

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 11 September 2017

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 11 September 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 53, for coming out this evening, and invited each to introduce themselves.

David apologized for this session not being presented on YouTube due to technical issues.

2. Treasurers Report: Kent Englebort, K4HKE, gave the treasurer's report.

- The current bank balance: \$ 3,482.29 with the normal Spectrum and AT&T bills to pay this month.
- We did receive a couple of new memberships tonight, AD4ET Bruce Thompson and KB4NHB Robert Warren. KB1BSR Matthew Taylor joined in August.
- Kent also mentioned that we received a nice thank you note, now posted on the club bulletin board, from the Reynolda House for our participation in the Samuel Morse event.
- Kent passed out several name tags that he had been unable to distribute. The remainder of the tags that are ready to be picked up are with the secretary. These are KB1BSR, KK4TUW, KM4ECV, KM4UPM, KX4CS, N3MDC, NC4RT and WN4OFT.

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

- Tour to Tanglewood: Still accepting volunteers for the Bike MS event - looking for a few folks to serve as navigators in the SAG wagons. Harlan asked potential and existing volunteers to meet after the meeting to sign up and discuss schedule.
- ARES Operations: Still in a standby mode, but Irma should not affect us other than some winds tonight. The IMT is still on standby.
- ARES Banner: Harlan and Doc WB4QIZ displayed the new ARES banner that will be on display at the Tour event. This banner was purchased with funds donated to ARES in recognition of their support of the Mountain Madness bike event earlier this year.
- Net Control Training: Net Control Station Training at the Red Cross building on October 14 from 9 AM to 11 AM. No sign up is necessary, and you do not need to have completed any of the ICS classes to attend this training. Watch w4nc.com/ARES.htm for any updates to training info.

4. Club Shack Contesting: David Shoaf, KC4X, reported that KM4SII Mason Matrazzo, KM4VCO Caroline Kuebert, N4UEZ Brian Kuebert and at least one other worked the WAE (Worked all Europe) contest the previous weekend. Poor band conditions limited them to 11 QSOs on Friday night; 20M was ok, but not great on Saturday, but they made 250 total contacts during the event. CQWW is later on this month - W2DZO Henry will coordinate. David invited all members to come and get a little experience contesting.

5. YouTube Channel: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, announced that the club will be improving the streaming from what we have been doing. We have created a YouTube channel and will be able to

upload videos up to two hours long. We will be acquiring an updated computer and adding a second video input to make our videos better.

6. Donation: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, announced that we received a wonderful donation of new and nearly-new equipment from a ham from W1 land, formerly from VK2 land, who no longer active on the ham bands and is in the process of moving. We will discuss what to do with it at the business meeting. If you are in the market to set up an HF or VHF station this may be an opportunity for you. There will be more about this at the next meeting.

7. NAS Guantanamo Bay: If you need a new country or a new band, Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, is excited to be going down to NAS Guantanamo Bay October 6-8, and will be operating as KG4HH. If you need Guantanamo Bay on any band, Henry will try to make it happen! Send him an email or get in touch with him some other way in the next month to coordinate.

8. Newsletter: David Shoaf, KC4X, reminded members that the newsletter is up on the website - all the ones that that Don had printed out had already been scarfed up. David recognized Don Edwards, WS4NC for all the effort that goes into making a good looking newsletter.

9. Business Meeting Reminder: David Shoaf, KC4X, reminded everyone that the September business meeting will be held at 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.

10. 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. Dale congratulated three candidates that successfully passed their exam, either for the first time or for an upgrade. The successful candidates are KN4FUA Matthew Thompson (T), KN4FUB Richard Talbert (T) and KM4LDR Scot Garrison (E).

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

- The 146.64 machine still has the interference problem.
- 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 continue to monitor the repeater.

12. Presentation - Foxhunt Antennas: Harold Richardson, N4HER, demonstrated how to build 2M Tape Measure Beam antennas. These antennas are handy for locating interfering sources and for the foxhunting radiosport. Harold had built an entire workstation with jigs for cutting the elements to length, punching holes in the right places and holding the elements to sanding off the paint at the connection points. He warned all to be very careful, as the freshly cut elements are sharp and must have the corners rounded and be deburred. He then invited all present to build a beam. We formed teams of three and did the work in assembly line fashion. All told, we built 27 antennas at the meeting.

Harold's future plan is to take the workstation over to the Scout troop that KK4MOV Geoff Rudy supports, let them build some antennas, and put together a walking foxhunt at Tanglewood so they can qualify for the merit badge. Harold also plans to put together another program on the specifics of foxhunting, as well as some other accessories to help with that.

The antennas are based on an article by Joe Leggio WB2HOL available here:
http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

The above article and an instruction sheet to support building the antennas are available on the club website.

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

9. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by several attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

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

KC4X David Shoaf, N4HER Harold Richardson, W1HRC Harlan Cobert, WB4QIZ Doc Holliday, Rose and Bill, W4UDB Ron Gregoire, KM4OCR Steve Iltis, KW4UC Ken Worland, KW4UD Linda Worland, KK4MOV Geoff Rudy, KM4RAD Jonathan Sharp, KM4SII Mason Matrazzo, AA9AU Robert Meier, KB1BSR Matt Taylor, KM4WPN Ron Adkins, KM4LDR Scot Garrison, WA4VMC Gary Miller, Cheryl and Stabler Matrazzo, WA4NOT Jim Mansfield, K4OLD Michael Pope, W4GYP Gaff Pearce, KN4FUB Richard Talbert, K1PPE John Kippe, AC4YN Jeff Stafford, KG4JWU Steven Mierisch, Tim Brown, KM4ZFT Ed Walbroehl, KM4NFQ Ken Melvin, KM4OCS Cathy Melvin, N4VOA Paul Schuh, AD4ET Bruce Thompson, KE4ZDS Marcia Thompson, KN4FUA Matthew Thompson, AK4D Terry Brown, K4HKE Kent Englebert, W4OIL David Ramsey, KK4GAF David Peterson, KJ4FIN Jim Bielski, WD4OTY Bill Kennedy, W4LKN Mike Brown, NI4TG Sam Poindexter, WA3RTC Steve Patterson, KC4WSK Van Key, W2DZO Henry Heidtmann, WS4NC Don Edwards, WB9SZL Dale Mierisch, KV4SJ Jim Register, K4GW Jerry Minor, W3AVB Bob McClellan, KM4WPO Mary McClellan, WB4MSG Gene Bowman.