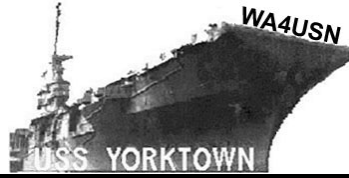


CARS



CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

April 2005 Newsletter



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

The CARS club meets the second Monday of each month at Ryan's Steak House on Highway 61.

The next club meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Monday, April 11, 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Amateur Radio earned high marks and frequent praise this month during a gathering for Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) homeland security grant recipients. During the meetings, "it was roundly acknowledged that Amateur Radio operators are always needed -- for assisting in the wake of blackouts, floods, earthquakes, fires and other emergencies." By the time this is published, we will have already experienced another year assisting a major community event in the form of the Cooper River Bridge Run. This major happening in the Lowcountry was rapidly speeding towards a cap of 42,000 participants (nearly 15,000 more than last year) as I "penned" this article. And as I remind folks each year, the experience of such events prepares us in many ways for the kinds of service we might be asked to provided in some less desirable events in our community -- such as hurricanes, or mass evacuations. So, I salute your help to the Cooper River Bridge Run, and hope we will have some great experiences to write about for next month's newsletter!

In addition to practical lessons we can learn at the Bridge Run, I encourage you to enroll in the grant-funded emergency communications courses from ARRL before the grant window closes in June of 2005. To date, more than 4000 radio amateurs have taken advantage of these courses, and I think such training is important for amateur radio operators to understand the broader public safety context in which we must operate in order to contribute effectively in emergencies.

Turning our sights toward the next major event for the club after the Bridge Run, I look forward to hearing more on Field Day in upcoming meetings. Seasonally this is a great time for HF propagation, as the Northern Hemisphere passes into spring. But sunspot activity is low as we slip toward the bottom of this sunspot cycle, which will actually hit its low nearly two years from now. Still, HF bands are still active, and (with little more than a basic radio, some antenna wire, and some ambition to study for a license upgrade) the world can open up to you. My own contact last summer with a new 10W QRP HF rig with Albert, S58AL, in Slovenia was made using a wire dipole cut to tune up on 20M and hung in the attic!

We need to keep up the incentive for amateur radio operators to continue learning and pursuing upgrades, and Field Day provides a chance for everyone to get on the air. So whatever license class you hold, please make plans to participate. With the right control operator providing oversight, everyone can experience a taste of the excitement of HF operations. And it is always interesting to learn how that little nuclear furnace 93 million miles away continues to affect our everyday lives, as well as influence our hobby.

I look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting on Monday, April 11, 2005. If you helped with the Bridge Run, I also hope to see you at the Cooper River Bridge Run Volunteer Party on April 13 at James Island County Park.

73, Ken, AF4ZV

HAMFEST COMMITTEE & HELPER PARTY --- JUNE 4TH, 2005

The Hamfest Committee & Helper Party will be held Saturday June 4th, 2005. The party will be at Bryce and my river house in Orangeburg. The party is for the Committee and those who helped, family included, with the Hamfest. Lunch will be served at 2:00 PM. If you want anything to drink other than soft drinks, tea or coffee please bring your own. Come as early as you like. Spend a fun day at the river. If you enjoy fishing you may want to bring your fishing equipment. Fish bite better early in the morning. Please let me know by May 27th if you and yours plan to attend, so I will know how much food to buy. My phone number is 747-2324.

Directions:

Take 1-26 West to Orangeburg Exit 154 A, Hwy 301. Go toward Orangeburg staying on 301. Once in Orangeburg look for the Edisto River. After you cross the Edisto River take a left turn at the first traffic light onto the Cannon Bridge Road. Go approx. 7 miles and watch for the river house sign on the left. The sign reads **MRH**. We will monitor our linked repeater system. For talk in switch to the 147.045 CTCSS 103.5 repeater.

Committee:

The committee is invited to come up for the weekend. We will go up on Friday. Weekenders should bring their own bed linens, blanket or sleeping bag, pillow, towels, and wash cloths. We do not have these things up there. Friday night is a covered dish supper. Please bring a covered dish and, if you like, a dessert. If you want anything to drink other than soft drinks, tea or coffee, please bring your own.

Please RSVP by May 27TH, 2005 to phone number 747-2324. Hope to see you there.

73, Jenny, Co-Chairman, Hamfest Committee

MINUTES of MARCH MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society
Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy 61
Monday, March 14, 2005 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Kenneth Bible, AF4ZV, at 7:30 PM on March 14, 2005 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 34 members and 7 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW
In a motion by Ed, KC4ED, seconded by David, KI4FSC, the minutes were approved as published in the March CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY
The February treasurer's report, which was printed in the March CARS Carrier, was accepted as information.

Special Guest: "After the Bridge Run Ride", John Glover, Coastal Cyclists Bicycle Club
The CCBC is asking CARS for communications support of the upcoming "After the Bridge Run Ride" on Sunday, April 3rd. This 100 mile route starts and ends at Daniel Island's Blackbaud Stadium. Four to five volunteers are needed to staff rest stops and the home base from 8 am until 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided by Stickey Fingers and 300 cyclists are expected to participate. See motion under new business.

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV
Jenny reported that the Hamfest Committee met on Sunday and recommended that the club support a Hamfest in 2006. See motion under new business. The annual Hamfest Committee party is scheduled for the 1st weekend in June at Bryce & Jenny's river house in Orangeburg. Please see the April CARS Carrier for additional details.

Field Day: Doc W4MUR
Planning will begin following the Cooper River Bridge Run event.

Museum Ships: Ed KQ4DC
No activities planned until April.

Races: Ken AF4ZV

Ken noted that as members had expressed an interest in assisting the Coastal Cyclists in the "After the Bridge Run Ride", a group of volunteers would work with Mr. Glover to help with the event.

Cooper River Bridge Run: Doug, KU4OC

Doug reviewed the sign-up sheet and noted that most of the Bridge Run posts are covered, but there's room for a few more. Doug is finalizing post assignments & volunteers should let him know if they have a location preference. Also, the request for volunteer t-shirts will be turned in tomorrow.

Burn the Bridges Run:

Ken noted that the Charleston Running Club may be approaching CARS for communications support; however, a date and time has not yet been determined.

Emergency Prep/ARES: John, N4SJV

South Carolina received a \$100,000 award through the Federal Homeland Security funding. The award will be disbursed through the Midlands area and is funding a commercial trailer to be outfitted with appropriate equipment to allow for mobile communications during emergencies.

Yorktown/Repeaters: Bryce, K4LXF

The digipeater is back on the air at the Yorktown. It was relocated at the request of Homeland Security. The Seabrook repeater is back, as new cable has been pulled; however, the 440 is not yet linked. The Holly Hill site continues to be a work in progress.

Nets: Linda, K4MPY

No new information to report.

Interference: Glenn WB4UIV

Work continues to address possible interference from Cable TV and hotels in Berkeley County. In addition, Glenn noted that BPL has been turned on in the Upstate, where significant interference was subsequently detected.

Newsletter/ CARS Carrier: Ken, AF4ZV

Ken thanked John, WA4GPS, for doing an outstanding job with the CARS Carrier.

Web Page: Brian K1BPW

No new information to report. The web site is located at URL www.gsl.net/wa4usn.

Education and VE Testing: Ed KC4ED

No March testing. The schedule for regular VE Testing picks up in April and run every other month. Testing will be scheduled on the second Saturday of these months. Testing will continue to be at Trident Technical College – Bldg 400 – Room 104 [room location may vary] at 9:00 AM. Cost is now \$14 and 2 forms of ID [one with picture] are required.

School Programs: Alene KG4NKD – DuBose Middle School Radio Club – K4DMS

Volunteers are needed to help demonstrate alternative modes [APRS, PSK31, Packet] of operation to the school club. On April 25th, a demo of amateur radio is planned for PACT Night at the school from 7:40 pm to 8 pm. CARS members are welcome and anyone who would like to assist should contact Alene. Help is still needed with the setup of the satellite tracking antenna.

Packet / APRS: Ken, AF4ZV

No new information to report.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Joe Cannon, KI4ILB
Paula Cannon, *expecting to pass exam prior to next reading.*

2nd Reading: Fred Schaffer, KG4YPG
Cathy Smith, KI4ISC
Harold Moon, KB4UTC
Joseph Schmitt, NV4I

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by Ed, KC4ED, seconded by JJ, KF4BZH, the club approved the memberships of Fred Schaffer, Cathy Smith, Harold Moon, and Joseph Schmitt by a vote of acclamation.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Hamfest 2006: The Hamfest Committee made a motion to have a Hamfest in the year 2006 and that a new committee be formed with the authority to use the Hamfest funds. Motion carried.

APRS: John, W4HNC, provided detailed technical instructions with regard to steps being taken to limit local traffic to just the Tri-county area. In addition, John encouraged members to check out www.winlink.org to learn more about SCAMP [Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol] which is intended for transmitting messages -- text with binary attachments -- via 2-kHz bandwidth HF and VHF voice channels. Also see the December 2004 issue of QST.

Heavy Duty Power Supply: Bryce, K4LXF, noted that John, K4ILT, has offered the club the opportunity to purchase a heavy duty power supply at his cost of \$75. John recently attended the Orlando Hamfest and found this bargain. In a motion by Bryce, 2nd by Ed, KC4ED, the club approved purchasing the power supply.

Announcements:

Hurricane Season: Ed, KQ4DC, shared that the EARS club in Charlotte County Florida has noted that we are only 80 days away from hurricane season. Forecasts predict an active season in 2005.

Drawing: The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Gene Golabeck, K3KF.

Motion to adjourn by Ed, KC4ED, seconded by Doc, W4MUR. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ken (AF4ZV) for Tracey, KG4HTW.

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

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