

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 11 June 2018

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 11 June 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 48, 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. Kent is still in a wheelchair from a car wreck he suffered in January, but was thankfully, able to attend the meeting. Our balance in the bank is \$5,981.22. Upcoming major expense is Field Day.

3. Hamfest Report: John Kippe, K1PPE, reported that total cash and deposits were \$1,169.80, including \$25.80 in the kitty and \$25 in dues. Table and tailgate sales brought \$110, ticket sales brought \$830, for a slightly better revenue than our January FirstFest. Expense: Building rental \$150, advertising \$209, and \$21 gas for John to post our flyers at other hamfests. This resulted in a net profit of \$606.80

4. Repeater update: David, KC4X, announced that Jerry Minor, K4GW, had worked out a deal to get our 145.47 repeater back up on Sauratown mountain at a commercial site, and David, KC4X, Dale, WB9SZL, and Jim, KV4SJ had moved it and the good antenna the previous week. The emergency backup generator at the site is currently out of service, and we are looking into that issue. We will need to pay a professional tower crew to install the antenna 170 feet up on the tower, and pay the monthly electric bill. The board voted at the hamfest to authorize spending \$750 for the antenna installation and to authorize the \$25 monthly power bill. At the club meeting, the members voted unanimously to approve both expenditures.

5. Business Meeting: David, KC4X, reminded everyone about our upcoming business meeting on May 21, 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.

6. Preparing for your Extra: Don Edwards, WS4NC, announced a course for General class licensees wanting to study for their Extra. The class will be held one day a week at his office. He has limited seating and will have to limit the class to about 8 people. Don passed around a sign-up sheet.

7. Museum Ships On The Air: Don, WS4NC and Jeff Stafford, AC4YN were invited to operate from the Battleship USS North Carolina for a Museum Ships On The Air event and had a great time. Pictures will be in the next newsletter.

8. Project Group: Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, reminded everyone that the group will meet at Don's office this month to put a surface mount component on the project board. The current project they are working on is an inexpensive sound card interface to go between your computer and radio for working digital modes. The Tigertronics Signalink USB is a popular example of this device.

The meeting will take place at the regular time; third Tuesday from 7 pm till about 9 pm. The group normally meets 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.

9. ARES® Report: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, reported on several items:

- Tour to Tanglewood is coming up in September; there is a long write up in the newsletter and info also on the club website. There are several changes for this year: Routes have changed and will be going through different counties. There is a new sign-in process for volunteers. There will be an integrated command post, and Harlan has worked with the state EOC to get authorization to use the VIPER system to communicate directly with the various jurisdictions. Harlan hopes to have a drill via radio sometime in August.
- Several folks have received invitation emails from NC AUXCOMM (NC4AX) to enter their contact info into the NC AUXCOMM registration database. Harlan must have your Form98 and copies of your certificates for the ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses before he can mark you as eligible for an invite. You then access the system, upload copies of your certs to the database, and enter your contact info. Harlan will then verify the info against what you have given him and activate your entry. You won't need to log in again unless you need to update info or add another certification.
There is a warning that the connection is not private - they are aware and working the issue. The actual message on Chrome is "NET::ERR_CERT_WEAK_SIGNATURE_ALGORITHM"
- Form 98 available at <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/fsd98.pdf>

10. SWAG: Brian Kuebert, N4UEZ, brought back some swag from Dayton, and David, KC4X, passed out hats, lanyards, and other things.

11. 13 Colonies Special Event 10th Anniversary: David, KC4X, reminded everyone about the annual event that begins at 1300 UTC on July 1. This year it runs through July 8 at 0400 UTC. Special event call signs are K2A through K2M Work 13 of the stations K2A through K2M, WM3PEN and GB13COL
Links:

<http://www.13colonies.net/>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/13-colonies-special-event-to-mark-10th-anniversary-this-year>

12. Field Day: Daryl Knight, N5WK, organized volunteers for Field Day. He passed around a sign-up sheet for operators and gave an update on progress for Field Day, coming up on June 23-24.

Location will be Hobby Park and we will launch the lines for pulling up antennas starting about 9 am on Friday, June 22. We will converge on Hobby Park about 9 am Saturday morning to finish the setup. Folks going by the clubhouse to load up on Saturday will meet at Jimmy the Greeks about 8 am for breakfast before loading up and heading to the park. Specifics about antenna launchers, coolers and actual operating hours were nailed down.

Band Captains:

- Daryl Knight N5WK, 80M and 10M
- Don Edwards WS4NC, 80M and 15M CW
- Gene Bowman WB4MSG, 40M SSB
- Brian Kuebert N4UEZ, 40M CW
- Jim Atkins W4UX, 20M CW
- Mason Matrazzo KM4SII, 20M SSB

- Harold Richardson N4HER, Digital Modes
- Harlan Cobert W1HRC, 2M
- Bobby Meier AA9AU, GOTA station

Daryl invited new hams to come out and operate and reassured them that while facing the microphone for the first time may be intimidating, we will be there to help you over that and the feeling quickly passes. David, KC4X, also noted that we will need folks to help with the logging; it is usually a two person team, with one person talking and the other logging. Jerry Minor, K4GW, suggested the logger and talker swap places after about an hour or so. For those with a Technician license who would like to operate on HF, there will be plenty of hams around with General or Extra licenses who can serve as control operator.

Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT, reminded everyone that traffic handling is one of things hams do, and we get we get extra points for it on Field Day. Jim brought several preprinted radiograms to be filled out with a deserving recipient's name, mailing address, telephone and cellphone numbers, and a signature at the bottom. The message is "ARL 50 from Field Day at Hobby Park." ARL 50 is one of a set of numbered radiograms that gets translated into "Greetings From Amateur Radio" by the ham that makes the final contact to the recipient. Using numbered radiograms improves message passing efficiency.

13. VEC Report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported we had four candidates who passed their tests. Jeff Morison, KN4MZQ, Logan Weddle, KN4MZR, and Jim Wall, KN4MBH, earned their Technician licenses. Gaff Pearce, W4GYP, earned his Extra. Dale and the club offered congratulations to all. Dale also recognized the VEs for their support in the addition of all these new hams.

14. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2018 hours.

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

Bob Gusek NC4RG, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Brian Kuebert N4UEZ, Bruce Bailiff WB4QCM, Caroline Kuebert KM4VCO, Chris Rodie KW4VK, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Daryl Knight N5WK, David McDonald N5WNB, David Ramsey W4OIL, David Shoaf KC4X, Doc Holliday WB4QIZ, Don Edwards WS4NC, Doug MacArthur W4STH, Gaff Pearce W4GYP, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Harold Richardson N4HER, Henry Smith W4HHS, Jerry Minor K4GW, Jim Atkins W4UX, Jim Bielski KJ4FIN, Jim Mansfield WA4NOT, Jim Register KV4SJ, Jim Sarfert N3LBJ, Jim Wall Jr KN4NBH, John Kippe K1PPE, Ken Kayser K2KXK, Kent Englebert K4HKE, Logan Weddle KN4MZR, Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Matt Taylor KB1BSR, Michael Pope K4OLD, Mike Brown W4LKN, Mike Vernon W4MAV, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Richard Talbert W4IHC, Rick Batté N4MBI, Ron Adkins KM4WPN, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Sparky Ramey KE4TES, Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Terry Good W3NPS, Van Key KC4WSK.