

# CARS



# CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

February 2008 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, February 11, 2008***

## **EXCITING K4DMS NEWS**

Billy Thompson passed the Technician Class exam on 1/19 after attending a weekend Tech Class course at DuBose. Billy is the 3rd member of K4DMS to get his license. Billy wishes to thank all the members of CARS for making it possible for him to take the exam. 73's, Alene, KG4NKD

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We are starting the new year fast out of the blocks. The last weekend in January brought together the CARS team to help with the Charlie Post Classic 5K/15K on Sullivan's Island. Fifteen CARS members supported the event, and race director, Jana Glover (XYL of CARS associate member John Glover), was very grateful for our help. I continue to be very proud of our ability to mobilize to help our community, and I want to thank everyone who helped out. We concluded the morning with a welcome cup of coffee and brunch at the Okra Grill in Mount Pleasant.

Coming up next, on February 2, is our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Charleston HAMFEST. We have made a concerted effort to not only get the word out to other Hams, but have also worked to get publicity for this major fundraising effort for the club through other media as well. By our next club meeting, this event will also have come and gone. I'm looking forward to hearing from all of our members about how we can grow this event. As I have remarked before, many hamfests nationwide are struggling, but Charleston is going strong, thanks to the dedication of our HAMFEST committee. After the HAMFEST, we will have a whole series of events for the club.

Ed (KQ4DC) is diligently coordinating for the club with Patriots Point on the rehabilitation of the radio room on USS Laffey. Not only will this work provide another operating position for our Museum Ships activities, but it will also help Patriots Point bring two

spaces (one on Laffey and one on Clamagore) back into use. He will be assembling work parties to begin work on USS Laffey in the near future, so if you have an interest in this project, I encourage you to contact Ed. While there are still a couple of issues that Patriots Point has to resolve prior to our getting into the spaces, the time is now to get on the list of volunteers for this challenging project.

The day after our last club meeting, I receive the formal request for CARS support from Cooper River Bridge Run race director, Julian Smith. This major event is on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Doug Clark has volunteered to take on coordination of the CARS Bridge Run communications team once the club has a chance to consider the request at our next meeting. Also in April, the club has taken up support for the Lifepoint 5K in North Charleston on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Mike Wells will be coordinating a team. Since April is the kick off for the spring running and biking season, I anticipate we will get more requests as we go along.

With so much activity, I hope you each find some club activity in which to take part. There will be many opportunities to participate. Please join me at our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be recapping the CARS Hamfest, and talking about the event filled months ahead.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

## **HAMFEST**

The Hamfest is Feb.2nd and we are hoping to have a big turnout. If you have not sold your prize tickets yet please do so and return the stubs and check to me. If you need more tickets let me know and I will get them to you. I will also have tickets at the club meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Club meeting and of course the Hamfest.

73, Jenny, WA4NGV

## **MINUTES of JANUARY MEETING**

### **Charleston Amateur Radio Society**

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61  
Monday, January 14, 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 January 14, 2008 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

#### **Introductions:**

There were 41 members and 6 guests present.

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

In a motion by James Gilbert, KI4UIS, and second by Mike Wells, WA4HVP, the November & December 2007 meeting minutes were approved as published in the January 2008 CARS Carrier.

#### **Treasurer's Report:** Linda K4MPY

The November/December 2007 Treasurer's report was accepted as information as published in the January 2008 CARS Carrier.

#### **Hamfest Report:** Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny reported that a Hamfest Committee meeting was held on January 6<sup>th</sup> and all is going well and on schedule. Just a reminder – the Hamfest will be Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Hamfest Committee is still looking for additional volunteers for the event— A sign-up sheet was passed around. On Friday, assistance will be needed to clean & setup as some vendors will arrive Friday evening. For Saturday, setup begins at 6:00am and the event runs until 2:30pm. Help will be needed for tear-down as well on Saturday.

We expect to be able to provide a list of vendors on the CARS website.

#### **Field Day:** Doc W4MUR

No new information to report.

#### **Museum Ships:** Ed Walker KQ4DC for David KI4FSC

Ed reported that volunteers are needed to assist with the Laffey radio room project. Patriots Point has given permission to the club to use Radio 2. Please contact Ed Walker to help.

#### **Emergency Prep:** Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNK, Dorchester; Vince KI4AOC, Berkeley

Charleston: There will be an ARES meeting this coming Saturday at 9:00am at the Charleston County EOC Building on Bridgeview Road. There will be a tour and an update on EOC activities. Bill is continuing to stay in contact with Charlie Miller regarding the RACES cards.

Dorchester: No new information to report. Meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the County Sheriff's complex on Hwy 78.

Berkeley: A drill was held recently in which a plane full of fuel crashed in Berkeley County. It was a good test event & hams were able to keep communications going when the batteries died in other equipment. There were 11 ARES members and they were joined "virtually" by 4 Dorchester members.

#### **Repeater Report:** Bryce K4LXF

Bryce noted that John Crockett created a list of statewide repeaters that are part of the SC HEARTS network and copies are available tonight [back table.] There has been a challenge with the RC210 Controller(s) – Mike Wells, WA4HVP, explained briefly the issues with the software and the work done in communicating with the programmer. Software updates have been issued to address some corrupt code.

Mike asked members to let him know if they hear inaccurate or odd sounding announcements come over the repeaters. An example: the system announced that the Skywarn Net was today—but it was not—the system used the wrong date.

Ken Bible, AF4ZV, noted that Glen Little, WB4UIV, sent an article regarding a reminder to hams to ensure appropriate RF exposure calculations around antenna sites. The article shares the story of a radio station cited for failing to have adequate signage & controlled access to the ham's site.

#### **Nets:** Linda K4MPY - Newcomers Net; Susannah KE4RVF - ARES Net

Information is available on the CARS website about local nets.

Greg Amirault, KI4TVA, noted that Susannah Roth, KE4RVF, has contacted ECs in Berkeley County and Dorchester County and asked for their help to sign-up volunteers to serve as net control operators and help "re-energize" the weekly ARES net.

**Races:** Ken AF4ZV

Charlie Post Classic Race – January 26<sup>th</sup> – Club member John Glover, has contacted Ken on behalf of his wife, Jana, who is the Race Director for this year's event. The Charlie Post race is asking for communication support from the CARS club for the upcoming race. They expect about 900 runners for this race, which happens at 8:30 am on Sullivans Island. The CARS club has provided support over the past several years. A motion will be made under new business.

Cooper River Bridge Run – Doug Clark, KU4OC, noted that he expects to receive the official letter of request for support from the CRBR any day. For the 2008 race, approximately 45 volunteers would be needed to provide communications support. The race is April 5<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested in helping, should email Doug at [doug.clark@comcast.net](mailto:doug.clark@comcast.net).

Life Point 5K Run – Mike Wells, WA4HVP, noted that this event is on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Wannamaker Park in North Charleston. The event is fairly laid back and it is an easy run. Motion will follow under new business.

**Interference:** Bryce K4LXF  
No new information was reported.

**Newsletter/CARS Carrier/Website:** John WA4GPS  
The newsletter is now available in color on the website and it's easily printed via .pdf file format. In addition, the "Repeater Link Graphic" has been updated. The CARS website can be found at [www.wa4usn.org](http://www.wa4usn.org).

**Education and VE Testing:** Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY  
The next test session will be held at Hamfest on February 2, 2008.

Ken Bible, AF4ZV, recognized the VE team for their efforts as they traveled to Columbia to run a special test session and then made it back in time to attend the meeting tonight.

Bryce Myers, K4LXF, noted that the SC State Guard has asked if CARS could offer a class and then if the VE team could administer a test session in April 2008.

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

Alene announced that a Technician training class is scheduled for this coming Friday, from 4pm-8pm and Saturday 8am – Noon, at the school. Following the class a VE test session will be held for the students. Additional discussion followed Alene's report and a motion will be made under new business.

School Club Roundup starts Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and will run thru Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan to operate on 14.250. There is a good article in the January 2008 QST about the event.

**Membership:** Bryce K4LXF

Dues [\$20] were due this past August and those who have not paid six months following the due date are removed from the roster. We have over 170 members now and we continue to meet the ARRL requirement of having 51% or more of our members also maintaining membership with ARRL.

CARS ball caps are still available - \$8 each. Note that the person doing the embroidery will be at the Hamfest.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Keith Wucherer, N2OBS  
Stan Vernon, N0SV  
George Twiddy, KI4NNK

2nd Reading: Steven C. Geldenhuis, KG4ULR  
David R. Beatson, W4LNY

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, seconded by Peggy Thorne, KD8FNK, Steven Geldenhuis, KG4ULR, & David R. Beatson, W4LNY, were approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

**Old Business:**

CARS Christmas Party – Jenny Myers, WA4NGV, made a financial report of the 2007 event: 57 people attended the event, with a total cost to the club of \$296.15.

Fees Collected:

\$754 - club members, including \$13 donation from Raymond, W9RKF  
\_200 - advance from the club  
\$954 Total funds taken in

Expenses:

\$ 993.51 – The Point Grill  
56.64 - Ink cartridge, Paper & favors [enough  
\$1,050.15 Total Expenses paper for 2008]

Collections less Expenses = \$954 – \$1050.15=  
(\$96.15). The club owes Jenny \$96.15.

**New Business:**

Charlie Post Classic Race: In a motion by Peggy Thorne, KD8FNK, second by Bryce Myers, K4LXF, the club agreed to provide communication support for the upcoming January 26, 2008 race. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers.

Life Point 5K: In a motion by Mike Wells, WA4HVP, and second by Peggy Thorne, KD8FNK, the club agreed to provide communication support for the upcoming April 12, 2008 race. A sign-up sheet will be circulated closer to the event.

Dubose Middle School Club, K4DMS - Bryce Myers, K4LXF, asked if Alene Wilkins, KG4NKD, could provide a list of needs for the school club. Alene noted that several children have hardships and cannot afford to pay for the VE exam fee.

In a motion by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and seconded by Alfonso Gregg, W1GRE, the CARS club agreed to allocate funds to subsidize the cost of VE exams for

students who want to take their test for licensure. Following the approval of the motion, many CARS members personally donated funds to the club in support of the K4DMS school club. The total amount collected allowed the CARS club to issue a check to Alene for \$95 to support the school radio club.

Tax Exempt Status – the club briefly discussed the idea of applying for 501( c) (3) status to be able to accept tax deductible donations. Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, mentioned that the club would have to take on additional record keeping and reporting responsibilities that may be beyond what volunteer officers may wish to complete. No motion was made regarding the matter.

**Announcements:**

Roland “Doc” Crane, W4MUR – Bryce Meyers, K4LXF, reported that Doc is out of the hospital and back home following knee surgery.

**Drawing:** The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Alfonso Gregg, W1GRE.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bryce Myers, K4LXF, and seconded by Carl Thorne, KD8FNJ.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

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