

Columbia Amateur Radio Club

January 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 7:05 PM by President Dan Cunningham K9DBC, at the ETV Building, Columbia, SC in a different room than usual and we all had quite a hike to the back of the building for the meeting again!

Announcements

Congratulation to three newly licensed hams, those who have upgraded their licenses and welcome to 1st time meeting attendees and new members.

Gary Anderson ran a class called “Get Radioactive” at the Irmo Library and it received rave reviews.

Tammy Livingston gave a report on the Harbison 50K on Jan. 4, 2020. It was run by a different group of people who were not familiar with the role of Amateur Radio Operators. They were very impressed. Next year volunteers will get t-shirts. They also have a new donations page on their website that can be accessed by tabbing on events page and going to donate. The operators of the event will match any donation for next year.

Gary Anderson still has 3 shirts that have been paid for but not picked up yet. He was asked if he would be offering the shirts for sale again and he will think about it!

Events

Andrew Frick gave a presentation about the Sandblast Rally on Feb. 29, 2020. It is a car/motorcycle race near Cheraw, SC. They need approximately 24 amateur radio operators to work as a safely net verifying positions of racers. A volunteer would need a 2 meter VHF mobile with a magnet mount and an antenna. It will be a long day starting at 6 AM on finishing about 6 or 7 PM. Two meals will be provided along with t-shirts and a special raffle will be head just for HAMS. Further information can be found at www.sandblastrally.com. There are campsites available and a party afterwards featuring craft beer. This is NASA rally sport recognized. Tammy Livingston will be our spot coordinator.

Winter Field Day will be January 25th from 2:00 PM through Jan. 26th 2020 at 2:00 PM. Steve Nixon has volunteered to coordinate this event.

Dan Cunningham K9DBC, announced that CARC will be providing communications for the Governor’s Cup 5K Race on February 22, 2020. Fifteen volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact Dan to volunteer.

SC QSO party will be held on February 29,2020. We are going to try to find one site to operate from. Detail to follow.

Hamfests

02/01/2020 - CARS Hamfest and Computer Show, ARRL SC State Convention
North Charleston, SC

5/15/2020 – 5/17/2020 – Dayton Ohio Radio Club Hamfest at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, OH.

MS Volunteer Walk April 25, 2020.

Business

Several ideas were presented for our February program including Radiosport, 80/60 Antennas, Balums/Ferrite, and Take off Angles. In a vote, Balums/Ferrite won!

In March 2020, a Skype with Bob Heil will be presented.

Treasurer Doug White, N4NYK, reported that the club has a balance of \$3322 as of 12/3/19. The club raised almost \$2400 from the sale of equipment from the Ramsdell Estate.

The club presently has 141 members and 18 family memberships.

The 2 Meter Repeater Net reported 5 nets, 20 announcements, and 32 average check-ins.

Mike Gill from ETV attended our meeting to inform us of what ETV does for our radio club. The antenna that they installed was done gratis by ETV and would have cost \$5000 to have it done commercially. ETV is responsible for thirty 400 foot towers around SC. They do not charge any amateur radio groups, but some do in kind work for them like cutting the grass, etc. We all appreciate the support that we get from ETV which includes providing us with a monthly meeting room at no cost and putting our equipment on their towers.

Program

Our program this evening was a presentation on AREDN by Bill Covey W1GTT. Unfortunately, it got late, and Bill cut the contents of his presentation down. He may come back and present at another meeting.

Jim Lathan W4JLP provided some additional information on AREDN.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Covey W1GTJ, Secretary