

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society July 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, July 13, 2026 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This is July, the month the Club elects Club Officers for the next year. It has been a privilege and honor to have served as President. Since I will NOT seek reelection, the duties will fall to the next President.

I want to thank The Officers that helped and quidded me during my term. Tom, AJ4UQ as VP always backing me up and carrying many tasks to improve the Club. As Club Treasurer Charlotte, KJ4PLX kept the many monies organized and corrected an exceedingly difficult job. Warren, KK4EVI, Brian, KN4EXJ, and Paul, KQ4ZTB as Secretary took great notes of my ramblings and stayed accurate for the records. Last, I want to thank Lee, KI4LLJ for being my parliamentarian and question answerer.

To the Club members that also stepped up for projects and events thank you.

It is time for new leadership and innovative ideas. There are different challenges facing the Club and I hope to assist the Club leadership and support them fully.

See everyone at the Meeting.

73

Rick N8BKN

NEWS FROM THE VP

As you have probably heard by now, Patriots Point has decided to terminate our relationship. As far as I

can tell they expected us to move spaces after the MOA was signed in November, and we didn't by June.

We have until the end of the month to remove our equipment. I have asked for access on each weekend in July (except for the fourth) but have not received a response. If someone can lead some weekday sessions that will help as well.

We urgently need a place to store radios, more radios, coax, papers, and other materials. We also need trucks and trailers to haul it out. Volunteers are needed.

73 Tom, AJ4UQ

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is still holding at 162.

Hope everyone had a decent 250th birthday. With Field Day completed and the 4th behind us it is once again time to start thinking about paying those annual dues to the club. Without a February Ham Fest to tide us over, we are in a once a year revenue period where your dues are the main source of income for the club. They are due August the first every year as our fiscal and membership years go from August 1st to July 31st. The by-laws give a certain amount of flexibility in being late with your payments, and some folks tend to not only use all that flexibility, but actually stretch out their payments to the very end, despite the several reminders I end up having to put out. I appreciate those that manage to pay their dues on time each year and hope that more of you can see fit to do the dues in a timely manner. The annual dues are still

\$20/yr for the first member of a household with any others in the same household half price (that's \$10 for all the rednecks in the group).

There are two methods you can use to pay your dues to the club. 1) come to a club meeting and pay with check (made out to CARS) or cash (the preferred method) or 2) mail a check made out to CARS to Lee Miller KI4LLJ, CARS Membership, 207 Glebe Rd, Summerville, SC 29485.

Unfortunately with the disrespect we are receiving from Patriot's Point by kicking us to the curb after over 50 years aboard the Yorktown, the third method of bringing your dues to me at operating day aboard the carrier is no longer available.

Please mind the heat this summer as it is already here in full force and October seems like a long time away.

Lee KI4LLJ
CARS Membership Committee

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane season is until November 30, 2026. Currently NO storms in the Atlantic Basin for the next 7 days, still a long season yet ahead so stay alert and prepared. Also look out for any neighbors not from Hurricane areas that may need help preparing.

With the high summer temperatures please expect afternoon thunderstorms and the accompanying flooding of streets. There seems to be a trend in the Low Country of afternoon storms due to the daytime heating so expect them and plan for them.

Heat and high temperatures are with us for the summer. Learn the signs of heat related illness, there is heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat exertion to deal with. Learn the treatments for each because it varies for each event and always stay hydrated and take breaks during outside activities.

Rick, N8BKN
Charleston County Emergency Coordinator.

FIELD DAY

CARS ARRL Field Day, June 26-28, 2026

This year's Field Day (FD) tested the mettle of our club. On Thursday, June 25th, we received an email from the Patriots Point Development Authority (PPDA) that they had "made the difficult decision to discontinue its relationship with CARS." No explanation was given and no accommodation was made to allow us to retrieve the equipment we needed for FD. We received this message following a period of uncertainty during which our efforts to cooperate went unrewarded.

Our plans to regroup were made at BoJangles on Ashley Phosphate Road, where club members meet regularly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9am (all are welcome to join!) Bryce Myers, K4LXF, longtime CARS member and former Club President, solved our problem by offering his home for FD this year. We gratefully accepted and reconvened there that morning.





(plus a small power amplifier to bring the output up to 80 watts.) Greg Keys, KG4GEK, brought a canopy/tent, a Windom antenna, and a complete portable station. Michelle Mantooth, KK4WQO, ordered our food from Publix (sub platters & cookies), and Renata Sierzega, KQ4ASH, in addition to helping with setup and at the CW station, brought homemade French toast, grilled sausages, and OJ on Sunday morning for breakfast. In short, hams from our club did what hams do - despite the difficulties, we held our heads up and made things work.



Equipment and supplies vital to FD, including antennas, radios, CW keys, cables, bandpass filters, computers, routers, signage, paper goods and other materials stored in the clubroom on the Yorktown were out of reach. So in some ways this proved a real test of our ability to put things together in a disaster. Many club members answered our call for help. Glenn Little, WB4UIV, again shared his solar panels and battery with us. Club President, Rick Valentine, N8BKN, brought an antenna analyzer to tune our “new” antennas and PVC pipes for use as an antenna mast. Vice President Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, improvised a local area network (LAN) and set up 2 computers for logging, one of the club’s plus an old laptop I found in our stationary closet at home. Tom updated it, added the N1MM+ logging software and it worked great! Brian Smith, KN4EXJ rolled up in his Tahoe like a man on horseback and surprised us with a full set of bandpass filters, without which we would have had a very tough time operating two stations simultaneously. Mike Maheu, W4KWC, brought 2 Chameleon verticals, a 25’ for 40m and a 17’ for 20m plus tripod and radials that he uses for POTA, and Jim Comfort, W9GHW (his grandfather’s call,) provided a compact QRP HF station in a toolbox



over the weekend to join us on FD (which proved to be the case,) but she'd like to meet with the club in the near future. I looked at some of her work and she is an outstanding writer who covers grass-roots people doing good things (like ham radio operators!) I plan to get in touch with her again after FD.



As part of FD preparations, we invited the media, and I received a call from Lynda Edwards, a reporter and weekend editor for the Charleston Post & Courier. Despite a busy schedule, she spent an hour and a half on the phone with me on the Wednesday evening before FD. She describes herself as a history buff whose grandfather was a ham radio enthusiast and she's interested in writing an article about CARS and Ham Radio! Her neighbor, retired Coast Guard, told her about hams' involvement with emergency communications and the Maritime Mobile Service Net. She was excited to hear that our club assisted with the establishment of SCHEART (South Carolina Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team). She's particularly interested in ham radio's ability to serve as a light in the darkness for those in lonely places, harm's way, or distress. Most of all, she just wants to see people talk with friends over the radio. She warned me that she might be too busy covering the editor's desk



On a stifflingly hot Friday afternoon at 2pm we began the setup. Bryce Myers, K4LXF, and Rick Valentine, N8BKN, led by example, as usual. The breakfast group met at BoJangles, after which Lee Smith, KI4LLJ, and Mike Whisenant, KY4BO, brought the club's trailer to Bryce's house and parked it in his driveway. Dave Fleischman, KB9UJF, Rick, N8BKN, Lee, KI4LLJ, and Greg, KG4GEK, assembled and installed the R5 and G5RV (and helped to replace it with a Windom the next day!) We were assisted by new club member

Arnez Pettigrew. The Cushcraft R5 vertical (40 years old,) was placed on top of a 30-foot mast that we zip tied to a pole in front of Bryce's house. Using the pneumatic extendable mast on the back of the trailer we raised a G5RV, but the SWR was unacceptably high.



By nature, the ladder-line portion of a G5RV must be fully extended and off the ground followed by 50' of coax in order to sustain the balanced effect of the transmission line. We didn't have enough height available from the trailer's mast to accomplish that. Fortunately, the next morning, Greg Keys, KG4GEK, rescued us with a Windom antenna that was easily tunable with the built-in transmatch in

our IC 7300. Greg also brought a portable canopy that provided shelter for a table and chairs for our CW operating station. Mike, KY4BO, brought our Honda generators and fuel and set them up. Mike Wolford, N4PSU, Club Historian, took pictures. Doug Clark, KU4OC, Mike Maheu, W4KWC, Warren Richey, KK4EVI, and others were everywhere they were needed, assembling antennas, raising the canopy, setting up the trailer, and arranging the operating sites. By the end of Friday afternoon, we had accomplished our goals of raising antennas, laying transmission lines, planning our power, and designating operating positions.



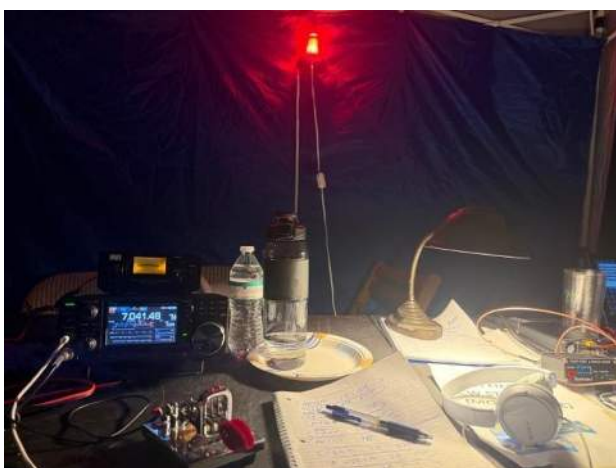
Saturday morning we gathered again and put the pieces together. Setup was a poem of cooperation. Folks went to work with a minimum of words and a maximum of action. Everyone was on the same page and, despite the last-minute change in venue, the CARS Field Day began on time at 2pm Saturday afternoon.



The sideband station was in the trailer using the R5, and CW was at the table under the canopy using the Windom. Avery Hill, W4QYV, went to work on SSB on 20 meters and I started with CW on 40m with Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, copying CW in his head and logging. Though we didn't have a GOTA station, Avery recruited some of the newcomers to get on the air! Various club members kept us on the air well into the night. Conditions were good and initial contacts were from North Florida. Band conditions brought us New England, Canada (Prince Edward Island & Nova Scotia) in the east and Orange County, California from the west. We worked the Dakotas, the Rockies, Arizona and Puerto Rico. Our most distant contact was Spain. We copied Hawaii, but could not make a 2-way contact. We received the ARRL bulletin and had a visit from ARRL Section Manager, Matthew Crook, W1MRC. An afternoon storm cell tested our ability to dismantle and reassemble the station, which happened seamlessly. An important decision was

made by Greg, KG4GEK, who said the time to move was NOW! I had a special father-son moment when Johnny, WB4JMS, and I worked together at the CW station. As usual, Jim Comfort, W9GHW, worked the night shift. We used his portable station to make about a dozen QRP contacts with 8 watts from a battery charged by the sun. I think he was the only one on the air from 3am-6:30am. Then, after operating all night, he drove to The Quarry in Ravenel where he taught a SCUBA class that morning, then returned to finish FD with our group! We finished FD on solar power, making numerous contacts using the solar-charged battery from Glenn Little, WB4UIV.



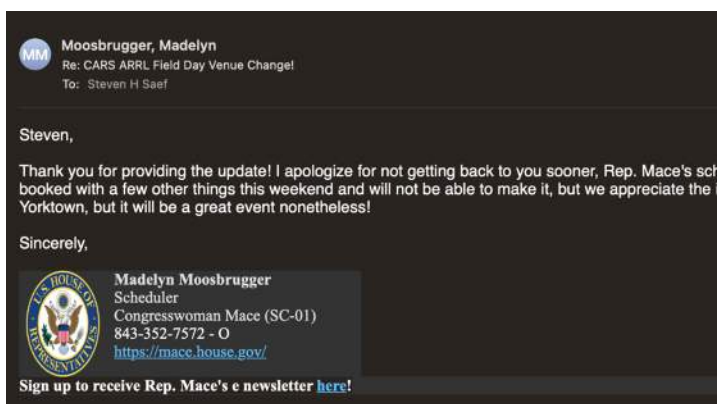
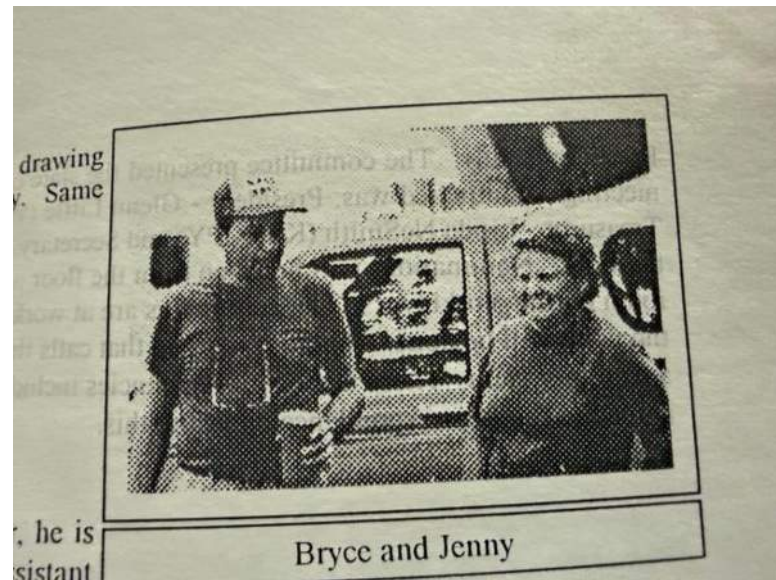
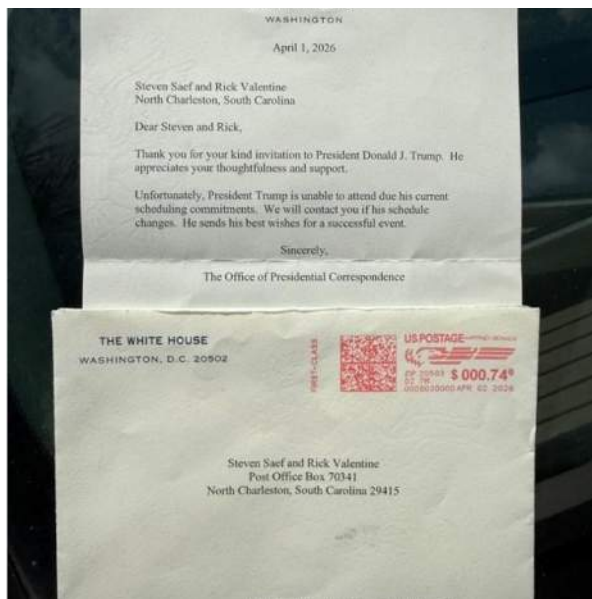


We were visited by Representative Sylleste Davis, SC House of Representatives, District 100, and her husband, Mike, on Sunday morning. This is the third year in a row that Rep. Davis has joined us and we express sincere gratitude for her interest and support. Her personal attendance despite the change in venue is a sincere statement of loyalty (and it's worth 100 points to the club!) She is always ready and willing to hear from us about concerns pertaining to Ham Radio that we think should be brought to our legislature. Sylleste & Mike sat with us at the operating station, then joined us in Bryce's living room for a conversation about current topics in Amateur Radio and emergency communications. We also invited President Trump who wrote back expressing his regrets, but sent best wishes for a successful event. US Congresswoman Nancy Mace, who joined us last year and sent a Letter of Support the year before, was committed elsewhere, but she and her assistant Madelyn Moosbrugger wrote back saying they "appreciate the invitation and hope the event goes well! It is a bummer it cannot be on the Yorktown, but it will be a great event nonetheless!"



a moment to sit and savor the fact that another successful CARS Field Day was in the books. But not yet for Tom or me! Tom does the heavy lifting of downloading our results from N1MM, cleaning the data, and calculating our score, and I need to put together the final package for submission to the ARRL. We plan to submit our results together at the next club meeting.

Bryce and Jenny's home felt like home to all. The warmth of their kitchen, living room and den was palpable, and the sense of togetherness very strong. Their legacy of commitment to their family and to our club put us all at ease. Holding FD at their QTH was a fitting tribute to their years of contribution to CARS.



Here's a preliminary score report from Tom. We did pretty well, considering this was a new location using antennas that had not been previously tested at the site. With bonus points added, we should be well over 1000 points!

Takedown went as smoothly as setup with the same quiet cooperation. Mike, KY4BO and Lee, KI4LLJ, returned the trailer and Doug Clark, KU4OC, who helped from start to finish, joined us for the final debriefing in Bryce's living room to close the afternoon. To me, as hot & tired as we were, it was

WA4USN Score - 888 Poi... Resco					
Contest: FD					
Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pt/Q	
7	CW	78	155	2.0	
7	LSB	21	21	1.0	
14	CW	99	196	2.0	
14	USB	39	39	1.0	
21	USB	33	33	1.0	
Total	Both	270	444	1.6	
Score: 888					
1 Mult = 1.0 Q's					

Representative Sylleste Davis, District 100,
 SC House of Representatives
 Mike Davis, Husband
 Deen Stratford, KR4GWY
 Travis Rogers KQ4SJI
 Glenn Little, WB4UIV (met with us at
 BoJangles and provided solar power)
 Canine, Dog (Mallow)
 Canine, Dog (Snickers)
 Canine, Dog (unknown)

Steve, AA2BB

Please see the pics for the rest of the story. I think it can be reliably said that even though we couldn't be on the ship, we had a very special Field Day. They might have the ship, but we have the faith!

The list of participants and those with whom I had direct contact follows (please forgive me if I left you off the list!):

Steve Saef, AA2BB, Field Day Captain
 Adam El-Idrissi
 Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, CARS Vice President
 David Fleischman, KB9UJF
 Mike Whisnant, KY4BO
 Avery Hill, W4QYV, Field Day Co-Captain
 Greg Keys, KG4GEK
 Bryce Myers, K4LXF
 Michelle Mantooth, KK4WQO
 Mike Whisenant, KY4BO
 Mike Wolford, N4PSU
 Rick Valentine, N8BKN, CARS President
 Mike Maheu, W4KWC
 Warren Richey, KK4EVI
 Renata Sierzega, KQ4QASH
 Lee Miller, KI4LLJ
 Artez Pettigrew
 Justin Giancola
 Doug Clark, KU4OC
 Neighbor, John
 Neighbor, Mara
 Brian Smith, KN4EXJ
 Jake Kunzler, KZ4AZ
 Johnny Saef, WB4JMS
 Jack Stinson, WB4AQO
 Matthew Crook, W1MRC, ARRL Section Manager
 Ted Coats ND3Q
 Jim Comfort, W9GHW

HAMFEST

Nothing new to report.

Paulette, KJ4AIK

MUSEUM SHIPS

Museum Ships Weekend logs have been submitted to the Battleship New Jersey ARS (NJ2BB).

Tom, AJ4UQ

RACES / PUBLIC SERVICE

Save the date: Saturday, October 3, 2026 for the Isle of Palms Connector Run.

We need to be on site at the Harris Teeter parking lot (south side) no later than 6:30, since they close the bridge at 7. Race starts at 8 and is over around 10 or 10:30. We'll use the club trailer as our command post.

This is one group that really appreciates our help!

Doug, KU4OC

COMMUNICATIONS TRAILER

The trailer supported Field Day and much was learned.

Mike, KY4BO

FINANCIAL REPORT

CARS Treasurer's Report May 2026			
Checking Balance April 30, 2026			\$ 912.89
Cash Receipts - May			
		-	
		-	
	Raffle	34.00	
		=	
Total Receipts			34.00
Cash Disbursements -May			
		-	
	ARRL Membership	(59.00)	
	Web Hosting	(158.27)	
		=	
Total Disbursements			<u>(217.27)</u>
Checking Balance May 31, 2026			<u>\$ 729.62</u>

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the JUNE MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society Monthly Meeting June 8, 2026

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

Introductions:

Members attending Associates Guests

30 1 2

Announcements:

Town Hall at 2000 tonight Roanoke ARRL Division

Secretary Report: Paul, KQ4ZTB - Accepted as info.

Treasurers Report: Charlotte, KJ4PLX – Accepted as info.

Standing Committee Reports:

Field Day: Steve, AA2BB – Field Day Jun 26th. See web site for signup.

Hamfest: Paulette, KJ4AIK

Repeaters: Bryce, K4LXF

Race Events: Doug, KU4OC – IOP Connector Run – October 3, 2026

Museum Ships, Cars Carrier, Website, VE Testing:

Tom, AJ4UQ with Eugene, AB4UG

Museum Ships (AJ4UQ) – 60 contacts from Laffey, 77 contacts from Yorktown, 78 contacts from the PBR.

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

Testing/Education (Eugene - AB4UG) – there will be no June testing session.

Trailer: Mike, KY4BO – washed, cleaned, Batteries charged.

Membership: Lee, N4PSU –

Current Total Membership – 161

Voting Members – 156 including 4 life members

Associate Members – 5 members

Meeting Quorum – 24 Voting Members

First Reading: (0)

Second Reading: (0)

Ivy Howerton KI7YJC, Technician, Accountant, Mount Pleasant

Emergency Preparedness:

Berkeley County: Linda, KJ4EVV

Charleston County: Rick, N8BKN

Dorchester County: Beverly, W3BRB

Code Practice: Larry, KJ4GZR – same time.

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

Club Historian: Mike N4PSU

New Business:

Nomination Committee Report:

Club Room Move - TBD

Drawing: held by Larry

Meeting adjourned at 19:31 hours

CARS CARRIER
Charleston Amateur Radio Society

