

# Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 14 August 2017

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

**1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The 14 August 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 46, 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: \$ 3,686.56 with a couple of the monthly bills to pay out.

**3. Field Day:** David Shoaf, KC4X, reported we cannot make the Field Day reservation for next year until November when the reservation period opens. We have yet to hear how we scored overall.

**4. ARES Report:** Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, reported the latest local ARES news:

- Harlan and Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT attended the first EOC operation in the new EOC; the Incident Management Team was activated for the Guns and Roses concert. The new EOC has a separate 12x12 room for the ARES team.
- IMT leadership asked Harlan how quickly a ham could be stationed at a fire station in the event of a communication breakdown, suggesting another opportunity for the ARES team to serve.
- Tour to Tanglewood: Volunteers are still needed for. Harlan asked potential and existing volunteers to meet after the meeting to sign up and discuss schedule.
- ICS Class scheduling: The ICS class schedule may change. Note that you have to be registered with NC TERMS before taking the class. Watch [w4nc.com/ARES.htm](http://w4nc.com/ARES.htm) for schedule updates and registration information.
- Brian Garlock Act: The act would ban use of any communication device while operating a motor vehicle and have a negative impact on the ARES operations. States which have passed these bills have either passed them with an Amateur Radio exception or had to go back and add in the exception later. Please send letters to your NC State Senator and NC State House Person requesting they support the exception. Sample letters are available at <http://w4nc.com/legislative.htm>
- Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017: This bill is about allowing radio amateurs to put up effective outdoor antennas. Many homeowner's associations and private land use regulations currently prohibit this. The US House of Representatives has already passed H.R. 555; please contact our US Senators to support this act (S.1534). More info available at <http://w4nc.com/legislative.htm>
- Thursday night we ran a simplex exercise on the ARES net, dropping off the repeater to see how well we could do. The exercise was a success; we identified the need for external antennas and higher powered radios if we don't have use of the repeaters. We will continue to run this exercise periodically to identify stations which can hear other stations to efficiently pass the traffic. Harlan asked for suggestions to make simplex work better and thanked Dale, WB9SZL for his suggestions.

**5. Website update:** Terry Brown, AK4D, discussed the website updates he has done and the new pages with lots of useful info.

- VEC Testing Info: <http://www.w4nc.com/VEC.htm>
- Legislative Info page: <http://w4nc.com/legislative.htm>
- FARC newsletter archive: <http://www.w4nc.com/newsletters.htm>
- ARES: <http://www.w4nc.com/ARES.htm>
- Emergency Preparedness: <http://www.readyforsyth.org/>
- WA7BNM's Contest Calendar: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

**6. New location of Business Meeting:** David Shoaf, KC4X, announced that the August business meeting is being shifted back a day to Tuesday, Aug 22 due to people travelling for the eclipse. The new location will be 66 Pizza located at 3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem, NC. This is an open meeting and all club members are welcome to attend. Attendees usually show up for dinner at or a little before 6:30; the official business meeting starts at 7:30.

David also mentioned the tech meeting that Steve Patterson, WA3RTC has organized. That meeting occurs on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Miller Park Community Center at 400 Leisure Lane in Winston Salem. The next meeting is Sept 19, 2017. The group is further described at the bottom of the main page at <http://w4nc.com> and the home page is <http://almondtree.com/>

David also put out a call for people to volunteer to be Elmers, collecting names and phone numbers of the volunteers.

**7. Foxhunt Antennas:** Harold Richardson, N4HER, asked how many people would be interested in building foxhunt antennas during next month's meeting.

**8. Presentation - Iceland DXpedition:** Mason Matrazzo, KM4SII, gave a fascinating presentation on his March 2017 DXpedition to Iceland. A copy of his powerpoint can be found on the Past Meeting page at <http://www.w4nc.com/past.htm> titled "The DXpedition That Almost Wasn't". Direct link: [http://www.w4nc.com/files/August 2017 The Dxpeditio that almost was not.pdf](http://www.w4nc.com/files/August%202017%20The%20Dxpeditio%20that%20almost%20was%20not.pdf)

Mason will be giving his presentation at the 2018 Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum.

**9. New Hamfest Location:** David, KC4X, announced the 2018 First-Fest will be at a new location, Robinhood Road Baptist Church, 5422 Robinhood Road, Winston Salem, NC. He asked for volunteers to help Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, and Dave Larson, KM4RAB, with the loadin on the Friday before the hamfest.

**10. Membership Chairman:** David, KC4X, asked for a volunteer to work with the secretary, Jim Register, KV4SJ, as the membership chairman as we go into the next year to send emails about renewals and manage the mailing list. Jim Bielski, KJ4FIN and Stacey MacArthur, W1LLO volunteered to assist.

**9. VE report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported more VEs than examinees again. He asked the VEs to stand and recognized them for their support to the hobby. There were two cancellations and two no-shows. One candidate stood for the exam, and the passing rate was 100%. Dale congratulated Glenna Thompson, KM4PBU on her advancement to General.

**10. Repeater report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported that all three repeaters are up and running.

- The 146.64 machine still has the interference problem. The vendor for one potential hardware solution has gone out of business and Dale is now consulting with Don Edwards, WS4NC on other options. The 146.64 Echolink node was down at last month's meeting due to changes in our host's internet configuration, and is back in service.
- The 444.275 repeater is up but not working well; replacement is envisioned for that.
- The 145.47 repeater controller needs repair. Dale and Jerry Minor, K4GW, traveled to Sauratown Mountain with the idea of swapping the controller from Dale's 220 machine with the damaged one. Removal of the damaged controller went well, but the borrowed controller did not work in its new environment - there are some new RF sources in the area that are affecting the controller. The adventure continues...
- There was some jamming affecting the 145.47 repeater and the net controller during the Vagabond net today, Monday Aug. 14 between 2:30 and 3:30. That has been solved; the interfering station has been tracked down and has been taken off the air. Hopefully that will not be a problem again in the future. Dale asked that anyone hearing interference please email him and let him know; that will help us out to try and keep the repeater clean. We will get with those individuals and see if we can convince them to cease that kind of operation. We will continue to monitor the repeater.

**9. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by several attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2034 hours.

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

Pedro Tomas, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Ed Needham-AF4XC, Ed Walbroehl-KE4ZFT, Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ, Cathy Melvin-KM4OCS, Paul Schuh-N4VOA, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Dave Larson-KM4RAB, David Fulton-WD4BYA, Ron Adkins-KM4WPN, Terry Hendrix-KC8OEX, Mason Matrazzo-KM4SII, Gary Miller-WA4VMC, Stacey MacArthur-W1LLO, Doug MacArthur-W4STH, Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU, Bob McClellan-W3AVB, Jim Bielski-KJ4FIN, Mary McClellan-KM4WPO, Bill Kennedy-WD4OTY, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Matt Taylor-KB1BSR, Henry Smith-W4HHS, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, David Ramsey-W4OIL, John Kippe-K1PPE, Tim Brown, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Van Key-KC4WSK, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Mike Brown-W4LKN, Josh Vogel-KD0PQQ, Michael Pope-K4OLD, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Terry Brown-AK4D, Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ, Caroline Kuebert-KM4VCO, David Shoaf-KC4X, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Cheryl, Stabler and Brad Matrazzo.