

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

May 2020 Newsletter

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

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

Our next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, Monday, May 1, 2020 via radio on the repeaters.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

From your President,

While everybody is hopefully staying home or at least keeping your distance from others during the COVID-19 pandemic, don't forget that hurricane season is around the corner. I've seen some early forecasts indicating that this year could be an above average season.

The April meeting conducted over the repeaters net-style went pretty well. Seems like there's a good chance that will happen again for the May meeting. Stay tuned.

Discussion about remote amateur radio examinations have been all the rage lately. I've heard there are a few VEC groups starting to give remote exams now, and it sounds like capacity is starting to expand. If you're looking to upgrade or know someone new who's ready to take the test, contact Connie/NR4CB at nr4cb.ve@gmail.com to find out about testing options.

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

NEWS FROM THE VP

Another month of limited movement has gone by. Our meeting-on-the-air went well and we were able to make a quorum of club members. Plan on doing it again for the May meeting.

One of the advantages of being home is that I can listen to the radio, though I don't have much opportunity to talk. Our repeaters aren't that busy, and the air traffic control frequencies I monitor have been quieter as well. That's when it's handy to use the internet to access remote sites such as the QO-100 satellite SDR.

Fortunately our lockdown has been less oppressive than many across the country, and I've been out to various stores for brief trips. Now that the parks are reopening I'll try to get my QRP bag out and make some contacts.

Be safe and see you on the air!
73, Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

Hey all. Will sure be glad when this thing gets far enough along that we can gather again. As would be expected there has been no activity in the membership area. Hopefully will have more to report when wet back to our traditional meeting format.

73, Lee, KI4LLJ
Membership Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Welcome to May 2020. The Low Country is now one month away from the start of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season. According to the National Hurricane Center they expect an active year in storms and now is the time to prepare. COVID 19 has drained supplies and frustrated many people but the hurricane season will still arrive and everyone needs to plan and put your plan into action. Because of this please remember that Charleston County has recertified more shelters than ever before. These shelters will be opened pre landfall and stay open post storm as needed for damaged residences. Overflow will be sent to upper Berkeley County shelters so Amateur communicators will be needed in ALL Low Country shelters. A secondary assignment may involve Hospitals too. The South Carolina Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Teams (SCHEART) system could be utilized if communications are lost due to damage or flooding of underground lines so prepare for both shelter duties or hospital duties in the Low Country.

Preparedness for the two potential assignments is similar and yet different. Shelter duty will involve having back-up Communications equipment to supplement deployed or installed equipment. Charleston County is building deployable kits that have a 2 Meter radio, antenna with magnetic mount, and a power pack that recharges from 120 volt AC, 12 volt DC, and has a solar panel too. The radio will be pre-programmed for local repeaters and have the list of programmed memories and the manual included. Remember you are supposed to be self-supported for the first 72 hours, your own food, water, clothes, etc., etc. Volunteers will be needed after that first 72 hours as well because recovery could take a long time before the shelters close.

Hospital assignment WILL require a good handheld (HT) and spare battery packs or a charging system. Most hospitals have installed radio equipment but mobility around the hospital will require the HT. Some hospitals have repeaters that any HT can reach directly but some may require a relay from HT to Installed radio. Again arrive with 72 hours of

self-support the Hospital will be busy helping the community and the staff, you are an additional load, be an asset not a load.

Another assignment may be as a relay station. During Hurricane Hugo many of the public service towers went inoperative. Either damage to the towers, or loss of power, or flooded fuel tanks for back-up generators, etc., etc. Be prepared to accept traffic and to relay to County Emergency Operations Centers. You may be deployed to a location between two stations that cannot communicate directly, for example the VA Hospital downtown Charleston can NOT contact the Primary County EOC on a simplex frequency but a station located at Dorchester Road and Leeds could hear both the VA Hospital and the Primary EOC acting as a relay.

Notice I referenced the Primary Charleston County EOC. There are two active EOC's in Charleston County, the Primary EOC is on Palmetto Commerce Parkway in North Charleston across from the Daimler factory. The Alternate EOC is in the Lonnie Hamilton building on Bridge View Drive (off of Leeds Ave). Either one or both could be activated during an emergency so operations from both sites would require additional hams.

Expect the National Hurricane Center to test its equipment before the season starts. Frequency for NHC is 14.325 USB on 20 Meters and 7.268 LSB on 40 Meters. Listen for the test when posted on the website: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Until next month,
73, Rick, N8BKN

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance – 2/29/20	\$9231.26
Cash Receipts:	
Raffle Proceeds	70.00
Cash Disbursements:	
Warren Ritchie Postage	(10.89)
ARRL – 1 Membership	(47.00)
US Postal Service – 1 year box rent	(118.00)

Pinckney Carter Insurance (228.00)
Bank Fee (5.00)

Ending Checking Balance – 3/31/20 \$8832.37

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the MARCH MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

Due to the Current STAY at HOME policy, the April meeting was held on-line using the Low Country Linked Repeater system.

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by the President Eugene Mah, AB4UG, at 7:00 PM on Monday April 13, 2020, using the Low Country Linked Repeater System. Tom, AJ4UQ took Roll Call at 6:45 PM.

Introductions:

There was only about 33 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

Due to COVID-19, the New Jersey has canceled Museum ships contest for this year.

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ

If we are able to have Field Day, and in doubt, Del is looking at alternate locations.

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

No report.

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

Doc, W4MUR, has requested someone take over his Hamfest duties.

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF –

Things seem to be working very well.

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette, KO4BPH,

To maintain membership, dues are way past due and may be in danger of being dropped from the rolls, paid membership is down to about 152 members.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Chris Helgens, KO4BPJ: With no objection votes, Chris was voted on and welcomed into the club

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN

ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month. No ARES meetings until further notice, due to COVID-19. Area is still on lock-down due to Governor mandate. The alternate EOC is being staffed to support telephone request for information. Foul weather hit the Walterboro area, possible tornado action.

Dorchester: John W4HMK

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.

Newsletter/Cars Carrier: Michelle, KK4WQO
Website: Tom, AJ4UQ

Would welcome more contributions, otherwise doing well.

Education & VE Testing: Connie, NR4CB

Due to the current Stay at Home policy, VE Testing has been canceled until further notice. May try to have VE Test session on May 17th, depending on conditions.

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS

No report.

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA

No report.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG

About the same.

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Spring Bike Ride and Museum Ships have been canceled due to COVID-19.

Drawing

No drawing was held but word was put out that Earl didn't win - won the drawing for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:16 PM a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting and return the repeaters back to normal usage

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

No updates received by the time this newsletter was ready to send to the membership.

CURRENT MARS EXERCISE



Looking for Amateur Support for Current MARS Exercise

MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) is a Department of Defense-sponsored program that provides contingency HF radio communications to DoD and Military Services utilizing volunteer amateur radio operators. Exercises focus on training that could support DoD missions of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. Typical exercises involve MARS members collecting information about infrastructure status that might be used for planning DoD assistance in a regional situation and generating message reports back to the requesting "customer."

MARS is a "force multiplier" since members can extend their range of information gathering by reaching out to amateur community. That is the

objective of this request. The current exercise involves reporting electrical power status. Request those who are interested report the following information by phone or by email to me at: K8UM@ARRL.NET

CARS CARRIER

Subject: GRIDSTAT
Date/Time (local) of measurement: (follow electrical safety standards)
Your County:
Name of Power Company:
Line voltage: (3-digits)
Frequency: (2 digits) (only if you have capability- otherwise report 00)
Your amateur call sign:

Charleston Amateur Radio Society



Multiple reports are welcome, but submit a maximum of one report per day. Information gathering runs through midnight Wednesday, 13 May. Reports dated after that will not be used.

Call me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Dave Stamps, K8UM
(843) 345-7104 (CELL)

FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget to send me any articles, write ups, pictures with descriptions, or other helpful information you think needs to be included in the CARS Carrier. Send it to mantooml@gmail.com

73,
Michelle, KK4WQO