

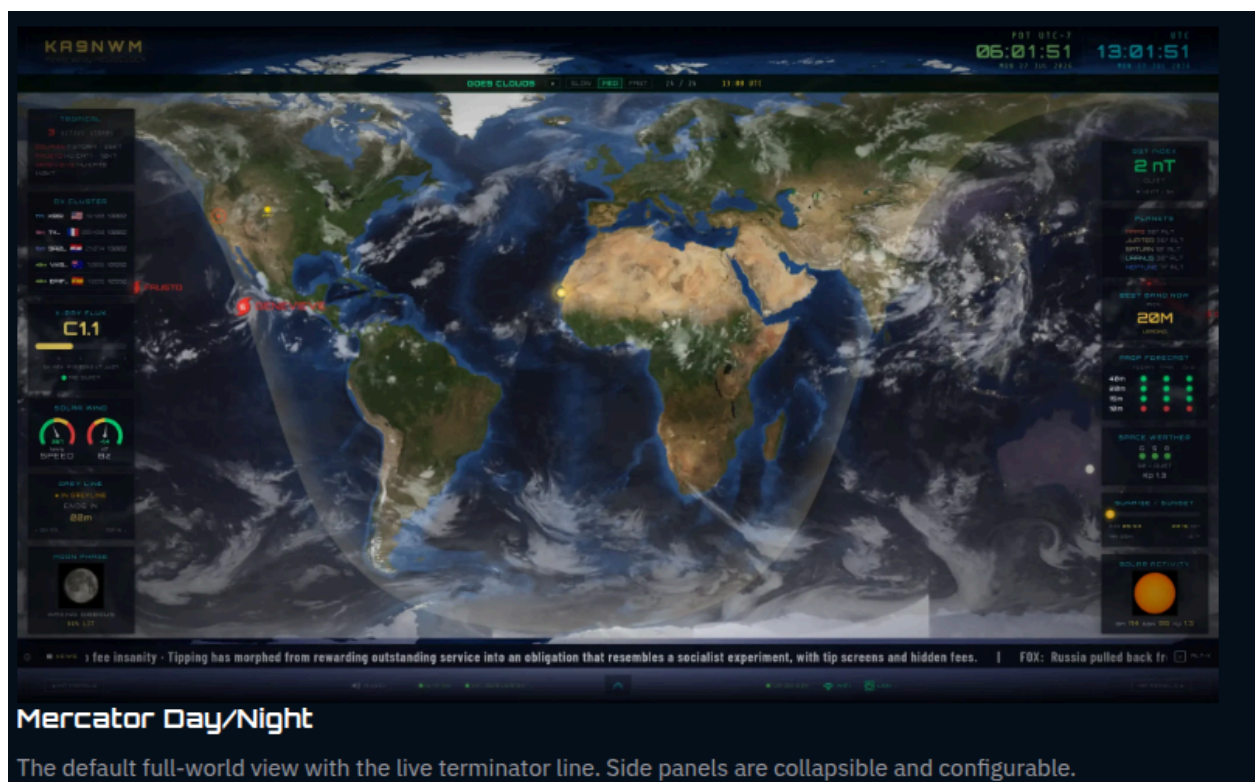
CARC Club Meeting
October 5, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
SCETV Bank of America Meeting Room
George Rogers Blvd, Columbia, SC

Jim Lathan
Paul Finan
John Kiselica
Dan Cunningham
Noah Bergevin
Wes Munn

The meeting began at 7:02p

Presentation

Presenter – Anthony Watts, KA9NWM of HelioClock



1. Anthony presented on HelioClock <https://helioclock.com/> – which displays weather and ham radio data. His website states he created it on “April 20, 2026” “from scratch” using Javascript and HTML5 and runs on Ubuntu LInux (<https://helioclock.com/about/>).

2. Helioclock is highly customizable and eliminates clutter found in modern weather apps and websites that are more information overload or “noisy”.
3. Pricing for HelioClock starts around \$49.99 at the time of Anthony’s presentation.
4. Helioclock can run on a Raspberry Pi. Very stable and you do not have to be a Linux expert to use Helioclock. There are also standalone hardware options pre-built available for shipping. Raspberry Pi must have cooling fans and at least 4GB of memory.
5. It is and is not open source according to Anthony. No proprietary content is used on Helioclock. This is from public domain government sources. Helioclock does not rely on a central server, so if the developer, Anthony, were to become an SK, it would still be running since it’s pulling data from a variety of government public domain sites, unlike the issue with Ham Clock when the developer became an SK.

Club Business

Budget

1. Jim presented the CARC budget to the membership: \$2,103.93 in checking; \$6,773.59 in savings account.
2. Jim also gave a projected income prediction report for 2027 based on donations and other inflows and history.
3. Projection of \$3,300 for repeater maintenance was included in the 2027 Projected Expenses report for expanded site upgrades.

Fort Jackson Repeater Upgrade Feedback from CARC Membership

1. Jim fielded the CARC membership both online and in person tonight on upgrading/replacing the repeater (cost around \$3,005 if purchased through ETV).
2. The new repeater would be a Motorola SLR 5000 repeater encased in a cabinet.
3. Jim needs to know the timing and what the club thinks/feels about this. The new repeater has a five-year warranty.
4. A club member suggested setting aside a modest amount each year going forward to replace a repeater and offset costs. Jim stated we’re doing this currently with the current budget. The member also suggested a line item for maintenance and another for replacing a repeater for clarification such as a savings plan.
5. Another member says it would be a good time to purchase a spare repeater due to chip prices going up “now is a good time to get one.”
6. Michael Cerkez, AI4JN, stated the previous repeaters have also had technical issues and would suddenly work. Cerkez, says yes, to go ahead and replace the repeater.
7. Another member asked what other advantage does having a new repeater give us aside from reliability and upgrades? Jim stated they can be linked and include All Star.

8. Another member asked for clarification if the new repeater would be used on/off. Jim says, no, it would be used as a backup in case the current Fort Jackson repeater failed completely and be used to replace it. It would be a backup for the future.
9. The membership agreed YES, to get a new repeater at 8:27p.
10. Mark Goddard stated the use of the new repeater is not just a benefit to the CARC club, but also for the entire Midlands with the linking capabilities (especially during emergencies).
11. Jim stated if anyone wants to see the repeaters (Hard Scrabble Road), we would do a field trip for any members who want to see what our repeaters look like and how they operate. We can't visit the Fort Jackson repeater due to military ranges and clearances.

VE Testing

1. Jim demonstrated tablets and software that will be used to do electronic VE testing at CARC and CARC-related events.
2. We need more people to become VEs.

Nominations

1. Jim said elections are next month and for people to submit nominations.
2. Voting – Jim stated at the November 2026 meeting, there will be a table at the door with a list to verify paid membership can only vote. Payment for dues can be made at the November 2026 meeting if needed to maintain membership.
3. Trustee is also a position available per John Kiselica.
4. Mark Goddard asked about absentee voting – John Kiselica says this will be accommodated.

Christmas Party 2026

1. Sandy is going to be the lead chair for the 2026 CARC Christmas Party. She needs volunteers for help with decorating.
2. Sandy asked where the decorations are that we used last year. Jim said they are at his residence.
3. Location: Little Pig's BBQ. at \$10 per person; family pass \$25 for families of 3 or more. Date: December 7, 2026 – 5:30p to 9:30p (Monday) per CARC website calendar.
4. We do need people to bring desserts. There will be a \$1 processing feed if using PayPal.
5. We will have raffles and activities.
6. We are anticipating about 75 people attending.

Summer Field Day 2027 – June 26-27, 2027

1. Jim fielded the club for input on Summer Field Day at Dreher Island State Park or Sesquicentennial Park (traditionally done) (\$207 + \$78.40 for weekend RV site costs with a \$3 park entry covered by club).
2. DISP has HVAC, kitchen, power, and enclosed building.
3. Estimated two-day rental is ~\$581.
4. This would be for 75 daily attendees.
5. VE testing will also occur.
6. Food: the club would cook burgers and hot dogs and everyone else brings a covered dish.
7. We cannot camp in vehicles or outside the building unless you rent your own camp site.
8. The club voted to go to Dreher Island at 8:55p.
- 9.

Winter Field Day 2027 – January 23-24, 2027

1. January 23-24, 2027 at Sesquicentennial Park.
2. We do have sites available for tents at Site 23 to get access to power.
3. Site 19 will be a community tent for VE testing and other public events/demos.
4. CARC has already paid for the site – just show up.
5. If you want to camp, prices are reasonable.
6. Consider spots 15 to 23 if you want to camp.
7. CARC will be out there Friday to begin setting up.
8. Can camp in primitive area.

Other Announcements

HF ARES Net

1. Mark Goddard stated every Tuesday on 3.990 MHz is a statewide ARES HF Net.
2. More info contact Mark or go to <https://ares-sc.org/statewide-hf-net/>

Noah Bergevin

1. Donating a mini PC if anyone wants to pick it up. See Noah for more details and price.
- 2.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 9:07p