

Minutes of the Board of Directors Business of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 20 February 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, 20 February 2017 at Ham's Restaurant, 367 Lower Mall Drive, Thruway Shopping Center, Winston-Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC President David Shoaf-K4CX, at 1932 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees. David also introduced Bill Tessian-KM4RKH, who knows Henry and may be interested in joining the club.

2. Meeting Attendees: The fifteen meeting attendees were Don Edwards-WS4NC, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, David Shoaf-KC4X, John Kippe-K1PPE, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, and Bill Tessian-KM4RKH.

3. Coffee Pot Replacement: The club's big 100 cup coffee pot died at FirstFest. Henry Heidtmann W3DZO moved to buy another pot. Relative merits of 30 cup vs 100 cup pot was also considered. Motion to purchase another 100-cup pot was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Web Hosting: Our web hosting has to move and we need to choose a new provider. We have been on Benny Bolin's server and he is planning on giving that up this year. Jim Register has been researching providers. Several that he had heard good things about in years past have since been bought out by a large conglomerate, and their reputations have gone downhill, so providers owned by that conglomerate are off the table. One of the general warnings is to examine carefully any provider who offers unlimited disk space or bandwidth – their idea of unlimited may be different than yours.

Jerry Minor-K4GW made several comments:

Run Linux servers rather than Windows. Someone has to keep the patches up.

The server w4nc.com is on is hit by 100 hack attempts per day - do they count as site visits?

Recommends we get Benny Bolin's input on whom to use.

Domain registrars were also looked into, but Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO reports the w4nc.com domain is registered through NetworkSolutions, and the club owns the domain name, so that does not have to be moved. We are currently paying \$60/year (including private registration?). If we buy 10 years, we can pay about \$10/year. Our registration expires June 25, 2017. We do have private registration, which costs about \$12/year.

[Ed] 10 years is roughly \$17/year.

Moved to table discussion until next month and gather more information.

5. Reynolda House Samuel Morse exhibit: David Shoaf-KC4X reported on the special event on Thursday February 16 and Friday the 17th. They were not as busy as they had expected, especially on Friday. The band was pretty good on Thursday, but pretty dead on Friday. Harold reported we had 41 contacts when we finished up Thursday. Friday morning was the busiest for making contacts; they shut

down about 45 minutes early after the bands closed up. Total contacts for the two days were approximately 68.

Thursday all the sponsors came through and we had a lot of visitors; Friday had one big group come through and a smaller number of the general public. We and Reynolda House were both pleased with how it all turned out, but more numbers would have been nice. We did hear from Gene that there were other stations calling us, but we just could not hear them. We suspect that had to do with the antenna being ground mounted and surrounded on three sides with copper-roofed buildings.

We had good news coverage from News 14 Carolina, but only a few seconds from WXII.

Ray Purdom-K4ZGV had a nice banner made at Kinko's; our club banner was too big for the table. He also made some other small purchases; the total amount is under \$100. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to reimburse him for the expense. Note that according to the bylaws, the expenditure was not large enough to require a vote; the vote was done solely to put it in the record.

There will be another one or two events in April – one is the texting challenge and the other is the community day on April 29th. We want to win the texting challenge...

Reynolda house was concerned about the vertical antenna, but one of staff members parents were both hams, and he helped ease some of the concerns.

6. Upcoming Programs: Start time 7:30pm. Come early to get a seat.

March 13 - Jim Marler-KM4HUZ offers a presentation on Electro-Magnetic Pulse.

April 10 - Charlie Klutz-W4TMR offers a presentation on Low Band DX'ing

May 8 - (Tentative) Planning for the hamfest (which comes before the next meeting) and initial planning for Field Day. Harlan has expressed an interest in possibly doing an ARES presentation as well, which may share a meeting with another presentation.

Terry Brown AK4D will check with Riley on his appearance – possibly June, July or August.

7. Hamfest Facilitator: David Shoaf-KC4X suggests a new hamfest facilitator is needed for the rest of the year and ongoing. One of the facilitator's tasks would be to contact vendors to encourage their attendance. It was suggested we approach some new members to help them get involved.

8. Kernersville Testing: Dale WB9SZL will be giving exams to between 24 and 28 people on March 9th.

Mike Atkins-N4VE is teaching a class in Kernersville. The average age is about 30.

Dale asked for extra VE volunteers to help between 6:20 and 9:00pm on Thursday. Testing will be at a Baptist church across from Walmart. John Kippe-K1PPE, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO and Don Edwards-WS4NC volunteered to serve as VE, and Harold Richardson-N4HER volunteered to assist in a non-VE capacity.

A group from Kernersville is talking about starting their own club over there. David would like to encourage them to come over here and join us, and suggested we offer free membership to all who pass, just as if they were testing at the Red Cross. It was also suggested they may want to join us for Field Day. Some will get to see how we run one and some may decide to stay. John Kippe-K1PPE suggested we blow up the membership form to poster size to show the kinds of things we are interested in.

9. New equipment: Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL has been approached by a club member who has some Yaesu DR-1X Fusion system he is looking to sell. We have two systems now, this would be a third. He has the repeater, an MH48 microphone, an IRLP/Echolink board. He also has a switching LNA like we are using up on the mountain. There is a small 25 watt duplexer also available.

Pros and cons were discussed about making all three of our repeaters the same vs using as a spare to swap out the Kenwood up on the mountain and bring that back for some updates, since it had been up there for five years. The Fusion systems do have some issues with the mixed digital/analog modes.

One option is to put the new unit at the Red Cross as a second club UHF repeater.

Discussion tabled until the next regular BOD meeting.

10. Emergency Coordinator update from Harlan Cobert-W1HRC: Harlan has received about 15 forms to date and is putting the info into a database showing contact info for callout and available operating frequencies. He would like more. Harlan is looking for 6 to 8 people interested in the 100, 200, 700 and 800 ICS classes. The county has two instructors who are willing to give us the courses. They will take about 3 hours each. We could do one per quarter, or one every other month, until everyone is up on the courses. Remember, in order to go into the sheriff's department EOC or their mobile command post, you must have completed those four courses.

Forsyth County EMS wants to put up an ARES page on their website that will link to our club. Harlan asked for pictures of some of the various events we have supported to go on the county page.

11. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2038 hours.