

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

March 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, March 8, 2021 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall and via radio on the repeaters.

MARCH MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another meeting is coming up. Since our last get-together we have had a VE session where 21 people took tests. Many passed or upgraded and the new Technicians got call signs on Tuesday Feb 16, 2021. Offer assistance to them to improve the experience and get them over "Mic Fright." In other words, talk to them on the air. Explain our complicated repeater system, welcome them to a club meeting or event, offer to "Elmer" them with operating procedures and easy ways to sound like an old timer.

One thing I have been hearing on the repeaters are requests for "Radio Checks". Remember you are hearing the repeater output NOT the incoming signal from the radio check request. Either reverse your receiver or explain this to the person. Inform the the Ham about the echo test feature on local repeaters, Key up and identify, press 44 (DTMF keys) unkey and wait for repeater to say "Ready", then key up and record message (Approx. 10 seconds max), unkey and listen to yourself as you sound to the repeater.

Another item needing mention is the limitations of the factory "Rubber Duck" antenna inside a car or building. Explain about putting the antenna outside the car giving an improved signal. Also your location to the repeater is important, for example the 146.790 repeater works well downtown and in Mount Pleasant but is not effective in Summerville. Learn to switch to a closer repeater they are all linked so get into one and you are heard on all 13.

Any experiences you have can aid a new ham with improving the enjoyment of this great hobby. We all made "rookie" mistakes it is helpful to share these errors with new hams and keep them from making the same mistakes.

Stay safe everyone, see many of you at the meeting.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

Not much to add this month. I invite you to contribute to the club operations. Let us know what skills you can bring to help us grow. It will help you grow.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

If you didn't pay your dues as of 1 February 2021 you were removed from the club rolls and need to re-apply for membership.

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - FEBRUARY

Another month closer to Hurricane Season. Spring time does bring severe weather like tornadoes, wind storms, flooding, etc. As a training event study what happened in Texas. Yes, that was a snow storm with ice and freezing temperatures. Results; power

outages due to downed power lines from wind and trees falling on lines. Wind and Solar power failures, no backup to the grid when wind and Solar failed. Lost water service due to frozen pipes and no power.

Everything that happened due to a winter storm and corrective/preventative measure can easily be caused by a major hurricane. Always stay prepared. People stayed warm in their vehicles; you should keep at least a half tank of gas since gas stations may have no power or resupply. Food deliveries were sparse and grocery restock became an issue. The supply chain nation wide was affected.

Expect more training when COVID is more controlled. Vaccines are being made available so get your shots folks, they do NOT hurt and not everyone gets any ill effects from them, I have both of mine (Pfizer) shots and had nothing more than a sore arm and slight itch at injection site of shot #1 and NO effects from shot #2. Get the shots.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division has scheduled a state-wide Communications drill for April 24, 2021. This is a Saturday and will task ARES to back up the normal South Carolina communications network.

Every time that Ham Radio has been called on during a real disaster you have stood up and done an excellent job. Drills and training exercises is how we perfect our communications skills. As I get more details I will keep everyone up to date.

Last, Willie, WB4SOG has resigned as chairman of the Communications trailer committee so we are looking for volunteers. Willie has some health issues so please think good thoughts for a speedy recovery he has worked tirelessly for this club and I thank him for his service and friendship.

Until Next Month, 73, Rick Valentine, N8BKN

FIELD DAY

I am seeking anyone interested in assisting with planning and running the field day activities this year. If you are interested in assisting with this

event, please contact me via email at kw4xq@att.net or by phone at 843-518-8224. Once I get an idea of who is helping, I will coordinate so we may meet as a group to collaborate for the event. This event is for the club membership as a whole, as well as any Hams or curious bystanders who happen by the Patriots Point facilities. I am planning to determine if we may park the trailer on the pier for this year's event (for GOTA purposes, and access to a rig for mobility restricted individuals).

KW4XQ – Delmer

HAMFEST

We're still looking for a good outdoor venue for a springtime tailgate.

Steve, KE4THX

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2020

Checking Balance December 31, 2020		\$ 10,146.81
Cash Receipts - January		
Dues	100.00	
Memberships	-	
Interest	<u>0.09</u>	
Total Receipts	100.09	
Cash Disbursements - January		
None	-	
	-	
	<u>-</u>	
Total Disbursements	-	
Checking Balance January 31, 2021		<u>\$ 10,246.90</u>

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the FEBRUARY HYBRID MEETING

MINUTES of the FEBRUARY MEETING:

The monthly Club Meeting was held at the Golden Corral at 4968 Centre Pointe Dr. in North Charleston 29418, Monday February 8, 2021 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 7:03 PM on Monday February 8, 2021, at the Golden Corral in North Charleston, SC. Tom started taking on-line check-ins around 6:45 PM.

Introductions: There was only about 12 members and 3 guest at the meeting and 9 on-line members and 4 guest check-ins

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI
The January 2021 meeting minutes were published in the February 2021 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX
The December/January 2020/2021 Financial Reports were published in the February 2021 newsletter and accepted as information.

Museum Ships on the air: Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL
The Yorktown digipeater isn't working, Tom will check it out.

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ
Del asks if anyone is interested in helping him get ready for Field Day, please contact him at kw4xq@att.net

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC
No report

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX
No report

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF
The idea to relocate the Club room may get a new Yorktown supporter.

There has been a report about a foreign language getting into the repeater system. Hopefully it was just poor conditions which allowed foreign stations to hit the repeaters.

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 dues not paid by Feb. 1st, you will be dropped from the roster.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

Ronnie Johnson KO4LES
Frank Tomczyk K1FHT
Victor Morawski WA3CHM
Donald "Nick" Gilliam KF5CVJG
John Sokolsky (TBD) (Assoc membership)

John was voted in

Second Reading:
None.

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month. No ARES meeting Saturday Feb. 20th.

Rick has been busy building Emergency Radio boxes, for emergency distribution when needed. The radios are the Kenwood TM-281A 2 meter only radios. Rick also mentioned a letter from the ARRL about the purpose of Ham Radio.

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 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, 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.

ARES HF Net 3.990.00 meets on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 PM.

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 & Website: Tom, AJ4UQ
Tom is still looking for someone to help with CARS Carrier Newsletter.

Education & VE Testing: Connie, NR4CB
February 13th will be regular test session at Tall Pines Baptist church at 9:00 AM. Contact Connie, nr4cb.ve@gmail.com, by email to register

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

Next test session scheduled for Apr 10th at Tall Pines Baptist church at 9:00 AM. Contact Connie, nr4cb.ve@gmail.com, by email to register.

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS - Nothing to report

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ

K4PSA – School Club Round-up this week, between 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM. If you hear youngsters calling from school, help out and answer.

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG:
No report

Old Business:
Still looking for location to possibly have a Tailgate event perhaps in June.

Anyone having an idea about how to celebrate the Club's 50th anniversary, contact Brian, KN4EXJ and share your ideas. Some ideas so far: have a picnic for all area Hams, in the Fall have a sit down dinner, and have a special event station from the Yorktown (either in the Club room and/or have the trailer in the Yorktown parking lot). Any other ideas??

New Business:
Looking at purchasing two copies of the book “Handheld Radio Field Guide”, one copy for in the Club room and one copy for in the trailer.

Announcements:
Tom wanted to make sure everyone has their email address on their FCC license database. If FCC can't get a hold of you, you may lose license..

Bryce mentioned that the 147.345 repeater will be down for a while, County working on tower.

Rick mentioned that the W4BRK, 146.610, repeater will also be down for a while, tower work.

Drawing:
No drawing this month for a one-year ARRL membership

Being no further business, at 7:33 PM a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

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.

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

