

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

August 2012 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, Aug. 13, 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, Jenny Myers, WA4NGV, is recuperating from quadruple bypass surgery on July 10th. She is still in the hospital while they are addressing some issues with her breathing. My thoughts and prayers are with her and Bryce, K4LXF, as she continues her convalescence. We often take for granted the tremendous contributions that Jenny (and Bryce) make to this club on a continuing basis. I could fill an entire newsletter with a list of Jenny's efforts on behalf of this club. Her dedication is one of the reasons our club is so successful. If you wish to send a card (Please no flowers as Jenny is allergic to some flowers), send it to her home address: 2630 Dellwood Avenue, N. Charleston, SC 29405, and Bryce will make sure she gets them.

On a lighter note, we are still trying to move forward on the local CW net. Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, has submitted a proposal (published in this month's newsletter) for the net but we are lacking one primary ingredient: A net control operator proficient in CW. If you are interested in being that person, please let me know. This is definitely a worthwhile endeavor and I think would help a lot of us to learn and become proficient in code.

I have started studying in earnest for my Extra Class license and, as you might expect, there is an App for that! I can take a few minutes anywhere to study for the exam. There are apps available for both the iPhone and Android OS smart phones for all 3 license classes. The App also includes the complete FCC Section 97 Rules and Regulations, as well as links to the ARRL home page and FCC License Data Search. Now you have one less excuse for upgrading your license to the next level.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Charlotte Groves, KJ4PLX, for her outstanding job as last year's (and now this year's) club treasurer and Wess Leitch, W4RUX, as last year's (and this year's) VP and for performing the duties of club secretary for the bulk of the year! Wess stepped in and stepped up. I can't thank him enough. Thanks also to Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, for Field Day

& Museum Ships, Jenny Myers, WA4NGV, and all of the Hamfest committee members, Doug Clark, KU4OC, in his role as Race Coordinator, Bryce Myers, K4LXF, and Mike Wells, WA4HVP, for keeping the repeaters on the air (and Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, as the newest club engineer). John Meyers, WA4GPS, makes reading these words and updates on all our club activities possible through his newsletter and he manages to keep the Dreamliner flying ceaselessly over the Yorktown on our website in what must be some kind of endurance testing. I would also like to thank each and every one of you who volunteered at club events and helped to make the Charleston Amateur Radio Society one of the best clubs in the country!!! Finally, thank you for your vote of confidence in me as your club president for a second year. I am here for you, to help facilitate your vision of the club. I learned a long time ago that there is no limit to what can be accomplished when it doesn't matter who gets the credit. Let's continue to accomplish great things in our hobby. Amateur Radio, Pass it on!

73 de KI4TVA, Greg

CARS 2M CW Practice Net

Ken, KC4ETW, brought up the idea of running a local CW net on the CARS repeaters to promote use of Morse code. Unfortunately Ken has not had time to follow-through on the proposal, so here are my thoughts.

Operating on the repeaters will mean we use FM transmissions. This also opens the net up to the greatest number of participants since most people have 2m FM radios. Unfortunately most FM rigs are not set up to support CW keyers, so we should operate in a hybrid CW/phone mode.

The order of the net could be:

- Request to use the repeaters / open the net in voice
- Open the net for CW check-ins
- Open the net for phone check-ins
- Request a report from each CW operator. Potentially use some traffic net Q-signals to make things easier (e.g. "no traffic").

- Request a report from each phone operator
- Net control redirects questions, repeats, translates missed code, etc.
- Close the net in CW
- Close the net in voice and return repeaters to normal use

We clearly would need a net control operator who is patient and can handle all levels of code proficiency. We also need to figure out the best speed for the net control to operate. Since this is a practice net, maybe 7-10 WPM with lots of spacing? Net control should have flexibility to interact with operators at speeds appropriate to the operator (challenge him) and repeat at slower speeds for others, if needed.

CW operators with all-mode rigs should operate in FM and key their microphone while transmitting. Be mindful of background noise and give the repeaters time to key up before sending.

CW operators with FM rigs will need to be able to send code. There are kits to generate modulated CW (MCW) tones.

Monday, Friday, and Saturday are three nights without other scheduled net activity, though Mondays will have a net on the SC HEART VHF side when school starts up.

John, W3KH, is OK with our running a CW net on the SC HEART repeaters; he just asks that we let him know when we'll be doing it.

Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ

2012 Field Day Wrap-Up

CARS participated in the ARRL Field Day from the USS Yorktown again this year, and I think it was a successful event. There was some concern at the last minute that other scheduled events on the ship would prevent us from working there, but thanks to Bryce, K4LXF, and Greg, KI4TVA, meeting with Patriots Point management we got everything worked out. We actually had a backup site just in case, but didn't need it. Maybe we can use that for Winter Field Day.

Our submitted score was 1186 points (we had 1670 last year). We had 536 QSO points: 202 phone QSO at 1 point each and 33 digital QSO at 2 points each with a power multiplier of 2. We got 650 bonus points: 300 for running our three stations on emergency (generator) power, 100 for inviting the media to come (though they didn't make it), 100 for operating in a public place, 100 for having a public information table (part of our GOTA station) and 50 for submitting our logs using the online tool.

On Friday afternoon we set up two vertical antennas and a dipole, and got the trailer and generators in place. Saturday we finished setting up and started operating at 2pm local time. The phone station operators didn't verify their radio's settings, and found themselves operating "QRP" at 25 watts for an hour or two. Once that was figured out, the contacts came quickly. The evening crew came, then the overnights. Unfortunately we had three generators die at the same time, but 2 visitors from the Myrtle Beach area had some marine batteries and were able to get us back on the air until we resolved the operator error on one generator. New crews arrived Sunday morning and kept us operating until 2pm, when we secured the site. Wess, W4RUX, is going to look at the generators to see what failed.

The bands were in pretty rough shape, but we managed a good number of contacts. We were unable to make any contacts through the satellites, largely because there simply were not many good passes during the contest period. When the HF bands did open, there were many operators stepping all over each other. Whether it was deliberate or just a quirk of propagation isn't clear.

All stations used computer logging this year, and it made it very easy to compile the logs. We discovered early on that the software didn't appear to be saving logs properly, and were sure to make frequent manual backups. Next year maybe we can stock up on batteries and minimize generator use. There were lots of other lessons learned.

One area we still need to improve is our off-the-air activities, especially food service. The schedule was built around what people said they could work; if you can't make a shift let the Field Day Captain know and make alternate arrangements. We really need the younger operators to step up since we're the future of the club and need to learn how to run the operation. We can also handle the heat a little better.

Special thanks go out to Jenny Myers, WA4NGV, for preparing the delivered food for consumption despite the fact that she wasn't supposed to do so and had a fainting spell in the midst of it all. Also Walter, KK4DFZ, for ensuring we'd never run out of gas for the generators, Eugene, KK4JRP, for helping buy and deliver food, Shann, KI4YSR, for bringing out his satellite station, Dan, NY3V, and Larry, KJ4GZR, for trying to operate the GOTA station directly underneath the generators, Ken, KC4ETW, for a valiant attempt at running the CW station, and Bobby, W4KSD, for letting us use his brand new Honda generator. Our other operators, loggers, and helpers not already mentioned include: Buddy, AB4SN; Doug, KU4OC; Ron, AB5WF; George, KI4NNK; Willie, WB4SOG; Wayne, WB4SOF; Mike, WB4ZOE; Karen; Tracey, KG4HTW; AnnMarie, KK4ILZ; Warren, KK4EVI; Steven, KG4ULR

and Tim, AK4TQ. We had a lot of people coming and going, so if I missed you please submit corrections.

Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 6/1/12	\$3,656.04
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	29.00
Dues	88.00
Memberships	180.34
Cash Disbursements:	
June Newsletter	(28.16)
Copies of Roster	(43.40)
Receipt Book, Paper, Envelopes	(38.59)
AT&T - June	(63.75)
Field Day Advance	(500.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 6/30/12	\$3,279.48
Charlotte - KJ4PLX	

MINUTES of JULY MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

Club Meeting at Ryan's Steak House on Hwy. 61
Monday, July 9, 2012 - 7:30 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society Meeting was called to order by President Gregory Amirault, KI4TVA, at 7:30 PM on Monday, July 9, 2012 at Ryan's Steak House in Charleston, SC.

Introductions: There were 44 people present.

Secretary's Minutes: Wess, W4RUX, for Susan, KJ4PVN

The June 2012 meeting minutes were published in the July 2012 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded, and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

The May Financial Report was published in the July newsletter and accepted as information.

Museum Ships: Ed, KQ4DC / David, KI4FSC / Tom, AJ4UQ

Operated all day Saturday, June 2, from Yorktown only. Logs submitted and Certificates received.

Field Day: Greg, KI4TVA / Tom, AJ4UQ

Field Day, 23 & 24, Tom thanked Greg and Bryce for taking care of the arrangements on the Yorktown. Stated we need better support for food and supplies. Jenny cannot continue to do this. He also thanked Walter, KK4DFZ, for keeping the gas tanks filled. Later on, all three generators quit. Bands were not cooperative and the phone station operated QRP for a while, unintentionally. Final score: 202 phone QSOs, 33 Digital, with a multiplier of 2 for 536 points and 650 bonus points for a grand total of 1186. Last year was 1670.

Races: Doug, KU4OC

Next event, IOP 10K, Oct. 6th.

Hamfest Report: Jenny, WA4NGV

No report.

Repeater Report: Bryce, K4LXF

Repeaters okay and announcement did not get stuck.

Membership: Bryce, K4LXF

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: John Bulluck, KK4KBQ

Second Reading: G. Jeremy Cummin, KK4FVU
Eugene Mah, KK4JRP

Jeremy and Eugene were voted in as new members and welcomed into the club.

Emergency Prep: Bill, WA4WGP, Charleston; John, W4HNK, Dorchester; Dennis, KG4RUL, Berkeley

Charleston: Next meeting July 23rd at St. Andrews F.D. Hwy 61 & 7. Larry Groves, KJ4ZGR, RN will give a talk on First Aid. We need a lot more ARES members.

Dorchester meets 2nd Saturday at EOC Bldg Hwy 78. Will work on their Comm. Trailer

Berkeley: Meets Last Saturday of Month. Last weekend worked on setup for the operators stations.

Nets: George, KI4UIW - Newcomers Net

Newcomers net needs net control stations and more of you to check in, Thursdays at 8PM on VHF system.

ARES Net Sunday 8PM. Local area 5 meets from 8-8:20PM then joins the Statewide link up at 8:20PM.

QCWA Net meets 9AM on Saturdays. If you don't hear them on CARS system, QSY to 146.76 or 147.105 or others on the SCHeart system.

Young Hams net down for summer.

SKYWARN Net meets every Tuesday 9PM on Linked system. Eleven check-ins on CARS system. Link was down on Wallace UHF and Columbia was down due to very strong Thunderstorms.

Newsletter/Website: John, WA4GPS

No report. All okay.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

Next test session will be August 11, 2012.

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

Down for the summer.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG

Trailer was at the Isle of Palms for their Disaster show. Isle of Palms sent a letter thanking the club for our support. Work Day on Sat. August 4th at Dorch. Rd. F.D.

Old Business: None

New Business: The slate of Officers for the next year as Nominated by the nominating Committee was approved infamously. Pres: Greg, KI4TVA; VP: Wess, W4RUX; Secretary: Warren, KK4EVI; Treas: Charlotte, KJ4PLX.

Announcements: Bill, KK4GCH, thanked the club for flowers for his wife's funeral and for supporting him.

Drawing: The drawing for a one year ARRL membership was won by Doc, W4MUR.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wess, W4RUX, for Susan, KJ4PVN.

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