

# Draft Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 19 February 2018

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, 19 February 2018 at Sixty Six Pizzeria, 3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC President David Shoaf, K4CX, at 1911 hours, welcoming all meeting attendees.

**2. Meeting Attendees:** The 19 meeting attendees were Jerry Minor K4GW, John Kippe K1PPE, Mike Atkins N4VE, Don Edwards WS4NC, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, David Shoaf KC4X, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Robert Meier AA9AU, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Daryl Knight N5WK, Michael Pope K4OLD, Harold Richardson N4HER, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Jim Register KV4SJ, Terry Brown AK4D, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, and Harlan Cobert W1HRC.

**3. Health and Welfare:** David Shoaf, KC4x, announced that our treasurer, Kent Englebert, K4HKE, would not be attending. He was in an auto accident when the pickup truck ahead of him lost a trailer carrying some kind of concrete culvert(s). He has several broken bones requiring surgery to start him on the healing process, and will be out of commission for some time. (Ed. note: additional info obtained later is that the driver of the pickup did not stop; neither the pickup nor the trailer had a license plate, and the serial numbers had been removed from the trailer. Anyone good at forensics?)

#### 4. General notes:

- ARRL has confirmed that the Junefest has been accepted for inclusion into QST. David passed out copies of the proposed hamfest checklist for review and comment, and suggested someone volunteer to back up John Kippe, K1PPE, just in case.
- David has written a letter thanking Mrs. Katzer for her donation of her husband's old ham gear, which netted the club an \$800 donation from Mike Atkins, N4VE. (Jim Register, KV4SJ, saw transformers, Powerstats, and cabinets of components for sale in Mike's shop, in case anyone is interested in building gear...)
- Karl Bowman, W4CHX, our ARRL NC Section Manager, has been awarded the Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award.

**5. Video Streaming:** We were unable to successfully live stream the meeting last Monday night. Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, reports via email that he has worked on the upload bandwidth settings. (Initial streaming tests were done when there were just four of us there; when all the members showed up with their phones and connected to the wifi, we didn't have enough bandwidth. We may need to limit access to the wifi while we are trying to stream.) The recording also included audio from both the wireless mike and the mike built into the webcam. The two mikes together caused an echo effect, so the recording was not really usable. Henry made changes to help prevent that from happening again as well. Terry Brown, AK4D, stripped the audio from the recording and replaced it with the independent audio recording Jim Register, KV4SJ, had made for the minutes. That version is now on the website and sounds clean.

**6. Future programs:** David Shoaf, KC4X, asked for program ideas for upcoming meetings.

- Jerry Minor, K4GW, suggested a program on the various types of coax and how much power is lost in each.
- Steve Patterson, WA3RTC commented that Monday's program was good for folks that were already doing digital, but advanced for folks just thinking about getting into digital. (Don Edwards, WS4NC, mentioned that in discussions after the program, Brian had said that he wanted to get into those things, but there just wasn't time. Other clubs are interested in his presentation, but we were the first and therefore, the guinea pigs...)
- Harold Richardson, N4HER, stated he is thinking about putting a program together with detailed information on the basic setup, such as the interface and level setting required for operating in digital modes.
- Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, suggested a program covering the digital modes that are used for emergency communication, such as WinLink and Olivia, and suggested a digital emergency exercise on 10m. He also mentioned covering the occasional issues like WSJT-X and Ham Radio Deluxe requiring different com ports.
- Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV, is using the Raspberry Pi for digital modes, and suggested doing a program on that. He also mentioned that the most obvious way of connecting things creates the issue of not being able to hear what is actually being sent and received.
- David Shoaf, KC4X, suggested a program starting from scratch, with a radio, computer, and interface (if required), explaining all the things one has to figure out to get started.

**7. 145.17 Repeater Situation:** Coverage improvements for our current repeater location.

Replace jumper between the antenna and the hardline down to the shack. David Shoaf, KC4X, will come up with a 3/8" hardline jumper. That jumper will be installed when we replace the antenna we are currently using, which is one of the ones we had bought for the county EOC. The EOC is still working their way through an issue preventing installation of the antennas.

We had discussed putting up the antenna we had used on Sauratown Mountain, but it's big and heavy and would eventually have to come down again when we move back up to the mountain. Rather than risking damage through another install/de-install cycle, we discussed purchasing another antenna, a Diamond X700HNA with 9.3 dB gain at 2m. Cost is \$389 with free shipping from GigaParts. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved \$400 for purchase of same.

**8. Donated ham gear Auction:** We discussed the donor's condition that the gear should be offered to the local hams first. John Kippe, K1PPE, moved that since the equipment in question has specified minimum bids, if no one at the March meeting offers the minimum bid on a piece of equipment, that item should then be offered on eBay. Several seconds were heard, and the motion carried unanimously.

**9. ARES® Report:** Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, provided an update on recent activities. He announced that Mel Sadler, the director of Forsyth County Emergency Management, passed away in early January, and Robert Reece and Michelle Brock are jointly serving as interim director. The loss of Mr. Sadler has pushed back a lot of plans involving us as they scramble to deal with the extra load. Many classes had to be canceled and are being rescheduled. A drill is planned for some time this year. Harlan spoke about Web EOC, which is an interoffice communications and task assignment and tracking tool. Web EOC creates a log which allows reconstructing an event for after-action review and future improvement. As an example, Harlan has entered our repeater move in the system as a change in capability, and Jerry Minor, K4GW's repeater, as an added capability. Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT, has completed the Web EOC course; Harlan needs a few more to complete the class so the 12-hour shifts in the EOC don't fall on just

two people. You can sign up for the classes on NCTERMS, but you do have to be EOC qualified, which means having completed the 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses, and having Harlan list you with the county. Harlan reminded everyone who has taken the county courses to go back and do the federal, take the tests and give him the certificates so he can get you RACES qualified.

Harlan Plans to run an exercise in March where the net will switch to the 10m band, probably on the 28.47 frequency, and a simplex exercise in April.

Last item - the banner purchased last year has Amateur spelled Amatuer; we approved to buy another banner - Harlan will proof this one before accepting it.

**10. Club Officers:** David Shoaf, KC4X, brought up the fact that he and Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV, being president and vice president, are term limited and cannot serve again next year. Jim Register, KV4SJ, has been informed by Household Six that he will not be serving another term as secretary either. Our treasurer, Kent Englebert, K4HKE, was not available for comment. David suggested this is a good time to think about stepping up to one of these offices...

**11. Bylaws Committee:** Terry Brown, AK4D, reported that the bylaws committee continued discussions before business meeting, and has discussed items through the last page. There will be more changes made and it should be ready for presentation to the board next month for a sanity check. It will then be presented to the membership for 30 days before discussion and voting on ratification. It was noted that only paid-up members can vote on the bylaws, and the comment was made that we do have a system that preserves the secret ballot.

**12. Club Domain Name:** Jim Register, KV4SJ, noted that the domain name w4nc.com will be coming up for renewal in June, and suggested moving it from the current, rather expensive, registrar to one that is more reasonable. The suggestion was accepted and several members recommended namecheap.com, and one suggested hostgator as an option.

**13. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours.