

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for August 2015

August 3, 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 July meeting the club had 1526.22 in the account. Since that time the club had deposits of \$140.00 (memberships), had paid a bill of \$150.00 for the port-o-john for the tailgate event, and paid some bank maintenance fees. That results in the current CARC account having \$1502.22.
- CARC Net Report: Net Manager, Steve (W4SJD) announced that in July 2015 there were 9 nets held with a total of 220 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 also announced that the Kershaw Club is working on getting more antennas in the air and that they are developing a backup emergency communication center at their club house for Kershaw County. In addition, the Kershaw Club will be participating at the Kershaw County Farmers Market on August 15, 2015. This is an outreach event promoting amateur radio and their club.
- Old Business & New Business combined:
 - CARC VE Session: There will be a VE session at SC ETV on August 8, 2015, starting at 8:30 am. If you are interested in information or volunteering as a VE, contact Stan (N3LU) at midlandsve@gmail.com
 - Club Picnic: Steve (W4SJD) announced that the CARC will have a club picnic at Sesquicentennial State Park on August 15, 2015. He has reserved Shelter #3 and they are planning on having a radio fox hunt before we eat. Bruce (KI4VRO) will be the grilling Chef and all are asked to bring a side or a desert and something to drink.

- Run Wild: Tammy (N4TAL) announced that the club has been asked to provide communications for the Run Wild 5K running race at Sesquicentennial State Park on August 22, 2015. Tammy needs 10-15 volunteers to cover this event. We will have a pre-event meeting at 7 am with the run starting at 8 am. **PLEASE NOTE: Since the meeting, CARC was notified that this event was cancelled.**
- 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.
- Shelby Ham fest: Steve (KI4VGA) announced that the club had received a notice in the mail that the Shelby Ham fest will be held on September 5-6, 2015, at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in North Carolina.
- Hydrocephalus Walk: Tammy (N4TAL) announced that the club will support the Hydrocephalus Walk on September 19, 2015, in Finlay Park. She needs 5-8 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 starting up the nomination committee for the election (in November) of next year's officers and two directors. If you would like to be on the committee or would like to serve as an officer/director, please contact Tom.
- Next CARC Board Meeting: All were invited to the next CARC Board meeting. This board meeting will be held at SCETV on September 7, 2015, starting at 6:30 pm. This board meeting will occur directly before the September CARC meeting at SCETV starting at 7 pm.
- Field Day Discussion: Andy (KK4DSD) provided a general overview on the clubs scoring from Field Day. Although he did not have the exact numbers, he reported that for this Field Day, CARC made more contacts than last year. However since most of these contacts were SSB (each contact counts as one point) our score was less than last year. Last year we had more digital/CW contacts (each contact counts as two points each).
- SOTA Report: Andy (KK4DSD) and Steve (KI4VGA) provided a brief discussion of their recent activation of Sassafras Mountain as part of a

Summits on the Air. Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. This was quite an adventure that tested both their CW skills and their ability to set up and operate qrp (low power) in a challenging field location. It was great fun and a successful activation that resulted in several CW contacts and one lone SSB contact.

- Net Contest: Several months of tallying contacts from the weekly CARC nets resulted in a drawing of the lucky winner of the Wouxon KGUV3D HT. The winner of this radio was KM4DOX, Ammon Bergevin. Congratulations Ammon!!!.
- Marty's Cable: Marty (AG3EK) offered to anyone in attendance a SDR Dongle cable that would attach to the Dongle and was terminated with a SO-239. This would allow the user to plug a PL 259 coax/antenna into the SDR Dongle for much improved reception.
- Meeting Topic: "Radio-sport" by Alan Fitzsimmons (W4ANT).

Alan provided a power-point presentation on radio contesting. This was an excellent introduction to this fun and fascinating facet of amateur radio. Alan started with the beginning of radio-sport, which started in 1920 with trans-Atlantic tests (making contacts across the Atlantic) which later evolved into operating events such as the ARRL Field Day which began in the early 1930's. At that time, the contacts were made by way of CW (Morse code), however since that time the number of modes available to make contacts has grown to include voice (AM &SSB) and numerous digital modes. Alan pointed out that contesting does not require the latest most powerful radio equipment, but can be enjoyed by anyone with a 100 watt radio and a decent antenna. Alan provided a secret for becoming a successful contester in the form of two important acronyms. First, success requires BIC: Butt in Chair and second, TOTA: Total Operation Time Accumulated. Yes, success as a contester has a direct correlation to not only being in front of your radio, but also the putting in the time/effort to make good contacts. Alan provided many examples of lessons that he has learned related to contesting and logging contacts along with a reminder to use good radio etiquette. Thanks Alan!

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