

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

March 2012 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, Mar.12, 2012



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society has already hit the ground running in 2012. With the Charleston Marathon and another successful Hamfest in the rear view and the Cooper River Bridge Run looming large ahead, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank all of you who participate in these events. In good weather or bad, you get up early on a Saturday, pack up your gear and head out to the event. You stand a post for hours and make comms possible. You deal with equipment malfunctions on the fly, you improvise with whatever you have available, and no matter what, **YOU MAKE IT WORK!** I am proud to be associated with this group of can do individuals who work as a team to make great things happen.

With that being said, there are many members who do not participate in these types of events. I am not saying this as an indictment of those who don't participate but as a lead up to a question. What other events would you like to see the club get involved in that would interest you? We have a fantastic clubroom aboard the USS Yorktown with radios and antennas galore that could be used for contesting. Maybe you would like to just operate out of the clubroom for whatever reason. I don't currently have an HF rig and I enjoy working contacts from the Yorktown. You can create a pile-up in no time and have a blast for hours! What about geocaching or foxhunting contests? I want everyone to feel like their membership in CARS is worthwhile. I am more than willing to do whatever I can to facilitate whatever you want to do. This is a hobby with many different aspects and many newcomers to the hobby have no idea what a foxhunt or geocaching are about.

I find it hard to believe that many of you are willing to pay your dues every year but not engage in club activities. I think we haven't come up with the event that sparks your interest! Many of you have talents and skills that amaze me. Would you like to share these talents and skills? How about a class in Morse Code or a presentation on building an antenna with everyday items from the hardware store? I can't help but think that if you offer it they will come. Send me an email with your thoughts and ideas to geamirault@sc.rr.com or give me a call at 843-469-5305 or better yet come to the next meeting and let's have a face to face QSO to talk about it.

73 de KI4TVA

ARES NET REPORT

Winter presents many challenges to people all over the country. Here in the Lowcountry it seems our biggest challenge is whether or not to wear shorts! One of the worst aspects of the season is that people often believe that disasters only occur in the summer or all we have to worry about is Hurricane Season. As I am writing this, tornadoes have damaged much of Texas and Alabama with loss of life. Winter tornadoes??? Not only has mother nature been unkind, the sun has reminded us who is really the boss by ejecting a large mass toward Earth, disrupting flights, radio traffic, and some more sensitive electronics, but albeit with little more than a light show for most folks.

These little reminders reinforce the need to always be ready. I was reminded that we only have 3 months until the start of Hurricane Season, so get ready **NOW!** It is good that we have a known quantity to

prepare for, however the unexpected gas leaks downtown say be always ready for the unexpected.

So what does this have to do with amateur radio? Take the time now to do the things that make your home and equipment more survivable. Trim that tree and bushes back. Reinforce that flimsy garage door. Check your batteries in everything. Start that generator, chainsaw, and trailer. Replace the expired food and medicines in your Go and Survival kits. And update your station so you can use simplex. With two of the area's most used repeaters off the air, have you been able to contact who you wanted? Can you hit an alternate repeater? If not, upgrade your station. Above all, take the time to get the training and information you need to be a survivor, not a victim!

During our ARES net we often share operating tips and lessons learned. The Lowcountry ARES net is held every Sunday evening from 8:00 – 8:20 PM on the CARS system. After our local net ends, the system is linked to the entire statewide ARES net where you can also hear more good information from a state perspective. Hope to hear you check-in!

73 Darrell, KB7QVG

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 1/1/12	\$4,452.46
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	26.00
Cash Disbursements:	
January Newsletter	(42.74)
Gas for Generator for Marathon	(20.00)
Copying Club Rosters	(43.44)
CARS Christmas Party	(215.22)
AT&T - January	(58.88)

Ending Checking Balance - 1/31/12 \$4,098.18

Charlotte - KJ4PLX

MINUTES of FEB. MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, February 13, 2012 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President Gregory Amirault, KI4TVA, at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 13, 2012 at Ryan's Steak House in Charleston, SC.

Introductions:

There were 28 members present.

Secretary's Minutes: Wess, W4RUX, for Susan, KJ4PVN

The January 2012 meeting minutes were published in the February 2012 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

The December Financial Report was published in the February newsletter and accepted as information.

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

We hope to have all three ships, Yorktown, Laffey, and Clamagore, on the air for "Museum Ships on the Air" the first week end in June. Operators will be needed and a sign-up sheet will be passed around.

Field Day: Greg, KI4TVA / Tom, AJ4UQ

Field Day will be the 4th weekend of June. Operators will be needed and a sign-up sheet will be passed around.

Races: Doug, KU4OC

The LifePoint Gift of Life Run is Feb. 25th at James Island County Park. This is a 5K/2K run and we will need six operators.

The MS Walk, a 3 day event on March 2-3-4, is from Charleston to Mt. Pleasant on Friday, Mt. Pleasant to Sullivan's Island on Saturday and to Isle of Palms on Sunday. Mary, N4MH (from Charlotte) is usually NCS and they will need a few ops from CARS to help. You don't have to take all three days.

The Cooper River Bridge Run will be March 31st. Contact Doug at: ku4oc@arrrl.net or sign up at

<http://tinyurl.com/CARS-2012-BR> . You can find additional information at their website: www.bridgerun.com/event.php

Hamfest Report: Jenny, WA4NGV

The Hamfest was a success. There were a lot of vendors and we had more tables than ever with some in the kitchen area and some out on the patio. We generated more money than last year but had a lower attendance, 366. Jenny will have a final report at our next meeting. Jenny thanked every one that helped. The vendors said they did well. The ARRL Forum was good and 15 passed the VE testing.

Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

The repeaters are working well. The 145.25 repeater was used at the Hamfest and worked well. The 123.0 Tone on the 146.79 repeater is usually turned off, but is turned on during the NETS. If you program your transceiver to use the 123.0 tone at all times for the 146.79 repeater, then you will always be able to access it.

Membership: Bryce, K4LXF

We dropped a number of members after the Hamfest because their dues were not paid. We now have 145 regular members and 16 associate members for a total of 161 members. We have 3 charter members and 2 honorary members. 57% of our members are ARRL members. We need to maintain 51% to stay an Associate ARRL Club. Please let us know if you have recently joined ARRL.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: William (Bill) L. Corbin, KK4GCH.
Our sympathies to Bill who lost his wife last week.

Second Reading: None

Applications for Associate Member: None

Emergency Prep: Bill, WA4WGP, Charleston; John, W4HMK, Dorchester; Dennis, KG4RUL, Berkeley

Larry Groves, KJ4GZR, reported that FEMA has decided that there will no longer be any SHELTERS

in Charleston County and lower Berkeley County, Hurricane Zone 5. MAPS will be redrawn.

Vince Lombardo, K4AOC is the new district 5 DEC and Dennis Zabawa, KG4RUL, is the new Berkeley county EC.

Charleston ARES meets the 3rd Sat. 9AM each month at St. Andrews FD.

Dorchester: Meets the 2nd Sat. 9AM each month. Dorchester is expecting some new equipment.

Berkeley: Meets the last Sat. 9AM of each month.

Nets: George, KI4UIW - Newcomers Net

See wa4usn.org for a listing of all local and statewide nets.

Newsletter/Website: John, WA4GPS

Nothing new to report.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

A Tech class and test is coming up Feb. 28-29 at Dorchester EOC. They can take some extra students depending on space available. Contact Bryce.

A Tech class is coming up at the Coast Guard Station, W. End of Tradd St. on March 10-11. Contact Walter, KK4DFZ. 514-6499.

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

The School Club Roundup is the week of Feb. 14-17 and the students will be on the air on HF from 4-6:30 PM daily.

Communications Trailer:

Activity Report – Willie, WB4SOG, and Mik, WB4ZOE, had the trailer at the Hamfest and had a lot of visitors.

Old Business:

The Charleston Marathon went well. Had some minor communications problems, (Not Us). A follow-up

was sent to Race Management. Greg, el Presidente, was NCS. The communications trailer was used for computer time calling. Calling was done on simplex, 146.58, with only 5 watts continuous key down, with a 2 meter collinear antenna up about 50 feet on Viaduct Rd.

New Business:

None.

Announcements:

Major C. Smothers, KK4FCE, of the S.C. State Guard is a new Ham and said they were attempting to get members of the Guard to become hams. He also completed an application to join our club.

Drawing:

The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Sonja, WA4WVD. The January drawing was won by Shelia, KT4YW.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Wess, W4RUX, for Susan, KJ4PVN.



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