

Trident Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes FINAL

2/5/2024



Officers:

President - Steve Anderjack, KO4AFL – Welcome

Vice President - TW Kirkpatrick, KF4CQH –

Treasurer - Jim Self, KW4PW – Absent

Secretary - Renata Sierzega, KQ4ASH –

Board Member at Large - Chris Benoit, KC4NW –

Board Member at Large - Glenn Stephens, WA4NMW –

Membership – Ron Davis, K4TCP – Approximately 80 paid members

Testing – Ron Davis, K4TCP / Steve Anderjack, KO4AFL

Programs – Greg Mitchell KB1AWM -Absent

QSL manager –Chris Benoit KC4NW- See below

Repeaters – Bryce Myers, K4LXF –See below

Fund Raising –Jim Self, KW4PW –

Properties – TW Kirkpatrick, KF4CQH – See below

Education and Scholarship- Jim Wasson KO4MNB Absent/ Stephen Behr K4OPZ

Field Day- Ron K4TCP, TW KF4CQH and John Satterfield KK4JS Absent

Call to order: 1800

Location: Stones Throw, 101 Button Hall Avenue **Goose Creek, SC 29445**

Upcoming Events

Hunley Event 17 Feb 2024 at Fort Moultrie, 1214 Middle St., Sullivans Island, SC.

- Gates open at 9 AM and trailer setup. POC Steve KO4AFL.
- TARC members to arrive at 10 AM. TARC will use N4HLH station ID.
- The “yellow” grassy area is reserved for support vehicles. This is where our trailer will be located. We might have to consider shoring in the event we have wet/soft ground. Shore boards are available for under the trailer. Please note, no antennas will be allowed outside of the red perimeter. POC Tom Valenzia W4ID
- Computer set up needs to be completed

JBC (Joint Base Charleston) Air Show: 19-21 Apr 2024 POC Chip KB4ZVR

- Discussed this STEM event and all supplies and equipment needed
- Friday is the STEM and Military Day.
- No hanger but base provides two canopies, table and chairs.
- Need clarification on available power.
- TARC call sign N4EE will be used. Application approved.
- T-shirts will be ordered (self-pay)
- There will be approx. 3 planning meeting prior to this event. Potential Dates: Feb 21 – 23 and Feb 26 – 1 Mar would be ideal for his availability.
- Sgt Kocon can sponsor up to three people in his vehicle and up to 10 if anyone has a base ID in another vehicle. Renata KQ4ASH indicated she has a military ID for access to the base.

Summer Field Day 22-23 June 2024 POC John KK4JS

- Potential site: St John's Episcopal Church field, 3673 Maybank Hwy, John's Island, SC 29457 to be discussed. Clark Cromwell O:843-974-5593; M:504-578-8543
- Board approved: Glenn WA4MNV and TW KF4CQH.
- Donation to church of \$200 approved by board.
- Post event to the Charleston Business Club.
- Possibly allow 1 TV station to the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

Outgoing board members:

Secretary – Stephen Behr, K4OPZ and Mike Edwards KJ4TAC Board voted to discontinue the use of the safe deposit box when able per contract. Box is at South Carolina Fed Credit Union, 1900 McMillian Ave, N Charleston SC. Documents to be maintained by the Board electronically. No one has a key. Email sent (2/7/24) to Mike KJ4TAC and John KK4JS who are the signatories on the account to go to the bank and close the box. (Oct 2023)

Maintenance and Deployment Committee: POC Steve Anderjack KO4AFL Members: Chip WB4ZVR & Jim KW4PW & Mike KJ4TAC & Ron K4TCP & Glenn WA4NMW

- A meeting needs to be called to resolve all of these items. (Jan 2024)
- The Board must define the charter of this standing committee in the Bylaws and appoint a leader. (Dec 2023)
- The committee will establish criteria/vet for deployment of trailer including STEM and school visits. Reviewing use and deployment options. A towing member will always be included in any site visit. Will be sending out a survey for areas where/when to deploy. (Dec 2023) POC Steve KO4AFL
- At the Board Meeting, Jim KO4MNB, said he created the draft survey questionnaire as a starting point for the Board's consideration. His vision was to hand out hard copies at the next club meeting for members to complete in 5 minutes. Steve, KO4AFL, stated he had some additions to the survey and wanted to convert it to Survey Monkey to email it to the members.
- Please be aware that Survey Monkey charges for their service if we use rank order measuring scales, which I believe are needed to indicate preferences. I also believe they charge for using large distribution lists. See attached. (Jan 24)
- The second intercom system has arrived and the computers and monitors were installed. Sound dampening foam were installed decreasing the dB from 77 to 74. A "curtain" may need to be installed to decrease the sound further. Work left to be done: mount propane tanks after continued floor repair, clean and organize the trailer. A cleanable rug runner may be helpful. POC Ron K4TCP
- Satellite status info: POC: Chip WB4ZVR

Education and Scholarship Committee:

Palmetto Scholars Academy POC Steve Behr K4OPZ

Discussion continues to restart of K4PSA. Steve will also be in contact with PSA teacher. Donna Heisler (engineering teacher, sponsors robotics) Update: New interim principal is interested, but

has other pressing responsibilities. Steve met with MacKenzie Bennett, office administration, while returning the ICOM HF radio. She will be in contact with the science teachers and the school club coordinator.

Joint Base Charleston: See info under Events.

St. John Catholic School: POC Jim Wasson KO4MNB and Stephen Behr K4OPZ

Jim KO4MNB met with Karen Durand, Principal of St. John Catholic School about the proposed 2024 Education Program.

- ARRL education curriculum. One lesson per month.
- TARC to consider asking Molly Meyer to attend the first class for the Teachers Institute.
- **29 February 2024 12 noon- 1 pm** The students will be building and testing audio amplifiers designed to connect to their crystal radios. 1 TARC volunteers (6 already volunteered) are needed for approx. 1 hour on **February 29 2024** to assist the students building and testing audio amplifiers designed to connect to their crystal radios. Stephen Behr, Ron Davis and Jim Wasson are donating the parts. We have 6 teams of 4 students each.

Bishop England HS: POC Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ & Greg Mitchell KB1AWM

Approached BEHS to team to propose to build a station with the end goal of an ISS contact. The ARISS school contact application is due **Spring 2024**. They have agreed to team up to write a joint proposal for the Amateur Radio for the International Space Station (ARISS) submission in the **Spring 2024**. They will need a TARC Letter of Commitment. Update: No progress from BEHS since last meeting in Dec 23. Board decision to CANCEL this.

SC Department of Employment and Workforce: POC Jim Wasson, KO4MNB

Dr. Patricia Ferguson has been in contact with Jim regarding an interest in submitting a proposal for the Amateur Radio for the International Space Station (ARISS) program. The ARISS Education Plan is to be submitted by **7 February 29**. The draft will be presented to TARC for review. They will need a TARC Letter of Commitment. Additionally, TARC will need a satellite contact other than Greg Mitchell KB1AWM.

Dr. Ferguson has also requested the clubs help moving forward. As more details are available, the club will discuss how we can assist. See plan outline below received after this meeting.

- I. Build an AR and ISS Culture
- II. Host In-school Pre-Activities with AR, ISS and STEM concepts
- III. Host an ARISS Day
- IV. Host ISS Contact
- V. Implement an AR Build and License Project

Properties: TW Kirkpatrick KF4CQH

Items donated were available for purchase at the Winter Field Day. Update: Over \$500 was donated.

Membership: POC Ron K4TCP

- Membership name badges from Palmetto Awards price increased. Steve KO4AFL brought in a sample that needs redesign. (Nov 23)
- Ron K4TCP sent targeted emails to members that have not yet paid their membership fees. 4 additional members have paid. 2 new members from Winter Field Day. Discussed connecting

with members that do not come to meetings. Also, Board discussed offering a free club membership for the remaining of a year when a person passes their Technician License Exam.

- Ron to find out info on ARRL coupon codes. None available.
- Discussion on obtaining TARC items such as hats, name tags etc. Ron K4TCP will bring samples to the Feb 24 Board Meeting. Renata: Seaboard Traders (local) (email 1/26/24) and Café Press (not local) (web site). Idea: club logo on the back of the shirt and a small logo and call sign on the front. Additional consideration is East Summerville Renata KQ4ASH will checkout the different options.

QSL: POC: Chris KC4NW

- 1 Hunley event request from 2 years ago.
- Many requests from Winter Field Day.
- Discussion on use of TARC specific call signs instead of sharing the W4D.
 - W4ANK: Repeater Call Sign for future for club events. Rick Valentine N8BKN is the custodian. Not Listed in QRZ. Club would need to submit paper copies. Plan?
- N4EE: Maintain N4EE for Special Events and Field Day. David Merritts AE4ZR is the custodian and uploads into QRZ.
- N4HLH: Use for Hunley Events. Ron K4TCP is the custodian and uploads into QRZ.

Media: POC Ron K4TCP

- Facebook benefits: Mailchimp dumps info into the Facebook page. No special programs to be considered.
- Meetup is no longer an option due to cost.

Program ideas: The following ideas to be considered for future club programming for members.

- January: John KK4JS - "ADIF Master Basics" Well done!
- February: Mike KJ4TAC- VHF "Building a Low-Cost VHF-UHF Ground Plane antenna or "What do I have in my junk box that I can use." The presentation will consist of a short video, a discussion on construction techniques and alternatives, and tuning the antenna for perfect SWR.
- March: Chip Mack WB4ZVR - "It's About Time" A "Whitman's Sampler" presentation about the terminology and technology for computer timing and frequency control in the modern hamshack, and why it's important we move toward it.
- April: Glen WA4MNW: Technician Session: Portable Radio Testing: VHF and UHF.
- Radio modes: APRS
- Radio activities: satellite
- Propagation information
- J pole and antennas
- Programming for Extras
- Ladder lines

TREASURER: South Carolina Federal Credit Union

- Total balance: \$6,400
- Expenses:
 - \$135 Portalet Winter Field Day
- Earnings:
 - Winter Field Day donations: over \$500
 - Potential \$100 if radio works from Leo
- Social media: Website: Dream Host
 - Hosting: \$185 for 1 year approved due **1/20/24** Paid.
 - Domain registration: \$17.99 yearly due **1/16/25**

- John Satterfield KK4JS still has a working debit card but hasn't used it unless asked by the President or Treasurer.
- MHRT Insurance premium due on MHRT **1/16/24**. Update:
- Club Liability Insurance: Ron K4TCP discussed changes in insurance coverage and will contact the company. We are covered until **3/23/24**. Update:
- Raffle: Crimper and a large package of Anderson power pole connectors donated by Jim KW4PW: broke even.

NEW BUSINESS:

Events:

Past EVENT: Winter Field Day: **27-28 Jan 2023:** POC John Satterfield KK4JS
Report: Contacts 1,065 on 4 bands: 80,40,20 and 15. David AE4ZR has the file. Great time!

Education and Scholarship Committee:

St John Catholic School:

POC Jim Wasson KO4MNB and Stephen Behr K4OPZ

- Scholarship applications are due by 15 Mar 24. Dr. Patricia Ferguson will be contacted to remind schools.
- The leadership of the Trident Amateur Radio Club (TARC) has asked those club members who volunteer to instruct students at St. John Catholic School to complete the Diocese of Charleston's "Safe Haven" course. <https://charlestondiocese.org/child-and-youth-protection/safe-haven-training/>
Although the club will not track members to ensure completion, the certificates will be on file electronically by TARC. Members are to send completed certificates to club secretary.
- TARC has been working with St John Catholic School on writing and winning a STEM grant to transform an entire classroom into a Science Lab. The Lab would be complete with an Amateur Radio Station, Robotics Lab, AI/AR Futures Lab, etc. The Ham Station has a budget of around \$3,500. The Committee will of course be asking for TARC members to volunteer to help design, procure, build and operate the station. It will be another fun project, similar to the MHRS trailer which has served us well. Karen Durand, SJCS Principal, said her vision is that the school ham radio station would be for use of TARC members to get on the air and encourage students and teachers to learn about radio and electronics and maybe get trained and licensed.

There will be a General Class offered by CARS (Charleston Amateur Radio Society) on **16 & 17 Mar 24** to be held at the VA hospital, 109 Bee St., Charleston, SC with a VE test on 17 Mar 24. Please email Warren Richey at w5513@hotmail.com or Terry Benton at terbenster@gmail.com to sign up so they can prep.

Citadel Ham Radio Club N4CIT: POC: Jim KO4MNB, Steve K4OPZ

Col Linda Riedel, Dep Dir of Ops and Outreach, Citadel DoD Cyber Institute has responded to Jim's email to reactivate the Citadel Ham Radio Station. A meeting was held on January 11 with Jim, Steve K4OPZ, and Michael K3ZMD in which COL Riedel asked if we would give a presentation to the Cadets regarding the "Advantages of College Ham Radio Clubs" and bring our Mobile Ham Radio Station trailer to the campus for a demo. In the meantime, we gave her the contact information for the trustee to investigate where the equipment is stored. Linda will be back in touch with some proposed dates for our visit. Additionally, Jack, a member of CARS attended the Citadel and Adjunct Prof Mark Lester is a HAM.

Repeaters: POC: Bryce K4LXF

- Summerville: POC Steve KO4AFL, Glenn WA4NMW
 - 147.27 Located on the Azalea Sq Water Tower. Glenn and Steve went to the site. A presentation was given to the board regarding the needs to reactivate

this repeater. This same presentation will be presented at the next General Meeting of TARC.

- Board approved, pending approved use of the building (approx. 8x10) from the Gen Manager at SCPW, a total of \$1,700 to repair, clean out the building and “supplies.” Electricity is provided at no cost.
- Adams Run: 147.345 No longer available. Lost to Charleston County. Duplex and antenna are on loan to them.
- Knightsville: 146.94 repeater was dropping the radio link randomly. The controller was working correctly and it appeared the link radio is the issue. Bryce or the repeater team will be replacing the link radio to bring the repeater back to full status.

General Information:

Testing: Testing is scheduled the 3rd Wed of every month.

South Carolina QSO Party: Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP seeking portable operators to be on the air during the SCQP on **February 24, 2024**. See 1/29/24 email from Jim Self. To present this information at the General TARC meeting.

[Bill Text: SC H4549 | 2023-2024 | 125th General Assembly | Introduced | LegiScan](#)

POC: Glenn WA4NMW

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ENACTING THE "AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA PROTECTION ACT" BY ADDING SECTION 4-1-190 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY MAY NOT ENACT OR ENFORCE CERTAIN ORDINANCES THAT DO NOT CONFORM TO THE AMATEUR RADIO PREEMPTION; AND BY ADDING SECTION 27-30-180 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MAY NOT PROHIBIT AN OWNER OF A PROPERTY WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION FROM INSTALLING OR USING AN AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA ON THE PROPERTY.

Update:

ARRL News:

- The Board approved the reintroduction of **ARRL Life Membership and 70+ Life Membership** (for members of age 70 and over) on a revenue-neutral basis. At its July 2023 Second Meeting, the Board had suspended the Life Membership Program, pending the approval of an adjusted revenue-neutral program.
- The Board approved two motions aimed at engaging young hams with a strong start to their lifelong journey with amateur radio and ARRL:
 - **FREE ARRL Membership for Students.** For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students of age 21 and younger.

Adjourned: 2015

V/R

Renata Sierzega
KQ4ASH