

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—8 September 2014

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Minor, K4GW, at 1935 hours and welcomed the approximately 35 members attending.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann stated that the club balance was \$2843.54 and all major bills had been paid.

b. FARC Club Station as a W1AW Centennial QSO Party Station: Henry Heidtmann reminded everyone that the FARC club radio station was scheduled to be the ARRL Centennial QSO Party station, W1AW/4 on Monday, 22 September from 5pm to 10pm. The 40 meter band will be used for contacts. Henry invited everyone to participate.

c. Repeater Status: Dale Mierisch stated that all three club repeaters were operational. However, Echolink was only functional on the 145.470 repeater. Efforts were continuing to get Echolink functional on the 146.640 repeater. Dale stated that he had been to the 146.64 repeater at the top of Baptist Hospital to examine the equipment there.

d. Workday for the Sauratown Mountain Repeater: Dale Mierisch led discussion on the need to pick out a day(s) to inspect/repair the repeater tower and equipment at Sauratown Mountain. There is a lot of crackling noise due to the condition of the repeater phasing harness. A work team will need to take down and repair/replace parts of the tower. It was agreed to discuss this more fully at the FARC business meeting the following Monday.

e. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, John Kippe and Mike Aiken. Dale stated that four of the four test takers succeeded. There were two new technician licenses (Andre S. Maikoo-KM4ECV, James M. Thompson-KM4ECW), an upgrade from technician to General (Peach R. Trail III-KK4UGJ) and an upgrade from General to Extra (Dennis S. McClure-N4DSM).

f. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield updated everyone on the Tour to Tanglewood, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 27-28 September. He still needed four volunteers for both Saturday and Sunday. The Concord to Tanglewood leg has been cancelled. But a Century ride had been added to Sunday resulting in more rest stops to be covered. He added that volunteers would occupy only a few hours time slot, not a fully day. Jim then discussed the Premier Pilot Mountain to Hanging Rock hiking event where radio support would be needed. More details to follow.

g. House Bill 4969, Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014: Terry Brown gave an update on House Bill 4969, The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. In

summary, two letters were prepared with many club signatures, one going to Representative Virginia Foxx and the other to Representative Howard Coble asking for their support of this bill. Terry had also sent Rep. Foxx's scheduling assistant potential dates to meet with Rep. Foxx to ask for her support with HR 4969 and to answer any questions that she might have. Note there has not been any response to proposed meeting dates as of 26 September.

h. Arduino Class: Don Edwards reminded everyone that the second Arduino class/session will be held this coming Saturday from 9 am until. More information is in the current club newsletter. Bob Gusek told everyone that he would be getting out docs on the previous Arduino class.

i. Meeting Room Screen: Bob Gusek commented that the viewing screen for the meeting room needed to be put up above the white board. He said that he and brother Bob may put it up this coming Saturday.

3. Meeting Main Topic: The main meeting topic was on various techniques on making printed circuit boards by Don Edwards-WS4NC. Don gave a great talk and demonstrated the many techniques, chemicals, processes, what to use, what not to use and passed around samples of good and not-so-good resulting circuit boards. He also demonstrated some of his homebrew equipment that he uses.

4. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.