

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

By Terry Brown (AK4D)--Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** Meeting at the Red Cross building, 690 Coliseum Drive, was called to order by President **Jerry Minor, K4GW**, at 1932 hours. He welcomed FARC members and visitors to the meeting, approximately 35 total.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. **Treasurer's Report:** **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** stated the club balance was \$2582.88.

b. **Newsletter Prize:** **Don Edwards-WS4NC** talked about the prize given to attendees at each months meeting who had read the monthly newsletter in detail and who had located text items surrounded by { and }. **Chuck Small-KM4IVY** was the winner for this month's drawing, a Baofeng UV-5RA. **Gene Bowman-WB4MSG** suggested that an entry be made before each drawing for anyone getting or upgrading a license at the VEC test session prior to the meeting.

c. **ARDUINO Report:** **Bob Gusek-NC4RG** stated that the next ARDUINO meeting would be 21 November and that a Raspberry Pi would be required. More details would follow prior to the meeting.

d. **VE Test Session Report:** **Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL**, head volunteer thanked **Kent Englebert-K4HKE** and **Don Edwards-WS4NC** for helping with the testing procedure. Dale stated that there were six test takers and congratulated six successful candidates:

Michael K. Thorn-KM4OCN--Technician License

Jerry M. Brown-KM4OCO--Technician License

Oliver N. Swanson-KM4OCP--General License

Paul M. Schuh-KM4OCQ--Technician License

Steven P. Iltis-KM4OCR--Technician License

Catherine G. Melvin-KM4OCS--Technician License

e. **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 covered the basics of each repeater for visitors and the new amateur radio license holders attending the meeting. Dale also stated that the maintenance for the Sauratown Mountain repeater, 145.470, was scheduled for the end of October, weather dependent.

f. **444.275 Repeater Net:** **Steve Patterson-WA3RTC** stated the interest in getting more activity on the club's 444.275 repeater by starting a net on Tuesdays from 2000 to 2030 hours. It was recommended that users of the

444.275 repeater to let the repeater signal drop before reengaging the repeater. This may help preventing the repeater timing out.

g. Nomination Committee: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** announced the nomination committee results locating candidates for club officers for calendar year 2016. Candidates volunteering to run for office were **Jim Atkins-W4UX** for President, **Harold Richardson-N4HER** for Vice-President, **Terry Brown-AK4D** for Secretary and himself, **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO**, for Treasurer. Henry asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. None were heard. **Bob Gusek-NC4RG** made a motion to accept the candidates previously stated as officers for the 2016 calendar year. **Judson Davis-KG4OHQ** seconded the motion. Vote was called with majority approval. The members of the Nomination Committee for this process were **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO**, **Don Edwards-WS4NC**, **John Kippe-K1PPE**, **Harold Richardson-N4HER**, **David McDonald-N4WMB**, and **Jim Adkins-W4UX**.

h. Jamboree-on-the-Air: **Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV** that the Boy Scout Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) would be this coming weekend on HF frequencies.

i. Club Hamshack Status and CQ Worldwide: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** asked everyone to check out the club hamshack and that the new filters had been installed. He stated that more improvements were on the way. Henry also encouraged everyone to participate in the CQ Worldwide contest on 24-25 October in the club hamshack. He is setting up shifts of four hours each for anyone wanting to participate. **Jerry Minor-K4GW** thanked **Gene Bowman-KB4MSG**, **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO**, **Don Edwards-WS4NC** and others for the club hamshack improvements.

j. Miscellaneous Comments: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** pointed out some surplus electronic meters and a box filled with QST, CQ and SE Repeater Journal magazines that had been donated to the club and encouraged attendees to get those. Applicants for Echolink are now required to submit proof of amateur radio license.

3. Main Presentation: **Leigha Cordell, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Emergency Management**, gave a presentation on the Forsyth County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Some pertinent information on key slides follow:

a. Slide One: The CERT program trains citizens in communities, businesses and other organizations in emergency preparedness and basic disaster response techniques that enable them, as volunteers, to provide assistance to their neighbors and support to first responders during emergencies or disasters.

b. Slide Two: Why is CERT Needed? Disasters can severely restrict and overwhelm emergency responders, communications, transportation and utilities. Disasters can leave businesses, neighborhoods and individuals cut off from outside emergency support. Citizens need to be proactive with their own safety. CERT can promote a better understanding between emergency responders and citizens.

c. **Slide Three:** Activation Levels of CERT can be on a County Wide or District, Community or Single Incident Level.

d. **Slides Four and Five:** This slide showed the four team districts in Forsyth County and the CERT Tier System.

e. **Slide Six:** This slide explained how to start a CERT Team by recruiting 15-25 interested individuals, completing the 21 hour basic training course, establishing and participating in organization, objectives, continued training and exercises.

f. **Training Cost and Additional Information:** Ms. Cordell explained that the training was free. Additional information could be found at the website:

<http://www.readyforsyth.org>

g. **Contact Information:** If interested, Leigha Cordell could be contacted at 336-661-6440 or by email at leighac@cityofwsfire.org.

4. **Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by many, seconded by many and agreed to at 2050 hours.

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

Don Edwards-WS4NC; Terry Brown-AK4D; Gene Bowman-WB4MSG; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Tony Poindexter-KD4MMQ; Harold Richardson-N4HER; Jim Atkins-W4UX; Jerry Minor-K4GW; Van Key-KC4WSK; Andrew Gusek-NC4AG; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Jeff Stafford-AC4YN; David McDonald-N5WMB; David Shoaf-KC4X; Kent Englebert-K4HRE; Jim Marler-KM4HUZ; Chuck Small-KM4IVY; Bill Kennedy-KM4MMG; Judson Davis-KG4OHQ; John Canup-KM4HVB; Bruce Baliff-WB4QCM; Michael Thorn; Steven Iltis; Michael Pope-KM4MMH; Paul Schuh-KM4OCQ; Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ; Wayne Collins-KK4ZHL; Jerry Brown-KM4OCO; Sam Poindexter-KM4LUD; Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ; Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS Jim Atkins-W4UX and Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO.