

**Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—11 January
2016**

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 11 January 2016 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club at the Red Cross Building, 690 Coliseum Drive, was called to order by **President Jim Atkins-W4UX**, at 1931 hours. He welcomed all attendees, approximately 40 plus.

2. Treasurers Report:

a. FirstFest Hamfest: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** stated that 150-155 attendance tickets were sold and gave a detailed financial breakdown of the FirstFest hamfest held the prior Saturday. Rounded numbers are below:

Gate Cash Count:	\$1100
Donations:	54
Change:	-300
Hall Rent:	-125
Refreshments:	- 39
Net:	\$ 690

b. Estate Sale: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** stated the proceeds of the estate sale at the hamfest were \$826. Henry stated that **Don Edwards-WS4NC** would give a background report on this item.

c. Club Balance: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** reported that the club balance was \$4024.66, but that amount included the proceeds of the estate sale in item 2.b above.

d. Time Warner Bill: **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** stated that the new Time Warner had gone from \$20 to \$190. He called Time Warner, explaining that the club was a 501(c)3 and providing services to the community and the Red Cross. He got the bill reduced back to \$35.

3. Donated Estate Equipment and Proceeds From Sale: **Don Edwards-WS4NC** updated attendees on the estate sale from a deceased ham's family. The family wanted proceeds from the sale of the equipment to benefit youth. Don further described the interest of Boy Scout troop 719 in ham radio and their involvement in both our Field Day and the Jamboree on the Air activities. He made a motion to take the donated equipment proceeds and to purchase ham radio equipment (Yaesu FT-450 with power supply) for that Boy Scout troop. **Jim Atkins-W4UX** seconded and the motion was carried. **Gene Bowman-WB4MSG** discussed the equipment in the estate and how he was contacted about the situation. He also described an older Icom radio that was part of the estate. Gene suggested the club retain this radio and use it to help anyone age 16 or younger who was interested in ham radio or trying to get their ham radio license. He also stated that other club members had

other equipment and antennas that could be used with this radio on a temporary basis.

4. Summit School Ham Radio: Don Edwards-WS4NC updated attendees on Summit School using an old radio receiver that needed replacing. The school had raised \$300 to help purchase a replacement radio. He made a motion that the club accept the \$300 for a surplus Yaesu FT-920 radio that the club had. **Jim Atkins-W4UX** seconded and the motion was carried.

5. 2016 FARC Renewals and Message from Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH: **Terry Brown-AK4D** thanked everyone who had renewed their club membership for 2016. **Jim Atkins-W4UX** told about life member of the club, **Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH**, formerly FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, who had sent in a donation to the club and had indicated doing another talk at a club meeting.

6. Antenna Donation from Gary Carter-WA4IAM: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO gave an update on Gary Carter-WA4IAM from Reidsville who is retiring and moving to Seattle. He will be donating his antennas to the club, including a hex-beam, a 2-meter and a 6-meter antenna. Antennas are currently mounted on a tripod mount on his roof and he will let us know when they need to come down, most likely late March or early April.

7. Upcoming Field Day Info: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated that he had ordered and just received the permit allowing the club to use Hobby Park for Field Day. **President Jim Atkins-W4UX** stated that **Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ** will not be Field Day Chairman this year for his fifth year in a row and that a club member will need to take over that position.

8. Ham of the Month: President Jim Atkins-W4UX presented **David Shoaf-KC4X** with a FARC Ham-of-the-Month Award for his achievements as hamfest chairman for several past hamfests.

9. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT talked about a foul weather and weather reporting drill and exercise scheduled for 3pm-4pm on 23-24 January (Saturday and Sunday) on the Sauratown Mountain repeater (145.47, 100 Mhz PL tone). He asked participants to travel to a spot where an issue has happened or likely to happen and to call in a simulated emergency or weather issue. He emphasized that to state "This is a drill" both before and after each simulated issue that will be called in. Jim asked that anyone with ideas or questions contact him at WA4NOT@arrl.net.

10. Repeater and VE Test Report: Dale Mierisch-WB9SZZL updated everyone on repeater status. He thanked VE's **Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT**, **Mike Atkins-N4VE**, **Kent Englebert-K4HKE** and **Ed Eller-KJ4ENM** for helping in tonight's session. Dale stated that four people had attempted to either get or upgrade their ham radio license at the VE session preceding the club meeting. Two had succeeded:

- a. **Amy Treadway-KM4QEH** got her Technician license.
- b. **Henry Smith-KE4CSO** upgraded his license to extra.

11. Baofeng Hand Held Radio Winner: **Don Edwards-WS4NC** presented **Jim Marler-KM4HUZ** with a new Baofeng handheld radio as winner of this months contest.

12. Homebrew Presentations: There were five hambrew presentations.

a. **Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ:** New ham Ken Melvin stated that he wanted to learn morse code and needed a practice key. He demonstrated his homebrew old style straight morse code practice key built from brass stock. He coupled the key with an oscillator circuit board with components mounted Manhattan style and speaker. He offered to give anyone a copy of the circuitry that he used to build the Manhattan style board.

b. **Ray Purdom-K4ZGV:** Ray demonstrated his digital oscilloscope built from a kit with a two inch screen and is considering using the scope with his transceiver.

c. **Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS:** Neal showed a pre-amp he had built to use a Heil microphone with his Icom transceiver. The pre-amp was built from a circuit he had found in an article, needing an 8 volt power supply, but he was using a 12 volt supply with a regulator.

d. **Steve Patterson-WA3RTC:** Steve showed a work in progress, a spiral multiband 6-40 meter off-center fed antenna designed after an article he had seen on the internet. One complication is that you could not use an antenna analyzer to check the antenna swr/efficiency. Steve also showed the four to one balun he had built for using the antenna. **Harold Richardson-N4HER** commented that he had built a similar antenna, had used it with the Whisper software using one watt output and had gotten contacts with Germany.

e. **Harold Richardson-N4HER:** Harold showed his air powered antenna launcher made from high pressure pvc pipe, an attached scope, a sprinkler valve, pressure gage, battery box to active the 24 volt solenoid, part of an old fishing rod with reel, and an air valve for attaching a bicycle pump to pressurize the launcher. The launcher propels a small six ounce projectile that is attached to the fishing line on the reel. He recommended being very liberal with the pvc cement and a pressure of near 60 psi.

f. **Home Brew Winner:** The winner of this years home brew was **Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ**. Ken was presented with a Baofeng handheld radio for being the winner.

13. Next Month's Meeting Main Topic: Cell Phone Towers by **Matt Jordan**.

14. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **John Kippe-K1PPE** and seconded by **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** and other attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

15. Partial List of Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of FARC member attendees. **Jim Atkins-W4UX, Van Key-KC4WSK, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Tony Poindexter-KW4OQ, Gary Miller-**

WA4VMC, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Catherine Melvin-KM4OCS, Kenneth Melvin-KM4NFQ, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Mike Atkins-N4VE, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Terry Brown-AK4D, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Ed Eller-KJ4ENM, David Ramsey-W4OIL, David McDonald-N5WNB, Andrew Gusek-NC3AG, Bob Gusek-NC4RG, Steve Iltis-KM4OCR, Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Chuck Small-KM4IVY, Jim Marlet-KM4HUZ, Amy Treadway, Sam Poindexter-KM4LUD, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Dave Larson, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Bill Kennedy-WD4OTY, Jerry Minor-K4GW, John Kipee-K1PPE, Don Edwards-WS4NC and Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ.