

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 14 December 2020

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

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 14 December 2020 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Sam Poindexter (NI4TG) at 1930 hours. The meeting was held on Zoom video conferencing software due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sam welcomed all attendees, approximately 45, for joining us this evening.

2. Announcements: January meeting is the annual show and tell presentations. Please have your projects ready to present if you like. No board meeting scheduled for December. No ham fest in January as it has been moved to April 24th, hopefully we can go ahead with it this year.

3. Year Summary: Quick end of year synopsis. The 90th anniversary celebration that was scheduled for this past year was postponed due to COVID. Zoom video conferencing software enabled us to continue meeting, if not in person. We had a successful January ham fest. Developed weekly tech talk meetings on Wednesdays and CW meetings on Fridays. The bylaws are now complete and updated as of this year. All important documents have been stored on the webserver for safety. The club trustee has been changed. Field day was successful but different, we operated from home coming in 12th in North America. Many outstanding presentations this year.

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kent Englebert (K4HKE) gave the year end treasurer's report. Our balance in the bank at the beginning of the year was \$2,892. It is now \$3,161 end of year. Major expenses included liability insurance, which increased slightly this year to \$856. \$375 for legal fees associated with the bylaws. Repeater costs \$406 including tower rent and internet. \$593 for webhosting for a 3-year period. Amazon smile program as contributed \$776 to date. A few items were added to the budget for next year, including the now approved mild dues increase. Cost for rotator control for remote hams. April hamfest is not currently in the budget for next year as this event is still up in the air due to COVID, we do still anticipate having it which will increase the income approx. \$500. We successfully achieved our goal of always maintaining a minimum amount of \$2000 in the bank.

5. Dues: Previously the board approved a small increase. In 1930 dues were \$9.50, which would be \$150 today. Taking in account inflation, membership dues continue to remain low. Dues are now \$25 for all membership levels and a reminder those are due by the end of January. If paying by PayPal (information on the website) please include your callsign and dues/donation breakdown in the notes section.

6. Auxcomm/Ares: Harlan Cobert (W1HRC) presented the Auxcomm report. This year was different for the Auxcomm group. There were very few in person activities due to the pandemic, but training remained steady. We have approx. 14-15 people on average checking in to the Thursday night training net. A video training session was established on the 3rd Thursday of every month in leu of an on-air net to replace the in-person training that was cancelled this year. The state is happy with our progress. We are still currently one of the number one groups in the state as far as membership, activities, and training level.

7. Repeater and Testing Report: Dale Mierisch (WB9SZL) presented the repeater report. 145.47 repeater is up and running well, which has been most of the year, along with the EchoLink node. There were a few reports of interference which has been tracked down. General maintenance is planned at

the site early to mid-January, as well as reconfiguring our internet system for the new architecture installed by the ISP. Arrangements are being made to gain access to the roof of Baptist hospital so work can be done on the repeaters. Access has been restricted due to the COVID pandemic. An entire system inspection is planned and is scheduled for some time after the first of the year. The 146 repeater is still accessible, unfortunately the 444 repeater is experiencing heavy local interference. An updated memorandum of agreement is being drafted and sent to the Baptist hospitals legal team outlining access rights, emergency conditions, and points of contact. Testing for FARC is through the W4VEC sponsor, which was suspended back in March, and unfortunately remote testing is not supported by W4VEC at this time. Alternate local testing through Greensboro, Highpoint, and Lexington sites have been made available. We hope to have local testing resume as soon as the COVID restrictions are relaxed, or we find suitable outdoor testing solutions.

8. Program: This month's program was by Don Edwards (WS4NC) on the history of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club through QSL cards.

9. Baofeng Drawing: If had attended the past few general meetings, you were placed into a drawing for a blue Baofeng HT radio. The winner of the radio was Neil Foster N4FN. The winner will be contacted with details and delivery.

10. Awards: This year's awards were presented by President Sam Poindexter (NI4TG). The Ham of the Year award went to Terry Brown (AK4D) for his endless work on the W4NC website. He worked especially hard this year moving all our important files to the webserver for archiving. The MVP award went to Don Edwards (WS4NC) for newsletter excellence. Don works tirelessly on the excellent newsletter that is sent to members every month. A special award was presented to Harold Richardson (N4HER) of a Lifetime membership.

11. Presentation of Officers: Per the bylaws, President and Vice President may not serve more than two years concurrently. The exception to this rule, if a willing member cannot be found to take the position, is a vote by the club body of two-thirds, which passed. The officers for 2021 are as follows. President Sam Poindexter (NI4TG), Vice President Mason Matrazzo (KM4SII), Treasurer Kent Englebert (K4HKE) and Secretary Stacey MacArthur (W1LLO).

12. Field Day Pins: Harold Richardson (N4HER) wanted to thank everyone for a successful Field Day. Anyone who participated and joined us on the Zoom call that was held for the duration will receive a Field Day 2020 pin. The list of recipients has been listed on the W4NC website. Delivery when normal meetings resume.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2123 local time.

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

Don Edwards WS4NC, Stacey MacArthur W1LLO, Sam Poindexter NI4TG, Harold Richardson N4HER, Steve Patterson WA3RTC, Van Key KC4WSK, Harlan Cobert W1HRC, David Shoaf KC4X, Kent Englebert K4HKE, Terry Brown AK4D, Bob McClellan W3AVB, Mary McClellan KM4WPO, Ken Kayser K2KXX, John Canup KM4HVB, Doug Spriggs W4DCS, Terry Good W3NPS, Dick Hattaway W4PID, Andy Brinkley NC4AB, Marcia Thompson NC4MT, Bruce Thompson AD4ET, Mason Matrazzo KM4SII, Doc Holliday WB4DOC, Neal Pruitt WD4LSS, Judson Davis KG4OHQ, Bill Seward W4EXT, Carl Brown N4PAA, Steve Iltis KM4OCR,

Nick Hunter W4NPH, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, David Nicholson N2AWE, Ron Gregoire W4UDB, Keith Thomas KA4JAH, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Wayne Collins KK4ZHL, Doug MacArthur W4STH, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Sarvasri Ananda KG7SU, Caroline Kuebert KM4VCO, Michael Pope, K4OLD, Gary Miller WA4VMC, Mark Scott KM4V, Bill Patterson KD4RGB, and Albert Noda.