

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

June 2011 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 13, 2011



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I went up to Washington, DC with Ken recently for a visit, and was able to stop in the Spy Museum one afternoon. The mantra for the museum was “things are not what they seem”. Interestingly, at the end of the museum tour, there was a whole section dedicated to “cybercrime” that focused on the vulnerability of our way of life to potential disruption of our communication infrastructure. What struck me was the placement of amateur radio on an equal level with the internet, banking, and medical networks. Imagine that... someone had the forethought to place amateur radio on the same level as our most important networks when it comes to maintaining vital communications for the nation and our world.

Later in the month, I saw an article on an earthquake communications preparedness forum held May 3rd where Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate described the Amateur Radio operator as “the ultimate backup, the originators of what we call social media.”

Amateur radio: the originator of social media? What an important recognition of our hobby!

Speaking on the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, Fugate continued, “we get so sophisticated and we have gotten so used to the reliability and resilience in our wireless and wired and our broadcast industry and all of our public safety communications that we can never fathom that they’ll fail. They do. They have. They will.”

While earthquakes have not been a major concern for the Lowcountry in over a 100 years, a perennial concern is hurricanes. Just as in Haiti, were Charleston to suffer a major hurricane, we will likely be called up to help our community, our region, and our state. Paraphrasing Mr. Fulgate, “Volunteers using assigned frequencies that they are allocated, their own equipment, their own money, nobody pays them, [will be] the first ones... getting word out in the critical first hours and first days as the rest of the systems [come] back up,”

I think we as the ambassadors for Amateur Radio in Charleston need to be plugged into emergency plans. But to be relevant to those plans, we have to be prepared. Field Day is an annual event that provides not only a lot of fun operating experiences, but it’s also provides a time to work on our emergency plans – both with our communities and in our own personal emergency plans. Do you know how you would plug into our community’s plans? Would you be prepared to help your community in a disaster? Do you have a disaster plan for your family? I’d like us to all be thinking on these questions during the upcoming Field Day weekend. Prepare now -- dust off that plan... or write one.

“They do. They have. They will.” I keep coming back to Mr. Fulgate’s words. It makes amateur radio all the more important... when all else fails.

Please join us at the next CARS club meeting on June 13th to help the club make plans for Field Day 2011. I’ll look forward to seeing you there!

73, Tracey, KG4HTW

ARES NET REPORT

Charleston Amateur Radio Society
Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, May 9, 2011 - 7:30 PM

Is your neighbor ready?

Amateur Radio operators are a generally more aware group. We often discuss disaster situations, especially where Ham Radio can or has been used. This leads to us being more prepared than your average Joe. Let me put this question to you, is your neighbor ready?

Why should I care? Let's address this from two angles. The first is preparedness. Any mitigation done by your neighbor can affect you and your property. Also, the more people who have an adequate supply of food and water, the easier it is on you. Please remember, those with resources often attract crowds! The second aspect I would like to address is advertisement. As hams, we often don't recruit or talk about our hobby with others. I know there are lots of people interested in ham radio and preparing for emergencies, but do not know where to look for information. We can use the talks with our neighbors to let them know about our associations. ARES groups, CERT teams, and our associations with county governments can all be topics used to prepare and recruit people. Take the time to visit with both hams and others and talk about our net, our ARES groups, and other items that may peak their interest. Who knows, you may find a potential Ham!

If you have the opportunity, have a neighbor over when you check into our net. The Lowcountry ARES Net meets every Sunday night at 8:00 PM and we would be glad to have you check in!

73, Darrell, KB7QVG

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending Cash - 4/30/11 \$4,205.35

David Wilkins - KI4FSC

MINUTES of MAY MEETING

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, at 7:30 PM on Monday, May 9, 2011 at Ryan's Steak House in Charleston, SC.

Introductions:

There were 33 members and 1 guests present. (Note: of those present, 28 were ARRL members.)

Secretary's Minutes: Larry, KJ4GZR

The April 2011 meeting minutes were published in the May 2011 CARS Carrier. The minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: David, KI4FSC

The Treasurer reported that there was currently \$4,203.35 in the General Fund. There will be a complete update at the next meeting.

Hamfest Report: Jenny, WA4NGV

Final Report for Feb. 5, 2011 Hamfest.

Total income \$6,375.26

Total expenses 5,169.40

Hamfest Profit \$798.63

Kitchen Profit 407.23

Total Profit 2011 Hamfest \$1,205.86

Report accepted as submitted, with a well done to Jenny and her committee and volunteers who helped.

Museum Ships: Ed, KQ4DC / David, KI4FSC / Tom, AJ4UQ

Museum Ships on the Air - June 4 and 5, 2011. This is a two day event, the hours that CARS will operate will be determined by the number of members who sign up to take part.

The NAVY MARS station on board the USS Yorktown will be re-activated for this special event on

Saturday 14, May, 2011. A work party to commence at 12:00 noon on Friday.

Races: Doug, KU4OC

No current requests.

Tri-Charleston event: George, KI4UIW - The event went well, and a few incidents that occurred were handled well.

Diane Fox, KJ4PLU, for the Tri-Charleston event: A thank you was extended from the event committee for CARS participation and assistance. There were 732 who entered the event and 689 that finished.

Field Day: Greg, KI4TVA / Tom, AJ4UQ

The event is always the last full week end in June. A sign up sheet has been started. Let Tom or Greg know if there is a desire to work a particular mode of communications. Note, this year VHF/UHF and six meters will be part of the program. (See May CARS Carrier for information about access to Yorktown.)

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

Charleston: Hurricane Expo Saturday 14 May 2011 at James Island Lowe's, 9 to 1 (communications trailer will be there).

ARES Meeting 21 May 2011 to be held at St Andrew's Fire Station on Hwy 61 at 9:00 AM.

June 15, 2011 Earthquake Simulation drill at EOC Command Center will operate from Approx. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Dorchester: No report.

Berkeley: No report.

Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

Still working out a few bugs with repeater.

Nets: George, KI4UIW - Newcomers Net

As always looking for hams to operate as net control.

Bobby, W4KSD, Sky Warn Net: The net will/was conducted from the National Weather Office in Charleston on Tuesday 10 May at 9:00 PM. This afforded members the opportunity to ask any questions they might have.

Newsletter/Website: John, WA4GPS

The renewal of the website host will be coming up. A motion will be presented under new business.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

The next testing will be June 11th, at Trident Medical at 9:00 AM.

School Programs: David, KI4FSC for Alene, KG4NKD - DuBose Middle School Radio Club - K4DMS

Program is off the air, will resume with the start of the new school year.

Membership: Bryce, K4LXF

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: None.

Second Reading: Carl Dinge, WD4CXW
William M. "Mike" Culnon, KJ4ZMK
Lester Rozier, KJ4LPO,

A motion was made, seconded and passed and the club welcomed the new members into the club.

Old Business:

Computers - John, WA4GPS: Two laptop computers for time calling and logging along with a mouse and carrying case for each have been decided on. A motion was made, seconded and passed to allocate \$1,000.00 from club general funds for the computers. The donation from River Front Race Festival will be used as part of this allocation. A thank you letter will be sent to the Race Festival by the Secretary.

Trailer: The Ad hoc trailer Committee will now become the Trailer Steering Committee. A thank you for resent donations was given to Wayne Graham I(generator) and J J Lewis (desk top computer). A complete list of all donations is being compiled and will appear in a future newsletter and become part of the club records.

Resent trailer activity: Communications Center for Tri Charleston event, on display at Trident Tailgate event, will be on display at Hurricane Expo on James Island. The trailer will be moving to its new permanent home at the old fire station on Dorchester Rd. in North Charleston. A thank you letter will be sent to the Mayor of North Charleston and The Fire Chief of North Charleston as soon as all information is prepared.

New Business:

A motion was made seconded and passed to allocate \$83.40 for renewal of the Host for the Web Site.

Drawing:

The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Susan Brooks, KJ4PVN.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Larry, KJ4GZR

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