

# Draft Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 18 September 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, 18 September 2017 at Sixty Six Pizzeria, 3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC President David Shoaf, K4CX, at 1932 hours, welcoming all meeting attendees.

**2. Meeting Attendees:** The 18 meeting attendees were David Shoaf-KC4X, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Sam Poindexter-NI4TG, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Harlan Cobert-W1HRC, Ron Gregoire-W4UDB, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Pedro Tomas, Bob Meier-AA9AU, Jerry Minor-K4GW, John Kippe-K1PPE, Dan O'Leary-KG4ECI, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Terry Brown-AK4D, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, and Michael Pope K4OLD.

**3. First Fest:** David, KC4x, sent info regarding First Fest to Jim Atkins; he will forward that on to the ARRL.

**4. Appreciation:** David Shoaf, KC4X, having received several appreciative comments from attendees, thanked Harold Richardson, N4HER, for a fun antenna building program on the 11th.

**5. Worked All Europe (WAE) Contest:** David, KC4X reported that Brian Kuebert, N4UEZ and Don Edwards, WS4NC, facilitated the event. Mason Matrazzo, KM4SII and Caroline Kuebert, KM4VCO were the sole operators. Friday night they closed the station with 11 contacts due poor band conditions, in part due to solar eruptions. Saturday the bands were dead until the afternoon. They stuck with it; as of the business meeting, the claimed scores showed W4NC as third in the nation and ninth in the world.

**6. CQWW SSB Contest:** This is October 28 and 29, starting at 0000 UTC Saturday and ending 2359 UTC Sunday. That works out to be 8:00 pm EDT Friday, Oct 27 until 7:59 pm EDT Sunday, Oct 29. If we have anyone interested, Henry, W2DZO, will open the building Friday; Don, WS4NC, will open Saturday. Don plans to operate 15M Saturday afternoon between 3 and 6pm. David, KC4X, will announce the opportunity at the next meeting for anyone interested.

**7. Club Hamshack Availability:** David Shoaf, KC4X, opened a discussion about availability of the hamshack and the wording on our website.

- The website states we have a well-equipped and modern hamshack for the use of our members. The unwritten understanding was that the shack was available during Red Cross business hours; the doors were open then and they had staff at the front desk.
- The Red Cross is now always locked and there is no-one at the front desk, so that complicates access.
- John Kippe, K1PPE, suggested we add the phrase "by appointment" to the wording.
- It is also important that people are familiar with the equipment, how to put the station(s) on the air from a secured state, and how to secure the shack before leaving. Also of importance is

making sure that both stations are never set up for the same band, as the transmitting station will either damage or desensitize the receiving station's front end.

- The possibility of running a class the weekend before the CQWW SSB contest was discussed. Henry and Don suggested that people may have difficulty getting free for two weekends in a row, and that perhaps the class should be done during the contest weekend as part of the setup phase and that people will learn better by immediately putting into practice what they were shown.
- Jerry Minor, K4GW, brought up the point that the testing brings in a lot of new hams, but they are primarily familiar with VHF operating protocols; HF operation is different and we need to train for that, as well as how to use the club station.
- Use of the amplifiers was also discussed, as improper operation can burn up a thousand dollar tube.
- The about the club link, <http://w4nc.com/FARC.htm> has been updated to include links to the Elecraft K3 manual, errata, and an operational video to help members get familiar with the rigs.
- The condition of the W4NC tower at the Red Cross was also discussed; it has had some water damage and needs (or needed) sleeving.
- Don has verified with Tom Dunn of the Red Cross that we have permission to install a beam antenna on the Red Cross tower. The beam would be pointing at Europe. The difficulty here is that the Red Cross no longer has the funds and the grounds around the base of the tower are no longer maintained. It was suggested that perhaps the cleanup could be an Eagle Scout public service project.
- The possibility of setting up a third station was brought up, but the filtering system only supports two rigs, and we would face issues like we had during Field Day.

**8. YouTube Streaming:** The computer we were using for UStream would not run the Open Broadcast Studio software for streaming on YouTube. Discussed, moved and seconded spending up to \$300.00 for buying a refurbished PC for streaming. Jerry Minor, K4GW, will see about acquiring one before the next meeting.

We discussed the possibility of adding a second input for capturing the presentation during the meeting, but that would require that someone serve as producer during each meeting. We may add that in post production.

**9. Bylaws Committee:** Terry Brown, AK4D, has been fingered as the Chair, Don Edwards, WS4NC, Henry Heidmann, W2DZO, Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV, Bob Gates, KJ4IC, Jim Register, KV4SJ are the other members.

**10. Club Insurance:** Club insurance is paid up.

**11. Corporate Stamp:** Don asked for clarification on the corporate stamp - is the preference for a self-inking flat stamp, or an embossing stamp. Consensus is to get the embossing stamp. Moved, seconded and approved.

**12. Second hamfest date:** Discussed moving the hamfest to the third weekend in October, rather than having it in June and dealing with high school graduation and Field Day conflicts. Don suggested putting a poll on the back of the January hamfest tickets as to which month people would prefer for our second hamfest.

**13. Fund Raising:** Ron Gregoire, W4UDB, is part of a horology club, that deals with watches and clocks. In that club, the President's Letter, newsletter, and other member communications include a paragraph that suggests members may wish to bequeath items or funds to the club. Ron suggested our club may want to look into this as well. David Shoaf, KC4X, mentioned that at one time, the club owned its own clubhouse, and the funding might be such that we could again. Jerry Minor K4GW, warned that purchase price is only part of the cost - taxes, utilities and upkeep can eat up a budget.

**14. ARES:** Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, noted that the Tour to Tanglewood event went real well. The Net Control station had three radios and a computer that could track the location of every support team including non-hams.

On Sunday they added a radio to communicate with the Pilot Fire Department, who were providing medical support for the event. When the SAG team picked up a cyclist who had fallen, Net Control was able to advise the medical team that they had a patient coming in. Harlan reported that they were very appreciative and that will be a standard part of the setup in future years.

Harlan spoke to the Wake Forest Logistics Director, who was there on Saturday afternoon. It appears more than likely that they will bring in their fifty-three foot mobile command post next year, and net control will be operating from there right next to the medical team. Wake Forest manages the State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) and this is part of that. They are interested in possibly including Amateur Radio teams to their operations.

Harlan showed a picture of the ARES banner which Bike MS put up on the main stage as one of the sponsoring agencies.

**15. Net Control Station Training:** Tentative date Saturday Oct. 14 9am to 11am at the Red Cross building.

**16. Donation:** We received a substantial donation from Brian Major VK2JBM. We will put the list in the newsletter and do a silent auction at the next meeting. Also putting the list up on the website.

**17. Repeater update:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL and Steven Mierisch, KG4JWU went up to Baptist Hospital and worked on the 146.64 repeater, replacing a number of old cables. The repeater is now working much better with much better coverage. Harlan can now hit the repeater from Lake Tomalex.

The 444.275 repeater has very limited receive range right now - Dale will be working that shortly.

**18. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.