

**CARC CLUB MEETING  
APRIL 7, 2025 – 7:00 PM  
SCETV BUILDING – 1041 GEORGE ROGERS BLVD., COLUMBIA, SC  
BANK OF AMERICA CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Jim Lathan  
John Kiselica  
Clay Reynolds  
Robert Bogan  
Paul Finan  
Wes Munn  
Amanda McKinnis  
Steve ?? W4LED**

**Opening Remarks**

1. Jim Lathan – introduced new visitors: Steve (General); Cravens (sp) (Tech); Dave K4ROY
2. New licenses were earned recently
3. Birthdays/anniversaries: none at the meeting
- 4.

**MS Walk Recap**

1. Had about 12 to 14 people participating. We learned a lot about positioning people while using simplex modes. Jim said we were done around 12:30pm and it was a great experience. We would like to continue to do more events like the MS Walk.
2. We did not record any incidents that occurred during the MS Walk event. Our involvement is to help the emergency services and communications using the ICS forms in our exercises.
3. What3Words has become very handy for our club at these events.
4. Jim congratulated the club on a job well done at this event.
5. We also had Meshtastic running at this event which seemed to work very well.

**Swap Fest 2025**

1. April 26, 2025 @ 7am. We would like to have everything set up by 8am when people arrive and go until 12:30pm or 1:00pm. We do not have an alternative bad weather day for the event.
2. We are still looking for more volunteers.
3. Jim demonstrated how parking, vendors, and other placements of personnel will be mapped out using an aerial photo of the parking lot of Trenhold Rd. Baptist Church, where the event will take place.
4. Cost is \$10 per table for vendors; buyers do not have to pay. This is to make the Swap Fest legal to cover the cost of a “garage-sale-like permit” for the City of Columbia and the Town of Forrest Acres. Half of the \$10 fee will be donated to the church for use of their parking lot/facilities.

5. Vendors will get a coupon/raffle ticket for a drawing for antennas, a dummy load, and a Heil headset. Each raffle ticket will be about 3 tickets for \$5. More stuff is also being donated as prizes that are coming in.
6. We need another volunteer to help run the financial part to do accounting for payments.
7. Signs for entry/egress are being used to help organize traffic flow for visitors/buyers.
8. Wednesday at 7pm via Zoom is the weekly planning meeting for this event.
9. If you have something to sell, go to SCHamSwap online and create a list of things to sell.

### **Summer Field Day 2025**

1. Theme is about technology showcasing this year. We would like to showcase how ham radio is practically used.
2. Jim's goal is to showcase "pods" of different facets of ham radio to the public (i.e. CW, digital, WinLink, GMRS, antennas, FT8, SSB, radio programming, grounding stations, making crimp cables or Anderson Power Poles, PL-259, SO-239's, etc.), basic kits, make/take, etc.
3. We need people to be an "elmer for that topic" for just one day – Saturday.
4. June 28-29, 2025.
5. John and Nick are handling the food for field day. They are still figuring out the group size and logistics – maybe a "taco bar" with smoked meat. Jim suggested, minimum of 50 people to account for, no more than 70 due to our budget.
6. We have the facilities at Sesquicentennial Park starting on June 27, 2025 – we CARC gets the reserved primitive acreage if you want to set up earlier.
7. Be sure to tell the check in gate you are with CARC so you won't get charged for access to the park.
8. CARC has already paid for Summer Field Day 2025.
9. Jim wants to kick off SFD 2025 with VE testing at the site – weather permitting.

### **VE Testing**

1. A VE is the person who administers ham radio licensure testing. It takes 3 minimum to administer a test. We need help to do this as a club.
2. We are moving to an electronic format that is in the works via tablets or Chomebooks.
3. We are also moving to online format of VE testing.
4. We are looking for VE's – see Jim or a CARC board member if interested.
5. The test to become a VE is open book.
6. Currently, CARC does VE testing once a quarter.
7. Where we're struggling now is with training "students" for licensing to take their exams (running courses). How do we move this from a very manual process to an online format?
8. We're considering doing this through HamPrepOnline.
9. We're doing this because, for example, one of our General Class classes had to be canceled due to lack of instructors.
10. Mike Weiber, N4BQQ stated he is willing to teach a class for free.

11. The challenge is getting someone who will commit to it for five hours a night to teach the class(es).

## **Other Topics**

### *QRP SC Club*

1. QRP SC → [www.qrp-sc.com](http://www.qrp-sc.com)
2. This club is doing a QRP activity of the day. A handout was passed around to the CARC membership.
3. Kits on display and the definition of what QRP and QRPp is for those new to CARC and/or the hobby.
4. This club operates on any mode as long as it's 5 watts or less on CW or 10 watts for SSB.

### *Bruce La Fleur (Tech License)*

1. Has equipment in storage and needs help with getting some of it to work as he lives in a retirement community. Needs help with "hot spots" due to living in a retirement community.
2. La Fleur stated Mark Goddard recommends a DSTAR hot spot.
3. Currently La Fleur is using a Baofeng HT but cannot use it effectively due to the building he lives in (steel beams, etc.). He currently has to go on the "sky deck" to effectively use it. Thus the need for a hot spot.
4. La Fleur will continue to work with Mark as a single source of information to get the help he needs.
5. CARC will get La Fleur's contact information from Mark to further be able to assist him.
6. Two examples of a digital hot spot were passed around by club members

### Treasurer's Finance Report

## **Adjournment**

Jim Lathan adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM