

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

November 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, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019



DUES FOR THE YEAR AUGUST 1, 2019 – JULY 31, 2020 ARE PAST 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: **Lee Miller, KI4LLJ, 207 Glebe Rd., Summerville, SC 29445**

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Feel free to send me any comments, suggestions, and/or questions to CARSinfo@wa4usn.org, or to my personal email, eugenemah@gmail.com. If you're on Facebook, there's a CARS group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups.WA4USN/>. We also have the @WA4USN account on Twitter that you can follow as well.

73, Eugene, AB4UG

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Don't relax November is still Hurricane season until the 30th is officially the end of the 2019 Hurricane Season, November 30th. Hurricanes this late in the season usually start in the Gulf of Mexico or off the Eastern seacoast not a great deal of warning so stay alert.

From November 3, 2019 until November 14, 2019 the MARS organization is conducting a

communications exercise to see if MARS operators and Hams can supplement the Department of Defense communications. The MARS operators will be using MARS frequencies but also checking in on the local VHF/UHF repeaters for local information to report to their Headquarters, just report what you see or know, (example: Do you have power?, Is local TV and Radio working?, etc) just answer the questions. I have participated in these exercises before and received a very nice QSL card from MARS Headquarters. Remember "When All Else Fails" is the motto for Ham communications.

John Place, W4HNK has retired as Dorchester County Emergency Coordinator and has been relieved by Beverly, W3BRB, give Beverly the support everyone gave to John. Make her job easy please.

Charleston County Emergency Management has informed me that Charleston County will have 11 shelters available during the next major event and will need at least 2 Ham operators at each shelter for communications. Gonna need lots of help folks. Between Governor's Evacuation orders, personal concerns, and other duties the ARES group will be stretched and need lots of help. Think about this before evacuating – the shelters are safe places with security and as a communicator you would report to me the Emergency Coordinator NOT the Red Cross. Also you would be reporting to the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by both Amateur Radio issued to you for shelter duty and a government radio so some training will be required on the radios.

This year has produced several teachable moments: In June Ham's and ARES did a communications

drill where the State lost the Palmetto 800MHz radio system and Satellite communications do to failures. Drill went well because 2 weeks later the State DID lose the Palmetto 800MHz system, good practice by Hams and ARES members. Hurricane Dorian came in September, a near miss but still a reminder of the damage a Hurricane can cause. Finally last week the SCHEART system failed to link up so remember anything can happen, stay ready to support the State, neighbors, and friends when disasters occur.

Until next Month, 73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 6/30/19	\$7,404.01
Cash Receipts:	
Dues	0.00
Memberships	0.00
Raffle Proceeds	46.00
Cash Disbursements:	
Field Day	(268.65)
ARRL - 1 Membership	(47.00)
Bank Fee	(5.00)
John Meyers – Website Host Renewal	(107.40)
Ending Checking Balance - 7/31/19	\$6,935.96

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 7/31/19	\$6,935.96
Cash Receipts:	
Dues	65.00
Memberships	60.00
Raffle Proceeds	65.00
Cash Disbursements:	
ARRL Memorial Education Fund – Jenny Myers	(500.00)
ARRL - 1 Membership	(47.00)
Bank Fee	(5.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 8/31/19	\$6,573.96

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 8/31/19	\$6,573.96
Cash Receipts:	
Dues	1,155.00
Memberships	60.00
Raffle Proceeds	49.00

Cash Disbursements:	
ARRL - 1 Membership	(47.00)
Bank Fee	(5.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 8/31/19	\$7,785.96

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 8/1/18	\$5,388.00
Revenues:	
Dues	520.00
Memberships	2,850.00
ARRL Drawing	657.00
Expenses:	
Newsletter	(75.81)
ARRL Memberships	(470.00)
Misc. expenses (printing, stamps, bank charges, etc)	(344.13)
Christmas Party	(322.50)
Pinckney Carter Co.-Gen Liab Insurance	(258.00)
US Postmaster-12 mos PO Box rental #70341	(106.00)
Memorials & Flowers for members	(25.00)
Field day food and gas	(268.65)
Website hosting	(107.40)
FTD 65 Folded Terminated Dipole	(357.55)
Storage Unit Rental	(144.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 7/31/19	\$6,935.96
Net Increase for Year	\$1,547.96
Savings Account Balance	\$ 27.39

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the AUGUST MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

The monthly Club Meeting was held at the **Golden Corral** at 4968 Centre Pointe Dr. in North Charleston 29418.

Monday August 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by the Vice-President Tom Glaab AB4UG (Eugene out sick), at 7:02 PM

on Monday August 12, 2019 at the **Golden Corral** in North Charleston, SC.

Introductions: There were about 47 members and guest present.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

The July 2019 meeting minutes were published in the August 2019 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes with a few corrections by Tom AJ4UQ, the motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

The June 2019 Financial Reports were published in the August 2019 newsletter and accepted as information.

Museum Ships on the air: Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL

Still working on QSL cards from Field Day and Museum Ships

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ

Nothing new to report, have started making plans for next year's event

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

IOP Connector Run October 5th there is a sign up sheet already going around. You can also sign up on the wa4usn.org website home page. Click on "Click for "CARS Events" to sign up to help with Events", and select the event you want to help with

Tom, K4WJC,

Asked for Club's support of the CF Cycle for Life Bike Ride Saturday Sept. 28th starting time will be zero dark 30 (check-in 0800 and start 0900). Sign up sheet going around or on the wa4usn.org website.

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

Moving smoothly – will plan to have a meeting soon.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF –

Seem to be running normally (?). The Adams Run repeater, 147.345 does not have a CTCSS tone. Propagation may be getting into Low Country Linked system through here, thinking about adding a 123.0 tone to repeater.

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette (TBD),

Are collecting dues now and have receipts and membership cards for those that have already paid.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: James A. Molledahl AB5FS

George Thornton WG4LT

Second Reading:

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month

Next ARES meeting on August 17th at the St. Andrews Public Service Building at 09:00 AM

El Nino is dissipating, may cause more storms along East Coast. Hurricane numbers have been revised.

Dorchester: John W4HNC – Meets on 2nd Saturday of the month, at the EOC.

Looking into getting a new repeater for their area.

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. **Mike KM4LDM and Tom, WW1TA**, are helping Don by becoming the Newcomers Net, Net Controller occasionally.

Don is still looking for more participation and additional Net Controller operators 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 1st and 3rd 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 on state linked system

LowCountry Digital Net Tom, AJ4UQ, mentioned the net on 2 mtrs (145.700 MHz) meets on Sundays at 8:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM using Contestia 32/1000. (information needs confirmed)

Newsletter / Website / Cars Carrier: Greg, KG4GEK –

The website should be going down on Wednesday 8-14-19, for a few hours, to switch over to the new wa4usn.org internet program.

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

The next scheduled VE testing should be October 12th at 9:00 AM at the Tall Pines Baptist Church. The church is located on 645 Treeland Drive, near the American Biker store.

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS -

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA-

There are a couple of weeks to get the school clubs back up and ready for this years Rookie Roundup

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG:

The left Kenwood radio seems to have no output? Will check out and hopefully correct the problem.

Old Business:

Rev. Marshall is looking for any radio equipment donations, to get his Churches radio room on-line. He will let that radio room also serve as the CARS club radio room #2.

New Business:

Voted on support for the CF Cycle for Life Bike Ride, voted on and approved.

Brian, KM4EXJ, wanted to thank everyone that showed up to support his first EXPO. Things went well.

Dave, K8UM, asked permission to have the Club donate \$500.00 to the ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program in memory of Jenny, WA4NGV. Voted on and approved

Club officers were voted on and approved, Eugene, AB4UG, president, Tom, AJ4UQ, vice-president, Charlotte, KJ4PLX, treasurer, and Warren, KK4EVI, Secretary (with help from Mike, KN4LDU)

Announcements:

Tom made the sad announcement about Jenny, WA4NGV going SK.

There was a motion made to have the Christmas Party at the Harbor Breeze again this year on December 9th, instead of the regular monthly meeting at 7:00 PM. Voted on and approved, cost to be determined.

Drawing:

Mike KN4LDU won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:38 PM, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

MINUTES of the SEPTEMBER MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

The monthly Club Meeting was held at the **Golden Corral** at 4968 Centre Pointe Dr. in North Charleston 29418.

Monday September 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by the Vice-President Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, at 7:00 PM on Monday September 9, 2019 at the **Golden Corral** in North Charleston, SC.

Introductions:

There was only about 29 members and guest present.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

Due to a conflict, the August Meeting Notes were not published in the September Cars Carrier Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

Due to a conflict, the August Meeting Notes were not published in the September Cars Carrier Newsletter.

Museum Ships on the air: Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL

Yorktown reps mentioned that there were a lot of people asking about the radio room and was it on the tour. Considering making up some posters or fliers about the radio room.

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ

Nothing New

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

IOP Connector Run 1st Saturday in October (Oct. 5th). Sign up on the wa4usn.org websites tiny url link

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

No report

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF –

Digipeater on Yorktown working but intermittently.

Interference still getting into Low Country Linked repeaters somehow. Still trying to isolate. There was reported problems with the 146.790 (Yorktown) repeater during Dorian. Yorktown may have lost electrical power and the repeater went to batteries? Checking that out.

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette (TBD),

To maintain regular membership, dues need to be paid for 2020 prior to 10/01/2019

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: Steve Spencer WB3DPP

Second Reading: James A. Molledahl AB5FS

George Thornton WG4LT

The second reading applicants were voted on and welcomed into the Club.

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month

Next ARES meeting on September 21st at the St. Andrews Public Service Building at 09:00 AM

Rick talked about linked UHF/VHF systems during Dorian. Bobby, W4KSD, ran a SKYWARN Net during the storm. SCEMD linked repeater operators were not wanting individual check-ins?

Rick made a few HF contacts locally.

When sustained winds reach 30 MPH, box trucks and large trucks need to be off the road. When winds get up to 40 MPH, fire, EMS and other emergency vehicles are taken off the road.

SCEMD also complimented the Ham Radio Network for maintaining operation during EMD power failures.

Dorchester: John W4HNK – Meets on 2nd 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. **Mike KM4LDM** and **Tom, WW1TA**, are helping Don by becoming the Newcomers Net, Net Controller 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 1st and 3rd 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 on state linked system

LowCountry Digital Net Tom, AJ4UQ, mentioned the net on 2 mtrs (145.700 MHz) meets on Sundays at 8:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM using Contestia 64/1000. (information needs confirmed)

Newsletter / Website / Cars Carrier: Greg, KG4GEK –

No report

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

The next scheduled VE testing should be October 12th at 9:00 AM at the Tall Pines Baptist Church. The church is located on 645 Treeland Drive, near the American Biker store.

Any interest in having a Technician or General training Class?

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS -

No report

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA-

The antenna is back up. On Sept. 21 plan to have a Back to School Event.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG:

No report

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Received a nice letter from Diane Middleton, W2DLM, with ARRL, thanking the club for the donation to the Education and Technology Fund in Jenny, WA4NGV, name

Talk restarting about taking the Clamagore out and sinking it???

Announcements:

If you know of an event coming up, let the Club know and maybe Hams can help.

Drawing:

Jeanette won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:43 PM, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

MINUTES of the OCTOBER MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

The monthly Club Meeting was held at the **Golden Corral** at 4968 Centre Pointe Dr. in North Charleston 29418.

Monday October 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by the President Eugene Mah, AB4UG, at 7:02 PM on Monday October 14, 2019 at the **Golden Corral** in North Charleston, SC.

Introductions:

There was only about 44 members and guest present.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

No report

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

No report

Museum Ships on the air: Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL

No report

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ

If you have any comments about the 2020 Field Day, contact Del KW4XQ.

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

Doug thanked everyone for their IOP Run Support. There was a problem with the time calling computer, looking into repairs.

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

No report

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF –

Nothing to report. Suspect some noise may be getting in through the Adams Run repeater (147.345) considering activation the CTCSS tone.

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette (TBD),

To maintain regular membership, dues need to be paid for 2020 prior to 10/01/2019

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

Second Reading: Steve Spencer WB3DPP

Steve was voted on and welcomed into the club.

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month

~~Next ARES meeting on October 19th at the St. Andrews Public Service Building at 09:00 AM~~

due to Technician Training Class. New info of area shelters, shelters will need supported during emergencies.

There is a new ARES manual out, trying to standardize requirements and history

Dorchester: John W4HNC – Meets on 2nd Saturday of the month, at the EOC.

John Place, W4HNC, has decided to retire – Beverly Boyd, W3BRB, will be taking his place

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. **Mike KM4LDM and Tom, WW1TA**, are helping Don by becoming the Newcomers Net, Net Controller occasionally.

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Newsletter / Cars Carrier: Michelle, KK4WQO -
Website: Greg, KG4GEK

No report

Education & VE Testing: Sheila, KT4YW

The next scheduled VE testing should be December 14th at 9:00 AM at the Tall Pines Baptist Church. The church is located on 645 Treeland Drive, near the American Biker store.

There will be a VE Test session Sunday at 1:00 down at the VA Hospital, open to anyone wanting to take the test.

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS -

No report

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA-

No report

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG:

No report

Old Business:

The CF Cycle for Life, will no longer be looking for support - relocating

New Business:

Tom, K4EJC:

The first annual Lowvelo Bike Ride is looking for about 10 volunteers to ride in SAG vehicles, with mobile radios. Will need mag mount antennas to put on roof of rental vans. This is a fund raising event for the Hollings Cancer Center. The ride will be on Saturday November 2nd starting around 08:00 AM, using the Awendaw repeater. A signup sheet is being passed around. Will try to get a Tiny-URL on club web page

Dave, K8UM, is looking for Ham contacts during the upcoming MARS event. Contact k8um@arrl.net for more details

Announcements:

Next month, November, the regularly scheduled CARS meeting will be held on TUESDAY

Nov. 12, due to Golden Corral celebrating Veterans Day by feeding Veterans.

Donald, W4DSK, brought up a news article about some politicians in California wanting to fine or put large fees on Ham repeater stations. Don't have any value for Ham operators???

Drawing:

Brian, KK4OHS, won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:47 PM, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

OPERATING DAYS

We intend to get a bit more serious about operating days on the Yorktown, so listen up for a chance to man the club room.

A while ago I mentioned the Lowcountry 2m digital weak signal net. A few of you asked for more information on how to participate. The simplest way is to get a HT that can decode single-sideband VHF and hold it up to your computer's microphone. My Kenwood TH-6A can do it, but not my Baofeng. A more complex but effective method is to use an RTL-SDR dongle with SDR# and audio pipes. The preferred setup is a VHF-capable base station with a soundcard interface -- a Yaesu FT-817, 897, or 991, plus a Signalink works well.

Either way you go, you'll need the Fldigi software to decode stations. Get it from <http://w1hkj.com>. Once Fldigi is installed, select the mode CONTESTIA 64/1000 from the menu. Pick the sound card interface that's appropriate -- USB Codec for Signalink, microphone for monitoring a HT, or the virtual audio cable for RTL-SDR (there are plenty of articles on connecting RTL-SDR/SDR# output to audio decoders using virtual audio cables).

Weak signal operations are done with horizontal polarized antennas, so hold your HT sideways or lay your j-pole between some chairs. I once made a dipole out of two metal rods, a PVC cross, a SO-239 connector, and two corks from wine bottles to hold the rods. It was easy to shift from vertical to horizontal polarization.

Tune your radio to 145.700 MHz upper sideband at 8pm Wednesday or 8.30pm Sunday and listen for the tones. If your waterfall is centered on 1500Hz you should get a good decode. CONTESTIA has a lot of forward error correction, so it will take a few seconds to start decoding. You should also click on the Squelch button at the bottom right corner of Fldigi to disable it.

If you hear us and can transmit, give a shout when we call for checkins. Just send your call sign twice. Net control is in West Ashley but others can relay your call.

One final note -- if all you have is an FM transceiver give it a try anyway. There is an odd effect where the decode sometimes works.

Tom, AJ4UQ.

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

423 Beaufort Rd., Summerville, SC 29486-1989

