

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

June 2020 Newsletter

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

CARS generally 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, June 8, 2020 via radio on the repeaters.*

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

From your President,

Every now and then, I receive an email offering to donate equipment to the club so that it can be put back to use. Usually it's from someone who's downsizing, or from the family of an SK. Such donations are always appreciated and I try to get the donated equipment into the hands of a new ham just starting out in the hobby. The most recent donation, much to my surprise, turned out to be two US Navy transmitter/receiver sets dating back to May 1944 and January 1945 rather than the ham radio gear I was expecting. I put up a blog post about them which you can read

at <https://blog.ab4ug.net/2020/05/23/more-boat-anchors/>. Cosmetically, they need quite a bit of cleaning up but the insides look in reasonably decent shape for 75 year old equipment. I don't know if they can be restored to operating condition, but I think at least one set can be cleaned up enough to make a nice display piece for the club room. The ID plates on the radios seem to indicate they were never placed into service, but having them on display in the club room on the Yorktown seems fitting. If restoring old boat anchor equipment is one of the things you like to work on, let me know and maybe we can make a club project out of this.

If you're looking to upgrade to an Amateur Extra class license, keep in mind that a new question pool goes into effect July 1.

Effective July 1, the VE team is changing its affiliation from the ARRL VEC to the Laurel

VEC. Under the Laurel VEC, the team will be known as the Charleston Amateur Radio Exam Team (CARET). One notable change is that there will be no fee for taking the license test. Pending test location availability, the test schedule and locations will remain the same (see <https://www.laurelvec.com/index.php?team=CARET> for the schedule). Anybody with an Amateur Extra class license who would like to become a Laurel VE should send an email to Connie/NR4CB at [nr4cb.ve@gmail.com](mailto:nr4cb.ve@gmail.com)

ARRL requires ARRL VEs to participate in a test session once in the past 5 years to keep their credentials current. The team has one more ARRL test session scheduled for June 13 so any ARRL VEs who wish to participate in the June 13 session should RSVP to Connie/NR4CB at [nr4cb.ve@gmail.com](mailto:nr4cb.ve@gmail.com).

I haven't had a chance to check on the status of our normal meeting place, so our June meeting will probably be another on-the-air meeting like the last two meetings.

Have anything to contribute to the monthly newsletter? WAS and 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 up to. Write it down and send it in! We want to hear from you!

Feel free to send me any comments, suggestions

and/or questions to [CARSinfo@wa4usn.org](mailto:CARSinfo@wa4usn.org), or to my personal email, [eugenemah@gmail.com](mailto:eugenemah@gmail.com)  
73, Eugene, AB4UG

## **NEWS FROM THE VP**

The CARS club works with a volunteer examiner (VE) team to get people licensed and to upgrade licenses. While the team is associated with the club, it's independent. The team has been operating under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC), one of 14 VECs in the US. The "other" local team, associated with the TARC club, operates under W5YI VEC.

Each VEC has its own policies. All are based on the FCC part 97 rules, but things like session fees, bathroom breaks, retesting options, and filing methods vary from VEC to VEC. For example the ARRL VEC rules require a \$15 test fee, paper filing, and only the test score can be shared. W5YI VEC has electronic filing so candidates get their call signs in hours, not weeks. Anchorage VEC has been leading the way with remote testing sessions.

After a lot of research and discussion, our VE team has decided to change its affiliation to the Laurel VEC. The two biggest changes are that Laurel supports electronic filing, and testing is FREE. Electronic filing means getting call signs in a day, which will make us more attractive to candidates. Free testing is also a big draw -- it will be easier to attract people to our hobby if we don't make them pay. Laurel is also more open to using technology to improve the testing process.

If you are already a VE, we can easily get you accredited with Laurel. We've been reaching out to club members who are ARRL VEs, especially those of you with zero session counts. To maintain your ARRL accreditation you need to participate in an ARRL test session every five years. We're thinking of a way to do that for you. If you want to become a VE, we can help with that too.

If you've checked the club web site lately, you'll see that we've been conducting VE tests during the

pandemic. Sessions are small and carefully managed, and pre-registration is mandatory. We are planning to conduct our regular June session on the 13th at Tall Pines Baptist Church. If the church is not available we have an alternate site. This is one of the reasons pre-registration is required -- so we can keep candidates informed of changes. We don't expect to be back at the VA Hospital for a while. Email [NR4CB.VE@gmail.com](mailto:NR4CB.VE@gmail.com) for more information.  
73, Tom, AJ4UQ.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

New month new issues. This is now officially 2020 Hurricane season, June to November. Two names have already been used, Tropical Storm Arthur and Tropical Depression Bertha. Bertha showed up at 0800 and was ashore by 1030 not much warning was there. Need to be prepared now not later. Next name is Christobol. Weather channel is showing conditions in the Southern Gulf could be interesting for future forming of storms. Keep watching the weather.

Recruiting time again, we will have multiple shelters open in the Low Country and the powers that be realize that communications will be necessary and cell phone systems will be overwhelmed or damaged in a major event. Time to volunteer to provide communications where needed and do it effectively and professionally. Review the South Carolina Communications Plan and check your radio's have the correct frequencies and tone's in memory and get a copy of your radio manual to travel with you as a back-up for memory.

Also remember to get supplies for at least 3 days for you and your family. Stores will be out of stock on many items. Remember the toilet paper outage for COVID – 19, get supplies now.

The National Hurricane Center tested their communications systems on May 30<sup>th</sup> so they are ready for the season, Primary frequency is 14.325 MHz USB daytime with 7.268 MHz LSB at night or bad conditions on 20 meters. There are other emergency frequencies in the Caribbean area and you can “google” them.

Everyone Stay Safe and check up on your senior friends lockdown affects people differently, help neighbors out especially neighbors that have no experience with hurricanes.

Until next month,  
73, Rick, N8BKN

## **FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Beginning Checking Balance – 3/31/20	\$8832.37
Cash Receipts:	
No Receipts	
Cash Disbursements:	
Bank Fee	(5.00)
Ending Checking Balance – 4/30/20	\$8827.37

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

## **MINUTES of the MARCH MEETING**

**Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**

Due to the Current STAY at HOME policy, the May meeting was again 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 May 11, 2020, using the Low Country Linked Repeater System. Tom, AJ4UQ took Roll Call at 6:45 PM

### **Introductions:**

There was only about 31 members and guest present.

### **Secretary’s Minutes:** Warren, KK4EVI

The April 2020 meeting minutes were published in the May 2020 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded and passed.

### **Treasurer’s Report:** Charlotte, KJ4PLX

The March 2020 Financial Reports were published in the May 2020 newsletter and accepted as information.

Charlotte requested that anyone requesting funds sent the request to her and let her know where to send the check

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

No report

**Field Day:** Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ

Del made a request for \$500 for fuel, food, paper products, etc. Hope to run two stations and also run the GOTA station.

Still hoping to have Field Day on the Yorktown.

**Races:** Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

No report

**Hamfest Report:** Steve, KE4THX

No report

**Repeater Report:** Bryce K4LXF –

Tracked down interference down to the 146.730 (Trident Medical) repeater, unlinked the repeater and interference went away. Linked the repeater back up and so far interference has not returned. Could be MRI interference again.

**Membership:** Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette, KO4BPH,

To maintain membership, dues are way past due and may be in danger of being dropped from the rolls.

**Applications for regular membership:**

First Reading:

Second Reading:

**Emergency Prep:**

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

No ARES meetings until further notice, due to COVID-19

County EOC's still on lockdown

Hurricane predictions are for 14 to 18 storms, 8 to 9 hurricanes and 6 major storms

**Dorchester:** Beverly, W3BRB – 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. 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 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 on state linked system

**Low Country 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

Website yearly fees of about \$115 are due.

**Education & VE Testing:** Connie, NR4CB -

Due to the current Stay at Home policy, VE Testing has been canceled until further notice

VE test sessions may be starting again, more information to follow

**School Programs:** Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS -

No report

**School Clubs:** Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA-

No report

**Communications Trailer:** Willie, WB4SOG:

No report

## Old Business:

## New Business:

Brian asked Eugene about plans for the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans. Still in the makings.

Del requested \$500 dollars to fund the Field Day, voted on and no objections, motion passed.

Tom requested \$115 dollars to renew website fees, voted on and no objections, motion passed

## Announcements:

Warren mentioned the SC ARES HF Net on 75/80 meters with a frequency starting at 3.803 and working up to 3.810 MHz, depending on conditions. This Net is held every Tuesday evening at 18:00 (6:00 PM). Not a long Net, just checking conditions and equipment

## Drawing:

No drawing was held for the one-year ARRL membership due to online Meeting

Being no further business, at 7:23 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.

### DMR

(Digital Mobile Radio)

Steven Geldenhuys KG4ULR – DMR #3145406

*Charleston, SC* - DMR is an Internet based radio system using 70cm frequencies via Digital Repeaters. In the Immediate Charleston area we are fortunate to have four such repeaters.

(2m – 144.00 MHz digital is also used in different US States).

Charleston North 442.4625+

Charleston South 442.3875+

Charleston Downtown 443.0375+

**West Ashley 443.4500+**

(This repeater is owned by Archie Durland K4UIG and all CARS Members are encouraged to use it).

By using two “time slots,” DMR allows two voice transmissions to happen simultaneously on the same 12.5 kHz channel.

All new DMR operators are required to register at [www.radioid.net](http://www.radioid.net) in order to get a Radio ID. Only one (1) ID is required and needs to be programmed in to all digital radio's that will be used by the same operator on the system.

Your radio ID, call sign and name will come up on the radio display of the receiving radio when you key up to have a chat. When receiving a transmission you will be able to view all incoming information.

Once you have obtained a digital radio it needs to be programmed with the above frequencies and “Talk Groups”. This information is called a Code Plug and can be downloaded from the SCHEARTS web site. This code plug can be modified by the user.

A good source for a Motorola radio is Archie K4UIG – Tel #(843) 343 – 8873.



The radio comes programmed with all local DMR repeaters. Bring your Radio ID to be inserted.

## 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](mailto:mantooml@gmail.com)

73,  
Michelle, KK4WQO

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