

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

August 2016 Newsletter

CARS Web Site --- <http://www.wa4usn.org>

CARS meets the second Monday of each month at the Golden Corral near Tanger Mall.

Our next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, Monday, Aug. 8, 2016

DUES ARE DUE

Dues for the year 2016-2017 are now due. They are \$20.00 per member or, if Family, \$10.00 for each additional family 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 YOUR PRESIDENT

I would like to thank you for believing in me by electing me President another year. Also I want to thank the other offices for a job well done. Our attendance was off a little at the last meeting however it is summertime, I'm sure it will pick up this fall. Last year was a good one. The Hamfest did great, We helped with a good many Runs, attended some Expos, in all we were pretty busy. There has been some work done on the Club Trailer, the repeater has been installed and I think we just have to get the Controller ready and it can be on the air. I hope everyone is having a great Summer, Just be careful out in the heat and don't get over heated. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. See you all there.

73, Jenny, WA4NGV

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Charleston County ARES meeting for August is August 20, 2016. The location will be the CARS trailer located at 6390 Dorchester Road Fire Station where the trailer is stored. We will be testing the trailer set up, emergency generators, trailer A/C, and digital modes of communications in the trailer. Also will check out alternate antenna(s), set up and use of equipment in the trailer like the battery system, portable repeater, and basic trailer wiring.

Recruiting more members for ARES is always needed and necessary. Remember in a long term recovery event we will require many operator/teams to keep communications going so recruit your friends please.

Hurricane season is still here with August and September being primary months for Charleston. That said it means you have about three (3) weeks to get your stuff checked and sure all of your equipment works and you can locate everything. Remember to check your evacuation routes, you should have at least 2 routes checked - a primary and a secondary even a third if possible. Stop and get an up to date map because GPS can fail or be wrong. Plus a map can get you on track after a detour for road closures, overloaded roads, or possibly even construction.

Along with checking and planning your routes give a copy to your out of town family so if you get lost or are late they have a way to get officials to back track your route instead of just that you called and never arrived.

As with any trip take snacks/comfort food along because rest areas and food service may be limited. No one wants to hear "Are we there yet?" from the backseat so get snacks and always have water for emergency use.

Until next month, - 73, Rick, N8BKN

Yorktown Operating Dates

August 6, 2016 Start at 1200 end approx. 1500
September 17, 2016 Start at 1200 end approx. 1500
October 15, 2016 Start at 1200 end approx. 1500
November 19, 2016 Start at 1200 end approx. 1500
December 10, 2016 Start at 1200 end approx. 1500

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 6/1/16	\$4,303.98
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	28.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - May, June, Carrier	(61.06)
Equipment - Headphones	(123.16)
Equipment - Digipeter	(82.66)
AT&T - June	(85.88)
Website Host Renewal	(107.40)
Ending Checking Balance - 6/30/16	\$3,871.82

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of JULY MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Golden Corral near Tanger Mall,
Monday, July 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President Jenny Myers, WA4NGV, at 7:03 PM on Monday, July 11, 2016 at the Golden Corral in N. Charleston, SC.

Introductions: There were 34 people present.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

The June 2016 meeting minutes were published in the July 2016 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 2016 Financial Report was published in the July 2016 newsletter and accepted as information.

Museum Ships: Tom, AJ4UQ

Jim, KW4UL, has developed a schedule, to open the Yorktown Clubroom for anyone to use the radios and/or train on the digital systems. The schedule will be posted in the Cars Carrier or sent out by E-mail.

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ

This was Tom's, AJ4UQ, last Field Day as Chairperson. The Field Day activities were marred by the usual rain shower, one of the club's radios started giving problems, and one of the generators failed. Not much of a going away Field Day.

Thanks were sent out to everyone that helped work the radios, set out food and provided gasoline. We had 180 Digital contacts and 233 phone contacts, for a total of 593 points. Our score ended up being 1,186 points. Not too bad considering the problems that came up.

Participation has been dropping; there were 924 QSO's in 2013, then 635 in 2014, then 564 in 2015 and now we are down to 413 in 2016.

Races: Doug, KU4OC

No report.

Hamfest Report: Greg, KI4TVA

No report.

Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

The 441.575 repeater is still not linking up with the state wide system and now the 147.105 isn't linking up either? The Buzzing noise is still showing up. The cause is still be looked for.

Membership: Bryce, K4LXF

New applications for membership:

First Reading: Terry Benton, KM4SKH
Mark Doane, KM4JYF
Craig Willison, NZ4CW
David Wirtz, KM4AID

Second Reading: None

Emergency Prep: Rick, N8BKN, Charleston; John, W4HNC, Dorchester; Linda, KJ4EUV, Berkeley

The next Charleston ARES meeting is on July 16th at the St. Andrews Public Service Building at 09:00 AM.

The Farmers Almanac shows August is when we usually see our first hurricane. **There is no more voluntary evacuation notice, the only evacuation notice now is when the Governor says get out now.**

Rick made up a business sized card listing the ARES Frequencies, take some to keep on hand.

Nets: John, KK4KBQ

Newcomers Net: meets on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. If you are interested in trying to conduct a net, send John, KK4KBQ, a note and he will get you the information. John is also looking for more participation and Net Controllers to help out.

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. The State Wide Net has a problem. The Wallace repeater is not linking into the system. You may need to switch to the Awendaw 146.760 Repeater or the Wallace 147.105 Repeater, until repairs are made.

SKYWARN Net: meets every Tuesday at 9:00 PM on the linked repeater systems.

Lowcountry Digital Nets: meets Sundays at 8:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on **145.700** MHz running Contestia 64/1000.

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

SCHEART Net: meets every Thursday morning at 9:00 AM.

ARES HF Net: Meets on 1st and 3rd Monday at 6:00 PM on HF 3.990 MHz primary and 3.9935 MHz alternate. Looking for more HF Logins, to support HF web.

DMR Net: Meets Sundays at 8:00 PM.

SC STATE GUARD Net: Meets Thursday evenings at 8:00 PM on SCHEART linked repeaters.

PALS Net: 9:30 nightly on 145.230 Tone 123.0

CARA Whitehall Net: 8:00 PM Thursdays on 146.910 tone 156.7

Newsletter/Website: John, WA4GPS

No report.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

The next scheduled exam will be 09:00 AM on August 13th at the Tall Pines Baptist Church. The church is located on 645 Treeland Drive, near the American Biker store.

Planning on having a Technician Training Class on July 30 and 31, at the Boeing off-site conference room. Rumor has it that there may be another Technician Class in October sometime, nothing for sure.

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

No report.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG

Still working on setting up the repeater system.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

It is that time of the year again, to elect club officers: Nominations are:

Pres. - Jenny WA4NGV
Vice Pres. - Tom AJ4UQ
Secretary - Warren KK4EVI
Treasurer - Charlotte KJ4PLX

All nominations were voted on and current officers will serve another term.

There were Field Day charges, food, gas, etc, that did not get voted on previously. They were voted on and reimbursements were authorized.

There was a request for repayment for repairs to the club's generator. Voted on and approved.

There was also a request for repayment for office supplies. Voted on and approved.

Announcements:

Warren, KK4EVI placed several books, non-radio, on the table for anyone to take home.

Bryce, K4LXF, asked for a vote to give honorary membership to: Charles Miller, AE4UX, James Boehner, N2ZZ and John Crockett, W3KH. The request was voted on and approved.

Drawing:

Rick, N8BKN, won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership. Rick, a life member of ARRL, turned around and donated the ARRL membership to Nathan, KF4GYL.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI

OCCAM'S RAZOR

You can find the definition of Occam's Razor in Webster's dictionary: "A principle according to which the best explanation of an event is the one that is the simplest." I'm going to bend the

definition a bit to fit Ham Radio situations and hope the blade doesn't snap. There are a vast array of antennas and antenna tuners of various design available in the ham radio market place as well as literature. The selection is overwhelming. So how do you pick the one that best suits your needs? You can shave off a huge number with Occam's Razor.

For example, what are the simplest antennas? The mundane dipole arguably tops the list. It is easy to construct and tune (by trimming its length for lowest SWR) and can be bent, zig-zagged or shaped into a "V" configuration to fit available space. If you need directivity, add a parasitic element or two, or three, or more.

When it comes to antenna tuners, I vote for the "L" matching network, which in its simplest form will match to an unbalanced feed line or it can be redesigned to act as a balun and match an unbalanced to balanced feed line. See my article in CARS Carrier, July 2013, issue for more information on this subject (available at WA4USN website).

Occam's Razor is essentially the "KISS" principle.

Happy shaving. 73, Doc, W4MUR

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