

CARS CARRIER

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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Announcements

A board of advisors meeting as required by the Club By-Laws will be held at 1845 on meeting night. Officers, Engineers, and the technical team are required to attend. The purpose is to elect a Chairman and Secretary. Current Chairman is Tom, AJ4UQ and Secretary is Rick, N8BKN.

Elections will be held at the July meeting. Come out and vote or volunteer for a Club office.

Next known events will be the Isle of Palms Run, the first Saturday in October, and the LowVelo bike ride in November. The Club has supported these events every year so mark your calendars.

Field Day 2025

I want to thank the Field Day Captain Steve, AA2BB and Avery, W4QYV for the outstanding job they did. I believe it was very well conducted and many tasks from behind the scenes occurred. Well Done Steve and Avery.

The overall set-up and tear down went well, and I didn't see any safety issues.

Knowledge transfer

As a Club we need to transfer the history of the Club to more recent members and encourage members to learn more and do more at Club events. Amateur Radio is a hobby that offers constant

training events. Anyone with an idea or wants to learn or teach a subject submit your skills or ideas to a Club officer and we will try and schedule the task. One idea brought to my attention was antenna tuning. You can build or purchase an antenna but then what? Tuning your antenna is critical to good operations. Usually, the Club antennas are installed and maintained by a small group of people but the tuning and learning about the antennas might be useful information so please ask. Any other projects or skills (operating modes or techniques) ask or volunteer your knowledge to another Ham.

Until next month, 73
Rick N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 162 voting members including 5 life voting members. That makes our quorum for the July meeting 25 voting members. We have 7 associate members including 1 life member.

For the July meeting we have five second readings to vote on, those being Joe Greer WD4HPT, Tim Bootle AF8U, Robert James W1RPJ, Robert Griffin KQ4VPI, and Robert Granger KR4DFK. At the time of this article we had one first reading, that being Mary Greiner KF8AYR. Paper ballot voting methods are being finalized and will begin in August at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Dues season is now here so please set your reminders.

Dues are due the first of August, so I will begin taking them at this month's club meeting which is the 14th of July. You can mail them to my address at any time but please bring your dues to the club meeting in July if you attend as the administrative paperwork will be ready and I can hand out receipts and membership cards at that time. Please don't disturb the meeting with your payment as I will be there early and will stay as long after the meeting as need be.

Lee KI4LLJ
CARS Membership Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane season is now in its second month, and 3 Atlantic storms have come and gone. Tropical Storm Chantal went into the Myrtle Beach area giving us in Charleston an easy warning of things to come but we only got some rain to ruin the Independence Day weekend. Keep watching; the weather can still change.

Amateurs and Club members demonstrated we can do two things at once. Field Day and a Hurricane/disaster Expo on the same Saturday. Mike, KY4BO and Lee, KI4LLJ supported the Hurricane/Disaster Expo on James Island with the Charleston County Emergency Management Department utilizing the Club communications trailer, while many other Club members led by Steve, AA2BB set-up and operated the first day of the ARRL Summer Field Day. Well Done to both groups for making Amateur Radio be seen as a valuable community resource.

Now is the time to perfect your storm plans. Do you stay or evacuate? Plan what you would take if leaving, plan your route and an alternate route, roads do get closed for construction or traffic jams. Get a map for your GPS. GPS will show updated routes, but a map may come in handy if GPS fails or becomes intermittent, make a trip plan and send it to wherever you are planning to end up. Makes finding you if lost easier for your destination folks if you are delayed for any reason. Take some Amateur

gear with you, cell phones may fail, your Ham gear should work even when Cell phones fail. Just remember ARES will need support post-event so take your time returning but help will be needed when you do get back to the Low Country.

Until Next Month, Stay Safe
Rick, N8BKN Charleston County Emergency Coordinator.

FIELD DAY

[Please see Steve's article at the end of this newsletter].

Many thanks to all for your help and support!
Steve, AA2BB

HAMFEST

Nothing new for Hamfest

Paulette, KJ4AIK.

MUSEUM SHIPS

Nothing to report.

Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

Nothing is coming up for a while.

Tom, K4WJC and Doug, KU4OC

SPECIAL PROJECTS

There are enough other things going on this month so I'll skip this one.

Tom, AJ4UQ

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

Ah, the last week in June. Time for Summer activities, time for ARRL Summer Field Day, time for baseball, tennis, 5k walks and runs, time for the beach. I look forward to this time as it means a

number of us Hams get together and set up temporary operations at open fields and for us CARS members, on the USS Yorktown.

I have the pleasure each year of helping to set-up and tear down the operation on the Yorktown for Summer Field Day. This involves raising temporary antennas and stringing coax for HF operations as well as setting up stations on the port side cat walk for voice, CW, and Digital operations (I'm usually more involved with raising the antennas than the other parts). A good part of the set up takes place on Friday afternoon, with the remainder taken care of Saturday morning before the actual event starts at 1400 hours (2:00pm for you civilian types). We always manage to complete the tasks without losing any folks overboard (at least as far as we know, we don't keep a formal count or anything) and usually without losing too many tools or parts.

This year, on Field Day Saturday, the annual Charleston County Emergency Operations Center Hurricane Expo, in the Lowes parking lot on James Island was held. Most years, somehow, this activity is not on the same Saturday as ARRL Summer Field day, but this year it not only coincided with Field Day, but was also not well advertised (it has not been as well advertised lately as before COVID so the trend continues).

CARS has almost always dedicated a presence at this Expo, so this year Myself and Mike KY4BO took the CARS communication trailer down to James Island and set up operations with battery only to impress the crowds of curious folks eager to find out how the county and its various support units would make their life bearable during the aftermath of a hurricane. There were firefighters there with their trucks, several other organizations there with their canopies set up and handouts for their missions on tables and folks there to explain how they would aid citizens in their time of need. Lowes even had a canopy where they were feeding people hot dogs.

Probably the most impressive presence was the County Emergency Operations Center's massive Mobile Operations Unit, a million dollar plus bus with electronic monitoring and communications equipment that allows making their mission movable to where it is most needed. They had at

least three huge antennas that they can raise once they are at their operational base to maintain contact with the main Operations Center, and the whole thing is fairly new and should have been a big draw for the expo.

As I have already alluded to, it did not seem to me to be very well advertised as I saw nothing on the news that I watch and there was nothing on the air as a public service or otherwise that caught my eye. We set up down there, missing out on the Saturday flurry of activity on the Yorktown, including the meal prepared each year by Michelle KK4WQO (thankfully there were some of her famous homemade brownies left on Sunday when I got to the ship), the visits from various dignitaries, the biggest presence of members and guests, and the busiest periods of contacts from the operating stations.

We had not set up a table or canopy at the Expo, but operated out of the back of the CARS communications trailer. This was decided in part because if a breeze comes up it takes four people just to hold down the canopy and others to chase down the flying flyers (hmmm, maybe that's where they get their name). The few people that walked by smiled and waved, a number of folks had cute kids (who weren't happy about the heat either) and we actually had one man and his family stop by and ask questions about ham radio, so I guess the trip was worth it.

Oh, to cap of this totally exciting day, just as we were leaving, we heard screeching tires and saw dirt flying from the street alongside the Lowe's parking lot where we were. All of a sudden there were firemen, sheriff's deputies, and about 20 other emergency medical types running across the parking lot toward the obvious accident. It turns out a woman in a Jeep had struck a curb at speed and ended up flipping into the ditch on the other side of the road. As close and quick as all the emergency folks were, by the time they crossed the road she was getting out of her car.

As I departed the Lowe's parking lot to return the trailer to the EOC parking lot, before I even got to the edge of the Lowe's lot it sounded like something had fallen off the trailer. A lady who was

getting out of her car nearby came running up, waving and snickering, as I stopped to see what expensive piece of equipment had come loose. She was pointing near the passenger side of the trailer as I came around the truck and laying in the parking lot was KY4BO's little lunch cooler, which had gotten set on the fender and forgotten. I threw it in the back seat of my truck and climbed back in to continue home when across the lot I saw Mike running towards me waving his arms. I shouted out that I had his cooler in the back so he would stop running before he had a heart attack and we continued on without further incident to secure the trailer for another exciting adventure on another day.

Lee KI4LLJ

FINANCIAL REPORT

CARS Treasurer's Report May 2025			
Checking Balance April 30, 2025			\$ 1,275.56
Cash Receipts - May			
	Dues	65.00	
	Memberships	20.00	
	Raffle Proceeds	33.00	
	ARRL Commision on Memberships	<u>10.00</u>	
Total Receipts			128.00
Cash Disbursements -May			
	Trailer Expenses	(17.57)	
	ARRL Membership	(59.00)	
	Web Hosting Renewal	(158.27)	
		=	
Total Disbursements			<u>(234.84)</u>
Checking Balance May 31,			<u>\$ 1,168.72</u>

2025			
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Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the JUNE MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society Monthly Meeting June 9, 2025

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

Introductions: Members attending: 33
Associate: 1 Guests: 4

Announcements: Rick, N8BKN,

Spartanburg Amateur Radio Club Hamfest coming up. Check the internet for dates.

New England HamXposition August 24th

Michelle, has replaced Bryce, K4LXF as Chair of the Nomination Committee

Yorktown repeater now has a tone 123.00 all the time.

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

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

Standing Committee Reports

Field Day- Steven AA2BB-

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).

Reminder you need to get a photo ID from the Yorktown to avoid parking and entrance fees and for after hours operation aboard the ship. This needs to be done during the week. Operators are needed. Sign up sheet on cars carrier web site.

Hamfest – Paulette, KI4AIK – Nothing to report

Repeaters – Bryce, K4LXF Nothing to report

School Clubs – Tom, AJ4UQ – Changing it to **Special Projects** for club members interests. Special projects covers the club's APRS and IRLP services.

Race Support Reports:

Doug, KU4OC – Nothing to report. IOP Run in October

Tom, K4WJC – Nothing to report.

Linda, KJ4EVV - New repeater on the uhf band waiting for the climber to install.

CARS Carrier/ Website – Tom, AJ4UQ – Looking for articles, stories of interest. Thank you Mike KY4BO for the photo.

Submissions/announcements send to CARSINFO@wa4usn.org.

Hosting bill is coming due shortly \$160.

Communications Trailer – Mike, KY4BO – Trailer is well. See the CARS Carrier for article on the trailer. Photos are there as well.

Education/Testing –Eugene, AB4UG – Looking for Extra Class Licensees to act as VE examiners. Contact Eugene, AB4UG.

Larry, KJ4GZR, Code practice still continues.

Membership – Lee, KI4LLJ – Membership renews in July.

Total Membership to date 164

Regular Voting members 157 with 4 life members

Lifetime members 5

Associates 7

First Readings:

Joe Greer, WD4HPT General Class

Robert Griffin, KQ4VPI General Class

Second Reading:

Michael Maheu KQ4KOV, Technician

Special Notice:

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

Brant KE8CTH
Michael N2LMU

Don KN4EXI

Stuart KZ4LN
Peggy KJ4OZV

Fred KE4NHT

Travis KQ4SJI
Paul N6VOY

Christopher KO4VEN
Kerry KQ4VPK

Patrick KO4WSC
Daryl KQ4YRV

Dan KN4YII
Mitch Associate

Emergency Preparedness:

Berkeley County: Linda, KJ4EVV- No Report

Charleston County: Rick, N8BKN – Note the Rock Hill repeater was destroyed in the Rock Hill wildfire. Governor will be visiting the Charleston EOC this week in reference to hurricane season. FEMA Aress required courses 100, 200, 700, 800

Dorchester County: Beverly, W3BRB, A reminder that there will be a Hurricane Expo May 31, 2025 at Ashley River Park.

National Hurricane Center **14.325MHz** and **7.268 MHz** 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.

[Check the state emergency comms plan](#) [Check with Rick on web sites](#)

Old Business:

WD4PBR QSL Cards – Rick, N8BKN- Still pending.

Slow Speed Code Class 8pm Wednesday 79 repeater

W2Z Special Event Station: Bill K4KOA

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

June 7-8 Museum Ships Event June 7-8. 9-5 Saturday, 9-4 Sunday

Nets participation is based on the number of persons checking in. Check in procedures have changed. Take a minute to listen before transmitting.

New Business:

CARS Calendar of Events:

June 7-8 Museum Ships Event June 7-8. 9-5 Saturday, 9-4 Sunday

Navy Net started in 1979 in Charleston 0600 to 0700 chat then 0700 to 0900 everyday 7.245. Round table 1600 every Wednesday.

Drawing – Conducted by Larry, KJ4GZR, and KY4BO Mike won.

Meeting Adjourned: 19:47 Hrs

Brian, KN4EXJ

Helping Hands (CARS ARRL Field Day, 2025)

The phrase which best captures the spirit of the CARS Field Day in 2025 is “Helping Hands” and I have chosen that as the title for this article. There are no other words for it! At every turn there was someone ready and willing to help. From carrying

heavy materials to repairing minor glitches, there was absolutely no hesitation from anyone to step up and help. And because of that we had one of the best field days ever.

We gathered about 12:30pm on Friday afternoon, 6/27/25, and began setup precisely at 1400, 24 hours before going on the air, as per Field Day rules. The Old Guard, Bryce Myers, K4LXF, Club President Rick Valentine, N8BKN, Lee Miller, KI4LLJ, David Fleischman, KB9UJF, Greg Keys, KG4GEK, Mike Whisnant, KY4BO, and myself, AA2BB (nice to be in that category!) had antennas up and tuned for SSB and CW, transmission lines in place, and generators ready to go in about 2 ½ hours. Age was no obstacle, and everyone worked like young sailors despite the heat (90F) and humidity! The only hiccup was the loss of the all-thread metal rod we used to roll out the transmission line. I was holding it vertically over the catwalk and went to lean it on the deck. It went through one of the drainage holes without a sound, like an arrow, and will spend the rest of earth’s existence impaled in the pluff mud below the ship, a testament to FD 2025!

The next morning we met again at 9:30am and were joined by Avery Hill, FD Co-Captain, W4QYV, Tom Glaab, Club Vice President, AJ4UQ, Warren Richey, KK4EVI, Bill Olendorf, K4KOA, Kraig Keyes, AA4SD, Mike Maheu, KQ4KOV, and others. Bill brought pizza and snacks which made a good pre-work breakfast. We set up the generators, laid the power cables, carried tables and chairs to the operating stations, and set up tarps to protect the stations from sun and rain. Michelle Mantooth, KK4WQO, obtained all our food and refreshments (including several trays of her own homemade brownies,) trucked them to the pier and we helped her move all supplies to the clubroom.

Greg and Avery set up the GOTA (Get On The Air) station and put up signs including a special ARRL FD poster we received from SC Section Manager, Matthew R Crook, W1MRC. Greg brought his own equipment, a self-contained HF station including power supply and a computer interface with powerful software. Tom set up a local network for our logging computers and cabled everything together. Bryce and Rick installed an EFLW antenna for the GOTA station.

The FD stations on the USS Yorktown went on the air right at 1400 using call sign WA4USN. The GOTA station activated with NT4HI, the call sign for the USS Laffey. Kraig started us off on CW and Avery on SSB. Jonathan Eernisse, N4AKV, (fortunately for us he was able to get away from his Neurology clinical rotation) operated 6 meters and satellite. He forgot his 6m beam in the car, but in true amateur radio fashion, Rick replaced it with a small dipole which Jonathan installed and tuned. Kraig was way too humble about his CW skills - he worked solo for several hours at 26 or 27 WPM racking up contacts! Jonathan, Vic Morawski, WA3CHM, and I also spent time on the key. Tom, Vic and others did the logging. Glenn Little, WB4UIV, lent us his solar panels and a lithium battery charged by them with which we made about 20 CW contacts for 100 points. Dr. Mary Greiner, KF8AYR, a Primary Care physician from Michigan who is just beginning practice at the VA Hospital in Sumter, joined us (despite a flat tire on the way to Patriots Point) and did a yeoman's job at the sideband station.

We were honored by visits from three elected officials, US Congresswoman, Nancy Mace, Mount Pleasant Town Councilman, Gary Santos, and SC House Representative, Sylleste Davis (District 100.) Councilman Gary Santos provided enthusiastic support for CARS and Ham Radio on behalf of himself and the Town of Mount Pleasant. We had a very pleasant visit and talked about how Field Day brings hams together and serves as an exercise in disaster communications.

As Councilman Santos and I were walking down the pier, we met Congresswoman Nancy Mace and her team. She visited the GOTA station on the hangar deck, the clubroom, and both our operating positions on the catwalk with her dog, Liberty, Security Officers, Woody and Dan, and her photographer. Upon meeting Bryce Myers, she said he was her favorite "OM"! She had an excellent understanding of Ham Radio, listened patiently to our ideas, was extremely supportive of our club and positive about our efforts. We showed her the Letter of Support she provided for last year's FD which is hanging on our clubroom wall.

Representative Sylleste Davis joined us on Sunday morning. She was with us last year and was so

impressed that she brought her husband, Mike, and son, John, to introduce them to Ham Radio. She sat with us in the clubroom and learned about current issues in Ham Radio from our President, Rick Valentine. All three offered to help in any way they can. Their presence was a boon to our operation and put a shine on our Field Day. We can't thank them enough for taking time out of their busy schedules to acknowledge us. Not to mention that they are worth 100 points to the club's FD score!

Overnight operations went smoothly. Jim Comfort, KW4UL, came in as always to carry us through the night on CW and SSB. Jim left about 8am to teach a SCUBA class and returned about noon to help with the final stretch and takedown. As always, we heard some stories about the world from folks who have been in situations which most of us never encounter (and might not have survived!) that you'd have to have been there to hear. We had hot coffee made the Navy way to get us through the wee hours.

Jim took the spectacular picture below of Renata Sierzega, KQ4ASH, at the CW station at dawn. With her permission, I'm planning to submit it to QST. Tom copied the ARRL Bulletin on RTTY and PSK-31 and I was able to copy it in CW. The first time I missed a paragraph due to QSB (signal fading) and some signal processing issues (in my head!) but was able to fill in the blanks during a re-transmission the following morning. Tom successfully transmitted the FD Message to the Section Manager W1MRC via Winlink email:

"8 R AJ4UQ ARL 26 USS YORKTOWN 0816L
JUN 29

W1MRC SC SM

BT

GOOD MORNING FROM THE CHARLESTON
ARS FIELD DAY SITE X

THERE ARE ABOUT 35 PARTICIPANTS

COMMA WITH ABOUT HALF IN

ARES DOT SENT BY HF

WINLINK

BT

AR”

The weather was perfect throughout and we had a wonderful summer night with a cool breeze. The proverbial thunderstorm never materialized. CARS member Sergeant Delmer Powell, KW4XQ, Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, was with us in uniform which gave us another 100 points for recognition by law enforcement. He also spent time logging at the CW station. We had a visit from ARRL SC Section Technical Coordinator, Brad Humphries, AE4VJ.

Of special note is that we were honored to be joined by Ken Bible, AF4ZV, club member for over 30 years and former Club President for 6 years who made several contacts. He’s also been a key participant in the Charleston running community and a leader for the Cooper River Bridge Run. Also deserving mention is Brian Smith, KN4EXJ, who, though not on the ship this year, provided invaluable coaching which helped me organize this year’s event.

Field Day ended serendipitously with our Honda generator running out of fuel at 1352, almost exactly on schedule! Our last contact was a CW exchange that we really had to work for because the signal was down in the mud. I just had time to say “We really had to work for that one!” when the generator cut out. Takedown went as smoothly as setup. Bryce stood up, pulled out a screwdriver, and we all went to work. Doug Clark, KU4OC, joined us for takedown and everything happened seamlessly from start to finish.

One thing more to mention about Field Day on the USS Yorktown is the opportunity to see the ship. Mary, Vic and I took a break from operating at 3am and went on a memorable tour of the lower decks. The window into history provided by the Yorktown makes the importance of Ham Radio to military service almost palpable, especially knowing how MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service) was the only link with home for so many in harm’s way for so many years before the internet. It continues to be active to this day. We saw some excellent exhibits including one of a special Life Member of CARS (see pic below.).

In short, we had a Field Day that was hard to beat and we’ll do it again next year. Please see the pictures for the rest of the story. The list of those who signed the roster or with whom I recall working directly follows. Please forgive me if I missed you or made an error!

CARS FIELD DAY, June 28-29, 2025, Roster:

Steve Saef, AA2BB, FD Captain, 2025

Avery Hill, W4QYV, FD Co-Captain

Bryce Myers, K4LXF, Life Member, Past President

Rick Valentine, N8BKN, President

Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, Vice President

Lee Miller, KI4LLJ, Membership

David Fleischman, KB9UJF

Warren Richey, KK4EVI

Chad Barrera

Kraig Keyes, AA4SD

Mike Maheu, KQ4KOV

Jonathan Eernisse, N4AKV

Greg Keyes, KG4GEK

Paul Morris, KQ4ZTB

Michael McSween, KD4RZV

Clarence Labar, N9HQC

Nancy Mace, United States Congresswoman

Woody, Nancy Mace Security Agent

Dan, Nancy Mace Security Agent

Photographer, Nancy Mace Team

Gary Santos, Mount Pleasant Town Council

Brad Humphries, AE4VJ, ARRL SC Section Technical Coordinator

Bill Olendorf, K4KOA

Kenneth Bible, AF4ZV, Past President

Mary Greiner, KF8AYR

Jim Comfort, KW4UL, Sergeant, College of Charleston Police Department

Renata Sierzega, KQ4ASH

Delmer Powell, KW4XQ, Charleston County
Sheriff

Aaron Drazin, N5AJD

Cheryl Drazin

Michelle Mantooth, KK4WQO

Sylleste Davis, SC House Representative, District
100

Michael Davis

John Davis

J. Reed Elkin, W4JRE

Ron Abir, KG6MGT

Madeline Frume

A. Fields

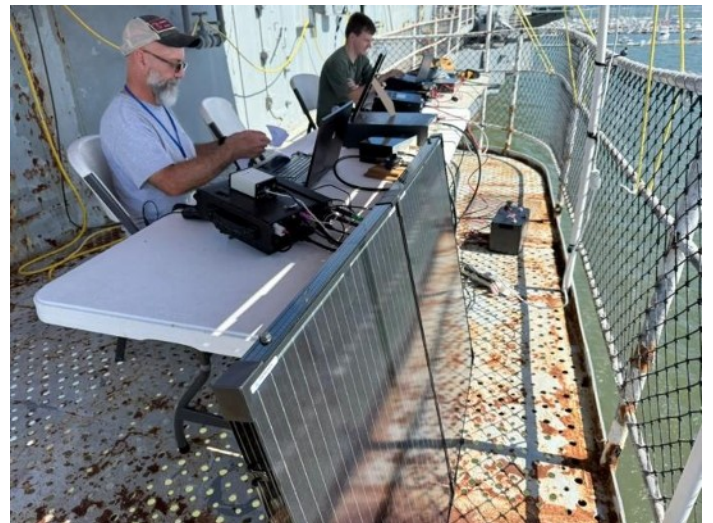
Johnny Saef, WB4JMS

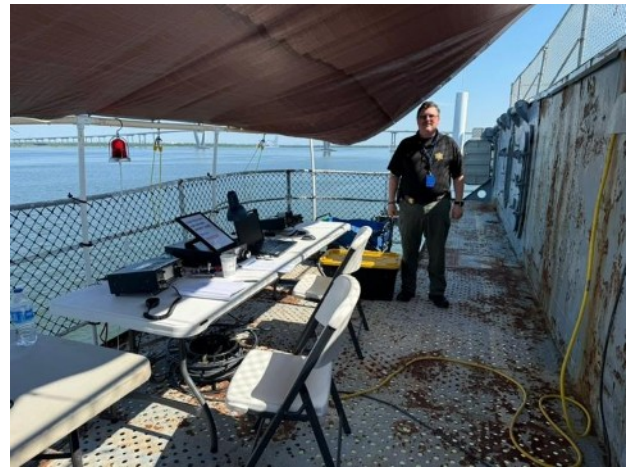
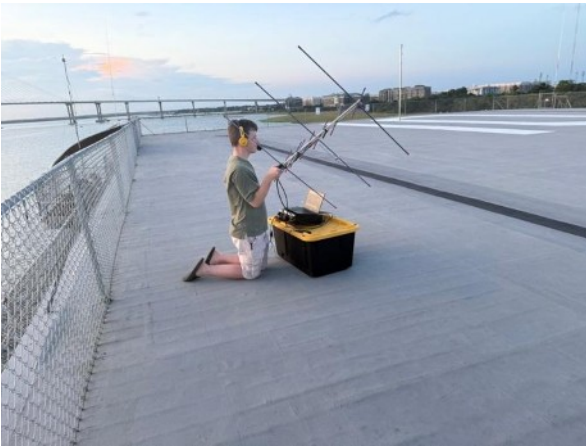
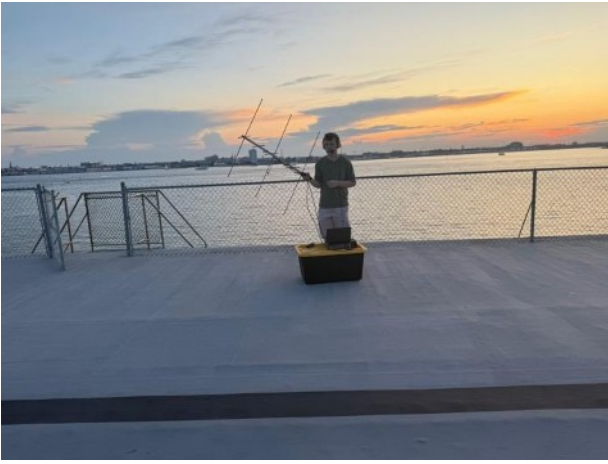
Gregory Moser

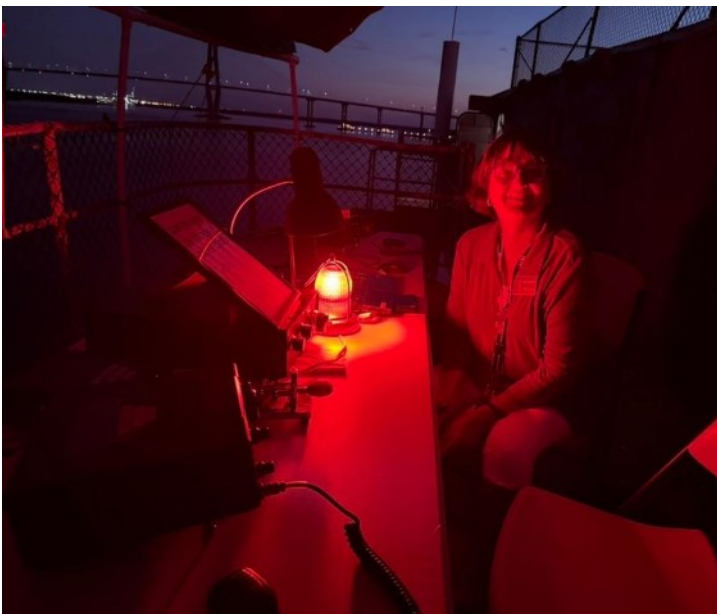
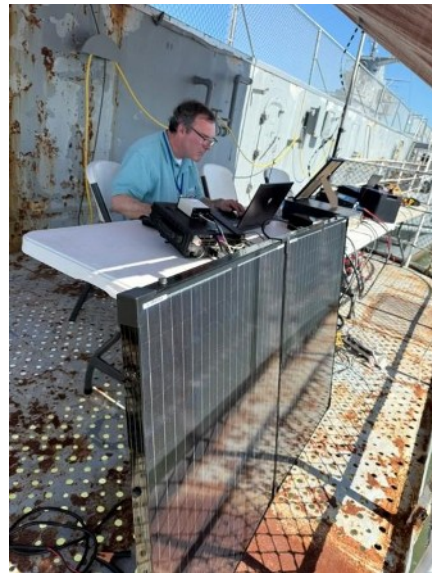


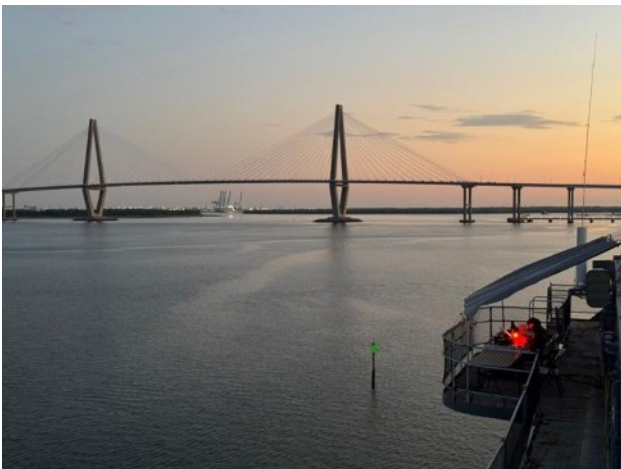
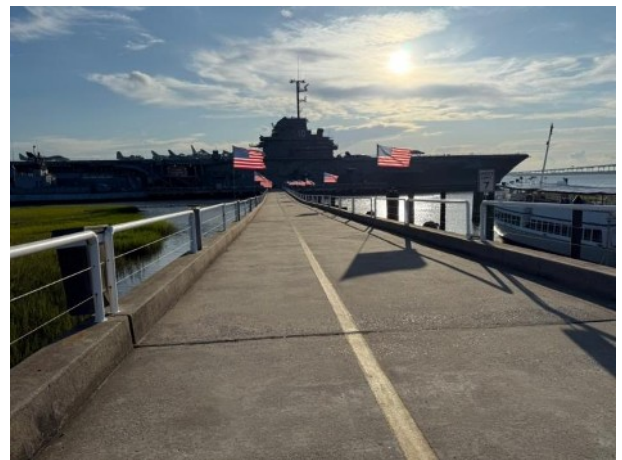
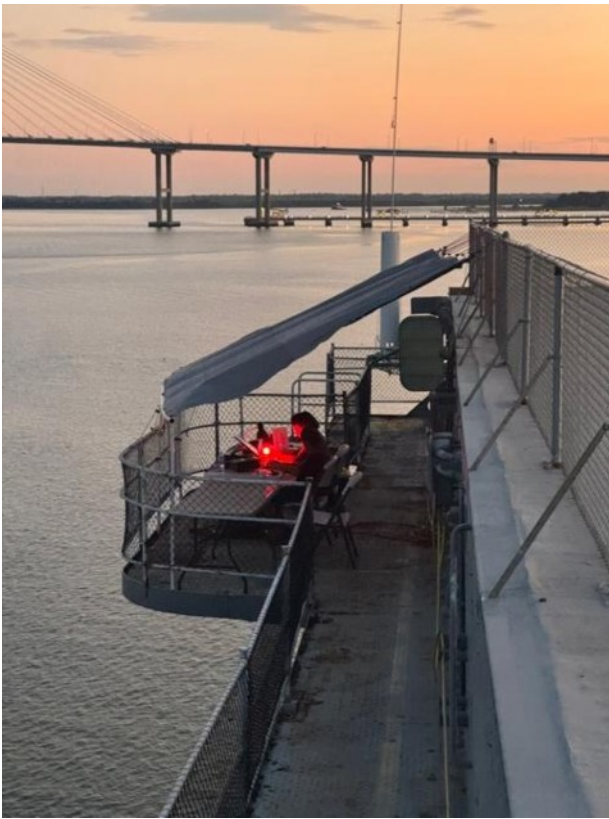


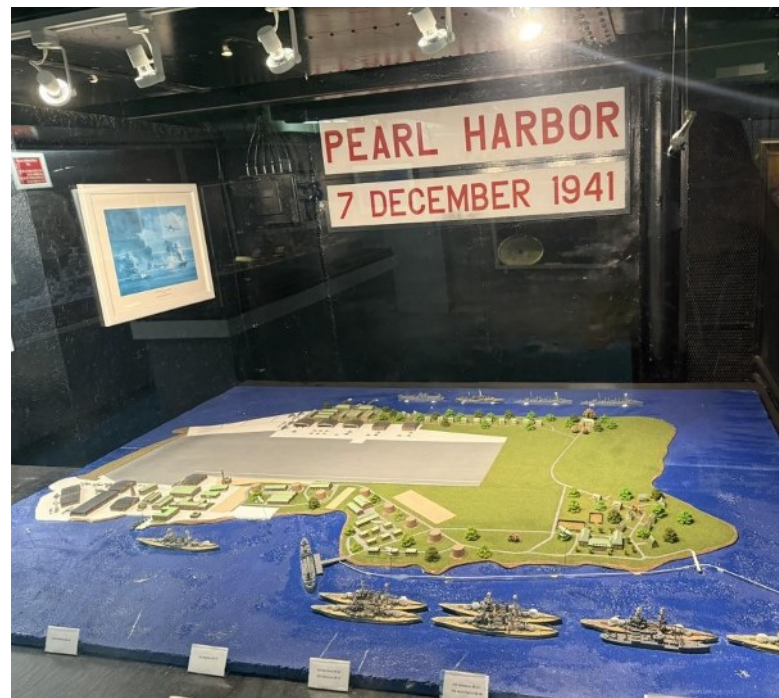
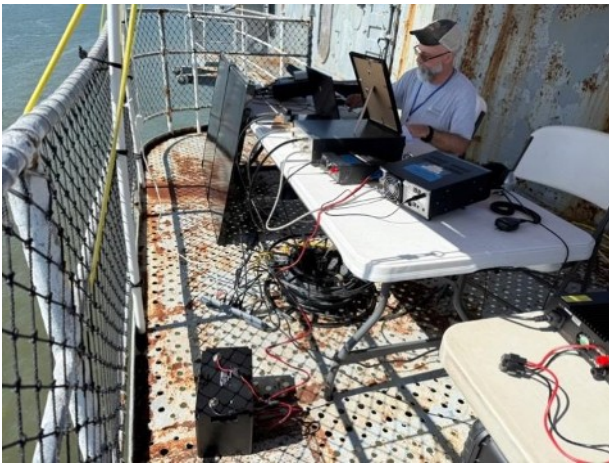
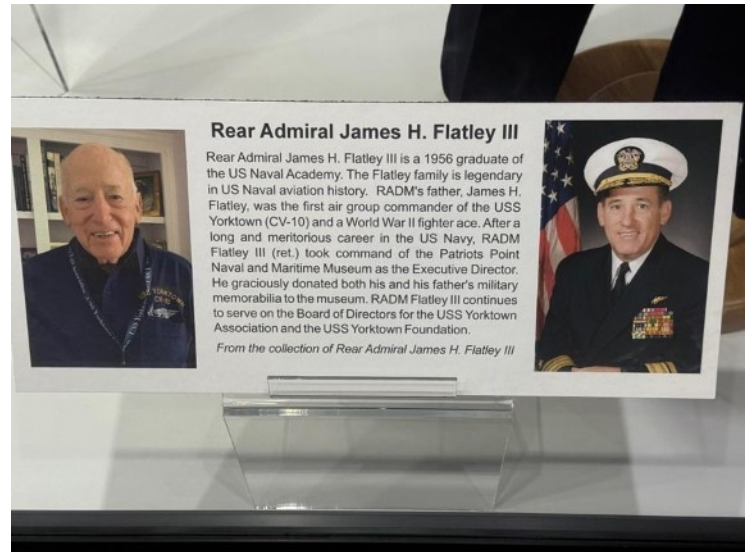












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