

Draft Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 26 March 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, 26 March 2018 at Sixty Six Pizzeria, 3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC President David Shoaf, K4CX, at 1928 hours, welcoming all meeting attendees.

2. Meeting Attendees: The 18 meeting attendees were Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Van Key KC4WSK, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Don Edwards WS4NC, Jim Bielski KJ4FIN, Daryl Knight N5WK, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Michael Pope K4OLD, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Bobby Meier AA9AU, John Kippe K1PPE, David Shoaf KC4X, Jim Register KV4SJ, Terry Brown AK4D, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Gene Bowman WB4MSG.

3. October Hamfest: David, KC4X, brought up that the January business meeting was held in the open part of the restaurant and though we tried to discuss having an October hamfest, but it was really hard to hear. We are revisiting the question to see if it is something we want to do. Discussion topics were as follows:

- An October hamfest would not happen this year, but start in 2019, tentative date October 20.
- The vote at FirstFest was 22 for October vs. 13 for June, but that was out of over a hundred tickets. The folks Don spoke with that stated they did not see the survey question all preferred October.
- Don will reprint tickets for Junefest and make the survey more obvious. Van Key, KC4WSK suggested that we notify folks about the survey as we hand out tickets. "Turn it over and vote"
- Clarified that previous discussion was whether to hold the second hamfest in June or October.
- If we move to October next year, name would not be OctoberFest - perhaps FallFest - Currently Terry, AK4D, is calling it SummerFest on the website.
- Don mentioned that with all the flyers that John Kippe put out at surrounding hamfests, we may need a contingency plan for overflow parking or possibly a larger venue. If we cause traffic problems, the police may come out and have us shut down. We have approximately 198 parking spaces at the church.
- At Summit, overflow parking was available in a back lot or at the church next door, eliminating parking as an issue.
- John K1PPE suggested that if we have overflow parking, we are sort of obligated to provide some means of transportation between the parking and the fest. It is a far distance to walk, some would be unable to, and if someone got hurt walking, there could be a liability issue.
- While John Kippe has a large van, he has no seats in the back. Neither milk crates nor stacking folks in like cordwood seems quite appropriate, so we may need to rent a large van with seats.
- John offered to go over and help scout out overflow parking spaces.
- What is the legal building occupancy?
- General hamfest - \$5.00 for tailgating

4. Treasury report: Current balance is \$6761.86 including the renewals picked up from the PO Box.

The unsold auction items whose pictures and descriptions have been completed will list this Thursday for 10 days, to end on a Sunday night. The rest should be up by next Thursday, also for 10 days. Items will probably be started with a low opening bid, as that seems to generate more interest.

5. ARES® Report: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, provided an update on recent activities. The 10m exercise last week only had 5 stations able to go to 10 meters that Harlan could hear and talk with. He expects to run the drill once a quarter. He was handicapped because kids had untied his dipole halyard and dropped the wire antenna; he was stuck with the vertical. The next exercise will be a 2m simplex test to identify who will need relay stations and who can perform relays.

Harlan has the replacement ARES® banner, done correctly this time.

Harlan reported that the antennas are at the EOC, with installation scheduled for Tuesday, 3/27. Harlan expects an exercise shortly after installation to test coverage. David suggested pictures be taken if possible. Pictures will go in this month's newsletter if they are available in time. Michael Pope, K4OLD, suggested a newspaper article to counteract the erroneous impression a recent NCIS episode gave of Amateur Radio operators. Harlan suggested setting up the press tour after we have the go kit in operation and have worked all the kinks out.

Harlan does need to borrow an antenna analyzer to test the antennas after they go up. The club used to own one, but it finally died and was declared unrepairable. This is needed to check the 2m/440 antennas; Harlan only has an analyzer for HF. Harlan will also need someone to help down in the EOC when tuning the 40/80 antenna. Don Edwards, WS4NC, volunteered, given a little advance notice and barring it falling on an impossible day.

Our room in the EOC is now known as the ARES® room, and the only people who have the key are in Emergency Management. The Sheriff's department master key does not work. This is a good thing in that the room and any equipment will be secure. The ARES® room is isolated from the noise of the main EOC. The room has internet access; power is supposed to have been set up on the generator system; Harlan will be verifying that has been done. Chairs and tables have been set up for us already.

John Kippe, K1PPE, asked if it would be possible to run a Field Day exercise from there using the WS4FC call; Harlan believes we can. The class would be 1F, since it is from/in an EOC. Something to keep in mind is that because the Sheriff's office has to provide escorts in and out, you need to plan to be there for a while - no in and out for lunch or whatever. Vending and restrooms are across the hall, and freely accessible from the EOC and ARES® rooms.

For those who don't know where it is, the EOC is on the second floor of the Sheriff's Department building, 301 Church St. You need to be escorted up from the main floor. Best parking is the county garage where the county building is. Harlan is working with the county to get some sort of ARES®/EOC ID tag to facilitate parking in the metered and one-hour spaces around the building.

CERT: Last week, at the request of Emergency Management, Harlan gave a talk to some of the CERT team individuals, explaining how ARES® works and explaining the limitations of the FRS and GMRS radios they were planning to use. They realized they needed hams, and several folks have expressed an interest in getting their ham licenses to work within the ARES® framework. One person came with a Baofeng, hoping to get it programmed; be glad to, as soon as you get your license...

Training: Folks who took the NIMS course need to finish and get their Federal certificates in so Harlan can turn them in to Emergency management.

Also, in May, during the NC Disaster Communications Training Week, you can register for the NC State AUXCOMM Training Course if you have all four NIMS courses completed and registered. This will be at the Charlotte Fire Training Academy, Wednesday May 9 and Thursday May 10, with an exercise on Friday the 11th. Harlan has been told there is per diem reimbursement for those who live outside the immediate area, and he will be checking for more information. Registration for that is through NCTERMS.

<https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/courseSearch.do>

Select Month May-2018 and Course Code AECC-005, then click the Find button.

Also WEB EOC is coming up; Select Month April-2018 and Course Code FOR-WEBEOC-01 and hit the Find button again. We need more folks trained on WEBEOC. Currently it's just Harlan and Jim Mansfield, and they would get burned out fast running back-to-back 12 hour shifts.

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.

6. Project Group meeting: Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, didn't want to say anything about the project group, but we got him to anyway. They meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 6 to 9 pm at the Miller Park Community Center on Leisure Lane. Neither leisure suits nor a ham license are required, just an interest in projects. The current project they are exploring is a DuinoVOX USB digital Modes interface by Kevin Loughlin, KB9RLW. Parts count estimate has gone up a bit, but still less than \$25.

Links:

<https://kb9rlw.blogspot.com/2016/08/cheap-and-easy-to-build-digital-modes.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHshPd52l-w>

7. Skywarn Classes: Terry Brown, AK4D, noted that there are Basic and Advanced Skywarn classes coming up on May 16 from 6 to 9 pm at the NC Cooperative Extension Building, 1450 Fairchild Rd. Training is free, no registration is required. David Shoaf, KC4X mentioned that at the previous Skywarn training, they gave us a phone number for reporting hail or other notable weather events. Several folks mentioned having been called or emailed by the weather service asking about the weather conditions at their location. Terry Brown, AK4D, mentioned the phone app called mping, put out by the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory for you to quickly report the weather at your location.

8. Science Net: Bobby Meier, AA9AU, mentioned the science net that meets every Tuesday at 8 pm on 147.315, except on Project list nights, when it is delayed one day to Wednesday night. They discuss what's new, what's old, sometimes a refresher or a 5-minute Science 101 introduction of a topic before discussion begins. Topics have included aerodynamic lift, relativistic gravity and species differentiation. Everyone is welcome, everyone knows something. David Shoaf, KC4X, suggested that information be

posted on the club website; Terry, AK4D, asked for a write up to put up on the site and Don asked for a copy for the newsletter.

9. 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...

10. Future programs: Don Edwards, WS4NC, asked what the upcoming programs are going to be.

- David Shoaf, KC4X, stated there is a gentleman from Greensboro wanting to come give a fifteen minute talk about the Central NC Traffic net. The traffic net occurs every night on 146.820 at 9:30. This is the net we interface with for ARES®.
<http://www.rowanars.org/resources/frequency-list/>
- April - Go Boxes by Harlan Cobert W1HRC and Harold Richardson N4HER.
- May - Harold Richardson, N4HER, will give a program on the basic setup for operating in digital modes. David, KC4X, thinks we need two programs - one on CAT control for keying the transmitter, the other being the sound card setup. Both are necessary to effectively operate the digital modes.
- May - part 2 - discussion of the hamfest.
- June will be Field Day - the hamfest will have already occurred before the June meeting.
- July - Spy Radio by Brian Harrison, KN4R, a member of the Carolinas Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association. To whet your appetite:
<https://www.qrz.com/db/kn4r>

11. Video Streaming: The video from the last meeting is still in post-production. The microphones worked perhaps a bit too well, overdriving the PC input and causing distortion at the beginning of the meeting. Henry's name tag was brushing against the microphone when he moved causing some audio issues as well. There is also the issue that when the speakers in the shack are loud enough to monitor the audio, they are also loud enough to be heard in the meeting room. Don will bring headphones to the next meeting. We discussed still needing a "house" mike to pick up the roll call and questions from the audience. Moved, seconded, and approved purchasing a four-channel microphone mixer system, about \$160. Camera focus began hunting during the meeting; then froze. Streaming is still a work in progress. Also, when Harlan and Dale did their reports, they could not be seen or heard on the stream; probably need them to come to the front. Don mentioned the possibility of registering with YouTube to bring the club revenue from some of these programs.

12. Donated ham gear Auction: Harlan, W1HRC, asked how much we got for the auction. David, KC4X, thought it was about \$1800, but did not have the numbers handy - he thinks he sent Kent the numbers and then erased the info from his phone. Jim Register, KV4SJ, reviewed the auction recording as a public service and totaled the number at \$1926.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2026 hours.