

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society February 2022 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, February 14, 2022 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.**

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another successful month for the Club. The January Operating day had seven (7) or eight (8) members work from the Club Room and contacts were made. Steve, AA2BB worked CW and son John logged. The next Operating day is February 19, 2022 (President's week-end).

Patriot's Point security is again requiring a photo ID that they will make for any member desiring frequent access to the Yorktown. So any Club member wishing unlimited access to the Yorktown will have to get a Patriot's Point issued ID.

Monday thru Friday appointments for IDs can be made by calling: Chris Jones at 843-881-5938. Mr. Jones is the Director of Public Safety. An ID appointment on Saturday is also available by calling: Bianca Bourbeau at 843-566-2766. Ms. Bourbeau is Night Supervisor of Public Safety.

The requirement for issued photo ID is being driven by the State of South Carolina, not Patriot's Point, so get your ID made or you will be required to sign in and sign out at the security station at the head of the causeway.

Progress is being made by Patriot's Point staff on the relocated Club Room space. Some lighting issues have been addressed, painting has been done, the A/C and heating has been installed but not hooked up yet, so it won't be long before a moving working party will be required to move into the new spaces. Access to the new spaces is a little easier for mobility challenged members but we have to see the

completed set-up. [Editor's note: as we go to press the moving plans may have changed.]

Not having a Hamfest is disappointing but getting a location is still the problem. If you have a location in mind get together with Steve, KE4THX.

Club members are dropped from the Club roster on 1 February, pay your dues. I want to thank Lee, KI4LLJ for his outstanding job as Membership chair and we are gaining new members every month.

Better weather is coming so start planning station upgrades now. Reach out to Club members for help or advise on your plans. There is a wealth of knowledge in the Club.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

## NEWS FROM THE VP

Last year was busy with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but 2022 promises to be busy as well. As we come out of COVID isolation we have four Museum Ships to activate, a trailer to operate from parks or events, more new members to elmer, more operating modes to learn, and new equipment to test. Bring a friend to the next club event and share the fun.

I run KH6TY's Lowcountry weak signal VHF digital net on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. If you have an all-band all-mode radio like a Yaesu FT-991, and a digital interface for FT-8, you can join in. Even if all you have is a RTL-SDR dongle you may be able to hear us. The trick is to get a horizontally polarized antenna. Lay your vertical down, or build a simple dipole, then point it toward

the Northbridge area of West Ashley. We meet at 2000ET Wednesdays and 2030ET Sundays on 145.700MHz, mode Contestia 64/1000. Send reception reports or requests for help to [aj4uq@arrl.net](mailto:aj4uq@arrl.net).

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Greetings CARS Hams from one who has been accused of being full of baloney on more than one occasion.

Well, since Federal and State T A X time is here it is time for me to wrap up the Society tax collecting business for this year (excuse me I mean dues collecting). This year I got a little more "annoying" trying to get people in the mood to pay rather than get another "reminder" from me but it worked out well as we have only four folks who haven't responded in one way or another. And I appreciate that none of you responded with another way.

We did have several of our family go silent: Ron Beltz KJ4IPB, Willie Bennett WB4SOG, Bob Bradshaw KN4JTZ, J.T. Greene K4ILT, and Dick Morgan KM4WVA. A couple have moved out of the area: Macon Cobb KJ4QEO and Robert Dillon AA1RD. We also had a couple of folks who decided not to renew as they hadn't been associating with the club most of the year and didn't think they would.

As I write this, there are still 4 days left that I might receive a last minute response from one or more of the four but I've done pretty much everything I could think of to reach out to them and get some kind of response (and I was a Navy Recruiter for awhile so I know something about getting hold of people). If I get no more responses in the affirmative, we will end up at the end of this dues season with 156 members in good standing including Rich KO4UZK who will be voted on at the February 14 meeting.

Speaking of meeting and eating, don't forget breakfast (currently Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 0900) which is for anyone who would like

to help us solve the world's problems or argue for their particular antenna type or radio gear (or argue the spelling of baloney/bologna or even donut/doughnut which was so controversial that Dunkins even took it out of their name). We meet at the Ladson Road Bojangles (easy to find as it's next to the Krispy Kreme Donut Factory and everyone knows where that is, right?).

Have fun with Tax Season. Hopefully I'll see you ALL at the February 14th meeting at Golden Corral across from Tanger Mall.

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,  
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Weather, weather, weather. If it is NOT hurricane season weather still can disrupt the Low Country. We have had two local freezing situations and still have some winter left. The cables on the Ravenel Bridge still get ice on them which tends to drop off as it warms up so stay safe and observant when on bridges and overpasses.

Training: The local counties are sponsoring FEMA and other emergency training courses so go to SCEMD website look under training (<https://scemd.org/em-professionals/training/>). Check out the calendar for courses of interest to you and sign up. Some courses are even being taught in a virtual mode so no travel is required, just your time and interest.

Keep a blanket or coat in your vehicle. The temperatures drop quickly after sunset. Running out of gas is no fun either keep an eye on your gas gauge and fill up as necessary. Be extra careful around schools and school buses. The kids can be confuse with some days in class some days virtual, they do NOT get into a habit or pattern, watch out for them running across in front of you.

Start thinking about spring rains and coastal flooding. Considering all of the snow and ice the up state has gotten this winter all of that will melt and flow down to the Low Country. Remember "Turn Around - Don't Drown" when approaching flooded

intersections. It doesn't take very much water to stall your vehicle out since many engine air intakes can be at bumper level not on top of the engine. Easier to stall you out unexpectedly.

Lastly, I have been contacted by Alan from James Island CERT and he would like to restart the Hurricane Expos of previous years this spring so plan on more events coming along. Lots of new residents here and experience with local disasters is limited time to get up to speed again.

Everyone stay safe and be careful.

Until Next Month, 73, Rick Valentine, N8BKN

## **FIELD DAY**

We had 2 guests at the GOTA station with 3 non-scored contacts. 12 participants on board ship. With two people contributing scores to the club from home. For the meal, we had Chicken Bog with southern seasoned green beans, along with various snacks and sandwich fixins for the remainder of the 24 hour period. I would like to thank Brian Smith (KN4EXJ) as Co Captain, as well as Rick (N8BKN), Warren (K4EVI), and others who helped set up and tear down. Rick served as safety officer. Tom (AJ4UQ) set up the computers for logging.

The propagation conditions were far from favorable, but we still made steady contacts. Thanks to all who participated and helped out. Please get with your friends and fellow Hams and invite them to participate this year. Radio conditions will be much more favorable and from what I understand, the new club room (for breaks) should be much more accessible than the prior one. The scores were presented in the prior month's Carrier.

On another note, we need to try to Elmer and bring up the slew of new Hams who have tested lately. We need to remind them, even technicians can work HF as long as there is an Extra or General next to them (logging and guiding). Field day was the one event that pushed me to get my Extra ticket.

Delmer, KW4XQ

Note: Del is ready to turn over Field Day Captain to someone else. On-the-job training is available.

## **HAMFEST**

It's a bit late for a February 2022 hamfest; perhaps we can find a venue for a tailgate event later in the spring. Let us know if you have any candidate locations. One of the sticking points we had with other venues was a requirement that all vendors have local business licenses, no exceptions.

Steve, KE4THX

## **MUSEUM SHIPS**

The Charleston PBR Group is looking for designs for a QSL card. What ideas do you have? The QRZ.com page could use some attention too.

Tom, AJ4UQ

## **RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE**

Nothing to report.

Doug, KU4OC

## **SCHOOL CLUBS**

COVID is still making it hard to work with the schools. School Club Roundup is coming up in February.

Tom, AJ4UQ

## **COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER**

Nothing to report.

Mike, KY4BO

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

See Brian's article at the end of the Carrier.

Brian, KN4EXJ

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Disbursements			(1,499.97)
<b>Checking Balance December 30, 2021</b>			<b>\$ 5,038.32</b>

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

### MINUTES of the JANUARY MEETING

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

Monday January 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM

**MINUTES:** The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by President Rick Valentine, N8BKN, at 7:03 PM on Monday January 10, 2021, at the Golden Corral in North Charleston, SC.

**Introductions:** There was only about 27 members and 0 guests at the meeting.

**Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI:** The December 2021 meeting minutes were published in the January 2022 CARS Carrier. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, the motion was seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX:** The November 2021 Financial Reports were published in the January 2022 newsletter and accepted as information.

**Museum Ships on the air: Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL:**  
Read article in CARS Carrier Newsletter

**Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ:**  
Read article in CARS Carrier Newsletter

**Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC:**  
Read article in CARS Carrier Newsletter

**Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX:**  
Read article in CARS Carrier Newsletter

CARS Treasurer's Report			
November-December 2021			
<b>Checking Balance October 31, 2021</b>			\$ 5,837.24
Cash Receipts - November			
	Dues	290.00	
	Memberships	60.00	
	Raffle Proceeds	53.00	
	Interest	0.03	
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>403.03</b>
Cash Disbursements - November			
	Christmas Party Deposit	(250.00)	
		-	
	ARRL 1 Membership	(47.00)	
	Bank Fee	(5.00)	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			<b>(302.00)</b>
<b>Checking Balance November 30, 2021</b>			<b>\$ 5,938.27</b>
<b>Checking Balance November 30, 2021</b>			<b>\$ 5,938.27</b>
Cash Receipts - December			
	Dues	580.00	
	Memberships	20.00	
	Raffle Proceeds	-	
	Interest	0.02	
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>600.02</b>
Cash Disbursements - December			
	Christmas Party	(1,494.97)	
		-	
	Bank Fee	(5.00)	
		-	
		-	

**Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF:**

Seabrook, 145.410, Doesn't seem to be linking – will check out when access can be granted.  
Georgetown, 146.700, reportedly not working, will check out shortly

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

Currently we have about 166 members. 20 people may be dropped from roster due to not paying dues. The October 2nd deadline has passed, if you don't pay your dues, you won't be able to vote.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

Rich Lorenzo KO4UZK

Second Reading:

Jim Wood KO4UCZ

David Malara KB2UBO

Second reading members were voted on and accepted into the club

**Emergency Prep:**

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. No ARES meeting this month. Plan to have an operating day on the Yorktown on January 15<sup>th</sup> from about 10:00 AM to about 4:00 PM.

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

Berkeley: Linda KJ4EVB – Meet on last Saturday of the month.

**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 Dr Tom, WW1TA, a note and he will get you the information.

**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. Until 146.760 repeater is repaired, may need to use 147.105.

**ARES HF Net** 3.990.00 meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM. (New time)

**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.

When using a low power hand held radio, it may be hard to check into the Nets.

**Newsletter / Cars Carrier & Website: Tom, AJ4UQ:**

Still looking for articles to put in the Newsletter.

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

February 12, 2022, will be the next 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](mailto:nr4cb.ve@gmail.com)

Connie will be starting their odd month testing the third Sunday, January 16, 2022, at 3 PM, at Reforge inside Citadel Mall next to Belk. This is a smaller room and will not handle as many people as the Tall Pines Baptist Church will handle. Pre-registration is required here also. If attendance is good, we may have more odd Sunday test sessions in the future.

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

**School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA:**

See article in CARS Carrier Newsletter

**Communications Trailer: Mike Whisenant, KY4BO:**

Ran generator for a while to get run time. Charged battery.

**Old Business:**

50th Anniversary spend-out - Picnic was \$1,918.92 and the Banquet was \$17,252.18.

### **New Business:**

The Charleston PBR Group, so far 10 members, has the call sign WD4PBR. There will be no dues, no equipment and July 22 will be the first WD4PBR meeting. The WD4PBR club will be a sub-club of CARS.

A sheet was passed around to see who wanted to sign up to become members of the WD4PBR club. So far 20 CARS members have signed up.

### **Announcements:**

#### **Drawing:**

Bill, N4JKA won the drawing this month for a one-year ARRL membership

Being no further business, at 7:29 PM a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

## **Charleston Amateur Radio Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Looking back, it has been quite a year. Over fifty years ago a group of amateur radio operators got together to form a club in the Charleston area. The name that they chose was the Holiday VHF Society and were authorized by the FCC to establish a repeater atop the round Holiday Inn in Charleston. The frequency assigned by the FCC was 146.940 MHz. Dues in those early days were just \$20.

A lot has happened since then, new repeaters added, a radio room established onboard the USS Yorktown, special events sponsored, new hams mentored and with the passing of time friends lost.

Last year we celebrated the Charleston Amateur Radio Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Like all good celebrations a committee was formed to plan the events and a budget was proposed.

In keeping with the traditions set by the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, a picnic for all hams in the greater Charleston area was planned at Wanamaker Park. The event took place on July 10<sup>th</sup> at the

Cypress Hall facility. The traditional picnic bill of fare was served: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips and soft drinks. Admission was free to all hams and their families. A Special event Station was set up using the club's communications trailer and contacts were made. The furthest distance contact was made to a station in Finland using 100 watts. A good time was had by all and new club members were introduced to HF communications.

The next event schedule was on board the USS Yorktown on August 21, 2021. A Special Event Station was set up using the club's radio room. Members and guests manned the radios making 56 contacts. The contacts included stations in 19 states, 3 Canadian Provinces, and Okinawa, Japan via a remote station in Michigan. More contacts would have been made if it were not for a major thunderstorm threatening the safety of the station and operators.

On October 9, 2021, at 6:30 PM club members and their guest gathered in Hangar Bay 3 aboard the USS Yorktown for a banquet celebrating fifty years of the Charleston Amateur Radio Society. Club President Rick Valentine was master of ceremonies. Dinner was catered by Top Shelf Catering Service of Mt. Pleasant. As club members checked in they were given an anniversary callsign name tag and asked to sign the guest register. After dinner, recognition was made of the founding members of the club, all but one who have passed away. Unfortunately, Roland was unable to attend due to the Covid pandemic.

Bryce Myers K4LXF was recognized for a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedicated service to amateur radio in South Carolina, the Low Country and the club. Our Guest speaker was Rear Admiral Robert E. Besal, USN Ret. who was filling in for Rear Admiral James H. Flatley III, USN Ret., who was unable to address us due to illness.

The November club meeting saw the recognition of the Anniversary Committee members, Brian Smith, Committee Chairman, Delmer Powell, Picnic, Avery Hill, Special Events, Erwin Heins, Special Events, Bill Dean, QSL and Certificates, and Mike Whisenant, Awards. Also recognized were

members of the club that manned the radios for the special events and of course the club engineers.

Appropriately the final event celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club was a Special Event radio event held on board the Yorktown on December 18, 2021. Club members with a couple guests manned the radios making over 100 contacts including 30 states and 2 Canadian Provinces.

While the anniversary year was one of celebration we would be remiss not to not the passing of J.T Greene III K4ILT (SK), Willie Bennett WB4SOG (SK), and Ronald Beltz KJ4IPB (SK) good friends to all.

As to the future, WD4PBR is a new call sign for the Patrol Boat River at Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum and will be added to the list of museum ships. Rick Valentine, club president, in last month CARS Carrier outlined the goals for the upcoming year. Take a look. As for myself, I think I will just hang out in a park somewhere and talk on the radio.

73 for now.

Brian Smith KN4EXJ 50th Anniversary Committee Chairman

## **CARS Members Interviewed on TV**

Channel 24 reached out to us about doing a feature on amateur radio as part of their “Hobbies” month. Chris and Cheri Helgens (KO4BPJ and KO4MLJ) volunteered and were interviewed for the Fox 24 News Now show aired on 17 January 2022. It is available on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGtiJ3eNKE>



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