

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

September 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, Sep. 9, 2013



DUES FOR THE YEAR AUGUST 1, 2013 – JULY 31, 2014 ARE PAST DUE

\$20.00/Year, \$10.00 for each additional member in the same household. Please make check payable to CARS. You may pay at the meeting or mail to membership chairman: **Bryce Myers, K4LXF, 2630 Dellwood Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405-6814**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

No words of wisdom received from the president.

ARES REPORT

I would like to THANK all of the many "HAMS" that have given their time for the many "Hurricane Expos" and other events supported by the Club and for all of the efforts and support for ARES.

Next upcoming ARES event is in October for Simulated Emergency Test (SET). This is another chance to train and display our skills as "Emergency Communicators".

The next ARES meeting will be on September 21, 2013. One time only location will be at: Fire Station, 6390 Dorchester Rd., located by Charleston Air Force Base Gate 5.

This is where the Club Communications Trailer is located. I want everyone in ARES and Club to get a chance to become familiar with the stations in the trailer and various ways to power and use the equipment. The more operators that can use this asset the better prepared we will be for an emergency or public service. Time will be 0900 like always. Give some thought to how to use this time for new ideas and features.

Need volunteers to support the DHEC Medical Points of Distribution. For a reference of where the containers are located check the DHEC website. I will try to have the locations at the next CARS meeting in September.

Charleston County ARES emergency frequencies:

Primary repeater: 146.790 (Yorktown)

Secondary repeater: 146.760 (Awendaw)

Primary simplex: 146.790

Secondary simplex: 146.190

Third simplex: 146.760

Fourth simplex: 146.160

ARES simplex: 146.570 (State Tactical Plan assignment)

Rick, N8BKN

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 7/1/13	\$3,351.50
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	25.00
Refund of Field Day Advance	180.63
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - July Newsletter	(23.99)
AT&T - July	(68.84)
Shriners Hosp. Paul Pearson Memorial	(25.00)
ARRL - 3 memberships	(111.00)
Charlotte Groves - Postage	(4.60)
Ending Checking Balance - 7/31/13	\$3,323.70
Charlotte - KJ4PLX	

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 8/1/12	\$3,634.08
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	328.00
Memberships	300.00
Dues	2,307.50
Refund of Field Day Advance	245.10

Cash Disbursements:	
Newsletters	(361.58)
AT&T (Autopatch)	(801.03)
ARRL - Memberships	(381.00)
Misc. Expenses (printing, stamps, etc.)	(370.74)
Christmas Party	(459.70)
Pinckney Carter Co.-Gen. Liab. Insurance	(250.00)
US Postmaster – PO Box Rental	(78.00)
Memorials & Flowers for Members	(75.00)
Field Day Food & Gas	(319.37)
Website Hosting	(83.40)
CARS Business Cards	(38.97)
Mailing Control Boards for Repair	(34.59)
Postage for QSL Cards – DuBose club	(65.75)
Install Tar Heel Antenna on Comm Trailer	(171.85)
Ending Checking Balance - 7/31/13	\$3,323.70
Charlotte - KJ4PLX	

MINUTES of AUGUST MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, August 12, 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, August 12, 2013 at Ryan's Steak House in Charleston, SC.

Introductions: There were 41 people present.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

The July 2013 meeting minutes were published in the August 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 June Financial Report was published in the August newsletter and accepted as information.

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

No report.

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ

No report

Races: Doug, KU4OC

Tom, K4WJC, talked about the upcoming 60 mile bike run on Sept 28th.

Hamfest Report: Jenny, WA4NGV

Jenny may schedule a Hamfest Committee Meeting soon.

Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

Still working on fixing repeater problems.

Tom, AJ4UQ, is working on Rutledge Tower Repeater, both UHF & VHF systems. The repeater may have a bad card that needs to be replaced.

Membership: Bryce, K4LXF

Yearly membership dues were due in July.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: None

Second Reading: Brad Lee, KJ4VKC

Applications for Associate membership: None

Brad Lee was accepted and voted in, in his absence.

Emergency Prep: Rick, N8BKN, Charleston; John, W4HMK, Dorchester; Dennis, KG4RUL, Berkeley

Rick, N8BKN: Sometime in October will be the Simulated Emergency Test. October 15th will be the peak of the hurricane season. Examine your emergency Preparation Equipment. Check dates on medicine, to make sure the medicine hasn't expired.

Charleston: Next ARES meeting is on August 17th at the St. Andrews Fire Station at 09:00 AM.

Dorchester: Carl, WD4CXW – Still training on the D-Star System.

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, KI4UIW, 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 will be moving meetings to the Low Country in September.

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 another newsletter article.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

Then next test session will be at 9:00 AM on October 12th, 2013 at the Trident Hospital.

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

No report.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG

It may be time to grease the trailer axle bearings. Looking at perhaps putting windows in trailer?

Old Business:

New Business:

Tom, AJ4UQ, Article in QST magazine. Rookie RTTY Roundup will be Sunday Aug. 18th.

Bryce, K4LXF, made a motion to renew Charlie Miller, AE4UX and Jim Bonner, N2ZZ as Honorary Club Members. Motion was voted on and accepted.

Announcements:

There was some talk about Jenny's, WA4NGV recent procedure.

A comment was brought up that they would like more people to volunteer to be ARES & Skywarn members.

Drawing: The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Bruce, KI4YST.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL **By DOC, W4MUR**

This is a moment of embarrassment for me, but I believe it is a story that needs to be told.

Human nature being what it is someone else is probably just as vulnerable as I. Look through the pages of QST and you will find numerous reports of hams being electrocuted while working on antennas. Hopefully this will save one or more of my readers from serious injury or death.

A three phase power transmission line (each leg 10,400 Volts to ground) runs just beyond our property line. I carefully measured the distance from the shack window to the nearest high voltage wire: 72 feet. So, I thought, I could safely run a 66 foot end fed antenna from the window, supported by a monofilament nylon fishing line at the far end, over the high voltage wires to a tall tree on the other side. Even if the nylon line breaks, there will be enough clearance that the antenna couldn't possibly fall on the power line. So I went to work with my trusty sling shot, got the fishing line over the power line, hooked up my homemade tuner to the shack end of the antenna, and fired up the HF rig.

Everything went exactly as planned. After several years the nylon line did break, the

antenna fell uneventfully, and missed the power line just as predicted. Several more years passed, the antenna worked fine, and I made numerous QSO's, including the Sidney, Australia Summer Olympics, and a Russian expedition in Antarctica. What a brilliant plan, I thought!

The antenna had been up for a long time, so I decided to replace it. I had done a similar replacement uneventfully, and this should be no different—or so it seemed. I shot the nylon line over the transmission line and into the tree—no problem. The antenna itself apparently was not properly anchored at the shack end, and as I pulled it up it came loose. Before I could say Oh, \$#!~ the wire was in the high voltage line. Lots of fireworks! In fact the back yard caught

fire as well as a nearby tree. Most of the antenna had disintegrated, but part was still hanging in the tree and continued to arc. My wife had been watering the lawn with a hose and had the good sense not to squirt the fire. Our daughter had been playing in the area a shortly before. This could have been a full-blown tragedy. Still I had to get that wire out of the tree. A quick jerk on the nylon cord got the wire over the power line and into the tall tree behind it. Whew!

You think you have all bases covered. A single mistake could be your last one.

73,

Doc W4MUR

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

