

# Minutes of the Board of Directors Business of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 15 May 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, 15 May 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 1935 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees.

**2. Meeting Attendees:** The 16 meeting attendees were Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Harold Richardson-N4HER, John Kippe-K1PPE, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Terry Brown-AK4D, David Shoaf-KC4X, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC.

**3. June Hamfest:** Discussion on the hamfest preparations opened with the status on the Summit School venue. Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, reported that we will be able to get in there as soon as 3:00pm to get things moved around, as school will no longer be in session. David Shoaf, K4CX, indicated that he has been reminding everyone that the hamfest ends at 11:00am, so we can get out by 12:00 when the lease officially ends. Talk-in has been arranged; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC is taking care of the coffee and donuts. Harold approached a food cart vendor who may be coming out to the parking lot and see if she can sell some stuff. He gave her the address, date and times, and no guarantees that she will be able to sell anything. (She may also come out to Field Day around lunch time.) Our coffee and donuts will be here (and free) until they run out. John Kippe, K1PPE and Jeff Stafford, AC4YN will sell tickets again. We'll need 4 to 6 people for parking.

**4. Field Day:** Daryl Knight, N5WK, opened discussion for Field Day with the catering situation.

- Catering: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, has gotten a quote from Cliff, who has catered the event before. The quote is for ample BBQ, beans and slaw for 75 people for \$7.00 each - basically \$500 delivered. We take care of napkins, rolls, drinks, dessert. John Kippe, K1PPE, moved that we accept that offer; the motion was carried and unanimously approved.
- Club trailer: New tires are on, but the jacks have not been replaced yet. If they haven't been replaced by Field Day, we'll just have to make them workable for one more year. Harold, N4HER, took the hitch lock to a locksmith to get it checked out, and he found that the keys sometimes don't go in as far as they should, but they will work if persuaded to go in that last fraction of an inch. Keys are in the shed, and David Shoaf has six new sets.
- Antennas: Since we won't have Gene Bowman, WB4MSG this year, Harold, N4HER, will collect everything from Gene after the hamfest, if not before. Henry, W2DZO, will run by the club one day at lunch and photo inventory everything. There was some discussion about using Ray Purdom's Eagle One vertical for 80CW and whether it would perform as well as a dipole for Field Day. The vertical on 80m works really well when you get out 1000 miles or more; but that's not good for up and down the east coast. Henry suggested using the vertical for sideband and giving the dipole to the CW station; the sideband station will still make QSOs, but the CW station will make many more and they earn more points.

- Last year, we had good success on 6M with an H-double-bay antenna, and used one of Harold's J-Poles for 2M.
  - The Hex Beam worked well for 20m on the trailer last year, so we'll do that again this year. Is it still on the trailer or in the Red Cross garage?
  - We need to buy more rope for pulling up the antennas, certainly 1000 feet, perhaps 2000.
- Receiving Antennas: Gene Bowman, WB4MSG, recommended making two of the Charlie Kluttz, W4TMR, Flag-On-Ground (FOG) antennas, pointing one northwest and one southwest, and connecting them to the antenna switch boxes Gene and Don made last year. Gene believes preamps are not necessary for them. There was some discussion whether to use pennant or square style receiving antennas.
  - Participation: It seems people feel intimidated and afraid to mess up. We need to emphasize that this is a fun event with a little good-natured competition thrown in, not a cutthroat competition with no fun.
  - Signs: Signs for the Field Day need to be put farther back from the Hobby Park entrance so people have advance warning, and folks putting out the signs need to be careful, as that's a 55 MPH zone.
  - Operating class: If we run 9A, what bands will we be running? 2 on 80m, 2 on 40m, 2 on 20m, 2 on 15m, and 1 on 10m makes the 9. The 6m, 2m and GOTA stations don't count.
  - Operating stations: Gary Miller may not be able to participate - we are missing three rigs between him and Gene if that occurs. Where might we get rigs? Don brings 1, the club brings 2, Daryl brings 1. We may be able to get Doc's IC-7300 and use the club's 706 as well. Jerry Minor may be able to bring a 706, and Henry may be able to bring a couple of 920s. The Scouts radio will be used for the GOTA.
  - Logging: We will need computers to log with. The club has two (Laptops? Desktops?), but we'll need one for each station.
  - Safety: If we shut the generators down because of a thunderstorm, we need to flag them off so no one comes by and starts them back up again. The antenna connector panels will be grounded, and they have banana plugs to ground the center contacts on the SO-239s. Lightningmaps.org has near real-time (about 5 second delay) maps showing the location of lightning strikes - that may be helpful in addition to the weather radar.

#### 5. ARES items:

- Accessibility for the rigs to be used in the EOC: When the new EOC is completed, there will be a full-fledged drill, activating the ARES team and manning the EOC for a period of time. There was discussion about accessing the club radios when the county emergency management decides to conduct the drill - it probably won't be announced ahead of time. It was determined that we have a basic HF rig that we bought for the old EOC that is available. It is not in a go box. Harlan can keep that rig for deployment when needed. Recommended the procurement of a hard-side suitcase and storing the mic, power supply, jumpers and power hookups, adapters and everything that goes with it in the suitcase.
- May 28 Pilot Mountain bike rally: Known as the Flow BMW Mountain Madness. Time 0700-1500. They still need a few more volunteers. 3 rest stops, 4 mobile units. Only the road up Sauratown Mountain will be closed. Bikes will not be staged on old 52 for the start.
- Tour to Tanglewood: Bike MS is working to get some trailer hitch mounted bike racks donated for the event duration for hams who cannot use a deck-mount rack. Harlan also discussed the

Brian Gerlach Act with Bike MS, who will be contacting the state to request an exemption for ham operators because of their public service work. Four of the Bike MS staff have started studying for their Technician licenses and expect to have them by this year's event.

**6. Reynolda House Samuel Morse event QSL Cards:** Ray is pretty far along on the design, but we need to get them printed. Don offered to print them, 4-up on 8.5 x 11. The requests all came in with a SASE.

**7. Mission Statement and Bylaws:** David asked if we have a mission statement and the bylaws, and where they could be found. Don, WS4NC, has a copy squirreled away on his web server and will make arrangements to get them.

**8. Club Insurance:** Kent Englebert, K4NHK mentioned insurance is coming up and asked if we had purchased any equipment that needed to be added to the policy. Henry W2DZO reported that the equipment has already been added.

**9. Club Cleanup:** David, KC4X recommended we try a July or August cleanup of the shack. The empty file cabinet is to replace the two broken cabinets. The stuff on the back table can go to the hamfest, except for the duplexer. The remainder of the 220 stuff needs to go. We need to be very protective of equipment manuals and historical documents.

**10. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2039 hours.