

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for May 2013

May 6, 2013

1. Introductions and club business
 - Richard Mote (AL7MO) 2013 President
 - Individual attendee introductions
2. New Hams:
 - Stan (N3LU) wanted to tell those in attendance that the club will be beginning some programs for those newly licensed hams. The club is hoping to get an Elmering program to identify hams in surrounding communities that can help out with new hams locally. Currently there is a Newbie net on Thursday nights. This is a net for those who may be too intimidated to check into the CARC net. There was also a discussion about the current 2 Meter HT contest, sponsored by CARC. There was also discussion about a possible 2 Meter HT loaner program for new hams. This would be a program sponsored by the club to let newly licensed hams get some practical experience with a HT before having to buy one.
 - Gary (W8UXE) brought a collection of information that could be utilized as a reference source for new hams. Gary thought that we as a club could look through it, take what was useful, make copies, and distribute to new hams.
3. 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.
4. Treasurer's Report: Current amount in the account was \$ 2334.11.
5. CARC Net Report: The Net Manager was in attendance and reported that the check in numbers are increasing, but he did not have the exact numbers for the meeting. This increase in numbers is attributed to the interest in the current 2 M HT give away contest. This contest utilizes a hams total number of check ins and participation in the CARC nets to provide a basis for the winner.
6. Old Business
 - Georgia QSO party: Richard (AL7MO) asked if anyone participated in the Georgia QSO party on April 13 & 14. No one indicated that they had participated.

- Event Update: Tammy (N4TAL) provided an update on all the events that CARC provided communication support. This includes the NAMI walk, MS walk, Taylors ride, and Tour de Cure. She indicated that all of these events went well and all participating hams did an excellent job.
- CARC Swap-fest: Richard (AL7MO) provided an update on the ham swap-fest held on April 27, 2013 at the ETV building from 8-12. Despite the rain all had a good time.
- Upstate hamfest: John (W3KH) provided an update on the Upstate hamfest held the first weekend in May at the Spartanburg fairgrounds. In spite (or maybe because) of the cold and rainy weather, John was able to get a great deal on a duplexer.

7. New Business

- Mini Maker Fair: Tammy (N4TAL) informed the club that we had been invited to the Mini Maker Fair on June 1, 2013, from 9am-5pm at Edventure in downtown Columbia. This meeting of individuals who are into making & doing things themselves instead of buying finished products. Tammy thought that this would be good opportunity for the club to tell others about amateur radio and demonstrate some of the antennas, radios, and other equipment that we have built. As part of this outreach, the club will need volunteers to set up on Friday evening, man the booth during the day on Saturday, and help with tear down after the event. All interested individuals should contact Tammy via e-mail.

As part of this outreach, several actions were put on the floor for consideration and vote.

- The first item of business was related to having a new club banner made, due to the old one getting worn. A vote was taken and those in attendance voted yes for having a new banner made. John (W3KH) indicated that he had a source for banners and would take the lead on getting a banner made.
- The next item was concerning a club brochure that could be given to new hams and individuals that were interested in the club. Since this was already approved by the club, no further action was required. Bill (W4FSV) indicated that he would take the lead on this and get some brochures prepared.
- The final item was related to a budget for items needed for the Mini Maker Fair. Tammy (N4TAL) indicated that there were several small items that would be needed to provide things at the club booth. This would include beads to make "code" bracelets and some other items.

She asked if the club would vote on a budget of \$200.00. She did not think that it would require that much, but she wanted to make sure there was enough to cover all items. A vote was taken and those in attendance voted to provide a \$200.00 budget for this event.

- Tour de Midlands: Tammy (N4TAL) indicated that she still needed volunteers to help out with communications for this event. She indicated that if anyone was interested in helping at the rest stops, sweeping, or SAG-ing, should contact her by e-mail.
- Camden VE Session: Tony (KI4WZG) announced that a VE testing session will be held in Camden at the Camden Public Library on May 11, 2013, at 10 am.
- Rodgers Workshop: On May 18th the next Rodgers workshop will be held at the Calhoun County EMS-Sandy Run facility. Due to a bike ride, Bill has asked that we start at 1 pm. 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.
- 2013 Field Day: Todd (KN4QD) indicated that for this year, Field Day will be held on June 22-23, 2013. We will be setting up at Sesquicentennial State Park on Saturday with some good antennas and we operate 4A or 5A around the clock.
- Magnetic signs: Cal (AJ4DW) informed the club that he was interested in ordering some magnetic "Event Vehicle" signs that could be used on event vehicles for any of the events we support. He informed all in attendance that the price of the signs is reduced with more orders. Those that were interested were to see Carl after the meeting.

8. General Discussion

Test Equipment: A session demonstrating testing equipment was hosted by John (W3KH), a coworker of John's (his name and call did not make it into my notes...sorry), and Bill W4SFV. This included a demonstration of the technical gear used to test repeaters and make sure that they are performing efficiently and within FCC compliance. This demonstration also included some of the testing equipment that many of us have in our shacks to build, troubleshoot, and operate ham radios and equipment.

All were reminded that the next CARC meeting will be at ETV on June 3, 2013 at 7:00 pm. That meeting's topic will be Field Day and the Elmering program. Due to the Mini Maker

Fair, the Board of Directors meeting will be held prior to the June 3rd meeting, starting at 6:30.