

CARS



CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

April 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, April 14, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you are receiving this newsletter, the CARS club will be in the midst of supporting the Cooper River Bridge Run with a network of nearly 40 amateur radio operators. Two of these operators have supported the Cooper River Bridge Run since the very first race in 1978. For their efforts, our own Bryce (K4LXF) and Jenny (WA4NGV) are being honored this year by being inducted into the **Cooper River Bridge Run Hall of Fame**. It is a big honor, and I am so proud to be able to participate in their induction in my final year as a member of the Executive Committee for the race. The following day, about a half dozen will awake with the sun yet again to support the After the Bridge Run Ride. Again, thank you!

Before we know it, 2008 Field Day, June 28-29, will be upon us. The official 2008 ARRL Field Day Web page www.arrl.org/FieldDay is up and running, and includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms, rules and reference links. It is worth starting to take a look now, because the time is approaching. Doc (W4MUR) will be our Field Day captain once again this year, but as you know, he won't be climbing the stairs and ladders as readily as in the past, so he needs a good cadre of club members to follow his directions in moving equipment up to our operating positions, setting up, operating, and tearing down this year.

During some recent severe weather here in the Lowcountry, I was reminded how important it is for us to exercise patience, but also to be mindful of communicating accurate reports, in an emergency network. For example, during the height of the recent tornado activity, a station came on the air asking "What is going on?", with no elaboration as to their condition or issue. The net controller, thinking the call a casual question, remarked to the caller that Skywarn had been activated, and that routine traffic needed to wait. The operator then elaborated that he was with a group of youths in an open area, and wanted to know what the situation was to determine his best course of action. Wow! What a 180 degree turnaround in thinking for both the operators. I am reminded of the story I was once told about a U.S. ship of war steaming along in

a violent thunderstorm. At some junction, the navigator points out lights ahead. The captain orders the radioman to call and ask the approaching vessel to change course. The reply comes back that the captain should change his course instead. The captain, enraged by this insolence, gets on the radio himself and demands that the other party change course. The reply... "Sir, you should change course, I am a lighthouse." The moral of the story is that emergencies put everyone under stress, and makes it even more important to think about our message – both sending and receiving!

In closing, let me remind everyone of our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on March 10th. I look forward to seeing you there to hear all about our Bridge Run adventures, and more fun in the coming months.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

REPORT ON ARES NET

The ARES net is growing by leaps and bounds in case you haven't been checking in or listening. The training topics have been very informative and useful in dealing with all sorts of emergency events. The ARES group is meeting to address the new growth. If you are interested in getting involved in your county's team, here is the list of those whom you should contact: Darrell, KB7QVG, Berkeley County; Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Dorchester County; Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, Charleston County. You can look them up on QRZ.com to get their e-mail addresses. Those of you interested in running the ARES net should get in touch with your county's net scheduler. Those in Charleston County will be running the net this month, April, and Bill, WA4WGP, is looking for net controllers. Wouldn't it be great if you could use the knowledge of your hobby to be of service in your community with your communication skills? That is what it is all about. Susannah, KE4RVF

MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 3/1/08	\$2,293.37
Cash Receipts:	
March Raffle	63.00
Jenny Myers - Membership Dues	230.00

Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - March Newsletter	(40.78)
Post Office Box rental	(56.00)
Pinckney-Carter Insurance	(250.00)
Bryce Myers - General Class Books	(56.13)
ARRL-KI4LXG, Dennis-Mar. Raffle	(39.00)
Bell South - March	<u>(42.39)</u>
Ending Cash - 3/31/08	\$2,102.07
Savings HT	\$ 27.08
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45

Linda NeSmith - K4MPY

MINUTES of MARCH MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, March 10, 2008 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Ken Bible, AF4ZV, at 7:40 PM on March 10, 2008 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 53 members and 11 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by Greg Amirault, KI4TVA, and second by John Meyers, WA4GPS, the February 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published in the March 2008 CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The February 2008 Treasurer's report was not in the March 2008 CARS Carrier. Linda read out loud the February 2008 report, which was accepted as presented.

Beginning Cash - 2/1/08	\$2,424.04
Cash Receipts:	
February Raffle	40.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - News Letter	(41.55)
Jenny Myers - Office Supplies	(47.73)
ARRL - WB4SOF, W. Graham - Raffle	(39.00)
Bell South - February	<u>(42.39)</u>
Ending Cash - 2/29/08	\$2,293.37
Savings HT	\$ 27.08
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny provided a detailed final financial report for the February 2, 2008 Hamfest. She noted that our net surplus was down slightly from last year. A summary of the information presented is listed below:

Total admissions were 439, with a total of 50 tables sold [25-dealer tables & 25-flea market tables]. There were 6 free tables and 5 tailgate tables. The total net proceeds from the event were \$1,317.38, of which the Hamfest had a profit of \$878.86 and the Kitchen had a profit of \$438.52.

Hamfest Accounts / Bank Balances:

Main Account	\$14,684.18
#2 Account	\$ 2,247.60
CD	<u>\$ 6,331.28</u>
Total	\$23,263.06

Field Day: Doc W4MUR

Doc provided an update on the 2008 Field Day event, noting that it always occurs in the 4th full weekend in June. This year the dates are June 27th - June 29th. He encouraged everyone to visit the ARRL website to review the material [www.arrl.org] and pointed out that there are rule changes with the GOTA station. New this year is an Education Activity bonus, which Doc asked Alene Wilkins, KG4WKD, if she could consider developing a project to get these points. More information to follow in the next few meetings, but Doc is looking for volunteers now to begin planning.

Museum Ships: Ed Walker KQ4DC and David KI4FSC

Ed noted that the USS Laffey project is coming along and on target for the planned completion date of April 16th in order to honor the anniversary of the kamikaze attack with the opportunity to bring the radio room back on the air.

David reminded everyone of the next Museum Ships on the Air event set for June 6th & June 7th.

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

Charleston: Bill reminded everyone that the regular monthly meeting for this group is the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 9:00am, at the Emergency Operations Center located on Leeds Avenue in North Charleston. All interested Hams are invited to attend.

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

Berkeley: Meetings are on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00am - please see website at www.w4brk.org for details.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce noted that the local repeater network is functioning okay. He expressed pride in the accomplishments of the group working on the HEARTS & SC HEARTS linked repeater systems and recognized John Welton, N4SJW, for assistance with the hospitals links. Bryce noted that while

a few hams have expressed some dissatisfaction with the linking project, that the majority of hams are supportive of this project.

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

No new information to report. Please see website for specific dates & times for nets at www.wa4usn.org.

Greg Amirault was recognized for doing a great job serving this past Sunday night as net control operator with more than 40 check-ins and broad statewide coverage with the link system.

Races: Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, for Ken AF4ZV

Cooper River Bridge Run-APRIL 5TH – Ken Bible, AF4ZV, for Doug Clark, KU4OC,

Doug forwarded to Ken an updated roster with 8 positions still available for anyone who wants to volunteer for the CRBR communication support. Contact Doug Clark for details.

After the Bridge Run Ride- APRIL 6TH – John Glover, Associate club member, brought a request for communication support for this event which is a fundraiser for the local biking community. The event is a bike ride that starts on Daniel Island with a 100 mile course route and a few shorter options for participants. He anticipates up to 500 participants and would like to have 4 communication stations and 1 mobile station. John expressed appreciation for CARS support in the past and noted that any volunteers this year would receive a t-shirt and lunch catered by Stickey Fingers. A motion will be brought up under new business.

Gift of Life 5K – APRIL 16TH - Mike Wells, WA4HVP, is coordinating CARS communication support for the event, which is a Wannamaker Park in N. Charleston. A sign-up sheet was passed at the meeting..

Interference: Bryce K4LXF

No new information was reported.

Newsletter/CARS Carrier/Website: John WA4GPS

John noted that the website section about the repeater network has been updated to reflect the current actual configuration.

Ken Bible highlighted the fact that website counters reflected a spike in activity during February around the Hamfest event.

Education and VE Testing: Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

Sheila reminded everyone about the next VE test session being held on April 12th at 9:00 am at Trident Hospital.

She also reported that a VE Team group went to Loris, SC to conduct a test session on behalf of another agency training staff to become amateur radio operators in connection with utilizing the SC HEARTS system.

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

Alene reported that three students are currently licensed as technicians and would like to start working on upgrading to general class status. She reported that the school club has received a radio loaned by an anonymous ham to provide to a student while they are a member of the school club.

Eagle Nest Science Day – APRIL 4TH – Ed Walker, KQ4DC, reminded everyone of the upcoming science day event at this elementary school. The target audience is 4th & 5th graders with the goal being to introduce them to the concept of amateur radio with a demonstration of operation. Anyone interested in helping should contact Ed Walker.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

The club has nearly 170 members at this time.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Greg Sumner, KG4RNC

2nd Reading: Timothy Helgerson, KB7PGT
Paul Jones, NN4F
William Robertson, W3HMI

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, seconded by George Post, KI4UIW, Timothy Helgerson, Paul Jones, and William Robertson were approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

Old Business: None

New Business:

After the Bridge Run Ride - In a motion by Greg Amirault, KI4TVA, and second by Doc, W4MUR, the club approved providing communications support to the event.

Dubose School Club resources – Ed Steeble, K3IXD, noted that he had sent an email request to the club to consider the purchase of 3 general class manuals to be given to the 3 students currently seeking to upgrade from technician to general class licenses. Bryce Myers, K4LXF, reported that he had purchased 3 manuals at a cost of \$18.71/book for the benefit of the school club members. In a motion by JJ Lewis, KF4BZH, and second by Carl

Thorne, KD3FNJ, the club approved reimbursing Bryce for the purchase of the 3 manuals.

Ken Bible asked Alene Wilkins to work on a budget plan considering the school club needs for the remainder of the academic year. This way the CARS club can better assist with developing resources to aid the program. Carl Thorne, KD3FNJ, suggested the idea of establishing an advisory committee to help Alene coordinate and manage the school club. No further motions were made by the club at this time, but all agreed the dialogue should continue.

Nominating Committee – Ken Bible reported that he has asked Bryce Myers to chair the Nominating Committee to select officers for the next year. Per CARS bylaws, voting is to occur in July.

Announcements:

Ball caps, jackets, & shirts: Bryce Myers reminded everyone he had club logo ball caps available for \$8/ hat. In addition, Jenny Myers mentioned that several members have expressed interest in purchasing club logo jackets & shirts. In order to make a purchase order, a specific minimum quantity must be ordered. Please contact Jenny or Bryce if you are interested so we can get enough requests to place an order...

CoCoRaHS: Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network – Bobby McBride, W4KSD

Bobby shared information about a grassroots volunteer network that originated in 1998 in Colorado at the Climate Center at Colorado State University as the result of the Fort Collins flood. The purpose of this volunteer network of weather observers is to “provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications.” Presently 29 out of 50 states have joined this network and SC just recently joined. This non-profit organization has a major sponsorship by NOAA and provides a wealth of information about their program and the benefits to weather forecasting as a result of participation on the website: www.cocorahs.org. For more information about this program and how to become a volunteer, contact Bobby McBride or go to the website.

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Dennis Powell, KI4LXG.

A second drawing was held for a security monitor that was donated for the Hamfest, but was subsequently re-gifted back to the club. Using the tickets already passed out for the evening raffle, another ticket was drawn for someone to win the monitor. Tom Evans, NA4U, won the 2nd raffle.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carl Thorne, KD8FNJ, and seconded by Steve Chastain, KI4YSO.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

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