

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting—21 July 2014

By Terry Brown (AK4D)—Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Attendees: Fourteen attendees: Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Bob Gusek-NC4RC, Andrew Gusek-NC4AG, John Kippee-K1PEE, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Raymond Taber-WX5AAA, Mike Atkins-N4VE, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU, Jim Atkins-W4UX, Harold Richardson-N4HER and Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT.

2. Call to Order: Meeting, at Oscar's Grill, 3348 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, was called to order by President Jerry Minor at 1955 hours.

3. Treasurer Report: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, FARC Treasurer was not able to attend, but estimated balance was \$2536.62 plus approximately \$600 gained from excess and donated property auction at the club July meeting.

4. Meeting Topics:

a. Future Meeting Topics, all tentative:

August: Jeryl Sears on FARC history. There was a suggestion to get Henry to contact Jeryl to make sure he was ready for this presentation.

September: Don Edwards would do a program on surface mount technology and/or making PCB boards,

October: Don Dazo on towers, election business

November: Homebrew Show and tell, officer elections and

December: Holiday banquet

Post business meeting note: There may be a change in future meeting topics if Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH, lifetime FARC member and retired FCC Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division can attend an upcoming FARC meeting.

b. Field Day: Doc Holliday asked for constructive criticism for the Field Day. Feedback included preparation start times, when to do installation of antenna lines/support facilities, improving the GOTA station, making the public and media more aware of our Field Day for more exposure and when to move the more expensive equipment out but keeping it secure until installation at Hobby Park. Interference issues were discussed and using filters more efficiently were encouraged. Discussion was expanded on the need to educate the public more on the value of ham radio via a media person. Don Edwards pointed out that Melissa was the official media person for FARC and Jerry Minor should contact her about this.

c. Amazon Smile: Attendees were reminded to use Amazon Smile in the purchase process at Amazon.com as 0.5 percent of sales could come to the club. Info was to be put on the club website and newsletter on this.

d. Club Video Screen: Andrew Gusek had donated a video screen to the club meeting room.

e. ARES Report: Jim Mann reported on the Tour to Tanglewood event. He estimated that there will be 1900 riders including the 200 coming up from Concord, 1187 riders currently enrolled. The MS Society has set a financial goal of \$1,300,000. East and west routes on Saturday and Sunday remain the same as last year. Jim reported that he had gotten a route map for the 200 Concord riders yesterday and described how the Concord route would merge with the east/west routes. Volunteers were still needed as 19 operators would be needed on Saturday and 17 operators would be needed on Sunday. Nine hams had volunteered so far for each day. A suggestion was made to put a volunteer request on the Vagabond net and also to consider asking the new Stokes club if they could help.

f. Technical Committee Report: At start of discussion, both Dale Mierisch and Don Edwards were getting info on pricing of needed equipment. In Dale's temporary absence, Jerry stated that Dale was to purchase a new harness for the 145.47 repeater, cost estimated to be near \$700-\$800, approval for the purchase already approved by board vote. Approval was modified to set a ceiling of \$1000 for purchases to allow for any deviations. The need to coordinate Dale's work day was expressed to eliminate any conflicts with repeater needs such as the Tour to Tanglewood event.

Dale returned, had gotten a quote list of \$858, reduced to \$650 with possible further discounts of the phasing harness. Shipping of the harness was estimated to be \$125-150. Also needed was a purchase of lightening arrestors, minimum of two.

Discussion was made on replacing tower sections for the 145.47 repeater, currently three sections. Going up an additional ten feet requiring an additional tower section was expressed. Another possibility would be adding in an additional section to the existing tower. Mike Atkins will look into the pricing of new or used tower sections and also the benefit of selling the old tower sections if the entire tower is replaced. A trip will have to be made to determine if the current tower is either generic or actual Rohn 25G tower sections for compatibility. Support was also expressed to maintain the current backup antenna on the side of the tower. Additional guying may be needed if an additional tower section is added.

g. HR 4969: Discussion was held on HR 4969—Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. This will be discussed at the next club meeting and meeting attendees will have an opportunity to sign a letter to our Congressional folks.

5. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2039 hours.