

# Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 17 July 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, 17 July 2017 at Mi Pueblo, 644 South Stratford Road, Winston Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC President David Shoaf, K4CX, at 1931 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees.

**2. Meeting Attendees:** The 20 meeting attendees were Van Key-KC4WSK, Terry Brown-AK4D, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, John Kippe-K1PPE, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, David Shoaf-KC4X, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Dan O'leary-KG4ECI, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Pedro Tomas.

**3. Reynolda House QSL cards:** Don showed the cards to Ray, who will sort through them and the SASEs we received to find out which ones will fit.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Kent Englebert, K4HKE, reported that the current balance was \$3,501.78 with only the phone and cable bills outstanding.

**5. Field Day:** Daryl Knight, N5WK, was unable to attend, so David Shoaf, KC4X, opened discussion for Field Day.

- Reserving Hobby Park for Field Day next year - What is the procedure? Kent, K4HKE, will look through the receipts to see when the reservation is made and get with Henry, W2DZO, to make sure it doesn't fall through the cracks.
- Don Edwards, WS4NC, suggested that we set up a podium with a guestbook for everyone, both visitors and participants, to sign in. Ropes to funnel people toward the guestbook were also suggested.
- Field Day Antennas - These never seem to be in the same place twice. Multiple options were discussed. One was individual plastic totes for each antenna and storing them in the closet. An unstated assumption in this suggestion seemed to be that the loops with their spreaders would be replaced with wire dipoles to conserve space. Harold N4HER stated that we need to decide which way we are going to go with the antennas - Gene has been building broadband loop antennas so we don't need tuners on each of the transmitters, and if we switch to dipoles, we are going to be narrow-banded. David KC4X argued that he has heard discussion that folks would prefer dipoles as they take fewer people and are easier to put up than the loops. Another suggestion was for the antenna captains to take their respective coax and antennas and store them at their homes. A final suggestion was for the club to acquire a trailer to store all of the antennas, coax, filters, generator, etc. ready to go. We tabled discussion on the matter because of the QRM.
- David Shoaf, KC4X and Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, have been further discussing cleaning up the shack. David KC4X, Henry W2DZO, Steve WA3RTC and others cleaned up the shack closet and

put some pieces of equipment that aren't being used on the table at the far end of the shack. We need to figure out what we are going to do with that gear.

**6. ARES Banner:** Harlan, W1HRC asked about getting a banner like the one Ray K4ZGV had made for the Reynolda House project, but with the ARES and W4NC logos on it. That was \$50 at Kinko's. Purchase of said banner was moved and seconded.

**7. Winter Hamfest:** David Shoaf, KC4X, reported that Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, not present, had warned that we were unlikely to be able to use Summit School for our winter hamfest. David and Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, are going to check with Steve's church and see if that location would be available and if there would be a fee. Other potential sites are the old K-Mart building on Peters Creek Parkway (next to Gabe's), and the old Dodge dealership also on Peters Creek. Part of the Dodge dealership property is now being used by the Salvation Army, but they may be willing to share. Another potential option is the West Central Community center in Pfafftown where we used to hold the October hamfest.

**8. Interference on the 64 repeater:** Dale WB9SZL suggested we consider purchasing a narrowband filter for the .64 repeater. Initial thoughts were to acquire a used filter for about \$200, but Don WS4NC suggested we get a crystal receive filter for under \$400 and now we have solved the problem. Moved and seconded that we buy the \$400 crystal filter.

**9. Discussion of alternate meeting places:**

- 66 Pizza

**10. ARES:** Harlan called again for those planning to support Tour to Tanglewood to sign up so he knows early how many folks we will have. For folks that have signed up, Harlan needs to know what vehicle they have and how many it can carry; a mini pickup with two seats will not have room for bike riders. Harlan confirmed that we will have trailer hitch bike racks available, coming from Raleigh, and that local bike shops are being canvassed to see if they would loan any for the event.

We paused briefly to sing Happy Birthday to Cassie, whose party was being thrown on the other side of the room...

The ARES net is doing EOC operations training for the next couple of weeks. Then end of the month, there will be a tactical call sign demonstration during the net. The ARES net on the second Thursday in August will probably be another simplex exercise with initial check in, as usual, on the repeater.

ECOMM Net Controller Training session: Harlan hopes to have a two-hour training session, with a little bit of classroom instruction and then a practice exercise in the classroom. This will cover situations that come up such as having one operator running two radios, or two operators running three and how to effectively manage that. One of the reasons is that shows the state we are serious about being able to effectively support their needs. North Carolina and Forsyth County plan to be using ARES even when FirstNet is implemented, which seems to be about

CERT Steering Committee: Harlan and the county Emergency Management team met with the CERT Steering Committee to discuss incorporating CERT with the ARES operations so we have a plan for accommodating both CERT and ARES communications needs on the operating frequency.

FEMA Classes: FEMA ICS classes probably will end up in October, due to the county being swamped right now. Harlan reminds folks that take the classes online to finish a section before shutting down the PC or leaving the site or else the system will force them to start that section over.

**11. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2008 hours.