

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting—20 January 2015

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

1. Attendees: Fifteen attendees: Jerry Minor-K4GW, Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Bob Gusek-NC4RC, Andrew Gusek-NC4AG, John Kippee-N0KTY, Jim Atkins-W4UG, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Steven Mierisch-KG4GWU, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT and Mike Atkins-N4VE.

2. Call to Order: Meeting, at Oscar's Grill, 3348 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, was called to order by President Jerry Minor at 1946 hours.

3. Meeting Topics:

a. **Treasurers Report:** Henry Heidtmann stated that the club balance was \$5081.77.

b. **Future Meeting Topics:** The need for a trained spotter class in 2015 was expressed. Both Jim Adkins and Terry Brown stated that they were working on this. For additional meeting topics, discussion was held on getting a member from the Salisbury Radio Club to do a program on a Fox Hunt and on getting Wilson Lamb, Jerald Sears or any of the other older members to do a talk on FARC history. Planned upcoming meeting topics were:

February: Presentation on the NC-QSO party by Marty Young, W4MY

March or April: Possibility of a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) presentation by K4NWJ, Nathan Jackson.

Follow up notes: The 9 March FARC club meeting topic will be on Skywarn Training by Brandon Dunstan with the Raleigh National Weather Service. The 13 April FARC club meeting will be on DMR by Nathan Jackson.

c. **Grants:** Discussion was held on pursuing grants to help with club financial needs. This effort is temporarily suspended until more information is available defining FARC needs and what grant organizations can meet those needs.

d. **Future Hamfests on ARRL Website and QST:** Jerry Minor stated the need for ensuring that the FARC hamfest information was on the ARRL website and also published in QST. He further stated that either the President or Vice-President of FARC would have the duty to get this done.

Follow Up Note: Vice-President Jim Adkins sent out an email stating that ARRL Director Boehner has approved the application of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club to hold an ARRL approved hamfest in Winston-Salem, NC on June 13, 2015.

e. **Arduino Class:** Jerry Minor was going to update the FARC website on meeting dates for the Arduino classes. The next one is scheduled for 24 January from 0900-1600. Additionally, he stated that anyone who is

interested in attending any of those classes would be welcome, even if they are not a member of FARC. He thanked Bob Gusek, Harold Richardson, Gene Bowman and others for making the classes a success. There was varied discussion on project boxes and equipment needed for the class.

f. Membership Renewal Notices: Terry Brown stated that he will be sending out membership renewal notices.

g. Sauratown Repeater Discussion: Discussion was made on tower components that would be needed for the repair/upgrade. \$1200 was previously approved for repairs and equipment. Cost of antenna and harness was approximately \$650 plus \$120 shipping and Henry Heidtmann will place the order for this. Various locations were proposed for storage of delivered items until needed.

h. Tech Chairman Report: Dale Mierisch reported that the 146.64 repeater echolink is now working. Work is also needed for the FARC repeaters located at Baptist Hospital. The hospital will be installing a new roof and new weather heads are needed to bring new coax to the repeaters. There are advantages if echolink is moved up to the repeaters resulting in improved fidelity and IP control. This will require running ethernet cable from a closet to the repeater location. Security coordination will need to be made to protect equipment and also to determine who has access for any repair needs. Dale discussed the recent donation by Gil Scott of a 220 repeater board and he will be investigating how the club may be able to use this equipment. Dale will give Don a write-up discussing this donation for the club newsletter.

i. Yaesu Program: Dale Mierisch discussed the Yaesu program where the club could obtain a Yaesu repeater for \$500, normally \$1600-\$1700 new. The repeater can be used as either normal FM analog repeater or digital but digital operational mode is proprietary. The requirement is that the equipment is immediately used for a year. The equipment could be configured as a drop-in replacement for the 146.64 repeater. The deadline for an application for the equipment is 31 March. Dale will call Club Trustee to make him aware of this and the clubs intentions on this. Dale will update everyone on this at the upcoming February club meeting for interest and a possible motion, second and vote to purchase.

j. FARC Hamshack Needs: Attendees discussed what was needed to finish the upgrades to the club hamshack. Gene Bowman stated that two filter boxes costing approximately \$600 each were needed to finish the work to help protect and coordinate which antenna and band were being used by each of the two new K3 transceivers. The cost for the filters will be brought up at the next meeting for member approval. There is additional cabinet work that needs to be finished.

k. Good Website: Jerry Minor talked about AE7Q website that allows good queries on callsigns and licenses.

4. Meeting Adjournment: Motion was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2031 hours.

TASKERS:

1. Seek filter box approval at February meeting, total cost approximately \$1200.
2. Determine any club needs that may possibly use grant funding.
3. Continue work on club meeting agendas/topics for May thru November, ie, Salisbury Fox Hunt contact, older member contact.
4. Determine what tower components are needed for Sauratown repeater repair/upgrade.
5. Order antenna and harness and store at a safe location.
6. Continued coordination and work on Baptist Hospital repeaters.
7. Dale-give Don a writeup on the donated 220 equipment by 31 March.
8. Dale-give update at February meeting on proposed purchase of Yaesu repeater. Get member motion, second and approval to purchase.