

## Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 18 May 2020

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

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The monthly Board of Directors Business Meeting, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, was called to order by President Sam Poindexter (NI4TG) at 1934 hours. The meeting was held on Zoom video conferencing software due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2. Meeting Attendees:** The 20 meeting attendees were, Don Edwards WS4NC, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Harold Richardson N4HER, Stephen Patterson WA3RTC, Terry Brown AK4D, Jim Register KV4SJ, Van Key KC4WSK, Ken Kayser K2KXX, Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Michael Pope K4OLD, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, David Nicholson N2AWE, Kent Englebert K4HKE, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, Doc Holliday WB4DOC, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, John Canup KM4HVB, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, and David Shoaf KC4X.
- 3. Testing and Repeater Report:** Dale Mierisch (WB9SZL) presented the testing and repeater report. The hospital is inaccessible for the time being so there will be no work done on the 146.64 repeater until later. 145.47 is up and running well as well as the EchoLink node. Testing has been suspended for the moment due to the pandemic. W4VEC is not supporting remote testing currently. It will be up to the testing session managers to decide when in-person testing may continue, and only then following safety guidelines and requirements, and obeying any local ordinances. This information changes daily, but currently we can expect testing sessions as early as mid-July. Outdoor testing is also being considered. More information in the next few months.
- 4. Budget:** Kent Englebert (K4HKE) gave a short treasurers report. The insurance is ready to be submitted. Items have been added to the list including the FTM-100D in the Auxcomm go-box.
- 5. Email:** We are currently using Mailchimp for newsletter and wide email distribution. The free account has limitations that the club has outgrown. There are issues with mail servers blocking free Mailchimp accounts as these are often abused by spammers. A motion was called to allow spending of approximately \$120.00 per year for a paid account offering more capability. The motion was seconded and passed.
- 6. Field Day:** The Field day committee has made the decision to go ahead with planning for Field Day at home. Previously a date of June 1<sup>st</sup> had been proposed for a final decision. The committee felt no further delay was necessary as even if local restrictions were lifted, it would not be prudent to gather in large numbers considering the age and health of most Field Day participants. The committee will be writing up rules and guidelines for distribution for operating at home as a club, prior to the June club meeting which is annually scheduled as the Field Day prep presentation.
- 7. ARRL Accreditation:** Our ARRL accreditation has lapsed. We will be submitting our information on member involvement and training opportunities to get the club re-listed.
- 8. Tower Clean-up:** Although the tower clean-up project had been placed on hold until the Pandemic subsided, there are multiple items that must be taken care of as soon as possible. Scaling on the legs of the tower must be repaired. Concrete can be poured around the base, covering the bottom section of

legs for support. Magnolia limbs have pressed against the guy lines causing them to slack, those need to be cut down. A fence or barrier structure must be constructed around the base of the tower to prevent any liability of unauthorized climbing. A motion to spend up to \$200.00 for fencing was called, seconded and passed. The other issues will be addressed soon. It is stressed that volunteers do NOT attempt to go to the Red Cross to assist with repair, all work must first be cleared with the Red Cross.

**9. Auxcomm/Ares:** Beginning in June, a Zoom meeting will be held in leu of one of the traditional repeater nets. This meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month beginning at 2000 hours local time. Training is being scheduled for a WebEOC refresher as well as an accompanying drill, time and date to be announced.

**10. Adjournment of Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 2110 hours.