

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for July 2013

July 1, 2013

- Introductions
 - Richard Mote (AL7MO)-President
 - Individual attendee introductions
- Past Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to not read last month's meeting minutes, a second was made, and a unanimous vote was made to not read the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report: Current amount in the account was \$ 2093.53. A reminder was made that annual club dues are now due for all members and newly licensed amateurs (within one year) receive the first year membership free..
- CARC Net Report: The Net Manager was in attendance and reported that the checks in numbers have been averaging > 20 check-ins per net.

Bill (W4FSV) announced that the club will be initiating a future contest for additional 2M HT's. Prior to that time, Bill requested help from someone in the club who has an older computer (before Windows XP?) that he could borrow to program the HT's prior to the contest. Several in attendance indicated that they did have such a computer and would be willing to help out.

- New Business:
 - Elmering Program: Stan (N3LU) announced that the club will be beginning programs for those newly licensed hams. The club is hoping to get an Elmering program started by identifying "seasoned" hams in surrounding communities that can help out with new hams locally. In addition to those that signed up last month's meeting, Stan indicated that he was still seeking volunteers. He provided a sign up list for not only those that were interested in being an Elmer, but also for those who wanted to be elmered. These lists as a starting point for developing the Elmering program. Stand by for more details as they develop.....
 - VE Sessions: Stan indicated that July's VE session would be held in Camden (Kershaw Co ARC holds VE sessions at Kershaw Co. Library in Camden on the second Saturday during the odd numbered months. The library opens at 10 am and the testing session begins shortly thereafter).

CARC will hold the August VE session at ETV on the second Saturday starting around 9 am. Stan took the opportunity to ask that any current ARRL VE's consider becoming a WestCARS (?) VE. This VE program includes lesser costs for those taking the tests and results in quicker turn-around times for license issuance.

- Ken (K4KXO) made an announcement that the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) has a local chapter (Chapter 89) and due to dwindling membership, there is a threat that this local Chapter could be disbanded or transferred to another location in South Carolina. Ken was encouraging anyone who was interested in helping with keeping this Chapter here to contact him for further information or check out the QCWA website.
- Rodgers Workshop: There is no Rodgers Workshop scheduled for July. Discussion was held by those in attendance about potential Rodgers Workshop topics. The group discussed an interest in having a Rodgers Workshop to build a 2 Meter roll-up J-pole antenna.
- Upcoming Events:. Tammy (N4TAL) announced that the club will be involved with some future events. Specifically;
 - Run Wild foot race will be held on August 24th at Sesquicentennial State Park. This is an event that the CARC supports by using 2 Meter simplex to provide updates along the race route. This is a great event for new operators to pair up with another Ham to learn the ropes of helping out a race and learning how to participate in a directed net.
 - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Tammy also announced that the club has been approached to assist with the Boy Scouts of America's Jamboree on the Air. This is an opportunity for scouts to get on the air and learn about amateur radio. A date of October 12, 2013 was mentioned as the potential date for this event. Stand by for future details.
 - Bill (W4SFV) announced that the Fall Mud Run will be held in October. The exact date of the event was not known, but it is on a Saturday and details will be forthcoming.
 - All in attendance were reminded that the South Carolina QSO party will be held in September. There was even some discussion of the club applying for a 1 x 1 call sign for this event. Although nothing was decided at this time.

- Also everyone in attendance was reminded that the Club will be conducting elections in November for officers and part of the Board of Directors. So all should think about nominations for all club members who have been members for more than one year.
- Repeater coordination: Ronnie (W4RWL) announced that there are two repeaters (associated with the club) that are available for licensed amateurs to use in the Columbia area. This would include the 147.330 (Columbia) repeater and 146.775 (Ft Jackson) repeater. Both of these repeaters are also available for nets. Ronnie only asked that if there those interested in starting a net would contact him to make sure there are no conflicts with other users/nets. Also Ronnie wanted to mention that regardless of whether a net is underway or if you are just talking to others, if someone has an emergency or priority traffic that transmissions should cease until the emergency has been handled unless of course you can help with the situation.
- 2013 Field Day Overview: Richard (AL7MO) provided an overview of this year's Field Day that was held at Sesquicentennial State Park on June 22-23, 2013. Todd (KN4QD) provided Richard with the following factoids;
 - The club operated as 5A for Field Day. We made a total of 939 contacts and we contacted all 50 States and most of the Canadian Provinces. The breakdown on the types of contacts; 575 CW contacts, 268 phone contacts, 96 digital contacts, and 40 GOTA station contacts. This resulted in an estimated 4490 total points and there were approximately 85 guests in attendance.
 - There was also some general discussion about the CARC operating at the Calhoun County, Sandy Run EMS station for the 2014 Field day. Look for more discussion on next year's Field day and where we might set up our radios and antennas....
- Honorary membership: A motion was made to show the club's appreciation for all that Ramsey Hawkins (KI4PTI) does for the CARC by providing him with an honorary membership to the club. This motion was seconded and the motion was approved by those in attendance. Ramsey will be awarded a membership to the CARC for the next year (2014).
- Program

- Early Ham Radio History: Malcolm Skipper “Skip” (AJ4AB) made a presentation on how radios have evolved since the early 1900’s. He demonstrated this with several radios from different time periods. He was able to show how tubes became more complex and smaller up through the time when solid state technology replaced tubes. This evolution also led to the creation of smaller and lighter radios.
- Meeting give-away: Two rotary multi-antenna switches (B&W and Heathkit switches) were donated to CARC and these switches were auctioned off with the proceeds going to the club. Two lucky individuals were able to take home these switches for a small donation of \$20 for the B&W switch and \$7 for the Heathkit switch.

All were reminded that the next CARC meeting will be at ETV on August 5, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The Board of Directors meeting will be held prior to the CARC meeting and will be held on August 3, 2013 at the Ryans on Bower Parkway, with breakfast at 8 am and the meeting starting around 9 am.