

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 10 July 2017

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 10 July 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 47, for coming out this evening, and invited each to introduce themselves.

2. Treasurers Report: Our treasurer, Kent Englebert, K4HKE, was unable to attend; David Shoaf, KC4X, gave the treasurer's report in his absence. The current bank balance: \$ 3,828.84, with a few little Field Day items remaining to pay out.

3. Field Day Results: David Shoaf, KC4X, opened discussion of Field Day results by congratulating Don Edwards, WS4NC, for his newsletter coverage of the Field Day event. David also announced that we were featured in the Monday, June 26 edition of the Winston Salem Journal, on the front page and above the fold! Saturday morning was hectic, but we got everything together and got on the air just in time to shut down for the thunderstorm...

Daryl Knight, N5WK reported that this year, we made 3,556 QSOs for 13,494 points, a significant increase from last year. For reference, in 2016 we had 3,039 QSOs for 11,908 points. Last year's winning point score was 12,700 and change, so we are ahead of that score. Daryl thanked everyone for their efforts in getting these results.

David Shoaf, KC4X, announced a process improvement we will put into place next year, when we will unload the heavy coax at the top of the hill, and unroll it downhill, putting gravity to work. Rolling them back up will also start from the top of the hill...

Link to newspaper photo gallery:

http://www.journalnow.com/gallery/news/forsyth-amateur-radio-club-field-day/collection_95d09d26-59d4-11e7-a525-a387eac41a15.html

Link to newspaper story, with photos and video:

http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/ham-radio-operators-of-all-ages-participate-in-amateur-radio/article_8f721eaa-7060-5655-b803-d13a6bb0334d.html

4. ARES Report: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, reported that ARES is getting between 20 and 22 check-ins every Thursday evening, but would like to see more folks sign up and participate. In preparation for the Tour to Tanglewood, ARES members will run Tactical Call Sign Training on the 145.47 repeater starting at 8:30pm on Thursday, July 28. On August 9, the event will be a simplex net after initial check-in on the 145.47 repeater.

Tour to Tanglewood will be September 16 and 17, utilizing between 22 and 26 operators. Bike MS is asking that if you have a radio-equipped vehicle you are willing to use as a SAG, they will have strap-on bike racks and anticipate having receiver-hitch style bike racks available. Bike MS throughout the southeast is moving to an ARES member/driver + navigator model rather than a driver/navigator + ARES

member. Harlan will be going to New Bern the weekend before Tour to Tanglewood to see how that model works.

Harlan passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers. They will need 10 SAGs, probably 8 rest stops and 4 shadows.

ARES information including the net schedule is available at the club website:

<http://w4nc.com/ARES.htm>

5. VE report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported more VEs than examinees this time. He recognized the seven VEs for their support to the hobby.

6. Repeater report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported that all three repeaters are up and running, but the .64 Echolink node was down at the time of the meeting.

7. Presentation - Radio Scouting: Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV, gave a presentation on Radio Scouting and how that program works to get Scouts interested in amateur radio. Geoff's presentation also provided a roadmap for those who had never done scouting but would like to volunteer. While not a scout master, Geoff had two boys go through the program and is a member of the Troop 719 Committee of in Lewisville, supporting many scouting activities.

Geoff took us through the poster showing ways to get involved in Radio Scouting and went into each item in detail.

Scouts are introduced to the concept and practice of Amateur Radio via Jamboree on the Air by getting them talking with other scouts worldwide over the air. JOTA is held the third weekend each October, and this is the 60th year.

Scouts progress in ranking through achieving various goals, such as earning merit badges, and Geoff explained the requirements for the Radio merit badge. (See link below for details.) Earning the Radio merit badge requires the Scout learn about frequencies and bands, call signs, propagation, phonetics, the differences between block diagrams and schematic diagrams, etc. New items on the badge are NOAA weather radios, cellphone abilities, limitations and workarounds. The Scout can choose between four specializations: Amateur Radio, Broadcast Radio, Shortwave Listening, and Amateur Radio Direction Finding.

A lot of scouts go out for the Emergency Preparedness merit badge, which requires taking part in an emergency service project. These projects and simulations can be hard to find, but the ARRL Field Day counts and it happens every year.

There are two further progressions a Scout can make past the Radio merit badge. One is an Amateur Radio Operator insignia, or strip, by earning any class of amateur radio license; the other is a Morse Code Interpreter strip, which counts as a second language.

A Scout needs a counselor to earn a merit badge, and Geoff went through the process of becoming a counselor, where you register as an adult, which includes a background check, and completing Youth Protection Training, which needs to be renewed every two years. Apparently you need to renew your registration as a counselor every year also.

Geoff mentioned K2BSA, which is the callsign for the national radio club for scouting. They put together the teaching materials and workbooks for helping Scouts earn their merit badges. See link below.

There are four high-adventure locations for Scouting:

1. Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico
2. Northern Tier, in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of Minnesota
3. Florida Sea Base in the Florida Keys
4. The Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve, Glen Jean, West Virginia

The newest location for the National Jamboree is The Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve. They expect 40,000 scouts, leaders and volunteers. K2BSA has recruited over 40 amateur radio operators to be on hand. They will be starting a new radio merit badge class every hour; each class takes four hours. They hope to expose ten percent of the people to Amateur Radio during the Jamboree.

Geoff mentioned a few milestone dates to illustrate how long amateur radio has been a part of scouting. The first transatlantic transmission is credited as occurring in 1901, the Boy Scouts were founded in 1910, and the Radio merit badge was created in 1918. Geoff commented that technically, it was originally the Wireless merit badge but was renamed to the Radio merit badge around 1923 to keep it from being confused with the Verizon merit badge...

Geoff ran his presentation on a Raspberry Pi!

Links on Scouting and Amateur Radio:

<http://www.k2bsa.net>

http://www.scouting.org/jota/radio_merit_badge.aspx

<http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Radio>

<http://www.arrl.org/radio-scouting>

8. New location of Business Meeting: David Shoaf, K4CX, announced that a room had been reserved for the upcoming business meeting at the Mi Pueblo on Stratford Road.

9. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by several attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2028 hours.

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

Ian MacArthur-W4STH, Stacey MacArthur-W1LLO, Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, David Shoaf-KC4X, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Jim Bielski-KJ4FIN, Daryl Knight-N5WK, David Ramsey-W4OIL, John Kippe-K1PPE, Fred Horton-NA4P, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Dave Larson-KM4RAB, Van Key-KC4WSK, Ron Adkins-KM4WPN, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ, Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Jim Sarfert-N3LBJ, Matt Taylor-KB1BSR, Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ, Kevin Jenkins, Mary McClellan-KM4WPO, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Terry Brown-AK4D, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Cheryl Matrazzo, Stabler Matrazzo, Joshua Vogel-KD0PQQ, Chris Rodie-KW4VK, Henry Smith-W4HHS, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Johnathan Sharp-KM4RAD, Mark Gaines-KM4TUK, Jim Atkins-W4UX, Bob McClellan-W3AVB, Pedro Tomas, Alberto Lorenzo-KK4TUW, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG.