

# Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

# The Spectrum

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September 2009

WWW.W4CAR.ORG

## CARS on the Internet

In the last month or so, CARS has been moving very fast on leveraging common Internet services such as Picasa, Twitter, RSS and YouTube.

I know, for some, it may seem like every time you turn around there is an announcement about something CARS is doing on the Internet. Some may even feel over whelmed. That's understandable.

If at anytime you have a question about how to do something on the CARS website or about any of the ancillary services (Picasa, Twitter, RSS, YouTube, ...) please feel to contact me directly at [ki4rui@arrl.net](mailto:ki4rui@arrl.net). Do not feel ashamed or embarrassed for asking, I want you to ask. I know I will ask basic radio questions from all of you.

I am sure you are asking yourself, "why the Internet push?" This is being done for two main reasons.

One reason is, Keith and I are trying to make sure we can attract new members and retain current members by showing we are a technological and Internet savvy club.

Secondly, but just as important, is to support the CARS's membership. Instead of waiting a month to read about something that is happening in the club or in the hobby, you can find out almost instantly.

I believe our club has leap-frogged most other area clubs with our web portal. Think of our website as a portal to everything CARS on the Internet.

Since CARS has a presence on the major web services, we will begin expanding on those services. More picture albums on Picasa and club generated videos on YouTube for example.

This Internet push is in no way intended to take away from the main focus our club, which is, getting on the air and helping others to do so. The sole purpose of our portal is to strengthen, support and draw attention to our club's goal and our hobby in general.

## Upcoming Events

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- Virginia Beach Hamfest  
September 12 & 13, 2009
- CARS Dinner Meeting  
September 14, 2009
- Shack Day – September  
19, 2009

## CARS website

I want to personally thank Sean (w5cdr) for all the work he has put into our previous website.

The new club website went live in the middle of July. Since that time, Keith (kg4zxc) and I (ki4rui) have done a lot of planning and work to get the new website up.

Here is a list of some of the main features of our web site, in no particular order:

- RSS feed of the articles
- Twitter integration
- Articles are in reverse chronological order so new articles will always be at the top
- Club announcements
- Meeting schedules
- Current amateur radio news from around the Internet and around the world
- Current UTC time
- Current solar activity
- Call Sign Lookup
- Interactive directions to the QRM room
- Ham of the Year section
- Our club's calendar
- The monthly poll and poll archive
- Local nets and repeaters
- Club members can leave comments to articles
- And more...

I just want to mention that a few hams, who are not club members, have asked if they can register because they want the ability to leave comments on our website. Commenting on W4CAR.org articles is for OUR club members. We do not want to be like QRZ.com or eham.net. It is just one of the perks for being a CARS member.

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## CARS is looking for contributors

CARS is looking for content contributors for the club's portal.

Do you like to scour YouTube for cool ham radio videos? Are you interested in a niche in amateur radio?

The only requirements are

- Be a CARS member in good standing
- Have an Internet connected computer. Windows, Mac or Linux on a broad-band or dial-up connection will work.
- Be able to fill out a web form

Keith (kg4zxc) and I (ki4rui) can teach you the rest. Contact us via our contact us page: <http://w4car.org/w/about-cars/contact-us/>

## CARS's Picasa web site

The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service now has a Google Picasa web site.

For those who don't know what Picasa is, it is a Google service that specializes in photo albums.

CARS will use Picasa for photo albums of special events where many pictures are produced. We could put the pictures onto w4car.org but it would not be the best for your viewing pleasure.

Any additions to the Picasa site will be announced here on w4car.org.

If you want a direct link to the CARS Picasa site, here it is:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/W4CARVA/>

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## CARS is on Twitter

Thanks to Keith (kg4zxk), you can now follow the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service using Twitter. (<http://www.twitter.com/w4car/>)

But what is Twitter? Here is a wikipedia article. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter/>) Basically, Twitter is an easy way to send a short message, a tweet, out to ten people or to hundreds of thousands of people at one time. The act of sending a message, a tweet, is called tweeting.

Currently the w4car.org's RSS feed is being tweeted. Any time an article is added to the w4car.org web site, you will get a tweet.

So what is the difference between RSS and Twitter?

RSS is a pull architecture. Your computer has to contact the web site and pull down the feed. Your RSS reader may be set to pull the RSS once a day or once every few hours. Generally, you need to be at your computer to read the RSS feeds.

Twitter is a push architecture. As soon as someone puts a tweet into the system, it instantly goes out to everyone who are following you or in the case, to the followers of CARS.

There are many ways to receive tweets. I personally have tweets go to my cell phone. When one of the people I follow sends a tweet, I get the tweet as a text message on my phone.

In the future, CARS may send out tweets that will not show up on the w4car.org web site or the RSS feed. For example, during Field Day, tweeting exotic contacts or which bands are open to where.

I warn you, Twitter can become very addictive even if you are just a follower.

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## CARS is on YouTube

CARS now has a YouTube channel.

We, as a club, have not produced any videos yet but YouTube has many great amateur radio videos.

Currently, our channel is listing some of those great videos I have found. Have you found a great video? Let me know via our contact us page.

As we produce videos, they will be posted on our channel.

CARS YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/w4carva/>

## President's Column August 2009

I hope by now you are enjoying CARS' new website. Ken KI4RUI and Keith KG4ZXX have put a lot of work and expertise in making this up grade and moving it to a new server. Let's all give them a round of hearty applause for their accomplishment. This upgrade of the website has taken precedence over our monthly newsletter for the last several months, and I hope you agree that it has been a worthwhile investment of our resources. As you may know, Ken KI4RUI is also the Publisher, Editor and driving force of the Spectrum newsletter.

Thanks to all of you club members who joined the ARRL or renewed their ARRL memberships through CARS as part of the recently completed ARRL membership drive. As a result of our successful participation in this membership drive, the ARLL has given CARS a complimentary copy of the 2009 ARRL Handbook. It is available for reference use in our clubhouse.

Call for Nominations: According to the club's Bylaws, we will elect our Officers of the club for the next fiscal year at our October club meeting. Nominations for those elections will be announced in the September meeting, and additional nominations may be made prior to voting during the October meeting. If you are interested in being an Officer of the club (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer), please let me know. Please contact me at K4PRB@arrl.net. Remember, your club is what you make it!

I hope everybody enjoyed themselves at Field Day. I was proud of the turnout. Our Field Day Chairman Keith KG4ZXX has the official scoring posted in this newsletter. While this year's score fell short of last year's score, we are doing some advance planning to improve our operational capabilities and better manage interference issues. We will start planning for next year's Field Day early this Fall, so don't be surprised when the topic is mentioned.

Time to upgrade your license? CARS and VBARC are jointly presenting General and Extra licensing classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 11 through September 12. Exams will be held at the Virginia Beach Hamfest, September 12 & 13.

Speaking of the Hamfest, mark those dates on your calendar! I hope to see you there. And at our CARS Dinner meeting the following Monday, September 14.

73,Paul K4PRB

## BOD Meeting Minutes July 6, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM

Attending: Paul K4PRB, Bill WF4R, Barry K5VIP, Richard WA4BUE, Jim KG4WOJ, Phil WA9KFB

Previous Minutes - Committee Reports - WAVED

Treasurer's Report: (on file)

Old Business: Purchase of a projector for the club was discussed. It was decided to purchase a projector. Barry K5VIP suggested that we also purchase a projector screen. A motion was passed to purchase both a projector & screen not to exceed the amount of \$800.00

New Business: A motion was made by K5VIP to approve membership of David Hurley KJ4KUD. The motion was seconded by KG4WOJ and approved by the Board.

A motion was made by KG4WOJ to have the club Kenwood TS800S repaired at a cost of no more than \$300.00. Motion seconded by K5VIP and approved by the Board.

Field Day location for next year was discussed. The BOD feels we should stay at our present location. This will be presented to the membership for a vote. We also discussed the need for a private Port-A Potty at field Day. This will also be presented to the membership for a vote.

The Board discussed the need for a group to be set up to design & implement expandable LAN for Field Day. Wireless or wired. Possible new PC's .Flatscreen monitors .Routers and Server.

Suggested Teams: Bill WF4R .Jason KJ4WXY .Barry K5VIP .Barr,' W3AFH .Jay W4BSB .Ken KI4RUI .Keith KG4ZXX

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30PM

## Club Meeting Minutes August 3, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM Attendees: 22

Previous Minutes: WAVED

A video presentation was given by Steve Batton W4XQ: QCWA Chapter 119's IOTA Expedition to Tangier Island on July 24 .26. The expedition included CARS members Terry KI4RXC and Barry K5VIP.

The 50/50 drawing in the amount of \$33.00 was won by Dewey W4DCK, who donated his winning portion to the club.

An ARRL Handbook was received by the club, thanks to those who renewed or joined ARRL through CARS. A CD set also came with the Handbook and will be duplicated for check out by club members along with the Handbook.

General & Extra classes conducted by VBAC & CARS will begin at the QRM room on August 11. Classes will be on Tuesday & Thursday nights. General classes will be from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

Extra classes will be from 8:15pm to 9:30pm. Testing for these license classes will take place at the Virginia Beach Hamfest in September.

The CARS September meeting will be the Dinner Meeting at the Moose Lodge. Paul K4PRB requested that anyone interested in attending contact him as soon as possible.

Starting in about two weeks CARS will be visiting the emergency shelters to make certain that all equipment is in proper working order. Volunteers are needed for this effort.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A motion to approve membership applications of: Clayton Camker KJ4GDE and Rich Meserve KI4LVP was made by Bill WF4R and seconded by Dennis K4DKR. The motion was passed by the membership. Keith KG4ZXK gave the final Field Day results for the club.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00PM

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## CARS BOD MEETING MINUTES 8 / 2 / 09

Due to vacation travel, illness, business commitments, etc. the BOD was unable to hold a quorum for it's regular meeting scheduled for July 29.

Therefore, a quorum of the BOD was convened via email, consisting of President, Paul K4PRB, Vice President, Vince, KJ4CCR, Secretary, Phil WA9KFB, and Past President Keith, KG4ZXK.

Those BOD members unanimously agreed, via emails on August 2 and 3, upon the following matters:

To recommend that the club approve the membership applications of: Clayton Carriker KJ4GDE, Richard Meserve KI4LVP

To appoint Paul, K4PRB to the Nominating Committee to develop a slate of candidates for election of Officers in October.

These actions were announced to the membership in the CARS Club meeting August 3.

## Club Meeting Minutes July 6, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM Attendees: 23  
2 & guests

Previous Minutes: WAVED

Treasurer's Report: (on file)

Communications Officers Report: Jim KG4WOJ .Shack Day, plans to work on old radio.

Video Presentation: A video presentation was given by Richard WA4BUE on Amateur Radio and it's benefits.

Old Business:

The membership was presented with a plan to purchase a projector and screen for the Club not to exceed \$800.00. Motion Passed

New Business:

The membership was presented with a motion to have the Club Kenwood TS850S repaired at a cost not to exceed \$300.00. Motion Passed

The membership was presented with a motion to except Dave Hurley KJ4KUD as a member. Motion Passed

The membership was presented with a motion to keep the Club Field Day at Deep Creek Locks Park for next year. Motion Passed.

The membership was presented with a motion to rent a Port-A-Potty for Field Day next year. Motion Passed

General & Extra classes will begin at the QRM room on August 11. Classes will be on Tuesday & Thursday nights. General classes will be from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

Extra classes will be from 8:15pm to 9:30pm. Testing for these license classes will take place at the Virginia Beach Hamfest in September.

50/50 raffle was won by WA9KFB

Meeting Adjourned: 8:56

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## Have you won any contests?

You can talk the talk but can you prove you can walk the walk? Here is your chance to show off.

I would like to build a brag board on our web site for all our members that have received certificates or awards for amateur radio contests.

Do you have your awards scanned? Want them scanned and placed on our brag board?

You can send the scanned awards and a note me via our contact page. Need your awards scanned, contact me through our contact page.

Contact Page: <http://w4car.org/w/about-cars/contact-us/>

## September Dinner Meeting

CARS will hold our September Dinner meeting at the Moose Lodge on Monday, September 14. We are moving to the second Monday of the Month so as not to conflict with Labor Day. Dinner will again be served buffet style.

## StrikeStar

StrikeStarUS is a public, large scale and community based lightning detection network.

Their map will show you all the lightning strikes in the United States in the last 60 minutes.

When you zoom into geographical areas, you can see more detail. The StrikeStarUS website can even show you if the lightning is cloud to cloud or cloud to ground.

Interested in setting up a lightning detection station? StrikeStarUS can help you and get you hooked up into their system.

<http://www.strikestarus.com/>

## WX4NHC commercial with MP3!

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL."

ARRL full article: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/10/11013/>

MP3 of the comercial: [http://www.arrl.org/news/files/HURRICANE\\_60\\_PREPAREDNESS\\_MIX.MP3](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/HURRICANE_60_PREPAREDNESS_MIX.MP3)

## CARS Officers and Chairpersons

### President

Paul Buckwalter  
K4PRB

### Communications Officer

Jim Rogers  
KG4WOJ

### Past President

Keith Ainsley  
KG4ZXX

### Vice-President

Vince Williams  
KJ4CCR

### Public Service /ECOMM

Sean Gorman  
W5CDR

### Portal Masters

w4car.org  
  
Kenneth Jensen  
KI4RUI

### Secretary

Phil Henline  
WA9KFB

### Repeater Committee

Chairman  
Bill Runyon  
WF4R

Keith Ainsley  
KG4ZXX

### Treasurer

Barry Priddy  
K5VIP

### Trustee

Bill Runyon  
WF4R

**Have a  
comment or  
suggestion for  
the  
newsletter?**

**newsletter@w  
4car.org**



## Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

P.O. Box 6867  
Chesapeake, Va 23323-6867

CLUB@W4CAR.ORG

QRM Room / Clubhouse  
116 Reservation Drive  
Chesapeake, Va 23322-5204

Meetings are the first Monday of  
each month in the QRM Room

The Spectrum Editor  
NEWSLETTER@W4CAR.ORG

## Local Nets

**CARS 2 Meter Net**  
Sundays 20:00 Hrs  
146.820 MHz (162.2)

**CARS 10 Meter Net**  
Mondays 20:00 Hrs  
Excluding meeting days  
28.400 MHz

**VBARC 10 Meter Net**  
Thursdays 20:00 Hrs  
28.400 MHz

**Hampton Roads  
Public Service Net**  
Monday through Saturday  
21:00 hrs  
146.070 MHz

**Portsmouth "Rag Chew" Net**  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
19:30 Hrs 146.850 MHz

**Southeastern VA Traffic Net**  
Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
20:00 Hrs 146.850 MHz

**Portsmouth Amateur Radio Emer-  
gency Services Net**  
Fridays 20:00 Hrs  
146.850 MHz

**VBCert Net**  
Second Tuesday of the Month  
19:00 Hrs  
146.985 MHz

## QRM

Don't know what digital mode you are listening to?

K2NCC has taken the time to record over 30 different digital modes and made a YouTube channel out of them. Frank even has video of the modes so you visually see them.

Not sure what mode you are listening to, go to K2NCC Digital Amateur Radio Channel and compare what you are listening to to what Frank has in his library.

You can find K2NCC Digital Amateur Radio Channel here:<http://www.youtube.com/k2ncc/>