

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

March 2007 Newsletter

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

*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, March 12, 2007*

## HAMFEST REPORT

As I reported at the last CARS meeting, the Hamfest was a big one. It was our best yet. On behalf of my Co-Chair, Mike, WA4HVP, and the Committee, we would like to thank all who helped with the Hamfest. It is so good to have so many people willing to give of their time, we know that each year when we ask for help you folks are always there. We will have a Committee meeting very soon and set a date for the Committee and Helper Party, those who helped will be invited. Thanks again.

73, Jenny, WA4NGV, Co-Chair

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is great to be able to report that the Charleston Hamfest, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, was a resounding success. I wrote last year about the growing national concern about the health of hamfests, punctuated here in South Carolina by the loss of the hamfest at Union, SC. But here in Charleston, we hosted the ARRL State Convention, saw a turnout in excess of 500 attendees, sold out our flea market tables, gained a half dozen tailgaters, and hosted Allen Pitts (W1AGP), ARRL HQ Public Affairs Director. My thanks to the Hamfest Committee, and to all who participated, for another successful year!

We had 37 people test for licenses at the ARRL VE session. Doc (W4MUR) is planning to hold a special "crash course" on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a special ARRL VE test session following on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Combined with much recent work on the HEARTS hospital network and interest by various agencies to train amateur radio operators, we can be sure that we will have a large turnout for VE testing for the foreseeable future.

Also in recent events, our Big Project school at DuBose Middle School participated in its second ARRL School Club Round-up. Alene (KG4NKD) reported at our last club meeting a first day total of 17 states and 8 countries contacted from the school's station. I'm looking forward to the final statistics from the rest of the week of operations! I encourage all of our club members to get involved in this club. I spoke to the group a couple of months ago, and found them an engaging and energetic group! I look forward to the chance to go back for some live demonstrations of EchoLink, thanks to the club's purchase of some equipment needed to interface the school computer.

At the risk of repeating myself here in this column, getting the license is only the start. We have to help the new Ham get engaged in the hobby and learn the culture of amateur radio. This is especially true if a new Ham is transitioning from CB or other unlicensed service. With hurricane season approaching, and EOC's meeting over the next couple of months in preparation (see details of upcoming EOC meetings in the February meeting minutes), we need everyone possible to be involved in some capacity. All amateurs can contribute.

Up next for the club are the Cooper River Bridge Run on March 31, and the After the Bridge Run Ride on April 1. Doug Clark (KU4OC) is working hard on final details for the Bridge Run team, and we will get together some details for helping with the bike ride.

Please join me at our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on March 12<sup>th</sup> to hear all about these upcoming events, and how you can get involved.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 2/1/07	\$1,871.45
Cash Receipts:	
February Raffle	34.00
Cash Disbursements:	
Alene - DuBose MS Radio Club	(125.00)
Memorial for K4PQJ, H. Stringer	(58.58)
John Meyers - Jan & Feb Newsletter	(101.96)
ARRL - David Wilkins - Raffle	(39.00)
CYDC - Katherine Riggan - Tracy Bible's Grandmother	(25.00)
Bell South - February	(36.97)
Ending Cash - 2/28/07	\$1,518.94
Savings HT	\$ 26.91
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45

Linda NeSmith - K4MPY

## MINUTES of FEBRUARY MEETING

### Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61  
Monday, February 12, 2007 - 7:30 PM

### MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Ken Bible, AF4ZV, at 7:30 PM on February 12, 2007 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

### Introductions:

There were 33 members and 1 guest present.

### Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by, Doc, W4MUR, and second by Jenny, WA4NGV, the January 2007 meeting minutes were approved as published in the February 2007 CARS Carrier; with the following correction: Sheila, KT4YW had prepared the minutes for January 2007 instead of Sonja WA4WVD.

### Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The November 2006, December 2006, and January 2007 Treasurer's reports were accepted as information as printed in the February 2007 CARS Carrier.

### Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny thanked everyone who assisted with the 2007 Hamfest - it was a successful event. Ken, AF4ZV, thanked Jenny for all her hard work and also for hosting of the ARRL State Convention

simultaneously during our event. Event statistics are summarized below:

Admissions - 523

### Tables:

Dealers	41
Flea Mkt	55
Total Pd	96
Free	3

Total Income:	\$6,366.78
Total Expenses:	\$4,487.84
Net Surplus:	\$1,878.94

### Hamfest Bank Accts Summary:

Main Account:	\$16,564.18
Number 2 Acct:	\$ 153.03
CD	\$ 6,000.00
Total:	\$22,717.21

Finally, the VE testing session was one of the largest to date: 37 participants with 22 passing.

### Field Day: Doc W4MUR

No new information to report.

### Museum Ships: David KI4FSC

David noted that the next event will be coming June 9<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow as we get closer to the date.

### Emergency Prep: Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNC, Dorchester; Vince KI4AOC, Berkeley

Charleston: Bill invited club members and other interested hams to attend an informational meeting scheduled for March 14, 2007 at 6PM at the Charleston County EOC.

Dorchester: David, KI4FSC, reported that the EOC emergency prep group meets routinely on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9AM. At the last meeting, planning began for an upcoming WMD full-scale exercise to occur at night in Summerville. Net Control operators are needed to assist with the simulated event.

Berkeley: No new information to report.

### Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Overall the repeater system is functioning well, except for the following: the Seabrook repeater continues to have some challenges, the St. Francis repeater [part of HEARTS system] started acting up, and the Yorktown is noisy linking back into the hub.

**NETS:** Linda K4MPY - Newcomers Net; Susannah KE4RVF - ARES Net  
No new information to report.

**Races:** Ken AF4ZV

Ken reported that Joan Mulvahill, Charlie Post Race Director, expressed her thanks for the CARS Club assistance at the January 27<sup>th</sup> event. She was impressed with the organization, professionalism, and quick response of the CARS club.

There will be a motion under new business for an upcoming Race on April 14<sup>th</sup>, for the Gift of Life 5K Run/Walk.

**Interference:** Bryce K4LXF

Bryce reported that Comcast periodically causes interference with the .25 repeater. Glenn, WB4UIV, has been keeping watch and communicates as needed with Comcast to correct the situation.

**Newsletter/ CARS Carrier:** John WA4GPS

John let members know that there is an incentive to receiving the e-mailed electronic version of the CARS Carrier - you receive the information a week earlier than the general website availability of the newsletter. There is an embedded link to the CARS website.

**Web Page:** John WA4GPS

No new information to report.

**Education and VE Testing:** Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

The most recent test session was held during the hamfest and was one of the largest the VEs have conducted: there were 37 participants and 22 passed.

Doc will conduct a special fast-paced class on March 3<sup>rd</sup> - March 4<sup>th</sup>. Following the class, a test session will be held at Trident Hospital on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Sheila, Linda, or the web site to confirm times.

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

Alene reported that the annual School Club Roundup contest kicks off this week. It runs from Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The DuBose club has had a good start with 27 voice and 21 digital contacts, which included seventeen states and three provinces.

Alene thanked the CARS club for the donation from the last meeting. This enabled the school club to purchase a microphone with a keypad and connectivity suitable for Echolink.

**Membership:** Bryce K4LXF

Bryce plans to have an updated roster for the next meeting. In addition, he is taking orders for special CARS logo caps, which come in white or burgundy with the CARS logo. Cost is \$8/ cap.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: None

2nd Reading: Peyton Smith, KI4SQM

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by Sam, KX4SAM, seconded by JJ, KF4BZH, Peyton Smith, KI4SQM, was approved for membership as a CARS Club Regular member.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Gift of Life 5K Run/Walk – Ken AF4ZV for Mike WA4HVP: In a motion by Bill WA4WGP, second by JJ, KF4BZH, the Club approved providing communications support for the Gift of Life 5K Run/Walk scheduled for 8:00AM April 14, 2007. A sign-up sheet was then circulated for volunteers. For more information contact Mike Wells.

After the Bridge Run Ride: John Glover noted that the Coastal Cyclists Bicycle club will be hosting its annual century ride on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 8AM. The CCB club is asking if the CARS club would be willing to provide communications support again this year. Volunteers are needed to assist with communications during the event, which starts at Daniel Island and covers Huger, Wando, and Cordesville. Last year there were 485 cyclists who participated. Volunteers will receive a complimentary t-shirt along with lunch catered by Stickey Fingers. In a motion, by David, KI4FSC and second by Doug, KU4OC, the club approved providing communications support for the event.

**Announcements:**

2007 Cooper River Bridge Run: Doug KU4OC reported that he has made the request for the official letter requesting assistance of the CARS Club and hopes to have it shortly. However, in the interim Doug is requesting that anyone who would like to volunteer to please contact him and mention a specific assignment if you already know which post you would prefer. Likely more stations will be needed on the Bridge this year. More to follow at our March meeting.

**Drawing:** The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by David Wilkins, KI4FSC.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis, KE5IDW, and seconded by David, KI4FSC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

## Local Area Nets

Days	Time	Name	Freq.	Tone	Location
Sundays	8:00 PM	Lowcountry Emergency Services Net	145.250- 145.410- 146.790-	123.0 None None	Knightsville Seabrook Is. USS Yorktown S'ville Med. St. George Dorchester Trident Med.
Tuesdays	9:00 PM	Lowcountry Skywarn Net	146.985- 147.045+ 147.180+	123.0 103.5 123.0	
Thursdays	8:00 PM	Newcomers Net	147.390+	123.0	
Sundays Wednesdays	9:30 PM 8:00 PM	Lowcountry USB PSK63 Net	144.145	None	
Tuesdays	8:00 PM	Trident Amateur Radio Club Net	146.715- 147.270+ 147.345+	123.0 123.0 123.0	Rutledge Tower Dorchester EOC Adams Run

**ENJOY LIFE ..... THIS IS NOT A DRILL**

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