

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

April 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, April 12, 2021 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall and via radio on the repeaters.*

## APRIL MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

April already, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year is moving along as are events planned to celebrate this milestone in the Club's history and contributions to the Low Country.

Upcoming events include the following chances to operate:

M.A.R.S. Cross band event: May 8 and 9, 2021

Museum Ships: June 5 and 6, 2021

ARRL Field Day: June 26 and 27, 2021

Monthly on the Third Saturday from 12:30 til..

Join members of the Club and support these operating events and the advantages of the club room on the USS Yorktown at Patriot's Point Museum.

The Club is still looking for volunteers to aid "Standing Committees" and we need a Public Information Office Chairperson and a Co-Chairperson for the Communications Trailer. Contact any Club officer if interested. We also need a person to become the editor of the CARS Carrier, Club newsletter. Tom, AJ4UQ our VP is doing an excellent job as fill in editor, if interested in relieving Tom please volunteer and contact AJ4UQ.

The Adam's Run Repeater 147.345 will be out of service while antenna is being moved to a new tower at current site. Also the W4BRK repeater 146.610 is off the air because a new site is being considered, it will return to service in the future hopefully.

Check your equipment and remember some changes may be needed due to repeaters being relocated. Keep a copy of repeaters in your shack and vehicle for reference.

Any suggestions to improve the Club room or our station on the Yorktown bring them up. We as a Club can always do better for all of the members so put on your thinking caps and make suggestions to improve the Club. Think about Special Events, or help a Ham who needs help with a project.

Springtime brings ideas about improving antennas or mobile installations, demonstrate your expertise and make this hobby more enjoyable for a fellow Ham.

Everybody please let Lee, KI4LLJ know when you have gotten your COVID shot(s) so gradually the Club can return to in person meetings. I want everyone to feel safe and secure before closing out the on air meetings with in person only meetings like pre COVID.

See everyone in April.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

## NEWS FROM THE VP

The busy season is spinning up. Museum ships is on, and we'll be activating four ships. Field Day is at the end of June and by then we may be able to stay on board the Yorktown overnight. It's our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and there is talk of running a special event station in addition to food-centric events.

The Statewide exercise is going to try using 2m FM data to pass traffic. They will use the Vara protocol in point-to-point mode – no internet gateways. This is a mode I am unfamiliar with, but several club members have been experimenting with it.

The FCC published notice of new fees including some for the amateur service. The 30-day countdown to implementing the fees hasn't started yet, so there's time to slip in a license upgrade or call sign change before it costs \$35. The FCC web site is already set up to accept payment and the volunteer examiner teams will NOT be handling any money. My expectation is that after you pass a test, the license action will show up in your shopping cart at [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov), and you pay the fees to activate it.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

WooHoo!! No talk about dues being overdue, it's too late for that now. Oh, but 4 months from now...look out, it'll be that time again. Hey, it's not that I like begging folks for money, but I do get to communicate with a lot of you during dues season for some reason.

For this month's meeting (April) we hope to welcome in two new regular members with a positive vote.

Cheri Helgens KO4MLJ, a data analyst (who has attended meetings with her husband Chris) is now a Technician Class Ham and will have second reading this month. Chris and Cheri live in Mt. Pleasant.

James (Jim) Wasson KO4MNB, is a consultant (so someone thinks he's pretty smart anyway) and a General Class Ham and will also have second reading this month. Jim lives in Charleston.

I get my second dose (of COVID vaccine that is) on meeting day. If I feel ok I still plan on coming to the meeting with all my proper precautions of course. If I'm not there it will be because I'm feeling some of

those "reactions" to the second dose, but hopefully I'll be fine and see many of you there.

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,  
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - APRIL**

The National Weather Service wants to change Hurricane Season dates to 15 May 2021 until 30 November 2021. This is a two week earlier start. Seems like another busy year for storms. Start preparing your plans, evacuation routes, supplies, and gear you needed if staying or leaving.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Department has scheduled a Full Scale Exercise (FSX) testing Communications on Saturday April 24, 2021. The plan for the FSX is available for download at [www.ares-sc.org](http://www.ares-sc.org) so plan on participating it will be good training and practice for a real failure of Public Service communications.

Another opportunity to learn Emergency Communications is the "Comms Academy" at [www.ares-sc.org](http://www.ares-sc.org) look for date 03/02/2021. This is virtual training scheduled for 10 thru 11 April 2021. You can also review 20 years of previous classes too. This like all communications is always changing so try and stay current.

The SCEMD website also has training topics available and an e-mail listing to receive updates on training. Go to [www.scmd.org](http://www.scmd.org) for more information.

The recent weather threat on 18 March should be a wake up and lesson in preparedness. Businesses closed early, schools shutdown, on Wednesday before the storms. The State Emergency Management and ARES had a conference call explaining the State's preparedness and expectations of severe weather. Fortunately the weather was NOT as severe as predicted, but one year ago we had tornadoes in Berkeley County. Severe weather can happen any time and devastate an area.

ARES is always looking for new members. Now is the time to start training and considering helping the community during disasters. Public Service radio's and communications do fail, as a member of ARES we are the back-up communications team. Many operators will be required after the event too; remember recovery always takes longer than the event.

Remember there is a revision to the South Carolina Tactical Communications Plan. Use Version 4.6 which is on the [www.ares-sc.org](http://www.ares-sc.org) website. This describes how Ham Radio would be used during an event and how the SCHEART system will be configured and used, as well as county Simplex frequencies.

Until Next Month, 73, Rick Valentine, N8BKN

## **FIELD DAY**

I am planning to use Nigel's Good foods restaurant to cater the event for Saturday night. I will have a sign up sheet on Monday night to get an estimated number of those planning to participate. Any other members who intend to participate can also email me at [kw4xq@att.net](mailto:kw4xq@att.net) with the day, time, and intended mode to operate. This will help me to get an idea of which rigs and interfaces we need to have available.

Delmer, KW4XQ

## **HAMFEST**

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

Steve, KE4THX

## **MUSEUM SHIPS**

The Museum Ships Weekend is being held on 5-6 June 2021. The USS Yorktown, Laffey, and Clamagore will be activated from the club room as WA4USN, NT4HI, and NJ4DU respectively. It was proposed that the PBR boat at the Vietnam exhibit

be activated from the trailer, allowing members who can't navigate the Yorktown's passageways to participate. The boat has been accepted by the event organizers, and will operate as WA4USN.

To minimize confusion and simplify logging, we will use the following schedule:

Saturday: WA4USN- Yorktown from the club room

Sunday: WA4USN – PBR #105 from the pier head  
NT4HI and NJ4DU alternate from the club room.

Signups will be taken closer to the event.

Tom, AJ4UQ

## **RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE**

The 10k races we support are largely on hold for now due to COVID-19. We're keeping an eye out for the Isle of Palms Connector run in October.

Doug, KU4OC

## **SCHOOL CLUBS**

Schools are starting to resume in-person classes, but extracurricular activities are still very limited.

We were approached by the Charleston County Public Library system about helping with an International Space Station school contact. We have been working with them to submit a proposal based on the successful TARC/Palmetto Scholars Academy ARISS contact in 2017. If CCPL is selected we will form a team to support them.

Tom, AJ4UQ

## **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

We will be voting on the proposed budget and members need to attend to ensure we have a quorum.

Picnic / Special Events Station July 25, Sunday at Wannamaker Park - \$2,985.50

Banquet October 9, 2021 - USS Yorktown  
 USS Yorktown Hangar Bay III - \$3,885.00  
 Caterer - \$11,105.67  
 Awards/Name Tags - \$1676.69

Total - \$19,652.86

Brian, KN4EXJ

## FINANCIAL REPORT

CARS Treasurer's Report			
February 2021			
<b>Checking Balance January 31, 2021</b>			\$ 10,246.90
Cash Receipts - February			
	Dues	210.00	
	Memberships	80.00	
	Interest	0.08	
Total Receipts			290.08
Cash Disbursements -February			
	Warren Richey-2 Handheld Radio Field Guide	-	(50.04)
		-	
		=	
Total Disbursements			-
<b>Checking Balance February 28, 2021</b>			\$ 10,486.94

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

## MINUTES of the MARCH HYBRID MEETING

The monthly Club Meeting was held at the Golden Corral at 4968 Centre Pointe Dr. in North Charleston 29418, Monday March 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 7:00 PM on Monday March 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 19 members and 5 guest at the meeting and 14 on-line members and 6 guest check-ins.

### Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI

The February 2021 meeting minutes were published in the March 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 January 2021 Financial Reports were published in the March 2021 newsletter and accepted as information.

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

Hopefully Museum Ships will happen. More details to follow

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

Del looking for anyone interested in helping out with Field Day. Thinking about having the Club trailer on the pier, for people that have trouble reaching the Club Room.

### Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC

No Report

### Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX

No report

**Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF**

Admiral Flatley, once was the Chief Executive Officer of the Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum, is in favor of keeping the Club Room on the Yorktown.

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

If you did not paid your yearly dues by Feb. 1st, you have probably been dropped as a regular member and removed from the roster.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

James Wasson KO4MNB  
Cheri Helgens KO4MLJ

Second Reading:

Ronnie Johnson KO4LES  
Frank Tomczyk K1FHT  
Victor Morawski WA3CHM  
Donald“Nick”Gilliam KF5CJG

Second reading candidates were voted on and welcomed into the Club.

**Emergency Prep:**

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.No ARES meeting Saturday Mar. 20th. Will have operations day on the Yorktown from about 12:30 until.... SC Tactical plan updated to version 4.6. There will be a State wide communications test on April 24th.

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.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.

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 anyone interested in helping with the newsletter and anyone having an article for the newsletter, just submit it to Tom.

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

April 10th 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.

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

**School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA**

**Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG:**

Willie is in the hospital and will be stepping down as the Trailer committee chair-person. Looking for a replacement. Also, the trailer needs to find a new home. Current building has been sold.

**Old Business:**

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary news: The CARS club was started back in March 3, 1971. Thinking about having a summer event, open to all Hams and towards the end of the year, looking at having a banquet somewhere around Oct or Nov and may be held on the Yorktown in the Hanger Bay. Admiral Flatley may be the guest speaker. May cost \$20,000 to put on banquet.

**New Business:**

Del asked for about \$600 to fund Field Day. Voted on and approved.

A motion was made to ask people to contact Lee, KI4LLJ, and let him know if you have had any COVID vaccines. No personal information will be published.. The idea was to just put out the word what percent of members have had the vaccines. In hope of encouraging them to attend the meetings face to face.

**Announcements:**

Again the word was put out that the Adams Run repeater, 147.345 and the 146.610 Berkeley EOC repeater will be down for tower work.

**Drawing:**

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

Being no further business, at 8:02 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](mailto: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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