

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—9 February 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 1934 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 and Thank You Letter from Linda Dairs: Treasurer Henry Heidtmann was not at the meeting, but had sent a message that the club balance was approximately what had been reported previously. Henry has also sent in a letter from Linda Dairs thanking the club for the Wousun KG-UVD1P handheld that her husband had won as the major prize drawing at the FARC Firstfest. He was a new ham and had just gotten his General license.

b. Discussion of Old Computer Power Supplies: Jerry Minor held up an old computer power supply and briefly discussed the possibility of converting them to power supplies for other uses and possibly providing 20-30 amp output. Bob Gusek stated that not all can be converted as the power is split up and is non-regulated and dirty, especially the newer ones.

c. Membership Renewals: Terry Brown stated that he had sent out 150 FARC renewal requests and thanked everyone who had renewed their FARC membership. He stated that he was available to take renewals after the meeting.

d. Yaesu Repeater Program: Dale Mierisch discussed that new Yaesu program where a \$1700 DR-1X digital repeater could be purchased by a club for \$500. It has proprietary Yaesu technology, is not D-Star compatible, but is both an analog and a digital repeater for either two meters or 440, but not both. Jerry Minor had talked with Mike Ferris who had one and got great reports on the repeater performance. John Kipee made a motion for the club to purchase one, Doc Holliday seconded the motion and ayes carried with no nays. Dale Mierisch stated that he would work on the paperwork to send to Yaesu. Steve Mierisch stated that the repeater board had to be operational for at least one year. Discussion was made to replace the repeater board either at Sauratown or at Baptist Hospital to fulfill this requirement.

e. Repeater Status and New DB-224 Antenna: Dale Mierisch stated that all three club repeaters were operational and that the echolink nodes were operational on the 146.640 and the 145.470 repeaters. The upgrade work at the Sauratown Mountain repeater is still being planned. Henry Heidtmann sent a message that the DB-224 antenna had been ordered and was being shipped.

f. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, John Kipee-K1PEE, Dennis McClure-N4DSM, Michelle McClure-K4DAM and Mike Adkins-N4VW. Dale stated that there were two test sessions with 10 out of 13 successes. The end result was four new Technician licenses (Shellie C.

Killgo-KM4HUY, James R. Marler-KM4HUZ, Michael L. Canup-KM4HVA, and John Canup-KM4HVB), three General licensees (Kent R. Oviatt-KM4HVC, Justin M. Dorton-K4DOR and Joshua C. Ferguson-KM4HVO) and one Extra licensee (Daryl Knight-KK4ZCO). Dale also discussed the FCC requirements for anyone wanting to take ham exams and the FCC move to paperless licenses scheduled for 17 February.

g. Arduino Class: Jerry Minor thanked Bob Gusek for his time and efforts in heading up the Arduino classes. Bob talked about recent orders, cost, his cache of spare parts and materials ordered. Bob did state that the next class will not be at least until March.

h. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield thanked everyone who participated in the simplex Sprint contest and that certificates are "on the way". Jim thanked everyone who participated in the Thursday night ARES nets. He asked everyone to check in on the first Thursday of each month to do so with the combination of the most minimal power (maybe 700 milliwatts) and the highest gain antenna that they have to explore low power access.

i. Next FARC Business Meeting: Jerry Minor stated that the next FARC business meeting will be on Tuesday, 17 February at Oscars at 1930 hours in one of the side rooms.

j. John Huffman-W4IRE: Jim Adkins read a letter received from John Huffman's wife that had come in with his FARC annual renewal. Jim stated that John had been his "elmer" and had helped many club members with the hobby. The letter stated that John was in an assisted living facility and was confined to a wheel chair. John Huffman's wife stated that FARC was a huge part of his life and although he could not come to meetings or participate in club activities, he wanted his membership renewed. There was also a donation of \$50 in addition to his annual dues.

k. Upcoming Hamfests: Jerry Minor reminded everyone about the upcoming Dobson (21 March) and RARS (4 April) hamfests.

3. NC QSO Party Presentation: Marty Young, W4MY, NC QSO Party Chairman from Raleigh did a power point presentation on the NC QSO party, summary following. The NC QSO Party is scheduled on 1 March with ten hours of operation from 10 am to 8 pm local time. The NC QSO party was started in 1970 by RARS, FARC picked it up in 2002 with many enhancements by Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO and in 2013, RARS picked it back up and is run by a committee of seven RARS members. Marty stated that the first event in 1970 was won by Bill McDowell-K4CIA with 345 QSO's! The party this year will be voice, CW, and Digital on 80 - 2 Meter bands and Marty discussed how to participate in the contest, information to send and what information to get. There are four categories: single operator, mobile operator, expedition and club. Marty emphasized that the event needs to be a qso event, ie, get lots of contacts, but be friendly and chat with contacts. One slide showed suggested frequencies: CW +0.04 MHz from bottom of band, SSB 3.860, 7.26, 14.26, 21.36 and 28.36 MHz, Digital in normal digital band area, FM at 52.040 and 146,580 MHz, Mobile/Expedition window of -0.01 MHz below and stated that fixed

stations should not call CQ in the Mobile/Expedition window. He discussed how the QSO party contacts will be scored and the bonus stations of working anyone in Person or Surry counties, NI4BK on the USS North Carolina, W4DW RARS club station, NC4QP Special Committee Station and K4CIA-the first winner of NCQP in 1970. Marty discussed how to submit your contest log in both Cabrillo format and how to do a summary sheet for paper loggers. Contest log results must be submitted by 22 March. Awards will be made on most contacts, most NC counties worked in-state, most NC Counties worked Out-of-state, top DX score, top Canada score and EMCOMM challenge.

4. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and agreed to approximately 2044 hours.

5. Meeting Attendees: Names of the meeting attendees follow:

Don Edwards-WS4NC; David Ramsey-KJ4OIL; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Van Key-KC4WSK; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; David Shoaf-KC4X; Terry Brown-AK4D; Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU; John Kippee-K1PPE; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Jerry Minor-K4GW; Gib Scott-W4AJI; Gary Miller-WA4VMC; Tony Poindexter-KD4MMQ; Harold Richardson-N4HER; David McDonald-N5WNB; Jim Atkins-W4UX; David Peterson-KK4GAF; David Griffith-WA4MKK; Jeff Stafford-AC4YN; Daryl Knight-KK4ZCO; Dave Lambe-K4ICK; Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ; John Canup-KM4HVB (congratulations); Mike Canup-KM4HVA (congratulations); Justin Dorton-K4DOR; Jack (John) Hanley-KM4AFY; Randy Tompson-NC4RT; Ray Purdom-K4ZGV; Marty Young-W4MY; Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ; Carroll Sasser-W4TNE; Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT; and Kent Englebert-K4HKE.