

Columbia Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the Meeting

February 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm in the BoA room at ETV by Club President Jim Lathan.

Jim shared that the club has 153 members now and has about \$5500 in the bank. The club has recently paid the premium for liability insurance and has paid the fees for use of the Primitive Camping Area of Sesquicentennial State Park for Summer (ARRL) Field Day.

For Summer Field Day, plans are to use the park on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday June 23, 24, and 25. EOC and other agencies may bring equipment to the park at that time, but priority will be given to club members for use of the sites. Club members are welcome to reserve sites elsewhere in the Park for the weekend at their own expense.

The next major event for the club will be the SC QSO party on February 25th. Details are being finalized as to who will be operating where and under which call signs. In particular, roving stations will be designated as will a limited number of stations for use of the club call W4CAE as a bonus station. FT8 will be available as a mode for the QSO party, and N3FJP will be the official logging software.

On April 15th, the club will celebrate its 50th anniversary with an event at the SC Military Museum. Members will set up displays and activities in the parking lot. The South Carolina Historical Aviation Foundation (SCHAF) will have a display there as well offering information about the B25 being rebuilt at nearby Owens Field. The US Army band will perform in the museum shortly after noon. Members of the Military Timeline Impression group will be on site as well, answering questions and sharing information about their activities. Plans are for members of our ARRL leadership to speak briefly at the opening of the event.

Because there are a number of activities being planned, the Club will be having Zoom meetings each Thursday evening for the next few weeks. Club members are invited to join to learn more about each event and to offer input to the

planning process. The link for the Zoom meetings is on the Club website, W4CAE.Com.

Other events on the schedule include a swap fest on May 15th and support of the MS Walk in Columbia.

Suggestions for future events include fox hunts, a ham radio car show, video tours of the radio shacks of our members, sharing of projects and gear by active members, updates on go boxes being built by our members, use of solar panels and test equipment, instruction on Arduino and Raspberry Pi, and a presentation on tube technology.

Members were briefly updated on a station interfering with 2m nets and other 2m QSO's. At this time, the club is monitoring the situation. No action is planned.

Submitted by Dan Cunningham, K9DBC, Secretary

SK Jim Henson's family has donated his ham radio equipment to the club. Part of that equipment was on display at the meeting. An inventory listing will be provided to club members, and members may bid on the equipment at the next meeting. Proceeds will go to the club in memory of Jim Henson.

Bill Covey, W1GTT, passed on January 3rd after an extended illness. Bill was a true friend of the club and was a leader in using different modes of radio communication. Bill's wife, Jean, was a past club secretary and has been active in a number of our outings. The club observed a moment of silence for Bill during the meeting. Bill and his leadership and other contributions will be missed.

At this time, the club has 148 members. There is just over \$6000 in the club bank account. Club members are advised to mention the CARC to ARRL when renewing

ARRL memberships. ARRL will share part of their fee with the club for each member who does that.

Net activity has been strong. In December, there were 4 nets with 87 check ins, including 22 announcements. There were two simplex nets during the month as well with 35 check ins.

The liability insurance for the club needs to be renewed shortly. ARRL is offering coverage for substantially less than the coverage we have now. The Board will decide shortly which policy to purchase.

Club members were reminded by President Jim Lathan that they can join the Board meetings on Zoom. They should contact Jim to get an invitation. Members may attend Board meetings but may not vote, and members will be asked to sign out if the Board needs to discuss confidential club business.

Comments on the Harbison 50K were superlative. 21 club members helped monitor and report on the race. Only one runner was temporarily “lost,” and only one was injured, suffering a twisted ankle. On the radio side of the event, it was praised as the best organized of any 50k w the club has supported. Hats off to Tammy Livingston, Jim Lathan, Gary Anderson, and all of those who participated. It was a great day, a great event, and a great showcase of what the club can do. The organizer of the event has asked that the club return to help next year.

There is a 30-hour running event coming up at Sesquicentennial Park, The Sandhills Trail Race and Ultra. Because that event involves running laps on a short, well-defined course, CARC support will not be required.

Upcoming Events and Related:

Winter Field Day: Will be on January 28 at Sesquicentennial Park. The club will have use of the Primitive Camping Area (no hookups). Participants will not have to pay anything to set up in the Primitive area. Individuals may rent other RV sites at their own expense. There will be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, the 10th, to discuss plans for the event. All members are invited. Although there will not be a group meal, participants are encouraged to bring drinks and snacks to share. Club members may set up on Friday. Radio activity will begin at 2 on Saturday.

50th Anniversary: The Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary on April 15th at the SC Military Museum. The club is actually 53 years old, but this is the first good opportunity we have had to celebrate during the pandemic. The event will run from 9:30 until 4:00. Set up MUST NOT begin before 9:30. Other area clubs will be invited. The event will include recognition of Jimmy Doolittle and the Raiders. Members have been asked to suggest activities for the day.

Swapmeet: The Club will host a swapmeet on May 13th at the Military Museum. Participants may set up starting at 9:30. Other area clubs will be invited to join in.

ARRL Field Day: The Club will participate in the 2023 ARRL Field Day on June 24th. We will return to Sesquicentennial Park. Sites in the Primitive Area will be free to members. Individuals may rent other RV sites at their own expense. Details on set up and radio work will follow.

Training and Testing: Classes and testing for amateur licenses will be conducted at the ETV building from March 20 through the 25th. Contact Stan Slaughter or Mike Wieber to register.

VE Training and Testing: Throughout 2023, anyone wishing to become a Volunteer Examiner may contact Stan Slaughter for help and assistance with the application process. More VEs are needed.

MS Walk: The MS Walk in Columbia will be on April 22nd from 10 to 12. Mark Goddard and Gary Anderson are coordinating club participation in the event. Six volunteers are needed. Contact Mark or Gary to help.

Ham and Eggs: A special Ham and Eggs breakfast will take place on the 21st of January at the Golden Corral on Forest Drive. The GMRS group from Kershaw will be making a presentation on GMRS radios and their use. Breakfast starts at 9:30.

POTA: There will be a special POTA outing on June 17th at Sesquicentennial Park. The club has been given access not only to the park but also to the fire tower. This will be a great opportunity for hams to practice making contacts and contesting. Access to the tower was arranged by Club President Jim Lathan, and this will be a unique opportunity to operate from the top of the tower. Details will follow.

Support of Upcoming Bill in Congress: Club Vice President Tedd Clayton asked that members contact their congressmen in support of HR9670. This bill, which may be renamed in the near future, will give the OK for amateurs to erect flagpole (vertical) antennas and minimally intrusive wire antennas in housing developments where the HOA has blocked the installation of antennas before. The bill was originally submitted by Congressman Bill Johnson of Ohio. Limitations do apply. Flagpole antennas cannot be more than 48 feet tall. Wire antennas should be placed out of sight as much as possible. Antennas cannot be more than 3 feet wide, as might be the case with beam antennas. Vertical antennas should be located such that if they fall they will not land on a neighbor's property.

ARES Membership: Club Director Mark Goddard reminded folks of the importance of being active in ARES. All those interested in ARES or CERT should contact Mark.

VARACHAT: Mike Wieber, N4BQQ, urged interested members to explore VARACHAT and share their findings with the club. VARACHAT is another mode available for ECOMM.

Help Needed: Mike Wieber has asked for help with his computer. It seems he is having connectivity issues out there in Sandy Run. Mike also has asked for someone to help him get to and from the various activities coming up. He no longer can drive to these events.

CALL TO ACTION: To all present, club president Jim Lathan urged everyone to join the committees and teams working on our events, to experience our activities as a participant or as an observer, and to stay radioactive.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Dan Cunningham K9DBC

Club Secretary

