

# Salkehatchie Amateur Radio Society

Welcome to the Salkehatchie Amateur Radio Society December 2003 newsletter.

## Message from the President - December 2003

As colder weather takes us to the end of another year and the Christmas Holidays approach, we are reminded of the importance of friends and family. Ironically enough, amateur radio can bring us closer to far away friends, or take us away from our near-by family if we let it. It is important to keep our priorities straight all year long but especially during these long, cold, winter nights. If you're lucky, your family can enjoy your hobby with you. If they don't, make sure you're giving them the time they are due so that when spring gets here, you can spend some time fixing that antenna farm or shopping the hamfests.

For those who could not make the last meeting, I want to rehash the tone of what transpired. Although we all agree that new members are important, the consensus was that if the current membership is not enthused, new members will find nothing interesting enough to keep them around. To that end, we decided a club project that we could all rally around would be a good idea. The great suggestion of setting up an unlinked repeater for local use only on some band other than two-meters was suggested and received with great enthusiasm. It was agreed that by the next meeting to be held at Ray (WA4OMM) and Kathleen's (KB4HWC) on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m., we would have thought about what band we would like to put a repeater on. 50, 220, and 440 MHz were all discussed so I urge everyone to give it some thought. Things to consider may be range, availability and expense of equipment, and possibility for interference. In any case, if you don't have an opinion or vote, then don't complain later! After deciding on a band for the repeater, we will discuss repeater location and how to get the necessary equipment.

On a lighter note, for those who may be interested, I just finished reading a book by Gavin Weightman titled, "Signor Marconi's Black Box". The book is a history of Marconi's time during the development of the wireless telegraph and contains some very interesting facts and trivia related to radio and in particular amateur radio. If the author is to be believed, amateur radio operators in the early days were real "lids" and it was their actions during events such as the sinking of the Titanic that lead to regulation of amateur radio. There are several references in the book to cases where amateur radio operators intentionally interfered with naval and commercial shipping traffic just to show their curious friends they could do it! The book does point out that later in the days of World War I however, that amateur radio operators played an invaluable role in the allied effort. Good reading with short chapters! Lots of interesting bits of history and trivia that all radio enthusiasts would like!

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to expand their interests in wireless communications outside the usual amateur bands. Whether that is Short Wave Listening, building of equipment, or trying to learn electronic theory, we can all benefit from expanding our horizons. To that end, I am enclosing the website link for a schematic for a 1750-meter transmitter (yes, we are allowed to operate there, with restrictions of course). It is a simple, rainy day project that may come in handy some day if we are ever given an allocation below the 160-meter band. Give it a stab and have some fun. Click on this link for the schematic: <http://www.cpinternet.com/~lyle/lftx.htm>.

Don't forget to check into the Monday night nets at 8pm on the Barnwell repeater 147.030!  
The SARS Club meets the third Saturday of the month...for December we meet at Ray & Kathleen Thomas', Rosewood Farm in Elko. If you have any problems finding, the Barnwell repeater will be monitored.

## **Minutes from November 2003 Meeting Submitted by: Gretchen Birt, KG4UXZ, Secretary**

The SARS Club met on November 15, 2003 at the home of President, Tim Schatzer, KA3IGW. Nine club members attended the breakfast and club meeting. (The meeting notice and reminder was snail-mailed later than planned so some members were not aware of the meeting.) The President called the meeting to order after the breakfast.

**Minutes:** None at this time.

**Old Business:** Having just reorganized the SARS Club, there is no old business at this meeting.

**New Business:** Ray Thomas, Treasurer, reminded the group that membership dues were payable by the next meeting (the Club operates on a calendar year). Ray also invited the group to have the next meeting at his and Kathleen's place in Elko, Rosewood Farm, and asked that everyone bring a gag gift. The meeting will be at 11:00am, and Ray will invite Section Manager, Jim Boehner to attend and speak. The President then discussed with the group the direction of the Club and what the existing members want from their membership in the Club. (This is further addressed in the President's message). There was a bit of discussion such as where and how to conduct meetings, the consensus being for now to have informal meetings in Club members homes. There was also discussion about activities to participate in such as parades, ham related programs, hosting a hamfest, and learning about other club members' interests. The President was also designated to contact John Angil, Emergency Management Director for Barnwell County to reinstate our interest to him in emergency communications. Also discussed was an unlinked repeater frequency for local use of club members, such as the 440 or 220 bands (great idea which has a number of members quite excited). Continuing the Monday night net for the Barnwell Repeater was discussed, WA4OMM and W4OXA are currently controlling it, but would like others to participate in that. It was agreed that we should continue the Monday night net even with minimal check-ins, and volunteers to help man the controls are encouraged to talk to WA4OMM and W4OXA about helping. There is also work that needs to be done to the Repeater, and members that are able to do so will schedule a work day in December (or January considering the holidays) to get together for such maintenance. The noise on the repeater was mentioned due to the links within the LowCountry Repeater System, and codes to turn the link off will be appropriately shared for monitoring.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ray Thomas, WA4OMM, gave his report. Out of the checking account, SERA dues and the Repeater insurance had been paid. Two members had paid their dues. There was a small interest amount deposited to the Savings account. Hearing no questions, the Treasurer's Report was complete and approved as published.

Club member, Joel Livingston, K4JMV, informed the group that he had a tower and antenna available to whomever wanted to dismantle and remove it.

Hearing no more discussion or comments, the President closed the meeting of the SARS Club.

I apologize to all of you for the last newsletters being delayed. I created the last newsletter in PrintShop, a printing software program, which made it incompatible to send via email; therefore, I had to print and mail it. I then made the mistake of trying to send the newsletters on Veteran's Day! I am creating this newsletter in Word which most people have, so hopefully this format will be better. We will continue to work on the format of the newsletter as we provide them to you each month. I hope to add in more regular information, such as computer tips and various other items. Check out the newly remodeled website, which is still in progress, but looking good! (Thanks Tim Snyder, N4TSS) See you all on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December—don't forget your gag gifts!  
KG4UXZ