

**CARC CLUB MEETING – 04 AUGUST, 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 Ross W4LED**

**Opening Remarks**

1. Jim greeted everyone.
2. Jim greeted a new visitor who was licensed with her Tech from Summer Field Day 2025 at Sesquicentennial Park.
3. Field Day report was turned in. About 135 QSO's despite bad weather and bad band conditions.
4. There are three Ham Fests this month: Chester SC, Florence SC, Huntsville AL and Shelby NC

**Treasurer Report – Amanda McKinnis**

1. July: \$4869.12 in main checking; \$2166.42 in Club Savings Account; no outgoing expenses
2. Talked about how to get onto HamClubOnline.org
3. If you have not received a welcome letter from HamClubOnline.org, please email Amanda McKinnis if you are not a new member; for new members, when they join they will be added. If you have an HCO account from a previous club, Amanda will only need your past email address to help you get an account for CARC's HCO.
4. HCO will also be used for due renewals.
5. You can access HCO through the main CARC page – there is a link there.

**Other Business**

*Paul Finan – NET Manager*

1. 78 check ins; 18 announcements; 4 sessions
2. Numbers are down a bit per Jim Lathan.
3. SCHEART was down last night – it's an every two week net now—every other weekend in August.
4. SCHEART net used a different format and Jim wanted to know what the CARC membership thought about the format and see if we could adapt it to our club's net.
5. Jim also asked for ideas to help make our net interesting and asked for the membership to think about some things.

6. Someone else asked how long and how the club would like for the net to run. Jim is soliciting for more interaction. Normally the net runs 30 to 45 minutes.
7. We also need help with folks to serve as Net Control on a rotating basis.
8. Paul believes the net will pick up once school is back in session.
9. What can we do to get it to where Tech licensed members can be involved in the Nets? Jim suggested we make our own special event activity focused on Technicians.
  - Maybe a Tech QSO party.
  - How do we get a Tech to be able to talk around the world? A guaranteed QSO? DSTAR? Fusion? DMR?
  - Maybe use a hot spot with radio connected – this would be a special event that we create with our own rules.
  - These ideas would give the club something to do until Winter Field Day 2026.
  - We could also get out and support JOTA (another member suggested).
  - Another member suggested having our own Field Day that shows what Techs can do if they earn their General license. We could also combine this with JOTA, another member suggested. Jim suggested membership join the Wednesday planning meeting via Google Meet Up to discuss more ideas (planning calls).
  - We're looking to implement this around September/October – maybe have this once per week.
  - Someone else suggested making satellite or ISS contacts.
  - Someone else suggested an antenna making party.
  - Jim emphasized to make sure to join the planning call Wednesday

**Presentation – Mark Goddard, KN4KRZ – National Weather Services, Midlands Area, Acting Coordinator  
-- SkyWARN**

1. Mark discussed the new for SkyWARN spotters who are trained to confirm “ground truth” of radar indications. These spotters are more useful when they are licensed amateur radio operators to communicate inclement weather information for public safety/emergency services.
2. SkyWARN is not asking people to be “storm chasers,” but to simply pass weather information along to NWS through SkyWARN nets SAFELY.
3. Amateur Radio is useful when cell phone towers and conventional phone lines are out.
4. Not all spotters are amateur radio operators: anyone can be a spotter. There is a short course through NWS.
5. Mark included links in his presentation on more information on SkyWARN. Mark said he would make his presentation available so CARC members could have access to web link to acquire more SkyWARN information.
6. [www.weather.gov/cae/](http://www.weather.gov/cae/) and [www.weather.gov/cae/skywarn.html](http://www.weather.gov/cae/skywarn.html)
7. SkyWarn activations are frequently activate to pass information along to NWS.
8. Reports can be made through Amateur Radio and/or Zello (Android and/or Apple app) for non-amateur radio operators (and amateur operators). You can monitor the SlyWarn Zello group and make reports even if you're not an amateur radio operator. **Channel: SC Midlands SKYWARN. However, this app is not useful if you do not have cell service. So you'll need to use amateur radio in this case. Also, channels are CASE SENSITIVE. Lastly, Mark emphasized to use the FREE version of Zello – not the commercial version.**

9. Repeater and simplex can be used (if repeater towers are destroyed/damaged during a storm).
10. You can also report SkyWarn info via social media: **web** (<http://weather.gov/cae/> ); **phone** 803.822.8037; **e-mail** (NWS.Columbia@noaa.gov); **Facebook** (US National Weather Service Columbia); **X** (@NWSColumbia )
11. Photographs are also useful when sending reports (if you can)
12. NWS Chat 2.0
13. <https://learn.meted.ucar.edu/#/login>
14. Contact Mark Goddard to get on email distribution of SkyWarn: [goddard.mw@gmail.com](mailto:goddard.mw@gmail.com) or Tim, K4RHK at [k4hrk1958@gmail.com](mailto:k4hrk1958@gmail.com)
15. At the end of Mark's presentation, Jim Lathan encouraged people to also acquire a weather radio with SAME alert system to be programmable for your area.
16. Jim also encouraged you to not only have a "go bag" for radio, but also a go bag for survival with water/food during inclement weather situations.

#### **Other Business**

1. Noah Bergevin requested help with a 49:1 un-un ended wire antenna.
- 2.

#### **Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:43p