

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club - 11 February 2019

By Stacey MacArthur (W1LLO)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 11 February 2019 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club at the Red Cross Building, 690 Coliseum Drive, was called to order by President Sam Poindexter, NI4TG, at 1928 hours. Sam welcomed all attendees, approximately 24, for coming out this evening, and invited each to give their name and callsign.

2. Email Duplication: Don, WS4NC, addressed the issue of multiple email newsletters to club members due to a problem with the email provider. Gmail only allows sending so many emails at once, and so multiple groupings were sent. This, alongside reported delivery failures, resulted in some duplication. We have moved to the mass email provider 'Mailchimp' which should avoid any problems in the future.

3. Announcements: Sam, NI4TG, informed everyone of upcoming events. HD8M Galapagos DXpedition 160m – 10m SSB, CW, FT8 Foxhound Mode on February 27 – March 6th. See <http://www.HD8M.com> for more information. NC QSO party will be held 20m February 24th. Next month's presentation is Skywarn training. Sam reminded everyone Skywarn training must be re-certified every 2 years, so this is a great opportunity. Daryl Night, N5WK, will be stepping down as field day coordinator and Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, has been appointed as replacement. David Shoaf, KC4X, has been appointed as the Ham Fest chairman for 2019 with the assistance of Steve Patterson, WA3RTC.

4. Business Meeting: Sam, NI4TG, along with the announcements reminded everyone about our upcoming business meeting next Monday at Sixty-Six Pizzeria on Frontis Plaza Street, 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.

5. Treasurer's Report: As Treasurer Kent Englebert, K4HKE was absent, Sam gave a brief treasurer's report. Our balance in the bank is \$4,667.

6. AUXCOMM Report: Harlan Cobert, W1HRC, with a reminder of the EOC net controller training that is coming Saturday, the 16th of February at the Red Cross Building, 690 Coliseum Drive, beginning at 8am and going until 4:30pm.

Upcoming public service event. April 6th Hanging Rock state park. Need 6-8 people to run communications for a hiking event. Not an easy hike, relatively strenuous, between 1-5 miles in and out. 1 station is available for transport via ATV. Please see Harlan for more details.

Folks from 'Bike MS' (who we support annually for the Tour 2 Tanglewood event) have a 10k walk and have requested radio operators to volunteer for SAG and finish line stations on April 6th and April 27th.

Once again Harlan impressed the importance of training and that training is available on the FEMA and NCTERMS (<https://terms.ncem.org/TRS/>) websites.

7. Testing: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL. Upcoming: New applicants for amateur radio licenses will no longer be asked for their TIN when filling out test paperwork. Instead they must register with the FCC for an FRN and use that FRN to set up a username and account before coming in for the exam.

8. Repeater Update: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL. All repeaters are up and operational. Other than that, little change from last month. The technical team responsible for the repeaters have been ill, so work was delayed until this month. Reminder to use CTCSS codes for analog users to mute digital signals coming into the new fusion repeaters if the digital 'buzz' these signals prove an annoyance.

9. Program: This month's program was 'Patrolling the Ether - The FCC's Radio Intelligence Division in WWII', presented by Brian Harrison, KN4R. The program involved the FCC's efforts to calm the radio spectrum and develop ways of identifying and locating spies and ships via radio direction finding during WWII. Hams were brought in for their skills as radio operators, and those back home, no longer able to transmit, were engaged by the FCC and the military to monitor and report suspicious signal activities on the airwaves. The program finished off with the 1944 short docudrama of "Patrolling the Ether." Part of a video series called "Crime Does Not Pay".

The presentation is available on YouTube at the following:

<https://youtu.be/Nhg8uzH22d4>

Brian is also a member of the Carolina Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association at

<http://cc-awa.club>

10. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2023.

11. Partial List of Meeting Attendees: Below is a partial list of FARC meeting attendees.

Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Doug MacArthur W4STH, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Harold Richardson N4HER, David Ramsey W4OIL, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Don Edwards WS4NC, David Shoaf KC4X, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Michael Pope K4OLD, Neal Pruitt WD4LSS, Van Key KC4WSK, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Doc Holiday WB4QIZ, Rick Ellinger, Mike Brown W4LKN, Adam Martin KN4GCB, Brent Carter, Margie Lamb N4ZKE, George Lamb N4ROT, Mike Mahan KB4WIA, Jim Atkins W4UX, David Griffith WA4MKK, Brian Kuebert N4UEZ