

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

April 2010 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 12, 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's that time of year in Charleston. Spring has sprung, and just like the Azaleas, the special events in the Lowcountry are sprouting all over. CARS has been there to help with the Cooper River Bridge Run, and (by the time this goes to print) the After the Bridge Run Ride, plus the upcoming TryCharleston Swim-Bike-Run. Thanks to the many club members who have volunteered to help the club and serve the community in one or more of these events.

I'm constantly reminded of how important amateur radio communications really can be. During the Cooper River Bridge Run this year, the Charleston Police Department Communications trailer lost power several times. Guess what communications path was up and running throughout? You guessed it, amateur radio via HT. Now, the police van did have an emergency generator, so they were up and running again in no time, but it is a practical example of how amateur radio fulfills a vital role when all else fails.

This year at the Bridge Run, our participation may also have helped save a life. Near the 5 mile marker, Mark (KE4KMD) was getting reports from passing runners about a runner down about a mile back up the course. However, he observed a group gathering on the sidewalk just a few hundred feet up the course, and relayed this information to Avery (W4QYV) in the communications trailer. Mark relayed the status at the scene, noting a policeman was giving chest compressions. Quick action and effective reporting kept authorities from dispatching multiple resources, or from dispatching resources to the wrong location. We got a report later in the day that the runner was transported to the hospital, where he was awake and oriented. Talk about having an impact! Special thanks go to Doug (KU4OC) for his leadership in coordinating for the club for this event, and Net

Control Ops, Mike (WA4HVP) and Greg (KI4TVA). The post-race party with the Bridge Run staff gave the CARS team a chance to relate the day's events, and enjoy some Jim N' Nicks barbeque!

Next up is Field Day. June will be upon us before you know it, so please be thinking about how you can support Greg (KI4TVA) as our Field Day captain for this national level event for amateur radio. We'll be back on USS Yorktown for this opportunity for fun and fellowship, which means we'll need lots of strong backs to move supplies and equipment. But we'll also have what is arguably the best operating position in the world!

Our next club meeting is at Ryan's Steak House on April 12th. I hope you will plan to join me to hear all the great things happening in our club and in the hobby of amateur radio.

73, Tracey, KG4HTW

HAMFEST COMMITTEE & HELPER PARTY

The Hamfest Committee Party will be held Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Bryce and Jenny's river house in Orangeburg. The party is for the Committee and those who helped (family included) with the Hamfest. Come as early as you like, lunch will be served at 2:00 PM. Bring your own alcoholic beverages.

Committee members are invited to come Friday for the weekend, bring your own bedding, towels, etc., a covered dish for the Friday evening meal and your own alcoholic beverages.

Directions: I-26 west to Exit 154A, Hwy. 301 south into Orangeburg, cross the Edisto River, turn left at first traffic light onto Cannon Bridge Road, go approx. 7 miles, turn left at MRH sign. Talk in on 147.045 Tone 103.5 repeater.

Please RSVP by April 19 to Jenny, WA4NGV, at 747-2324 (home) or 697-4109 (cell) or to Sheila, KT4YW, at 871-4368.

ARES NET REPORT

Can you believe that spring is finally here? Of course for the low-country that means that springtime thunderstorms are already starting and the hurricane season is only three months away! Now is a good time to check you stations, especially those all important antennas and make sure they are in top condition. What wasn't rusted last year stands a good chance of being rusted now. The last thing you want to do in an emergency is field repairs.

In December the formal ARES groups revised our operations plan. ARES members need to make sure that they are aware of its contents. This communications plan spells out how the county governments will use our groups and also how we will use the frequencies within our groups.

If you are interested in becoming an ARES member you can contact myself or one of our Emergency Coordinators, Vince K4AOC (Berkeley), Bill WA4WGP(Charleston), John W4HNK (Dorchester). I invite everyone (visitors welcome) to tune into our net on Sunday night at 8pm on the CARS/Heart systems. At 8:20 the repeaters will link up to the ongoing statewide net so get in quick. Remember, fortune favors the prepared!

73, Darrell, KB7QVG

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Cash – 2/1/10	\$3,889.03
Cash Receipts:	0.00
Cash Disbursements:	
Jenny Myers - Christmas Party	(198.88)
John Meyers - February Newsletter	(29.06)
Ending Cash - 2/28/10	\$3,661.09
Savings HT	\$ 27.34
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 8, 2010 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy Bible, KG4HTW, at 7:30 PM on March 8, 2010 at Ryan's Steak House, in Charleston.

Introductions:

There were 43 members and 4 guests present.

Secretary's Minutes: Larry, KJ4GZR

The Feb. 2010 meeting minutes were published in the March 2010 CARS Carrier. The minutes were accepted with one change. The number of persons that passed the exam at the Hamfest was 18 with 4 who failed. Not 19-3 as recorded and reported.

Treasurer's Report: Linda, K4MPY

The Jan. 2010 Treasurer's report was in the March 2010 CARS Carrier and accepted as information. No report given at this meeting.

Hamfest Report: Jenny, WA4NGV

The report has not yet been finalized due to pending expenses, but the estimate income is +/- \$1,800.00. The Hamfest Committee made a motion to have a Hamfest in the year 2011, and that a new committee be formed, with the authority to use the ham fest funds. The motion was carried. More details on 2011 Hamfest after committee is formed and detail worked out.

Jenny reported that it has been something of a tradition to hold a party for the committee and those who worked at the hamfest. All information will be published in the April CARS Carrier. The date will be April 24th at the Myers river house in Orangeburg. B-B-Q will be served.

Museum Ships: Ed, KQ4DC, and David, KI4FSC

JOTA, Troop 506 from Knoxville TN sent a letter and a plaque in thanks for their experience on the Yorktown last October. Note that JOTA is held every October.

Museum Ships On The Air will be held Saturday June 05, 2010, this is three weeks before Field Day.

Field Day: Greg, KI4TVA

This year's field day, will once again be held on the Yorktown, all paperwork has been completed. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the next club meeting.

Races: Doug, KU4OC

CRBR March 27th, Doug Clark, KU4OC: Anyone still interested please sign up; more information will be reported or sent as it comes in. The T-shirts should be in next week, some will be at Sheila's, KT4YW, home for the Summerville area and some will be at Doug's home for Mt. Pleasant and N. Charleston folks. A parking pass will also be available for the event. This year there will be again the after the race party. Also there is usually a volunteers party held at the James Island County Park, no details on this yet. New this year, there will be three or four bands at different locations along the way. Locations not yet known, you are advised to have a headset.

TryCharleston Half Iron Man, George, KI4UIW: This event will be May 1st to be held at the Mt. Pleasant K.O.A. campgrounds, highway 17N. Reporting time 6:00 am, event starts at 7:00 am and will run until around 3:00 pm. Operators are still needed. There is a web site for the event: trycharleston.org.

After the Bridge Run Bike Ride Sunday March 28th. 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, location Daniels Island at the Charleston Battery Pitch. A request was made for communications assistance again this year from John Glover, KJ4QGW. A motion was made by Ed Walker, KQ4DC, and seconded by Carrie Post, KJ4LPN, to support this event, motion was carried.

Mike Wells, WA4HVP, Follow up report on Lifepoint "Gift of Life" 5K. The run/walk was held on Feb. 27th. at James Island County Park. The event went well, was a great event for the runners and walkers, and a lot of fun for the club members who were there.

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

Bill, WA4WGP, Charleston: The next ARES meeting will be Saturday March 20th at 9:00 am to be held at the St. Andrews Fire Station, routes 7 and 61. Topic to be discussed: ID badges that will insure access to locations during emergencies. Bill reported that as the state is very slow with this process another source has been found and that the ID's will come from the county. More information at the meeting.

Dorchester: Meets the second Saturday of the month at Dorchester EOC Hwy 78 north of Summerville.

Berkeley: Meets last Saturday of the month.

Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

The .79 repeater has been unlinked for about one month, with continued and ongoing problems.

Time calling equipment: An ICOM 2200H, Astron Power supply and Rigblaster interface were purchased and made available to Sam to set up for time calling for the CRBR. An offer was made to Sam for his laptop, (reported slight problem with laptop but will still work for time calling) this laptop will be used for the race, but the club should consider the purchase of another one as well as this one as a laptop can be used for races and other events such as field days, etc. The program is not for sale but Sam will donate a copy to the club. It was suggested that Sam copywrite the program, and that the club in some way make sure the acknowledgement of Sam's program be included. As Sam may not be able to be available for all races, it was agreed between him and Bryce that Sam along with John Meyers and Mike Wells operate as a team, that way three people will be checked out on the equipment. As to who will be custodian that has not yet been determined. Last conversation with Sam, he expects to have everything ready for the bridge run. Equipment purchased cost approx. \$380.00. [Editors note: Sam's laptop quit a day before the CRBR and Sam frantically worked to get the software working on his desktop computer which he brought with him and used, with the purchased equipment, for the CRBR time calling. The computerized time calling worked OK for the CRBR thanks to Sam.]

Nets: George, KI4UIW - Newcomers Net

Reported that the Newcomers Net is going well. Requested that anyone who might be interested in learning how to run a net contact him and encourages any Hams, especially new Hams, to take this opportunity to experience running a net in a comfortable environment.

Newsletter/Website: John, WA4GPS

No new information to report.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

The next testing is scheduled for Saturday April 10, 9:00 AM at Trident Medical Center.

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

Meets every Tuesday during school year from 4 to 5:30 pm, school is located in Summerville just off Old Orangeburg Rd. They have at times 1-2 show up, sometimes up to 8. Working mostly HF phone with some PSK-31 and occasionally on the UHF/VHF. A special thanks was extended to Greg Johnson KI7TSP for coming on a regular bases to help out with the program.

Membership: Bryce, K4LXF

The membership roster has been purged and updated. Prior to this action being taken there were 170 members on the rolls, between losses and gains the count stands at 167.

Regular Membership:

First Reading: Mary Higgenbottom, KJ4SCO
Ramsey Hawkins, KI4PTI,
William Burgmeier, KI4IDV.

Second Reading: Nathan Dozier, KF4GYL

Diane Fox, KJ4PLU
Melissa Fox, KJ4PLV
Sadie Fox, KJ4PLW

A motion was made by John, WA4GPS, and seconded by Ed, KQ4DC, that the second reading applications be approved for regular membership in the CARS club. The motion was carried, and the new members were welcomed into the club.

Old Business:

The antenna for the Charleston Police E-com trailer has been purchased – cost \$68.90.

New Business:

A motion was made by David Wilkins, KI4FSC and seconded by George Post KI4UIW to purchase time calling equipment to support events, activities, etc. at a sum up to \$400.00. The motion was carried.

Announcements:

Schedule of Known Upcoming Events:

March 27th - Cooper River Bridge Run
March 28th - After The Bridge Bike Ride
April 12th - Regular CARS meeting
May 1st - TRYCharleston Half Iron Man Event
June 5th - Museum Ships on the Air
June 11th - Opening Day World Cup
June 26th and 27th - Field Day
Oct. 2010 - JOTA

Drawing:

The drawing for a one-year ARRL membership was won by Susannah Roth, KE4RVF.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Larry, KJ4GZR

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423 Beauregard Rd., Summerville, SC 29483-1989

