

# Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 16 April 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, 16 April 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 19 meeting attendees were Jerry Minor K4GW, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, John Kippe K1PPE, Mike Atkins N4VE, Daryl Knight N5WK, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Jim Register KV4SJ, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Howard Weinstein K4CFI, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Harold Richardson N4HER, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Michael Pope K4OLD, Terry Brown AK4D, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Don Edwards WS4NC, Steve Patterson WA3RTC and David Shoaf KC4X.

**3. Repeater Update:** David, KC4X, commented on the issues we are having with the various repeaters.

- 145.47 repeater: In discussions with Dale, WB9SZL, it was decided that the next step in resolving the desense issues affecting the 145.47 repeater is to have the duplexer cavities checked out and professionally aligned. Don, WS4NC has agreed to check out the duplexer and record the baseline status, then align them if possible. Don allowed that simple alignment could be done fairly quickly, as in a couple of hours, but if there are other problems such as lightning damage we would need to decide how we want to proceed. David suggested that when we ask Don WS4NC or Mike N4VE to take time away from their businesses to provide services to the club, it would be appropriate to compensate them. Don suggested that any services he provided would be at a deeply discounted rate.

This Thursday, April 19, the ARES® net will switch over to the .47 repeater for a test after check-in on the .315, and report received signal strength and quality to Harlan upon switching back to the .315 machine. Dale asked that we log our reports so we can compare them when testing after the duplexer tuneup.

- Remote receivers, as well as some hardware issues preventing current deployment, were also discussed as a way to improve the receive coverage of the repeater. Harlan, W1HRC, in his role as ARES® Coordinator, during a meeting with the county interagency manager, explored the possibility of putting a remote receiver on an unused tower at a fire station. It turns out that we may be able to get space on a 175-foot city-county tower. The sole VHF antenna on that tower will be removed later on this year, and the tower crew that removes the old one could install ours. There would be a formal process to get on the tower; the ARES® side would request approval, create an information package, and present our case to both the City Council and the County Commission. If both approve, we have the slot to install the antenna and repeater. The antenna would need to be rigid; we could use the one we took down from Sauratown Mountain or purchase a dual-band antenna so we could support remote receivers. It was moved, seconded, and all present voted to have Harlan move forward with making the formal request.
- 146.64 and 444.275 repeaters: The issues on the repeaters at Baptist Hospital lead Dale, WB9SZL, to believe there may be damage to the hardline. At some point, a concrete block wall

was built which, unfortunately, prevents access and repair of the existing hardline. Baptist installed a new weatherhead last year to allow us to run a new line.

**4. Bylaws Update:** Terry Brown gave a summary of the proposed bylaws to replace the ones last updated in 1992(?). Copies were emailed out to the board of directors for review and comment before the meeting. There were some suggestions brought up about alternates or succession plans for the club and ARES® trustees. Trustee regulations are under Section 97.5(b)(2) of the FCC Rules. After the board has reviewed and commented on the proposed bylaws, the bylaw committee will incorporate the recommendations and return the edited bylaws for review.

Station license granted to the trustee of the club:

<https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/amateur-radio-service/club-stations>  
<https://www.fcc.gov/general/rules-regulations-title-47>

**5. Project Group:** Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, reminded everyone that the project group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 6 to 9 pm at the Miller Park Community Center on Leisure Lane. Current project is an Arduino digital modes interface inspired by the DuinoVOX Kevin Loughlin, KB9RLW came up with.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHshPd52l-w>  
<http://kb9rlw.blogspot.com/2016/08/cheap-and-easy-to-build-digital-modes.html>

Bobby Meier AA9AU, mentioned that if you like the Eclipse IDE, he has that working for the Arduino and can help you set it up.

**6. Future programs:** Terry, AK4D, asked if there were any updates to 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/>
- 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 - Either Amelia Earhart or 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>
- August - Repeaters by Dale Mierisch
- Geoff KK4MOV has a couple of uncommitted fall dates, one being Philip Jenkins, H4HF from Asheville who is willing to do a presentation on satellite operation. That may be in September.

**7. 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.

**8. ARES® Report:** Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, provided an update on recent activities. Last Saturday he gave a presentation to the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club about ARES® and possibly starting their own section. The IMT we are under covers Davidson County as well, so we would automatically get deployed there and there is no reason Tri-County can't work along with us in that case. Harlan offered to work with them in talking to their emergency management folks and help them through the process.

<http://nc4ar.org>

**9. W4TMR Celebration of Life:** Harlan W1HRC made a correction on the date. It will now be held on May 19 at 4pm. Location will be Harlan's house, so they can get on 20 meters while the family is there and talk with some of Charlie's DX friends over the radio.

**10. WEBEOC Training:** Also WEB EOC is coming up on Thursday; 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.

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.

**11. New attendee:** Howard Weinstein, K4CFI, used to run the Greensboro repeater at Guilford College. He moved away and now has moved back into the area.

**13. Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.