

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society February 2026 Newsletter

CARS Web Site --- <https://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 9, 2026 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

73
Rick N8BKN

Welcome to the February CARS Carrier. There have been many changes so far this year and there will be many more so stay tuned.

Last month the Club lost another long-time member as Tom, K4WJC became a Silent Key. Tom coordinated the many Bicycle Rides the Club supported over the years. His efforts will be missed.

Plan on moving the Clubroom on the Yorktown during this month and please help move, the Club has a significant amount of equipment to move. Dates to be announced.

At the January meeting the Club received recognition from Charleston County Emergency Management for the many times the membership has supported emergency communications for Charleston County Emergency Management. Thank you for your support and it is appreciated.

Upcoming is the Joint Base Charleston Air Show in April. The Trident Club will be hosting a STEM event on Friday with science classes attending a demonstration of Amateur Radio. Please volunteer to be on the air so these demonstrations can be a contact over the air for the students. These students are the next generation of Hams.

Any events or special operating projects the Club wants, please reach out to a Club officer and request and support the event or project. This Club has a remarkable amount of talent just waiting to be tapped or used.

NEWS FROM THE VP

Just as I got the email service patched up, the web server started acting up. Something is causing a configuration file to get corrupted and stop serving up anything but the main page. We have it stabilized for now, but at the cost of plugins like the calendar and newsletter archive.

Thank you to Mike W4KWC for troubleshooting this. He's earned himself a spot as a webmaster and will be exploring options for the web site.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

Well the time is now here. The great purge begins now. If you meant to pay your dues, but put it off 'til the last minute, it's now after the last minute. It was actually a pretty good result this year as we only had about 17 folks who failed to renew which means we still have a paid population of 157. That's better than some years but still means we will be missing some long time friends. Now it's time for me to start prepping for next year's membership cards and receipts, and figuring out what methods of "reminders" I'll have to utilize.

We had twice the number of requests to have a method of paying online (2 this year instead of 1) and I would suggest that if that is something enough folks want than a motion should be made (and I would suggest the motion be to study the possibility

and method that would add the least amount of cost to the club and work for the membership committee and treasurer, while still maintaining the ability to effectively track payments etc., etc., etc).

Hope everyone survived the blizzard of 2026 without the loss of too many antennas or having to resort to cannibalism. Bundle up, stay warm.

Lee KI4LLJ
CARS Membership Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Second month of 2026 and winter is here. The great snowstorm last week-end that hit the Upstate with freezing temperatures finally happened here in the Low Country. Please stay safe and warm with the weather happening this week-end. February is turning out to be a record setting month already. Stay tuned for more.

There will be NO Charleston County ARES meeting in February. On the third Saturday in February South Carolina Emergency Management is hosting advanced training for ARES leadership in Columbia that day. The training and information will be provided in the March meeting cycle.

I know the 2026 Hurricane season seems a long ways out but now is the time to start planning for the season. Make a list of projects to check, improve equipment, and prepare to stay or leave. Make a route plan, then an alternate route plan, drive your plan in the rain to see if it works. Get your important papers and equipment ready to travel and do not forget the pets they get scared too. Please keep some canned goods or extra loaf of bread in the freezer because the grocery stores empty out quickly and resupply could be several days getting to the Low Country after this current East Coast snow event or just an event anywhere nearby.

Watch out for other drivers, you may be an expert driver in snow but many drivers in the Low Country may not be used to or ever driven on snow and ice. Be careful and stay safe.

Until Next Month, Stay Safe

Rick, N8BKN
Charleston County Emergency Coordinator.

FIELD DAY

Thanks in advance to all!

Steve, AA2BB

HAMFEST

Nothing new for Hamfest

Paulette, KJ4AIK

MUSEUM SHIPS

Nothing to report.

Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

Nothing to report.

Doug, KU4OC

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

CARS trailer is still in good condition. When it warms up some more we will go charge the battery.

Mike, KY4BO

FINANCIAL REPORT

CARS Treasurer's Report			
December 2025			
Checking Balance November 30, 2025			\$ 1,856.63

Cash Receipts - December			
	Dues	195.00	
	Memberships	20.00	
	Donation	10.00	
	ARRL commissiom on Membership	5.00	
		=	
Total Receipts			230.00
Cash Disbursements December			
		-	
	Christmas Party	(950.63)	
		-	
		=	
Total Disbursements			<u>(950.63)</u>
Checking Balance December 31, 2025			<u>\$ 1,136.00</u>

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the JANUARY MEETING

**Charleston Amateur Radio Society
Monthly Meeting
January 12, 2026**

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

Introductions:

Members attending Associates Guests

37 0 3

Announcements:

Ben Webster, Deputy Director Charleston County EMS – Presented the Emergency Preparedness Recognition Award for supporting EMS to the Charleston Amateur Radio Society.

2026 is the ARRL Year of the Club.

America 250 All States Award.

Secretary Report: Paul, KQ4ZTB – Accepted as info.

Treasurers Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX – Accepted as info.

Standing Committee Reports:

Field Day: Steve, AA2BB – Received a letter acknowledging the invitation to Summer Field Day 2025 from the President Donald J Trump and wishing us a successful event.

Summer Field Day numbers from QST – 782 Contacts with 2 transmitters, 35 Operators for a total of 3,786 points

Hamfest: Paulette, KJ4AIK – Nothing to report

Repeaters: Bryce, K4LXF – all repeaters are functional.

Race Events: Doug, KU4OC

Museum Ships, Cars Carrier, Website, VE Testing: Tom, AJ4UQ

Museum Ships – 2025 Participation certificates were received.

Cars Carrier – see website if you do not receive it via email.

Testing/Education – Next test session will be Sunday at Reforge; February is canceled due to conflicts.

Trailer: Mike, KY4BO ready to go

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ –

Current Total Membership – 174

Voting Members – 136 including 4 life members

Associate Members – 7 including 1 life member

Meeting Quorum – 21 Voting Members

First Reading: (1)

Aideen Stratford, KR4GWY, Technician, Retired, Charleston

Second Reading: (1)

Pete Johnson, KR4HFM, Technician

Emergency Preparedness:

Berkeley County: Linda, KJ4EVV

Charleston County: Rick, N8BKN

Dorchester County: Beverly, W3BRB

Code Practice: Larry, KJ4GZR – on hold temporarily. Morse Mania app

Old Business:

Nets and participation

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

SC ARES net 2000 Hrs. -2130 Hrs. On the SCHEART repeaters (Every Other Sunday)

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

New Business:

Club Room has to move (into the General Office Spaces) because of asbestos in the club room. CW station for Summer Field Day also has to move due to structural issues with the catwalk supports. New MOU with Yorktown. – it will be added to the website.

QSL Magazine article on Starlink for Ares.

QSL – Volunteer Monitor program report article

Drawing: Won by Earl's corner of the room

Meeting adjourned at 19:50 hours

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