

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

March 2019 Newsletter

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

*CARS meets the second Monday of each month at the Golden Corral near Tanger Mall.*

*Our next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, Monday, Mar. 11, 2019*



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

**The Spring Century ride** (formerly known as the Ride After the Bridge Run) out in the Awendaw area is our next upcoming public service event. If you'd like to help out with that one, contact Tom Rader, K4WJC. That event will show up on the CARS Events sign up link soon.

**Experimentation.** It's embedded in the regulations that govern our hobby: "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." (47CFR 97.1 (a)). Amateur radio operators have been helping advance radio technology from the beginning. Those finding out about amateur radio for the first time, and newcomers to the hobby often have the perception that amateur radio is just about getting on the radio and talking to people. Spend even just a little bit of time looking, and you'll discover that there's so much more to the hobby than just talking on the radio. If you're into the tinkering and electronics side of amateur radio, Hackaday (<https://hackaday.com>) is a great place for discovering interesting looking projects. I've noticed a bit of an uptick in the number of amateur radio related articles on the site over the past couple of years. About a month ago there was an interesting post about DIY radio telescopes (<https://hackaday.com/2019/01/20/radio-telescopes-horn-in-with-gnu-radio/>) and GNU

Radio (<https://www.gnuradio.org/>). Look at the weak signal modes that are all the rage these days. These grew out of experiments with communicating via ionized trails produced by meteors zipping through the atmosphere. There is almost unlimited room for experimenting in amateur radio. Experiments don't have to be new and groundbreaking though. It could be as simple as doing an experiment to see how different antennas perform at your location. Experiment with a new mode, or antenna design. Build some circuits to learn how they work. Once you've performed your experiments, the next thing to do is share your results with others. Whether that's through telling someone about it at the next meeting, on one of the regular nets, publishing it on your blog, or maybe even a QST article, sharing results with others is a core part of experimentation. Experimentation without sharing results is just personal knowledge. When results are shared with others, that's where "the advancement of the radio art" really happens. That's where others learn from what you've done, and where you can learn from what others have done to improve your work. What are you experimenting with? What do you \*want\* to experiment with? What do you want to learn about? Whatever it is, share it with the rest of us!

Feel free to send me any comments, suggestions and/or questions to

CARSinfo@wa4usn.org, or to my personal email, eugenemah@gmail.com

73

Eugene, AB4UG

## FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

It's curious that the larger public service events are rejecting our communications support more and more. I guess they feel the police are all they need. I hope they're right. We can still support the smaller events that don't have police on every corner -- if you are part of another group that is considering a 10k, bicycle ride, or other distributed function, let them know that amateur radio is a great option for providing situational awareness to the organizers.

I keep hearing that the solar cycle is on the upswing but haven't seen much evidence. Remember all that you can do at VHF and above, with a technician license. If there's a specialty that you want to experiment with, let us know. If we don't have an expert, we can become experts together.

73, Tom, AJ4UQ

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Welcome to March 2019. Two months down for the year. Now is the time to start planning for the future events this year.

1. Antenna Work/Repair
2. Severe Weather
3. Hurricane Season.

**Let's start with Antenna work.** Now is the time make inspections of your antennas to be sure they will work at optimum levels. With the weather getting nicer everyone needs to inspect and repair antennas for the upcoming season in case communications are lost during a storm, or disaster. Remember to ALWAYS follow safety precautions and have a friend assist you. This applies to doing repairs like replacing tie down lines or up haul lines, or coax as needed. This is also time to plan new antennas and installation of these new antennas.

**Next, Severe Weather.** With the rapidly changing temperatures and wind patterns many types of severe weather occur in this area. We are probably beyond the ice storm and power outage event but need to still follow the weather from Canada. The main spring type weather is tornadoes and many severe thunderstorms. Tornadoes occur due to rapid rotating winds and can cause as much or more damage than a hurricane so pay attention to tornado watches and warnings these are serious events. Thunderstorms can cause unusual amounts of rain and high winds. Watch for flooded streets and roads and remember to turn around don't drown. One other part of rapidly changing weather is your deployment kits, a warm afternoon can easily become a very cold night have a variety of choices in the clothing department and remember insects start returning so bug spray and sun protection is nice to have available.

**June 1st, 2019 until 30 November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 is Hurricane season.** Start checking your supplies of food stuffs, batteries, spare communications equipment, and your plan. The plan I am referring to is do you evacuate or not, and if evacuation is in order how many routes have you driven and selected if plan a becomes plan b. If staying do you have a plan b if something changes. Emergency responders hunker down when wind speeds reach a sustained 40 MPH. They CANNOT come out and help you so plan accordingly. Whichever you decide staying or going contact a family member or friend out of this area and let them know your plan. If evacuating, give them a schedule and route to your evacuation destination, tell them you are going to Greenville or Charlotte or where ever you are going and primary and secondary route. If staying, let people know so after the storm passes and flooding subsides a welfare check can be made if you can't communicate with your family member or friends. Remember cell phones maybe out, long distance lines overloaded or down so make plans now.

When pre-event shelters become available I will get the information out. DO NOT plan on a pre-event shelter most shelters will be located in upper

Berkeley and upper Dorchester Counties. Post event is when shelter work will be critical. People will be returning to the area that evacuated only to find they have nowhere to live anymore. Please consider helping your displaced neighbors and help staff a shelter. Communications and communicators will be in high demand.

ALWAYS looking for more trained ARES members and if you are an ARRL member sign up for the weekly ARES newsletter. It keeps you in the loop about what other ARES members and groups are doing and helps you prepare for your service. There is also a new South Carolina Tactical Communications plan on the [www.ares-sc.org](http://www.ares-sc.org) website it is dated Feb 2019. It's a good idea to look at this document because each County has its own selection of repeaters and simplex frequencies to be used in a disaster. Preprogram the repeater frequencies and simplex frequencies from Berkeley and Dorchester County too in case you need to travel or coordinate with our sister counties.

**Until next month 73**  
**Rick Valentine N8BKN**

## **AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT**

**February 28, 2019**

<b>Checking Bal Oct 31, 2018</b>	<b>\$7,284.06</b>
<b>Cash Receipts - October</b>	
Raffle Proceeds	73.00
Dues	325.00
Memberships	40.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>438.00</b>
<b>Cash Disbursements - October</b>	
Christmas Party	(322.50)
ARRL – 1 Membership	(47.00)
Bank Fee	(5.00)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(374.50)</b>
<b>Checking Bal January 31, 2018</b>	<b>\$7,347.56</b>

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

## **MINUTES of Nov. MEETING**

### **Charleston Amateur Radio Society**

**Club Meeting at Golden Corral near Tanger Mall,**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

### **MINUTES:**

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by the President Eugene Mah, AB4UG, at 7:05 PM on Monday February 11, 2019 at the **Golden Corral** in North Charleston, SC

### **Introductions:**

There were about 34 members and guest present.

### **Secretary's Minutes:**

**Warren, KK4EVI**

The January 2019 meeting minutes were published in the February 2019 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded and passed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Charlotte, KJ4PLX**

The December 2019 Financial Reports were published in the February 2019 newsletter and accepted as information.

### **Museum Ships:**

**Tom, AJ4UQ & Jim, KW4UL**

Museum Ships will be held the first weekend in June. Plan to work the Yorktown on Saturday and if enough interest, will work the Laffey and/or Clamagore on Sunday.

### **Field Day:**

**Jim, KW4UL**

No report.

## Races:

### Doug, KU4OC

~~Cooper River Bridge run coming up on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Security vetting may be more difficult this year. You can sign up on the wa4usn.org website by clicking on the Click for "CARS Events" link~~

**Editors Note:** As it stands currently we will not be participating in this event. I am sure Doug will give us further information at the meeting.

## Hamfest Report:

### Steve, KE4THX

A lot of the Hamfest door prize tickets, that were sent out to Club members, were not returned. Lost some funds because of that, otherwise made about \$1500.00 profit. The supplier is raising the price for the tables for the next years Hamfest.

## Repeater Report:

### Bryce, K4LXF

The 441.450 Knightsville hub seems to have a problem. Will check out and hopefully repair problem soon.

## Membership:

### Bryce, K4LXF

Yearly dues are now past due, for year 2019  
Non paying member may lose membership.

### Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: Bobby McBride W4KSD  
(returning Club member)

Second Reading: John Furlow WB4EHW  
John was voted on and welcomed into the club.

## Emergency Prep:

**Rick, N8BKN, Charleston; John, W4HNC, Dorchester; Linda, KJ4EVV, Berkeley**

**Charleston: Rick, N8BKN** – ARES Team meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month

No ARES meeting this month due to Technician training class (class was canceled)

Went to training class in Columbia on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>, saw a new PlumBox communications gear. Allowed access to two cell vendors to help communication needs during an emergency. Tested with about 80 people logged on at one time.

June 8<sup>th</sup> planning on having a full scale hurricane communications exercise. Expect additional radio traffic

**Dorchester: John W4HNC** – Meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, at the EOC.

**Berkeley: Linda KJ4EVV** - Meet on last Saturday of the month. Their website w4brk

## Nets:

**Newcomers Net 2 Mtrs** gets on the air on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. If you are interested in trying to conduct a net, send **Don KK4WWV**, a note and he will get you the information. **Tom, WW1JTA**, is helping Don by becoming the Newcomers Net, Net Controller occasionally. Don is still looking for more participation and additional Net Controllers to help out occasionally.

**ARES Net 2 Mtrs** airs on Sunday at 8:00 PM. Local area 5 meets from 8:00 - 8:20 PM, then joins up to the statewide link up at 8:20 PM. Repeaters are now linking so no need to switch frequencies.

**SKYWARN Net 2 Mtrs** Still meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 9:00 PM on linked repeater systems. Will probably change to every Tuesday at 9:00 PM during hurricane season or severe weather.

**SCHEART Net: 2 Mtrs** will start Net every Thursday morning at 9:00 AM.

## Newsletter/Website:

### Greg, KG4GEK

No report.

## Education & VE Testing:

**Sheila, KT4YW**

~~The next scheduled VE testing should be February 16th at 1:00 PM at the Tall Pines Baptist Church. The church is located on 645 Treeland Drive, near the American Biker store.~~

(Canceled due to scheduling conflict)

## School Programs:

**Alene, KG4NKD**

DuBose Middle School Radio Club - K4DMS

No report.

## School Clubs:

**Tom, AJ4UQ**

No Report.

## Communications Trailer:

**Willie, WB4SOG**

The communications trailer was used at the Hamfest without problem.

## Old Business:

Nothing to report

## New Business:

Bryce K4LXF, asked the club to authorize the purchase of new equipment for about \$2000.00. Voted on and approved.

Willie WB4SOG, suggested forming a committee to look into the purchase of a PA system for future Hamfest and monthly club meetings. He was elected to chair the committee.

## Announcements:

~~There will be a Technician Training class this Friday and Saturday~~ (Canceled due to scheduling conflict)

Asked about removing the Skywarn Net from report sheet, was told to hold off for a while longer

## Drawing:

**Ed, KQ4DC** won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:42 PM, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by **Warren, KK4EVI**