

CARC Monthly Meeting Minutes for MARCH 2017

March 6, 2017

- Introductions and Opening:
 - Club President Marty Allred announced that he has resigned as president.
 - With the approval of the Board of Directors, Earl Dean will assume the position of President. Dan Cunningham will move into the Vice President position.
 - Dan will continue to prepare the minutes of the of the meetings until a new Secretary is found.

- Meeting Minutes: Dan Cunningham announced that the minutes for the February 6th meeting are on the club website.

- Financial Report: Treasurer Jim Donelan (W4KNI) gave the financial report. The balance in the club's account at the end of January was \$2344.15 at the end of February, and, at the end of February, there were 125 members in the club, up 2 since the end of January.

- CARC Net Report: Net Manager, Gary Anderson (K4HGA) provided the statistics on the CARC 2 meter net. There were 8 sessions in February with a total of 229 check ins, an average of 29. 24 messages (traffic) were handled. William Cordoba presented the net report in Gary's absence.

- There were a number of announcements:
 - CLUB PICNIC: The Club picnic will be on August 19th at the Fort Jackson recreation area. Those interested in helping may contact Gary Anderson.

 - TRAINING AND TESTING: There will be a VE Session at the ETV Building on Saturday, March 18th. Training sessions for the Technician exam will be held at the ETV Building from 6pm to 9pm on March 13th through the 17th. Training for the General and Extra exams will be held at the ETV Building from 6pm to 9pm on March 14th through the 16th.

 - TOUR DE CURE: Volunteers are needed to provide communications support for the Tour de Cure to be held on May 20th. Those who can help are invited to a "downtown" event the preceding Friday evening.

 - PREPAREDNESS FAIR: On March 25th, there will be a Preparedness Fair at the Church of the Latter Day Saints at 4440 Fort Jackson Boulevard in Columbia. Tom Francis and William Cordoba will be on hand to provide visitors some education and to demonstrate short wave communications. Any other members who would like to teach or to

demonstrate how to use ham radio are invited to bring their gear and participate.

- **PTSD CHALLENGE:** Starting on the 14th of April, there will be a 5-day rafting trip down the Saluda River. The event, known as the PTSD Challenge, will be for veterans affected by this condition. Hams are needed to monitor the event and provide needed emergency communications.
- **PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD BASICS:** Angelo Ferraro is working on plans for a Printed Circuit Board class later in the year.
- **MS WALK:** The MS Walk will be on April 22nd. Five or six hams are needed to cover the event.
- **SWAP MEET:** The Club's Swap Meet will be on Saturday, April 1st, in the KMart parking lot at the intersection of Two Notch and Decker Boulevard in Columbia. Come looking for some bargains!
- **WEATHERFEST:** In relation to Weatherfest, President Earl Dean is investigating providing some additional weather training later in the summer.
- **CHARLOTTE HAM FEST:** A number of members are planning to attend the Charlotte Ham Fest on Saturday, March 11th, at the Cabarrus County Exposition Center. Doors open at 8:30 am. Those interested in riding or driving with the group can meet at the Hardee's at Exit 27 on I-77N in Blythewood at 6:30 am. The group will coordinate and communicate on 146.400 simplex.
- **MINI-MAKER FAIR:** The Mini Maker Fair will be at Edventure on the 29th of March. Ideas and suggestions about programs and displays by the club are being discussed.
- **MORSE CODE TRAINING:** Bill Minikiewicz will offer an introductory Morse Code class later in the spring or early summer. Participants will be expected to purchase a standard code key and either a Sawdust Regenerative Receiver or a code practice oscillator. Total cost: \$30. Code practice partners will be assigned. Class work will include learning the letters, the numbers, punctuation, and operating methods. Plans are for 4 or 5 classes of about 3 hours each. Participants will practice code with their partners between classes as well as by listening to scheduled sessions on W1AW. Participants are expected to make one QSO in code by the last training session. The classes will be held at the Calhoun County Operations Center at exit 121 on I-20.

Main Topic: Results of the South Carolina QSO Party and Upcoming Activities

Tom Francis gave a highly informative presentation on the results of the March 11th SC QSO party. QSO counts were so high that the Internet logging software actually developed a problem! There were 204 logs submitted to Tom as of the start of the meeting. Contact averages were 200 to 300 QSO's, and average scores were 1500 to 1600 points. Four members operated for the club and made 700 QSO's in total.

Tom reminded everyone of the upcoming World Wide Flora and Fauna program. Similar to National Parks On The Air (NPOTA), WWFF will encourage hams to operate from state parks. There is plenty of territory to work: there are 47 state parks in SC and more than 4000 state parks across the country. NPOTA and WWFF are making it convenient and fun for hams to participate in contesting with portable gear from remote locations. Years ago, such organized remote operations involved expeditions to remote polar regions or elsewhere to test one's skills and equipment. Interestingly, shortwave listeners can participate in a fashion, requesting contact confirmation or QSL cards from hams whose QSO's they have heard.

Participants may register at the website wwff-kff.com and may activate state parks AND national parks. Park identification numbers to be used during the event are available on that website. For instance, KFF-2892 is the ID for Devil's Fork State Park here in SC. Short contacts will be the goal. 10 contacts from any park will be required to "activate the park" in the US. A total of 44 contacts from a park is required in the international competition.

Tom reminded everyone to have fun and be safe in these upcoming events!

Everyone is reminded that they may contribute to the Feed Line, the club newsletter, by contacting Andy Haworth (KK4DSD).