

# Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club – 11 January 2021

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

**1. Call to Order and Welcome:** The 11 January 2021 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Sam Poindexter (N14TG) at 1930 hours. The meeting was held on Zoom video conferencing software due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sam welcomed all attendees, approximately 54, for joining us this evening.

**2. Announcements:** Sam (N14TG) took a moment to recognize new members Scotty Howerton, and Rick Huebner WORCY, as well as guest Wally Howerton W8ALLY. The FCC has passed the fee on amateur radio licenses. Upgrades and renewals will now cost \$35. Virginia has passed a new wireless communications law; Amateur operators have been exempted. This law is coming to North Carolina, so please contact your representatives to assure we are exempted as well. For reference this is NC House Bill 144. Silent Key Tag Bowers K4TAG, there is a write up in the newsletter about Tag. A reminder to pay your yearly dues, they are due by the end of January. You can pay via PayPal, or check. The link and address are on the website.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kent Englebert (K4HKE) gave a brief treasurer's report. Our balance in the bank is \$3,508.17. There are no upcoming large expenses, and the club is in good shape.

**4. Auxcomm/Ares:** Harlan Cobert (W1HRC) presented the Auxcomm report. Weekly Auxcomm nets are on Thursday at 8:30pm on the W4NC 145.47 repeater; Zoom training the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 8:00pm. The Zoom number can be found on the website. There is a push from for members to be Winlink capable. Winlink training will be scheduled for one of the upcoming Thursday Zoom sessions. This year's goal is to supplement traditional training with more exercises and drills. The skills that are learned through training are perishable; Drills and exercises are important to solidify this knowledge. February 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be WebEOC Just in time training from 10am – 12:30pm; Sign up on the NCTERMS website. Skywarn training this year will be a virtual, self-guided course. More information will be placed on the website when available. Reminder to please be sure your ICS courses are up to date. If they are not, take the most current version and email your certificate to ares[at]w4nc.com.

**5. Repeater Report:** Dale Mierisch (WB9SZL) presented the repeater report. 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 some time soon. 145.47 repeater is up and running well, along with the EchoLink node. Testing is still suspended at this time. We hope to have local testing resume as soon as the COVID restrictions are relaxed, or we find suitable outdoor testing solutions. In the meantime, there are other local options available and applicants are being directed there.

**6. Program:** This month's program was the annual show and tell. Projects presented were by David Nicholson N2AWE – Hand-made J-Pole, Bobby Meier AA9AU – Airport VOT beacon, Bob McClellan W3AVB – Hammo Can, Doug Spriggs W4DCS – QRP Radio, Ken Kayser K2KXK – Ham Clock, David Shoaf KC4X – Wireless audio interface, Steve Patterson WA3RTC – Rotator control, Dick Hattaway W4PID – Homemade antenna analyzer, and Gene Bowman WB4MSG – Station automation.

**7. Adjournment of Meeting:** A motion was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2101 local time.

**8. 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, Michael Culbreth W4CZJ, Doug Spriggs W4DCS, Terry Good W3NPS, Lou Mayer KK4NUB, Dick Hattaway W4PID, Jerry Minor K4GW, Richard Hall K7RLH, Andy Brinkley NC4AB, Marcia Thompson NC4MT, Bruce Thompson AD4ET, Mason Matrazzo KM4SII, Doc Holliday WB4DOC, Neal Pruitt WD4LSS, Judson Davis KG4OHQ, Bill Seward W4EXT, David Jones KN4VBT, Jim Register KV4SJ, Steve Iltis KM4OCR, Nick Hunter W4NPH, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, David Nicholson N2AWE, Jim Atkins W4UX, Bill Kennedy WD4OTY, Keith Thomas KA4JAH, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Arjun Chatterjee KB6MTH, Walter Howerton W8ALLY, Neil Foster N4FN, Terry Farrell AC4HP, Geoff Rudy KK4MOV, Richard Huebner W0RCY, Bobby Meier AA9AU, Gary Miller WA4VMC, Bill Patterson KD4RGB, Mark Gaines KM4TUK, Mark Raysin KG4GVJ, Mark Scott K4MV, Michael Pope K4OLD, Joe Waugh, and Scotty Howerton.