

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting--13 April 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 1936 hours. He welcomed FARC members and visitors to the meeting, approximately 45 total. Each person in the room introduced themselves stating their name and callsign.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. Treasurers Report: Treasurer Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, stated that the club balance was \$4166.75. The balance included many of the repair costs and replacements for the Sauratown Repeater. He stated that the annual club insurance policy bill was still to be paid.

b. Simplex Sunday's: Henry Heidtmann has received a postcard from WF5TX requesting that club members participate in simplex VHF communications on Sunday afternoons on 146.52 MHz.

c. Membership Renewals: Terry Brown updated the numbers on club renewals. Not counting family members nor life members, for the 2015 calendar year, there are a total of 103 members. Broken down, there are 37 regular memberships, 37 senior memberships, and 29 complimentary memberships given to local amateurs who either get or upgrade their license at FARC club VE test sessions.

d. Yaesu Repeater Program: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, stated that Yaesu has approved FARC's application for a price discounted System Fusion repeater, a purchase previously approved by a vote of FARC members and documented on the 9 March 2015 club minutes. He indicated that the repeater was initially scheduled to be shipped by June, but he already had received it and would be working with it this summer.

e. Repeater Status: 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 in progress.

f. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, John Kippee-K1PEE and Mike Adkins-N4VW. Dale stated that the end result of testing was five passes, two non-pass. There were two new Technician licenses (Kevin R. Small-KM4KEC and Jonathan J. Sherrill-KM4KED) and three got their General license (Garrett R. Zedlar-KM4FUJ, Charles R. Small-KM4IVY and James R. Marler-KM4HUZ).

g. Arduino Class: Jerry Minor reminded everyone about the Arduino classes, everyone welcome.

h. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT, thanked everyone who helped in the Pilot Mountain Payback half and full marathon event on 28 March. He

stated that there were 72 runners in the event, 49 for the half-marathon and 23 in the full marathon. Jim also stated that event workers were not able to cover all aid stations and thanked the hams that had to do dual jobs of communications and also helping runners. Jim reminded everyone of the ARES net each Thursday night at 8:30 on the 145.470 repeater. He also stated that Eric Bowen had attended an emergency communication exercise on 9 April at the NC Emergency Management Office in Forsyth County.

i. Next FARC Business Meeting: Jerry Minor stated that the next FARC business meeting will be on Tuesday, 20 April at Hamms Restaurant, Trenwest Shopping Center at 1930 hours in the side room.

j. Classic Hamfest: David Shoaf reminded everyone of the FARC Classic Hamfest scheduled for 13 June at Summit School. He was welcoming suggestions on how to make the hamfest better, would be contacting folks to help but asked anyone who wanted to help to contact him. He discussed having demos on JT65 and PSK31 digital modes.

k. Field Day: Doc Holliday talked about last year's Field Day where FARC came in second place in the 9A category. He welcomed any suggestions on how to improve to first place this year. A discussion on extra point items followed. FARC Field Day activities this year on 27-28 June will be at Hobby Park.

l. Piedmont Triad Users Group: Steve Patterson talked about an email he received from the Piedmont Triad Users Group on an upcoming high altitude balloon launch where tracking was needed. He asked anyone who was interested in the tracking effort to contact him.

m. Makers Fare: Bob Gusek reminded everyone about the Burlington Makers Fare this year scheduled for 25 April.

n. Bus Trip to Dayton Hamfest: Bill Lundy, NC4BL, from Mount Airy stated that the club there has a bus trip scheduled to travel to the Dayton Hamfest, forty signed up, but there were still two empty seats!! Plans are to leave on Thursday, 14 May and return on Sunday, 17 May. Folks making the trip there will be staying at the Dayton University lodging.

3. Main Presentation: Nathan Jackson, K4NWJ, educated meeting attendees on DMR-MARC or Digital Mobile Radio set up by the Motorola Amateur Radio Club. DMR is an open and published international digital radio standard that uses two slot TDMA communications. DMR is a recent standard, similar to D-STAR and Yaesu System Fusion standards. He demonstrated live communications with an amateur radio operator near Ahoskie, NC.

4. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and agreed to approximately 2059 hours.

5. Meeting Attendees: Names of the meeting attendees who are listed on the sign-in sheet or otherwise recognized follow:

Don Edwards-WS4NC; Judson David-KG4OHQ; James Carlen; Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Jim Marler-KM4HUZ; Kevin Small; Charles (Chuck) Small-KM4IVY; Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ; Bill Starkey-N4WWS; David Ramsey-KJ4OIL; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Van Key-KC4WSK; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; David Shoaf-KC4X; Scott Shoaf; Terry Brown-AK4D; Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU; John Kippee-K1PPE; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Jerry Minor-K4GW; Tony Poindexter-KD4MMQ; Harold Richardson-N4HER; David McDonald-N5WNB; Jim Atkins-W4UX; David Peterson-KK4GAF; Dave Lambe-K4ICK; Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ; Randy Tompson-NC4RT; Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ; Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT; Raja Chatterjee-KB6MTH; Troy Skelton; Jerry Minor-K4GW and Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO.