

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

June 2009 Newsletter

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

CARS meets the second Monday of each month at Ryan's Steak House on Highway 61.

*Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM, Monday, June 8, 2009*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone was able to read the article sent out by John WA4GPS concerning the H.R. 2160 Bill. This was sent to the house by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee from the state of Texas and several other Congressmen. This is the first time that the amateurs have had a real helping hand this large. This bill will go a long way in helping the amateurs bound by rules of tower construction in towns and cities where they hinder the amateur communications. It will also go a long way in possibly giving some relief to the amateurs that are held down by CC&R's. She has stated in the bill that this will not cost the government money, and give them added technical abilities in telecommunications. Congresswoman Jackson put examples in the bill such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Hugo, and Andrew, the relief efforts in the Trade Center and the Pentagon terrorist attacks. She is well informed what we do and how valuable we are in times of disasters and other events such as floods, earthquakes, chemical spills and a few others.

The ARRL is asking for your help in writing your congressmen and women to help pass this bill. When you write the letter, put it in your own words and keep it simple. We have something going for us now so take some time and help the fraternity and possibly some of your friends.

See you at the next meeting 8 June 09.

73, Bill, WA4WGP

### **Excerpt from: The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 19, May 15, 2009**

#### **ARRL SEEKS MEMBER SUPPORT FOR HR 2160**

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation <[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf)>.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task -- one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9/11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is also not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expediently received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative <<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc>>. "Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your member of Congress on the ARRL Members Only Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/>>.

[NOTE: You do not have to be an ARRL member to support HR 2160. You can find the name and address of your Congressional representative at <http://www.house.gov> . --- John, WA4GPS]

Once it has been personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:

- \*As a signed attachment to an e-mail <[arrl@chwatco.com](mailto:arrl@chwatco.com)>
- \* As a signed fax to 703-684-7594
- \* As a regular letter to John Chwat, Chwat & Co, 625 Slaters Ln, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314

If you choose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of having it be the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be easily printed and delivered. Should you decide to draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, Henderson asked that you please remember a couple of things:

- \*Identify the bill by number and title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009
- \* Keep the letter brief and on topic -- one page at the most
- \* Ask your congressional representative to consider becoming a cosponsor
- \* Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of request to a representative," said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract from the focus of asking for support for the legislation."

Should you decide not to send your letter to Chwat & Co but directly to your Representative, it is still important to send a copy of your correspondence to Chwat & Co. This allows Chwat to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," Henderson added.

Aside from bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-2), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-2).

You may be asking yourself "What should I do if my Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed as a co-sponsor, please send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson explained. "That simple 'thank

you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed."

Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to address."

When you receive a response from your congressman, please forward a copy to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail <[reginfo@arrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrl.org)> or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants <[http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1\\_Pkg/prb-1.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf)>. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

## **NEWCOMERS NET REPORT**

George, KI4UIW, has agreed to schedule the net controllers for the Newcomers Net held on each Thursday of the week at 8:00 P. M. This net would have gone by the wayside if George had not taken on that responsibility. Thank you very much George. This is a place where not only the newcomers can check in but also we need the older hams present for this one in order to answer any question they might have regarding ham radio. Many Thanks George.

Linda, K4MPY and Susannah, KE4RVF

## **ARES NET REPORT**

Darrell, KB7QVG did a fine job with scheduling and running the ARES net for the month of May and we thank him for a very good training topic reminding us of those items we should have in a to go kit. With hurricane season upon us, you might want to think about extra water, flashlights, batteries, candles and canned goods ample enough in your home for a few days. This area is well prepared to cope with disasters as witnessed by the

Western Shelter Drill. This went off extremely well. To witness the putting up of that canvas shelter was amazing. Every person had a specific duty in putting it all together. Each person had a certain position and the synchronization of putting it up was indeed, a marvel.

For those of you who have not heard about the utility of this shelter, this is not just an air conditioned tent. This has a triage area, a critical care area and the shelter can be configured to meet the needs of other types of incidents. Much was learned about the cooperation between the different agencies that participated in this drill. The hams played a vital role in getting messages to different areas. All three counties were involved and worked together to accommodate the needs of each necessary task. Success or failure was not the point. The point for each of these drills is mostly fact finding. How to accomplish a mission better, understanding what responsibility belongs to whom, etc. Let's applaud these folks for a great effort in serving our area!!!

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.

73, Susannah, KE4RVF

## **APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Beginning Cash - 4/1/09	\$2,226.36
Cash Receipts: None	
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - April Newsletter	(40.10)
Bell South - April	(23.61)
Ending Cash - 4/30/09	\$2,162.65
Savings HT	\$ 27.24
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 11, 2009 - 7:30 PM

### **MINUTES:**

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, at 7:30 PM on May 11, 2009 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

### **Introductions:**

There were 38 members and 5 guests present.

**Secretary's Minutes/Report:** Tracy, KG4HTW, for Alene KG4NKD

A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the CARS Carrier by Greg Amiroult, KI4TVA, seconded by Ken Bible, AF4ZV and accepted by the club.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda K4MPY

None given.

**Hamfest Report:** Jenny WA4NGV

The Hamfest party at the riverhouse in Orangeburg was a success. A recommendation by the Hamfest Committee will be presented during new business.

**Museum Ships:** Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and David, KI4FSC

Museum ships on the air will be held on Sat, June 6<sup>th</sup> through Sun, June 7<sup>th</sup> on the Yorktown, Clamagore and Ingram. If interested in participating please contact Greg, KI4TVA or Ed, KQ4DC.

**Field Day:** Doug Clark, KU4OC

A presentation concerning possible Field Day sites was presented by Brian Fletcher, K6NWS.

1. On site at MUSC
2. Marion Square – met with officials of the City of Charleston. Benefit – foot traffic and exposure to the public. Disadvantage – set up.
3. Brittle Bank Park . Benefit – easier set-up. Disadvantage – lack of exposure to public.

We will be using the FT897 Radios and will need headphones.

**PIO / Races:** Ken, AF4ZV

No requests at the moment.

**Emergency Prep:** Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNK, Dorchester; Vince K4AOC, Berkeley

Charleston: The recent Summerville exercise went very well. There will be NO MEETING this month.

Dorchester: There will be a webEOC class at the next Meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested should contact John Place, W4HNK of the Dorchester County EOC office.

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. No information was presented at the meeting.

**Repeater Report:** Bryce, K4LXF

Everything is going well – nothing to report.

**Nets:** Linda NeSmith, K4MPY

Please see website for specific dates & times for nets at [www.wa4usn.org](http://www.wa4usn.org). Still trying to coordinate the ARES net with all areas in SC. However, due to lack of availability, the tri-county area will, for the time being, share control of the net each Sunday evening at 8 pm.

**Newsletter/Website:** John WA4GPS

No new information to report.

**Education & VE Testing:** Sheila KT4YW

VE testing occurs on the second Saturday of even months of the year at Trident Hospital. Sheila, KT4YW, reported that the next testing session will be June 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

K4DMS will be on the air again in the next school year.

**Membership:** Bryce, K4LXF

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: None

2nd Reading: Mark Caragher, KE4KMD

Erwin Heins, KM4QE

Associate Membership: None

Motion to accept by acclimation was made by Doug Clark, KU4OC, seconded by George Post, KI4UIW and carried by the members.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

The Hamfest Committee made a motion to have a Hamfest in the year 2010 and that a new committee be formed, with the authority to use the Hamfest funds. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

None.

**Drawing:** None.

A motion to adjourn was made by Greg Amirault, KI4TVA and seconded by Tracey Bible, KG4 HTW.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alene (KG4NKD).

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## Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

