

## Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—9 May 2016

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

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** The 9 May 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 7:30 pm. He welcomed all attendees, approximately 45, who introduced themselves.
2. **Treasurers Report:** **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** reported that the club balance was \$4147.32. The balance included annual insurance costs for club assets and member coverage of about \$800, \$75 for cable and phone and \$232 for two new computers for the club shack.
3. **Miscellaneous Updates:** **Jim Atkins-W4UX** reminded everyone of the club business meeting the following Monday night at Ham's Restaurant at Thruway Shopping Center, meeting starting at 7:30 pm. **Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ** reminded everyone of the ARRL celebration for the National Parks. The Moore's Creek Battleground National Park would be live on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.
4. **Baofeng Hand Held Radio Winner:** **Don Edwards-WS4NC** presented new Technician **Ronald J. Gontero-KM4TUM** with a new Baofeng handheld radio as winner of this months contest.
5. **VEC Info:** **VEC Coordinator Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL** could not make the main club meeting, but later sent out an email congratulating successful VE testing candidates for the session just preceding the FARC meeting.
  - a. **Christopher A. Riewe-KM4RQM**, upgraded to EXTRA ticket.
  - b. **Ronald J. Gregoire-W4UDB**, upgraded to EXTRA ticket.
  - c. **Paul M. Banasik** got his TECHNICIAN ticket and callsign **KM4TUI**.
  - d. **William L. Fischer** got his TECHNICIAN ticket and callsign **KM4TUJ**.
  - e. **Mark F. Gaines** got his TECHNICIAN ticket and callsign **KM4TUK**.
  - f. **Jason B. Harrell** got his TECHNICIAN ticket and callsign **KM4TUL**.
  - g. **Ronald J. Gontero** got his TECHNICIAN ticket and callsign **KM4TUM**.
6. **Hamfest Update:** **David Shoaf-KC4X** updated everyone on the Saturday, 11 June club Hamfest to be held at Summit School from 7AM to about 11:30. Help is needed for the Friday 5-6PM load-in and Saturday ticket sales, parking and other duties. Door prizes were being collected and several vendors were expected to be there. (Secretary after note: A VE test session will be held at 10:30AM at the Hamfest. Pre-registration will be required for any test participants. Send email to testing@w4nc.com.)
7. **Field Day:** **Darryl Knight-N5WK**, coordinator for this year's 25-26 June Field Day at Hobby Park, reminded everyone about the need for

antenna captains and passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteer captains and radio operation shifts. **Gene Bowman-WB4MSG** gave an antenna status and the need for antenna captains to come by his home to help with a temporary launch and testing of antennas. Gene emphasized the need for operators from 8PM Saturday night to 8AM Sunday morning. He also asked for volunteers to help with preliminary work Friday morning at Hobby Park and antenna setup on Saturday morning, the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**8. ARES: Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT** updated everyone on the upcoming 17-18 September Tour to Tanglewood bike event, fund raiser for MS that club members provide radio communications for. Jim stated that he needed 17 club radio operators each day, some shifts would be short, some as long as eight hours. Jim also reminded everyone of the ARES net each Thursday night at 2030 hours on the club Sauratown Mountain repeater.

**9. WSPR Presentation: Harold Richardson-N4HER** gave a powerpoint presentation on WSPR software, Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. Part of the presentation was a live demonstration of how the software worked with reported contacts from around the world using ~1 to 10 watts of transceiver output. (Secretary note: I downloaded and installed the software the day after the meeting, did the brief software setup, put my Yaesu FT-897D radio on the minimum power setting, fired up my Signalink and was getting reports from around the US, Canada and Europe—pretty good with five watts going thru 50 feet of coax to my attic dipole!!)

**10. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by many attendees and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM.

**11. 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, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Catherine Melvin-KM4OCS, Kenneth Melvin-KM4NFQ, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Terry Brown-AK4D, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Bill Kennedy-WD4OTY, Jerry Minor-K4GW, John Kipee-K1PPE, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Judson Davis-KG4OHQ, David Shoaf-KC4X, Woody Kinney-KF4PLQ, Bruce Sanspree-N4ZDR, David Peterson-KK4GAF, Dave Ramsey-W4OIL, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII, Henry Smith-W4HHS, Harlan Cobert-KM4TPQ, Jim Cole-KM4QPR, Chris Riewe-KM4RQM, David McDonald-N5WNB, Fred Wolf-KE5SJ, David Puckett-KI4AVS, Mark Gaines, Edwin Needham-AF4XC, Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS, Scot Garrison-KM4LDR, Jim Marler-KM4HUZ, Michael Thorn-KM4OCN, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Sam Poindexter-KM4LUD, Jerry "Mike" Brown-W4LKN, Gary Miller-WA4VMC, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Dave Larson-KM4RAB and Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ.**