

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

January 2021 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, January 11, 2021 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall and via radio on the repeaters.

JANUARY MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year everyone, hope Santa was good to you since our February Hamfest is going to be delayed in 2021. COVID has taken a heavy toll on events and venues to hold the events. Hopefully we will have an outdoor Hamfest later this spring. Stay tuned.

This is now 2021 which is the 50th anniversary of the club's founding. Plan on several special events and operating days. Ideas for the 50th Anniversary events can be submitted to Eugene, AB4UG or Brian, KN4EXJ who so far have volunteered for the Anniversary Committee. Some ideas submitted so far are a special 50th year name tag for all Club members, perhaps a picnic similar to one the Club did 3 or 4 years ago, maybe a special event station day and more.

With the start of the New Year it's time to start planning for Ham radio work or improvements to your shack, gear, antennas, or maybe a new operating mode or technique. This year I want to relearn CW and get skilled in PSK and Winlink. Extra study and maybe a little guidance from a Club expert will help. This is a Club with many experts in many areas of Ham radio, ask around and you would be surprised at all the help you can get.

Upgrading to a higher license class is also a worthy goal for 2021. There are online study groups available and there are some VE testing groups in the area. Ask some Club members near you for help, come to a Club meeting and ask for aid, and

do not forget to use the radio and repeaters to ask questions or get help.

Hopefully the COVID vaccines will open society back to normal and COVID will be last year's news. Stay Safe and look out for your friends and neighbors.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

2020 was quite a year. I don't think I'll miss it. Hopefully many of you were able to fill your time improving your skills and equipment. I couldn't operate as much as I hoped due to the family being home all the time. Having an attic antenna means you can't do much operating when teenagers are sleeping until noon one floor down. OFCOM, the UK's equivalent to our FCC, has a spreadsheet to help you evaluate exposure levels at your station: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/file/0022/204529/emf-calculator-v0.1.1.xlsx.

The Christmas bombing in Nashville exposed a surprising lack of redundancy and automatic fail-over in our telecommunications infrastructure. Damage to one central office affected landlines, cellular, and internet service across multiple states, with a cascading impact for users like aviation, 911 centers, and electric utilities. The CARS, TARC, and HEARTS repeaters are linked by radio to minimize that risk to us, and those RF links can be redirected in case of a site failure. Remember that when everybody wants to use the repeaters at once, a best practice is to establish a net to ensure orderly access. That's why familiarizing yourself with net

operations is so important. Go the extra mile and practice your net control skills on the Thursday Newcomers Net.

I did get myself a radio in a pre-Christmas deal. Airspy had a great discount on their HF+ Discovery SDR receivers and magnetic loop antennas. I connected mine to a Raspberry Pi server and my wifi, so now I can monitor HF and VHF on my laptop anywhere in the house. SDR dongles are incredibly powerful and you can get a competent one starting around \$20.

73, Tom/AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't paid your dues yet you are considered to be a member not in good standing. This means you can't vote on club business. If you do not pay by 1 February 2021 you will be removed from the club rolls and need to re-apply for membership. Please pay your dues!

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - JANUARY

January 2021!!! Hooray a new year and hopefully a better year.

January is a month of interesting weather – cold one day – warm the next. It seems like all of the snow and ice storms come in January. Get out that extra blanket or coat for the house and your vehicle. A car cools down as fast in winter as it heats up in summer so be prepared instead of reacting after you are stuck freezing. Put a pair of boots in your vehicle too, walking in snow, ice, or slush is hard enough but without good waterproof shoes wet feet only make you colder.

In December we had high winds when a front came through the Low Country. High winds usually mean trees down, taking down power lines, and many home heating systems require electricity to function. Be sure to read the instructions on

alternative heaters. Every year people die from improper use of space heaters, kerosene heaters, and other devices. Be a good neighbor and check in on elderly friends on cold days to make sure they are alright.

Since this is a new year we now have until June 1st to get prepared for Hurricane season. Springtime will bring tornado and severe weather events. Stand by to assist with communications as links overload or go down.

The Weather Service is going to be conducting SkyWarn classes in January and February. These classes will be sponsored by Low Country County Emergency Management Departments and will be virtual classes because of COVID. Check out the Weather Service website: www.weather.gov/chs for dates and times of classes. Also you can contact your County EMD office:

Berkeley County: 843-719-4166

Charleston County: 843-746-3804
POC: Jackie Ong.

Dorchester County: 843-832-0341

Take advantage of these classes if you can, even if you are a spotter and have taken these classes before, take them again as a good refresher.

Everybody STAY SAFE. Until Next Month, 73
Rick Valentine, N8BKN

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2, 2020			
Checking Balance September 30, 2020			\$ 9,533.53
Cash Receipts - October			
	Dues	390.00	
	Memberships	100.00	

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the NOVEMBER HYBRID MEETING

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

Monday November 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES: The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by President Rick Valentine, N8BKN, at the Golden Corral and Vice-President Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, on the linked repeater system at 7:00 PM on Monday November 9, 2020, at the Golden Corral in North Charleston, SC. Tom started taking check-ins around 6:45 PM.

Introductions: There was only about 22 members and guest at the meeting and 16 members or guest checked in on-line.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI
The September/October 2020 meeting minutes were published in the November 2020 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX
The August/September 2020 Financial Reports were published in the November 2020 newsletter and accepted as information.

Museum Ships on the air: Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL
Nothing to report

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ
Nothing to report

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC
Tom, K4WJC, wanted to pass on thank, from the Bike Ride officials, to those that helped with the bike ride. Already making plans for next year.

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX
No report

	Bank Deposit Error	0.44	
	Interest	0.08	
Total Receipts			490.52
Cash Disbursements - October			
	No disbursements	-	
		-	
		=	
		-	
Total Disbursements			-
Checking Balance October 31, 2020			<u>\$ 10,024.05</u>
Checking Balance October 31, 2020			\$ 10,024.05
Cash Receipts - November			
	Dues	605.00	
	Memberships	-	
	Interest	0.08	
Total Receipts			605.08
Cash Disbursements - November			
	Lee Miller, Postage	(110.00)	
		-	
		-	
		=	
		17.00	
Total Disbursements			(110.00)
Checking Balance November 30, 2020			<u>\$ 10,519.13</u>

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Working well.

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette, KO4BPH

It's past time to pay yearly Dues for 2021 year. Due to COVID problem, Lee request you mail your dues to him. If your dues were not paid prior to October 1st, you will no longer be able to vote on Club request.

Note from Lee, we have about 112 paid members and 161 members on the roster.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading: None

Second Reading: None

Emergency Prep

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

Plan to have an Operating Day on the Yorktown on Sat. Nov. 21st between noon and 4:00 PM.

Pay attention to ADA storm – path may take it across SC.

Still have about 20 days left in official hurricane season, don't let up awareness and preparations.

Rick mentioned there is a listing from the SCEMD about training programs available. Look at SCEMD.gov website for training programs.

Dorchester: Beverly, W3BRB – Meets on 2nd Saturday of the month, at the EOC.

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

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 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.

LowCountry ARES HF Net Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM on 3.959 MHz.

Newsletter / Cars Carrier and Website: Tom, AJ4UQ

Nothing to report.

Education & VE Testing: Connie, NR4CB

December 12th will be a regular test session at Tall Pines Baptist church at 9:00 AM. Contact Connie, nr4cb.ve@gmail.com, by email to register. Pre-registration is required.

If you wish to join the new Laurel VE team, contact Connie at nr4cb.ve@gmail.com

Still planning on having a Technician Training class on January 30th and 31st with a test session on January 31st at 1:00 PM, at MUSC. More details to follow as things firm up.

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS

Nothing to report

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA

Nothing to report

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG

Willie hopes the trailer is still there..

Old Business

Looking for ideas for the 50th anniversary next year. Any good ideas? Pass them on.

New Business

Lee requested \$110.00 to cover postage and envelopes for mailings. Voted on and approved.

Lee also passed out information on the Club's party next month. Make the selections you would like, but the item that gets the most votes is the item that will be served.

Announcements

No meeting at the Golden Corral next month, due to Christmas party at the round Holiday Inn downtown.

Tom, AJ4UQ, has volunteered to temporarily take over the CARS Carrier responsibility. With Michelle having to give up the PIO task, looking for someone to take over that responsibility.

Tom, K4WJC, would like someone to help him with learning APRS. May help with the bike rides.

Carl, WD4CXW, mentioned that the MARS test went well except for a few problems using the HF 10 meter bands.

Drawing

No drawing this month for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 7:32 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.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 problems, Golden Corral has decided not to have a dine-in dinner for Veterans, like past years. This year they have decided to pass out a free dinner card, that is good for a dinner and drink anytime up to May 31, 2021. All you have to do, is to drop by the Golden Corral, ask the cashier for the free meal form, fill out the bottom, give it back to the cashier and she should give you the meal card.

Active or former military members who have served in the U.S. Military can pick up a promotional card at participating locations during the month of November redeemable for a FREE "Thank You" Meal!

Promotional Cards redeemable from November 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021 for Dine-in Only, Monday-Thursday. Limit one free meal per person while supplies last.

MINUTES of the DECEMBER MEETING

The monthly Club Meeting and Christmas party were held at the Riverview Holiday Inn at 301 Savannah Hwy in Charleston SC 29407

Monday December 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES: The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting and party was called to order by President Rick Valentine, N8BKN at 7:02 PM, on December 14, 2020 at the Riverview Holiday Inn in Charleston SC.

Introductions: There was only about 17 members and guest at the meeting and Party.

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI
The November 2020 meeting minutes will be published in the ~~December 2020~~ January 2021 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX
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Nothing to report

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ
Nothing to report

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

Nothing to report

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

Nothing to report

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF

Nothing to report

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette, KO4BPH

Its past time to pay yearly Dues for 2021 year. Due to COVID problem, Lee request you mail your dues to him.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

Keith Mullis (Pending)

Rodney Perkins (Pending)

Keith and Rodney were voted in as Associate members, until they get their licenses.

Second Reading: None

Emergency Prep

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

No ARES meeting Saturday December 19th. Will have an Operating Day on the Yorktown on Sat. Dec. 19th between noon and 4:00 PM.

Dorchester: Beverly, W3BRB – Meets on 2nd Saturday of the month, at the EOC.

Berkeley: Linda KJ4EUV - Meet on last Saturday of the month. Their website is w4brk.org.

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 Controller occasionally.

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Nothing to report

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If you wish to join the new Laurel VE team, contact Connie at nr4cb.ve@gmail.com

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School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS

Nothing to report

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA

Nothing to report

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG

Nothing to report

Old Business

New Business

Announcements

Rick asked for a moment of silence, to remember our Club members that have gone SK.

Drawing

No drawing this month for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, and the food was gone, at 7:15 PM a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting and start the Christmas Party.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

NEW FCC LICENSE FEES

As this Carrier is being finished, the FCC released their Report and Order on “Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission’s Rules.” In short, this updates fees for FCC licenses, including Amateur Radio.

Most actions other than simple administrative updates (e.g. change of address) will incur a \$35 fee. Pass the technician test? Pay \$35 to activate your license. Ditto for upgrades, vanity call signs, and ten-year renewals. The fees won’t take effect until the FCC can update its computers and get the word out, which will take at least 30 days.

It’s not clear how the fees for new licenses and upgrades will be handled. What we can recommend is that if you’re studying for an upgrade, schedule a test now before the fees start. If you want a vanity call sign, apply now. If you’re within 90 days of your license expiring, renew now.

Read the report here. The new fees are listed in Appendix B at the end:
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf>

In other actions, the FCC is removing the option for receiving a paper copy of your license. They are moving to all-electronic communication, and will require an email address for all users in the ULS. You should log into ULS and ensure you have an email address on file.

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 or the club web site. Send it to aj4uq@arrl.net.

The club has a Twitter account, [@wa4usn](https://twitter.com/wa4usn). If you have an item to post, send it to AB4UG or AJ4UQ.

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