

## **Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 12 June 2017**

### **By Terry Brown (AK4D) former Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club**

**1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The 12 June 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 38, for coming out this evening, and invited each to introduce themselves.

**2. Treasurers Report: Kent Englebert, K4HKE**, FARC Treasurer could not attend the meeting, but **David Shoaf-KC4X** reported the current club bank balance of \$ 4159.22. This amount did not include some food expenses for the upcoming Field Day. Also, David reported that the recent Hamfest grossed approximately \$700 and thanked the Vagabonds for their donation of \$125 to the club. After room rent and other expenses, a net amount of approximately \$575 from the Hamfest was realized.

**3. Business Meeting Change of Location: David Shoaf-KC4X** reminded attendees of the business meeting next Monday night-19 June. He announced that the normal meeting place, Ham's Restaurant at Thruway Shopping Center, for the business meeting had closed. The upcoming business meeting on 19 June would be held at "The Sherwood" restaurant at Sherwood Plaza Shopping Center located at 3348 Robinhood Road in Winston-Salem. Meeting attendees will gather about 6:30 to eat and the business meeting will start at 7:30.

#### **4. ARES Report:**

**a. Pilot Mountain Charity Ride:** ARES Coordinator **Harlan Cobert-W1HRC**, gave a summary of the Pilot Mountain Charity Ride held on 28 May. Harlan reported event coordinators were exceptionally pleased with the help and assistance that FARC amateur radio operators provided. He also reported that the event will be held again next year and our help was needed again. He then presented to the club a \$250 donation check from the event coordinators thanking us for our help.

**b. Tour to Tanglewood:** Harlan reminded everyone about the 16-17 September Tour to Tanglewood event and the need for club volunteers for this event. He stated that he would be talking about this more and the number of amateur radio operators needed as the date of this event got closer.

**c. Changes to ARES Net:** Harlan told of a change to the Thursday night ARES net. For check-in, participants would only have to give their callsign after calling "net control" and then making sure they were not doubling with another person trying to check-in. He said this should dramatically speed up the check in process. He stated that this procedure is very similar to actual emergency operation's check-in process.

**d. State Bill Concerns:** Finally, Harlan reminded meeting attendees of bills being considered in the North Carolina General Assembly concerning distracted driving. The bills, if enacted, would prohibit driver cell phone use and other distractions. He requested that club members contact their elected State representatives and request that vehicle use of amateur radio be excluded from the prohibitions. A major concern if the legislation is enacted and put into law are the impacts to ARES volunteers in SAG wagons in events like the Tour to Tanglewood. Harlan stated that similar laws that have been enacted in some states have had to have follow-up bills specifically excluding Amateur Radio operation from being prohibited.

**5. VE Report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL** thanked the eight VE's that helped with the test session prior to the meeting. Four persons took advantage of the VE test session resulting in three upgrading to a General license (**Ralph D. Kudart-KD7OVA, Martin T.Boles-KN4DCP** and **James D. Cole-KM4QPR**) and one to Extra (**Edward D. WalbroehI-KE4ZFT**). Congratulations to all.

**6. Tech/Repeater Report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL** reported that all repeaters were working, but that the 146.64 repeater was still hit occasionally by a rogue pager at Baptist Hospital. This was still being investigated and solutions evaluated to solve the issue. Dale mentioned that some repairs to all repeaters would be done this summer.

**7. Field Day Planning: Daryl Knight-N5WK**, Field Day coordinator, reported on the current plans, status and needs for Field Day and then led discussion on the following items.

**a. General Schedule:**

**1. Friday-23 June:** Meet at 9am at Hobby Park. Antenna support ropes and lines will be put in trees and antennas would be setup. Additionally, coax lines may be run from antennas to the operational shelter if grass in the area does not need mowing.

**2. Saturday-24 June:** The traditional Field Day Saturday breakfast meeting at 8 am will again be at Jimmy the Greek Restaurant near the Red Cross Building. About 9am, there will be a need for folks to be at the Red Cross to move equipment to Hobby Park and to put the equipment into place. Field Day operation will begin at 2pm. Dinner is planned for 6pm.

**3. Sunday-25 June:** Field Day operation will continue through 4:59 pm Sunday. After that time, antennas will be taken down and rolled up, support lines in trees removed, coax rolled up, and all equipment will be reorganized and boxed. All club items will then be put into vehicles and moved back to the FARC shack in the Red Cross building.

**b. Specifics:**

**1. Safety Officer: Harlan Cobert-W1HRC**, will be safety officer. **Harold Richardson-N4HER** stated there will be two fire extinguishers for use if needed.

**2. Get On The Air (GOTA) Station: Daryl Knight-N5WK** explained what the GOTA station is. Discussion was held on the need for GOTA operators and coaches. **Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV** stated he was unsure how many scouts would be at Field Day this year due to the annual scouting event at Camp Raven Knob held at the same dates as Field Day. Geoff will bring the scout HF radio and its power supply for use at Field Day. He will also bring a G5RV antenna for use if needed again this year. The best band to use for the GOTA station was discussed and is 40m. GOTA operators will make contacts and log contacts. Geoff also explained that GOTA coaches cannot make contacts nor log contacts, but are there to "coach" operators and loggers in proper techniques. **Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ** reported that the call-sign for the GOTA station will be W4S and that he had contacted the Salvation Army for any of their youth volunteers that could be GOTA station operators.

**3. Media: Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ** reported that media coverage on newspapers, television including WXII and Facebook has been done. He also reported that the Salvation Army and an elected

official (possibly Winston-Salem city council member contacted by **Henry Heidtmann-W4DZO**) are supposed to attend Field Day. Photos will be needed to show evidence of visits from dignitaries, setups, and of operators.

**4. FARC Field Day Category and Scheduling Operators:** **Daryl Knight-N5WK** stated that FARC will be classified as 9A, ie, nine operating stations excluding VHF/UHF and GOTA station which are not counted in the total number of stations. CW, SSB and Digital operational modes will be used. Daryl emphasized the need for new operators at Field Day, for new operators to join in the fun and not be intimidated. He passed a sign-up scheduling sheet around the room for operators to sign up for an operational mode and time.

**5. Radios:** **Daryl Knight-N5WK** stated that some club members who have brought radios in the past may not be at Field Day this year. He requested that anyone considering bringing their own radio consult with him first.

**6. Antenna Trailer:** **Harold Richardson-N4HER** updated everyone on the club's antenna trailer. He stated that the tires on the trailer had been replaced and the jacks repaired and that the trailer was ready to go. Lock keys had been redone and should work. Bee spray may be needed for any nests found on the trailer. **Harlan Cobert-W1HRC** will bring the trailer over to Hobby Park.

**7. Coax Discussion:** Labels will be placed on coaxes as they are being placed on Friday showing band and location used for quicker use in next year's Field Day. Run all coaxes for SSB use into one grounding panel and for CW use into a second grounding panel to prevent interference. A coaxes will be run behind building. **Harold Richardson-N4HER** will clean and bring barrel connectors for coax connections and will also bring tape to keep moisture out of coax connections.

**8. Logging:** Discussion was held on laptops that will be needed for logging and **Daryl Knight-N5WK** will try to do an inventory of club laptops and laptops brought in by club members. The predominant logging program will be WriteLog. **Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO** will have installation code if needed. **Jim Adkins-W4UX** will be using N1MM. The needed end item will be the Cabrillo file from any logging program.

**9. Generators:** **Harold Richardson-N4HER** will get gasoline for the generators and will bring a pump for refilling generators safely. Pallets will be need to hold generators off the ground.

**10. HF Bands To Be Used:** HF bands to be used will be 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters. **Jim Adkins-W4UX** stated that the "money" bands will be 20 and 40 meters, then 80 meters CW and SSB. Hope was expressed that 10m will not be as inactive as it was last year.

**11. 6M, VHF and Satellite Operation:** 6M, 2M and satellite operations are not counted as part of the FARC 9A operational designation. **Harold Richardson-N4HER** stated that a 2-M beam and J-Pole will be put up on a push-up beam to about 30 feet for hourly contacts. It was agreed that little success had been had in previous Field Day's with satellite contact operations with success only in about one out of fifteen Field Day events. **Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII** asked about 6-M operation.

**12. Radiograms:** **Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT** will handle radiograms.

**13. Food: Steve Patterson-WA3RTC** updated everyone on the 6pm Saturday dinner. The dinner will be BBQ, slaw, rolls, baked beans and banana pudding. Steve will make the banana pudding. Water and sodas will be available for drinking. He requested that he be notified of any special food needs. Additionally, Steve requested that large ice chests be brought to Field Day and he will get those filled with ice.

**14. Miscellaneous Comments: David Shoaf-KC4X** stated the need for folks to bring drop cords and power strips. He also recommended that anything that club members bring be clearly labeled with their name and call-sign. David will also put on each station a typical QSO statement. The status of the large fan was to be investigated and brought to Field Day if found and operational.

**8. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by several attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2032 hours.

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

David Shoaf-KC4X, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ, Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS, Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII, Chris Rodie-KW4VK, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Rick Batte-N4MBI, David Ramsey-W4OIL, John Kippe-K1PPE, Van Key-KC4WSK, Alberto Lorenzo-KK4TUW, Ron Adkins-KM4WPN, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Jason Powell-KX4CS, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Jim Adkins-W4UX, Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ, Terry Brown-AK4D, Bob McClellan-W3AVB, Mary McClellan-KM4WPO, Jim Bielski-KJ4FIN, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Colvin Baily, Ed Walbroehl-KE4ZFT, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Jim Cole-KM4QPR, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Joshua Vogel-KD0PQQ, Robert Gusek-NC4RG, Andrew Gusek-NC4AG, and Don Edwards-WS4NC.