

CARC Club Meeting
SCETV Building
1101 George Rogers Blvd, Columbia, SC 29201
January 6, 2025 – 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes by Wes Munn, KJ4FIG

I. Introductions

1. Club president, Jim Lathan, W4JLP, introduced the new CARC board members for 2025.
2. Let's Connect – Jim opened the floor to ask the membership what do they have going on:
 - a. Some visitors/members just got their tech licenses.
 - b. Two members joined recently.
 - c. A few January birthdays in the club.

II. Treasurer's Report

1. Given by Amanda McKinnis – \$4,714.61 in the club checking account
2. \$1487.41 in the club saving's account; \$600 in GoFundMe.com account (which Amanda stated would be moved to the club's saving's account).
3. Everything is paid for regarding the 2024 Christmas Party.
4. Club insurance policy and Post Office Box payments due next month.
5. SC QSO Party also paid for (sponsorship).

III. Net Manager's Report

N/A

IV. Secretary Report

N/A – Club minutes/notes will be posted for today's meeting for next month's meeting.

V. Other Announcements

1. John Kiselica – Anything special you're working on, send this to John (articles, photos, etc.).
2. We are in need of an equipment manager to help manage/loan amateur radio equipment to membership to check out.
3. We are also in need of a QSL manager.
4. Amanda McKinnis – stated that if you're a new ham who just got his/her Technician's license, to email her and let her know so you can receive a one (1) year FREE membership with CARC.

VI. Harbison 50K

1. When was it? January 4, 2025
2. Protocols were followed; ICS205 comms plan was formulated/executed.
3. There were over 330 entries in the net for the Harbison 50K logged with Net Control Manager software.
4. Director of the Harbison 50K event had amazing things to say about CARC's help.
5. Other equipment used/tested at the Harbison 50K:
 - a. **What3Words** was used in software to map where operators were located with Net Control Manager software. The software could derive GPS coordinates of our operators.
 - b. **Meshtastic** – transmitted for about 1 mile; this is a text-only form of radio communication.
 - c. **Rattlegram** – a phone app that allows you to text over RF – any kind of transmission – worked very well.
6. Those who participated got a mini survival bag with hand warmers, tools, etc.
7. Some things that worked very well with those who participated in the Harbison 50K:
 - a. Keep passage of information short and to the facts
 - b. No private information over the airwaves. Call Net Control via phone if necessary.
8. Jim reiterated that this was a very successful event and photos to be posted to the club newsletter, Facebook page, and website would be coming soon.
9. Steve Nixon suggested doing a write up on the event and sending it to ARRL due to the successful nature of our involvement with Harbison 50K.

VII. Winter Field Day 2025

1. When/Where: January 25-26, 2025 at Sesquicentennial Park in the primitive area of the park.
2. Set up is on January 24, 2025 (Fri) – we do need volunteers to help set up.
3. Arrangements: there are 50 parking passes; just state you're with the CARC club when you enter at the gate.
4. Jim will be at Spot #22.
5. WFD starts Friday, January 24, 2025 if you want to operate earlier/set up.
6. There is a 100 watt maximum limit for WFD for operating power.
7. We are operating as callsign W4CAE.
8. Weather prediction (as of now): 48 F (Fri); 54 F (Sat).
9. Net Control – we'll use the club repeater if you need to communicate; we'll use the club simplex frequency when on site: 146.400 MHz
10. Jim mentioned some great logging software to use for WFD:
 - a. N3FJP

- b. N1MM
- c. Any logging software you feel comfortable with that can export logs in ADIF format.
- d. Jim is NOT accepting paper log entries. If you log with paper, you will need to transcribe this in a readable format so we won't have to decipher handwriting or get it in an ADIF format.

VII. SC QSO Party 2025

1. When: February 22, 2025
2. This is an opportunity for other operators to hunt CARC – we're worth 350 points as a bonus station.
3. Jim says you can work the event from home, a park, or on the road.
4. Mike, N4BQQ received an award last year for the SC QSO Party as a single operator/low power station.
5. You can operate from home with this event

IX. MS Walk 2025

1. When: March 29, 2025.
2. This is a 3.5 mile track.
3. We need volunteers for the MS Walk to be placed along the track. A great opportunity to test your equipment and a simple event to try out if this is your first time working an event with CARC.

X. CARC Swapfest 2025

1. When: April 26, 2025
2. Where: North Trenholm Road Baptist Church parking lot.
3. Cost: \$10/vendor – half of the cost will go to North Trenholm Road Baptist–the other half will go to CARC.
4. Needs:
 - a. parking lot director
 - b. vendor control director
 - c. treasurer to account for all the money collected at the swapfest.
5. Other clubs can participate as vendors.
6. Free for visitors.

XI. MAIN PRESENTER: Craig Lamparter, KM6LYW

1. Jim introduced to the club, Craig Lamparter, KM6LYW who was our main presenter via Zoom to discuss DigiPi – a Raspberry Pi based board that allows your radio to send SMS messages via amateur radio. Craig has been a YouTuber for two years, and an amateur radio operator for about five years.

2. DigiPi is connected to your radio to allow you to operate in most, if not all, digital modes such as FT8, etc.No voice – just data.
3. Craig recommends starting with www.digipi.org if you want to get started with DigiPi.
4. Jim suggested the club could do a future Lunch and Learn session or Ham and Eggs session where we learn to build a DigiPi – perhaps some time in March 2025 (TBA).

XII. Closing Announcements

1. Free giveaways at the front table.
2. Jim did a show/tell of his AllStar transceivers.
3. There was a discussion/suggestion about doing a small presentation on 3D printing with amateur radio. Jim mentioned this might also be a great Lunch and Learn topic in the future.
4. Mike, N4BQQ, announced he picked up a Hermes transceiver and mentioned there is a new transceiver on Amazon.com (TIDRADIO 10watt 2m/440 programmable radio – via cell phone app). Mike also mentioned he is doing another license class upgrade class.

XII. Adjournment

1. The CARC meeting for January 6, 2025 was adjourned at 8:45 PM.