

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—13 October 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 approximately \$2803 and all major bills had been paid. Henry stated that he was investigating a two dollar billing fee if we continue to receive paper bills with paperless billing being the most likely solution.

b. Results of the FARC Club Station as a W1AW/4 Centennial QSO Party Station: Henry also thanked everyone who participated in the W1AW/4 five hour session held at the FARC club station. Several club members got to operate in this event, 320 contacts with 42 states were made and the 40 meter band was used.

c. Dayton Hamfest News: The Dayton Hamvention will be held 15-17 May 2015. Henry reported that he had reserved two room areas for attendees from FARC with a total of 12 spots available. Other details will follow.

d. Repeater Status and Revised Repair Amount: 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 and Mike Atkins visited the Sauratown repeater site ten days ago to fully determine what items were needed for previously discussed repairs there. Henry Heidtmann asked that Dale give him a list of needed items and he will order those for the club. Jerry Minor then stated that the previously member voted upon and approved amount of \$1000 to improve and repair the Sauratown Mountain repeater needed to be revised upwards to \$1300 to cover repairs to or replacement of the repeater tower. A motion was made, seconded and approved by meeting attendees to do this. It was discussed and agreed upon that if the work could not be done by the end of November, that work be postponed until the following spring.

e. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, Ed Eller, John Kippe and Mike Aiken. Dale stated that seven of the eight test takers succeeded. There were four new technician licenses (Dale A. Wall-KM4EZG, Sam L. Kock-KM4EZH, Will Clarke-KM4EZI, Robert M. George-KM4EZJ) and there were three upgrades to Extra (William A. Whitaker-KK4KHC, Michael S. Hunter-KJ4IYL, John S. Hanley Jr-KM4AFY).

f. House Bill 4969, Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014: Terry Brown gave an update on House Bill 4969. No action was currently ongoing and not

expected until after the November election since all 435 members of the House of Representatives were up for re-election for another two year term.

g. Arduino Class: Bob Gusek thanked everyone of attending the prior Arduino class and stated that everyone was welcome to attend the next session scheduled for 8 November. He had ordered extra parts for any new attendees. The next project being considered may be either a frequency generator or SWR meter. He will be giving details on downloading a free book on Arduino.

h. Special Guest for the November FARC Meeting: Henry reminded everyone of the special guest for the November meeting, Riley Hollingsworth who was a former FCC enforcement director. He encouraged everyone to attend. (Note: this special meeting on Monday, 10 November will start at 7:15 instead of the normal 7:30 meeting time).

i. Firstfest Hamfest: David Shoaf reminded everyone that the Firstfest Hamfest was coming up soon and that he would need everyone's help to make this one a success and better than last years hamfest.

j. Cystic Fibrosis Hike on Hanging Rock: Jim Mansfield informed everyone about the upcoming 21 mile hike up Hanging Rock State Park on 18 October. It is estimated to take 11 hours, starting at 0600. He stated that he needed five operators to cover four rest areas.

k. Thanks from Gene Bowman: Gene Bowman thanked everyone for the help given to his family over the past few weeks.

3. Meeting Main Topics:

a. Tour to Tanglewood Report and Discussion: Jim Mansfield gave a summary of the Tour to Tanglewood bike fund raiser event for MS, overall casualty free with the exception of a dog bite to one rider. Several stories were told from those that helped out and suggestions were made to improve next years coverage by FARC members.

b. Ultra Marathon: Steven Mierisch briefed everyone on the Sauratown Mountain to Hanging Rock Ultra Marathon that had 130 runners. This event started at 0735 and went into the night with runners using headlamps. The event finished at 2245 hours, one hour ahead of time. He thanked everyone who helped with this event. Discussion was held on communication issues in this area and possible solutions including using the club trailer to mount a portable repeater and antenna (Gene Bowman).

4. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2045 hours.

5. Meeting Attendees: The names of the meeting attendees who signed the attendance list follow:

Don Edwards-WS4NC; Gene Bowman-WB4MSG; Jim Atkins-W4UX; David Ramsey-KJ4OIL; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Harold Richardson-N4HER; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Van Key-KC4WSK; David McDonald-N5WNB; Andrew Gusek-NC4AG; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; Les

Jongberg-KJ4VYZ; Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT; David Shoaf-KC4X; Terry Brown-AK4D; Ava Bazonski-Granddaughter of AK4D; Jeff George-KG4BDV; Robert George-KM4EZJ- Congratulations on getting his Tech!!; Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU; Jim Register-KV4SJ; Bill Starkey-N4WWS; Randy Tompson-NC4RT; John (Jack) Hanley-KM4AFL; Gary Miller-WA4VMC; Mike Atkins; N4VE; John Kippe-K1PPE; Ed Eller-KJ4ENM; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Jerry Minor-K4GW.