

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for September 2015

September 7, 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 at the August meeting the club had 1502.22 in the account. Since that time the club had deposits of \$140.00 (memberships), had paid a bill of \$114.59 for the shelter rental for the CARC picnic, and some fees totaling \$14.00. That results in the current CARC account having \$1513.63. Andy also announced that he went through the CARC membership roster to determine who had paid membership dues and would be able to vote for the upcoming election. The list of all members who were up to date on membership dues can be found at the club website (www.w4cae.com).
- CARC Net Report: Net Manager, Steve (W4SJD) announced that in August 2015 there were 9 nets held with a total of 233 check-ins.
- Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club Update: Lee (K4ELG) reminded us that the KCARC holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The next meeting is on August 13, 2015, at 7 pm and all are invited to attend. Details can be found at the Kershaw County Amateur Radio club website www.KC4RC.com. Lee indicated that the Lugoff area is in need of volunteers for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Also the Kershaw Club will host a VE session on September 12, 2015. Also the Kershaw Club has a 440 Repeater up and running and they hope to have their 2 Meter repeater up and running in a month or so. The Club has installed the poles and additional wire antennas are soon to be in place. Finally, the Kershaw Club has a link established between the Kershaw Emergency Operation Center and the Clubhouse. The Kershaw Club can now serve as a backup location in case the EOC is non-functional.
- Old Business:

- Club Picnic: Steve (W4SJD) and Earl (KM4JSY?) discussed their experiences during the recent club picnic at Sesquicentennial State Park on August 15, 2015. They enjoyed the two fox hunts, but the highlight of the day was the food. They also confirmed that Bruce (KI4VRO) was a “Griller-Extraordinaire”.
- Shelby Ham fest: Lee (K4ELG) said that he thought the Shelby Ham fest was improved over years past. The Ham fest was held on September 5-6, 2015, at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in North Carolina. Lee thought that the flea market had a lot of stuff, but there was a lot of goods from China (actual quote modified by secretary). Bill (W4FSV) also enjoyed the Ham fest and said that he found some good buys.
- Hats: Tom (W1TEF) is taking orders for baseball hats with the club logo on it. Each hat is only \$11.00. If you would like a hat contact, please contact Tom.
- SCQSO Party: Tom (W1TEF) wanted to remind everyone of the South Carolina QSO Party coming up on September 18, 2015. He also wanted to let everyone know that plans are coming together and things are set for a great QSO party. More details will be presented during this evenings presentation.
- Hydrocephalus Walk: Tammy (N4TAL) announced that the club will support the Hydrocephalus Walk on September 19, 2015, in Finlay Park. She needs at least 2 volunteers to help provide communications for this event. So if you can help out, please contact Tammy.
- 2016 Officer/Director Nominating Committee: Tom (W1TEF) is heading up the nomination committee for the election (in November) of next year’s officers and two directors. He is still looking for those wishing to serve. If you would like to be on the committee or would like to run for one of the offices, contact Tom.
- CARC Trailer: Dwayne (N4LDL) wanted to let the club know that work continues on with the club trailer. Dwayne anticipates that both the power supply controller and the solar panels will get installed and that the logistics for members hauling this trailer will be worked out this Fall.

- Club ID's: If you would like a club ID badge, See Dave (W4DMC) after the meeting so he can take a photo.
- New Business:
 - CARC VE Session: There will be a VE session at the Kershaw County Clubhouse on September 12, 2015. As for the October VE testing in Columbia (October 10, 2015), due to the State Fair and USC football, the location for this testing will not be at SCETV. At this time the testing location has not been determined. Keep an eye on the CARC website, listen to the bi-weekly nets, or contact Stan (N3LU) at midlandsve@gmail.com for details on the testing location.
 - Chinquapin Cub-o-ree: Tammy (N4TAL) is looking for volunteers to provide support for a booth providing radio communication information to Cub Scouts on October 3, 2015. If interested, please contact Tammy.
 - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA): Tammy (N4TAL) informed the club that there will be three separate Boy Scouts JOTA events being held in the area on October 17, 2015. The three locations are; Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Blythewood Webelo Camp in Blythewood, and the Orangeburg Scout Hut in Orangeburg. Volunteers are needed at these locations to help Scouts get on the air. Volunteers are reminded that they need to bring a complete set up that includes; a HF radio, power source, antenna, coax, etc. If you can help out, please contact Tammy.
 - Next Month's Topic: Andy (KK4DSD) teased the crowd with an announcement that he will have a presentation on the digital HF mode known as FSQ at the October CARC meeting.
 - Go-Kit Competition: Ronnie (W4RWL) announced that the club will sponsor a Go-Kit competition on November 7, 2015 at SCETV. Details on the competition along with the rules can be found on the CARC website (www.w4cae.com/gokit). Judging of the Go-Kits and award of the prizes will begin at 9 am.
 - Next CARC Board Meeting: Ronnie (W4RWL) announced that next month's CARC board meeting will be held at SCETV on October 5, 2015 at 6:30 pm. This board meeting will occur ½ hour before the October CARC meeting which starts at 7:00 pm.

- Radio Parity Bills: Paul (K0PT) wanted to make all in attendance aware of the Radio Parity Act and the PRB-1 bills. These legislative action would allow ham radio operators that live in sub-divisions where there are restrictive covenants against outside antennas, to have an opportunity to work through the home owner's organization to install a reasonable antenna for HF operation. Paul encouraged all to write letters to their federal representatives and senators to vote for PRB-1 bills. He had some example letters and he indicated that example letters can be can be found at the ARRL website.
- Meeting Topic: "South Carolina QSO Party" by Tom Francis (W1TEF).

Tom provided a power-point presentation on the South Carolina QSO party and provided a "how to" on being a sought after contact during the SC QSO party. This was a great introduction to all who haven't participated in the SC QSO party before. Tom explained some of the rules, the exchange, and the operating categories for the SC QSO party. Tom provided some of lessons that he has learned related to contesting and logging contacts over the many years he has been licensed. Most importantly, Tom wanted to remind everyone to use good radio etiquette and have fun making contacts during the SC QSO party. Thanks Tom!

All were reminded that prior to the next CARC club meeting will be on October 5, 2015, at SCETV on George Rodgers Boulevard starting at 7:00 pm.