

CARS



CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

June 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, June 9, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Strategic planning is an important element of the success of any organization. Setting out the pillars of an organization's focus helps everyone contribute to moving the organization forward. For the CARS club, I think we have succeeded in upholding the present four pillars of the ARRL – Public Service, Advocacy, Education and Membership. We continue to grow because our membership has embraced these concepts, and actively pursued various initiatives for the club.

I have frequently looked to the ARRL organization to help me frame and prioritize the initiatives I felt were most important for the club. So it is fitting for me to discuss a change in the focus areas of ARRL recently announced at the Dayton Hamfest. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, announced that the League will expand emphasis on technology. As Harrison explained, "Ham radio operators, and particularly ARRL members, closely identify with current and emerging radio technology. Today, we are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new fifth pillar." Identifying this fifth pillar - technology - reinforces that ham radio is state-of-the-art, innovative and relevant.

"Radio amateurs have entered a new era. More than a dozen Amateur Radio satellites are presently in orbit with more to come. Software is expanding the capabilities of their radio hardware and communication by digital voice and data is expanding rapidly among hams," Harrison said. It is an exciting vision for amateur radio that reinforces that we have always been experimenters and pioneers in exploring the radio spectrum.

I believe the CARS club is already moving towards this vision. Our HEARTS repeater network utilizes the latest digital repeater controller technology, and federates statewide using the SC Educational Television microwave network. Thanks to the hard work of our members, we are using computers to help our public service efforts, such as time calling at races. And our web page is growing in use, and we continue to look at new ways to use this valuable resource.

But, the best is yet to come. Let's keep our eyes open for opportunities to support the ARRL vision for amateur radio with its new technology pillar. We have always been very good acting as a group once we gained the club's consensus on a direction. Going forward, I want to see the CARS club continue to grow – never forgetting the four pillars that support our foundation – but willing to advance technology to raise up amateur radio even higher in the Charleston area.

Please join me at our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on June 9th. We have Field Day right around the corner, and much work to be done in the coming months including club elections for officers in July.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

Museum Ships on the Air

June 7 & 8, we will be trying to activate WA4USN (USS Yorktown), NJ4DU (USS Clamagore), and the NT4HI (USS Laffey). This is a great opportunity to operate on the backside of a pile-up. Also this will be the 1st time in years that all 3 ships have been operated for this event. We could use some help for this event, especially since I lost the sign-up sheet that was passed around at the last 2 meetings. If you signed up for this event or just decided you would like to help, please email (KI4FSC@arrl.net) or call me (851-0493). I would like to have 2 people per 4 hour shift and could use several more persons as of now.

Most of the time we will be using SSB, but PSK will also be used some and if anyone would like to come and do CW you will be very welcome. Tech class persons are encourage to come and get on HF, we will pair you up with a General or higher class.

Any questions or to sign up email (KI4FSC@arrl.net) or call 851-0493.

Thanks, David Wilkins KI4FSC

REPORT ON ARES NET

As the net continues to grow, we learn many things. We learn about our fellow hams in other areas and realize that they are not so much different than us in that they pursued amateur radio as a hobby. We are learning about a linking system that could help mankind. Think of the possibilities. Those of you who are not in emergency services (as yet) may be interested to know that the linked system could help in the following scenario.

Let's say there is a hurricane in Charleston area. Did you know upstate hospitals would be able to tell this area how many beds in their hospital they have available in areas not affected? You might say well, there may be no repeaters left up, but don't forget how resourceful the hams are. There are more than just repeaters to communicate. Simplex relay is being practiced and so many other modes are being practiced. ARES members are always looking into possibilities of all sorts of communications. Think about joining your county group. There are many ways to serve.

Our many thanks to John, KC4YI, for taking the month of May to run the ARES net. They are doing a great job and we are enjoying hearing from that area. Recently, Greenville area has joined the linked system and there were check-ins from that area May 18th. There are more areas to incorporate. I am hoping each area can one day take a month to run the ARES net. This has been quite a ride to see ARES nets go from 12 to 18 check-ins. Now the numbers have increased to over 50. Don't forget, these are the hams who are interested in doing their part when any disaster or emergency occurs. How about giving some thought to helping out your county through your license.

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

Susannah, KE4RVF

APRIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 4/1/08	\$2,102.07
Cash Receipts:	
April Raffle	26.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - April Newsletter	(48.98)
Jenny Myers - Office Supplies	(42.99)
Bryce Myers - Antenna	(139.90)
ARRL - KI4TVA, Greg - April Raffle	(39.00)
Bell South - April	<u>(40.46)</u>
Ending Cash - 4/30/08	\$1,816.74
Savings HT	\$ 27.08
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45

Linda NeSmith - K4MPY

MINUTES of MAY MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61

Monday, May 12, 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 May 12, 2008 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 36 members and 6 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by George Post, KI4UIW, and second by David Wilkins, KI4FSC, the April 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published in the May 2008 CARS Carrier. A letter thanking the CARS club for their support of the MS Walk was read.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The April 2008 Treasurer's report will be included in the June 2008 CARS Carrier.

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny reminded everyone that the Hamfest Committee Party will be held on May 31st in Orangeburg. Directions and details were included in the May 2008 CARS Carrier. All those who helped with the event are invited to lunch on Saturday, May 31st and Committee members are invited for the weekend. Please RSVP to Jenny by May 27th so that an accurate count may be obtained for the meal.

Field Day: Doc W4MUR

Doc reviewed the current status of Field Day planning and noted that additional volunteers are still welcome and needed. Members were asked if anyone had a motor home or similar vehicle which could be used for the CW station. Ken Bible, AF4ZV, noted that he had contacted Governor Sanford and that the Governor would not be able to visit. A letter was also sent to Chief Mullen of the Charleston Police Department to see if he might visit. In addition, Ken has made a submission to the Post & Courier regarding Field Day.

Museum Ships: Ed Walker KQ4DC and David KI4FSC

David Wilkins gave an update on the next Museum Ships on the Air event, scheduled for June 7th & 8th. The goal this year is to have all three vessels on the air: USS Clamagore, USS Laffey, & the USS Yorktown. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting. Anyone interested in participating should contact David Wilkins.

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

Charleston: The next ARES meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th at the Charleston County EOC building on Bridgeview Drive. All interested hams are invited to attend and in addition there is interest in testing simplex capability among the active volunteers.

Dorchester: Meetings on 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the County Sheriff's complex on Hwy 78. On June 5th, there will be a simulated hurricane drill with just Dorchester County to test operations. Plans to be discussed on one of the local nets.

Berkeley: Meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:00am – please see website at www.w4brk.org for details. There were 16 members at the last meeting. Next meeting will be May 31st.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce reported that the repeaters were working well. There are still some challenges with programming the controllers. Next Bryce gave an update on a recent situation that occurred during a multi-state drill utilizing the HEARTS repeater network. An individual intentionally interfered with communications on the repeaters in the middle of the drill. The ARRL section leadership at the state level strongly advised the local repeater trustee to investigate and issue a written warning to the individual. Bryce explained that they were able to determine the source of the interference, and then he shared the letter [the name of the individual involved was kept private].

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.

Races: Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, for Ken AF4ZV

MS Walk – Ken thanked everyone who participated in the walk, and discussed how important the positive exposure gained by this effort (as demonstrated by the letter read during the Secretary's report) helps build the stature of amateur radio.

Santee Bike Ride Event Update – Ken noted that the club had voted not to formally support a communications plan for this event as it coincides with our Field Day commitments; however, members were again encouraged to help if they did not intend to help at Field Day. [Note: club engineers are working to assist in placing a repeater in service temporarily in the Santee area to support this event.]

Interference: Bryce K4LXF

No new information was reported. See Repeater Report above for additional information.

Newsletter/CARS Carrier/Website: John WA4GPS

John noted the memory issue raised at the last meeting and noted that a motion would be made under new business. Ken provided an overview for the members present: (1) The club has been using Sam Shufford's, KX4SAM, hosting site without any reimbursement or payment for costs. (2) The current site is out of space and additional space is required to be able to continue adding content. For the short term, it is recommended that a payment for 1 year of service be made to secure the upgraded memory. This will allow the club to take more time to consider longer term needs & how the site might expand. This would allow the club to determine the long term needs from a hosting service.

Education and VE Testing: Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

Ken recognized the VE Team for conducting a test session on Mothers Day. In a discussion about the curriculum offered in classes, Bryce explained that the materials used are straight from ARRL and includes an instructive CD. He wanted to make sure that members understood that the class is not about teaching the test, but rather focuses on teaching the skills for beginning hams.

The next VE Test session will be the 2nd Saturday in June at Trident Hospital at 9:00 am.

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

Alene reported that the school year has officially come to a close for the DMS radio club. She was happy to report that 3 of the students are now licensed hams. [Way to go Alene!]

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

The club currently has 170 members and new rosters are available at the meeting tonight.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: None

2nd Reading: Paul Witman, KI4UIA
Jeffrey Wolfe, KI4UIX

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, seconded by Sam Shufford, KX4SAM, the applications of Paul Witman and

Jeffrey Wolfe were approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Website Hosting: In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, and second by Terry Fox, WB4JFI, the club appropriated up to \$100 to be spent on the purchase of a one year subscription with the current website service.

Field Day: In a motion by Doc Crane, WA4MUR, and seconded by David Wilkins, KI4FSC, the club approved making \$550 available to cover 2008 Field Day expenses, to include: food, gas, & supplies.

A/C Unit for Knightsville Repeater: In a motion by Bryce Myers, K4LXF, and second by Tom Evans, NA4U, the club approved \$150 to be used to purchase a window unit air conditioner to maintain the Knightsville repeater. It was further agreed that this could be taken from the Hamfest account.

Radio for the Laffey: In a motion by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and second by Jim Gilbert, KI4UIS, the club approved appropriating \$500 for the purchase of a Kenwood TS 570D to be permanently installed in the radio room on the Laffey. The radio normally retails for \$900 when new; however, as a result of an estate sale the radio is available

for the \$500 amount. The radio has been assessed and is in good operating order.

Announcements: NONE

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Susannah Roth, KE4RVF.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Evans, NA4U, and seconded by David Wilkins, KI4FSC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

SLIGHTLY GREEN !

Receiving the CARS Carrier electronically instead of via the paper edition helps save trees and helps make CARS slightly green. CARS now has 172 members and 100 of them are receiving the CARS Carrier and occasionally other special messages electronically. If you are currently receiving the paper edition of the CARS Carrier and have e-mail and internet access, then you can help make CARS just a wee might greener by sending your e-mail address to wa4gps@arrl.net.

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