

# CARS



# CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

May 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, May 12, 2008***

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We've all seen them.... Drivers oblivious to the surrounding traffic, jabbering on their cell phones in the midst of the morning commute. It is a growing national problem in our always connected "information age", and one that individual states are now trying to address with so called "Hands Free" laws.

Recently, I found out that there is a bill in the South Carolina Senate, S.1133, which will require the use of hands free devices in vehicles driven in South Carolina, while the vehicle is in motion. As this bill is presently worded, it does not make provisions for the operation of Amateur Radio equipment installed in vehicles. It does, however, provide an exemption to law enforcement, emergency management service, and fire department officials and personnel when they are performing their official duties. You can take a look at this proposed legislation on the web at [www.scstatehouse.net/sess117\\_2007-2008/bills/1133.doc](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/1133.doc) . Similar language in other state laws has been interpreted to preclude the use of ham radio microphones while driving.

My sense is that the overwhelming majority of our state's more than 10,500 federally licensed radio amateurs are responsible people. It is that sense of responsibility that moves so many of us to volunteer our time, talent and treasure in support of our communities and relief agencies during an emergency or disaster. I also note that hams are particularly conscious of how careful they must be in operating a radio while driving. Many a QSO ends with one party noting that they need to go QRZ to keep both hands on the wheel! I encourage each member of the CARS club to write to their SC legislators to express their desire to see this bill modified to provide for the

licensed operation of amateur radio equipment. Find your legislators, and send an email from the SC Statehouse website at [www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net) .

In other news, Doc (W4MUR) continues assembling the 2008 Field Day team for our operations on USS Yorktown on June 28-29. As we discussed at the last meeting, we need lots of hands and strong backs to move equipment up the stairs and ladders. Field Day is a good way for our newer hams to learn the skills to set up a full blown HF station under field conditions. With a good cadre of club members under Doc's capable direction, I'm looking forward to a successful event. We've invited a number of dignitaries to our operations, including Governor Sanford and Charleston Police Chief Mullen. But more important, we need you to come and show your support, and share the excitement with your friends and family.

Please join me at our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on May 12<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there to solidify our plans for Field Day, and many more activities in the coming months.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

## **EXAMPLE E-MAIL/LETTER TO YOUR SC LEGISLATOR**

Dear Senator Campsen,

There is a bill in the South Carolina Senate, S.1133, which will require the use of hands free devices in vehicles driven in South Carolina, while the vehicle is in motion. As this bill is presently worded, it does not make provisions for the operation of federally licensed Amateur Radio stations installed in vehicles. It does, however, provide an exemption to law enforcement, emergency management service, and

fire department officials and personnel when they are performing their official duties. I understand that this bill has been referred to the Transportation Committee on which you serve.

I would request your consideration of a modification of S.1133 to provide for the operations of a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator. In similar fashion to other exemptions presently in the bill, this would maintain the ability of the FCC licensed Amateur Radio Service to continue to provide valuable assistance to law enforcement and other public safety personnel in a mobile environment.

The overwhelming majority of our state's more than 10,500 federally licensed radio amateurs are responsible people. It is that sense of responsibility that moves so many of us to volunteer our time, talent and treasure in support of our communities and relief agencies during an emergency or disaster. I also note that hams are particularly conscious of how careful they must be in operating a radio while driving. The issue that inspired the bill is *driver inattention* and not the electronic technology itself, and radio amateurs are trained and tested to ensure responsible operation of their equipment.

If I may be of assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Kenneth W. Bible, P.E.

FCC radio amateur call sign AF4ZV

## REPORT ON ARES NET

The ARES net is continuing to grow as the linked system grows. Thanks to Charleston County's Bill Pennekamp who scheduled the net controllers for the month of April. There were several informative training topics within the nets in April and we will be continuing with these helpful topics as this is the purpose of the net. This month we will have John Crockett, KC4YI, manager of transmitter operation at South Carolina ETV and project manager of the SCHEART linked repeater project, running the first net and those net controllers he has selected in his area for the rest of the month. This would be

area/district 3, which is Richland and surrounding counties. Let's all try to check into the net to give John our support.

It has been suggested by a few that anyone wanting to run the net, should try their wings at running the Low Country Newcomers net. This is good practice as it is a small net and gives one a feel for copying down call signs and confirming them. That is one of the hardest parts of running any net. Also, if you want to run the net, you should know the phonetics as this is used to confirm the call signs. It is asked that you check-in with your call sign in phonetics. If you would like to run the Low Country Newcomers net, please contact Linda, K4MPY or myself, Susannah, KE4RVF. You can find the phone numbers on the CARS membership roster.

If you are interested in getting involved in your county's team, here is the list of those whom you should contact: Darrell Moser, KB7QVG, Berkeley County; Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Dorchester County; Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, Charleston County.

Ham radio is your hobby but if you decide to use it to help in emergency communications, this would be a great way to use it. Get Involved.

Susannah, KE4RVF

## HAMFEST COMMITTEE & HELPER PARTY

The Hamfest Committee Party will be held **Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 08**. The party will be at Bryce and my river house in Orangeburg. The party is for the Committee and those who helped (family included) with the Hamfest. Lunch will be served at **2:00 PM**. Come as early as you like. Spend a fun day at the river. If you enjoy fishing you may want to bring your fishing equipment. Please let me know by **May 27<sup>th</sup>** if you and yours plan to attend, so I will know how much food to buy. If you want **anything to drink** other than **soft drinks, tea or coffee, please bring your own.** **My phone # 747-2324.**

### DIRECTIONS

**Take I-26 West to Orangeburg (Exit 154 A), Hwy 301. Go toward Orangeburg, stay on 301.** Once in

Orangeburg look for the Edisto River. After you cross the Edisto River take a left turn at the first traffic light onto the Cannon Bridge Road. Go approx. 7 miles and watch for the river house sign on the left. The sign reads **MRH**. We will monitor our linked repeater system. For talk in switch to 147.045 CTCSS 103.5 repeater.

## COMMITTEE

The committee is invited to come up for the weekend. We will go up on Friday. Weekenders should bring their own Bed linens, blanket, or sleeping bag, pillow, towels, and wash cloth. We do not have these things up there. **Friday Night is a Covered Dish Supper**. Please bring a Covered Dish and, if you like, a Dessert. Also, if you want anything to drink other than soft drinks, tea or coffee, Please bring your own.

Hope to see you there. Please RSVP BY May 27<sup>TH</sup>, 08, whether or not you are going, Phone Number 747-2324.

73, Jenny, Co-Chairman, Hamfest Committee

## MINUTES of APRIL MEETING

### Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61  
Monday, April 14, 2008 - 7:30 PM

#### MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Ken Bible, AF4ZV, at 7:30 PM on April 14, 2008 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

#### Introductions:

There were 33 members and 3 guests present.

#### Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by Carl Thorne, KD8FNJ, and second by JJ Lewis, KF4BZH, the March 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published in the April 2008 CARS Carrier.

#### Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The March 2008 Treasurer's report was in the April 2008 CARS Carrier and accepted as information.

#### Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny reported that she would make a motion on behalf of the 2008 Hamfest Committee under new business.

#### Field Day: Doc W4MUR

Doc reminded everyone of the upcoming 2008 Field Day event: June 28<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed and a sign-up sheet was circulated during the meeting. Doc reviewed several stations/tasks for the event and noted who had signed up so far: Antenna setup: John Langley - K4CSB; Computers/Logging: Timothy Russell - KD5YUC; Media publicity: Ken Bible - AF4ZV; NTS Message to Section Mgr Jim Bohner: Linda NeSmith - K4MPY; CW Station Operator: John King - KO4NB; and Food/Refreshments: Jenny Myers - WA4NGV.

Still need help with the following: (1) Satellite QSO; (2) ARRL Bulletin; (3) Youth Participation project.

Timothy Russell noted that in June he will hold a class to train volunteers on how to do proper logging for tracking field day contacts.

#### Museum Ships: Ed Walker KQ4DC and David KI4FSC

Ken Bible, AF4ZV, recognized Ed Walker for leading the USS Laffey radio room refurbishing project. For Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, the room will be available in memory of the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Kamikaze attack on the Laffey. In addition, the USS Yorktown will celebrate its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

David Wilkins, KI4FSC, reminded everyone of the upcoming Museum Ships on the Air event running June 6<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to start on Saturday morning and attempt to operate stations on all three ships [Clamagore, Laffey, & Yorktown] throughout the event. Volunteers interested should contact David.

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

Charleston: The ARES meeting for April has been cancelled and will pickup next month in May.

Dorchester: Meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the County Sheriff's complex on Hwy 78. Discussed digital mode demo and referenced the March 2008 QST and Skip Teller, KH6TY.

Berkeley: Meetings on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00am – please see website at [www.w4brk.org](http://www.w4brk.org) for details. The group will be discussing upcoming plans for 2008 Field Day operations at the EOC and ways to engage the County leadership.

**Repeater Report:** Bryce K4LXF

No special issues to report at this time regarding the repeater network. The ARES net is a good demonstration of how the broader HEARTS linked system works.

Bryce noted that two antennas were purchased for one of the hospital stations for the HEARTS network. Two omni directional antennas were purchased for a total of \$139.90. This was made out of the \$500 that the club had previously approved towards the HEARTS project.

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

No new information to report. Please see website for specific dates & times for nets at [www.wa4usn.org](http://www.wa4usn.org).

**Races:** Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, for Ken AF4ZV

Cooper River Bridge Run-April 5<sup>th</sup> - Ken thanked Doug Clark, KU4OC, for coordinating all the volunteer help for the 2008 CRBR and also thanked everyone who came out on Saturday morning to participate. The CRBR volunteer party will be at 6PM on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the usual location in James Island County park. Next, Ken recognized Bryce & Jenny Myers for being inducted into the Bridge Run Hall of Fame for their years of volunteer service to the Bridge Run. They were featured in a special interview in the 2008 CRBR Magazine.

After the Bridge Run Ride-April 6<sup>th</sup> - Ken thanked Doc, W4MUR, for serving as net control for the event. In addition, Ken thanked those who volunteered, many of whom had just worked the Bridge Run the day before.

Gift of Life 5K – APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> - Ken thanked Mike Wells, WA4HVP, for organizing support for this run, which took place at Wannamaker County park in N. Charleston.

MS Walk 2008 – April 12<sup>th</sup> – Ken thanked Paul Witman, KI4UIA, for organizing a team to support this event, which took place in Hampton park in downtown Charleston.

Swamp Fox Challenge – June 28<sup>th</sup> – Charles Fox, KI4UIZ, is requesting help from the club for an upcoming 100 mile bike ride to benefit the American Diabetes Association. The challenge is that this event occurs on the same day as Field Day: June 28<sup>th</sup>. The host site is Santee Cooper and the following volunteer positions are anticipated: Net Control, (6) stations to setup at rest stops, and (6) stations in the support vehicles for a total of 13 volunteers. A motion will be brought under new business.

**Interference:** Bryce K4LXF

No new information was reported.

**Newsletter/CARS Carrier/Website:** John WA4GPS  
John reported that the club is beginning to run out of space for our website hosting. The club has not paid for the website hosting, as Sam Shufford, KX4SAM, had donated the service since the club changed from the QSL.NET site. With the current service, there are two options for adding more space: (1) 100 MB for \$2.95/month [\$35.40/year] or (2) 250 MB for \$5.95/month [\$71.40/year] if we prepay 1 year. Discussion continued, as Steven Tully, AG4SR, inquired about whether the club should consider some other hosting services which might offer more storage for less cost. Since it was agreed that the club website is an important communication tool and that more information was requested, President Ken Bible, asked that this item be put back on the agenda for the next meeting and a proposal considered at that time.

**Education and VE Testing:** Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

Sheila reported that the VE Team has been busy lately, as a test session was just held on Saturday [April 12<sup>th</sup> ] and Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> , the team conducted another session in Columbia. For the Columbia session there were 20 participants taking tests and 15 passed. The next regular test session will

be in June. There is a new question pool coming out for the Extra Class test in July.

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

Alene reported that the school year is quickly coming to a close; however, she is still looking for volunteers who wish to visit & present to the school club. While there are 12 students who signed up for the club, there are 7 who attended regularly. Also, 3 students have obtained their licenses.

Eagles Nest Elementary Science Day – Ed Walker, KQ4DC: Ed reported that he provided eight, twenty minutes sessions, between 8 am & 1 pm, for groups of students participating in the Science Day event. Ed extended a special thanks to Bryce for materials and noted that the Science Day has some challenging setup conditions due to the nature of the building and room design.

For the presentations, Ed showed the video coverage from Channel 5 where he and Jenny were discussing Hamfest and the coverage of the 2004 ARISS contact where the Dubose Middle School kids got to talk with the astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

**Membership:** Bryce K4LXF  
New Rosters are available.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Paul Witman, KI4UIA  
Jeffrey Wolfe, KI4UIX

2nd Reading: Greg Sumner, KG4RNC

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by Timothy Russell, KD5YUC, seconded by John Meyers, WA4GPS, Greg Sumner was approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

**Old Business:**

Donated 10 Meter Radios - In a motion by Carl Thorne, KD8FNJ, and second by Peggy Thorne, KD8FNK, the club approved giving one of the

donated 10 M radios to the Dubose Middle School radio club. The other radio will be held by the club until a suitable use or location is identified.

**New Business:**

Hamfest – The Hamfest Committee makes a motion to have a Hamfest in the Year 2009, and that a new committee be formed, with the authority to use the Hamfest funds. Motion approved.

Swamp Fox Challenge – A motion to support this event did not carry as there was significant concern over the event coinciding with the annual Field Day activity. In addition, there was discussion regarding access to repeaters that would be needed to support the event in the Santee area. However, individuals within the CARS club were encouraged to support the event as possible and it was recommended that contact be made with a club closer to the Santee area.

**Announcements:**

Proper Identification / “kerchunking” – Tom Evans, NA4U, noted that there have been instances lately where hams are forgetting to properly identify their station when talking on the radio. In addition, someone has been keying up on top of net activity recently. Proper protocol and the need to continue to monitor the hobby was briefly discussed.

Carl (KD8FNJ) & Peggy (KD8FNK) Thorne: shared with the club that they must head back to Arizona on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for a short period of time. They thanked everyone for welcoming them to Charleston and they look forward to getting back soon.

CARS Ballcaps: Bryce Myers, K4LXF, reminded everyone that CARS logo club ballcaps are still available at \$8/each.

**Drawing:** The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Greg Amirault, KI4TVA.

A motion to adjourn was made by Timothy Russell, KD5YUC, and seconded by Steven Tully, AG4SR.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.



KQ4DC operating NT4HI in Radio 2 aboard the Laffey on 16 April 2008

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

