

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for March 2015

March 2, 2015

- Introductions
 - Ronnie Livingston (W4RWL)-President
 - Individual attendee introductions

- Past Month's Meeting Minutes: Steve (KI4VGA) announced that last month's meeting minutes can be found on the club's website (www.w4cae.com).

- Treasurer's Report: Andy (KK4DSD) announced that the club's bank account balance was \$ 1,555.00 at the last months meeting. However since the last meeting, the club has received one membership renewal (deposit of \$20.00) and paid the annual fee for the club Post Office box (debit of \$92.00). With these transactions being complete, the club currently has \$1483.00 in the bank.

- CARC Net Report: Net Manager, Steve (W4SJD) announced that in February 2015 there were 8 nets held with a total of 199 check-ins.

- Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club Update: Lee (K4ELG) announced that the KCARC holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month. This Month KCARC will be holding an open house at their new club meeting site (1020 York St., Camden) on March 12, 2015 starting at 6 pm. Following the open house, they will hold their monthly meeting. All are invited to attend. Details can be found at the Kershaw County Amateur Radio club website for further details at www.KC4RC.com Also KCARC will be holding a VE session on March 14, 2015, at the new club location. Testing will start at 10 am.

- Old Business:
 - Amateur Radio Emergency Service: Ronnie and Lee announced that all are invited to attend an introduction to ARES and a kick off meeting to get the Area 3 ARES group organized. This meeting will be held at SCETV on March 7, 2015, starting at 10 am. All attendees are asked to bring a 2 Meter HT with a fully charged battery.
 - CARC-SWAPFEST: Tom (W1TEF) announced that the CARC Swap-fest will be held at SCETV on April 4, 2015. This event will be held behind the SCETV building in the new parking lot. Free parking and free coffee while supplies last...

- CARCERT- Club Communication Trailer: Ronnie announced that Dwayne (N4LDL) will become the new committee chairman for the trailer team. Dwayne announced that an Open House will be held so that club members can come out to see the trailer and to see what needs to be done to repair the trailer. This open house announcement will be sent out as an e-mail blast to club members and will be announced on the CARC weekly 2 Meter nets.
- Donations: Ronnie continues to ask the club members if anyone had radio/radio equipment that they would be willing to donate to the club. Ronnie intent is to use donations to provide a prize for a future “Go-Kit” competition.
- Elmer Program: Tom updated the club about an upcoming Elmer program later this year. He anticipates that initially this will include basic radio operations, but may include a code class and possibly a basic electronic theory class. He wanted to ask all who might be interested in helping with the Elmering program to contact him directly.
- SCQSO Party: Tom announced that there have been some suggestions to update scoring structure for the SCQSO party. He also suggested that CARC should consider running a bonus stations (all modes) for 12 continuous hours for the SCQSO party. He also announced that all plaques for the 2013 and 2014 winners of each operator category from the South Carolina QSO Party were received well based on feedback he received. He also has some ideas about some graphically unique awards for this years contest.
- CARC 2 Meter Nets: Steve (W4SJD) wanted to let everyone know that he had revised the CARC Net script and that it is available on the club website. He also wanted to let everyone know that at an upcoming monthly meeting, there will be a general net operation and overview for both net control operators and participants.
- New Business:
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Charlotte Ham-fest will be at Cabarrus Arena on March 14&15, 2015.
 - Raleigh Ham-fest will be held at North Carolina State Fairgrounds on April 4, 2015.
 - Ridge Club Tailgate Party next to Shealy’s in Batesburg Leesville on April 18, 2015, starting at 9 am.

- o Colon Cancer Ride (club supported event) will be on April 18, 2015.
- CARC Representative at Columbia VE Sessions: Tammy(N4TAL) Asked if someone from the Columbia Amateur Radio Club could be present at the end of the VE sessions held at SCETV (even months) to meet and greet freshly licensed amateurs. The individuals would not be in the testing room, but just outside the exam room to provide information about CARC (brochures) and invite them to come to a meeting and consider joining CARC since the “first year is free”. Ronnie asked Gary (KM4FZW) to make sure that he or one of his helpers (you may be asked) to be at the VE sessions to help spread the word. Thanks Gary!! And I expect that he will be asking one or two of us to help out.....

Meeting Topic: Solar Power for the Ham Operator by Lee (K4ELG)

Lee presented a power-point presentation about Solar Power not only for your Shack but also your entire home. This presentation provided a detailed discussion on how anyone can set up a solar panel array, charge controller, a bank of batteries, a modified Sine wave power inverter, and the wiring necessary to power your shack and keep the lights on in your house. In addition, lee detailed how an 1800 watt system could be built for around \$800.00. Thanks Lee for the informational presentation and offering to provide answers to any questions we may have. Lee can be contacted at lee@leegriggs.net .

All were reminded that prior to the next CARC meeting the Board will be meeting on April 6, 2015 at SCETV at 6:30 pm. The CARC club meeting will follow the Board meeting at 7:00 pm.