

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 09 January 2017

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 09 January 2017 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club at the Red Cross Building, 690 Coliseum Drive, was called to order by President David Shoaf-KC4X, at 1930 hours. David welcomed all attendees, approximately 26 plus, for coming out this evening. He thanked Jim Atkins-W4UX for his service as president, introduced himself, and introduced the other new board members:

Vice President: Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV

Treasurer: Kent Englebert-K4HKE

Secretary: Jim Register-KV4SJ

2. Meeting Agenda: David Shoaf-KC4X, laid out the meeting agenda:

a. Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO will give particulars about First Fest, coming up this Saturday, 14 January

b. Ray Purdom-K4GZV will speak about the Samuel Morse event coming up in February at Reynolda House. People interested in participating are invited to the business meeting next Monday at Ham's.

c. Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT is turning over the ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) position to Harlan Cobert-W1HRC. Harlan will speak about plans.

3. Treasurers Report: Kent Englebert-K4HKE gave the current treasurer's report and announced upcoming expenditures for First Fest.

2016 Closing Balance: 4295.84

Expenses: Hobby Park Field Day deposit for \$90

Balance: 4205.84

Motion was made to approve, seconded, all voted Aye.

4. ARES Report: ARES Coordinator Harlan Cobert-W1HRC encouraged everyone to check in on the ARES net on 145.470 repeater, Thursdays @ 8:30pm. ARES membership is not required to check in, but if you want to become an ARES member, see Harlan. ARES is open to all licensed amateurs - ARRL membership is not required. Harlan will be sending out email to ARES members to update all their information.

5. First Fest: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO reminded everyone about FirstFest, which runs Saturday from 7:00 - 11:00am. \$5.00 admission, \$10 inside vendor tables. Ticket sales end at 10:00, prize drawings begin at 10:50, you must be present to win. Tailgating will be in two lower parking lots, right in front of the dining hall and closest to Reynolda Road, rather than in the upper lot where it used to be. Basketball and general hamfest parking will now share the upper lots.

We need volunteers Friday from 5:00-7:00pm for load-in and Saturday 6:00am to sell tickets. Also needed are a volunteer to handle getting the tables put back after the hamfest, and one to solicit door prizes from the vendors. We expect to be packed up and gone around noon.

6. Club Website: Terry Brown is redoing the club website with Steve Patterson as backup. The new website will be up before our next event.

7. Reynolda House Samuel FB Morse Exhibition: Ray Purdom-K4ZGV gave an update on the club participation at the upcoming Samuel FB Morse Exhibition at Reynolda House. He provided a handout containing info on the event as well as links to info on some of the projects that will be discussed in the homebrew portion of the meeting.

There are schedule changes – The Morse code texting competition is moving from the media preview day on February 16 to the evening of March 16, when Reynolda House will be doing a feature on modern conveniences. On media preview day, the individual media outlets just swing by the event when they get an opportunity; most would miss the understandably brief competition.

Special Event Station N4M, operating on 7044, 10120, 14044 and 21044 kHz:

We are looking for enough volunteers to man the special event station (CW only, call sign N4M) for five hours, from 1500 to 2000 UTC (10am – 3pm EST) on February 16 and 17. (You do not need to be a high-speed operator.) On Feb 16, operating will officially commence at the start of the 2-hour media preview period, but will end before the private preview party begins.

On Community Day, April 29, 11am – 3pm, we will be running again, this time CW and phone. Frequencies unspecified at this time.

March QST, which comes out February 6, will run a notice of the special event station frequencies and hours of operation in February.

8. VEC Info: Mike Atkins-N4VE thanked Don Edwards-W4NC for handling all of the paperwork. David Shoaf-KC4X thanked Don for doing the newsletters. Congratulations to both successful candidates listed below.

- a. Bob McClellan-W3AVB upgrade to Extra
- b. Mary McClellan-KM4WPO upgrade to Extra

9. Homebrew Presentations: There were 5 homebrew presentations.

a. Steve Patterson-WA3RTC: Steve showed off his magnetic loop antenna and his remote control tuning arrangement. He reported that the wall wart switching power supply for the remote control had to be replaced with a linear one to get the noise down to where he could use the antenna. <http://www.almondtree.com/TPL/Project/Antenna/Magnetic%20Loop%20Links.asp>

b. Ray Purdom-K4ZGV: Ray showed a BITX40 Kit – 40 meter SSB 7-watt transceiver he had bought to make a self-contained JT65 unit with an Arduino and display, but realized it is fixed lower sideband. He is looking into the possibility of switching sidebands so he can use it for JT65. Ray also had a quick minor project, a Sonoff Wifi Wireless Switch \$6 from Banggood. an ESP8266 mini Arduino with wifi. He uses it to control AC power with his cellphone He put it in line with an extension cord and can use his cell phone to control power from anywhere.

<http://www.hfsigs.com/>

<http://www.banggood.com/DIY-Wi-Fi-Wireless-Switch-For-Smart-Home-With-ABS-Shell-p-1019971.html>

c. Don Edwards-WS4NC:

Don showed a project to extend the capability of his communications monitor to monitor the 2 meter ham band. He built a helical resonator and used a couple of MMICs to compensate for the loss through the filter and add some needed additional gain. Rather than performing 30 pages of algebra to design the helical resonators, he used a (free!) program available here:

<http://www.tonnesoftware.com/helical.html>

Don put in a plug for the Dayton hamfest. He believes we can get the bus, the rooms, and admission, for under \$300, possibly significantly under, if we get the people. He asked for a show of interest.

d. David Shoaf-KC4X: David showed a kit he had put together, a K1EL PaddleStick CW Touch Paddle with built-in keyer for \$26. <http://www.hamcrafters2.com/PS1.html>

e. Terry Brown-AK4D: Terry showed a CW key he built in thirty minutes using a hacksaw blade, a block of wood, and a few screws. It even had a knob! Half a hacksaw blade, a screw to secure it at one end, one for a contact near the other end, and three screws near the middle to center and raise the blade for adjusting the action. Terry reports using it on the air and finding that it works well.

f. Henry Smith-W4HHS: presented a puzzle: A battery connected to two switches, with two wires running from the switches to two bulbs. Press one switch and one bulb lights up. Press the other switch and the other bulb lights. Press both switches and both bulbs light up. The puzzle is, what is the hidden circuitry that makes it work? Many people made guesses to zero in on the solution.

10. Online Resources: David Shoaf-KC4X mentioned some online resources that may be of interest: Amateur Radio Roundtable on youtube, live Tuesday night at 9pm eastern.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/w5kub>

Leo Laporte's Twit TV:

All About Android: <https://twit.tv/shows/all-about-android>

HamNation with Bob Heil: <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>

Security Now with Steve Gibson: <https://twit.tv/shows/security-now>

11. Project Discussion Group: Steve Patterson-WA3RTC reminded everyone that the project discussion group meets at 7pm on the third Tuesday at Miller Park Recreation Center.

12. Next Month's Meeting Topic: SkyWarn starts at 7:00pm, not 7:30, and will likely run late. The class will contain a mix of the beginner class and some advanced stuff. Come early to get a seat.

13. Name Tags: Kent Englebert-K4HKE reminded anyone that needs a name tag to just see him and he will have it for you at the next meeting.

14. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harold Righardson-N4HER and seconded by several other attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours.

15. Partial List of Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of FARC member attendees.

David Shoaf-KC4X, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Terry Brown-AK4D, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, StevePatterson-WA3RTC, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Ben Wasilaskas-K4GHS, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Dave Griffith-WA4MCK, Jonathan Sharp-

KM4RAD, Rick Batte-N4MBI, Randy Tompson-NC4RT, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Terry Hendrix-KC8OEX,
Gary Miller-WA4VMC, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Van Key-KC4WSK, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Ben Burton-
KM4RAC, Bob McClellan-W3AVB, Mary McClellan-KM4WPO, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO