

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 9 March 2020

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 9 March 2020 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 1930 hours. Sam welcomed all attendees, approximately 45, for coming out this evening, and invited each to give their name and callsign.

2. Announcements: North and South Carolina QSO Parties this past weekend had limited attendance, yet we still scored approximately 65,000* points. If anyone has a laser printer at home they are not using and would mind donating it to the club, please see Don (WS4NC) or Sam (NI4TG); it would be greatly appreciated. As part of the shack cleanup initiative, an updated county map has been requested by Harlan Cobert (W1HRC) as the shack operates as a backup EOC. Upon cleanup, a county map was found and presented to Harlan by Don. Map is dated 1988. (hi hi)

3. Silent Key: We are sorry to announce that Bill Thompson (KK4ZIU) passed away this past week. Always eager to help, many knew him as being a volunteer examiner and assisting in events such as Tour to Tanglewood. He will be dearly missed.

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kent Englebert (K4HKE) gave a brief treasurer's report. Our balance in the bank is \$4447.19 after the collection of additional dues and the payout of minor expenses. Only major expense forthcoming will be lawyer expenses in connection to the bylaws. A reminder that the dues went up in January; \$15 for Seniors, \$30 for Standard annual membership.

5. Remote Hams: Gene Bowman (WB4MSG) installed a new antenna switch box this past weekend for use with Remote Hams. Anyone logging in to operate the club shack radio via Remote Hams will now be able to choose from multiple bands, with the antennas and filters switching automatically. A reminder that to access this fantastic club resource, all dues must be paid in full, and you must be authorized to log in. See Ken Kayser (K2KXK) for details. As per Don (WS4NC), the beam will now be directed towards Europe as it can not be remotely controlled at this time. The bands on the beam are 40 20 15 and 10 meters.

6. Bylaws: A final version of the bylaws have been reviewed and decided upon by the board. The new bylaws were printed in last month's newsletter, as well as posted on the website. A vote to pass the new bylaws was motioned, seconded, and passed by majority vote.

7. Program: This month's program was the annual Auxcomm presentation by Harlan Cobert (W1HRC). The program can be viewed on YouTube using this link. <https://youtu.be/Z7hEgTQHAdI>

8. Business Meeting: Sam (NI4TG) reminded everyone about our upcoming business meeting next Monday at Sixty-Six Pizzeria on Frontis Plaza Street, right near 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.

9. Testing and Repeater Report: Dale Mierisch (WB9SZL) presented the testing and repeater report.

Eleven tests were given, with four upgrading or taking it again. Four new Technician licensees, one General, and one Extra; the VEs were asked to stand for recognition. The club TYT VHF radio that had gone bad is now repaired and back in the shack to be used as a backup. The Internet provider has once again changed their systems up on Sauratown mountain, and those changed have been adapted for the repeater. The 145.47 repeater is now up and running well, as is 146.64 with limited range. Work is scheduled for the .64 repeater in the next few weeks. EchoLink is running well on .315 (Jerry Minor K4GW). 146.64 EchoLink server needs to be reworked and has been temporarily broken down. A question was asked about the WXII site. Two years ago, we were forced to relocate the .47 repeater to an alternative site. The repeater had been on the WXII tower for about twenty or so years but was taken down when the FCC channel reallocation forced the broadcaster to build a new antenna to cover their new frequencies. Whether we can relocate back to that site once construction is completed is unclear, but we are hopeful.

10. Auxcomm/Ares: Hanging Rock hiking event, April 4th still needs people; 12-15 people are needed for this event. MS 10k walk on April 18th still needs volunteers as well; 6 are needed for this event.

11. 2m SSB: Keith Thomas (KA4JAH) and Phil Simmons (KU4GP) have organized a 2m SSB activity night. This will be Thursday nights at 9pm on frequency 144.200 SSB.

12. Charlotte Ham Fest: Reminder from Harold (N4HER) that the Charlotte ham fest is this weekend, March 14th and 15th. Come and take a look.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2053.

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

Don Edwards WS4NC, Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Mike Vernon W4MAV, Harold Richardson N4HER, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Henry Smith W4HHS, Jim Bielski KJ4FIN, Pedro Tomas KN4GKY, Van Key KC4WSK, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Jerry Minor K4GW, Bill Seward W4EXT, Wayne Yankee KO4BUD, David Shoaf KC4X, Kent Englebert K4HKE, Bruce Bailiff WB4QCM, Jeremy Brown Sr. KN4VVQ, David Nicholson N2AWE, David Ramsey W4OIL, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, Marcus Johnson N4MFJ, Ken Worland KW4UC, Linda Worland KW4UD, Michael Pope K4OLD, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Ron Adkins KM4WPN, Phil Simmons KU4GP, Keith Thomas KA4JAH, Andy Brinkley NC4AB, Mike Morton KK4NRS, Steve Weifenbach W3SAW, Dick Hattaway W4PID, Fred Overstreet WB4QXG, Kay Edwards KC4GKC, John Kippe K1PPE, Steve Mellen K2MLN, Nick Hunter KN4UOL, Rich Emmerich KJ4FEF, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Daniel Ferguson, Jeremy Brown Jr.