

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society March 2023 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 13, 2023 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Seems we have gone from winter to almost summer weather. Even though the ground hog says six (6) more weeks of winter and many areas north of us are having winter weather, the Low Country is in the 70's and 80's. Start planning more outdoor events participation, any repairs needed to antennas, maybe even new installations of antennas. Good luck everyone.

As everyone knows February is the last month to pay dues otherwise you are no longer a member of the Charleston Amateur Radio Society. Our Membership Chairman, Lee, KI4LLJ and his designated back-up Jeanette, KO4BPH have done an outstanding job at contacting and maintaining our membership. I personally want to thank them for their efforts and results. Make their task easier by planning to pay your dues on time or a little bit early.

Many operating events are starting to happen. Check the calendar in QST magazine for more information and the WA4USN website for local activities. Sign up for the bike ride in April. It is a good event to start to learn about public service and if concerned ask to be placed with a more experienced operator so you can learn. We ALL started out as new Amateurs even if like Bryce, K4LXF that was many years ago. Check out State QSO parties, a good way to get to Worked All States awards.

HF is slowly starting to open up this cycle. It is spotty but long-distance communications are

possible on 10 Meters and 15 Meters lately. Many contacts have been listed on FT-8 and other digital modes, might be time to learn how they work. Ask Club members what modes they work on and about their station set-up. Your situation may have a solution.

Hope to see everyone either at the meetings or on the air through various nets or rag chews.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

I'm seeing reports that the solar cycle should peak this fall, so it should be a good summer for operating HF. If you don't have privileges on HF, now's the time to upgrade – especially since the General class question pool changes in July.

The better band conditions also mean that modes other than FT8 are working. PSK-31 is still a bit iffy due to its lack of forward error correction and fade resistance. Listen around 14.071 MHz or 7.071 MHz for some odd-sounding modes and jump in. Ensure the RSID is turned on in your software. Not only can you have a conversation, there are modes that let you send small pictures.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

No report. Did Lee forget to pay his own dues and get dropped from the roster?

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

New month, new items to prepare for personal safety and community aid.

Springtime leads to severe weather events like thunderstorms that knock out power by trees falling on power lines; also tornado activity ramps up in March and April. Stay weather-alert please.

March 11, 2023 is the State Full Scale Exercise (FSX). During the week leading up to Saturday the SCHEART system will link up for State Emergency Management Department to test. ALL message traffic will begin and end with "This is an exercise" As hams remember that statement, so everyone then knows a simulated message versus a real emergency. Rule #1 is a real emergency takes priority and stops the simulation.

The exercise scenario is a MAJOR hurricane approaching the coast of South Carolina, I-26 has been reversed, and a nuclear incident occurred at the VC Summer site in the upstate. The exercise will start on Saturday at 0800 with a County EOC roll call at 0900. I would like any ARES member or Amateurs participating to listen on the Low Country repeaters for a roll call at about 0930. After the 0930 local repeaters roll call I would like to test the Simplex frequencies available. I will call on the repeater each checked in station and shift to 146.580MHz after everyone has used that frequency I will switch to Charleston County assigned frequency of 147.570MHz, next go to Berkeley County assigned frequency of 147.585MHz, and lastly Dorchester County assigned frequency of 147.540MHz. The purpose is to test can your station contact your County EOC directly or do you have to use a relay. I get to learn if Charleston County EOC is able to contact other County EOC's directly or is a relay needed. One important item is: The Awendaw tower repeaters are OFF. That means the 146.760MHz, 441.725MHz, and the DMR repeaters are down. Second the State DMR system will be in Emergency mode meaning NO PRN.

Do I believe ALL Low Country repeaters will fail? NO, our network is robust enough to provide good

coverage but simplex is ALWAYS a backup mode so practice is good and using a different repeater than normal is good knowledge to have.

Hope you all participate and learn your stations' limitations and strengths, Make plans to improve your station and personal skills.

Until Next Month, 73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

FIELD DAY

No report.

KN4EXJ, Brian Smith, Field Day Captain

HAMFEST

No report.

Steve, KE4THX

MUSEUM SHIPS

We have registered our three ships for Museum Ships Weekend 2023. Expect a sign-up sheet for operators closer to June.

Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

Sign up for the 2023 Ride the Lowcountry bicycle ride on 15 April 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/CARS-events>.

Tom, K4WJC and Doug, KU4OC

SCHOOL CLUBS

Nothing to report.

Tom, AJ4UQ

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

Cars trailer is doing well, no changes to report.

Mike, KY4BO

Introductions: Members Attending 38, Visitors 4

FINANCIAL REPORT

Announcements: None

CARS Treasurer's Report			
January			
Checking Balance December 30, 2022			\$ 3,739.33
Cash Receipts January			
	Dues	485.00	
	Memberships	60.00	
	Raffle Proceeds	59.00	
	Interest	0.03	
Total Receipts			604.03
Cash Disbursements -January			
			-
			-
	Postage-Mail Brochures	(10.95)	
	ARRL 1 Membership	(47.00)	
	Bank Fee	(5.00)	
Total Disbursements			(62.95)
Checking Balance January 31, 2023			\$ 4,280.41

Officers Present

Rick Valentine, N8BKN, President
Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, Vice President
Secretary, Brian Smith, KN4EXJ, Secretary
Charlotte Grove, KJ4PLX, Treasurer

Secretary's Report: Brian Smith, KN4EXJ

Comments or Corrections Accepted as Information

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX

Comments or Corrections Accepted as Information.

If you are not receiving the Cars Carrier please see Lee – Membership and verify your email address.

Standing Events Reports

Field Day: Brian, KN4EXJ

Still planning on operating the 24 hours of Field Day.

Hamfest: Steve, KE4THX

No Report

Museum Ships: Tom AJ4UQ

Our three ships have been signed up for this year a sign up list will follow as we come closer for those wishing to participate.

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ

No new information

Carriers Carrier/ Website: Tom AJ4UQ

Articles from club members are always appreciated. If you had something interesting happen radio wise share with the rest of us.

Education/Testing: Tom, AJ4UQ

Held a VE test session on 11 February with two upgrades and one new ham.

Next testing is Sunday 26 March at 1pm on Seabrook Island. It is in conjunction with a technician class being taught that weekend. Contact Warren KK4EVI for information on the class.

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the FEBRUARY MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society February 13, 2023 Monthly Meeting

Meeting Called to order at 7:00pm by Rick Valentine N8BKN President

Repeaters: Bryce, K4LXF

Yorktown repeater was putting out low power, we replaced it with a new repeater and full service has been restored. The Walterboro repeater was having problems and it has been resolved.

Membership: Jeannette, KO4BPH

Four first readings, one is an associate member.

Floyd Simmons, General License
Steven Thomas. Tech

Membership stands at 167, and name tags are available.

Emergency Prep:

Berkley County, Linda, KJ4EUV – No Report

Charleston County, Rick, N8BKN
March 11th state emergency drill, Cat 4 hurricane hitting the Low Country, with a nuclear disaster in the up state. Simplex operations will be tested, Check the county simplex freq. and try to contact the County EOC and if not try the repeater. Try contacting local and then end local. Simplex freq. are 147.570 and 146.580. Archie has his own standalone repeaters additional information will follow. Additional information will be posted the closer we get to the drill date.

Dorchester County, Beverly, W3BRB – No Report

Communications Trailer: Mike, KY4BO

Nothing new to report.

Nets:

Sunday: Low Country ARES net 2000hrs – 2020hrs
SC ARES net 2000hrs -2130hrs on the SCHEART repeaters

Tuesday: SC ARES HF net at 1800hrs on 3.990MHz

TARC Net 2000hrs -2100hrs on the Low Country repeaters

Wednesday: 1st and 3rd Wednesday Weather Training net 2000hrs

Thursday: SCHEART Training net 0900hrs – 1030hrs on the SCHEART repeaters

New Comers net 2000hrs -2100hrs on the Low Country repeaters

Old Business:

Bike Ride: Tom, K4WJC, is seeking hams to man the check points for the Ride the Low Country bicycle ride April 15, 2023 additional information can be found at:

RidetheLowCountry.com

Date: April 15, 2023

The ride will be starting at the Awendaw Municipal Park 7900 Doer Rd. Awendaw, SC. This ride is a multi- distance bicycle ride. Looking for Hams to man the check stations and rest stops. Contact Tom K4WJC@att.net or phone (843) 302-6242. This an all-day event. Looking for 14 ham operators with mobile UHF/VHF communications.

New Business:

Calendar of Events for Club are listed in the CARS Carrier.

Operating Days Need more participation from club members. Do we need to continue this event? Discussion followed.

Membership Recruiting continue the efforts in helping the club grow.

What is POTA. A brief explanation. POTA stands for Parks on the Air and is a spin off from the celebration of the Bi Centennial of the National Parks Service. Amateur Radio Operators were encouraged to set up in a national park and try and make contacts with other operators. Since then POTA has grown to include national parks, recreational areas, wildlife preserves as well as recognized state parks not only in the US but in several countries around the world. In South Carolina alone there are over 146 locations designated as POTA parks. It cost nothing to participate and the participants are divided into two groups, Activators and Hunters. Activators go to the park and try and make at least ten contacts to “activate the park”. Hunter on the other hand can be at home or in another location while they try to make contact with the Activators. Paper certificates are awarded based upon the number of contacts made, parks activated and other criteria established by the POTA organization.

The CSS Hunley reenactment at Breach Inlet on the Isle of Palms.

Drawing: Larry, KJ4GZR
Del is the winner.

Other New Business:

Newcomers net needs net operators. Contact Don Langdon at if you can help. The Net is not a CARS Club Net.

Meeting Adjourned 1948 Hrs.

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