

Columbia Amateur Radio Club-Monthly Meeting Minutes for October 2014

October 6, 2014

- Introductions
 - Ronnie Livingston (W4RWL)-President
 - Individual attendee introductions

- Past Month's Meeting Minutes: Ronnie announced that last month's meeting minutes can be found on the club's website (www.w4cae.com).

- Treasurer's Report: Current amount in the account is \$ 2,316.77. This total does not include the amount to be debited (\$200.00) to offset the lost antenna analyzer during this year's Field Day.

- CARC Net Report: It was announced that in September there were 12 nets held with a total of 248 check-ins.

- Old Business:
 - Club Trailer: Tom (W1TEF) indicated that the trailer is at the Dutch Fork Amateur Radio club site where the inventory will be completed along with the needed repairs.

 - Shirts/hats: Tom (W1TEF) announced that we will soon be able to order shirts, hats, coffee mugs, key chains, etc. directly from his source. The thought was that each amateur could each make their own order directly from the provider instead of trying to make one large order through the club. When each person places their order they will only need to mention that they are members of CARC and will be given a club discount. So stay tuned for further details...

 - Club Officers/Directors nominating committee: Currently the two Directors that have been elected to serve through 2015, Dave (W4DMC) and Matt (W4ZYX) will be forming a nominating committee to provide a complete ballot for November's club elections. If you have nominations, please contact one of these guys with your nominations or you can make them directly through a link on the CARC website. And if you are contacted by them, informing you that you have been nominated, please consider running for office.

- Boy Scouts JOTI/JOTA: It was announced by Ronnie that the club would be supporting the Boy Scouts of America, Jamboree On the Air in October. At this time Tammy (N4TAL) would like to get volunteers to help out at Camp Barstow and on October 18, 2014. Please let Tammy know if you can help out.

- New Business:
 - October VE Sessions: Ronnie (W4RWL) announced that there will be a VE session on October 11, 2014, at SC ETV starting at 9 am (VE's please be there by 8:30am)

 - Kershaw County ARC VE session & Classes: Lee (K4ELG) announced that the Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club will be holding a VE session on November 8, 2014, at the Camden Public Library starting at 10 am. In addition, KCARC will hold radio classes on November 5, 6 & 7, 2014. These classes are meant to be informational, but not specific for license testing. The classes will be held in the Camden Military Academy Band room starting at 7 pm and ending at 9 pm. The actual training topics will be determined during the first meeting, when those in attendance will be asked what they would like to learn. If interested, you are to contact Lee at W4ELG@ARRL.net or sign up for the classes on the KCARC website.

 - ARES District 3 Net: The ARES District 3 has a two meter net on Thursday nights starting at 8:00 pm on the 147.000 repeater (+ offset, PL 123.0). All licensed operators are encouraged to check-in, whether they are ARES members or not).

 - Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) Winter Field Day: Ronnie wanted to remind everyone that the next Field Day opportunity will be the SPAR Winter Field Day in January 2015. He would like the CARC to participate this event again in 2015. He would like to know where we should hold the event and who would be interested in putting CARC on the air.

 - CARC Board Meeting: Ronnie announced that the next CARC Board meeting will occur on November 1, 2014 at Ryan's on Bower Parkway. The eating will start at 8:00 am and the meeting will start sometime around 9:00 am.

- Club ID's: Dave (W4DMC) has the camera set up and will begin taking photos and making club ID's at this meeting. If he is unable to get everyone's ID done at this meeting, he will bring the equipment to make ID's at the next CARC meeting.
- Digital Repeaters & upcoming classes: John (W3KH) announced that he is involved with setting up several Digital UHF Repeaters around South Carolina. There are two in Columbia, one in Beaufort, one in Charleston, and one in Myrtle Beach. In addition, John wanted to let everyone know that there will be one more Technician class before the end of this year. Stay tuned for more details...
- W4FSV walk-about CW rig: Bill demonstrated his portable CW rig utilizing Breadboard Radio Components, a board supported by a strap, a battery, and a short vertical antenna.

Program: Andy (KK4DSD) provided a Powerpoint overview of Software Defined Radio (SDR). Andy explained that SDR utilizes an antenna, a SDR, a sound card and a computer to perform the complex signal handling to allow your PC to be a receiver or as a transceiver depending on the SDR being utilized. He presented a Soft Rock receiver that he built recently that utilized Surface Mount Technology (SMT). This receiver along with free software (HD SDR software) allows Andy to receive a wide spectrum of HF signals. He had made several recordings of shortwave transmissions, CW transmissions, and SSB. The software allows the users to view (on computer screen) a spread of the monitored frequencies and see transmissions. All the user needs to do is to click on signals with the computer cursor and you are then listening the radio through your computer. Finally, Andy demonstrated a RTL SDR (available from Amazon.com for around \$ 20.00) that is a UHF/VHF receiver. This receiver comes with a short antenna and will allow the user to listen to a wide spectrum of signals beyond the amateur frequencies on the VHF and UHF bands.

All were reminded that the next CARC Board meeting will be on November 1, 2014. This meeting will be held at Ryan's on Bower Parkway with the eating starting around 8 am and the meeting beginning right before 9 am. Also, the next CARC club meeting will be at SCETV on November 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

