

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 9 April 2018

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

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The 9 April 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 1928 hours. David welcomed all attendees, approximately 49, 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 suffered in January. Our balance in the bank is \$6500.13. We still have our regular bills, such as phone, cable, and power for the repeater.
- 3. Dues reminder:** David reminded folks to check and see if they were current on their club dues. In Kent's absence, the Club Secretary, Jim Register, is collecting dues and membership forms.
- 4. VEC Report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported we had four candidates and all passed their tests. Doc Holliday, WB4QIZ upgraded to Extra. Mary DePuy, KN4LKO, Steven Weifenbach, KN4LKP and Samuel Bearden, KN4LKQ, 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.
- 5. Repeater Report:** Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported that the 145.47 machine is up, but we still have some duplexing problems causing de-sense on the receive side. We will be chasing down the issues. The 146.64 and 444.275 machines on Baptist hospital still have the interference issues. Dale has rebuilt a standby machine for 444.275 which is being tested live at his house. He plans to raise the antenna a bit, test for a few weeks, and if all goes well, install it at one of our current repeater locations. EchoLink is working on the .47, but the .64 EchoLink server is down right now. Dale asked that folks noticing changes in the signal quality please send in reports.
- 6. Project Group:** Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, reminded everyone of the group that meets in the Miller Park Community Center, 400 Leisure Lane. They meet on the third Tuesday from 7 pm till about 9 pm. The current project they are working on is an inexpensive sound card interface to go between your computer and radio for working digital modes. Components for a prototype have been ordered; The Arduino Nano and USB sound interface are in; waiting on resistors, capacitors and pots. The Tigertronics Signalink USB is a popular example of this device. 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.
- 7. Upcoming program:** Harold Richardson, N4HER, will give a program on setting up a station for digital communications, starting at a beginner's level. There are two basic elements. The first is the Computer Aided Transceiver (CAT) interface, by which the computer manages the rig settings such as transmit and receive frequencies and keys the rig. The second is the USB sound card interface, which transfers the audio tones between the rig and the computer for processing.
- 8. Amateur Radio Parity Act:** Harlan Reports the act still has not been passed. He has a letter from Senator Burr stating that the Commerce Committee has twice attempted to pass the bill in the Senate by unanimous consent. Senator Burr, and almost every other senator out there, supports the bill. The

lone exception is the ranking member of the committee, who twice objected to the bill this session and prevented the bill from coming out of committee last session as well. That senator is Bill Nelson out of Florida. Since he is the ranking member, he can stop it from coming out of committee. It is suggested that we all send email and letters asking why he objects to the bill.

9. Program - Go Kits: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, our ARES® Emergency Coordinator, talked about the importance of having Go-Kits and what should be in them. He covered both personal and radio deployment kits: the things you need to take care of yourself so you can be effective, as well as the gear you need to be able to communicate. The video of the presentation is up on the website, as well as an expanded go-kit checklist.

http://www.w4nc.com/past/04_2018/Go_Box_Kit_9April2018.mp4

<http://www.w4nc.com/files/ARES%20GO-KITS%20Checklist.pdf>

Ed. Note: I went looking for laminated maps, but didn't find laminated street maps except those intended for tourists. I did find waterproof or laminated topo maps from mytopo.com. This is a list of some of the places I found things, not a list of endorsements.

For official state road maps:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/travel/statemapping/>

DeLorme®, now a part of Garmin, sells atlases for each state; the North Carolina version is copyright 2016.

<https://buy.garmin.com/en-US/US/p/575993>

Ed. Note: I had seen the following website recommended as a source of printed and digital topographical maps, but the lack of street names would seem to make them more useful for search and rescue than driving. They are available in various sizes and scales in waterproof or laminated versions. Also note the source date - the Winston Salem map I looked at showed a source date of 1997 - it correctly shows a stream where the lake used to be.

<https://www.mytopo.com/map.cfm>

The USGS is another source for maps; the one for my area, dated 2016, still shows a lake where the lake used to be....

<https://store.usgs.gov/map-locator>

10. Business Meeting: David, KC4X, reminded everyone about our upcoming business meeting on April 16, 2018 at Sixty-Six Pizzeria on Frontis Plaza Drive. The meeting starts at 7:30; we get there between 6:00 and 7:30 to eat, and hang around until 9 or so when they want to go home.

11. Webmaster: Terry Brown, AK4D, reminded everyone that the video from last month's presentation is up on the website. David, KC4X, reminded everyone to think about watching it after Harold's presentation next month. Jerry, K4GW, reported that people are watching the videos; Brian Cave, AB4BC, is getting 10 emails a day from around the country regarding the presentation.

12. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2041 hours.

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

Adam Martin KN4GCB, Barbara Lee <none>, Bill Kennedy WD4OTY, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Bruce Bailiff WB4QCM, Cathy Melvin KM4OCS, Charles Lee <none>, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Daryl Knight N5WK, David Ramsey W4OIL, David Shoaf KC4X, Doc Holliday WB4QIZ/AE, Gary Miller WA4VMC, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Harold Richardson N4HER, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, Henry Smith W4HHS, Jeff Stafford AC4YN, Jerry Minor K4GW, Jim Atkins W4UX, Jim Bielski KJ4FIN, Jim Register KV4SJ, John Kippe K1PPE, Jonathan Sharp KM4RAD, Judson Davis KG4OHQ, Ken Kayser K2KXK, Ken Melvin KM4NFQ, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Mason Matrazzo KM4SII, Matt Taylor KB1BSR, Mike Brown W4LKN, Mike Pope K4OLD, Mike Vernon KN4GGA, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Raja Chatterjee KB6MTH, Richard Talbert W4IHC, Ron Adkins KM4WPN, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Ronn Dunn KN4RKD, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Sparky Ramey KE4TES, Steve Iltis KM4OCR, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Terry Brown AK4D, Terry Good W3NPS, Van Key KC4WSK.