

## CARC Club Meeting – May 4, 2026 – SCETV – 7:00PM

Jim Lathan

Wes Munn

Dan Cunningham

**DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ZOOM PORTION WAS NOT OFFERED FROM THE SCETV BUILDING, NOR COULD PRESENTER DISPLAY SLIDES ON PROJECTOR IN SCETV MEETING ROOM.**

The meeting began at 7:07p.

### Introductions

1. Jim stated the service for Clay Reynolds, SK was a beautiful service.
2. A SK net was done for Clay last night on the CARC repeater (147.330 MHz).
3. Jim gave away two Meshtastic badge trackers.

### Main Presentation

1. Bill Besley – Meshtastic / SpecFive  
[https://specfive.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqrSrN1GMddHsByHHnszlCf0\\_ieOhS578QyZyTFueqvXG0uC6-4](https://specfive.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoqrSrN1GMddHsByHHnszlCf0_ieOhS578QyZyTFueqvXG0uC6-4)
2. Slides are not available as they are copyrighted
3. Bill gave a presentation on Meshtastic to the CARC club.
4. Meshtastic is about working with people, “*Meshtastic users help each other by helping themselves.*” – Bill
5. Meshtastics devices serve as a redundant communication system (non-Ham based) for text communication that can be used during emergencies. Nodes are very cheap to purchase or build.
6. Meshtastic is an open platform that anyone can use – including non-hams (902-928 MHz).
7. Meshtastic is Long Range (LoRa) using as low as 1/3 of a Watt.
8. Node = Radio
9. Limitations: Low data rate (no SSTV but more features coming like compressed voice).
10. Terrain dependent – won’t work down in the valley or in a building.
11. Low cost: \$30 to \$119
12. SpecFive – Austin, TX. Good source of education and purchase of equipment. Use BOBMESH for discounts of a Meshtastic product or classes.
13. K4NJN Bob Esley

14. [bbesley61@gmail.com](mailto:bbesley61@gmail.com)
15. Some form of "12" in each of his nodes near Aiken, SC or Batesburg, SC
16. Bill encourages folks to try to get some nodes in Columbia area as high as you can.

### **Club Business**

1. With Clay Reynolds' passing – we have decided to keep his officer position open and expire through the end of the year.
2. Jim stated we need at least six positions to be a quorum.

### **Lake Murray Ride of Champions (Bike Ride)**

1. June 13, 2026
2. There are six critical cross points and no police support for traffic.
3. Our role and responsibilities is for spotting and communications. We cannot assist with their bikes or transporting the riders or their bikes because our insurance policy does not cover us for any liability with bike riders and their equipment.
4. 147.000 MHz will be the repeater we will be using.
5. Meshtastic may be used if possible.
6. POCLink

### **Treasurer Report**

1. We are close to \$7,000 in CARC club funds.
2. Amandawas not able to be present via Zoom due to technical issues with the SCETV Meeting Room equipment.
3. Jim discussed using some of the funds to maintenance the Ft. Jackson repeater.
4. Jim mentioned ARRL grants for more funding as well as RDAC (for the tower – up to \$30,000). ARRL grants are up to \$3000. These could be used to help fund electronic VE testing as opposed to using paper.
5. Electronic testing automatically grades for pass/fail and sends results to the FCC.

### **June 2026 Club meeting**

1. June 4, 2026 – next club meeting – David Loughton on CW for POTA and SpoolTenna as presenters
2. Bike Ride (Lake Murray) planning

**Summer 2026 Field Day – Saturday, June 27, to Sunday, June 28, 2026**

1. Will be done in a "ham hangout" format.
2. At Sesquicentennial State Park
3. The food budget is \$250.00.

### **Other Updates**

1. Club member Gary Anderson is available via POCLink according to Jim.
2. Jim would like to design an interface for POCLink to AllStar.
3. Jay Leeper gave an update on his mobile antenna designs and how to mount them using PVC pipe and SO-239 connectors.
4. Mark Goddard asked if we could get the club Meshtastic QR code posted to the CARC website.

### **Visitors**

1. Bryan O'Caine - KR4EFQ

### **Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 9:10p