

# Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 12 February 2018

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

**1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The 12 February 2018 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 59, for coming out this evening, and invited each to give their name and callsign.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Kent Englebert, K4HKE gave the treasurer's report as of when he walked in - several members renewed before the meeting was called to order, and they were not included in the totals. Kent offered to accept renewals during and after the meeting.

Balance: 4272.28, not including the \$800 check for the estate sale of David Katzer K4QA (SK).

(Mrs. Katzer contacted us about helping to dispose of her late husband's ham equipment; Mike Atkins bought the rig and his collection of components and gave the club an \$800 donation.)

**3. Program - Atop the Waterfall: An Introduction to FT-8 and JT-65 Digital:**

Brian Cave, AB4BC, gave a wonderful presentation on FT-8 and JT-65 modes and the use of the WSJT-X software that supports them. David Puckett, AJ4BD provided assistance and the use of his go-box rig.

He covered the signal anatomy, what software and hardware you need and how to configure the rig. Brian also covered a checklist for your first contact, some of the pitfalls and some advanced operating techniques. He ran the program, explaining how the helper apps assist in making contacts and how some of the settings work.

The presentation video is available on the <http://w4nc.com> website, and will soon be up on <https://youtube.com>; search for the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club.

Links:

Joe Taylor's page on WSJT-X, including download links for the program:

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjitx.html>

Helper applications for WSJT-X:

<http://hamapps.com/>

Meinberg NTP (Network Time Protocol) Download:

<https://www.meinbergglobal.com/english/sw/ntp.htm>

Installation guide recommended by Meinberg:

<http://www.satsignal.eu/ntp/setup.html>

WSJT-X for Dummies & Experts:

<https://www.wsjitx.net/home.html>

PSK Reporter indicates where in the world your CQ was heard.

<https://www.pskreporter.info/>

**4. ARES® Report:** ARES® Coordinator Harlan Cobert-W1HRC announced that We have gotten a request from the MS folks to support an activity March 2, 3 and 4 in Savannah. This will be a 50-mile walk over three days. Charlotte hams will be supporting them, but the event has gotten big and they need more hams and support vehicles. Harlan asked if anyone was interested to please let him know.

**5. VEC Report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported we had seven candidates and all passed their tests. Brandy Puckett, KI4CPJ, upgraded to Extra. Burl Hammock, KN4GKX, and Pedro Tomas, KN4GKY, upgraded to General. Thomas Hickey, KN4JQU, Shane Spillman, KN4JQV, and Michael Marion, KN4JQW, all earned their Technician licenses. Dale and the club offered congratulations to all. Dale also recognized the VEs for their support in the addition of all these new hams.

**6. Repeater Report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported on the status of the 145.47 machine, which has been moved off of Sauratown Mountain due to construction at the site that may not be completed for two years. It is now located at a tower Jerry Minor is allowing us to use. Our antenna is a bit lower than it was, and coverage area has been somewhat reduced. We are looking to add some additional equipment to restore the range in the future.

The 146.64 machine at Baptist Hospital is working ok, but there are still significant issues with interference from a pager that desensitizes the repeater, significantly reducing coverage. The 444.275 machine, also at Baptist Hospital, also seems to be affected by the interference - receive coverage is about 4 miles. We are working to find ways to resolve the issues. We appreciate your patience in dealing with the issues. The EchoLink nodes on the .47 and .64 machines are up and running.

**7. Adjournment of Meeting:** A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2110 hours.

**8. Partial List of Meeting Attendees:** Below are the names of FARC meeting attendees.

David Shoaf KC4X, Jerry Minor K4GW, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Kent Englebert K4HKE, Jim Register KV4SJ, Brian Cave AB4BC, Brandy Puckett KI4CPJ, David Puckett AJ4BD, John Aldrich KD4AWI, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Jim Bielski KJ4FIN, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Ron Adkins KM4WPN, Ronn Dunn KM4RKD, Bill Plyler W4EH, Tag Bowers K4TAG, Bill Kennedy WD4OTY, Neal Pruitt WD4LSS, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Fred Overstreet WB4QXG, Ken Kayser K2KXK, Doc Holliday WB4QIZ, David Ramsey WB4OIL, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Dave Larson KM4RAB, Harold Richardson N4HER, Gaff Pearce W4GYP, Dan Scott W0RO, Van Key KC4WSK, Mike Brown W4LKN, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Bruce Bailiff WB4QCM, Mason Matrazzo KM4SII, Jim Atkins W4UX, Jonathan Sharp KM4RAD, Michael Pope K4OLD, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, Daryl Knight N5WK, Terry Good W3NPS, Tom Hickey KN4JQU, Ken Melvin KM4NFQ, Cathy Melvin KM4OCS, Bruce Thompson AD4ET, Marcia Thompson KE4ZDS, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Bob Warren KB4NHB, Chris Rodie KW4VK, Shane Spillman KN4JQV, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Don Edwards WS4NC, Jeff Stafford AC4YN, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, David Ramsey W4OIL, Mike Atkins N4VE, John Kippe K1PPE, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Ronn Dunn KN4RKD, Henry Smith W4HHS, and Dale Mierisch WB9SZL.