

Minutes of the Board of Directors Business of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 20 March 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 March 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.

2. Meeting Attendees: The 19 meeting attendees were Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, John Kippe-K1PPE, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Bill Tessian-KM4RKH, Jim Atkins-W4UX, Daryl Knight-N5WK, David McDonald-N5WNB, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Terry Brown-AK4D, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, David Shoaf-KC4X, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Michael Pope-K4OLD.

3. Requests for Repeater use: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, indicated that Neil Fishman, KM4HCW, has asked about starting a science net on the club repeater. Discussion covered available dates and times, and ground rules regarding keeping discussions friendly and avoiding drifting into political discussions, rancor and pseudo-science, with the proviso that we did not want to censor the potential topics.

John Kippe, K1PPE, moved to allow use of the repeater on a temporary basis with the guidelines that we have set forth. The motion was seconded and approved. Dale volunteered to write up some basic guidelines. Harold Richardson, N4HER, suggested that the guidelines should be posted on the website for any nets that might want to use the repeater.

4. VE report – Kernersville testing and sister club: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported that a class of 28 individuals had signed up to test; 11 dropped out so there were 17 remaining to test. They ran two test sessions, administering 24 exams, ending up with 14 Techs and 1 General. Scott Swaim, KJ4IVX, is trying to grow a club there in Kernersville and would like to become a sister club with us. They would also like to set up a net on our repeater to help get the new hams started. They are planning to set up their own repeater at the church at some point. Since the 2m band is pretty full, that may have to be a 220 or 440 machine serving the Kernersville area.

5. Next club program – Charlie Klutz, W4TMR, will present Low-Band DXing: Discussion about starting the meeting early, since Charlie's presentations tend to be thorough. We moved to start the meeting at 7:00pm, and testing at 6:00pm, both 30 minutes earlier than normal.

6. Web Hosting: Jim Register, KV4SJ, recommended that we select the SiteGround Startup shared hosting for the new web server. Regular cost is \$9.95/month; the initial contract period will be at \$3.95/month. Our domain registrar will remain Network Solutions.

It was moved and seconded to sign up with SiteGround for the Startup shared hosting.

7. FARC Field Day Trailer repair: Jim Atkins, W4UX, indicated that the FARC trailer that we use for Field Day and other events needs a set of leveling jacks; the existing ones are rusted out and unworkable. John Kippe, K1PPE, moved that we replace them. Don Edwards, WS4NC, recommended replacing the tires as well, since they are about 20 years old and have dry rot. Harold Richardson, N4HER, reported he got trailer tires and rims for about \$110 each at Leonard over on Peter's Creek Parkway. Jim Atkins and Harold will work to get that taken care of. Further discussion included getting the trailer painted and a sign put on it. David McDonald, N5WNB, offered to check with the fellow that does street signs for Davidson County to get a quote on a sign. John modified his motion to upgrade the trailer for \$500 max, Harold and one other seconded, and all voted in favor.

8. Reynolda House Samuel Morse exhibit: David Shoaf, KC4X, brought up the Community Day event at Reynolda House on April 29. Unfortunately, it is not listed in QST this month. Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, offered to write it in his copy, but admitted worldwide distribution of the correction would be a challenge.

David stated we would probably have two stations, one CW and the other phone. We would probably use the vertical that Ray Purdom, K4ZGV, provided for the CW again, and a 40m dipole for phone. Don Edwards, WS4NC, suggested using the trailer for the dipole, if it is ready in time.

Jim Atkins, W4UX, gave a report on the demo that was done the previous Thursday night after the WFDD TED talk. Ray brought in a battery operated rig and set it up as an oscillator; Jim brought in his paddle and set it up for about 25 words a minute – not real fast. They sent two phrases - the original "What hath God wrought?", and a longer phrase. Then they announced that they were going to do a texting demonstration at the same time. Jim hadn't realized it was going to be a competition between him and texting. On the short phrase Jim finished first, but on the longer one the text users finished about 2 seconds ahead. Jim figures that there were more common words in the second one and they could have been using word completion to get their speed up.

Kent Englebert, K4HKE, reported we have received 14 QSL card requests with SASEs from N4M contacts. Ray Purdom, K4ZGV, (not present) had already come up with the idea of using the Samuel Morse painting as the backdrop; David Shoaf will get with Ray about getting some made up. Jerry Minor, K4GW, suggested putting hamfest ads on the back of the QSL cards, but we need hamfest flyers before we can get the QSL cards done. Don will print up a batch of flyers for the hamfest.

9. Website: Terry Brown, AK4D, asked for an email with verbiage to put up on the website regarding upcoming meetings and events. Terry also suggested we verify that we are still a go for the Christmas party at River Ridge Taphouse. David Shoaf-KC4X, offered to check with them.

10. Hamfest Schedule: June 3 this year because of graduation conflicts. ACDC in Charlotte will not be coming because of graduation conflicts. Jeff with the computers will not be coming, due to lack of sales. There was some discussion of changing the regular date of the hamfest to later in the season. The regular date for the hamfest had been picked to not conflict with all of the other hamfests; there are fewer hamfests now and it may be reasonable to think about a change to the regular date.

11. Raven Knob Scout Conclave: Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV, announced that there will be an event called Conclave the weekend of April 22. The boy Scouts have an honor society called "The Order of the Arrow", and six lodges are participating. They are expecting about 1500 scouts. The ARRL NC Section

Youth Coordinator, David Price, K4KDP, is behind the amateur radio aspects of the event. Geoff and another fellow from his troop are planning to go up and see how they can help out. The .575 repeater covers that whole area per Jerry Minor, K4GW.

12. ARES Events: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, announced several upcoming events. On May 28th there will be a bike Ride in Pilot Mountain area. On Sept 16 and 17 will be the Bike MS aka Tour to Tanglewood, needing about 26 people this year. They want to make some changes in how they do things. Specifically, instead of putting a ham with a sag driver, the ham can use their own vehicle and the organizers will provide bike racks (unless it is a pickup truck). This is how it is done for the big event at New Bern. This will help eliminate confusion in the event of an injured bicyclist about who is the incident commander for Bike MS. (The amateur radio operator is the incident commander due to his ICS training, but there has been the occasional assumption that the driver is in charge.) They will also be putting key decision makers at the ARES command post rather than spread out all over the course. Harlan will be bringing this up at the next meeting.

The last ARES net ran a test on 10m, and they could hear everyone who participated, although some were a little weak. There will not be an ARES net March 23, as there will be another Skywarn training event that night at the extension office off Fairchild Drive.

13. Field Day: Daryl Knight, N5WK asked about having barbecue catered in again to free up people to work. David Shoaf, KC4X, stated he thought Don had said that the Salvation Army would be doing the food for us this year. John Kippe, K1PPE, allowed that he was unaware of any such arrangement, but he certainly would not oppose it.

14: Club Station License: Kent Englebert, K4HKE, stated the club station license is due to expire in June. Jerry Minor, K4GW, allowed that Bob Gates is actual trustee and he takes care of that. David Shoaf, KC4X will get in touch with Henry Heidtmann-W3DZO to reach out to Bob and see that it is handled.

15. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2043 hours.