

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting--12 January 2015

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 1944 hours. He welcomed FARC members and visitors to the meeting, approximately 35 total. Each person in the room introduced themselves stating their name and callsign.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann stated that the club balance was \$4937.77 which included \$711 net profit from the hamfest, several club members renewing their membership and donations, some donations approaching \$100. Henry reported that a special donation of \$1300 was made to the club by the family of a deceased ham from Pinnacle, Jim Cole-W2TM with the donation coming from the sale of his equipment. Several FARC members had helped with the organization of the equipment, much of it older but collectable gear. Henry reported that he had completed the 501(c)3 filings with the IRS for tax year 2014 on 2 January.

b. Red Cross Reorganization/FARC Hamshack Update: Jerry Minor had contacted Red Cross leadership, Jennifer Franklin, in Charlotte about the status of the building where we meet and have our hamshack. Jerry reported that he had received an email from Edward Runte, Chief Administrative Officer with the NC Red Cross stating that the Red Cross has no plans to close "our" building in the immediate future. Henry Heidtmann reported that he had put all of our 2015 meetings on the Red Cross Master Calendar and also the Arduino meeting scheduled for 0900 until 1600 on 24 January.

c. Membership Renewals: Jerry Minor stated that Terry Brown and Henry Heidtmann were taking membership renewals at the meeting. So far 34 new or renewal memberships had been made either at the hamfest or at the meeting. Steve Patterson pointed out that the new section on the membership form where members could list any special topics that they are interested in and opens the possibility where people with like interests might be able to get together.

d. Upcoming Field Day Actions: Henry Heidtmann reported that he had secured Hobby Park for Field Day via on-line rental.

e. Repeater Status and Repair Status: Dale Mierisch stated that all three club repeaters were operational. Dale stated that the work on the Sauratown Mountain repeater will be postponed until this coming spring and repair work might take a week. A question was asked if repair or replacement equipment had been purchased yet and if there was a price increase in the equipment. The answer was no price increase and equipment could be purchased at any time. Jerry Minor stated that the cost of repairs had previously been approved by the club. Dale reported that Echolink was only functional on the 145.470 repeater. Efforts were continuing to get Echolink functional on the

146.640 repeater with help from the Red Cross. Follow-up note: Dale reported on an 18 January email that Echolink was now operational on the 146.640 repeater, Echolink node number 384157. Dale also thanked Gib Scott, W4AJI, who had donated some 220 MHz repeater equipment to the club. Dale stated that he was looking at opportunities on how to use or reprogram the equipment.

f. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, John Kippee and Steven Wilson. Dale stated that six test takers had success. There were three new Technician licenses (Timothy E. DeGroot-KM4HCU, John S. Oglesby-KM4HCV and Neil I. Fishman-KM4HCW), one upgrade to General (Kirt R. Blattenberger-KB3UON) and two upgrades to Extra (Charles W. Collins-KK4ZHL and Joseph H. Bauguess-KM4EJP).

g. Arduino Class: Bob Gusek reminded everyone of the next Arduino class scheduled for 24 January, starting 0900. He showed everyone what would be worked on for the class and the box that would contain the project. More info would be put on the FARC website for the class. Gene Bowman also showed a finished Arduino project in a box where projects/boards could be piggy-backed. Jerry also thanked Harold Richardson for his help with the classes and getting boxes for the projects.

h. Firstfest Hamfest Report: Hamfest Chairman David Shoaf stated that the hamfest held the previous Saturday was a huge success. He thanked everyone who attended and more importantly, those who helped make the hamfest go. Larger thanks went to the ticket sellers and traffic directors who were outside in very cold weather. Those folks include John Kippee, Henry Heidtmann, David Shoaf, Doc Holliday, Judson Davis and several others. David stated that he will compile a checklist of things to do to help the next hamfest go smoother. Jerry Minor stated that either the FARC President or Vice-President will make sure that future hamfests are registered early enough so that they will be printed in QST as well as on the ARRL website. Henry Heidtmann reported that there were 149 paid attendees with a net gain of \$711 with \$48 in donations. Henry also reported that everything went well given that there were five same-time events going on at Summit School during the hamfest and that our "ticket sellers and traffic directors" helped all go smoothly. Bob Gusek reported that he had heard information about the hamfest on the Greensboro repeater. Jerry Minor reported that he had gotten good feedback on the hamfest business net held on the 164.640 repeater on 5 January with Henry doing the net controller effort.

i. Andrew Gusek on ARRL Newslines: Jerry Minor stated that he had heard Andrew Gusek's voice on the ARRL newslines recently. His voice had been recorded by ARRL at their booth at the Dayton hamfest.

3. Homebrew Presentations: Don Edwards-WS4NC, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG and Jerry Minor-K4GW did the homebrew show and tell.

a. Don Edwards showed homebrew using 555 chips that he had made. He also showed a well-constructed regenerative receiver obtained from the estate

of Jim Cole-W2TM that Henry has mentioned previously. He also talked about the older Western Electric gear and headphones.

b. Steve Patterson showed his homebrew capacitance meter using Arduino technology and gave a demonstration. He talked about a complicated homebrew board that had made and compared it to one that he had recently purchased that did the same function. His source of board was www.icstation.com or www.banggood.com.

c. Gene Bowman showed a kid's pencil case he had purchased to contain the project that he had made in a previous Arduino class. Gene talked about the boxes that Harold was providing for the classes that could contain several boards. He showed some boards that he had purchased from banggood including a VFO and encoder board. Gene talked about operation on 160 meters, the negative feedback of power if the SWR is too high and a project he made to switch antenna taps to an acceptable SWR. He also talked about switching regulators with a voltmeter and relay boards that is used at his antenna tower. This is the general technique he is using for the FARC ham shack to protect the radio equipment. Gene also talked about the quality of equipment he had purchased from banggood.

d. Jerry Minor talked about a repeater controller board using old Motorola GM300's and put them together which make an acceptable repeater except that they do not perform the FCC required identification at least every ten minutes. But he had added a controlled using a pic processor using proton programming that added id capability. He thanked Gene Bowman for helping with this effort.

4. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and agreed to approximately 2051 hours.

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

Don Edwards-WS4NC; David Ramsey-KJ4OIL; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Van Key-KC4WSK; Andrew Gusek-NC4AG; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; David Shoaf-KC4X; Terry Brown-AK4D; Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU; John Kippe-K1PPE; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Jerry Minor-K4GW; Judson Davis-KG4OHQ; Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO; Jim Register-KV4SJ; Gib Scott-W4AJI; Gary Miller-WA4VMC; Tony Poindexter-KD4MMQ; Harold Richardson-N4HER; David McDonald-N5WNB; Gene Bowman-WB4MSG; Jim Atkins-W4UX; David Peterson-KK4GAF; Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ; David Griffith-WA4MKK; Steven Wilson-W4KG; Jeff Stafford-AC4YN; Daryl Knight-KK4ZCO; Wayne Collins-KK4ZHL; Dave Lambe-K4ICK; John Oglesby-KM4HCV; Neil Fishman-KM4HCW; Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ; and Kent Englebert-K4HKE.

6. Summary of Taskers:

David Shoaf: Compile a checklist of preparation items for future hamfests.

FARC President/Vice-President: Register both June and future hamfests with ARRL. Incorporate into checklists?

Henry Heidtmann/Dale Mierisch/others: Determine what is needed and order repair parts or replacement equipment that is needed for the Sauratown repeater work.