

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for August 2013

August 5, 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 \$ 2389.22.

- CARC Net Report: The Net Manager was in attendance and reported that the total check-ins for July would be 165 individuals. Nets have been averaging around 18 check-ins per session.

- Old Business:
 - 2013 Field Day: Todd (KN4QD) provided a brief overview of the club's accomplishments during this year's Field Day. The club worked all states, 80 of 83 sectors, and set a club all-time record score.

 - Run Wild Race: Tammy (N4TAL) announced that the Run Wild foot race will be held on August 24th at Sesquicentennial State Park starting at 7 am. This is an event that the CARC supports by using 2 Meter simplex to provide communication 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. She had a sign-up sheet at the meeting for those interested in helping out and she will also be sending out an e-mail for volunteers.

 - Club Elections: Richard (AL7MO) wanted to remind everyone that the club will be holding election of club officers/board members at the November club meeting. An election committee will be forming to take nominations and to make sure that we have a candidate for every open position.

 - Future Lexington 2 Meter Repeater: a 2 Meter repeater is going to be set up in Lexington later this year. This repeater will operate on a frequency of 147.00 with a + 600 offset and a PL of ??? Stay tuned for details._

- New Business:
 - VE Session: Richard (AL7MO) indicated that August's VE session would be held at ETV on August 10, 2013, starting around 9 am.
 - Technician Class: A technician class will be held at ETV on August 8-9, 2013, from 6-10 pm both nights.
 - Rodgers Workshop: The Rodgers Workshop scheduled for August has been cancelled.
 - South Carolina QSO party: All in attendance were reminded that the South Carolina QSO party will be held in September.
 - Shelby hamfest: All were reminded that the Shelby hamfest will happen on August 31 and September 1 at the same location adjacent to Gaston College in North Carolina.
 - Eating before the meeting: There was some discussion of the fact that lately the attendance of the eating before the meeting has been sparse at Yesterdays in Five Points. A survey was taken of other eating establishments where the club members could get something to eat prior to the monthly CARC meeting. Several suggestions were made and a motion was made to try Dee's (D's) Wings in West Columbia. The motion received a second and those present voted to try Dee's Wings prior to the September CARC meeting.
 - Calhoun County ARES: The Calhoun County ARES group will be conducting a weekly ARES net on the 146.670 repeater (- 600 offset, PL 156.7) on Thursday evenings starting at 7:30 pm.
- Program: Solar power. Lee Griggs (K4ELG) gave a presentation on he has set up an off grid power system for his shack and his house with solar panels and batteries. He started the program with explaining the basic components of a solar power system (photovoltaic panels, power controller, and batteries) and some of the lessons he has learned along the way. He explained how even on less than 100% sunny days, this system will continue to charge batteries.

Lee explained that if you can find a source of used golf cart batteries, these batteries can be “refreshed” and made part of a storage bank for a solar power system. Lee also discussed the importance of getting a good controller, and if you can a multi-stage controller is a preferred way to go. In addition to the consideration of panels, controllers and batteries, it is very important to make sure that one uses the proper gauge of wire to handle the voltage of your system.

All were reminded that the next CARC meeting will be at ETV on September 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The topic of the presentation for the September CARC meeting will be Emergency Preparedness. The Board of Directors meeting will be held prior to the CARC meeting at ETV on September 2, 2013, and will begin promptly at 6:30 pm.