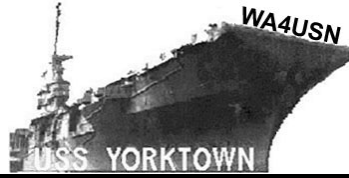


CARS



CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

November 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, November 14, 2005*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Amateur radio volunteers from all three Florida ARRL sections answered the call in recent weeks to provide communication support in the wake of Hurricane Wilma. While millions of residents in South Florida remained without power, and relief agencies continued efforts to meet the basic needs of affected residents, ham radio volunteers turned out in force to assist them. More than in any year in recent memory, Amateur Radio was instrumental in saving lives and supporting national relief efforts through hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. And at least in one case, gained national media attention in the process.

On August 29, a call for help involving a combination of cell telephone calls and Amateur Radio led to the rescue of 15 people stranded by floodwaters on the roof of a house in New Orleans. Unable to get through an overloaded 911 system, one of those stranded called a relative in Baton Rouge. That person called another relative in Oklahoma whose 81-year-old aunt was among those clinging to the roof along with other family members. The family member called the American Red Cross chapter, which contacted the Tulsa Repeater Organization (TRO). Using the Red Cross chapter's amateur station, a request was relayed via the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) net on 14.265 MHz to stations in Oregon and Utah back to Louisiana, where the ARES net contacted emergency personnel who rescued the 15 people and got them to a Red Cross shelter. " 'When all else fails, Amateur Radio works' is more than a catchy tag line," said TRO's Mark Conklin (N7XYO), "it's a lifeline." You can listen to the National Public Radio interview which aired on August 30 on the web at URL

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4824598>.

I think ARRL is on to the right "tag line". But our capabilities in establishing and maintaining communications, regardless of the conditions, are perishable. While licensing restructuring provides an easy entry point for many busy folks to enter the hobby, the competition for their time is fierce. Our club responsibility is to take the education of the new ham the rest of the way. Through operating events like JOTA, Museum Ships, and Field Day, we have the opportunity to educate new Hams in the art of building and installing antennas, running stations on emergency power, and good operating technique on crowded bands. If our moniker "When all else fails..." is to hold true for the next century, it will be because we have laid the groundwork now by encouraging new Hams, building interest in the hobby amongst young people in our school program, and in elmering each and every new Ham.

Please make plans to attend the next club meeting on November 14 at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61. I look forward to seeing you there!

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

Updates from K4DMS

K4DMS, DuBose Middle School's Amateur Radio Club is up and running for the 2005-2006 school year. In July shortly before the school year started the Cushcraft Satellite Antenna acquired with the ARRL Big School Grant was installed by Bryce, K4LXF, Doc, W4MUR, David, KI4FSC and Alan, WB5RMG. This year has seen an influx of mostly 6th and 7th graders with as many as 11 children at a meeting. In September, Doc, W4MUR visited the club and shared a demonstration on radio wave propagation as well as

his collection of QSL cards. He also prepared for each student a packet of cards that included information on "questions to ask", Q- codes, and the phonetic alphabet. As a club we have spoken to hams in Texas, Michigan, Puerto Rico and many from the local area. K4DMS meets every Tuesday from 4 – 5:30 pm. If you are willing to share your enthusiasm and/or your favorite mode, such as cw, packet, DXing, low-power contacting, PSK 31, echolink, moon bounce, TV and/or satellite abilities with us, please consider coming to a meeting. The more we can present what can be done through amateur radio, the more young people we will hook on amateur radio. Dates for future meetings are: Nov. 15 and 29, Dec. 6 and 13, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, Apr. 4, 25 and May 2, 9. If you are interested please contact Alene Wilkins, KG4NKD , see me at a CARS meeting or call 851-0493 or email orwilkins@cchat.com or awilkins@dorchester2.k12.sc.us.

73, Alene (KG4NKD)

Isle of Palms Connector Run

The weather was about perfect for about 2000 runners on October 1. And the CARS communications team turned out to support the event, which benefited the Exchange Club of Mount Pleasant and its Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Many thanks to Mike Wells (WA4HVP), Glenn Little (WB4UIV), Bryce Myers (K4LXF), Sam Shufford (KX4SAM), Debra Shufford (KX4DEB), Tracey Bible (KG4HTW), Bill Pennekamp (WA4WGP) and his XYL, David Wilkins (KI4FSC), Jenny Myers (WA4NGV), John Meyers (WA4GPS), and Alene Wilkins (KG5NKD) for giving up the opportunity to sleep in on a Saturday morning.

There were no incidents requiring emergency communications, but the participation of amateur radio was greatly appreciated by race director, Mike Sotille.

And I would like to extend my personal thanks to everyone who participated.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

Re: Amateur Radio Publicity

In the November 8, 2005 issue of PC Magazine, John C. Dvorak started his "Inside Track" column with a long paragraph on Hurricane Katrina communication problems including the following comments: *"the most overlooked participants in the Katrina relief effort were the ham radio folks"* --- *"there was zero coverage of its contribution in the mainstream press, and these people are not the world's greatest self-promoters"* --- *"Good work, guys! Bush should be giving medals to you all."*
 -- WA4GPS

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 9/1/05	\$1,486.83
Cash Receipts:	
September Raffle	16.00
Cash Disbursements:	
WA4GPS - John Meyers	(41.12)
WA4NGV - Jenny Myers	(41.24)
Bell South - September	(35.93)
Ending Cash - 9/30/05	\$1,384.54
Savings HT	\$ 26.60
Savings ST - CD	\$1,257.05

OCTOBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 10/1/05	\$1,384.54
Cash Receipts:	
October Raffle	35.00
Jenny Myers - Membership Dues	620.00
Cash Disbursements:	
WA4GPS - John Meyers	(58.33)
WA4NGV - Jenny Myers	(250.00)
WA4NGV - Jenny Myers	(45.89)
ARRL - Riley Stone - Raffle	(34.00)
Memorial - J. T. Greene, Jr.	(25.00)
Ending Cash - 10/31/05	\$1,626.32
Savings HT	\$ 26.60
Savings ST - CD	\$1,257.05

Linda NeSmith - K4MPY

MINUTES of OCTOBER MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
 Monday, October 10, 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 October 10, 2005 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 29 members and 4 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by David, KI4FSC, seconded by Sam, KX4SAM, the minutes were approved as published in the October 2005 CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The treasurer's report will be published in the November CARS Carrier.

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

No new information to report. Hamfest flyers are out, and a Hamfest Committee meeting will be called soon to discuss the event for Saturday, February 4, 2006.

Field Day: Doc W4MUR

Doc is looking for the video tape of the Walter Cronkite hosted ARRL public service announcement the club acquired for use at Field Day. It went missing after Field Day 2004, and he is still looking for it.

Museum Ships: David KI4FSC for Ed KQ4DC

David reported on plans for the Boy Scouts' Jamboree on the Air [JOTA] on October 15 on the Yorktown. The event will run from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Scouts will work with the club one hour at a time in groups of up to 20 scouts. David has touched base with the troops in the area to notify them of what CARS can do for them for JOTA.

Emergency Prep: Riley K4HYY

No new information to report.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce and Mike (WA4HVP) updated the club on the status of the Hospital Repeater Network project. Bryce reported that the network has been named the Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team System (HEARTS), and work is ongoing to install repeaters and swap out older equipment. The 147.27 Mhz and 145.25 Mhz repeaters have been replaced along with

other repeater equipment. Trident and Summerville Medical Center now have repeaters installed. The St. Francis hospital antenna has been installed, and the team is awaiting the repeater. Bryce noted that the grant did not cover all of the materials required for the system, and that a motion would be made under new business to address the shortfall.

Mike reported on some of the programming of the system controllers, and acknowledged the help of John Welton (N4SJW) on the programming work. On the Trident repeater, he was able to link CARS and TARC repeaters as one network; however, there are some tone access challenges. A question was asked about weather alerts and urgency message alerts functionality, and there was a brief discussion about support of this functionality. Mike noted the system will be capable of having each repeater operating independently. The redundancy of the network is still a work in progress. Mike provided hand-outs showing the high level commands and messages available for the new controllers.

There were several comments about how Ham radio helped out during Katrina and about the importance of engaging more volunteers and more hospital staff to become Hams.

Bryce also reported that a new refrigerator was purchased and installed in the Yorktown club room at a total cost of \$220.46. Also, new laptops were purchased for Field Day at a Hamfest, and that these cost \$140.00. These items were purchased from Hamfest funds as previously approved by the club.

NETS: Riley K4HYY

Riley reported that the Sunday night emergency services net had 29 check-ins.

Races: Ken AF4ZV

Ken expressed his thanks to everyone who helped with Exchange Club's IOP Connector Run. The group enjoyed a great breakfast and fellowship at the Sea Biscuit after the race.

Interference: Glenn WB4UIV

No new information to report.

Newsletter/CARS Carrier: John WA4GPS

There will be a November CARS Carrier, but the Holiday Party invitation will replace the December CARS Carrier.

Web Page: John WA4GPS for Brian K1BPW

John reported on updating the web site with two new links to the TARC and CARA web sites, and updating the repeater page. The web site is located at URL www.qsl.net/wa4usn.

Education and VE Testing: Riley K4HYY

No classes are scheduled at this time. Riley noted that another St. Francis hospital staff member passed the Technician exam last Saturday.

The schedule for regular VE Testing runs on even numbered months. 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 9:00AM. Cost is now \$14 and 2 forms of ID [one with picture] are required.

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

Alene thanked Doc for coming out to discuss propagation with the school club. She is still looking for volunteers to speak and share experience at the meetings. Meetings are each Tuesday from 4:00pm – 5:30pm. Contact Alene for additional information.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce noted that the club has more than 150 members now – more than it has ever had.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: KI4LXF – John Middleton
KI4LLE – Jeffrey Flowers
KI4LLJ – Lee Miller

2nd Reading: K4KDH – Jack Keeter

Associate Membership: None.

A motion to accept the membership of Jack Keeter upon second reading was made by John (WA4GPS) and seconded by Sam (KX4SAM). The motion carried by acclamation.

Old Business:

Jenny (WA4NGV) reported for Linda (K4MPY) on preparations for the Coastal Carolina Fair. We will now only have one booth, and need volunteers to

work the booth for a shift during the dates of October 27th through November 5th. The shift hours are from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM and from 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM. The fair ground will provide parking passes and entrance passes. The booth will feature 2 meter and HF stations. A sign up sheet was circulated at the meeting.

Jenny (WA4NGV) reported that she had contacted the Omar Shrine Temple about the date of December 12 for the Annual CARS Holiday Party, which coincides with the normal CARS December meeting date. Cost of the party to club members and their spouses will be \$12.50 per person (Actual cost is \$15.45 with the club paying \$2.95 per person.). A \$250 deposit is needed to hold the date. The party invitation will go out in place of a December newsletter. Jenny made a motion for the club to allot \$250 plus \$2.95 per member for the holiday party. The motion was seconded by Riley (K4HYY). Motion passed.

New Business:

A motion was made by Bryce (K4LXF) to purchase battery back ups for about \$75.00 in parts to be attached to the repeater controllers to resolve some power glitch issues. Motion was seconded by David (KI4FSC). Motion passed.

Bryce (K4LXF) brought forward the motion to establish a ceiling of \$500 to use on the Hospital Repeater Network and at the discretion of the club engineers. This motion was brought forward from committee (Club Engineers) and thus did not require a second. Motion passed.

Announcements:

Dues are past due.

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Joe Cannon, KI4ILB.

A motion to adjourn was made by, Bryce K4LXF, seconded by John WA4GPS.

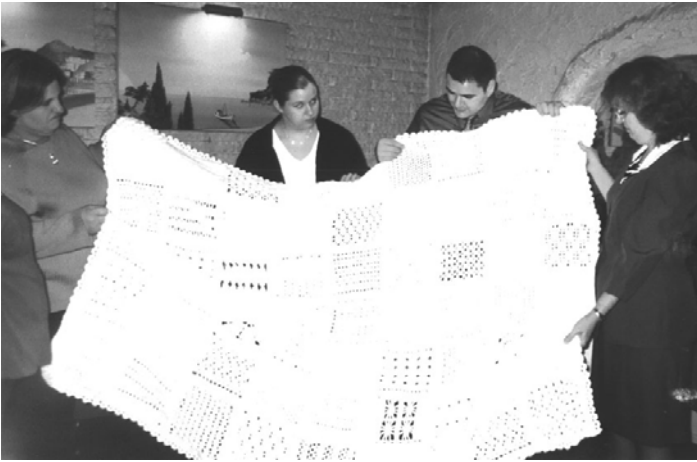
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

Donated Afghan to be Ruffled

A white Afghan, crocheted and donated by Alberta Meyers, a duplicate of the one shown below, is being raffled off. Each square in the afghan is a different design. Tickets are \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00 and are currently being sold at the fair in Ladson where it is on display at the CARS booth. It will also be on display and tickets sold at our Hamfest February 4, 2006 and the drawing held at the end of the Hamfest. A maximum of 300 tickets will be sold and all proceeds go to CARS.

Antenna installation at DuBose Middle School



CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

