SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter

OUR 78TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

October, 2008

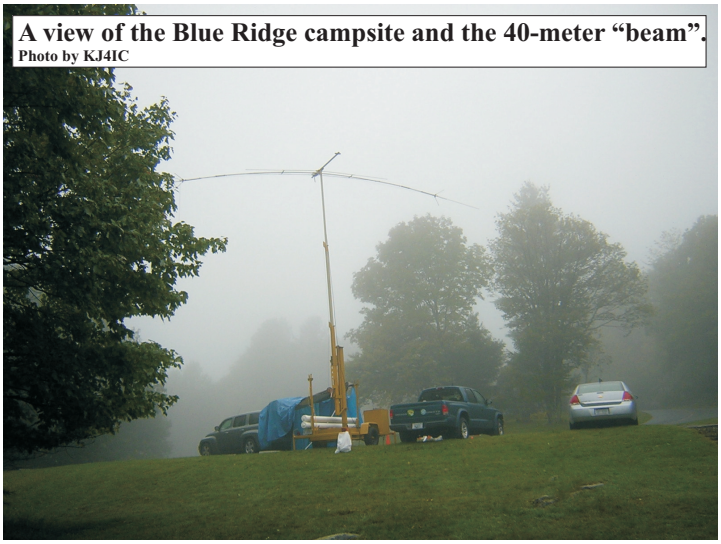
Pfafftown Hamfest
This Saturday, October 11, 2008

Our annual Pfafftown hamfest will be held this Saturday October 11, 2008. **This Saturday!** The hamfest is ***this Saturday*** at the West Central Community Center, 6130 Yadkinville Road, Pfafftown, NC. For those of you who didn't know Pfafftown is a small community just outside Winston-Salem. This is an indoor/outdoor event. Lots of prime tailgating space is available outside. Lots of room for tables and chairs inside. Please bring your own tables and chairs. We need club members there around 6am to help get ready. Inside tables open at 7 for sellers, public at 8. We begin closing around noon. $5/person gets you on the grounds. $10 for table space inside - but bring your own tables. Did I mention that it is **This Saturday**?

The 2008 Blue Ridge Bonanza

This year's edition of the Blue Ridge Bonanza was held on September 27th and 28th. The special event was organized by the Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club and sponsored by the RVARC and the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club to bring attention the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway. Thirteen amateur radio stations were positioned up and down the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina. The operation ran from 9 AM to 5 PM on both days, using W4CA as the call for 11 of the stations and W4NC on the other two. Frequencies were spread out from 7.225 MHz and 7.290 MHz. 20m was also listed, but we did not use it.

A view of the Blue Ridge campsite and the 40-meter "beam".
Photo by KJ4IC



Henry W2DZO preparing a meal.
Photo by KJ4IC

And a soggy time was had by all! The FARC manned the Cumberland Knob point on the Parkway, supposedly giving out the Cumberland Knob, 217.5 mile marker position. We actually worked from Doughton Park campground at mile post 241, but what's a couple of miles to the air waves. Four FARC members participated this year, and all had a great time.

Saturday morning started early, with Bob KJ4IC, Henry W2DZO and Raja KB6MTH leaving Winston-Salem at 6:30 AM. Henry pulled the club's new emergency response trailer to use as our antenna tower. Upon arriving at Doughton Park in the pouring rain, we picked a site to use

Club Meeting, Monday October 13, 2008

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 690 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building at **7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to "hob-nob" with your fellow hams.**

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, 690 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, 690 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes 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 club 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 336-245-5740; or visit out web site at www.w4nc.com . Club email is to w4nc@triad.rr.com .

Officers for 2008 are:

President: Phill Nunn, KD4JZZ

Vice-President: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI

Secretary: Don Edwards, WS4NC

Treasurer: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC

To join our list server send a blank email to w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.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.

A "bedraggled" KJ4IC enjoying 40-meters.
Photo by KB6MTH

(we really had no problem finding a site, as out of about 100 campsites, there seemed to be only 1 other camper). We quickly set up the trailer/tower. I say quickly, but it took a few minutes to figure out how the tower worked. But, there are now 4 more FARC members who know how to use the trailer and tower. Keep in mind; it is still pouring rain, so we set up a makeshift canopy strung between KJ4IC's HHR and the trailer. The club's IC-706MKIIG rig was set up on a card table under the shelter and connected to the club's new emergency automotive battery, purchased by W2DZO the day before.

Saturday's operating went very well. John N0KTY showed up later in the day, and between the four of us we made about 98 contacts for the Bonanza. In checking on 20 meter propagation, we did work a couple of Belgian ON stations and a JW5, Svalbard station, all on 40 watts to our "rotatable dipole". The antenna was actually the 40m driven element from a beam. We knocked off at 5 PM, set up N0KTY's canopy, and watched college football and ate the rest of the evening. Even though Van KC4WSK could not be there, the highlight of the evening turned out to be food - the main course - a mystery bag of something that W2DZO grabbed out of his freezer that turned out to be some great chili.

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By early Sunday morning, the rain had stopped, the skies cleared, and it turned out to be a beautiful day. We moved operation to the picnic table under John's canopy, and gave out more contacts, to make the total 202 by noon. Due to other commitments, we packed up early and left the camp site at about noon.

The "prizes" for the event were very simple, but we were really surprised how many hams were hunting for us. If someone contacted at least 7 of the 13 stations, they would receive a Blue Ridge Bonanza certificate. If all 13 were logged, the operator would receive a clean sweep certificate. The on-the-air atmosphere was very relaxed, and not run as a contest. We met many new hams and old friends, alike. Thanks to the RVARC and Ray, AB4YZ for sponsoring and organizing a fun event. We hope to have more of you join us next year, even if you come just for the day. 73, Bob KJ4IC

Monday Nights

The FARC main Club meeting is always on the second Monday of the month at the Red Cross. The FARC business meeting is open to all and is on the third Monday of the month and is held at Foothills Brewery on Fourth St. The contesting group meets on the fourth Monday of the month and that is also held at Foothills. That leaves the first Monday of the month. Several of us have started meeting again at Foothills on the first Monday allegedly to talk about QRP and maybe build up some interest in QRP projects. The real reason is to have vituals and talk ham radio. All are welcome at any of the Monday night meetings.

ARES Reports

By Carl, N4PAA

September 3, 2008
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.
Check ins - 12. Stations were KF4EOD Mike, KJ4CDM Frank, KG4ECI Dan, KJ4DLS Eric, N0KTY John, KJ4IC Bob, KC8OEX Terry, WB9SZL Dale, KD4EQY Jason, KF4HHG Tim, KI4WKI Richard and N4PAA Carl.
KJ4CDM Frank announced that there is a fellowship net on the 443.500 repeater on Thursday evenings at 9 PM. Anyone with 440 capability is invited to join in that net.
N0KTY John spent most of the ARES meeting covering the Tour to Tanglewood plans for this weekend. Presently, Hurricane Hanna is due in the area on Friday and Saturday. The event is still a go and assignments and questions about the event were discussed. The main ham coordinator is Tom KF4JZD and any last minute questions or cancellations should be directed to him at KF4JZD@bellsouth.net.
Formal Session - 29 minutes. Informal Session - 7. Total time - 36 minutes.

September 10, 2008
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.
Check ins - 12. Stations were KD4EQY Jason, KJ4DLS Eric, WA8IHW Jack, WB9SZL Dale, KC8OEX Terry, N4PAA Carl, KC4WSK Van, KE4ZFN Bryce, KF4EOD Mike, KB6MTH Raja, N0KTY John and KG4ECI Dan.
KG4ECI Dan announced that N0KTY John is resigning from the Forsyth County ARES EC position. He is going back to school and no longer has the time for this commitment. Dave Fleming - KE4JHJ is the Area 9 ARES EC and he will be appointing an new Forsyth County EC soon. Anyone interested should contact Dave. Temporarily, Dan KG4ECI is serving as the acting EC for the county.
N0KTY John thanked those who took part in the hurricane shortened Tour to Tanglewood. Hurricane Hanna put a downpour on the Saturday portion of the event. A different one day route starting and ending at the Volvo Truck facility took place on Sunday. This was a first for everyone, and the one day event went off well.
Formal Session - 16 minutes. Informal Session - 15. Total time - 31 minutes.

September 17, 2008
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.
Check ins - 13. Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, KG4ECI Dan, KJ4GOU Joe, KD4EQY Jason, WB9SZL Dale, KG4JWU Steven, N4JNM John, KF4ELD Ryan, KJ4GJD Dylan, KI4WKI Richard, N0KTY John, KD4JZZ Phil and N4PAA Carl.
There were no announcements or traffic this evening.
Our acting EC Dan KG4ECI reminded us that the Forsyth County EC position is vacant and that anyone wanting to add the position to their resume should contact Dave Fleming KE4JHJ. Our old EC - John N0KTY checked in on his way home from choir practice to say hello to the net.
Formal Session -16 minutes. Informal Session - 10. Total time - 26 minutes.

September 24, 2008
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KJ4DLS Eric.
Check ins - 9. Stations were KG4ECI Dan, KJ4CDM Frank, KF4ELD Larry, WA8IHW Jack, N4PAA Carl, KF4EOD Mike, KG4JWU Steven, KC4WSK Van and KJ4DLS Eric.
Frank KJ4CDM announced that there is a 6 meter repeater on Sauratown Mountain with Echolink and IRLP capabilities. Those wishing to use it should contact W4SNA for instructions.
Our acting EC Dan KG4ECI reminded the net that anyone interested in the Forsyth County EC position should contact Dave KE4JHJ. He also pointed out that preparedness at this time has a new variable besides battery packs, go bags and such. There is a shortage of gasoline and many stations in his area are dry. He advised keeping at least a half tank of gas so you could travel to a shelter, etc, in the event of an emergency.
Formal Session - 11 minutes. Informal Session - 11. Total time - 22 minutes.

CLASSIFIED

Bryan Jones WD4EQM has his entire station for sale including a Yaesu FT901 and Rohn 25 tower. Contact Bryan at 765-0566 for more details.

ICOM 765 - Steve K5PK has an ICOM - 765 160 thru 10 meter HF transceiver and companion ICOM SM-8 desktop microphone for sale. He can be reached T5z4@aol.com or (336)655-0118

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336-723-7388

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

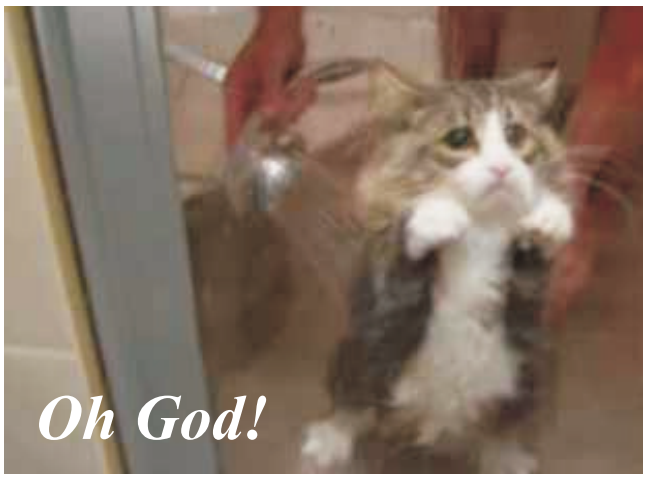
FARC Facebook

KB6MTH has created a Facebook group for W4NC. For the time being, this is an open, unmoderated, group. What is Facebook, you ask? Simply put, it is a social networking site available for FREE online. Now please, don't skip yet. This is a hot thing that the youngsters (high school and college types) are doing a lot of these days. It's supposed to be a part of what some people refer to as Web 2.0. From the website:

www.facebook.com: Facebook gives people the power to share and makes the world more open and connected.

Millions of people use Facebook everyday to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.

Take your web browser over there and create an "identity." In other words, create a free account. Once you log in, go to the "Search" tab and type in "W4NC". You will then find a screen that shows W4NC as a non-profit organization.

Click on the W4NC and you will get to our Facebook Home Page. When there, you will see a link to the W4NC.com website, a description of the club, and other stuff. On the right side of the screen, you will see a "Join Group" button. A click here will join you to the group. There are other links to invite others to join, create events, a discussion board, a wall to write on, a photo upload area, and a video upload area. When others email the group, you can set your profile to either send the whole note to you or to just send a short note letting you know the site has been updated.

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