

# CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society March 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, March 9, 2026 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.***

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Short message this month. The MOU with Patriot's Point has been signed and sent to them. We will start the big move this month hopefully. The goal is to be ready for Museum Ships week-end and Summer field day in June. Please stand by for more information about helping with the move of equipment.

At the March meeting I will be looking for a Nomination Committee Chair to start the process of Club Officer selections which are presented to the Club membership at the June regular Club meeting and voted for during the July meeting. Please volunteer to assist in selecting Club officers for next year. The Club year is 1 August to 31 July.

The 146.730 repeater on Trident Hospital is still a stand alone repeater. The noise is gone but the engineers are actively working to resolve the issue and re link in the Trident Hospital repeater into the Low Country network.

73  
Rick N8BKN

## NEWS FROM THE VP

I'm trying out some changes this month. You've probably noticed that the blue text in this newsletter is black. Every time I see a printed copy I shudder at the impact that has on your cyan ink cartridge. If the club doesn't like it we can go back to blue text.

Mike W4KWC has put together a copy of the web site on a different platform that should be simpler to manage, more reliable, and faster. You'll get there from the current wa4usn.org URL, but it will take you to a different site. The legacy content from John WA4GPS will finally be retired. Take a look at the new site and let us know what you think:

<https://charleston-amateur-radio-society.github.io/wa4usn/>

73 Tom, AJ4UQ

## MEMBERSHIP

Greetings from the people side of the club.

Speaking of people we have 160 souls remaining in our society and everyone is paid up until at least August 1<sup>st</sup>. We hopefully will gain one more at the March Club meeting (although I must admit I counted him in the 160 count). Our one reading is a second one with a vote for Douglas Archer N8QY.

It's been an exciting month for me as I ended up crashing into a left turn person that thought the flashing yellow turn light meant go. I couldn't quite stop so ended up spinning them around until they were head on to the vehicle in the other lane going the same way as I (sorry Dave Stamps). No one was hurt in the crash and my truck is a whole lot better than their car, as mine is still drivable, but with \$9500 damage (and that's just the headlight).

While performing an inspection the foundation man found a water leak under the house caused by a rodent chewing through the line. Of course after the plumber fixed the leak and we turned the water back on there was actually another leak caused by

the same critter, or his partner. We got that fixed and just in time as I'm having the crawl space encapsulated next week. Hopefully the whole house generator that I'm having put in next week as well, will cause us to never have to use it (if Murphy does his job) and things will start to get back to normal. Wish us luck and a hot lottery ticket. See you at the meeting.

Lee KI4LLJ  
CARS Membership Committee

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Another month closer to Hurricane season which starts June 1<sup>st</sup>. Start planning now so the first Hurricane won't be a surprise. Remember Hurricane preparations will help you during the severe weather season too. April is the peak month for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms so get ready during this month.

South Carolina Emergency Management Department has started a pilot program with Aiken EMD to establish a "Meshtastic" link to the State EOC. NOT Amateur radio but another tool in the Communicators toolbox. You can "Google" search for more information about Meshtastic systems and equipment.

Start testing your personal radio range and frequencies that you can successfully use to communicate in an emergency. Test with a base/mobile radio (Higher Power and antenna), test from your vehicle if you have a radio installed, and test with an HT using your home antenna and adapter as well as with the rubber duck antenna. Arrange with some close Hams to try a Simplex frequency, find out just where you can talk. I know and have tested Simplex Communications with the Dorchester EOC from the Charleston EOC. It helps to know you can get assistance before it is needed.

Rick, N8BKN  
Charleston County Emergency Coordinator.

## FIELD DAY

Letters and emails to elected officials have been sent and we have two acceptances so far: Sylleste

Davis, SC State Representative, District 100 (She has always come through for us!) and Mount Pleasant Town Councilman Mike Tinkey. Governor McMaster sends "good wishes for a successful event." We received a very supportive email from Mt. Pleasant Town Councilwoman Kathryn Whitaker. Rep. Davis asked if there is any legislation she could submit on behalf of the Ham Radio community so please let me know if you have suggestions. Congresswoman Nancy Mace's June schedule is still in progress and her office will let us know when that becomes available. Our FD Station has been added to the Station Locator on the ARRL website: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>.

We received the letter pictured below from the White House expressing "Best wishes" from President Donald J. Trump:



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 thawing!

Mike, KY4BO

## FINANCIAL REPORT

|                                                       |                    |         |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| <b>CARS<br/>Treasurer's<br/>Report</b>                |                    |         |                    |
| <b>January 2026</b>                                   |                    |         |                    |
| <b>Checking<br/>Balance<br/>December 31,<br/>2025</b> |                    |         | \$ 1,136.00        |
| <b>Cash Receipts -<br/>January</b>                    |                    |         |                    |
|                                                       | Dues               | 575.00  |                    |
|                                                       | Memberships        | -       |                    |
|                                                       | Raffle             | 69.00   |                    |
|                                                       |                    | =       |                    |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                                 |                    |         | 644.00             |
| <b>Cash<br/>Disbursements<br/>January</b>             |                    |         |                    |
|                                                       |                    | -       |                    |
|                                                       | ARRL<br>Membership | (59.00) |                    |
|                                                       |                    | -       |                    |
|                                                       |                    | =       |                    |
| <b>Total<br/>Disbursements</b>                        |                    |         | (59.00)            |
| <b>Checking<br/>Balance January<br/>31, 2025</b>      |                    |         | <u>\$ 1,721.00</u> |

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

## MINUTES of the FEBRUARY MEETING

**Charleston Amateur Radio Society  
Monthly Meeting  
February 9, 2026**

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

### Introductions:

Members attending Associates Guests

37 0 2

### Announcements:

ARRL School Club Roundup Week

Work All States 250 Event has started. More Info –  
<https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>

**Secretary Report:** Paul, KQ4ZTB - Accepted as  
info.

**Treasurers Report:** Charlotte, KJ4PLX –  
Accepted as info.

### Standing Committee Reports:

Field Day: Steve, AA2BB – Working on invites to  
Summer Field Day

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 with Eugene, AB4UG

Museum Ships (AJ4UQ) – Nothing to report

Cars Carrier (Mike Maheu - W4KWC) –  
new website is under development.

Testing/Education (AB4UG) – March 15 at  
Citadel Mall.

Trailer: Mike, KY4BO ready to go

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ –

Current Total Membership – 158

Voting Members – 152 including 4 life  
members

Associate Members – 6 including 1 life  
member

Meeting Quorum – 23 Voting Members

First Reading: (1)

Douglas Archer, N8QY, Extra,  
Retired Engineer, Summerville

Meeting adjourned at 19:23 hours

Second Reading: (1)

Aideen Stratford, KR4GWY,  
Technician, Retired, Charleston

Emergency Preparedness:

Berkeley County: Linda, KJ4EVB

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:**

State EOC Training on 21st of February. Rick,  
Beverly and others will be attending. Recommend  
obtaining a copy of the State EOC Emergency  
Communications Plan. It contains essential  
information for ARES members for frequency  
plans, repeater functionality, and DMR  
functionality.

Club Room has to move - date TBD

Drawing: Renata Sierzega won.

CARS CARRIER  
Charleston Amateur Radio Society

