

CARC Monthly Meeting Minutes for April 2017

April 3, 2017

- Introductions and Opening: Club President Earl Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting, brave souls on a terribly rainy night!
- Meeting Minutes: Dan Cunningham announced that the minutes for the March 6th meeting are on the club website, W4CAE.COM.
- Financial Report: Treasurer Jim Donelan (W4KNI) was out this evening, recovering from a fall. Dan Cunningham gave the financial report. The balance in the club's account at the end of February was \$2344.15. It was \$2008.63 at the end of March. The largest expense for the month was the premium Jim paid for the Club's liability insurance. Membership grew by one during the month, up from 125 at the end of February to a total of 126.
- CARC Net Report: Net Manager, Gary Anderson (K4HGA) gave the Net report. There were 9 sessions in March. There was a total of 238 check-ins, an average of 26 per session. 34 messages (traffic) were handled during the 9 sessions.
- There were several announcements:
 - **TOUR DE CURE:** Volunteers are needed to provide communications support for the Tour de Cure to be held on May 20th. Amateurs with portable radios who have or have not participated before are asked to contact Gary Anderson. Going forward, Gary would like to have a volunteer to organize and direct our efforts in support the event. The plaque we received in recognition of our support of the event will be given to Tammy Livingston for her efforts with the Tour.
 - **REPEATER OPERATING PROTOCOLS:** Net Manager Gary Anderson reminded folks how to request the repeater for emergency traffic when the repeater is busy. When you have emergency traffic and the repeater is busy, simply break in by transmitting "Emergency. Emergency. Emergency." Well-behaved hams should immediately stop their rag chewing or other activities to make the repeater available for the emergency work. If you hear an emergency call, be courteous. Free up the repeater, and stand by to assist!
 - **VE SESSIONS:** Tom Francis announced that plans are for VE sessions to be held quarterly going forward. New Ham Meetings and a class on operating methods and protocols are being planned.

- **LDS PREPAREDNESS FAIR:** Earl Dean reported that we had several members present for the fair, but overall participation by the public was not as good as last year.
- **MS WALK:** Earl reminded members that hams will be needed for the MS walk on April 22nd. Contact Earl if you can participate.
- **SKYWARN:** There will be SKYWARN training at the airport on April 22nd. Contact their office at the airport for details.
- **SWAP MEET:** The Swap Meet on April 1st went well. It was held at the old Kmart parking lot on Two Notch Road in Columbia. Some folks got some good bargains, and a few got to see folks they have not seen in a long time. \$70 was raised through the handwriting analysis Earl and another analyst provided on site. That money will go to those who train, house, feed, and work with rescue dogs in SC.
- **PIO:** Earl announced that the club is in search of a Public Information Officer. If you have interest in supporting the many activities of the club in this way, please contact Earl for details.
- **HAM RADIO AT FOREST LAKE ELEMENTARY:** Earl is coordinating activities at Forest Lake Elementary. With the help of the teachers there, the kids will learn about ham radio and, if all goes well, will contact the International Space Station!!!
- **HOA REGULATIONS:** Earl reminded everyone to follow the progress on the legislation affecting radio antennas and restrictions by home owners' associations across the country. Details are available on the ARRL website.
- **NEW BAND APPROVED:** Several folks talked about the new Very Low Frequency band (5khz) that has been approved. The challenge for most of us will be finding room to install a VERY LONG VLF antenna!! More discussion will follow in the months ahead.
- **MORSE CODE TRAINING:** Bill Minikiewicz is offering an introductory Morse Code class starting Saturday, April 8. Classes will be from 8 am until 9:30 am each Saturday this month and every other Saturday in May. Participants will be expected to purchase a standard code key and either a dust 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 Presentation: Basic Test Equipment by Bill Minikiewicz.

Bill gave an overview of how to use a number of pieces of test equipment, including a frequency counter, a dummy load, a multimeter, a watt / SWR meter, and a directional watt meter. He reminded us that we can find further training on each item on Youtube. An overall caution is to be careful when using this equipment, taking care to protect yourself and your equipment.

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