

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 9 July 2018

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 9 July 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 1936 hours. David welcomed all attendees, approximately 47, 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 brought no hardware, having graduated from wheelchair, walker, and cane, and returned to work today. We are pleased at his recovery. Our balance in the bank is roughly \$4,600. Kent paid the bills from Field Day tonight and hasn't added them up yet. The only outstanding bill to be paid is the \$750 tower bill, which came in today. That will bring our balance to just under \$4,000.

3. VEC Report: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, reported we had one candidate, and he passed his test. Mark Gaines, KM4TUK, earned his Extra. Dale and the club offered congratulations. Dale also recognized the VEs for their support.

4. Repeater update: David, KC4X, announced that the tower work for 145.47 is complete, and that Jerry Minor, K4GW, was able to bring up the W4NC repeater with a handheld from the Salisbury hamfest earlier this week. We are running 28 watts out of the repeater and, thanks to Don's tuning up the duplexer, only losing 6 watts through that. Dale reports the duplexer is the best it has ever been.

Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, gave a brief explanation of the recent repeater moves. Our host, WXII, was undergoing major construction at the site, with towers being moved and new power lines going in that would run under the building housing our repeater. We moved our repeater down to Jerry Minor's fire tower in Midway in December. Jerry recently worked out a deal with a commercial site so we could move the repeater back up onto Sauratown Mountain. Dale went through the repeater and controller at home, doing firmware updates and such, and about three weeks ago, we moved the repeater. This past Thursday, the tower crew was able to install our antenna at the 170 foot level on the tower. Our link antenna has also been installed, but that needs some additional effort.

The 146.64 repeater on Baptist is still suffering from a nearby pager, spiking the input at 20dB over S9 whenever it transmits, making it a bit difficult to get in. Range is about 4 miles when the pager is not transmitting. The 444.275 repeater shares the hardline with the .64 machine, and we suspect some damage to the hardline, which is inaccessible due to a new wall. Dale and David will look into routing a new hardline through the lower and upper penthouses to get up to the antenna - a non-trivial task. A new weatherhead has been put in for us on the roof of the upper penthouse, so that's a help. If we still have pager problems, then we'll look at remote receivers and microwave links back to the repeater there. Echolink is up on the .64 machine. We hope to have that back on the .47 shortly - we haven't had network access since coming off the mountain. Once we have the Echolink back on the .47 machine, Harlan can decide when he wants to bring the Vagabonds back.

5. Business Meeting: David, KC4X, reminded everyone about our upcoming business meeting on May 21, 2018 at Sixty-Six Pizzeria on Frontis Plaza Drive, right near the new Academy Sports. 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.

This coming meeting, we will be talking bylaws and a change in the time we select the chairman on the nomination committee for new officers. David, KC4X, and Geoff, KK4MOV, are term limited, so we will need a new president and vice-president. David asked the members present to think about stepping up and filling one of those offices.

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

- ARES® is still part of our program, but as of July 1, we became an AUXCOMM group. DHS and the state of North Carolina label all auxiliary communications that occur during disasters and other emergencies. Several folks are already registered in the system as AUXCOMM members. If you have received an invitation and not registered yet, please do so. You must have completed the FEMA courses ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700, and ICS-800 to be qualified. Those registered in the AUXCOMM system are EOC qualified and can be put in the Forsyth County Sheriff's department mobile command post. Harlan can still use you at other locations, such as a Red Cross shelter, if you are not registered in the database. Another change - the state working group is working on new photo ID badges for AUXCOMM members for access to the state and local EOCs. More on that later. If you need an ARES ID, continue to get them from Kent, K4HKE, as they are still usable locally.
- AUXCOMM is on the W4NC repeater, 145.470 starting at 8:30 pm on Thursday nights. We try to keep it to 30 minutes, can't shift earlier because it would interfere with another net on a different frequency and the nets have members in common. Right now, all training is on the net; missing the net means missing the training. Alternative to that is more classroom time.
- Tour to Tanglewood is coming up in September 22 and 23; Harlan needs 15 SAG operators and 20 radio operators. There is info on the club website, including the new sign-in process for volunteers.

A radio operator sign up slot is for a radio operator that is not part of a SAG team. Radio operators will be stationed at rest stops, at the command center, or assigned as a shadow. A SAG sign up slot is for one vehicle and the radio operator or team that will be managing that vehicle. If a two-person team is operating a vehicle, one person should sign up, and put the other individual's info in the comment field.

- Forsyth County Emergency Management will be working with us, and this may be turned into a drill. Both days we will be operating and interfacing with four different jurisdictions law enforcement and EMS - a first for us.
- ECOMM Net Controller Course - November 10th 9am until 4 pm. There will be a lunch break. All you need is an amateur radio license - the ICS certs are not required for this. Morning will be going through scenarios, teaching what has to be done, including the documentation. Afternoon will be exercises - be split into three-person teams.
- Harlan and Scott Swaim, KJ4IVX, of our sister club at Triad Baptist Church in Kernersville, met with Curtis Swisher, the Kernersville Town Manager, and discussed amateur radio and emergency operations. As of the end of the meeting, the agreement was that Kernersville will put into their general fund request to install an antenna system for us so we can operate out of their communications center as necessary. The town of Lewisville will be approached about this as well. This will allow Harlan to put folks registered with AUXCOMM into those communication centers, providing another direct path to the Forsyth County EOC when needed.

7. Program change: Murphy snuck into our planned presenter's schedule book and set our presentation up for Tuesday night... Brian Harrison, KN4R, will be giving his presentation on Radio and the Disappearance of Amelia Earhart at the August 13 meeting.

Tamitha Skov, a credentialed space meteorologist, gave tonight's presentation via YouTube:

Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SpWxfx>

Sampler: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z795uEjCxYI>

Forecast 07-08-2018: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0pPPDrQ3Oo>

David, KC4X, interpreted the report for the rest of us: For the next three weeks, 12, 15, and 20 meter bands should have good propagation without need of an amp, and of course, on 10 and 6 meters, 100 watts is all you ever need.

8. 13 Colonies Special Event 10th Anniversary: Doc Holliday, WB4QIZ, asked how many had participated in the event, and a good show of hands was seen. Several were able to contact all 13 colonies, and some also contacted one or both of the bonus stations, WM3PEN and GB13COL. There was also a Gettysburg special event station on the air, not part of this event, that some were able to contact. David Shoaf, KC4X, served as one of the North Carolina K2J stations and had on the order of 505 contacts on sideband and FT-8.

9. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2021 hours.

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

Jim Atkins W4UX, Bruce Bailiff WB4QCM, Rick Batté N4MBI, Jim Bielski KJ4FIN, Terry Brown AK4D, John Canup KM4HVB, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Judson Davis KG4OHQ, Ronn Dunn KN4RKD, Don Edwards WS4NC, Kent Englebert K4HKE, Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, David Griffith WA4MCK, Doc Holliday WB4QIZ, Ken Kayser K2KXX, Van Key KC4WSK, John Kippe K1PPE, Ian MacArthur W4STH, Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Jim Mansfield WA4NOT, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, John McKee NN4OO, Steven Mellen K2MLN, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Jerry Minor K4GW, Edwin Needham AF4XC, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Michael Pope K4OLD, Jim Register KV4SJ, Harold Richardson N4HER, Chris Rodie KW4VK, Jack Rowe K4JHR, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Beth Rudy, Jim Sarfert N3LBJ, David Shoaf KC4X, Henry Smith W4HHS, Jeff Stafford AC4YN, Bill Starkey N4WWS, Richard Talbert W4IHC, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Mike Vernon W4MAV, Steven Weifenbach KN4LKP.