

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society April 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, April 11, 2022 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

April has arrived. 4 months into the Club's 51st year. Expect some changes this year, as COVID restrictions go away meaning more opportunities to operate at Patriot's Point. Having 4 call signs means Museum Ship's will be extra fun in June, plus any time the Club membership wishes to activate one or more of the Club call signs events can happen now.

Start planning for Club events this up and coming year. Bicycle ride on April 16, 2022 for our first Club event. CERT disaster Expo May 7, 2022 at James Island Lowe's parking lot. Museum Ships on June 4-5, 2022, and of course ARRL Field Day June 24-26, 2022. More events may come yet so be prepared to support and operate these events.

Enjoy the nicer weather but remember severe weather can happen anytime here in the Low Country. Besides Hurricane season begins June 1st only 3 months away, prepare now not later.

I have received a request for an up-to-date calendar of Club events be on the website. How many other Club members would like a calendar on the web page? Contact me or any Club Officer with your input for this item or any item of or for the Club's benefit, that way it gets discussed and if necessary voted on at a Club meeting. [*webmaster's note: There IS a calendar on the website. Guess it needs work.*]

The FCC finally decided on a start date for the \$35.00 fee for Ham licensing. New licenses, renewal licenses, and Vanity call requests will

require this fee. Change of address, Upgrades, and other administrative actions will NOT require this fee. This fee is NOT the FCC idea, Congress passed a law in 2018 that did not exclude Amateur Radio so if you want to change it contact your Congressional representatives to change the law. The start date for collecting the fee is April 19, 2022.

Club Room improvements or suggestions are now requested. Since we are not moving anything we do to improve the Club room is a go. Speaking of CARS membership when you visit the Yorktown think about getting an ID badge made, they are magic if you are there during the hours the Museum is closed. It is a very simple procedure and only takes a few minutes.

Also don't forget the monthly operating day, the next one is April 16 and we could use a different call sign than the Yorktown.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

Thanks to Dr Steve AA2BB for another feature article at the end of the newsletter (and posted to the web site).

The weak signal (SSB) 2m net I conduct hasn't heard any newcomers lately, so I am considering running it in FM to let people without all-mode 2m radios listen in. You should be able load Fldigi software on your computer, then hold your radio speaker up to the computer microphone to decode the net, if you don't already have a sound card interface.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

Greetings from Ham Shack KI4LLJ.

Everything is quiet in membership again this month. Next month will be the beginning of preparations for the upcoming dues collection season. I know I may seem to make this sound like it's the all important lifeblood of the club, but in fact it's the only job I have so if I'm going to be important, the job has to be important. Our dues make a lot of things possible in our club as we don't have a lot of anonymous donors lining up to write us big checks. Even so we still have one of the most reasonable set of dues of any organization you might become involved in around here.

It would have been nice to see more of you at the Vietnam War Veterans' Day activity on the Yorktown, but we did have enough there to set up a working table and thanks to Steve AA2BB, with some help from Johnny WB4JMS, and Brian KN4EXJ we made several contacts including with other Museum Ships and Vietnam Veterans groups. There was a big crowd at Patriot's Point with a lot of obvious Vietnam Vets including every branch of service.

You ask what does this have to do with membership? We have 170 or so members in our radio club and only 8 or so showed up on the ship. Of course I'm only talking to those who didn't have something better to do. Come on down to the events, show our colors. You don't have to get dirty, but you certainly can help set up and take down equipment, or get a few contacts and give the other operators a little break.

Enjoy the next three months or so with no one bugging you to get those dues in (but save up because it's coming) and enjoy the last of the decent temperatures as summer is coming as well.

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

SkyWarn net is being re-started for the Low Country. Heading up this net will be Tom, WW1TA (Dr. Tom), Jim, KO4MNB and Rich, K4ZRL. Remember that Bobby, W4KSD is still the Amateur Co-coordinator for the Charleston Weather Service and the Weather Service call sign of WX4CHS. The net will be on the local linked repeaters of the CARS, HEART, and TARC system, NOT the SCHEART system. Hams have participated in SkyWarn for years because of our communications skills and always having a method to communicate.

James Island Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and the Town of James Island are hosting a disaster preparedness expo at the James Island Lowes store on May 7, 2022 from 0900 till 1400 (a Saturday) the Club and Charleston County ARES will be attending with the Club Communications trailer, give-a-ways, and another chance for Club membership to operate Club resources. Come on out and get yourself up to date on emergency preparedness from other agencies that are attending and how we all can interface and succeed. Hope to see many of you out there.

I have heard some misinformation on our local repeaters regarding emergency communications plans and procedures so here is a refresher course. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) has a State Tactical Communications Plan ver. 4.7 dated March 1, 2022 (https://ares-sc.org/?page_id=46). This explains how the State would interface with Amateurs during a communication event or disaster. It defines the uses for the SCHEART VHF and UHF radio repeater network and establishing local, regional, or State wide nets. In the document is also a list of actions should repeaters NOT be available or functioning. Our local Low Country repeaters all have back – up power and half of the repeaters are located on area Hospitals with generator power and the repeaters are on the emergency generator circuits. This means if we lose hospital repeaters we may have lost the hospital also. Next level of Communications after repeaters is Simplex. Each county has a dedicated Simplex frequency. Here is a list of the Tri-county State Simplex frequencies.

Berkeley County

Tactical Repeater: 146.610 MHz (input 146.010)
tone 123.0
Simplex Frequency: 147.585 MHz

Charleston County

Tactical Repeater: 146.790 MHz (input 146.190)
tone 123.0
Simplex Frequency: 147.570 MHz

Dorchester County

Tactical Repeater: 147.180 MHz (input 147.780)
tone 123.0
Simplex Frequency: 147.540 MHz

These are in the State Communications Plan but remember things change, currently the Berkeley County and Dorchester County Tactical Repeaters are off the air so contact the Emergency Coordinators for latest info.

Keep an eye on the weather Spring time is Tornado season and the South and Southeast have had several so far. Just be prepared you can NOT out run a tornado so do not try take shelter and be prepared.

Until Next Month 73 Rick, N8BKN

FIELD DAY

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

HAMFEST

Still looking for a venue. Send us your suggestions.

Steve, KE4THX

MUSEUM SHIPS

May and June are busy months on the ships.

A quick recap:

- The MARS Cross band event is in May.

- Museum Ships is in early June with four Ships to activate.
- Field Day is at the end of June.
- More events will be coming including Memorial day, D-Day, Veteran's day.

The proposed Certificate and QSL cards for WD4PBR will be posted on the web site for voting. The card design getting most votes will be declared the winner.

Rick, N8BKN and Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

There's a bike ride in the National Forest on Saturday April 16, 2022. Watch the web site for sign-up information (<https://tinyurl.com/CARS-events>).

Tom, K4WJC

SCHOOL CLUBS

Keep an ear out for K4PSA. We're doing a survey for getting antennas back up.

Tom, AJ4UQ

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

The trailer has been prepped to support the Hurricane Expo and any other events needing it.

Mike, KY4BO

FINANCIAL REPORT

CARS Treasurer's Report			
February 2022			
Checking Balance January 31, 2022			\$ 5,178.56

Cash Receipts - February			
	Dues	285.00	
	Memberships	20.00	
	Raffle Proceeds	30.00	
	Interest	0.04	
Total Receipts			335.04
Cash Disbursements - February			
	Postage, Envelopes	(10.60)	
	Pinckney Carter Insurance	(355.00)	
		-	
	ARRL 1 Membership	(47.00)	
	Bank Fee	(5.00)	
Total Disbursements			(417.60)
Checking Balance February 28, 2022			<u>\$ 5,096.00</u>

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the MARCH MEETING

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

Monday March 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES: The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by President Rick Valentine, N8BKN, at 7:00 PM on Monday March 14, 2022, at the Golden Corral in North Charleston, SC.

Introductions: There was only about 37 members and 2 guests at the meeting

Secretary's Minutes: Warren, KK4EVI:

The February 2022 meeting minutes were published in the March 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 January 2022 Financial Reports were published in the March 2022 newsletter and accepted as information.

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

Passed around the proposed QSL samples, to select a card for the WD4PBR station.

Field Day: Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ:

Del will not be able to act as Chairperson for the Field Day. Does anyone want to step forward and take his place?

Races: Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC:

There will be a MS Walk on James Island park April 30, 2022. Would like volunteers to support.

Hamfest Report: Steve, KE4THX:

No report

Repeater Report: Bryce K4LXF:

The repeaters all seem to be working okay now. Even the Sea Brook repeater is linking up. A reminder to all Hams, when checking in to a net, listen and if no one is heard, key down and say Net Control, unkey and wait a few seconds, to make sure no one else is talking. If no one is heard talking, keydown and announce to Net Control your information.

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette, KO4BPH:

Currently we have about 160 members. Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

Patrick Ewen KO4WSC
Christopher Bryant KO4VEN

Second Reading:

Tom Garrick KO4WAC

Tom was voted on and welcomed into the club

Emergency Prep:

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

- Plan to have an operating day on the Yorktown on March 19th from about
- Noon to about 4:00 PM
- There is a new Tactical plan out for the State, review for changes.

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

- They are looking for a new site for their repeater antennas

Berkeley: Linda KJ4EVV – Meet on last Saturday of the month.

- The repeaters will be down until a new antenna site is found

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 help you get setup.

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.

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:

Thanks to Dr. Steve for his write up on tower removal. Read article in CARS Carrier.

Education & VE Testing: Connie, NR4CB:

Connie will be moving to online registration at <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/laurel/29407/inperson> for her test sessions.

The next scheduled test session, at Tall Pines Baptist church, will be April 9, 2022, at 9:00 AM. Contact Connie, nr4cb.ve@gmail.com, by email to register or use the online registration website.

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

Connie will be starting their odd month testing the third Sunday, March 20, 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: They found radio equipment in closet, getting the equipment setup and tested

Communications Trailer: Mike Whisenant, KY4BO:

No problem to report

Old Business:

New Business:

Nominations committee has selected Bryce, K4LXF as Chairperson.

Whaley, donated a Kenwood 570D to club.

Tom, K4WJC, announced Ride after Bridge Bike ride is asking for about 10 Hams to support the ride on Saturday April 16th ride runs for different distances, largest is 100 miles.

Announcements:

There will be a MARS Crossband exercise on May 7th and 8th. Using the club room on the Yorktown.

Also looking to have an EXPO on May 7th at the James Island Lowes parking lot from 09:00 to about 14:00.

Looking at starting up the Skywarn Net locally every other Tuesday evening at 9:00 PM. All three items; a motion was made to support the items, a vote was taken and passed, to support the items.

Drawing:

Steven KG4ULR won the drawing this month for a one-year ARRL membership.

Being no further business, at 8:06 PM a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI.

CARS CELEBRATES NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERAN'S DAY

By Steve Saef, AA2BB

Tuesday, March 29th was the 5th annual National Vietnam War Veteran's Day. This holiday is to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. March 29th is a fitting date for this event as it was on March 29th, 1973 on which the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was disestablished. It was also the day that the last US combat troops departed Vietnam and it was on or about this same day that Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war (<https://www.vietnamwar50th.com>.)

At our last monthly meeting, Larry Groves, KJ4GZR, proposed that the CARS celebrate National Vietnam War Veteran's Day by operating a station on the USS Yorktown. Initially, his proposal was to do this next year; however, there was an immediate motion to hold the event this year which was carried by all present. With only 2 weeks notice, the club determined to make it happen.

It was a cold (for Charleston,) windy day with lots of sunshine when Club President, Rick Valentine,

N8BKN, opened the club room and began the setup for our station on the hangar deck. Lee Miller, KI4LLJ, Larry Groves, KJ4GZR, Warren Richey, KK4EVI, Brian Smith, KN4EXJ, Mike Whisenant, KY4BO, Johnny Saef, WB4JMS and myself (AA2BB) joined him. We installed the Butternut vertical on the flight deck and dropped a transmission line down to the hangar deck entrance where our station was set up. By 10:15am we were on the air.

The enthusiasm for our efforts was tremendous! We spoke with folks from Calgary and Nova Scotia to the Virgin Islands and a dozen or more states. DX contacts included Italy, Austria and Canada. All thanked us for making the effort to get on the air. We contacted several veterans who were especially appreciative, one of whom remembered escorting the Yorktown during the Vietnam war. Several visitors stopped at the station to learn about ham radio and ask questions about our event and the ship. In short, everything went as well as possible and we had a special day honoring our Vietnam veterans.



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