

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—13 July 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 1935 hours. He welcomed FARC members and visitors to the meeting, approximately 30 total. Each person in the room introduced themselves stating their name and callsign.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. Treasurers Report: Approximately \$3033 club balance was reported by treasurer **Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO**.

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. Dale reported that the 146.64 repeater at the top of Baptist Hospital was upgraded to the new Yaesu repeater. He stated that there was some interference from a pager with the Yaesu repeater along with some SWR issues which will be investigated. Dale also stated that the Sauratown Mountain repeater, 145.470, maintenance with new tower installation would be done in September timeframe when cooler fall temperatures are expected.

c. VE Test Session Report: **Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL**, head volunteer examiner thanked **Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, John Kippe-K1PPE and Mike Atkins-N4VE** for helping with the testing procedure. Dale congratulated the five successful candidates:

Henry H. Smith, Jr-KE4CSO-General License
Joseph A. Clasen, Jr-KM4LUC-Technician License
Samuel N. Poindexter-KM4LUD-Technician License
Anthony N. Poindexter-KD4MMQ-General License
Alan R. Thomas-KM4LUE-Technician License

d. ARES Report: **Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT** gave an update of the upcoming Emergency Management and Red Cross Co-Location training exercise to be held Saturday-25 July from 0800 to Noon, with hotwash following, approximately 30 minutes. He stated that he needed four volunteers for this exercise and that our services were specifically requested by the Red Cross. Jim stated that **Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ** had already volunteered. **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** stated that he might be able to help.

Afternote: **Terry Brown-AK4D** stated that he could help also.

e. **Arduino Discussion:** **Bob Gusek-NC4RG** pointed out that the next scheduled Arduino class would be on 25 July and might need to be rescheduled to not interfere with the Co-Location exercise. **Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ** gave Bob a twin engine model plane for his work on Arduino information, ordering parts and classes that he was teaching.

3. Recap and Review of Field Day: The main meeting topic was a recap and review of Field Day. **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** gave the first presentation on Field Day by showing how the club did in past Field Day events. The following table was presented:

W4NC Field Day thru the Years

YEAR	Score	Category	QSO's	Participants	Rank/Placement
2002	2,758	2A	1,057	37	#9 NC, #190 USA
2003	4,752	2A	1,430	44	#7 NC, #74 USA
2004	3,696	2A	976	28	#6 NC, #124 USA
2005	4,914	2A	1,639	48	#3 NC, #83 USA
2006	3,450	2A	1,122	80	#5 NC, #135 USA
2007	3,710	2AB	381	57	#1 NC, #8 USA
2008	5,035	5AB	461	46	#1 NC, #3 USA
2009	6,390	5AB	605	55	#1 NC, #3 USA
2010	8,430	5AB	1,023	22	#1 NC, #2 USA
2011	4,045	7AB	417	30	#1 NC, #2 USA
2012	7,828	8A	2,011	37	#1 NC, #6 USA
2013	5,722	3F	1,574	24	#1 NC, #8 USA
2013	2,252	5A	512	7	#4 NC, #53 USA
2014	4,408	9A	1,069	43	#1 NC, #2 USA
2015	9,650	9A	2,498	71	To Be Learned

Note: Results of the 2015 Field Day may be available by September.

Henry next showed a slide showing a breakdown of contacts in this years Field Day:

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown			
	CW	Digital	Phone
Band	QSOs	QSOs	QSOs
80m	88	6	241
40m	493	81	448
20m	510	68	316

15m	100	6	98
10m			23
GOTA			20
Totals	1,191	161	1,146

Gene Bowman-WB4MSG then showed several maps showing what states were contacted by mode and band.

Various Comments on Field Day follow:

a. Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ commented that he enjoyed serving as coordinator of Field Day and that he thought the club did well in bonus points. He also thanked the band captains. He further stated that a coordinator and assistant coordinator is needed and more people to serve at night in future Field Days. He also wanted to see teams pre-scheduled for a certain number of hours. He thanked **David Shoaf, KC4X** for serving as safety officer and **Melissa Hall-W4RXG** for the great publicity we got in the local Winston-Salem Journal newspaper.

b. Gene Bowman-WB4MSG agreed on more people at night, two people per station-one for contacts and the second for logging, doing pre-recorded messages for calling CQ, thanked everyone who participated in putting up and taking down antennas and discussed logging software that might be used next year, maybe N1MM.

c. Don Edwards-WS4NC stated that participant registration should be up front with everyone understanding that they must sign-in, ie, register. Don also commented that he only measured 20-30 milliwatts coupling which helped avoid major overload issues. Don also commented on the great publicity and article in the Winston-Salem Journal where a poll revealed that 13.4 percent of article readers wanted to learn more about ham radio.

d. Harold Richardson-N4HER stated that generators need to be on pallets, to make sure that any rainwater runoff do not come into contact with the generators.

e. Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO commented that logging computers that were sluggish have now been cleaned up and are ready for next year.

f. Jim Atkins-W4UX stated that he had to stay above 14.040 MHz in CW operation because the 20 meter bandpass filter was starting to roll off at that point causing a high SWR if he went below that frequency. This caused some interference with

digital communications if he tried to tune up around 14.060 MHz. **Gene Bowman-WB4MSG** stated that work was needed on the filtering system.

4. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **John Kippe-K1PPE**, seconded by **Harold Richardson-N4HER** and agreed to approximately 2050 hours.

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

Don Edwards-WS4NC; Terry Brown-AK4D; Daryl Knight-N5WK;, Jim Register-KV4SJ;; Gene Bowman-WB4MSG; John Kippe-K1PPE; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Tony Poindexter-KD4MMQ; Harold Richardson-N4HER; Jim Atkins-W4UX; Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ; Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ; Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT; Jerry Minor-K4GW; Van Key-KC4WSK; Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS; Brad Pruitt-KI4SUI; Sam Poindexter-KM4LUD; Michael Pope; Jim Marler-KM4HUZ; Chuck Small-KM4IVY; Andrew Gusek-NC4AG; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; Alan R. Thomas-KM4LUE; Sandra Bryant; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; and Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO.