



# Newsletter



## A New Ham's Perspective of His First Single-Op Contest (or Murphy Rides Again!)

By Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP

*Editor: There was a price to be extracted for my help that Robert discusses below - an article for the newsletter! This situation was so ironic that it was amusing (well at least a little Robert). It took a while (and a few threats) before Robert delivered his 'epistle'. Then it took me a while to find an appropriate 'Rosetta Stone' to use to translate Robert's 'scrawl'. But the result I believe was worth it all. Enjoy - Don, WS4NC*

One week before Christmas, in the hustle and bustle of the season, I managed to slip in the ARRL 10-meter contest December 15 and 16. This was my first single-op venture in my very short ham career. I have been fortunate enough to be a part of W4WS contest team for NAQP SSB and CQ WWDX. These guys are great and have helped me understand a lot about contesting in a short period of time. A single-op contest seemed to be a good way to test the skills I've developed working with these guys.

Having recently added a tribander to my home station, I felt I would be able to at least compete with the Big Guns even though I chose to run low power with 100 Watts. I checked the band at random times during the weeks leading up to the contest, checked the antennas (G5RV, Cushcraft A3S, random wire, coax and grounds, etc). I visited N4VHK for advice. I was even able to secure permission to use the club call, W4NC, which was an honor. I even took off work at lunchtime the day of the contest (Friday) to take care of any errands and check out my station before 'test' time, 7 PM local. I even worked a WH6 (Hawaii) so all looked good for the upcoming contest. I 'QSYed' to the grocery store for some snacks and a few things needed at home.

Upon returning home all I could hear on 10 meters was a real mess. (I left the rig on while I was at the store.) As I turned the dial I knew I

*Continued top of next page*

## Winston-Salem Hamfest - June 8, 2002

The Hamfest will soon be upon us! All indications are a go for the hamfest. At the Raleigh Hamfest an out-of-town ham loudly ran down a club member who was wearing a W-S Hamfest t-shirt and asked "Are you guys still having the W-S Hamfest?" Apparently he didn't subscribe to SERA Journal or QST and he hadn't seen a flyer at other hamfests. He congratulated us on the way we conduct our hamfest and told us that it is one hamfest that he and his friends doesn't ever want to miss. To his relief, he was assured that indeed the Hamfest will happen and will occur on June 8.

Talking to other hams around the state has assured us that the W-S hamfest has developed a loyal following. We have developed a format that doesn't kill the club members to hold (that means little work), doesn't risk all the Club's capital (that means low budget) and has developed many, many loyal fans. We keep growing a little every year as word continues to spread. All this in a time when many hamfests are folding because of rising expenses and falling attendance. And eBay doesn't help any hamfest's cause.

Of course little work doesn't mean no work. This meeting we will discuss what remains to be done. In most cases those who have done a particular job in the past will do that same job again but we need verification on this. If you plan to do your same job as last year please let us know - either email [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com) or attend the meeting (or both). If you are new and want to help, let us know. There's always room for a little more help! And the more, the merrier since more members helping means those who are working can get some relief and get a chance to see the goodies. More bodies means more fun for everybody. And this has been a great fun event every year!

## Club Meeting Monday, May 13, 2002

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 610 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building. This meeting starts at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to 'hob-nob' with your fellow hams. The major part of the program will concern planning for the W-S Hamfest.

## Amateur Radio Exams

Amateur Radio exams will be given at the American Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC (Beside WXII-TV), first Saturday of May at 9:00 A.M. by the W4VEC VEC Group. (Next Exam at the W-S Hamfest.) For more information see the W4VEC VEC website at: [www.w4vec.com](http://www.w4vec.com) or contact Rick Batte', N4MBI at [n4mbi@ols.net](mailto:n4mbi@ols.net) or 336-924-1881. Be sure to bring two forms of ID, one being a photo ID, your SSN, original license, photo copy of your present amateur license, and any CSCE's. Also you need to bring your FRN which is required by the FCC. This can be obtained from the CORES database, or you can refer to the letter that you received or will receive from the FCC.

## INSIDE:

NASA & FARC.....	Page 3
Club Shack Update.....	Page 3
Hiram Percy Maxim Award.....	Page 3
ARES.....	Page 3
W2DZO - SK.....	Page 4
Hamfests.....	Page 5
A Ham's View.....	Page 5
Steve Sallee.....	Page 5
For Sale.....	Page 6

had a real problem. The call went out on FARC repeater 146.64, "Houston, we have a problem!" Henry, N4VHK answered my call asking "What's wrong?" I explained that my receiver seemed to be not working, but only on 10 meters. I could hear stations but the audio sounded rough and 'warbley'. After several minutes of checking the rig out over the phone Henry called Don, WB4KQN [now WS4NC].

I had called 'The Don' earlier and asked if he had an HF rig I could borrow. Unfortunately he had sold his recently. Murphy had reared his ugly head and my frustration was approaching overload! N4VHK came back over to the repeater and said to expect a call from 'The Don' for directions to my QTH. 'The Don' and I only live a few miles apart. After a brief analysis and a quick look at the service manual 'The Don' concluded that the Phase Lock Loop fourth VCO was losing lock. The fourth VCO was only used on ten and twelve meters (of course). All the other bands were working well. But I was out of service for a ten-meter contest.

Henry offered his shack, aka 'The Kiva' to operate from there. But  
*Continued next column*

**Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc** is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 610 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 610 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes inaccurately and wrongly called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All clubs members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-723-7388; or visit our web site at [www.w4nc.org](http://www.w4nc.org). Club email is to [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com).

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[w4nc-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:w4nc-subscribe@yahoo.com).

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We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many local clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

with the baby sitter (my wife) watching three children (ages 14, 2 1/2 and 2 1/2 - yes twins), I felt being away from home all weekend would not be wise. After a brief discussion with the 'baby sitter' my thoughts turned out to be warranted. 'The Don' helped me weigh my options: go to the Kiva or go to FARC's station in the basement of the Red Cross and borrow the spare Kenwood TS-440 rig. Since he had the Red Cross key and was willing to do it I said let's do it! The contest had started half-an-hour before we left. My rig was an Icom and I didn't have an adapter for the Heil headset to connect to the Kenwood so that called for a trip to the Kiva to get a Heil adapter for Kenwood.

By the time we had returned to my shack and setup the rig and made my first QSO the time was 8:55 PM. Three more QSO's and the band died. Still frustrated, but not beaten I turned off the rig and went inside. At 6 AM Saturday I returned to the rig with a some-what better attitude. I turned on the rig and started scanning. The band opened around 7 AM and I worked 230 QSOs when the band dies around 9 PM. With a goal of 1000 Q's I was well behind my planned goal. Never the less I returned at 6 AM Sunday morning. The band opened shortly and I was fortunate to snag another 300 Q's with a good run of JA's neat the end of the contest at 7 PM EST Sunday.

Other than a few short breaks I pretty much stuck to the rig the entire contest. What I did learn: How uncomfortable my 'comfortable' chair really is. How difficult it is to hold a run frequency with only 100 Watts. And no matter how well you plan Murphy's Law will rear up on its hind legs at the worst possible time and in the worst possible way. Overall I felt very good about the outcome of my first single-op contest. But not with out the help from several people! I would like to thank Don Edwards (The Don) WB4KQN [now WS4NC] and the entire W4WS contest crew, the FARC club and last, but not least, Tim, KG4MQD, my good friend and Elmer. He's the one who usually get those annoying calls from me!

Thanks to everyone for all their help, advice and good companionship. Even though I'm a new ham and a new member of FARC I fell I have been welcomed and accepted by everyone. PS Unofficially with 534 Q's, 71 countries, 45 states and 7 Canadian provinces my score was 130,623. It may be enough to win NC and place well in 4 land.  
*73, Robert, KG4NEP*

*Editor: I wasn't aware that my exploits were so infamous as to deserve an article before my name (El Cid, El Conquistador, The Don) but I'm flattered, I think. Robert has been a quick learner. He recently placed first in the US (!) Claimed (still unofficial at this point) scores for WPX SSB in the Rookie category (licensed less than 3 years) for single op, low power, all band. The top three scores are shown below. Not many people get a plaque in their second solo contest. Actually most people don't even make the certificate level-ever! Wow! WS4NC*

**2002 CQWW WPX Contest, SSB - Final USA Claimed Scores  
01May2002**

Call	QSOs	Prfxs	hr	Score	Club
USA SO(R)AB LP					
<b>KG4NEP</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>561,368</b>	
K8KHZ	455	319	19	348,348	MRRC
N4WSM	260	209		146,091	TCG

**Would you like to become a member of FARC? It's easy! Dues are \$24/year (\$12/year for over 65 & students) prorated to end in December, i.e. in April dues would be \$16 (\$8 for over 65 and students). Feel free to drop into any meeting, we'd love to have you. Second Monday of every month at the Red Cross, 610 Coliseum Dr. Or email [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com) for more details.**

## NASA's Looking for a Few Good FARC Members!

*This is an email from Jeff, KF4EKY and is a bit of new business we will discuss at the next club meeting.*

NASA's Langley Research Center will conduct FOUR days of workshops for science teachers May 28 through 31...in connection with the NASA-TV/DirecTV science education project I initiated last year.

The head of science education in Forsyth County, Dr. Stan Hill was most welcoming to the prospect of having both Forsyth Astronomical and Forsyth Amateur Radio Societies set up shop at some time during the 4 day workshop...to acquaint the districts leading science teachers with these science based resources that can supplement their instruction.

It would also give these organizations a chance to probe how they might be able to assist and spark the interest of students in these disciplines.

Please let me know if this is a viable prospect for our organizations so that I may help coordinate this collaboration.

*Thanks for your support  
Jeff Thompson, KF4EKY*

## Club Shack Update

Just want to let everyone know how our tower project is coming along. We'll shoot for Saturday, May 11 to have a final workday to hoist the yagi to the tower and complete the following list of items:

1. Tighten guys after lifting antenna.
2. Install VHF antennas (Tom N4IOZ can head this crew-parts for VHF antennas?)
3. Install new PL-259's on existing coax runs (Don will take care of this)
4. Test out existing coax runs
5. Check out/install Telrex yagi on tower below the Force 12 yagi

The big yagi is on the roof and is 90% complete- Some of these jobs can be done prior to the work day, as time allows. If all goes well, we'll have the shack in full working condition for the May club meeting. We'll need to have at least 8-10 guys to help with everything. As long as you can get up to the roof, you can pitch in- even if you cant, there's things to be done in the shack for the non-climbers. Come be a part of the fun!

Mark your calendars- and get ready to see the club station in its best shape in years!

*73, Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK*

## Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award

Chris Plumblee, KG4CZU, has been nominated for the Hiram Percy Maxim award. Chris very active in Forsyth County ARES, with the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, and with the W4WS Contesting team. He not only generated the spark to found, but has furiously fanned the flames of the Wake Forest University Amateur Radio Club, WF4DD of which he is now President. Chris not only assists in front of the mic, he also is always willing to assist other hams with moving equipment,

*Continued next column*



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putting up towers, or helping with fund raising events. His ability to coordinate efforts both on campus and off is an asset to the community. He has also assisted in several winning contesting efforts, including the School Club Roundup, in which he not only worked the radios, but helped form a special category for other schools to compete in. He has also been very active in his home ham community. Just to be nominated is a high honor because all the nominees are worthy. We wish Chris the best and hope that Chris is the award committee's final selection.

## ARES



25APR02

In a surprise start for the 2002 Public Service season, the Forsyth County March of Dimes Walk requested radio support for the morning of Saturday, April 13, concurrent with the county MS Walk already scheduled.

The joint response from members of FARC, Vagabond Net and the Wake Forest University Radio Club fielded 18 hams to completely fill the wish-lists of both event organizers. Mike, WA6KWW, came in from Statesville to serve as Net Control for both nets. That allowed us to run the combined operation on 146.64, leaving 145.47 available for general use.

The cast of characters: Joint Net Control: Mike, WA6KWW.

MS Walk at WFU: Bryce (MS team leader); KR4QH, Randy; KB6MTH, Raja; N4PAA, Carl; KE4ZFN, KE4ZFL, Romaine; NA4P, Fred, and KG4CZU, Chris (cleverly disguised as WF4DD WFU Club Station for the event).

MoD Walk at Salem College: WA4NOT, Jim (MoD Team Leader); KF4KYD, Jim; KE4UGR, Douglas; KG4FGC, Ken; KF4EKZ, Kathy; KC4WSK, Van; KT4KV, Don; WB9SZL, Dale; KF4PLQ, Woody, and N0KTY, John.

My thanks, and those of the event organizers, go to all who participated.

## Celtic Festival

ARES has been asked to provide communications assistance to the Celtic Festival to be held at Historic Bethabara this coming Saturday, May 11.

*Continued next page*



*ARES, continued from previous page*

Hams have been requested to 'shadow' Festival volunteers at 8 locations within Bethabara Park. It'll be a 2-meter HT activity for us, probably on the 146.64 repeater. (Bring extra batteries). All but one of the comms points will be outdoor, standing or walking. The eighth will be an indoor HQ, with possible golf-cart runs accompanying the W-S PD Park Ranger if needed.

A possible variation would be stationary vehicles at 3 of the 4 parking areas. The 4th parking area is designated Handicapped Parking; so only a ham with a Handicap Permit could park in that area to work with the parking volunteers; absent that permit, the ham working that lot would be afoot.

Duty options are (1) Morning: 8:00 - 12:30, OR (2) Afternoon: 12:30 - 5:00, OR All Day: 8:00 - 5:00. To fully staff the event, we'd need 8 people in each shift, 16 total - assuming nobody is able to spend the entire day. As of now (Sunday, 5May02), two people have signed up. Please help out if you can.

To volunteer, email me at [mansfieldkw@aol.com](mailto:mansfieldkw@aol.com) or [mansfij@rjrt.com](mailto:mansfij@rjrt.com); phone me at home = 760-9141, or check into the ARES Net this Wednesday evening at 2030 local.

*Jim Mansfield,  
Acting EC, Forsyth County ARES*

## Henry G. Heidtmann, Sr., W2DZO - SK

*It is with great regret that we note the passing of the grandfather of one of our Club members. HGH, Sr. was the reason that our HGH, III became involved with ham radio, much to our benefit. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Heidtmann family for their loss and our great full appreciation for remembering FARC as a memorial recipient. Hopefully young HGH, IV will carry on the family tradition; he is already reading 'Tune in the World' after his interest was peaked by reading a Hardy Boys' book where ham radio played a significant role.*

Henry George Heidtmann of Southold, NY, 93, died at San Simeon by the Sound nursing home on April 12.

He was born in Floral Park, N.Y., to Frederick Heidtmann and Marie Roos on Aug. 19, 1908. He attended Hempstead High School and was active in the youth program of the Floral Park Methodist Church. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was an assistant scoutmaster in Floral Park for 17 years. He later served as a committee member of the Peconic District of the Boy Scouts of America. He held the amateur radio callsign W2DZO since 1932 and was an avid ham radio hobbyist on Long Island.

Mr. Heidtmann became involved in the construction business in 1925 with his father, and worked on jobs at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Empire State Building and the Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan. During World War II, he was employed by the Grumman Aircraft Company. After the war, he returned to the family business, specializing in church-related construction projects on Long Island. Over the next half century, he managed 50 such projects, and was also responsible for construction of the North Fork Bank branch in Greenport, the Suffolk Lighting building in Riverhead, Revco in Southampton and various other commercial buildings.

In 1964, Mr. Heidtmann was elected a director of the Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Association of Floral Park. He served as secretary for nine years and board chairman from 1973 to 1982. He also served as a trustee of Bethany Deaconess Hospital in Brooklyn and Eastern Long Island Hospital. From 1964 to 1970, he was a member of the Nassau County Draft Board. The Heidtmanns moved from Floral Park to their summer home in Jamesport in 1970, at which time he joined the Mattituck Lions. They later built a home in Southold, where they established residence in 1982.

He was a 33rd degree member of the Masons and served as trustee and

worshipful master of the Floral Park Lodge No. 1016. He belonged to the consistency of the Valley of Rockville Centre and of the Shrine, Kismet Temple in New Hyde Park. In 1968, he served as right worshipful representative to the Grand Lodge of Greece. In his later years, he was a member of the Peconic Lodge No. 349 in Greenport.

Mr. Heidtmann is survived by his wife of 67 years, the former Ruth Martin; four children, Carol Gault of Fort Myers, Fla., Henry Jr., of Goshen, Conn., Kathleen Einstman of Floral Park and Glenn, of Southold; a sister, Dorothy O'Rourke of New Milford, Conn.; 16 grandchildren, including Henry G. III of Winston-Salem, NC; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Visiting hours were at DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Homes in Southold on April 15, where the Peconic Lodge conducted Masonic services that evening. Graveside services and interment were on April 16 at Southold Presbyterian Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be sent to San Simeon by the Sound, 61700 Route 48, Greenport, NY 11944; and The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 11361 Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361.

## Hamfest Calender

*Courtesy of ARRL  
& SERA Repeater Journal*



**Durham Hamfest Memorial Day.** Durham is a great hamfest. The Raleigh-Durham area is a great spot for technical goodies, plus the usual ham stuff. Unfortunately I'm printing the newsletter and I can't find direction information. It will be at the Club meeting.

**4 May 2002** Blue Ridge ARS Spartanburg, SC  
<http://www.brars.org> Email: [w4rgw@arrl.net](mailto:w4rgw@arrl.net)

**2 Jun 2002** Ole Virginia Hams ARC Manassas, VA  
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams> Email: [n4yic@arrl.net](mailto:n4yic@arrl.net)

**8 Jun 2002** Forsyth ARC Winston-Salem, NC  
[Http://www.w4nc.org](http://www.w4nc.org) Email: [pj735@bellsouth.net](mailto:pj735@bellsouth.net)

## W4EHW Announces Hurricane Season 2002 On-The-Air Test

NEWINGTON, CT, May 5, 2002--Amateur station W4EHW at the National Hurricane Center in Miami has scheduled its Hurricane Season 2002 On-The-Air Station Test for Saturday, June 1, 1300-2200 UTC. Amateurs are invited to contact W4EHW during the event.

"The purpose of the annual station test is to test all of our radio equipment, computers and antennas," says W4EHW Amateur Radio coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY. The test also will provide an opportunity to check for any RFI to NOAA and NHC equipment. "We will also be testing some new antennas and equipment that are being installed for this coming season," McHugh noted. In addition, some new volunteer operators will be getting some hands-on training.

The test also marks the kickoff of the 2002 hurricane season. During the hurricane season, W4EHW works with the Hurricane Watch Net and amateur and non-amateur volunteers to gather real-time weather data via Amateur Radio and forward it to forecasters. W4EHW also disseminates NHC hurricane advisories via the Hurricane Watch Net



Standing, left to right, are W4EHW Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR and W4EHW Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY. Seated is NHC Director Max Mayfield.

to maritime interests, the Caribbean islands, emergency operating centers, and others in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific.

During the June 1 test, W4EHW will be active on HF, VHF and UHF. The station will use these frequencies ( $\pm$ QRM): SSB, 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz; CW, 14.035, 21.035 and 28.035 MHz; PSK31, 14.070 MHz. W4EHW also will use South Florida-area VHF and UHF repeaters plus 146.52 MHz FM simplex and 144.200 MHz SSB.

Stations contacting W4EHW are asked to supply call sign, signal report, location and a short weather report. Non-hams are invited to submit their actual weather using W4EHW's [On-Line Hurricane Report Form](#).

QSLs are available via W4VBQ; include a SASE. Due to security requirements, no visitors will be allowed at the NHC during this test.

*From ARRL*

## Steve Salee, N4QG

Steve Salee N4QG went into the hospital recently for what I understand was a routine visit. Unfortunately he contacted a massive infection that led to a very-high fever (107.1) and led to multiple complications including halting some necessary bodily functions, like breathing. He spent a long time in the Baptist Hospital but was transferred to Kindred Acute Care Hospital 7401 Southside Blvd., Greensboro, NC 26401.

He is in a 12 bay Intensive Care Unit, in what was (on most maps anyhow) Vancor Hospital. The name on it now is Kindred Care Hospital. Although they tell you he is in room 413, there is only one door into the ICU with a sign on it to check in with the ICU staff before going to see anyone. Although the official visiting hours are to be on even hours and for no more than 15 minutes at a time, they bend the rules liberally.

Getting there is no fun. It is well on the East side of Death Valley (I-40 & I-85 merge), and if you miss the exit, you are soon out of the city limits. Most maps lists the place as Vancor Hospital, and it is on the west side of O'Henry Boulevard, which is routes 421N, 220N, 29N



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and 70N or exit 127 on I-85. There is only one problem. You can't get there easily from that road. You should get off on Exit 126 on I-85/I-40, which says it is for 421 South. However, you turn left or north at the end of the ramp, go under the interstate bridges and then the second street east or right is Bothwell Street. Take it down into a little valley, and across the creek is the hospital and South Side Boulevard. Turn left into South Side to get to the parking lot. You are on the other side of the fence from 29,70,220 & 421, but it takes much more work to get there from that road. I know from experience.

Steve's mother apparently is staying with Steve's wife so she can work and get a few things done while Steve is an good hour away - traffic assumed to be moving. I got through Greensboro before the main rush hour, and when I left at 6:30, eastbound I-85 and even eastbound I-40 was full and creeping along, stop and go for at least 5 miles. That would make it real interesting to get there after work from Winston or points on west.

Steve is in a bay with 413 on it in the ICU. He is away from any window, and there is so much equipment in there that a radio would not be permitted even if he could talk. If you are a good lip reader, you would get farther faster than I did. He has a letter/phrase board that he can prop in his left hand, completely concealed in hospital equipment and wires, and point to letters and phrases with his right hand, which has IV plumbing. He is on IV food, and antibiotics. He can't eat with the respirator, and it diverts any air from his vocal cords. He says they are working on weaning him from the respirator, but he doesn't make it too long before they have to pump him up again.

*Carl, N4PAA*

I went to see Steve April 27 - I think Carl's report is from April 20. Steve was not having a good day at all. Apparently he has good days and bad days. And this was one of the bad days. His temperature was up but so seemed his spirits with a visitor. Steve's family wasn't there at the time I visited. The Club had discussed sending flowers but most members, while they appreciate them, don't think flowers are high on the list of most hams. We discussed a fruit basket - but then Steve can't eat since he's on the respirator. And in both cases it is likely that the hospital wouldn't permit either. So we decided on a ham radio-related book.

At the Raleigh hamfest, the book selection seemed slight but there was a newly published book on Hammarlund Equipment that was super. So the book was purchased and delivered. Steve seemed happy to receive it and I showed him a few pages. He was not in any condition to read it however. I completely failed lip-reading class but we chatted as best we could. Steve is receiving very good care as the

Steve Sallee, continued from previous page

nurse was constantly hovering over him or his neighbor, splitting her time between them. All-in-all Steve seemed in good spirits. I really wanted to see him Saturday, especially since I was in the immediate area most of the day. Unfortunately my truck's electrical condition was acting up and I was afraid that if I stopped I wouldn't get started again. So I plan on going to see Steve one night this week or at least by Sunday, May 12. If someone wants to go with me please call.

Steve is probably going to be there for quite some time and I'm sure he would appreciate some more visitors. And please remember Steve in your thoughts and prayers; and please go visit if you can.

Don, WS4NC

## Cool Web Sites

Have you heard the story about the guy who tied balloons to a lawn chair and then floated to 16,000 feet or so? It is not an urban legend, it's true. He floated across the landing flight path to LAX airport where a Delta pilot radioed the tower about a floating lawn chair. I had heard the story a number of times but I didn't know that there was audio. Seems he had a CB hand-held and a ground crew. Someone taped the conversations and now it and the newspaper clippings are on-line. He sounded very calm, but his girlfriend was extremely excitable. It's worth a listen.

<http://www.markbarry.com/amazing/lawnchairman.html>

Another neat web site I just found as I was preparing the Newsletter is

<http://www.berkshiretv.com/hamlinks.htm>

This is a collection of about 3500 Ham Radio Links. It is maintained and published on a weekly basis by K1DWU. [www.k1dwu.net](http://www.k1dwu.net)

## FCC Exam Report



We had a good session on May 4th at the Red Cross. Results as follows: Two hams grandfathered to General, two hams upgrading from General to Extra and one ham receiving a CSCE for Element 4.

### W4VEC VEC Testing Schedule for 2002- Winston-Salem, NC

DATE/MONTH	LOCATION
04 May 2002	Red Cross
June 2002	Winston-Salem Hamfest ONLY
July 2002	<b>No Testing</b>
03 August 2002	Red Cross
September 2002	<b>No Testing</b>
05 October 2002	Red Cross
November 2002	<b>No Testing</b>
07 December 2002	Red Cross
January 2003	<b>No Testing</b>
February 2003	Test Session at Elkin Hamfest ONLY.

73, Rick, N4MBI

## For Sale

Are you subscribed to FARC's email server? If not, here's one big item you missed. FARC was offered a donation but it had to be removed before the Club meeting. So it went out over the list server. It was snapped up with a few hours.

A local ham has contacted the FARC that is moving from the Sherwood Forest area and would like to donate the following items:

1. Hy-Gain 50' crank up tower (steel, not aluminum)
2. Hy-Gain Explorer triband yagi
3. Ham 4 rotor/control box and accessories

These items need to be taken down within 14 days. Anyone interested in obtaining these items please contact me ASAP- You will be required to take it down and make a fair donation to the FARC for the gear. OK guys/organizations/etc.- there's no excuse now--- Here's a complete antenna system all put together!!! Henry, N4VHK

And the result:

We have a club member who is willing to give us \$500, take it down, and give us tower sections and a portable push up mast for Field Day in return. Given the needs of the club and the generosity of both the donor and the club member, I think its in the best interest of all concerned to go that direction. Henry, N4VHK

**Kenwood TS-930S** with the automatic antenna tuner. This is the rig Henry, N4VHK used to own. Rig works well, as many of you know. The club members get first dibs on this for one week only, then it goes to Ebay. Price is \$600.00 firm.....Email or catch me on 64 if you have questions or are interested.

Thanks & 73,  
Tim, KG4MQD

FYI: the following was received on one of my endless lists. Just now browsing [www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com), and noticed that they have Vectronics CW transmitter kits (80, 40, 30, and 20M) on sale for \$17.99, regularly \$29.99. Also, the shortwave converter and audio filter kits are on sale. Smells like a closeout to me. This is a good price on a decent kit for cw qrp operations. YMMV.

Ken Kenneth Hoglund  
[hoglund@wfu.edu]

SB 220 For local hams I will sell it for \$375.00 if not at Dayton the price tag will be \$450.00

MFJ versa turners: 1.5kw roller inductor that I just bought for \$360.00, I need \$325.00;

For the MFJ Economy 300 W I am asking \$85.00

TH3 I have never put up that I bought for \$125.00 used. The TH3 is a tri band antenna for 10, 15, 20, it is a trap antenna it is in good working order. It is an extra beam antenna that I don't need. I need \$125.00 for it. If all these items sell I will have enough for a brand new amp.

John, N0KTY

## PHOTO RESTORATION

Do you have precious photographs that are faded, damaged or deteriorating? Those photos can be copied, scratches and destroyed areas repaired. Black & white prints can be colorized. Copies printed on canvas or photo paper. The original photos are not harmed.

Don Edwards 336-413-3838



## Kudos to W4INT and 146.64

Yesterday I heard W4INT use the autopatch to call 911. He informed the city that there was a guy on 421 north of Peace Haven with tar trouble and he was trying to flag down cars on the highway. needless to say there was a serious safety concern. Anyway, W4INT ended up getting transferred to the Sheriff's Office, told his story again, and they dispatched 2 cars. I drove by about 4 minutes later, and the cars were already there. Kudos to W4INT and the autopatch!

Raja, KB6MTH

## The North Carolina QSO Party- A Success!

Well, the 2002 event has come and gone, and it's time to take a look at the final numbers. We received 51 logs this year, which represents almost a 50% increase from last year. 98 of 100 counties were activated, either by fixed stations or the dozen mobile operators which logged over 10,000 miles in just 10 hours. The new format seems to be popular with nearly all participants. The NC QSO Party committee will meet several times over the next year to make sure the changes made sense. Some of you have sent suggestions, and we continue to accept those requests happily. We want to make the event as enjoyable as possible, while fulfilling the ultimate obligation of testing our operating prowess to be able to work all over the state in times of emergency. Please keep the ideas rolling in.

Some of you will notice that your submitted score has changed somewhat. In some cases, people used last year's rules, while there was some confusion on mobile operation and claiming the NC state multiplier while operating from in-state. All logs were checked for scoring accuracy, and scores were adjusted by the committee accordingly. There were several instances of obvious typos which were not counted off. In fact, of the thousands of qsos logged, less than 1% were discounted, which is a testament to all participants and their logging efforts. Nice job, everyone.

Some of the logging errors included operating VHF, claiming 3 points for all qsos made by mobile operators, not claiming state mults when operating inside NC, adding bonuses before multiplying the score by mults, incorrectly claiming the bonus stations, and claiming NC as a state mult while operating in-state. In some cases, scores actually went up quite a bit.

Some of the suggestions made for changing the rules include changing to Saturday, extending the contest to 12 hours, limiting instate mults to NC counties only, and adding a separate mobile

*Continued next column*



## PIANO TUNING

Paul V. Jordan  
KG4LDB

381 Westoak Trail  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

336-768-6961  
pj735@bellsouth.net

category for 2 person operation. Feel free to comment on these, as your thoughts are important to the committee.

Now, on to the results!

### INSTATE SO

*(P denotes plaque winner; © denotes certificate winner- number after score denotes counties worked)*

#### (P)AA4NC-61,470(35)

*(P)WA3TMR-58,908(60) (most instate mults)*

©N4NTO-32,758(47)

K4YFH-28,534(41)

KO7X- 11,768(15)

WA4TOG-8,390(38)

WB2NHQ-3,498(21)

NI4S- 4,060(31)

N4CW- 4,004(7)

### OUT OF STATE SO

*(P)WA3HAE(PA)-36,952(77)*

©K1SO(VA)- 15,020(57)

©AD1C(MA)-14,912(52)

©AA9KH(IL)-9,176(44)

©N2CQ (NJ)- 8,687(41)

©K8MR(OH)-8,348(42)

©K4UK(VA)-6,637(41)

©N9JF(IL)- 5,355(35)

©W7DRA0(WA)-2,178(22)

©W8KNO(OH)-1,854(22)

©WA3AAN(PA)- 1,660(20)

©VA3IX(ON)-1,600(20)

©W1END(NH)- 1,468(19)

©W9BLI(WI)-884(14)

©WA4VAP(KY)-518(12)

©WC7S(WY)- 374(11)

©VE3MTG(ON)-350(10)

©K8VFR(MI)-266(8)

©K6LDX(CA)-257(9)

©NO5W(TX)- 48(4)

### DX

©PA3ARM- 1,745(35)

©DL6KVA- 932(14)

### CLUB-IN

*(P)NC4ZO-46,400(21)*

©NC4AR-25,425(44)

W1VOA-7,358(34)

WB4TOP/M- 1,118(9)

### CLUB-OUT

*(P)NO4S(FL)-18,816(61)*

### MOBILE-IN

*(A DENOTES ACTIVATED COUNTIES, W DENOTES COUNTIES WORKED)*

*(P)NY4N/M-101,661(24A,39W)*

*(P)N4RS/M-61,138(17A,21W)*

©AA4S/M-39,404(13A,28W)

KN4XP/M-31,866 (8A,28W)

KA4NWS/M-21,820(10A,35W)

W14LD/M-20,600(17A,7W)

K4PK/M-19,125(11A, 35W)

K4BMH/M-6,730(2A, 18W)

KF4IXK/M-3,050(11A,14W)

W4ZPR/M-2,434(8A,4W)

WB4TOP/M- 1,118(9)

### MOBILE-OUT

*(P)K4PK/M(VA.)-383(11)*

*Participating FARC Members*

*(P)N4IOZ*

W4WS/M (N4VHK)

N0KTY

KG4MQD

W4NC (KG4CZU)

*By Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK*

## AC4YN - SK

Most Club members know Jeff Stafford, AC4YN. Jeff was fortunate enough to receive the call AC4YN by assignment, it was not a vanity call. Most new hams will not recognize the call, but it has a long and distinguished history. Originally that call was assigned to Tibet in 1936, actually to a British

Political Mission to Tibet. According to a recent British newspaper article it was assigned to Sir Evan Yorke Nepean, 6th British. AC4 for Tibet and YN from Sir Evan's initials. He was the longest Surviving member of the Political Mission to Tibet and was the longest serving member of the Radio Society of Great Britain. Sir Evan passed away recently at age 92. (I bet you thought I was talking about Jeff - he's quite healthy, thank you. Mean of me to drag that small detail to the next page, wasn't it?) It seems that the call AC4YN is still remembered around the world and Jeff has been the recipient of many articles and trivia about Sir Evan. It is great that one of our own is the lucky owner of a call with such a great history and tradition. About 15 years ago CQ ran an article on AC4YN, and there have been a few other articles about the Tibet mission. They lugged state-of-the-art equipment over the Himalayas, which was a far cry from the Yaesu FT-817 of today. The heaviest load was the 120 pound generator, which wouldn't run due to the altitude. But unknown to the mission there was a 220 hydro-electric generator at Lhasa, their destination in Tibet. I remember a few details from the CQ article and some other articles I've read (or videos seen - there was a documentary shown on cable a number of years ago). The Mission carried along film projectors and showed some of the latest films. The locals were incensed that some people were not shown completely - just a head or head-and-shoulders shot, or that in one film clip, horse's hooves were shown running through puddles. The locals thought they should see the entire animal. Jeff sent me a article on Sir Evan, which I'll bring along to the Club meeting if anyone would like to read it.

## Controversy! Scandal! WFU Radio Club Plans Special Event for W-S Hamfest

OK, admittedly this is a bit controversial. But controversy can make for good theater. The recently formed Wake Forest University Radio Club, whose spark of creation has been flamed furiously by Chris Plumlee, was donated a piece of equipment by the widow of a former alumnus. Unfortunately upon receipt it became something of a hot potato. It is a very nice clean unit, of which great pride was taken of its appearance. One might even say "pristine". And what was this highly valuable gift? Well first let me digress . . .

WFU has an alumnus that is incredibly well known in ham radio circles. His call is K4ZDH. Does that ring a bell? OK, his name is William Hollingsworth. William R. Hollingsworth. Or better known by his middle name, Riley. Now the bells should be ringing. Riley is aware of the fledgling WFU Radio Club. And, at the risk of starting rumors has considered a visit. Possibly soon.

Now what was that valuable gift? You guessed it, an illegal amplifier. One that is infamously known locally due to its lack of proper filtering along with a significantly under-rated power supply and a frequent tendency to be over driven (more is always better, right?) to be a serious cause of TVI. So what to do with it?

There are a number of choices: 1) Take it apart and sell the parts. 2) Sell it to a ham, who swears on penalty of the Wolfhong, to use it only on the nearest ham band. After fixing all the design flaws, of course. Or, at least disassembling it for parts. 3) Return it. 4) Just say "To heck with it" and sell it as is to anyone interested. (Wonder if N4VHK's neighbor, for whom Henry is suffering the neighborhood's slings and arrows, would be interested?)

Option 4, ethical issues aside, would generate the currently cash-strapped club some needed income. But cash will not be such an issue, hopefully when the club is granted full University recognition. But what if the club or a member were cited for the sale of such? The risk isn't very high but is heightened by having such a distinguished alumnus. No, Option 4 wouldn't reflect well on the members' judgement, ethics or concern for the ham community. And any negative publicity which might occur would probably kill any hope

of University recognition and mean the demise of the Club. Not to mention the goodwill of a distinguished alumnus.

OK, let's look at Option 3 - to return the amplifier. The donor has no knowledge of ham radio, doesn't need, or want it. And would likely take offense if it was suggested that a deceased loved one was committing illegal acts. Perhaps, if it had been diplomatically handled before accepting the gift, but it wasn't. But even if returned it could end up causing damage to the ham community by being sold or given away. So Option 3 is not really a good option.

Now, Option 2 - selling it to another ham. Again we'll have to consider this as 'ethical issues aside'. Is this OK? Probably it is ethical, provided that the purchasing ham really follows through on his promise. Wolfhong threats may not be taken seriously. And how much money would this generate? Probably not much. Is it worth it? The risk and all? And is it legal? The legality is uncertain, selling it as a working unit, although that might be clarified with some regulations explorations. But would the money be worth the risk. Not really.

Now, Option 1 - taking it apart. Either to keep the parts or to sell the parts. The parts alone are hardly worth the effort to take it apart, unless you have a burning need for a few 1625 tubes. These were military copies of 807's (?) with an odd filament voltage. There really isn't much need for those except to replace those cooked by this particular use. The transformer might possibly find some use as a replacement, but most likely will spend the rest of it's life dust-ridden and unloved in the bottom of some junkbox. The amp does have a nice vernier dial and a tunable capacitor. But the hamfest value of all the components just isn't worth much. Just not worth the effort.

So we've dispensed with all the options as both not a good business decision based on risk vs. reward and/or not acceptably ethical. Now what? Hey, here's an idea. A few years ago a ham was cited by the FCC for trying to sell one of these at the Shelby hamfest. His official reply, received within the specified number of days by the FCC, was to smash the thing. Pictures were taken and were included in the official reply. These photos were also published in 'Up Front' in QST. Hey let's have a **Smash-A-Thon!** We'll do this at the Winston-Salem Hamfest and charge for the privilege of taking a swing. Hey - we'll charge by the weight of the hammer. And a little more for the first swing since it's in such pristine condition. It's a good cause (if you're a ham) because each hit will be a donation to the Wake Forest Radio Club. We will likely make much more than any of the above options as well. And it'll make good theater! That means publicity. And, besides, it'll be fun even if it generates little money or publicity.

Ah, but no good deed goes unpunished. Well, we consider it a good deed for the reasons mentioned above. There is concern afoot that this may upset, possibly seriously, some of our friendly radio hobbyists who are not hams and who are also FARC supporters and/or members. And even some of those who aren't. So what to do? At this point no decision is certain because we really don't want to invite the ire of anyone. Not FARC. Not the University. Not our friends. And not any alumni, most especially a certain highly distinguished alumnus. We just want to have some fun and maybe, just maybe, generate a little money for us. So what do you think? This will be a topic of discussion at the next FARC meeting.

*Wake Forest Radio Club  
WF4DD  
(Ain't that such a sweet club callsign?)*

## Editor's Corner

All for this month - out of room!

73 - Don, WS4NC