

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 08 May 2017

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 08 May 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 39, for coming out this evening, and invited each to introduce themselves.

2. Recognition of Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII: Harold Richardson-N4HER presented Mason with a monogrammed vest in recognition of all that he has done to promote Amateur Radio and his DXpedition to Iceland.

3. Treasurers Report: Kent Englebert, K4HKE, gave the current treasurer's report. The current bank balance: \$ 4597.78 with an insurance bill of approximately \$300 and a couple of other minor bills due. Kent announced the name tags that were ready to pick up and reminded members to come see him if they would like name tags printed up.

4. Website: David Shoaf-KC4X announced that the website has been switched over to the new server and invited everyone to check it out and email corrections and comments to info@w4nc.com. Brief discussion on who actually receives those emails ensued – currently it is the club secretary. David also reminded attendees of the business meeting next Monday night. We gather about 6:30 to eat and start the business meeting at 7:30.

5. Field Day Planning: Daryl Knight-N5WK reported on the current plans, status and needs for Field Day.

Field Day will be the fourth weekend in June – 6/24 and 6/25. We will be operating as 9A class again, which means nine rigs and nine antennas to go up. Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, who usually coordinates all the antenna work, will be unavailable to participate this year, so we will need a lot of help.

Daryl asked for anyone willing to be in charge of raising an antenna to please note that on the antenna sign-up sheet being passed around. We will meet out at Hobby Park on Friday 6/23 to get the antenna support ropes up and then Saturday morning to get the actual antennas up and stations ready to begin operating at 2:00 pm. Daryl also asked those who would like to operate to put down their name, mode and the times they would like to operate. We are adding 80CW this year and will need additional CW operators. Daryl mentioned that we tend to run out of operators about 2:00am on Sunday and we need people who can fill some spots then. Daryl also asked for a volunteer to run the GOTA station, and someone to take the W1AW bulletins once we start operating.

A question was raised about operating as a different class this year. Last year 10 meters wasn't open, so we were kind of only operating as a 7A, and if we had been in that class, we probably would have won by about 1500 points. On the other hand, conditions are getting worse and other clubs are probably re-evaluating their positions, so switching would just be a roll of the dice. We really won't know what class we can operate in until 2:00 pm on Saturday, when we see what all antennas we have up.

Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO reported two items; 1. Councilman Besse will be there on Field Day, and 2. he has a bid on turn-key BBQ for Field Day, which will be discussed at the business meeting.

6. Presentation – What is ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Services: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, gave a presentation on the what, why, how or ARES.

Brief Overview

What is it – It is us – licensed amateur radio operators using our expertise in communications for emergency services.

We support various agencies – American Red Cross, Winston Salem Forsyth County Emergency Management, and some other counties if asked - Davidson, Davie, Yadkin.

ARES is considered by federal and state government to be in the public interest, convenient and necessary for all RF spectrums. ARES is the public service side of the ARRL, authorized by 14CFR97.1

History of ARRL EMCOMM:

1914 - 1935: Ad-hoc and individual volunteers

1935: Amateur Radio Emergency Corps established the first organized amateur radio emergency response.

1980: Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) created, emphasizing public service communications support to served agencies:

- American Red Cross
- State and Local Emergency Management Agencies (WSFC Emergency Management)
- Department of Homeland Security and FEMA

ARES field organization:

- Consists of local, regional, and national level units such as the National Traffic System (NTS).
- ARES: (Administration and Training)
 - National Level: ARRL HQ
 - Section Emergency Coordinator (Tom Brown N4TAB)
 - District Emergency Coordinator (Optional) (District 9 - Dal Williams W4YQY)
 - County Emergency Coordinator (Harlan Cobert W1HRC)
 - Assistant Emergency Coordinators (Optional)
 - Dale Mierisch WB9SZL
 - Jim Mansfield WA4NOT
 - ARES Members - YOU

ARES Membership Requirements:

Any licensed amateur can participate - Technician class and up are welcome - you do not have to be able to operate on HF to participate - 90 percent of what we do is on 2M and 70CM. You do not have to be an ARRL member unless in a management position. There are no membership fees or dues, and no minimum service obligation.

Training requirements:

To work in the Red Cross, or a shelter, or for supporting Bike MS, (somewhere other than a command post or the EOC) you only need local ARES training - like this meeting and participating in the weekly ARES net (Thursday night, 8:30 145.470).

To work NC Section Operations (must be NCAUXCOMM registered) or to work in the Emergency Operations Center requires proof of completion of four NIMS courses known as Incident Command System (ICS) courses listed below:

- ICS-700 sets the stage for the other incident command courses
- ICS-800 outlines the response at the Federal level
- ICS-100 describes the incident command structure
- ICS-200 further describes the incident command structure

The courses can be taken online as independent study, or in a classroom environment. Harlan is working on setting up some in-house classes after Field Day that will be taught by qualified instructors from here in the county. Harlan needs a minimum of 6 people signed up in order to schedule a class. Classes run three hours each; they would probably run two levels in one day (6 hours), then a month or two later, the remaining two classes. The instructor-led classes are probably the easiest way; the online courses should be taken in the order listed rather than numerical order to avoid getting lost.

ARES members who have completed the NIMS training can, if they wish to do NC Section Operations, register on the NCAUXCOMM database (or Harlan will handle it).

Amateurs who are NCAUXCOMM registered may be requested to deploy on behalf on NC State anywhere in the state in the event of a long-term or major disaster. Once registered, there are also additional, more extensive, courses available that would qualify you to work in a county dispatch center, or forward EOC operating their radios, as their radio operator.

Helpful links about ARES in general and to the online classes:

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/training.html> explains the training requirements and has links to get the required FEMA Student ID to be used in registering for the classes.

<http://www.arri.org/ares> has links to the ARES Manual and the ARES Field Resources Manual. Personal preparedness considerations are touched on under the Volunteers Wanted heading.

<https://training.fema.gov/nims/> has links to the individual courses.

<http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/>

ARES Emergency Operations:

Harlan explained that ARES operators are always embedded with the served agency, serving as part of their team. He also discussed length of deployment for short and long-term disasters. Short term disaster or emergency deployments are from one to three (possibly up to seven) days; long term disaster deployments are from four days to a month. ARES stayed in operation in the eastern part of the state for over thirty days in response to Hurricane Matthew. Volunteers may be asked to provide communications support or other duties involved with communications. Other volunteer opportunities include Baptist Men, LDS Hams, SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network - satern.org).

Forsyth County Worst Case Scenario:

- Major winter storm with significant ice accumulation
- 100% of the county is without power and water
- 100% of landline and cellular telecommunications are down
- Significant road closures

- Situation exists for extended period of time - over thirty days

Local hams would serve as the neighborhood communication lifeline to the EOC, becoming the neighborhood interface to 911 while the phones are down. Hams would also man a station in the EOC. In the event of an outage of the 800 MHz trunking system, we can use HF to provide regional communications. Emergency power requirements/options were discussed and we were encouraged to think about how we would cope.

There will be a drill for this scenario - hopefully not conflicting with Field Day.

Other extreme situations considered include an epidemic/pandemic where 1/3 to 2/3 of the population is affected and enforced quarantine (shelter in place) is likely for an extended period. The affected population would include 198 to 435 of the approximately 660 hams in Forsyth County. The mission here would be morale boost nets and again, serving as neighborhood communication points.

Public Service Events:

Pilot Mountain Charity Ride on May 28. Initial meetup will be at Armfield Center, 873 W 52 Bypass. The event is expected to last from 0700 to approximately 1500 hours. ARES will be providing communications support for mobile support vehicles, rest stops, and the command post.

Bike MS - Tour to Tanglewood on September 16 and 17. The mission is communications support and emergency coordination. As usual, hams will be manning the support vehicles, but this year, we are encouraged to volunteer to use our POV as a SAG wagon. Bike racks will be provided. Hams will also be manning the rest stops and the command post. The command post will be in a new, more central location, with ready access to the event decision makers. Cellular phones will only be used when dealing with protected personal information such as a name, address, or phone number. This will help ensure net control remains in the loop and knows when items have been handled.

All ham participants with an Android smartphone are encouraged to install APRSdroid for the event so net control will know who is closest to any incident. That operator will become the on-site leader, assigning folks to direct traffic, collecting data for the Incident Response Form to provide to law enforcement upon their arrival. (More training will be provided as we get closer to the event.)

Harlan also commented on the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) (47 CFR 97.407) RACES operators must be registered with local Civil Defense/Emergency Management, and must have completed the NIMS courses mentioned earlier.

Once the President's War Emergency Powers have been invoked, only registered RACES stations may transmit on frequency spectrums authorized pursuant to 47 CFR Part 214.

To Become an ARES member:

Email Harlan, W1HRC at fcare.w1hrc@gmail.com or 46navywillys@gmail.com

Complete and submit form FSD-98, available from the EC coordinator (Harlan), the club newsletter or the following URL:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/fsd98.pdf>

7. VE report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL reported two test sessions. He recognized the VEs, without whom we would not have several hundred new hams over the past few years.

Tonight we had 4 successful candidates – John Johnson WB4PZO got his Extra, Edward Walbroehl-KE4ZFT upgraded to General, and Bryant Jarvis-KN4DCO and Marty Boles-KN4DCP got their Technician licenses. Congratulations to all.

8. Repeater report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL reported that all three are up, but two are not in good shape. The 145.47 long-range repeater on Sauratown Mountain is working fine, as is the associated Echolink node. The 146.64 machine still has a rogue pager occasionally swamping the input, so the associated Echolink node is impaired for that reason.

9. Reynolda House Samuel FB Morse: David Shoaf-KC4X remarked on the Community Day event Saturday, April 29, running from 11 until 3. Harold Richardson-N4HER reported we had 30 contacts on the Community Day event, for a total of 90 contacts for the N4M Samuel Morse special event call sign. The station setup under the gazebo attracted a lot of attention and several members, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Harold Richardson-N4HER, John Kippe-K1PPE, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV and David Shoaf-K4CX among them, each spoke with several curious attendees.

10. Hamfest: David Shoaf reminded everyone of our hamfest coming up Saturday, June 3, from 0800 until 1100 at Summit School. This is before our next meeting. David asked for a volunteer to coordinate getting other volunteers to help with the fest.

Harold Richardson-N4HER, reminded of two other hamfests May 13 in Reidsville and May 27th in Durham.

11. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by several attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2044 hours.

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

David Shoaf-KC4X, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Marty Boles-KN4DCP, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Henry Smith-W4HHS, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ, Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS, Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII, Chris Rodie-KW4VK, Bill Kennedy-WD4OTY, Mike Brown-W4LKN, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Rick Batte-N4MBI, David Ramsey-W4OIL, John Kippe-K1PPE, Judson Davis-KG4OHQ, Van Key-KC4WSK, Alberto Lorenzo-KK4TUW, Ron Adkins-KM4WPN, David McDonald-N5WNB, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Jim Marler-KM4HUZ, Chuck Small-KM4IVY, Hiram Johnson-WB4PZO, Brent Goodwin-KN4ACN, Jason Powell-KX4CS, Andre Maikoo-KM4ECV, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Jim Adkins-W4UX, Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ.