

Minutes of the Board of Directors Business of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 16 January 2017

By Jim Register (KV4SJ)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The monthly Board of Directors Business Meeting, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, was held on Monday, 16 January 2017 at Ham's Restaurant, 367 Lower Mall Drive, Thruway Shopping Center, Winston-Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC Vice-President Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, at 1927 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees and congratulated all for a good hamfest.

2. Meeting Attendees: The fifteen meeting attendees were Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Terry Brown-AK4D, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, John Kippe-K1PPE, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Jerry Minor-K4GW and Jim Register-KV4SJ.

3. FirstFest: Geoff asked for reports of issues at FirstFest: The coffee pot failed – needs to be replaced before February meeting. Minor issue – they ran out of tickets at the gate, and had to run back up to the building to get more. Kent-K4HKE counted 161 tickets in the drum, but the money taken in amounted to maybe 182 tickets. That money may have included donations.

FirstFest Financials:

Ticket sales: \$950.00

Food Donations: \$29.00

Table Rental: \$55.00

Sale of Donated Items: \$155.00

Total Income: \$1154.00

Expenses:

Food: \$63.38

Facility Fee: \$125.00 (Not finalized – assumed same as last year)

Total Expenses: \$188.38

FirstFest Net: \$965.62

4. Treasurers Report: Kent Englebert-K4HKE, FARC Treasurer stated that the club balance was \$5677.09, not including the school rental.

Dues Received at Hamfest: \$216.00

Donations: \$52.00

Dues received excluding the hamfest: \$156.00

Donations received excluding the hamfest: \$32.00

5. Reynolda House Samuel Morse exhibit: Ray Purdom-K4ZGV reported a change from the original schedule: Special event station operation will now be from 10-3 local time Feb 16 and 17.

Feb 16 is the media day and Feb. 17 is the opening day. Would like 2, maybe three people there at any time. Currently has 5 volunteers to operate: Ben Wasilauskas-K4GHS, Jim Atkins-W4UX, Randy Tompson-NC4RT, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, and Ray Purdom-K4ZGV. Still needs a few more people, doesn't need high speed – medium speed invites more participation. These first two days of operation will be CW only.

On Community Day, April 29, we have been invited to set up multiple rigs and show many facets of Amateur radio. Ray will have to reapply for the N4M special event callsign for the April event.

Samuel Morse Video: Henry has two students about 75% done building the script and about ready to start putting the video together. They should have the video together by the second week in Feb.

Discussion was held on the equipment to be used for the special event station, including radios, computers, displays and Morse code decoding software. We plan to mock up the setup at the club before the event so volunteers can get familiar with the station layout and operation. Proposed date and time for the mockup is Monday, Feb 6, at 7pm.

Things to take for Feb 16, 17:

Antenna: Ray-K4ZGV plans to set up his Eagle One antenna two weeks beforehand; Harold-N4HER offered his if needed.

Club Banner: The FARC banner should be rolled up in the closet at the club; keep it rolled up letter side out.

Morse code chart: find a good one and have Reynolda print it out, if possible.

Spark Gap equipment: A vendor at the hamfest loaned spark-gap equipment to display at Reynolda.

Reynolda House suggested we invite anyone we know in the media to come to media day. Ray has contacted Karl Bowman-W4CHX ARRL NC Section Manager. Ray suggested we get monogrammed shirts for the event and everyone wanting a monogrammed shirt signed up and put down their size.

6. Emergency Coordinator update from Harlan Cobert-W1HRC: Last week, Dave, Jim, Harlan met with Forsyth County project leaders for the new EOC. The current EOC is in the WSPD facility and access is difficult. The county is taking over responsibility for the EOC, building a new one on the second floor of the six-story Sheriff's department building. The county manager tasked the project leaders with ensuring the ability to operate throughout the county in the scenario of a major ice storm that affects the entire region, taking out 100% of power and telecommunications in the county. The Sheriff's department has already revamped their mobile command post, adding 2M and 70cm capability in the process.

The new county EOC will be a multipurpose room used for meetings and such, but the layout can be reconfigured in less than an hour for EOC operations. The EOC mode layout sets aside a specific location for the ARES team to expedite our setup time. Plans are for two operator stations. Coax will be terminated in a locked box in our area in the EOC so all we have to do is bring in our rigs and patch into the box. Wi-Fi and a wired Ethernet connection will be provided for us. This work will be going on in the March timeframe.

The contract for setting up the new EOC includes providing and running cables for us and installing the antennas. Our input was requested regarding what they needed to do for us to be able to support them in the EOC. They are going to be relying on us more than they have in the past, having apparently seen what ARES can do in various incidents around the country.

Results of the initial meeting with the county was four runs of coax terminating in a lockbox, supporting two dual band VHF/UHF antennas and an HF dipole for 80/40M, leaving one spare coax, and the club providing the antennas. Subsequent internal discussions prior to the FARC BOD meeting suggested adding two each RG6 and Ethernet runs for local TV or satellite reception and backup internet links. These have not yet been communicated to the county, pending further input from FARC BOD.

BOD discussion:

Suggested hardline rather than coax for the two VHF/UHF antennas to minimize loss since the runs are approximately 120 feet long. At the meeting with the county they were thinking to use high gain antennas to compensate for the loss.

Add runs of rotor cable to handle antenna switching relays and/or a potential directional antenna.

Jerry suggested adding a possible fiber run as well.

Harlan's question for the business group was "What antennas do we want to put up there?"

Quantity 2 Diamond X300A

Quantity 1 Alpha Delta DX-DD "No-Trap" 80 and 40 meter dipole or inverted V

Henry-W2DZO brought up the point that the county was asking the club to provide the antennas, something the city has never done. This needs to be run by the members at the next meeting before we actually do order them, even though it is a relatively small amount (but still, nearly 10% of our current budget). Including the go boxes and the rigs, this would probably total up over \$1000, nearly 25% of our budget. We will bring this up at the next club meeting to get member approval for the expenditure in accordance with the club bylaws.

Training was brought up – NIMS 100, 200, 700, 800. If you have the four courses, you will be registered in AUXCOMM, and also in ARES as a RACES station. In order to go into the sheriff's department EOC or their mobile command post, you must have completed those four courses. Harlan is looking into whether we can get authorization to teach those courses.

Harlan is trying to get updated info on all the ARES members. Don will put the form in with the next newsletter. Harlan will provide a write-up to go with.

Harlan has set up an email address for local ARES: fcares.w1hrc@gmail.com

Side comment: Harlan was on a conference call with DHS, and amateur radio was the subject of almost 40 minutes of the call. DHS is pushing amateur radio as the preferred backup for emergency communications for local, county and even state level. An example was given where ARES was used to provide dispatch communications to a Nevada fire station where all power and communication was wiped out by flooding.

ARES also got a call from a group out of Pilot Mountain requesting support 28 May for the Mountain Madness bike ride. John-K1PPE recalled needing 7 mobiles and 1 base station. It works out to be the same weekend as the Durham hamfest.

7. Final Items: David-KC4X wants to refer to our summer hamfest as JuneFest, so we'll have FirstFest and JuneFest. We will discuss more later. Henry-W2DZO has been talking to Raymond Taber-WX5AAA about shutting down W4NCLive and the other similar accounts. We are hoping to have just W4NC.com and Facebook.

Don-WS4NC reports there is still a yahoo group for W4NC.

Discussion on the school raising rates for the hamfest facility.

Need a date for the June hamfest – high school graduation has been moved to the 10th, and that conflict would kill attendance. Moving it later moves it closer to Field Day.

Terry-AK4D will update the club website to show the Skywarn class. He is about 98% done with the new webpage.

Terry-AK4D will check on Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH for March.

8. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2113 hours.