

CARC Monthly Meeting Minutes for August 2017

August 7, 2017

- Introductions and Opening: Club President Earl Dean (W4ESD) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Meeting Minutes: Dan Cunningham (K9DBC) announced that he and Tammy Livingston (N4TAL) are working on the minutes for July. They will be posted shortly on the club website, W4CAE.COM.
- Financial Report: Treasurer Jim Donelan (W4KNI) reported that balance in the checking account at the end of June was \$2464.16 and at the end of July was \$2514.73. There were 133 members in the club at the end of both June and July. NOTE: Dues will now be due and payable on your birthday. Please pay promptly to help keep needed funds in our account.
- CARC Net Report: Net Manager Gary Anderson (K4HGA) reported that there were 9 nets during July. 28 pieces of traffic were handled. There were a total of 236 check-ins, an average of 26 per session.
- There were several announcements:
 - **UPCOMING PICNIC:** Everyone is asked to go to W4CAE.COM to register for the club picnic at Fort Jackson on the 19th of August. If possible, indicate there what covered dish you will be able to bring for the meal. The picnic is being called our Homecoming; old members are being contacted and given special invitations to attend. Please plan to come!! It should be a great time of fellowship and sharing!!!
 - **SILENT KEY:** Lee Griggs (K4ELG), an active member of our club, has died. During the 2 M Net on Sunday evening, August 6th, Net Control Jay Girton (AA3TE) recognized Lee's passing with one last call from W4CAE. The date of a full funeral service for Lee will be announced in the near future. It was approved by club members present to send a donation to the Griggs family's favorite charity in recognition of Lee's passing.
 - **REMINDER ABOUT PROTOCOL ON THE 2 METER NET:** PLEASE remember to speak slowly and clearly when identifying yourself to the Net Controller. Remember, the Net Controller is in control and may ask you to repeat the information he or she needs for the log.
 - **ROGER'S WORKSHOP:** Bill Minikiewics (W4FSV) will offer a workshop in the early fall. Plans are for attendees to construct an end-fed wire antenna during the workshop. Cost will be about \$15. Watch for the announcement of the date!!

- SHELBY HAMFEST: The Shelby Hamfest will be held on Labor Day weekend. A number of folks will be attending. If you would like to be part of the trip or part of the convoy headed to NC, please contact Earl Dean or Ronnie Livingston to get the details.
- VE SESSION: There will be training and testing sessions for all three license levels in September. Watch for further details about the class and testing schedule.

Presentations:

The Club was treated to a Skype session with ham radio training guru Gordon West. Gordo touched on a number of topics. Here are some of the highlights:

- Amateur radio operators have great opportunities to serve their communities during disasters of all types. Gordon shared actual recordings of lone operators reporting problems to authorities and coordinating emergency response. He encourages all hams to be ready to help in times of need.
- AT&T is rolling out First Net, a coordinated radio and broadband system that will make it easier for first responders and hams to communicate during emergencies. Finally, better coordination will be a reality.
- New products continue to improve the effectiveness of amateur communications, including headsets, new antennas, battery packs, batteries, and solar panels. Gordon's shack is powered by solar panels connected to batteries. He was particularly excited about the performance characteristics of the new Lithium IRON batteries. As always, Gordon encourages all hams to try new gear to better enjoy their hobby.
- Realizing the continuing need to train new hams, Gordon has offered free training packages to those in the club who would like to teach. Ronnie Livingston and Earl Dean will coordinate delivery of training materials to those who want to study and teach in upcoming sessions.
- Also available from Gordon West are the training materials for the commercial General Radio Operators License. Passing that exam will refresh your knowledge of the amateur test materials but will also prepare you to do some work at the local airport and elsewhere. The best way to get these materials is to contact

Gordon directly. Mention that you heard about the offer at the CARC meeting on August 7th!

- Bruce Frost (KI4VRO) asked about marine communications. Gordon reminded us about the Rescue 21 service and the maritime mobile channel at 14.300.
- In response to a question from Earl Dean about the HOA bills now before Congress (SR555 and Senate Bill 1534), Gordon gave some encouragement that the bills will be passed, protecting the right of hams to erect antennas in their communities.

A SECOND(!) speaker made a presentation on Monday. Astronomer Wade Thompson give us information on the upcoming full solar eclipse that will be visible in Columbia on August 21.

- The sun will be totally obscured by the moon for a little over 2 minutes shortly after 2 that afternoon.
- Wade cautioned everyone to view the event carefully, using proper lenses or even a simple pinhole viewing device.
- During the eclipse, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Saturn will be visible... during the day!
- Wade encouraged everyone to pay attention to the wildlife around them during the event. Birds and other animals are often confused by the disappearance of the sun. Further, Wade informed us to expect a drop in temperature during the eclipse. He said the air temperature could drop 20 or more degrees!
- Given the number of people coming into the area to observe the total eclipse, club members were encouraged to fill up their cars and get groceries before the event. Further, if you need cash, go to the ATM early! The automatic tellers may be overwhelmed with folks needing cash during their visit to Columbia!

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