

# Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 13 March 2017

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

**1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The 13 March 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 1931 hours. David welcomed all attendees, approximately 37, for coming out this evening, and invited each to introduce themselves.

**2. Door Prize:** David Shoaf, KC4X, displayed the smaller portion of a brand new Winegard CW98 VHF-UHF antenna that was donated to the club to be given away.

Treasurers Report: Kent Englebert, K4HKE, gave the current treasurer's report.

Current Bank Balance: \$ 5206.78 after purchase of EOC antennas with no outstanding bills.

**3. EOC and ARES Report:** Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, thanked everyone who has already sent in their applications. He encouraged anyone who hasn't to please forward him their Form FSD-98. Harlan also asked that anyone interested in the NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800 classes please let him know. If he can get enough interested people, the county will commit to teach the classes, which are 3 hours each.

These classes can also be taken online through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute:

<https://training.fema.gov/nims/>

IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction

IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction

ICS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System

ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

Thursday, Mar 23, Forsyth County will be putting on a Skywarn class at the N.C. Cooperative Extension at 1450 Fairchild Road. This one will include both the basic and advanced information.

A group out of Pilot Mountain will be putting on a bike rally and desire our help – will need about 12 volunteers to perform communications, similar to what we do at Tanglewood. The event will be on Sunday, May 28 from 0800 to about 1500. Volunteers would need to be there by 0700 to get set up. Need at least 2 mobiles with CB capability. More information as we get closer.

Thursday, March 16, the ARES net will start out on 2m and then, once everyone is checked in, switch to 10m and perform a communications test, to see who can hear whom. After the communications test, the net will switch back to 2m to report the results and complete the net. Please check in on 2m, even if you don't have 10m capability.

**4. Boy Scout Event:** Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV reports there a scout conclave coming up at Camp Raven Knob. The Order of the Arrow is the national honor society for the Boy Scouts and the event runs from April 21 - 23. There will be some ham radio activity on 2m and possibly 10m. They were requesting to use the club repeater on April 22. Geoff asked if anyone hears the scouts on the repeater to try to engage them in a QSO.

**5. Reynolda House Samuel FB Morse Exhibition:** Ray Purdom, K4ZGV gave an update on the club participation at the Samuel FB Morse Exhibition at Reynolda House. This Thursday, Mar 16, from 5:30 to 6:30pm, Reynolda House will be showing TED talks about modern communication methods. They asked that at the end of that event, about 6:30, that we send a message in Morse code so people can see how quickly that message can be sent. Ray will be there, and is asking for another volunteer to actually send the message.

On Community Day, April 29, we will again be participating as N4M, this time in the in the gazebo out front. We will be doing both Access to that and the Samuel Morse exhibit will both be free, but sometimes there is a line to get into the exhibit. Ray still has 4 large shirts left, \$20 each.

**6. Iceland DXpedition:** Mason Matrazzo, KM4SII, has been featured on the front page of the ARRL website. Mason had announced a vacation DXpedition to Iceland March 13-19, when he will be active on the HF bands from Iceland using the call sign TF/KM4SII. As a reminder, he expects to be active local afternoons to evenings which will be nighttime in Iceland. Frequencies will probably be the SSB portion of the 40M band, but will be able to work 20 and 17 if they are open. Information is available at the new events page at W4NC.com. Mason asked for spotting support and to watch the TF/KM4SII page at QRZ.com for updates.

Another DXpedition could be heard in the hamshack during the meeting - Raja Chatterjee, KB6MTH was active from Guantanamo Bay.

**7. No Repeater or VEC report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, had a death in the family and was unable to attend.

**8. Recognition of Benny Bolin:** Benny has provided the web service for W4NC for years; he is retiring the server and we will be moving to a paid service. David thanked Benny for that contribution and we gave him a big round of applause.

**9. EMP Program:** Jim Marler, KM4HUZ, gave a program on Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP) and similar threats to electronics and the power grid. Jim began by introducing the coronal mass ejection or CME, sometimes called a Solar EMP. Two notable events were the Carrington Event of 1859, where telegraph wires threw sparks and telegraph systems across North America and Europe failed, and a smaller one, estimated at about 1/3 the size of Carrington, in 1989 that blacked out the entire Canadian Province of Quebec. In 2012, a CME on the scale of the Carrington Event occurred, but the trajectory missed Earth.

Jim then went on to introduce nuclear EMP, and gave the example of Starfish Prime, conducted in 1962. This created an EMP that disabled streetlights and island-to-island communication in Hawaii, 900 miles away. Jim discussed one way to defend against EMP, the Faraday cage, and showed one he made from a galvanized trash can.

Jim referred to testimony given by former CIA director James Woolsey and Dr. Peter Vincent Pry stating "an EMP attack poses a greater threat to the safety of the US than any other event" regarding the severity of the threat posed by EMP. An internet search on those two names will yield a number of articles on the subject. Terry Brown mentioned the novel "One Second After" by William Forstchen, set in Black Mountain, that he thought pretty well described the aftermath of an EMP.

**11. Winner of the door prize:** David McDonald

**12. Test Equipment:** Harold Richardson, N4HER mentioned the test equipment being sold by ERD, the folks that were at FirstFest. They still have some, but it's going fast.

**13. Next Month's Meeting Topic:** Charlie Kluttz, W4TMR, will be talking about low-band DXing.

**14. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Kippe, K1PPE and seconded by several other attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours.

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

David Shoaf-KC4X, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Terry Brown-AK4D, Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ, Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS, Jerry Minor-K4GW, John McKee-WN4OFT, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Brent Goodwin-KN4ACN, Van Key-KC4WSK, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Benny Bolin-W4XTL, Mike Brown-W4LKN, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, John Kippe-K1PPE, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ, Mark Gaines-KM4TUK, Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, John Canup-KM4HVB, Chuck Small-KM4IVY, Jim Marler-KM4HUZ, Gary Miller-WA4VMC, Jim Atkins-W4UX, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Jonathan Sharp-KM4RAD, Woody Kenny-KF4PLQ, David McDonald-N5WNB, Daryl Knight-N5WK.