

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting--11 May 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 1939 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: Treasurer **Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO**, stated that the club balance was \$3666.75. He stated that the annual club insurance policy bills were still to be paid, costs of \$459 and \$320.

b. Repeater Status: **Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL**, 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.

c. VE Test Session Report: There were four Exam candidates at the pre-meeting test session. Five exams were given resulting in four upgrades to General class license. Congratulations to the following upgrades:

Ellis B. Sanspree-N4ZDR
John D. Canup-KM4HVB
Karl H. Karlson-KC5BSB
David R. Peterson-KK4GAF

d. Classic Hamfest: **David Shoaf, KC4X**, discussed the upcoming FARC Classic Hamfest scheduled for 13 June at Summit School. He welcomed suggestions on how to make the hamfest better and stated that he would be contacting folks to help make the hamfest a big success. Discussion from the group included the Firday night load-in, door prizes and hamfest demos such as Arduino and JT64. **Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO**, discussed closure procedures at the end of the hamfest.

e. Field Day: **Doc Holliday, WB4QIZ**, talked about the power grid in the United States, attacks on the grid, how important amateur radio is emergencies like a power grid failure and the need for the club to show the value and capabilities of amateur radio on Field Day. He discussed 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. Group discussion then ensued. Items discussed were the need for nighttime contacts, category to be used, whether to network logs from each radio-negative need, educational presentations and demos, band captains, satellite contacts, focusing on phone and CW on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and maybe 6 meter bands, the Saturday dinner. **Jim Adkins, W4UX**, presented Doc a Field Day hat for his leadership in the Field Day effort. FARC Field Day activities this year on 27-28 June will be at Hobby Park.

3. Main Presentation: **Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL**, gave a presentation on repeaters, how they work and detailed information on our repeaters on

Sauratown Mountain and at the top of Baptist Hospital. Many photos and videos were shown on equipment and how they work. Dale also had brought, powered up and demonstrated FARC's latest acquisition, the new repeater from Yaesu. A video from Yaesu was shown focusing on the System Fusion concept and the new digital communication products from them. Discussion followed on how the new repeater would work, handling analog and digital traffic. Dale also made attendees aware of a Ham Radio Now video evaluating the System Fusion concept and the new Yaesu repeater.

4. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and agreed to approximately 2114 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 Davis-KG4OHQ; Bill Starkey-N4WWS; David Ramsey-KJ4OIL; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Andrew Gusek-NC4AG; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; David Shoaf-KC4X; Terry Brown-AK4D; Kent Englebert-K4HKE; Daryl Knight-N5WK; John Canup-KM4HVB; Jim Register-KV4SJ;; Bruce Sanspree-N4ZRR; Steve Blackford-KB7SQI; Gary Miller-WA4VMC; Gene Bowman-WB4MSG; Jeff Stafford-AC4YN; Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU; John Kippe-K1PPE; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Tony Poindexter-KD4MMQ; Harold Richardson-N4HER; David McDonald-N5WNB; Jim Atkins-W4UX; David Peterson-KK4GAF; Dave Lambe-K4ICK; Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ; Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ; Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT; Jerry Minor-K4GW and Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO.