

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society February 2024 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 12, 2024 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Another month is complete. There are several people that I wish to praise and compliment for the outstanding job they do for the Club. Tom, AJ4UQ who is the Vice President, Cars Carrier editor, School programs coordinator, and lead person for Museum Ships event every year. Charlotte, KJ4PLX maintains the Club funds and accounts excellently. Brian, KN4EXJ our secretary keeps the records accurate and open for Club members. And Lee, KI4LLJ our outstanding membership lead person keeps up with call sign changes, our database, membership issues and keeps me in line during the meetings. I know there are more that I have not mentioned but everyone makes my task as President easier, and I could not function without them.

The Club has a new year and new events to participate in. I asked about the monthly Club operating day in Yorktown while I only had a few members comment to me they were all positive and more members have attended the last two operating days so we will continue to make the Clubroom available for operating. Are there any events the Club would like to participate in? We usually do not participate in last month's Winter Field Day, but any events or ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please let the officers know and are you willing to be the lead person for an event.

Hope everybody survived the holidays, got some neat new equipment, and picked up what Santa did not bring them.

With the groundhog predicting an early Spring now is the time to start planning new projects and assisting other Amateurs with their projects. Recently I had the opportunity to help install a new antenna for one of our Club members. The test after the installation seemed good and I am sure more information will be available as more operating is done. Offer to help I learn something new every time because every project is unique.

Everybody stays safe, watch out for yourself, family, and neighbors for the entire year, not just the first month.

73 Rick Valentine, N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

One of the ham-related podcasts I listen to is the QSO Today show (<https://www.qsotoday.com/>). The host, Eric 4Z1UG, interviews a ham every week, and his closing question is "what advice do you have for a new or returning ham?" Inevitably the advice includes getting involved with a club. Clubs bring together expertise, equipment, events, and more. As a member you can help steer the direction of the club and what we do.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

Well, the most traumatic part of this job (the February 1st drop dead deadline) is now behind us. Thank you to all who heeded the final remember letter and sent your dues in at the last minute. Although I still have to do an extensive audit of my records, it appears we may have lost about 36

members this year due to failure to renew. That's not too bad in the big picture as that is somewhere around the number we turn over each year. The saddest part of this statistic is that it is bigger than the number we gained this year, so for the first time since I took over the chairmanship, we actually shrunk as a club, not by much (about 8 people) but it may allude to the fact that maybe we're not doing everything right to retain our folks. Hopefully this will be a wakeup that we need to look at maintaining contact with those who don't always attend meetings and make sure that they know they are an important part of our group. If you know someone in the club that can't make it to the meetings on their own, please reach out and offer your assistance. Some of the folks we lost this time were long time members, some of whom are averse to driving in the dark, or don't understand they can attend without having to buy a meal. I will make sure in my mailings that I express to all that we are a club together and difficulties can be overcome. Speaking of difficulties, if you did not receive a membership card, and believe you have paid your dues, please contact membership as soon as possible at ki4llj@arrl.net, or text to (843)518-0669 (text is better than a call as I will have a record of the message but if you just want to talk to me go ahead and call). I will leave everyone in the database at least until this newsletter goes out so that everyone will get one and get a chance to respond.

Lee KI4LLJ and Jennette KO4BPH
CARS Membership Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Four more months until the 2024 Hurricane season starts. Now is the time to prepare. Help your neighbors and friends that have never been through a hurricane. Lots of new folks have moved to the Low Country and may not know what you have learned by living here. Plan your evacuation route, drive it on a rainy Sunday, then plan route B when construction or flooding prevents using the primary direction. Also assemble the stuff you need to take with you, make sure it all fits and remember your pets do not leave them behind.

Every year the State of South Carolina must do an exercise to evaluate their emergency plans. This year's State test will be on March 12, 2024 and March 13, 2024. Put these dates on your calendar so if you hear emergency communications or strange communications you have some idea about it. This year the State will be practicing an earthquake of unknown intensity that occurs on King Street and devastates a 10 mile area of downtown, Mount Pleasant, West Ashley, and part of North Charleston.

The counties also must do an exercise and I will let you know when each county is doing their exercise. The Section Emergency Coordinator, Daniel, WD2DW is planning an ARES exercise for October 5, 2024 or October 6, 2024. As I get more information about it, I will get the word out to everyone.

Right now, only weather is a concern but never forget this is an earthquake area and if dams break in the upstate or midlands ALL that water will come to the Low Country. High tide will flood the usual streets and make driving dangerous always when you come to a flooded road do NOT drive through the flooded area, please "Turn around, don't drown."

Until next month Stay safe and check into the Sunday ARES net in 2000.

73 Rick, N8BKN

FIELD DAY

Letters of invitation have been sent to local politicians and presidential candidates. President Trump acknowledged receipt. Nicky Haley will do her best to attend. Robert Kennedy has acknowledged receipt and added us to his mailing list. Mayor Cogswell will be away but will contact us if anything changes. Charleston City Councilman Ross Appel will likely attend.

We plan to send invitations to the local media in the spring.

Budget of \$2,000 to be proposed for a vote at the next club meeting. All unused funds will be returned to the club.

Avery Hill, W4QYV, will be my assistant in overseeing FD operations.

Brian Smith, KN4EXJ, Field Day Captain for 2022 & 2023, has provided advice on planning.

Bill Dean, N4JKA, may visit us from his new home in Connecticut to assist with the GOTA station.

Avery will be the SSB Captain. I will plan on being the CW Captain, but if someone is interested please let me know. I would be happy to delegate that.

Set-up and Take-down teams will be assigned. If you are interested please let me know.

Anyone wishing to assist with FD operations or would like to learn morse code should contact me.

Steve, AA2BB

HAMFEST

Fingers crossed we will have a place for a hamfest in February 2025

Paulette, KJ4AIK.

MUSEUM SHIPS

Nothing to report.

Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

Nothing to report.

Tom, K4WJC and Doug, KU4OC

SCHOOL CLUBS

Nothing to report.

Tom, AJ4UQ

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

The CARS trailer has new caution cones.

Mike, KY4BO

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2023			
Checking Balance November 30, 2023			\$ 4,682.50
Cash Receipts - December			
	Dues	192.50	
	Memberships	20.00	
		-	
		=	
Total Receipts			212.50
Cash Disbursements -December			
		-	
	Christmas Party	(1,985.00)	
Total Disbursements			(1,985.00)
Checking Balance December 31, 2023			\$ 2,910.00

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the JANUARY MEETING

**Charleston Amateur Radio Society
January 8, 2024 Monthly Meeting**

Meeting Called to Order: 1900 Hrs. by President Rick Valentine, N8BKN

Introductions: Members attending: 38 Guests: 2

Announcements:

TARC Winter Field Day/ Tailgate Event 27 and 28 of January 2024 location to be determined. Consult the TARC club website for additional information.

General Ham Class, March 16, 2024 and March 17, 2024 with VE Exam on the 17th, at the VA hospital

HR 4549 bill in the South Carolina house removing the regulation on amateur radio antenna limitations See the Bills HR 4006

Weather Alert:

SCHEART net will be linked from 0800 to 2000 due to expected state wide severe weather.

Berkeley County Offices will be closed Tuesday January 9th due to inclement weather. Offices to open January 10th.

SkyWarn class scheduled for 9 January has been canceled due to weather.

Secretary's Report – Brian, KN4EXJ/ Warren, KK4EVI – Comments or Corrections accepted as Information. Correction to Gregory Kellum call sign it should be KQ4LEH. Comments or Corrections accepted as Information. **Accepted**

Treasurer's Report – Charlotte, KJ4PLX – Comments or Corrections Accepted as Information. **Accepted**

Standing Events Reports:

Field Day – Steve, AA2BB- No Report

Hamfest – Paulette, KI4AIK – No Report

Race Support Reports:

Doug, KU4OC – No Report

Tom, K4WJC – No Report

Repeaters – Bryce, K4LXF –

Communications Trailer – Mike, KY4BO – Traffic Cones obtained

Emergency Preps:

Berkeley County, Linda, KJ4EVV – Last Saturday of month

Charleston County, Rick, N8BKN – 2nd Saturday

Dorchester County, Beverly, W3BRB –

Nets:

Sunday: Low Country ARES net 2000 Hrs. – 2020 Hrs.

SC ARES net 2000 Hrs. -2130 Hrs. On the SCHEART repeaters

Tuesday: SC ARES HF net at 1800 Hrs. on 3.990MHz

TARC Net 2000 Hrs. -2100 Hrs. on the Low Country repeaters

Wednesday: 1st and 3rd Wednesday Weather Training net 2000 Hrs.

Thursday: SCHEART Training net 0900 Hrs. – 1030 Hrs. on the SCHEART

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

School Clubs – Tom, AJ4UQ – No Report

Education/Testing – Eugene, AB4UG – No Report

CARS Carrier/ Website – Tom, AJ4UQ – No Report

Museum Ships – Tom, AJ4UQ – No Report

Membership – Lee, KI4LLJ –

Total Membership to date 190

Paid up Members 143

Regular Voting members 141

Lifetime members 4

Congratulations to Michael Bell KQ4MEA, passed the Amateur Extra Exam

First Readings:

Harmon Shade, K4HIS, General license

Second Readings:

Old Business:

WD4PBR QSL Cards – Still waiting.

New Business:

Roanoke ARRL Division Town Hall meeting held

2800 clubs in ARRL/ 200 clubs in the Roanoke Division

Club grant program is up for decisions

Recognition of collective ham knowledge

March 8-9 Charlotte hamfest

March 28th next ARRL Roanoke Town Hall Meeting

New Members are always sought.

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Charleston Amateur Radio Society



Any Other New Business?

Drawing – Larry,

Tip the wait staff

Meeting Adjourned: 19:58 hrs

Brian, KN4EXJ