

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 20 August 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, 20 August 2018 at Sixty Six Pizzeria, 3440 Frontis St, Winston Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC President David Shoaf, K4CX, at 1930 hours, welcoming all meeting attendees.

2. Meeting Attendees: The 23 meeting attendees were Kent Englebert K4HKE, Ian MacArthur W4STH, Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Jim Register KV4SJ, Terry Brown AK4D, Daryl Knight N5WK, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Steve Mierisch KG4JWU, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Jim Atkins W4UX, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, Don Edwards WS4NC, Michael Pope K4OLD, Harold Richardson N4HER, David Shoaf KC4X, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Jerry Minor K4GW, and Jeff Stafford AC4YN.

3. Bylaws: Terry Brown, AK4D, reported that the bylaws committee is very close to being ready for final. The proposed bylaws will then be put on the website and voted on in the following club meeting.

4. Suggestions: David Shoaf, KC4X, reported on comments received in our suggestion box. Robert Meier, AA9AU, has suggested a program on time standards (the WWV and WWVB station signals), Colpitts, Clapp and stripline oscillators. An anonymous contributor has suggested a CW training course. Jerry Minor, K4GW, remarked that he stood in front of the club, asked for a show of interest in a class on the Morse Code and received zero response. Caroline Kuebert, KM4VCO, expressed an interest in another program on building a device for Ham Radio (ed: similar to the tape measure antenna?). Caroline also said she knew many of the FARC members had some really great stories, and wondered if it was possible to have a time/place for them to share.

5. NIST Budget Cuts: Harold Richardson, N4HER, brought up the ARRL newsletter article about NIST's proposed budget which would eliminate the time and frequency standard stations WWV, WWVH, and WWVB. (The article titles only specify WWV and WWVH, but WWVB is included. WWVB is the 60 kHz station that consumer "atomic" clocks and watches sync to.)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/nist-fy-2019-budget-would-eliminate-wwv-and-wwvh>

<https://swling.com/blog/2018/08/nist-fy2019-budget-includes-request-to-shutdown-wwv-and-wwvh/>

6. FirstFest Hamfest: Jim Atkins, W4UX, reported that the ARRL sent notice that our First Fest has been accepted as a sanctioned hamfest. Don, WS4NC, mentioned running into Fred Redmond, NC4FR, who organized the Greensboro hamfest. Fred reported that for several years, they made very little money, and the last hamfest cost him \$6,000 out of his own pocket. Fred wanted to know how we managed to keep this going, and the answer is that we have two small ones and keep expenses down. Don checked into the records, and found that the last time we had it at the Benton Convention Center we spent \$14,000 and made \$1,000. If it had been a rainy weekend, we would have been in serious trouble.

7. Repeater work: David Shoaf, KC4X, reported that he, Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL, and Jim Register, KV4SJ, spent a warm Saturday in the penthouse and on the roof at Baptist Hospital, pulling a new hard line from the roof to the repeater. Progress on the roof was halted by the arrival of rain, but at least David and Jim received their weekly showers. Plans are to go back on Thursday and hopefully make more progress. David also reported that several weeks ago, he and Dale discovered that the phone line we have been paying over \$40 per month for was not even working, so they elected to have that turned off and save the money for other things.

8. Donation of ham equipment: Geoff Rudy, KK4MOV reported that Charles Rierson had approached the club about donating his father's old station for use in the club station or to fund some sponsored educational setup. He thought his father would appreciate that considering his background as a teacher and scoutmaster. Geoff is following up with him. David suggested that that we consider the probable age of the equipment, which has been sitting unused for the past seventeen years, in determining the best way those goals might be reached. Don Edwards, WS4NC, suggested that we might use the proceeds to purchase kits and have a kit building program. Bobby Meier, AA9AU, asked if there were any kits for 2m/440 rigs out on the market, in the interest of perhaps getting new operators.

9. Project Group: Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, announced that the project group will be meeting at Don's office.

10. Nominating Committee: Don Edwards, WS4NC, reports that the nominating committee has met, several candidates have been selected but not all yet.

11. Upcoming Programs: The September program will be Satellite 101 by Philip Jenkins, N4HF. The October program will be Radio and the Disappearance of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan by Brian Harrison, KN4R.

12. Paid members: Kent Englebert, K4HKE, asked how many paid members we had this year. Jim Register, reported 63 total paid club members, 109 including life, family, and courtesy members. We discussed a membership committee to handle getting in the renewals, possibly putting the ability to renew memberships online, paying via paypal. Robert Meier, AA9AU, volunteered to work on putting together a dues mailing list. David appointed Jim Register, KV4SJ Chair of the paypal and renewals effort; Don Edwards, WS4NC, Stacey MacArthur, W1LLO, Bobby Meier, AA9AU, Terry Brown, AK4D, and Kent Englebert K4HKE, volunteered to help.

13. Vagabond Webserver: John Steinberger, W8LWX has been donating web space for the Vagabonds, but he will be shutting down his hosting account, and they are looking for a new home. We discussed what we knew, and that the Vagabonds were going to discuss the issue after breakfast in Wednesday.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.