

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 19 March 2018

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 19 March 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 45, for coming out this evening, and invited each to give their name and callsign.

2. Treasurer's Report: David Shoaf, KC4X, gave the no-treasurer's report. Our treasurer, Kent Englebert, K4HKE, is still recuperating from a car wreck he was in a month ago. No deposits have been made and most of the bills are on auto-pay, so we are essentially where we were last month with the exception of paying a few bills as usual.

3. ARES® Report: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, announced that this week's net would include a test of our 10 meter capabilities and asked for members to participate if possible. (USB on 28.470) The net last week included a test to see how we were getting in on the 145.47 repeater since the antenna upgrade. The EOC is finally able to put up our antennas, but the planned install this week was cancelled due to weather. Harlan expects there will be a drill once they are in place.

4. Project Group: Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, reminded everyone of the group that meets on the third Tuesday at 7 pm in the Miller Park Community Center, 400 Leisure Lane. You don't have to be a ham or a member of the club to participate, just have an interest in discussing things technical or a project you are working on. One project that has been discussed is an inexpensive sound card interface to go between your computer and radio for working digital modes. Steve has ordered components for a prototype; cost so far is about \$10 each, excluding a case. They will start discussing that at the March 20 meeting. The Tigertronics Signalink USB is a popular example of this device.

Ed. Note: Jim Brown, K9YC, talks about solving interference problems in the shack with proper grounding and bonding. Discusses USB audio interfaces starting on page 148 of the slide deck. Discusses calibrating audio levels starting on page 177.

Links:

<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/GroundingAndAudio.pdf>

<http://k9yc.com/publish.htm>

5. VEC Report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported we had four candidates and all passed their tests. Horace Cox, N4DZB, and Ken Kayser, K2KXX, upgraded to Extra. Mike Vernon, KN4GGA, and Chenchen Zhang, KM4YXZ, upgraded to General. 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 that the Forsyth Amateur Radio Technical Society had replaced the old antenna, one we had bought for the EOC, with a new higher gain unit this past Thursday. Initial reports are that transmit is good, but we have some duplexing problems causing de-sense on the receive side. We will be chasing down the issues. Dale asked that folks noticing changes in the signal quality please send in reports.

7. Donated equipment auction: A generous benefactor donated a bunch of ham equipment to the club, most of it either lightly used or new. The equipment came from Brian Major who loved the hobby but traveled a lot for a living. He would buy things while away and put them in the closet when he got home, but then he would go away for another two years and things accumulated but many never got used. Some of the boxes were unopened until tonight. Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, was the auctioneer, and David Shoaf, KC4X, kept records and collected the bid amounts, totaling \$ 1931.65. All items were sold untested, as-is.

8. Program - Adventures from KG4-Land:

Raja Chatterjee, KB6MT/KG4AC, and Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO/KG4HH, gave a wonderful presentation on getting to, living on, and operating from Guantanamo Bay. Raja gave a virtual tour, and Henry spoke about his experience and impressions of his visit. Watch the video, tip your waiter.

Raja and Henry pointed out that that 2x2 call signs starting with KG4 are unique to Guantanamo and a rare DX opportunity.

There were some technical difficulties with the audio, and Raja ad-libbed a bit for an impromptu sound check until it was straightened out.

9. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2117 hours.

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

Adam Martin KN4GCB, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Chris Rodie KW4VK, Dale Mierisch WB9SZZ, Daryl Knight N5WK, David Ramsey W4OIL, David Shoaf KC4X, Doc Holliday WB4QIZ, Don Edwards WS4NC, Ed Needham AF4XC, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Harold Richardson N4HER, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, Henry Smith W4HHS, Horace Cox N4DZB/AE, Jeff Stafford AC4YN, Jerry Minor K4GW, Jim Atkins W4UX, Jim Mansfield WA4NOT, Jim Register KV4SJ, John Kippe K1PPE, Jonathan Sharp KM4RAD, Kay Edwards KC4GKC, Ken Kayser K2KXX, Les Jongberg KJ4JYZ, Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Mason Matrazzo KM4SII, Matt Taylor KB1BSR, Michael Pope K4OLD, Mike Brown W4LKN, Mike Fields KJ4SYP, Mike Vernon KN4GGA, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Raja Chatterjee KB6MTH, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Ronn Dunn KN4RKD, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Shane Spillman KN4JQV, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Terry Brown AK4D, Van Key KC4WSK.