

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society April 2025 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 14, 2025 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to springtime/summer in the Low Country. So far, the Club is getting repeat visitors to the Clubroom and more interest in Amateur radio. Always try and recruit members for the Club and display the value and fun in this fine hobby.

First order of business, Bryce, K4LXF has informed me that he is declining my nomination as Nomination Committee Chair. So, I got Jeanette, KO4BPH to volunteer to be Nomination Committee Chair. Interested in assisting please contact Jeanette.

Still time to prepare for summertime events. Volunteer for the upcoming Bike ride event. Assist during MARS cross band event, prepare for Museum Ships weekend, and of course contact Steve, AA2BB or Avery, W4QYV about Field Day support. Also, the Battle of Midway from World War II and the loss of the Yorktown CV-5 on June 7, 1942 special event with call W2Z. Bill, K4KOA will be operating from June 4 until June 7.

Watch for severe weather events and wildfires. There are stormy weather fronts coming through because it is that time of year. The Table Rock fire is still burning in the upstate and many rivers are flooding so stay informed and safe.

Anyone needing assistance with Amateur radio projects now is the time to plan and ask for help. Weather, temperatures, and semi predictable rains make this time of year ideal. So, ask for help.

Another springtime event is the Hamfest season has begun again. Plan on going to one and ask for ideas

or if anyone may need parts or stuff. Remember your friends need stuff too.

Anything you can suggest to the Club contact an officer and present your ideas or skills for another Club project. Always looking for new modes, operating skills, or simple projects to benefit the Club membership.

Until next month, 73
Rick N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

Once again we're moving into the busy season for activities – Ride the Lowcountry, MARS crossband test, Museum Ships Weekend, and Field Day. Lots of chances for you to get out and play radio.

Check out Brian KN4EXJ's article below on the Field Day GOTA station, and consider taking a shift on this public relations component of the weekend.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

Since there were no second readings at the last meeting there were no new members last month. Since there were no first readings at the last meeting we will have no new members this month.

We are, therefore, in a period of new member stagnation. We all need to consider if we know someone in the Ham Radio community that is not a member, that would make a good member. We all also need to consider, being a member, if we can benefit the club by participating in at least one of the activities that we vote to support.

Speaking of that, the Ride the Lowcountry bike ride is coming up on the 12th of April. If you can participate in this event, either at a rest stop along the course, at the start finish line, or as a communicator for one of the vehicles that drive the course to assist riders in need, consider contacting Linda KJ4EVV at linda.b.selleck@gmail.com and ask what you can do. Lets be members with a purpose.

Lee KI4LLJ and Jennette KO4BPH
CARS Membership Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Another month closer to Hurricane season. Watch the weather it can and will change quickly and could be surprising. There have been Hurricanes in April and May, I guess Hurricanes can't read a calendar. A hurricane in April or May will appear offshore quickly and NOT provide much warning so prepare for the June start now.

According to the weather service, the Low Country has received less rain than normal for this time of year. Be very careful burning outdoors, contact the local Fire Service about burn bans or the State Forestry Service. Be aware the in-session legislature is discussing increasing penalties on burning. Also, there is more debris and fuel for wildfires on the ground so please be careful.

With the milder weather there is an increased interest and activity in Parks on the Air (POTA) this is an excellent test your portable/emergency station operation. You learn set-up and take down procedures, antenna types and positioning, emergency power consumption, and outdoor conditions. This great practice for Field Day in June. Just follow all of the park's rules and leave a great impression of Amateur Radio.

If you go hiking or exploring watch for wildlife emerging from winter sleep. Warm temperatures brings out the native critters like snakes and alligators. Even starting to see wildlife that didn't get across the roadways safely. Just be careful and safe.

Until Next Month, Stay Safe

Rick, N8BKN Charleston County Emergency Coordinator.

FIELD DAY

Still looking for a GOTA station captain. Media invites to go out this month. Plan on a motion for CARS to operate a FD station this year and to approve a budget for the event at this month's meeting.

State Representative Sylleste Davis, District 100, joined us last year, is very supportive of our efforts and plans to attend again this year. Gary Santos, Mount Pleasant Town Council also plans to attend.

As an aside, I'm finding politics is more than just writing letters. I saw Gary Santos at the Mount Pleasant half marathon where he fired the starting gun. I ran into Sylleste Davis at an independent medical practice meeting in Columbia where she was a speaker. It's interesting how paths cross and things fall together.

Please let me or our FD Co-Captain, Avery Hill, W4QYV, know if you're interested in helping.

Steve, AA2BB

HAMFEST

Nothing new for Hamfest

Paulette, KJ4AIK.

MUSEUM SHIPS

Museum Ships Weekend is the first week of June. The club will also have a 1x1 special event call sign, W2Z, for the USS Yorktown CV-5. We have registered the USS Laffey, Mk II PBR, and USS Yorktown (CV-10 only for MSW credit).

Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

We will be supporting the Ride the Lowcountry bike ride (<https://ridethelowcountry.com/>) on 12 April 2025. This ride puts us out in the National

Forest away from cellular coverage, making it a great candidate for ham radio support. Work the whole day (starting around 0700) or do a shift during the day.

RSVP direct to Linda kj4evv@gmail.com.

Tom, K4WJC and Doug, KU4OC

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Everybody knows about the linked repeaters, club room, and communications trailer that the club provides as services to the membership and community. There are some other, less-well-known services that we provide, and my intention is to raise awareness about them and increase the number of members who can support them.

These services include the automatic packet reporting service (APRS) stations WA4USN on the Yorktown and in Knightsville, and W4HRS at Trident Hospital.

The club also has an IRLP node for the W4HRS repeater at MUSC. It has been off the air since the computer hosting it died, but we’ve kept the node active in the system.

Watch for more information on these services in the future, as well as ways you can help.

Tom, AJ4UQ

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

Nothing to report.

Mike, KY4BO

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2025			
Checking Balance January 31, 2025			\$ 1,555.52
Cash Receipts - February			

	Dues	430.00	
	Memberships	20.00	
	Raffle Proceeds	41.00	
		=	
Total Receipts			491.00
Cash Disbursements -February			
	Lee Miller - Envelopes	(29.31)	
	ARRL Membership	(59.00)	
		-	
		=	
Total Disbursements			(88.31)
Checking Balance January 31, 2025			\$ 1,958.21

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the MARCH MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society
Monthly Meeting
March 10, 2025

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

Introductions: Members attending: 42
Associate: 1 Guests: 4

Announcements: Rick, N8BKN,
General Class at VA Hospital

15 March 2025 General Class License taught at the VA Hospital Charleston

16 March 2025 with VE Test Contact Terry to register. Test session starts at 1300Hrs.

Food not available at the VA Hospital

State FSX (Full Scale Exercise) will be March 11 and 12, 15, 2025 Exercise will focus on Long Term Power Outage including a pipe line disruption resulting in a loss of fuel to the state.

15th the Amateurs comm. exercise.

No operating day this March on the Yorktown due to prior commitments.

Secretary's Report –Brian, KN4EXJ - **Accepted as information**

Treasurer's Report – Charlotte, KJ4PLX – **Accepted as information**

Standing Committee Reports

Field Day- Steven AA2BB- Preparations continue with invitations to VIPs. Operators are wanted for CW, Digital and SSB. A Captain for the GOTA station is needed along with 3 or 4 operators.

Museum Ships – Tom, AJ4UQ – Invitation for Museum Ships weekend 2025 on 7-8 June just came up. Asking the club to staff stations for NT4HI/USS Laffey, WD4PBR/Mark II PBR, and WA4USN/USS Yorktown (CV-10) with a bonus not-for-credit W2Z/USS Yorktown (CV-5).

Hamfest – Paulette, KI4AIK – Nothing to report

Repeaters – Bryce, K4LXF- Repeaters are doing well. 146.79 repeater is sick. Take the 270 in place of the 79 machine. *****

School Clubs – Tom, AJ4UQ – Nothing to report.

Race Support Reports:

Doug, KU4OC – Nothing to report.

Tom, K4WJC – Nothing to report.

Linda, KJ4EVV - is heading up the ride. Need hams to handle bike check points and chase

CARS Carrier/ Website – Tom, AJ4UQ – Looking for articles, stories of interest.

Submissions/announcements send to
CARSINFO@wa4usn.org

Communications Trailer – Mike, KY4BO – Trailer is well.

Education/Testing –Eugene, AB4UG –Next test session is in conjunction with the General class at the VA Hospital downtown. Testing is at 1300 Hrs. Sunday 16 March. Next test after that will be Saturday 12 April at 0900 Hrs. at Tall Pines Baptist Church in Ladson.

Looking for Extra Class Licensees to act as VE examiners. Contact Eugene, AB4UG.

Larry, KJ4GZR, Code Practice will resume in March the second week at 8 pm on Wednesday. Rate 15 -20 Words per minute. Cheat Sheets are available. Slow Speed Code Class 8pm Wednesday 79 repeater.

Membership – Lee, KI4LLJ – Membership renews in July.

Total Membership to date 161

Regular Voting members 148 with 4 life members

Lifetime members 5

Associates 7

First Readings:

Second Reading:

Special Notice:

If your name is on this list please contact Lee in reference to picking up your name tag.

Brant KE8CTH	Don KN4EXI
Michael N2LMU	Stuart KZ4LN
Fred KE4NHT	Peggy KJ4OZV
Ron KQ4SIP	Travis KQ4SJI
Christopher KO4VEN	Paul N6VOY
Kerry KQ4VPK	Patrick KO4WSC
Dan KN4YII	Daryl KQ4YRV
Mitch Associate	

Emergency Preparedness:

State FSX (Full Scale Exercise) will be March 11 and 12, 15, 2025 Exercise will focus on Long Term Power Outage including a pipe line disruption resulting in a loss of fuel to the state.

Training ARES courses available on line via ARRL website

Berkeley County: Linda, KJ4EVV- No Report

Charleston County: Rick, N8BKN –No Charleston County ARES meeting in the month of March.

Dorchester County: Beverly, W3BRB, Discussion ongoing concerning the 147.180 repeater improvements. Goal is to have DMR operational by the end of the fiscal year. A reminder that there will be a Hurricane Expo May 31, 2025 at Ashley River Park. Will have another Technician class scheduled so interested parties can sign up. ARES

World Wide Amateur Radio Day April 18. There will be an Open House and local exercise.

National Hurricane Center **14.325MHz** and **7.268MHz** back up

Caribbean hurricane net **7.188MHz**

Maritime net **14.300 MHz**

Archie's Repeater back up for 146.790 is K4IUG 147.345 +600 Tone 141.3 Adams Run location.

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

WinLink Net on Tuesday

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

ARRL Section Elections – remember to vote.

Old Business:

WD4PBR QSL Cards – Rick, N8BKN- Still pending.

Slow Speed Code Class 8pm Wednesday 79 repeater

New Business:

Museum Ships is a 24 hour event. Rick is asking for \$250 food support. Approved by membership.

MARS Annual Event Mother's Day Weekend

CARS Calendar of Events:

W2Z Special Event Station: Bill K4KOA

Battle of Midway 4 June to 7 June – Loss of USS Yorktown CV-5

Drawing – Conducted by Larry, KJ4GZR, Won by Steven

Meeting Adjourned: 1949 hrs.

Repeater Test Codes (Only on your local repeater)

33 date and time read back

44 read back of your message

55 test on tone buttons on your radio

Brian, KN4EXJ

FIELD DAY GOTA STATION

The GOTA Station or Get on the Air Station, simply is an HF radio station set up in conjunction with the regular Field Day station. It is designed to provide visitors (non- licensed amateur radio operators) or inactive hams an opportunity to experience the thrill of communication with other radio stations. During Field Day points are awarded to clubs having a GOTA station and for contacts made. A log needs to be kept of any contacts that are made. Sounds simple doesn't it? It is.

Being on the Yorktown does present a unique set of circumstances for the GOTA Station. Location primarily. The club Field Day operating location is in the port side forward gun gallery just outside of the club room. While this is convenient for the operators, it is hidden from the general public. For that reason in the past the GOTA Station has been located on the hangar deck just inside of the forward brow. A great location, why, it is not exposed to our summer heat or afternoon rain storms. There is generally a cool breeze (strong wind) that blows in from the sea. It is located close to the restroom and you get to talk to all the visitors to the Yorktown. Speaking of talking to people, that is your job to introduce the public to Amateur Radio. You're the ANSWER MAN! Do you have to know everything? No, just a good working knowledge of VHF/UHF and HF radio bands. Well it sounds like you'll have to be a General or Extra class operator. Yes, FCC rules you know.

Well let me think, I have a few questions. What time do I need to be there? Noon is good, Field Day starts at 1400Hrs. Do I need to bring my own equipment and antenna? No, in the past I have just because I was used to the radio and tuner, but the club has the necessary equipment. Food? Snacks of your choosing, but Michelle takes good care of you. Be nice and you might get brownies. The setting up of the station? The club has the necessary banners and handouts in the club room. How long do I have to “volunteer”? Well that is up to you, if you’re just helping a couple, three hours. If you’re the GOTA Captain maybe both Saturday till 6 pm when the museum closes and on Sunday from when the museum opens till 1400hrs when Field Day ends. What about a relief? Contact the club room and someone will come down.

Is it worth it? Yes, if you are not a “contester” and want to give back to the club and like promoting the hobby of Amateur Radio. It is a great job. You will meet interesting people from all over the world and have the opportunity to GET PEOPLE ON THE AIR.

Brian KN4EXJ

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