

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for April 2013

April 1, 2013

1. Introductions and club business
 - Richard Mote (AL7MO) 2013 President
 - Individual attendee introductions

2. 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.

3. Treasurer's Report: Current amount in the account was \$ 2295.11.

4. CARC Net Report: The Net Manager was not in attendance and no net report for March was provided.

5. Old Business
 - Charlotte Hamfest: Andy (KK4DSD) and Jim (KD4KNI) provided their observations from attending Charlotte Hamfest. They indicated that the Hamfest was quite similar to last year with the same vendors and lots of used equipment for sale. All in all a great Hamfest that everyone should go to when they get a chance.
 - LMC Colon Cancer Ride: Ronnie (W4RWL) provided a summary of the club providing communication support for the Colon Cancer Ride on March 23, 2013. Due to weather, the number of riders was fewer than last year (approximately 50 riders). There were about 20 hams that came out to volunteer. There were no safety issues and all had a good time.
 - Georgia QSO party: Richard (AL7MO) wanted to remind everyone that the Georgia QSO party will be on April 13 &14. This will be an opportunity for us to support a neighboring state's QSO party and to make some radio contacts.
 - NAMI walk: John (W3KH) also wanted to remind everyone that he still needs about 6 hams to help out with communication support for the NAMI walk on April 20, 2013, at Riverwalk.
 - Ridge Club Swapfest: Richard (AL7MO) wanted to remind everyone that the Ridge Club would be having a swapfest on April 20, 2013 next to Shealy's in Batesburg-Leesville. Sales will begin right after breakfast and end right about lunchtime..

- CARC Swap-fest: Richard (AL7MO) wanted to remind all in attendance that there will be a ham swap-fest on April 27, 2013 at the ETV building from 8-12.
- Net Controllers: Richard (AL7MO) wanted to remind everyone that CARC is sponsoring a contest to give away a 2M HT at the June CARC meeting. This contest is based upon the number of times you check in to the Wednesday and Sunday CARC nets (each check in one point), an additional point if you stick around for comments, and one more point for a first time check in.

6. New Business

- April Fools: Richard (AL7MO) tried to fool all in attendance with an announcement that FCC was going to broadly expand several bands available for ham usage. Once again, if it seems too good to be true, it likely is.....
- 2013 Field Day: Richard (I believe) read an e-mail suggestion from the Field Day manager Todd's (KN4QD). Todd indicated that for this year the club should consider setting up just 4 or 5 complete stations with good antennas and that we operate 4A or 5A around the clock. More on the strategy and set up for Field Day will be discussed at future meetings.
- Richards Radio Quandary: Richard has been considering buying a new Yaesu radio and was soliciting any comments or reviews.
- Rodger's Workshop for May: May 18th will be the next Rodgers workshop. It will be held at the Calhoun County EMS-Sandy Run facility. There will be a choice of Breadboard Radio kits to be built. The latest offerings include a QRP antenna tuner/ SWR bridge or a dummy load/wattmeter. More details will be provided at the May CARC meeting.

7. General Discussion

Stan (N3LU) began a discussion about how the CARC should have an Elmering Program, especially since there had been so many newly licensed hams in the past two years. Richard Mote (AL7MO) made a motion to forego the scheduled viewing of an ARRL video and spend the rest of the meeting to discuss the Elmering Program. A second for this motion was given and a vote was taken. The outcome of this vote resulted in the continuation of the Elmering Program discussion.

Stan continued the conversation based upon his recent experience with several local groups. Stan has been involved in training and licensing for local "prepper" and 912 groups. These groups have for the most part received Technician licenses and most have one of the newer Chinese HT's. Unfortunately there is a concern that these folks haven't gotten on the air and may not know what to do. Stan is proposing that CARC reach out to these groups and provide a contact in the local communities to be an Elmer for these folks if they would have a ham related question. In addition, in an effort to get the new hams on their radios, CARC members might want to facilitate a new net for these folks (newbie net) or invite them to participate in the CARC nets. Finally, this program would be a great way for CARC members to prevent the new hams from getting disinformation.

Stan indicated that these groups meet regularly, and that if several members were available, this may be a good time to go to them. Several members have indicated that they would be willing to help meet with these groups and CARC will be developing plans for outreach to new hams. This outreach can start with inviting new hams to attend CARC meetings, nets, and events. In addition there was some discussion about updates to the club website to include a new operator section to provide information about what it means to be a ham, information about the club, and how to get in touch with someone if you have a question.