people in attendance! We have a strong cadre of folks working the day-to-day business of the club, as well as our special committees for events like Hamfest, Field Day, VE team support, races, Carolina Fair, Museum Ships, HEARTS, club engineers and more. And we are, I think, doing a good job getting information out to the club, both through the continued excellence of our regular meetings, the club newsletter, as well as through our web site at < www.wa4usn.org >. I get more and more inquiries each month from folks visiting the web site, and this is a healthy sign in my opinion.

We will soon begin seeking nominations for officers for 2008-2009, with elections scheduled in July. This is just a heads-up to get people with an interest in serving the club thinking. I want to make sure the nominating committee is aware of all interested candidates.

Since our last newsletter, work parties have started actively cleaning up the radio room on the USS Laffey. Ed (KQ4DC) is coordinating for the club with Patriots Point on the rehabilitation of the room to provide CARS with another operating position on a historic museum ship. In addition, our work will bring the radio room on USS Clamagore back closer to original condition, helping Patriot's Point bring a more authentic experience to visitors to that vessel as well. And as a special extra, the next reunion of the Laffey crew, commemorating their survival of a kamakazi attack in WW II, may be able to participate in putting the ship on the air with amateur radio!

Upcoming in April, we have a very busy month with a Science Day at Eagle Nest Elementary School on April 4, the Cooper River Bridge Run on April 5, the Life Point 5K

on April 12th, and a recent request from the After the Bridge Run Bike Ride (April 6) that we will consider at our March meeting.

Before we know it, 2008 Field Day, June 28-29, will be upon us. The official 2008 ARRL Field Day Web page < www.arrl.org/FieldDay > is up and running, and includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms, rules and reference links. It is worth starting to take a look now, because the year is going by fast!

In closing, let me remind everyone of our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on March 10th. We will have a full reporting on February's Charleston Hamfest, and a look ahead at the events for April. I look forward to seeing you there.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

REPORT ON ARES NET

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net is on every Sunday Evening at 8:00 PM EST on the CARS, TARC, HEART (Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Team) (local) and SCHEART (South Carolina Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Team) (statewide) linked systems. The three counties participating in this net are Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties. The main purpose of this net is to educate all on what to do in case of a disaster. These disasters could be anything from earthquakes, hurricanes, explosions or even such events as a hazardous waste spill. Training sessions began in Feb. Questions are encouraged after the training session. Each county has a net scheduler: Darrell, KB7QVG, is Berkeley's scheduler; Bill, WA4WGP, is Charleston's scheduler; Ed, K3IXD, is Dorchester's scheduler. Each county will schedule someone in their county to run the net for an entire month. February was Darrell's month to schedule net controllers. Ed will have March and Bill will have April. The month of Feb. was full of very helpful information. Darrell did us all a great service in presenting great topics. Hope you heard the one on how to be a net controller. New net controllers are encouraged. If you are interested in becoming a net controller, practice running the net when it is called on Sunday evenings. Pretend you

are net controller and copy the call signs down. That is the hardest part. Other than that you have a script to read and you will become a valuable asset to your community when you learn to communicate in an efficient manner.

Education on what to do in case of disaster is good information to have. Who knows? You might be the one that needs rescued. You might be the one whose communications will lead to a rescue. Learn how to take care of yourself, your family, friends etc. There may not be a net controller around when a disaster strikes. It would be to your benefit if you knew what to do in helping with communications. You may be the one who keeps calm and gets things done as net controller.

If you want to be a team member in your county, you can get in touch with the net scheduler in your county and they will help you get started. In closing, I would like to say, may we never have to use this information, but like the boy scouts, lets be prepared. Get involved!!
73, Susannah, KE4RVF

MINUTES of FEBRUARY MEETING
Charleston Amateur Radio Society
Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, February 11, 2007 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by Vice President, Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, at 7:30 PM on February 11, 2008 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 41 members and 13 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by David Wilkins, KI4FSC, and second by Jim Gilbert, KI4UIS, the January 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published in the February 2008 CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The January 2008 Treasurer's report was not in the February 2008 CARS Carrier. Linda read out loud the January 2008 report and in a motion by Vernon NeSmith, W4OAM, and second by Peggy Thorne, KD8FNK, the report was accepted as presented.

Beginning Cash - 1/1/08	\$2,228.73
Cash Receipts:	
January Raffle	33.00
Special Donation for K4DMS	95.00
Jenny Myers – Membership Dues	385.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers – News Letter	(46.86)
Jenny Myers - Christmas Party	(96.15)

Alene Wilkins – K4DMS	(95.00)
ARRL - W1GRE, Greg - Jan. Raffle	(39.00)
Bell South - January	(40.68)
Ending Cash - 1/31/08	\$2,424.04
Savings HT	\$ 27.08
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny began her report noting that in Virginia, Richmond's amateur radio group changed the date of their annual hamfest this year, which made it coincide with our event. As a result, the Hamstation folks ended up attending the Richmond event. However, Jenny shared a letter from Mike Dunlap of Hamstation, sending an apology for missing the Charleston event. Overall, Jenny reported that we sold fewer tables, especially in the flea market area and attendance was down compared to last year. However, Dr. Jim, N2ZZ, and the ARRL folks provided positive comments about CARS Hamfest being a well run event. The good news is that it looks like we will net a surplus of almost \$1200 from the event.

Jenny thanked the Hamfest committee and other volunteers who helped all weekend—"because of you, it was a success." She also recognized all club members who bought or sold prize tickets in support of the annual event. A special thank you was noted for Jay Collier, Fairgrounds manager, for meeting with Jenny & Bryce in advance of the event and accommodating the needs of our group. Jenny will have a final report on attendance and financial results at the next CARS meeting.

Field Day: Doc W4MUR

No new information to report.

Museum Ships: Ed Walker KQ4DC and David KI4FSC

Ed Walker extended thanks and recognized the eight volunteers who assisted with clean-up and setup in the radio room on the USS Laffey. In addition, Ed mentioned the April 16th anniversary of the Kamikazi bombing of the Laffey and plans to have the radio room available for use in time for the event.

David Wilkins reminded everyone of the next Museum Ships on the Air in June 2008. More details to follow.

Emergency Prep: Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNK, Dorchester; Vince KI4AOC, Berkeley

Charleston: Bill reported that the regular ARES meeting occurs on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00am at the Charleston County EOC off of Leeds Avenue. All interested hams are invited to attend and participate. Planning a lecture and tour of the trailer on site.

Dorchester: No new information to report. Meetings on 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the County Sheriff's complex on Hwy 78.

Berkeley: Meetings are on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00am – please see website at www.w4brk.org for details.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce reported that the repeater at Trident Hospital was changed to frequency 146.730 due to another repeater being 3 miles less than the required 100 mile separation from our repeater and the owner was not willing to sign a waiver. Otherwise, the repeater network is functioning well at this time.

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

Information is available on the CARS website about local nets. Keep an eye out for the article in an upcoming CARS newsletter about the plan for getting more hams involved in the weekly ARES net.

Races: Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, for Ken AF4ZV

Charlie Post Classic Race – January 26th – On Ken Bible's behalf, Tracey extended thanks to everyone who volunteered with the communications support at the January Charlie Post Race. Following the race, everyone gathered for breakfast at the Okra Grill in Mt. Pleasant and had a good time. Tracey also shared a thank you note received by Ken from Jana Glover of the Charleston Running Club & Race Director for Charlie Post Race. Mrs. Glover, wife of CARS member John Glover, thanked the CARS club members for helping make the race day a true success and the time calling as well as volunteers at mile markers helped runners and provided additional safety.

Cooper River Bridge Run – Tracey Bible & Doug Clark, KU4OC,

Tracey noted that Ken Bible had received the official letter from Julian Smith, Race Director for the Cooper River Bridge run, making a request for the CARS club communication support. In addition, Mr. Smith thanked the CARS group for its support of prior races. Carl Thorne, KD8FNJ, had provided copies of the current race application which includes the CARS logo. A motion will be brought under new business.

Doug Clark, who is coordinating the Communications plan for the CRBR gave an update on planning for the race and circulated a sign-up sheet.

FestiVELO – December 4, 2008 – December 7, 2008. This is a recreational bicycling event. Tracey Bible shared out loud the note sent by Mr. Charlie Fox to Bryce & Jenny

Myers asking if the CARS club would support communications in 2008. The request has been sent many months in advance of the event. Members were interested and the matter will be brought up under new business for a vote. To learn more about the event, visit their website at www.festivelo.org.

Interference: Bryce K4LXF

No new information was reported.

Newsletter/CARS Carrier/Website: John WA4GPS

No new information to report.

Education and VE Testing: Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

Sheila reminded everyone that normal testing occurs on the second Saturday of every other month. The next regular test session will be in April. The last test session was held at the Hamfest event, with a good turnout of 20 people, with 15 passing their exams. Sheila thanked all the volunteers who helped and noted that we had a smooth event with nearly 5 new hams.

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

Alene reported that K4DMS had a good first day in the School Club Roundup, which runs thru Friday, February 15th. David Wilkins, KI4FSC, listed 28.450 & 14.250 as two frequencies to monitor, in addition to 146.58, to help the kids with the event. Alene asked members to please listen out and respond if you here the kids. She noted that for the next two nights [Tuesday, Wednesday] they would operate between 4pm & 6pm.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce noted that updated rosters are available and may be picked up this evening. The club currently has 166 members, of which 17 are associate members. We have the following categories of licenses held by our membership: 56 technicians, 35 general, 4 advanced, 61 extra, 10 no license. More than 50% of our regular members are also ARRL members.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Timothy Helgerson, KB7PGT
Paul Jones, NN4F
William Robertson, W3HMI

2nd Reading: Keith Wucherer, N2OBS
Stan Vernon, N0SV
George Twiddy, KI4NNK

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, seconded by Carl Thorne, KD8FNJ, Keith Wucherer, Stan Vernon, and George Twiddy were approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Cooper River Bridge Run – In a motion by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, second by Peggy Thorne, KD8FNK, the CARS Club agreed to provide communications support for the 2008 Cooper River Bridge Run.

Eagle Nest Elementary School – ScienceDay – April 4th – Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, shared an email request that Ken Bible, AF4ZV, had received requesting help from the CARS Club. Melissa Odom, 2nd Grade teacher at Eagle Nest Elementary wrote that the school is hosting a “Science Day” where students can see how science is used in real life and in meaningful ways. They are looking for a possible demonstration of how to use a radio and some basic information on how it works. In a motion by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, second by Bryce Myers, K4LXF, the CARS Club agreed to accept the invitation to present an amateur radio demonstration & information at the April 4th Science Day for Eagle Nest. Ed Walker agreed to coordinate this activity on behalf of CARS.

FestiVELO Cycling Event – December 2008: In a motion by Bryce Myers, K4LXF, and second by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, the CARS club agreed to provide communication support for the 2008 Festivevelo event. It was noted that it would be great to have some mobile hams on motorcycle. The event will be brought up for discussion again in September/October to work on the Communication Plan details.

Announcements:

Paul Jones, NN4F, has recently been appointed the ARRL Assistant Section Manager for Area 5 by Dr. Jim, N2ZZ. Bill Pennekamp introduced Paul and then Paul explained that his coverage areas are Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Williamsburg, Sumter, Orangeburg and Clarendon counties. Paul invited club members to let him know about any concerns or issues for which he might provide representation to ARRL. Paul’s email address is paul@nn4f.com.

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Wayne Graham, WB4SDF.

A motion to adjourn was made by David Wilkins, KI4FSC, and seconded by Greg Amirault, KI4TVA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

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