

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

August 2013 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 7:00 PM, Monday, Aug. 12, 2013*



## DUES ARE DUE

Dues for the year 2013-2014 are now due. They are \$20.00 per member or, if Family, \$10.00 for each additional family member in the same household.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

No words of wisdom received from the president.

## JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 6/1/13	\$3,920.86
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	28.00
Dues	60.00
Memberships	120.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - June Newsletter	(27.27)
AT&T - June	(68.77)
Warren Richey-CARS Business Cards	(38.97)
Jenny Myers-Copy Rosters & ByLaws	(142.35)
Field Day Advance	(500.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 6/30/13	\$3,351.50
Charlotte - KJ4PLX	

## MINUTES of JULY MEETING

### Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61  
Monday, July 8, 2013 - 7:00 PM

### MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President Gregory Amirault, KI4TVA, at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 8, 2013 at Ryan's Steak House in Charleston, SC.

**Introductions:** There were 38 people present.

### Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

The June 2013 meeting minutes were published in the July 2013 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded, and passed.

### Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

The May Financial Report was published in the July newsletter and accepted as information.

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

Tom gave a report on the awards achieved during the Museum Ships Weekend 2013 contest. The club received 3 certificates.

### Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ

Tom wanted to thank everyone for their help in making this a successful Field Day event. We tripled the score from last year. The contacts this year included: CW – 273 contacts, Digital – 93 contacts and Phone – 558 contacts. Special thanks went out to Debbie, Brian, Carl and Walter for their help making this a successful Field Day.

### Races: Doug, KU4OC

Wess, W4RUX – talked about the upcoming 60 mile bike run on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Hamfest Report: Jenny, WA4NGV

Nothing to report except may have a Hamfest Committee meeting soon.

### Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

Old problem still around on the linked repeater system, trying to locate and repair.

**Membership:** Bryce, K4LXF

Yearly membership dues are due in July.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: Brad Lee, KJ4VKC

Second Reading: James Comfort, KK4REM  
George M. Cone, WB4TGK  
Dave Malara, KB2UBO

Applications for Associate membership: None

In their absence, James, George, and Dave were approved and welcomed into the club.

**Emergency Prep:** Rick, N8BKN, Charleston; John, W4HNK, Dorchester; Dennis, KG4RUL, Berkeley

Greg read a thank you note from Lowcountry CERT District 4 James Island, for the participation in the Hurricane EXPO at Lowes in James Island.

Rick, N8BKN: Statewide – PowerPoint drill on Hurricane “Martha”. The Ham part of the June 26 EOC Drill went well. Other communicators had problems.

Hurricane EXPO on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Lowes on Dorchester Rd.

Rick would like more people checking into the Nets, both 2 meter and HF.

Charleston: Next ARES meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the St. Andrews Fire Station at 09:00 AM.

**Nets:** George, KI4UIW - Newcomers Net

**Newcomers Net** meets on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. If you are interested in trying to conduct a net, send George, KI4UIV, a note and he will get you the information.

ARES Net meets at Sunday 8PM. Local area 5 meets from 8-8:20PM then joins the statewide link up at 8:20PM.

**QCWA Net** meets on Saturday at 9:30 AM. They may split the state into three areas.

SKYWARN Net meets on Tuesdays at 9PM on Linked system, unless severe weather activated the Net.

Lowcountry Digital Net: meets Sundays at 8:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on 145.000 MHz running Olivia 32/1000.

TARC CW Training Net: Training on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on linked repeater system.

**Newsletter/Website:** John, WA4GPS

Thanks to Doc, W4MUR, for “From Crystal sets to J-Poles” article.

**Education & VE Testing:** Sheila, KT4YW

Then next test session will be at 9:00 AM on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Trident Hospital.

VE Paul Pearson, N4WCT, passed away.

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

No report.

**Communications Trailer:** Willie, WB4SOG

Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Club member nominations: Greg, KI4TVA, for President; Wess, W4RUX, for Vice President; Charlotte, KJ4PLX, for Treasurer; and Warren, KK4EVI, for Secretary. Voted on and accepted.

Rick gave Bryce, K4LXF a birthday cake.

**Announcements:**

Tom, W4DAX, announced that the TARC club had some Estate equipment on their website and if interested in any item, contact him. Also the TARC club is planning a picnic on Bushy Park road, more info to follow.

**Drawing:** The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Sonja, WA4WVD.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

## SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA BE CREATIVE

By **DOC, W4MUR**

Just shy of two decades ago, I had completed an evening course in Italian at the College of Charleston. The professor was a native Italian and the college offered the second year as a five week cram course in Italy. I was newly retired so I had the time, and the price was right so I went for it. The course was held at a hotel in Santa Margherita, a small town on the Italian Riviera. The instructor was our professor from C of C who grew up near there and knew everybody in town. He instructed them all never to speak to his students in English—a great learning experience.

My room was on the fourth floor of the hotel (third floor to Italians) and opened onto a small veranda. Adjacent to it was the room of two fellow students who agreed to let me attach one end of my 66 foot end fed antenna to their veranda. Perfetto! I had brought my ICOM 706, Astron switching power supply, and trusty homemade L network (described in my previous article) and I could easily contact folks all over Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the former Soviet Union. Everything loaded up perfectly on the 40, 20, and 15 meter bands.

Ten meters behaved erratically. The SWR took wild swings while I was attempting to tune the antenna system, and the chassis of the rig and tuner were hot for RF. If you have ever experienced this phenomenon, you know the RF burn will make you jump. The old

timers encountered this problem frequently, and they had a neat cure for it. If you attach a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength wire (8 feet for 10 meters) to the ground connection on the tuner, it will act as a very effective RF artificial ground. In fact, if you have the problem on more than one band, attach a separate  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength wire for each troublesome band and your problems will evaporate. Be careful where you place the open ends of the wires. They are hot for RF and if they are near flammable material can start a fire.

During an earlier excursion, I was on the ninth floor of a Holiday Inn in Columbus, Ohio. This time I had an “Almost QRP Rig”. The definition of QRP is 5 watts or less, and the rig put out between 10 and 20 watts depending on which band I was using. Looking out the window, I saw a flat roof at the third floor level of the hotel. About 50 feet away was a water-cooled air conditioning condenser, and about 50 feet to the right was a short stairway leading from the top deck of the hotel parking garage to the roof just described. There was one problem. Near the stairway was a wire cage containing several angry dogs that made A LOT OF NOISE whenever anyone passed nearby. This was sure to draw attention to me if I dared go onto the roof.

**A STROKE OF PURE LUCK:** An air conditioning maintenance man was servicing the water-cooled condenser. As he walked past the dogs to get to and from his equipment, they raised holy \*\*\*\*. So I began my preparation. The hotel window didn't open, however I noticed at one corner where the aluminum siding met the window frame there was a small shaft of light peering through from outside. With a little encouragement from a Phillips head screw driver, I coaxed it into a large enough opening

that I could slip a 66 foot plastic insulated wire through and tie a large knot about 6 feet from my end to prevent the wire from accidentally sliding all the way out through the hole. I waited for the workman to finish his job on the air conditioner, and went to the stairway in my old clothes so I looked like a workman. This raised the expected ire of the hounds, but this was nothing new and no one noticed. I tied a piece of monofilament nylon to the end of my antenna and attached it to the air conditioning equipment, then bade the dogs a final “WOOF-WELL”. The arrangement worked beautifully, and I was able to keep my usual early morning 40 meter schedule with my dad in Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

ONE MORE REASON I LIKE END FED ½ WAVELENGTH ANTENNAS: When we first moved to Mount Pleasant, the Homeowners’ Association had CCR’s (Conditions, Covenants, and Restrictions—no antennas, period). A 66 foot no. 24 enamel-coated wire out the bedroom window is virtually invisible, even if you are looking for it—THE PERFECT STEALTH ANTENNA. Later, I was able to negotiate with the Homeowner’s Association and put up two visible but unobtrusive antennas with the kind assistance of Bryce Myers K4LXF, and Ken Sterling N4TIK.

73 and good luck,

Doc W4MUR

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