

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—9 November 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 1930 hours. He welcomed FARC members and visitors to the meeting, approximately 40 total and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. **Treasurer's Report:** **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** stated the updated club balance was \$2347.17.

b. **Newsletter Prize:** There were 25 entries responding to the FARC November newsletter contest asking the identity of the bearded FARC member in the photo. **Terry Brown-AK4D** revealed that the bearded individual was none other than himself. After all contest entries were collected, **Gary Miller-WA4VMC** was the winner of a Baofeng handheld radio!!

c. **VE Test Session Report:** **Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL**, head volunteer thanked **Mike Atkins-N4VE**, **Ed Eller-KJ4ENM**, and **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** for helping with the testing procedure. Dale stated that there were eight test takers and congratulated five successful candidates:

Robert G. Keisler-KM4OUX--Technician License

Kristin B. Shields-KM4OUY--Technician License

John L. Isley-KM4OUX--Technician License

Paul M. Schuh-KM4OCQ--General License

Gafford Y. Pearce-W4GYP--General License

d. **145.47 Repeater Antenna Work and Repeater Status:** **Jerry Minor, K4GW** thanked everyone that worked all day the previous Saturday on the 145.47 repeater antenna at Sauratown Mountain. **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 thanked the eight volunteers that did the work on the 145.47 antenna last Saturday. He explained that the existing 30 foot tower was replaced by a new 40 foot tower, the existing antenna was replaced by a DB-224E four bay omnidirectional antenna, and new coaxes and connectors. Current output of the repeater is 28 watts, but with the antenna gain, effective radiated power is about 144 watts. Dale stated that the output power will be tweaked overtime, other tweaks made and that the new tower and antenna should have a solid life of 15 to 20 years. Concerning the 444.275 repeater, Dale reported some issues that need work.

e. **Windows Flash Drive:** **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** showed a flash drive with Windows 8.1 installed that plugs into a HDMI port on a television. It has WIFI and uses Bluetooth for keyboard and mouse access.

f. 7 December Holiday Meeting: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO discussed the upcoming FARC Holiday dinner to be held on Monday, 7 December at the River Ridge Tap House in Clemmons. Everyone is invited and the time of the meeting is 6:30.

g. FARC Business Meeting: Jerry Minor, K4GW stated that the next FARC business meeting will be at Hamm's Restaurant at Thruway Shopping Center next Monday, 16 November at 7:30 pm. He encouraged everyone that is interested to feel free to attend. Updated Secretary Note: The December FARC business meeting will be at Hamm's Restaurant on the second Monday, 14 December.

h. Club Membership and Emergency Contact Info: Jerry Minor, K4GW reminded everyone that FARC 2016 club membership dues are due. He also reminded everyone that new hams and hams who upgrade at the FARC test session will get a complimentary FARC membership for the year. Terry Brown, AK4D stated that members will be asked for an emergency contact name and number in case of an accident.

i. Field Day Results: Jerry Minor, K4GW and Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO discussed the Field Day results recently announced in QST and on the ARRL website. FARC came in second place nationwide in the 9A category.

3. Main Presentation: Upcoming 2016 FARC President Jim Atkins, W4UX, gave an excellent presentation on "Introduction to DXing". He talked about the DXCC award and how to achieve it, equipment needed and the best way to make a contact with remote and rare DXpeditions stations. Jim also covered computer programs that do logging and that show "spots" of stations that are on the air with the callsign and frequency that is being used. He explained using split frequency contacts, signal propagation, using www.qrz.com, logging, QSL cards, QSL managers, the ARRL Logbook of the World, eQSL, and then showed links to beneficial tools. Links shown are:

A Computer Log, i.e., XMLog, <http://www.xmlog.com>

DXSummit, <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

DXWatch, <http://www.dxwatch.com>

DX Code of Conduct, <http://www.dx-code.org>

Logbook of the World (LOTW), <http://lotw.arrl.org/lotwuser/default>

4. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by many, seconded by many and agreed to at 2103 hours.

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

Terry Brown-AK4D; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Harold Richardson-N4HER; Jim Atkins-W4UX; Jerry Minor-K4GW; Van Key-KC4WSK; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Jeff Stafford-AC4YN; David McDonald-N5WNB; David Shoaf-KC4X; Kent Englebort-K4HRE; Bill Kennedy-KM4MMG; Judson Davis-KG4OHQ; Bruce Baliff-

WB4QCM; Steven Iltis-KM4OCR; Michael Pope-KM4MMH; Paul Schuh-KM4OCQ; Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ; Sam Poindexter-KM4LUD; Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ; Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS; John Isley-KM4OUZ; Kristin Shields-KM4OUY; Phil Joyce-KM4OQZ; Gaff Pearce-W4GYP; Robert "Nic" Keisler-KM4OUX; Ed Eller-KJ4ENM; Ray Purdom-K4ZGV; Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS; Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ; Daryl Knight-N5WK; Mike Brown-W4LKN; Gary Miller-WA4VMC; Jim Register-KV4SJ; Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ; Scot Garrison-KM4LDR and Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO.