

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

April 2009 Newsletter

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

CARS meets the second Monday of each month at Ryan's Steak House on Highway 61.

Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM, Monday, April 13, 2009



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to bring everyone up to date on the earthquake program which is in progress. We have received most of our equipment that will be placed in containers at strategic areas around the three counties, Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester. As soon as the containers have received the required items for use in disasters, we will place our equipment in them. We have been testing and communicating with the equipment we have. This was done to get the radios and associated equipment tuned to our specific frequencies and antennas working for the best transmissions to other areas. This will be ongoing even after the equipment is placed in the containers. There will be eighteen containers in the three counties.

This brings out the need for operators for each container. The operator that has tested and placed the equipment in the container may not be able to reach that particular container if and when an earthquake strikes. This will be a call for any one interested in lending a helping hand, please contact your Emergency coordinator for your county. This can be found on the CARS web site wa4usn.org or give me a call, phone is listed in the roster. The more operators we have for each container the better chance we will have if there is a problem we will have an experienced operator at that station. They will be setup for anyone to come in and turn on the radio and communicate. It will always be better to have an experienced person handling the equipment and passing messages. So if you can give a helping hand give us a call whether you are recently licensed or had the license for awhile we will be glad to have your assistance.

See you at the next meeting 13 April 2009.

73's, Bill, WA4WGP

ARES NET REPORT

Thanks go to KB1CTC, Mike, Beaufort area for scheduling and running the ARES nets for the month of March. An incident occurred on Sunday, March 22, which, once again, provided its own training topic. Net controller's radio malfunctioned and John, KC4YI picked up where he had left off in calling the net. This can happen to anyone at anytime, as we all know. KJ4BSM, Nick started the net and all was going well until Nick experienced equipment failure. John, KC4YI, picked up the net and said. "I will pick up the net because evidently net control is having problems with his radio. I usually copy the call signs when the net is running as it gives me something to do while the net is being called." Well, this turned out to be a good training topic. We should all be ready to pick up the net as this incident could repeat itself. Back-up net controllers could also be assigned from now on. Nick, who is a relatively new ham, agreed to run the ARES net that Sunday and I give him credit for that. It is a lengthy net and takes a couple of glasses of water to run. (Laugh it up folks, this is the humor part) It seems to me there is value in each and every ARES net. We learned that we need back-up. This is not the first time that it has happened but hopefully we are learning. Better to learn on the practice nets than to learn in an emergency. On that we all agree. This month, John, KC4YI will be scheduling the net.

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

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

On Tuesday, March 17, 2009, Ed Walker, KQ4DC, gave a talk to the Mt. Pleasant Exchange Club on the role of Amateur Radio in emergency communication. It included several examples of hams' serving as primary communication in several disasters. The article in the March QST, "When the Big One Hits, South Carolina Will Be Ready!" written by Brian Fletcher, K6NWS, and John Welton, N4SJW was shown. A demonstration was shown of how quickly the ham gear that is part of that project could be set up. After the talk several aspects of VHF communication were demonstrated with a contact with K4LXF and with the auto-patch. The radio noise level inside Zeus Restaurant precluded an attempt to make an HF contact with a hamstick, a large cookie tin, and Ed's MFJ antenna tuner. The presentation had been arranged by the club president, Michael Blaze, who had gotten Ed's email address through the WA4USN web page.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Cash - 3/1/09	\$2,661.91
Cash Receipts:	
March Raffle	27.00
Cash Disbursements:	
Postmaster	(58.00)
John Meyers - March Newsletter	(37.97)
Pinckney Carter Insurance Company	(250.00)
Creeh's Florist - KB4UTC - Harold Moon	(75.20)
Bell South - March	(41.38)
Ending Cash - 3/31/09	\$2,226.36
Savings HT	\$ 27.22
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 9, 2009 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, at 7:30 PM on March 9, 2009 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 36 members and 6 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes/Report: Tracy, KG4HTW, for Alene KG4NKD

In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, and second by Joe Schmitt, NV4I, the February 2009 meeting minutes were approved as published in the March 2009 CARS Carrier.

Treasurer's Report: Linda K4MPY

The February 2009 Treasurer's report was in the March 2009 CARS Carrier and accepted as information.

Hamfest Report: Jenny WA4NGV

Jenny gave a brief update noting that she is still waiting for one more invoice to be received before she will have a complete financial report for the 2009 Hamfest. The Hamfest was a success and Jenny thanked all who supported the event by attending or volunteering. A final report should be ready by the next meeting.

Field Day: Doug Clark, KU4OC

No new information to report.

Museum Ships: Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and David, KI4FSC

No new information to report.

Emergency Prep: Bill WA4WGP, Charleston; John W4HNC, Dorchester; Vince K4AOC, Berkeley

Charleston: Bill reported that the next meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday which is March 21st this month. The meeting starts at 9:00am, at the Emergency Operations Center located on Leeds Avenue in North Charleston. Radios will need to be re-programmed.

Dorchester: No new information to report. Meetings on 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. Bill noted that Vince, KI4AOC, contacted him to report that there will be an event planned for May 27th to involve a radiological device. The activity associated with this event is expected to run from 7am - 4pm.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Bryce reported that the repeaters are functioning well; however the auto-patch remains non-functional at the

moment. He has contacted the individual who wrote the program that runs this function and the debugging process continues.

Nets: Bobby McBride, W4KSD for Susannah Roth, KE4RVF

Bobby reminded everyone that volunteers are needed to serve as Net Control for the Thursday night net. In addition, he encouraged everyone to check into the Sunday night ARES net.

PIO / Races: Doug Clark, KU4OC for Ken, AF4ZV

Cooper River Bridge Run – April 4th: Doug received a letter from Julian Smith, Race Director, requesting emergency communication support & timing at mile markers for the 2009 bridge run. Doug read the letter aloud to the group. A motion will be made for the event under New Business. Doug circulated the current sign-up list and asked that current volunteers confirm their contact information. In addition, he noted that there are still open positions for those who wish to participate. Roughly 16 positions are still open. Also, for those who have participated in the event in the past, Doug asked for any suggestions or recommendations for improving processes as he will be glad to relay the information at the upcoming Bridge Run volunteer meetings.

Interference: Bryce K4LXF
None.

Newsletter/Website: John WA4GPS
No new information to report.

Education & VE Testing: Bill Pennekamp, WA4GPS, for Sheila KT4YW and Linda K4MPY

Bill reminded everyone that test sessions are offered on the 2nd Saturday of even months. The next session will be April 11th [see “License Exams” at the CARS website for more information www.wa4usn.org]

Greg Johnson, WA7TSP, announced that he is planning to offer a Technician Class training session at the Red Cross in late April or early May. A test session shall be offered immediately following the class. Please contact Greg at wa7tsp@arrl.net or 412-8913 for more information.

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

No new information to report.

Membership: Bryce K4LXF

The club has 168 members at this time, with nearly 52% of regular members also having membership in ARRL. There are 152 regular members, 16 associate Members, and 3 charter members. The breakdown of license class held includes; 52 Technician, 40 General, 6 Advanced, 62 Extra, and 8 with no license.

The following applications for membership were read:

Regular Membership:

1st Reading: M. Scott Jeter – WB4FEU
John Hethcox – KI4ZMZ

2nd Reading: Amy Roach, KJ4GHM
Nick Hecker, KI4YSP

Associate Membership: None

In a motion by John Meyers, WA4GPS, seconded by JJ Lewis, KF4BZH, both Amy Roach and Nick Hecker were approved for regular membership in the CARS club.

Old Business:
None.

New Business:

Cooper River Bridge Run-APRIL 4TH – In a motion by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and second by Bobby McBride, W4KSD, the club agreed to support the 2009 Cooper River Bridge Run.

After the Bridge Run Ride- APRIL 5TH – John Glover, Associate club member, brought a request for communication support for this event on behalf of the Coastal Cyclists Club. The event is a bike ride that starts on Daniel Island with a 100 mile course route. He would like to have 4 communication stations [3 rest stops & net control operator] 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.

In a motion by Linda NeSmith, K4MPY, and second by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, the club approved providing

communications support to the 2009 After the Bridge Run Ride. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers.

SkyWarn Training – Bobby McBride, W4KSD, reported that SkyWarn training will be offered through the Charleston County Emergency Operation Center in North Charleston. Dates are: March 26th – Basic Spotter Class and April 16th – Advanced Spotter Class. Please contact Jim Tarter, Training Coordinator, by phone at 202-7405 or via email at jtarter@charlestoncounty.org.

SC HEARTS – Container Project: Bobby McBride, W4KSD, reminded everyone about this ongoing project which was written up in the March 2009 QST. [Medical & other equipment/supplies to be placed in metal shipping containers along with ham radio equipment.] Bobby made an appeal to club members to serve as volunteer operators in the event of an emergency requiring the activation of the container project. Bobby is helping with identifying volunteers and coordinating this effort.

Announcements:

The club wishes well to both:

Alberta Meyers – Bill Pennekamp, WA4WGP, noted that Newsletter & Web Editor, John Meyers' spouse, Alberta, was in the hospital for a planned stay and is doing well; and,

Alene Wilkins – Tracey Bible, KG4HTW, reported that club secretary, Alene, was not at the meeting due to a planned hospital stay – Alene is doing well and already up and walking.

Drawing: The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Joe Schmitt, NV4I.

A motion to adjourn was made by Doc Crane, WA4MUR, and seconded by Bob Ramos, WA4HGW.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey (KG4HTW).

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