Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for April 2015

April 6, 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 the club's bank account balance was $ 1,483.00 on April 1, 2015. Since that time, the club has made several deposits from memberships ($205.00) and the club currently has $1688.00 in the bank.

- CARC Net Report: Net Manager, Steve (W4SJD) announced that in March 2015 there were 9 nets held with a total of 230 check-ins.

- Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club Update: Lee (K4ELG) announced that the KCARC holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month. All are invited to attend. Details can be found at the Kershaw County Amateur Radio club website for further details at www.KC4RC.com. They have started to build antennas in their workshop and the clubhouse is coming right along. Also this is the last week to order Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) through the club for $60.50 a case.

- Old Business:

    - CARC-SWAPFEST: Several in attendance talked about their experiences and purchases at the CARC Swap-fest that was held at SCETV on April 4, 2015. This event was held behind the SCETV building in the new parking lot and all seemed to have a good time and found some deals. A discussion was held on when to hold next year's Swapfest. A motion was made to hold this event on the first Saturday of April in 2016. The motion was seconded and a vote carried this motion. The 2016 CARC Swapfest will be held at SCETV on the first Saturday in April.

    - CARCERT- Club Communication Trailer: Angelo (AC2BC) informed those in attendance that he had taken a look at the trailer and determined that it

should have over-voltage protection in place to protect the club's radios. Also he was checking out the service panel that would be used with the solar panel and deep cycle batteries to determine make, capacity, and serviceability. Since it was just a panel in a box without any manufacturer instructions/details, he was trying to determine capabilities/capacity for this unit. He indicated that the solar power system for the trailer will need a voltage controller to make the system operational. Lee (K4ELG) offered to donate a controller to the club, and the club graciously accepted his offer. Randy (N4SXX), who is providing some carpentry skills to the trailer project, provided details on construction of an accessibility ramp for the trailer and construction of a fixed position in the trailer to secure the gas generator.

Jay (W4TFX), who is providing some gadgetry skills to the trailer project indicated that the radios that are currently affixed to the counter in the trailer need to be tilted upward for ease of use and reading frequency/S-meter. In addition, he is working to develop an operational manual that includes all steps necessary for set-up, use, and tear-down of the trailer.

- New Business:

  - SCQSO Party: Tom (W1TEF) announced that there have been some rule changes for the SCQSO party. He provided a handout that summarized the rule changes for the 2015 SCQSO party and discussed the bonus stations for this year's QSO party (CARC station and Swamp Fox Contest Club-WW4SF).

  - Upcoming Events; Tammy (N4TAL) announced the following;
    - Mud Run on April 11, 2015. Contact Bill (W4SFV)
    - Colon Cancer Ride on April 18, 2015, at Dutch Fork Middle School
    - MS Walk on April 25, 2015 at Riverwalk in Cayce
    - NAMI walk on May 2, 2015 in Columbia.
    - Tour de Cure Bike Ride) will be on May 30, 2015, starting in downtown Columbia.

Meeting Topic: Communications and the SC State Guard by Gene Retske (K4DSN).

Gene made a presentation on the South Carolina State Guard and their communication mission. The SC State Guard is an all-volunteer state defense force of about 1000 individuals. The SC State Guard works with the National Guard and other federal, state

and local agencies to protect the people and property of South Carolina. Membership in the SC State Guard is available to those who meet the physical requirements, are between 18 and 70 years of age, and meet the height and weight requirements. More on this can be found at the SC State Guard website.

Gene is also involved with providing communications within the SC State Guard and with radio interoperability with other groups. The SC State Guard has two communication trailers with HF/VHF/UHF capabilities, two repeaters, and ability to use ROIP (Radio Over Internet Protocol). To assist with the operation, the State Guard has a Radio Auxiliary. Membership in the Radio Auxiliary is available to those who are at least 18 years old and have a valid FCC Amateur license.

Currently the State Guard Network is held every Thursday night at 8 pm. The State Guard Network utilizes the SCHEARTs VHF/UHF linked network for statewide coverage. Gene also indicated that a HF State Guard net may be coming in the future, so stay tuned for details….

Gene can be contacted at gene.retske@sg.sc.gov with questions about the State Guard and the Radio Auxiliary and more information can be found at http://sg.sc.gov.

All were reminded that prior to the next CARC meeting the Board will be meeting on May 4, 2015, at SCETV at 6:30 pm. The CARC club meeting will follow the Board meeting on May 4, 2015, at 7:00 pm.