

**CARC Club Meeting**  
**SCETV Building**  
**1101 George Rogers Blvd, Columbia, SC 29201**  
**February 3, 2025 – 7:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes by Wes Munn, KJ4FIG

**I. Introductions**

1. Visitors – Jim introduced the visitors to the membership.
2. Birthdays – Amanda McKinnis (Saturday prior to the meeting).

**II. Treasury Report**

1. Amanda MCKinnis – Treasury report: \$3703.78 IN CHECKING ACCOUNT; \$820.17 in debits for the website; around \$1400?? In Savings Account; \$700 in GoFundMe account.
2. Rosters/renewals were moved to HamClubOline. Email the club and/or Amanda if you did not receive the email regarding HCO or check your spam filters.
3. Jim → renewal of the CARC website was renewed for another three years.

**II. Main Presenter – Michael Martens, KB9VBR and Ham Radio YouTuber**

**Topic: Five Steps to POTA Success.**

1. Michael Martens, KB9VBR, amateur radio operator and YouTuber presented on “Five Steps to POTA Success” and gave us a brief rundown of how he prepared for a POTA activation before, during, and after setting up. This included what is done after the activation is complete that we normally don’t get to see on his YouTube videos such as taking a photo of the site and making notes about what was great/not-so-great about the activated site.
2. Michael mentioned most of his activations (about 80% are on SSB; 20% FT8, although he is trying to learn to do CW activations at the encouragement of a friend of his in his amateur radio club in Wisconsin.

**Second Presentation: Dan Cunningham/Jay Leaper – GMRS Radio**

1. Dan and Jim gave a short presentation on what GMRS is (General Mobile Radio Service), including how to get licensed for this service (in which you do not have to take a test like one would need to do for amateur radio).
2. Cost of licensure is \$35.00 and you will receive a seven-character callsign.
3. Dan and Jay outlined some advantages of GMRS: easy to use, inexpensive, voice communications (although limited in distances depending on the frequency and power restrictions).

### III. Club Updates

1. Gary Anderson – repeater repairs have been renewed since 2022 – we are working on getting the renewal.
2. John Kiselica – presented his stickers and magnets with CARC logo for sale to help boost funds for the club.
3. Winter Field Day – Jim announced about 17-18 people attended. We were a Five-Oscar station. Jim made about 87 QSOs and stated it was a great turnout. Kaden had about 40 QSOs.
4. SC QSO Party – February 22, 2025 at 10 am to 10 pm Eastern – we need operators to help out; we are worth lots of points as a club and operate in as many counties as possible. Let Jim or the CARC board know if you can participate. Digital, phone, and CW modes, etc. are permitted. N3FJP logging will be used.
5. MS Walk Events – need volunteers–this is a great opportunity for new hams looking for an entry-level community event to assist in. We also need a table with CARC information for the community.
6. SwapFest – need volunteers, an information officer, security (to help with traffic direction)Sandy Knight has volunteered to handle treasury-related accounting for payments received for the Swapfest. The cost is \$10/vendor. Half of the cost will go to Trenholm Road Baptist church for use of their parking lot and facilities, while the other half will go to CARC. The event is from 8am to 12pm on April 26, 2025.
7. HamClubOnline – be sure to look for the email about this; if club members have not received any email from HCO, they need to contact Amanda McKinnis or any CARC Board member. Amanda says if you have a HCO account but are not receiving emails from CARC, to see her or email CARC at [columbiaarc@gmail.com](mailto:columbiaarc@gmail.com)

### IV. Open Forum

1. Lost and Found – Jim presented a box of lost/found items recovered from Winter Field Day and to look through this box if you happen to lose anything at WFD.
2. Phil, KD4O – brought a few QRP radios to show; another QRP operator showed us his “cutting board” backpack 2m/440 radio set up that is simple to make.
3. Jim proposes doing a future CARC Lunch n’ Learn some time in Marcch 2025. This event will be TBA but will cover topics such as building a DigiPi or other amateur radio-related activities.
4. ETV Management will have a new contract for use of the ETV room in 1-2 business days to reserve the room for club meetings. Every meeting this year is good to be reserved for CARC except Labor Day, September 8 2025. We will need to ask ETC for regular use of its meeting room.

### V. Closing

CARC meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm Eastern