

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

November 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, Nov. 11, 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.

## SEPT. FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 9/1/13	\$4,283.05
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	18.00
Dues	290.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - September Newsletter	(26.98)
AT&T - September	(69.20)
ARRL - 2 Memberships	(61.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 9/30/13	\$4,433.87
Charlotte - KJ4PLX	

## MINUTES of OCT. MEETING

### Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61  
Monday, October 14, 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, October 14, 2013 at Ryan's Steak House in Charleston, SC.

**Introductions:** There were 42 people present.

**Secretary's Minutes:** Warren, KK4EVI

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

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

JOTA – They had a scout troupe already lined up. Willie, WB4SOG to follow up.

**Field Day:** Tom, AJ4UQ

No report

**Races:** Doug, KU4OC

IOP connector run... The event worked out great. Plan on supporting run next year.

Tom K4WJC, People had a great time. It was a bicycle run, not motorcycle run.

Charleston Marathon coming up in Jan. 18, 2014, start making plans.

**Hamfest Report:** Jenny, WA4NGV

Hamfest will be on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at same location as last year. Look on WA4USN website for more information.

Hamfest committee meeting scheduled for week of Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Coastal Carolina Fair:** Linda, K4MPY

Coastal Carolina Fair will be Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> thru Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Linda, K4MPY to coordinate.

Motion to support the Fair again this year was approved. Free tickets and free parking for volunteers who work booths. Tiny URL and list will be coming out.

**Repeater Report:** Bryce, K4LXF

146.790 had a linking problem, found transceiver off line? Restarted and hopes the problem is solved.

**Membership:** Bryce, K4LXF

Yearly membership dues were due in July.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: Samuel Yaryan, KK4UNL  
Gunther John Neumann, KK4UNN  
William (Tom) Corbin, KK4TLO  
William (Bill) Christopher, KV4RI  
Alan Fitzsimmons, W4ANT

Second Reading: Steven Harrison, KJ4AII  
Paulette Harrison, KJ4AIK

Applications for Associate membership: None

Steven and Paulette were voted in and welcomed into the club.

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

**Charleston:** Next ARES meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the St. Andrews Fire Station at 09:00 AM. We will join with the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test at 10:00 AM. You may plan on having a long ARES meeting, possibly until 12:00.

**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 8:00 PM. Local area 5 meets from 8:00 - 8:20 PM then joins the statewide link up at 8:20 PM.

**QCWA Net** meets on Saturday at 9:30 AM. Chapter 89 is now in Charleston. They are working on the by-laws and meet at Ryans Steakhouse from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Dues are \$5.00/year and National dues are \$20.00/year.

**SKYWARN Net** meets on Tuesdays at 9:00 PM on linked repeater systems.

**Lowcountry Digital Nets:** meets Sundays at 8:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on **145.700** MHz running Olivia 32/1000.

**TARC CW Training Net:** meet every Tuesday at 7:30 on linked repeater systems.

**Newsletter/Website:** John, WA4GPS

Nothing new.

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

Then next test session will be at 9:00 AM on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Trident Hospital.

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

No report.

**Communications Trailer:** Willie, WB4SOG

Discussed upcoming improvements and a budget for trailer upkeep.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Christmas party will be on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Shriners Club.

Add item to cell phones (ICE – In Case of Emergency). Add emergency contact number.

**Tanya Corbin Meetze** showed Club apparel items we are looking at. More info, prices and order info to follow.

## Announcements:

Read note about Michael McCormick, WB4ZOE, going SK and Don Ussery's, KG6HJR, Relapse.

## Drawing:

The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Fred, KG4YGP.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

## OLD TIME HAMS WERE B.S. ARTISTS

There is an excellent article on this subject entitled "Ragchewing 101" on page 65 of the August 2013 issue of QST. It should be required reading for all newbies to the High Frequency Bands (1.8 to 29.7 MHz), and it wouldn't hurt for the old timers to review it, too. A few of my own experiences with ragchewing are summarized below.

When our family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1946, my father built a 10-11 meter "rock-bound" (crystal controlled) transmitter and receiver, and broke me in to ragchewing painlessly before I had a license myself. In those days you rarely heard the contest-style exchanges (Thanks for the signal report, you are 5-9 here in Honolulu, 73) that are so common today, especially on 20 meters. Old timers actually communicated with meaningful conversation.

We lived on the outskirts of town, and could look out over the desert to the Sandia Mountains 10 miles to the east. Shortly after getting my "ticket" as we called licenses in those days, I contacted a ham in his summer cabin at the top of one of the mountains, called Sandia Crest. Big deal DX! Today the city is continuous all the way to the mountains and partway up. Today, at the crest are MANY ANTENNA TOWERS—TV, Cell Phone, Paging Service, etc., but it was barren back then. Anyhow, the ham asked me to send him a QSL card to see how the US Postal Service would handle it since there was no mail delivery there. I contacted him again a few days later and he told me that a gentleman (not a postal service employee) arrived at his cabin riding a mule and handed him my QSL card.

During High School at New Mexico Military Institute, I was a member of the radio club, giving me access to their equipment. It was 1947 and 10 meters was hot. The school had a rock bound narrow band FM transmitter and HRO receiver that was designed for AM or CW. It was possible to copy NBFM by slope-tuning the signal (you old timers will remember that procedure). It was easy to make contacts all over the U.S. and a few foreign countries. Most hams had home-brew equipment and it was interesting to find out how it was built and how they had overcome various construction obstacles. One of my contacts was stationed at an Air Force Base that had a surplus of type 10-Y tubes: filament voltage rating of 7.5 volts, maximum plate voltage 450, and maximum plate dissipation 15 watts. He had a large crate full of them and wired 8 tubes with the filaments in series and connected them directly to 120 volt AC power. Then he connected the plates in a push-pull/parallel arrangement, which he powered with 900 volts DC and loaded to 500 watts. The filaments lit up like a Christmas tree, and the plates ran yellow hot. The tubes didn't last too long, but he had plenty of replacements.

After moving to Mt. Pleasant, I ragchewed with a ham in Texas who was a personal friend of Bob Heil of Heil Microphone fame. He told me that he and Bob frequently double dated and he wound up marrying Bob's girlfriend (or was it the other way around?). I later met Bob at a hamfest and he confirmed the story.

I was operating mobile on 20 meters on the way to work one morning and came across a German vacationing in Australia in his camper. While I was stuck in traffic on the Cooper River Bridge, he filled me in on all the interesting places he had visited during his one month tour.

A ham in Louisiana mentioned that he was an architect. I was having a problem with ventilation through the soffits (under part of the eaves) of our house. He gave me a detailed description of the best way to handle the problem and mailed me a set of beautifully hand drawn pictures (text book quality) showing exactly what he had described.

While operating mobile on the way home from work one afternoon I came across a ham in Pueblo, Colorado. Having lived in Pueblo for a number of years, I gave him a call. It was my former next door neighbor who was not a ham when I left Pueblo. He and I and another ham who lived across the street from him got together on the air a few days later and we had a really nice ragchew. Later as a civilian federal employee he was temporarily stationed at Cape Kennedy, Florida and invited us to come down and watch a space shuttle lift-off. Of course, we took him up on it. Unfortunately, there was a glitch somewhere in the

shuttle construction and the Space Center's computer shut down the system about two seconds after rocket ignition. Fortunately the shuttle had not left the launch pad. We were able to follow all the action on the Space Center's 146.94 repeater.

A Kentucky ham turned out to be an old friend with whom I had interned at the University of Oklahoma. We had a nice exchange of information about a number of our mutual acquaintances, where they had migrated and what they were up to.

I came across a ham whose mathematics professor at Southern Methodist University had taught me several math and physics courses at New Mexico Military Institute. He mentioned an incident the professor had told him about in which three cadets who were expert swimmers had drowned unexplainably during an attempt to prime the circulating pumps of the swimming pool. I had just completed my third year in medical school and was visiting the Institute when it happened. The occasion was commencement, celebrating graduation. The Final Ball, a very formal affair, was to occur that evening. The indoor swimming pool was embellished with an arched decorative bridge adorned with beautiful flowers. To give the scene a

romantic misty effect 1500 pounds of dry ice had been dumped into the pool, a procedure which had been carried out annually without incident for the previous seven years. This year the mist was not misting because someone had forgotten to turn on the pool's circulating pumps. The above mentioned cadets did not have dates to the Final Ball. They were on the school's swimming team so they were recruited to dive in, go to the bottom of the pool, and prime the pumps. A good diver takes his last breath just before entering the water, which they all did. Unfortunately carbon dioxide from the thawing dry ice is heavier than air and layered just above the water. Carbon dioxide is a powerful respiratory stimulant which rapidly enters the blood stream from the lungs, reaching the brain's respiratory center in a few seconds (about the time they got to the bottom of the pool). The stimulus was too strong to overcome and they rapidly inhaled large amounts of water. Needless to say the festivities ended before they began. Everyone was in a state of shock and disbelief in the wake of this terrible tragedy.

Ragchewing can harvest a lot of interesting stories—some good, some not so good.

73, Doc W4MUR

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