

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

December 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, Dec. 9, 2019 at the Omar Shrine Temple in Mt. Pleasant for the annual Christmas Celebration

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. No new membership applications have been received since the last report. Three people paid dues at the last meeting. At this point, dues cannot be paid by mail; please pay in person at the meeting. As a reminder to all if your dues aren't paid by February 1, 2019, the by-laws say we are to purge you from the roster. We will accept dues payment at the Christmas party for your convenience.

Lee, KI4LLJ
CARS Membership Committee Chair

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

On behalf of the club, I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Ed Walker, KQ4DC, who passed away November 11.

Another storm season is winding down and going by the number of named storms, it's been a fairly active season. As I'm writing this, Sebastien is out in the Atlantic heading towards Europe. Fortunately only a couple of storms this year had any direct impacts on our area. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for ARES activations and participated in the events we help support.

December means Skywarn Recognition Day (Dec 7) and the club Christmas Party (Dec 9). What's on your Christmas wish list?

December also means the Charleston Hamfest is only a couple months away (Feb 1). Hope to see a lot of you out at the Hamfest!

Do you have anything to contribute to the monthly newsletter? Want to brag about it? New addition to the shack? Discover something new to you about amateur radio? Have a project you want to talk about? The whole point of the club's monthly newsletter is to keep club members informed, not just about what's going on with the club, but also what club members are doing. Write it down and submit it to mantooml@gmail.com ! We want to hear from you!

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

December 1, 2019 is the end of the 2019 Hurricane Season. Hurricane Dorian stayed off – shore enough not to have a major impact on the Low Country. Start planning for the 2020 Hurricane

Season which starts June 1st.

Cold and rainy weather is coming. Remember the snow storm of January 2017. Now is the time to service vehicles for cold weather. Vehicle batteries lose between 50 – 70% of their Cold Cranking Amps at 32 degrees so if your vehicle needs a replacement battery now is the time to budget for it, and prevent going out shopping or on a road trip and hear the dreaded “Click, Click, Click” instead of your engine starting. Another winter tip is to keep a blanket/sleeping bag in your vehicle just in case you do get stranded somewhere. Also check your windshield washing fluid, don't want to have frozen fluid and dirty windows.

With the holidays coming if you are taking “The Road Trip” make a plan, let neighbors or friends know your planned schedule and importantly your planned route. If someone knows you are out of town, they can sort of watch out for your house. A route plan will make locating you easier for a police search in case you are delayed or something happens like a break down. Remember to call ahead to your destination too so they are expecting you by a certain time.

AS a change the Tri – County ARES groups are having a joint December meeting for Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. The meeting will be:

December 7, 2019
0900 – 1100
Tall Pines Church
645 Treeland Drive
Ladson, SC

Next to American Biker off College Park Rd.

There will be a talk – in on the local linked repeater system. All ham's are invited to come out to the ARES meeting and learn more about what ARES does and how you can support your communities during an emergency or for a public service event.

I want to thank all of the ham's that have responded to emergency events and for supporting public service events in 2019. Without ham volunteers, many tasks like staffing shelters so they can communicate with their parent organizations or talk to emergency management for supplies or updates wouldn't happen. Remember the un – official ARES motto:

“When all else fails”

The Ham community will step up and aid the community.

Until Next Month 73,
Rick Valentine, N8BKN

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance - 9/30/19	\$7,785.96
Cash Receipts:	
Dues	820.00
Memberships	40.00
Raffle Proceeds	75.00
Cash Disbursements:	
ARRL - 1 Membership	(32.00)
Bank Fee	(5.00)
Ending Checking Balance - 10/31/19	\$8,683.96

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the NOVEMBER 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.

Tuesday November 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by the President

Eugene Mah, AB4UG, at 7:00 PM on Monday November 12, 2019 at the **Golden Corral** in North Charleston, SC.

Introductions:

There was only about 40 members and guest present.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

The October 2019 meeting minutes were published in the November 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 September 2019 Financial Reports were published in the November 2019 newsletter and accepted as information.

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

Had meeting with Patriots Staff – Looking for more information about Club activities

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ

If you have any suggestions or changes for the 2020 Field Day, contact Del, KW4XQ. Some suggestions so far are to have the Field Day at the Fire Base area or Picnic Areas..

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

No report

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

The envelopes with the raffle tickets are ready to be handed out. Pick up your envelope before leaving, trying to save postage.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF –

There has been some interference on the linked system lately. After investigating, Bryce narrowed the noise to the 146.730 repeater. After discussing noise at a morning breakfast, Dr. Tom, WW1TA, said the noise sounded like an MRI machine running. Several people started recording the times the noise was heard and Dr. Tom compared this to the Trident Hospital's MRI machine run time, the times almost

match exactly. After talking to Trident Hospital staff, about the problem, the noise has gone away (hopefully). Now there is a new noise coming in from the 146.670 repeater???

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:

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month. Next ARES meeting on November 16th at the St. Andrews Public Service Building at 09:00 AM. Hurricane season runs until November 1st, stay alert. Introduced Beverly, W3BRB, the new Dorchester EOC rep.

Dorchester: John W4HNC – Meets on 2nd Saturday of the month, at the EOC. Beverly introduced herself and talked about her taking over the EOC. She also talked about ARES and mentioned that ARRL would like ARES to become leader in communications. She also mentioned she would like more people to join ARES

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 to be confirmed)

Newsletter / Cars Carrier: Michelle, KK4WQO

Website: Greg, KG4GEK

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. Looking into plans to have VE Test sessions on Odd months down at VA Hospital on Third (3rd) Sunday around 2:00 PM. May be easier for people on the islands and downtown to get to test session

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS-

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA
No students showed up for Round Up exercise.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG:
No report

Old Business:

Lowvelo bike ride went well.

A motion was made to have a Christmas Party at the Harbor Breeze again, cost would be \$15.00 per person, with the Club paying the rest. Motion was voted on and passed.

New Business:

Motion was made to pay \$150.00 for membership postage and supplies. Another motion was made to replace refrigerator on Yorktown up to \$600.00. Both motions were voted on and approved.

Announcements:

Dave, K8UM, will be helping MARS conduct communication test for the next two weeks. He is looking for you to ping your IP address, Name of your Telephone co., Name of your power co., and can you receive radio weather broadcast and your zip code and call sign.

Received notice that Ed Walker, KQ4DC, went SK on November 11, 2019. Service will be held at the Christ Church in Mount Pleasant on November 18th at 11:00 AM

Drawing:

Ray, KM4FRG won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:44 PM, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

OPERATING DAYS

As communicators it's a bit frustrating when we don't communicate well. After some effort we are getting the newsletter out, the web site's being maintained, and the project to move to a modern web platform is moving again. Thank you for your patience.

There are a lot of activities coming up over the next few months. Winter Field Day is 25-26 January 2020. We're planning a low-key operation from the trailer at the Fire House on Dorchester Road. Charleston Hamfest is 1 February 2020 at the Armory near Park Circle. If you have a room full of gear you don't need any more, consider buying a

table or tailgating spot. And there's the big one, Christmas!

As always if there's a topic you want to know more about, let the club know.
Tom, AJ4UQ.

FROM THE RADIO OF....

A WARNING:?? Close Encounter with the Death Angel.

Some of you may remember an article I wrote some years ago, "Shockless," which was published in an Australian ham publication.?? The point was how our focus and attention decline as we age and the great danger of working with High Voltage where a momentary mental lapse or getting out-of-order in our safety procedures can have tragic consequences.???? The article presented alternatives, like much-lowered B+ voltages, which can bring our old boatanchors alive without excess danger.?? Well, I've just had The Death Angel pass so close I could feel his cold, fetid breath and the icy wind from his black wings.?? It's only the grace and goodness of The Lord that I am here to write you this warning.

As most of you know, I'm working on a WWII Navy GO-9 transmitter and the project is nearing completion.?? The power supply for this transmitter produces 1400V and 540V under load.?? When unkeyed, the B+ is near 1800V.???? This level of voltage, if contacted across the body, is almost always instantly fatal.???? I've been very careful to go slow, remember safety, have a sequence for power-up and power down.?? Checks and rechecks before putting a hand in there. And it worked.?? Until a moment of inattention and a neglected safety check, when it didn't.

I've had the High Voltage fed from a separate AC primary through a variac while tuning and testing.?? When plugged directly into house current, the Low B+ is too hot (800V), so I was working on toning it down.?? Got that all sorted out, so power down to make a couple of changes.?? Turn off the

variac.???? Turn off the Filament supply. Wait for the resistors to bleed-away the charge, (**but neglected to check the Hi B+ voltage test point**).?? The "B+ ON" warning light was facing away from me. Just one thing my old, distracted brain forgot:?? The Hi B+ wasn't plugged into the variac- my soldering iron was.?? The Hi B+ was plugged into the house current, fully live, sitting at 1800 V like a coiled rattle snake.?? "Looks like one of the B+ feed wires is a little too close to ground.?? I'll just move..."

WARNING:GRAPHIC PHOTOS

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9NLRVGj93NpSBgdB6>
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/C4KycfbxKhTYLLre9>

Flash and bang.?? If my other hand had been on anything conductive, of if I were on a concrete floor instead of a wooden deck, I would not me writing this.?? I would have been instantly killed.?? Worse, I would have left an deadly rattle snake, coiled to bite the family member who found me.???? The burns on my left hand?? look superficial, but my hands won't stop shaking.?? The pain is pretty intense.?? There is likely some nerve and deep-tissue damage; that will be evident over the next few days.???? The Lord God, in His mercy, decided to let me continue to draw breath, and I prayed my gratitude to Him for sparing me another day.?? But one does not get-away with such stupidity unless one is in Congress, and I ain't.

I am going to finish this project; it's too close now to give up on it.?? But Dirty Harry's advice echos in my empty head:?? "A man has got to know his limitations." Have had close calls before, but nothing nearly so deadly as this.?? Such Voltages are "a young man's game."?? I think I've just had my last warning.?? I simply no longer have the mental sharpness essential to deal with such danger.???? I will never again take-on any project that requires such voltages.?? I dearly love reviving these historic and beautiful rigs, but not enough to die for them.?? All my pending projects that require this sort of voltage are going away.?? All my iron at this level will be given away. From now on, I'm a

"little rig" sorta guy.?? Got no more room for big rigs anyway.

Be smarter than me (not very hard).?? Be safer than me.?? Don't do this.

And thank The Almighty for every new day.?? You never know when it will suddenly end.

GL OM ES 73 DE Dave AB5S

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