

CARS



CARRIER



Charleston Amateur Radio Society

July 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, July 14, 2008

DUES FOR THE YEAR

**AUGUST 1, 2008 – JULY 31, 2009
ARE DUE**

\$20.00/Year, \$10.00 for each additional member in the same household. Please make check payable to CARS.

You may pay at the meeting or mail to membership chairman: **Bryce Myers, K4LXF, 2630 Dellwood Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405-6814**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For six years the members of CARS have afforded me the privilege of leading the club as its president. Next month, I will hand over the reins. I came into the office with a deep respect for long time members of the club, whose steady hands make sure that the projects we vet together result in lasting accomplishments. We are not fast movers as a club, rather we consistently go the distance. This has been an effective strategy for growth in the CARS club, so I can heartily recommend to the incoming officers that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

That said, part of going the distance is being able to have the whole club understand and agree on what success looks like. Last month, I wrote about strategic planning as an important tool for our club, one that lets the club leadership help everyone see what the end result should look like... what success looks like. With this in mind, I would offer the following thoughts for consideration.

We need to continually look at the changes happening in the amateur radio service to help keep our ability to offer support viable. We need to keep an eye on new technology, and build skills in operating with these new modes and capabilities. We need to continue building our educational programs, not only for youth, but building upon the demand for adult classes and licensing that has emerged from the success of HEARTS and CERT. We need to keep growing our visibility in the tri-county area and beyond with our public officials and emergency service agencies.

We also need to keep an eye on these new hams created from our success in classes and licensing. The new ham of today may well need more help to stay engaged in the hobby. Unlike the ham of 30 years ago, they may well have limited technical knowledge, but every bit of the enthusiasm. We should look at ways to embrace these new hams and help them grow in knowledge and operating ability.

And not forgetting our youth - the future of ham radio 15 years from now - we have to use every means available to get young people involved in the hobby during their formative years. They may well be inactive later in their teens, when school and social life take precedence, but the seed will have been planted.

This is a strategy for success in my mind. I think it aligns well with the national ARRL strategy for amateur radio. Over the past six years, we have grown a great deal of diversity in the club. We have young and old, new hams and veterans, CW and phone enthusiasts, analog and digital experimenters, contesters and ragchewers. We participate in a wide swath of activities - contests, special events, public service, educational activities, historic restoration, and emergency preparedness.

Going forward, I hope to see the CARS club continue to grow - in membership and depth of activity. Tracey and I hope to be a part of that growth for a long time to come.

I thank you for your support and fellowship, and look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting at Ryan's Steak House on July 14th. We will have a wrap up on Field Day and club elections for officers at this meeting. Please join me there.

73, Ken (AF4ZV)

REPORT ON ARES NET

The ARES net is on every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM local time. If you have never listened or checked in, you might want to do so as we are in the hurricane season and being in the know of how to protect your loved ones and your residence is of utmost importance. Upcoming in July,

there will be Training Topics that will help you to survive during and after a disaster.

This has become a statewide net and hams from all over the state check in. Having become a statewide net, one has to pause and ponder the work that has gone into this ongoing accomplishment. The engineers, trustees, and owners of the repeaters had to not only link repeaters but obtain frequencies, put the antennas up, figure output of wattage and many other technical aspects including the phenomenal task of making sure there is even audio throughout the system. If this feature is not tweaked properly, you would be twisting the volume control on your radio the whole time the net is running. There are still more repeaters to add to the system. This state wide effort may become an example for other states to follow. It is not in the plan to have these repeaters linked all the time but only periodically for inspection purposes, mock drills and nets.

The net controllers have also done an outstanding job of coping with the numbers of check ins. You may ask why it is so important to get the call signs and areas correct. This is because when a disastrous event occurs, net controllers of the ARES net can look in their log to find a particular person in a particular area to give or ask information. That is why you hear net control being persistent in getting the call, name and area correct for their log.

Many thanks to John Crockett, kc4yi, for taking the months of May and June. He and his net controllers did a very fine job.

We have not had a lot of training topics lately because it is a training session in itself to see that the repeaters are linked properly, the net controllers dealing with stations that are hard to copy and correcting incidences with the linked system. Just thought you would like to know the "inside story" of all the cooperation it takes to not only have them for our use as hams in the hobby but definitely of great and important use in case of disaster.

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.

I hope you consider getting involved.

73, Susannah (KE4RVF)

JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Cash - 6/1/08	\$646.97
Cash Receipts:	
June Raffle	32.00

Cash Disbursements:

John Meyers - June Newsletter	(41.38)
ARRL - KE4RVF & KJ4EIZ	(73.00)
May & June Raffle Winners	
Bell South - June	(47.57)
Ending Cash - 6/30/08	\$517.02
Savings HT	\$ 27.13
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45
Linda NeSmith - K4MPY	

MINUTES of JUNE MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61

Monday, June 9, 2008 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Ken Bible, AF4ZV, at 7:30 PM on June 9, 2008 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 31 members and 4 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/ Report: Tracey KG4HTW

In a motion by Lee Miller, KI4LLJ, and second by George Post, KI4UIW, the May 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published in the June 2008 CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

Linda presented a combined Treasurer's Report for April 2008 and May 2008:

Beginning Cash - 4/1/08	\$2,102.07
Cash Receipts:	
April Raffle	26.00
May Raffle	42.00
Cash Disbursements:	
John Meyers - April Newsletter	(48.98)
Jenny Myers - Office Supplies	(42.99)
Bryce Myers - Antennas	(139.90)
ARRL - KI4TVA, Greg - April Raffle	(39.00)
John Meyers - May Newsletter	(48.87)
Jenny Myers - Field Day	(550.00)
Bryce Myers - Radio for Laffey	(500.00)
Sam Shufford - Web Host Space	(71.40)
Bell South - April	(40.46)
Bell South - May	(41.50)
Ending Cash - 5/31/08	\$646.97
Savings HT	\$ 27.08
Savings ST - CD	\$1,306.45

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny reported on the Hamfest Committee Party held on May 31st in Orangeburg, noting that it was a great time. Of the 29 people who signed up, 28 were able to come and there was an excellent lunch of steak, chicken, and fixings.

Hamfest 2009 – Jenny explained that the Exchange Club has a new manager for the Fairgrounds. She has an appointment with him on Wednesday. The 2009 Hamfest will be held on February 7th and the SERA advertisement will go on July 1st.

Field Day: Doc W4MUR

Doc gave an update on 2008 Field Day planning activities, noting that things are looking good. A sign-up sheet was circulated for any additional interested volunteers. A motor home/camper was still needed for the CW station. Tim Russell, KD8YUC, was planning to offer a logging class to help volunteers understand the process to support tracking contacts for Field Day. The proposed date is June 21st at approximately 2pm on the Yorktown.

Doc announced that Ray Borrelli has found a source for logo shirts embroidered with the club logo for \$18/shirt. The minimum order is 4 shirts.

Doc then thanked everyone for their help with the upcoming Field Day event.

Museum Ships: Ed Walker KQ4DC and David KI4FSC

David extended a special thank you to Ed Walker for all his help. The Museum Ships On the Air event was very successful with 665 contacts on the Yorktown, 114 contacts on the Laffey, and 21 contacts on the Clamagore. The new gear on the Laffey worked well and overall it was a great weekend.

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

Charleston: Bill reported on the recent Hurricane Drill conducted at the EOCs. He thanked Mike Wells, WA4HVP, for setup assistance. During the Drill, some glitches were identified & fixed. In addition, direct contact was made to the state EOC in Columbia. The June ARES meeting at the EOC has been cancelled. Bill extended a special thank-you to Susannah Roth, KE4RVF, for coordinating the ARES net.

Dorchester: Meetings on 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at the County Sheriff's complex on Hwy 78. David noted that the Dorchester EOC also participated in the recent Hurricane Drill, with 30 volunteers participating. He noted that they would be having the normal meeting this Saturday.

Berkeley: Meetings on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00am – please see website at www.w4brk.org for details. Tom Evans, NA4U, reported that there would not be a June meeting. However, on June 23rd, awards will be presented at the Berkeley County Council meeting to recognize local community members who helped with the room at the EOC. On Field Day, the EOC will run for

1hour to support the event, then operations will be moved outside.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce gave a status report, noting that the repeater system is working well at this time. He gave an overview of the SC Hearts network [connects statewide with assistance from microwave antenna with help from ETV], Hearts network [local hospitals], and also how CARS & TARC both support.

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.

Races: Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, for Ken AF4ZV

No new event requests at this time. For the Swamp Fox Challenge on June 28th, because the event coincides with Field Day, Ken reported that he has worked on trying to find others who may assist Charles Fox, KI4UIZ, with communication support for the 100 mile bike ride. A possible repeater has been identified and Bryce, K4LXF, has been a great resource to this process.

Interference: Bryce K4LXF

No new information was reported.

Newsletter/CARS Carrier/Website: John WA4GPS

No new information was reported.

Education and VE Testing: Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

VE testing continues on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months. Please see the CARS website for details. There is some discussion about forming a class, given the sign-up list from the Fairgrounds.

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

No new information to report – School is out for the Summer.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: Todd Schlesinger, KI4BJV
Bruce Horowitz, KJ4EIZ

2nd Reading: None

Associate Membership: None

The first reading applications shall be voted upon at the next meeting, following the 2nd reading.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee: Ken, AF4ZV, had asked Bryce Myers, K4LXF, to lead the committee in nominating a slate of officers for the new year. Bryce made the following report on behalf of the committee: the proposed slate of officers for 2008-2009 include: President-Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP; Vice-president- Tracey Bible, KG4HTW; Secretary-Alene Wilkins, KG4NKD; and Treasurer-Linda NeSmith, K4MPY.

Following the proposed slate of officers, Ken opened the floor to additional nominations. None were made at that time. At the next meeting, a second call for additional nominations will be made and then a vote will be called.

New Business: None

Announcements:

Ball caps with club logo – Bryce, K4LXF, still has a few more left: \$8/hat.

International Space Station – Mike Wells, WA4HVP, noted that the ISS is visible around 9:56 pm in the North West at around 229 degrees. It moves pretty quick.

Shelby Hamfest is coming up on August 30, 2008.

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Bruce Horowitz, KJ4EIZ.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Russell, KD4YUC, and seconded by JJ Lewis, KF4BZH.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey, KG4HTW.

**IF THERE’S AN EMERGENCY,
WE’LL CALL YOU**

Charleston County Government’s free **Alert Charleston County** notification system allows us to provide real-time emergency alerts directly to you through recorded voice or text messages.

Alert Charleston County can only be effective if we have your current land line, cell phone, or broadband phone number associated with a location for which you wish to receive notifications (i.e., home, office, child’s daycare, etc.).

Sign up today via alert.charlestoncounty.org or submit a paper registration form at a drop box at a Charleston County Service Center.

Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, requests that all local hams sign up so that you will be automatically alerted to a disaster of any type when it occurs and you can check to see if Amateur Radio operators are needed to assist.

CARS CARRIER

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423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

