SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Newsletter

OUR 79TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

February, 2009

February Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held as usual at the NW NC Red Cross building on 610 Coliseum Dr. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM but arrive early, say 7-ish, to hobnob with your fellow members. The program will be by WXII about digital TV.

January Meeting

In January we watched a DVD about DXpedition bloopers, or I should say we tried to. It was great to watch, at least when the DVD player would cooperate. I am happy to report the our treasurer, Henry W2DZO has replaced the DVD player with a new one.

The Winston-Salem FirstFest Review

Our January FirstFest was held Saturday January 10 at the Summit School parking lot. The attendance keeps getting better and better every year. By about 8:00 the upper parking lot had filled up and we were parking tailgaters in the lower lot.

All week the weather report had been mentioning rain but the rain didn't come until late Saturday afternoon. It was refreshingly brisk, some might have said cold, but we've had *cold* in other years. A good jacket and warm socks were all that were required, but gloves were a good idea. Free coffee and doughnuts were provided, and were apparently well received since we ran out.

Don Donadio KT4KV (AKA Don-Don) brought a lot of vintage goodies.

A view of the upper lot about 7 AM just after "official" opening time.

New harmonic due June 16!

Chris WF3C and Taylor Plumblee are happy to report that they are expecting a new addition. Lillian Lee Plumblee (Lily) is due June 16. Taylor is still feeling better than she has any right to expect. Chris was very active in FARC while he was a student at Wake Forest. Chris and Taylor are now living in Orlando, Florida.

Foodlion MVP Rewards Program

Steven Mierisch

Food Lion customers with MVP cards may have a portion of their purchases donated to a 501C-3 organization registered with Food Lion. Every quarter, Food Lion will donate up to $350 to registered organizations. The amount is based on how much MVP customers associated with the organization have purchased. I thought this might be a program worth looking into for the club. I found out about it through the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. About a dozen FARC members have registered but we need a minimum of 25 to participate.

FAQ:
http://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopandShare/FAQs.asp

Reese Felts, KB4FOX SK

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Reese Felts. Reese was an exceptionably warm, kind, generous human being and a great friend to many of us and to FARC. More details are on page 5.

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 w4n - at- triad.rr.com .

Officers for 2008/2009 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.

Interesting Old Films

Don WS4NC

Most FARC members know I have a serious interest in old technical films that have been moved to DVD. Some of you have even been ~~tortur~~. . . , er, *entertained* at FARC meetings by some of my collection when we did not have another program lined up.

Many of these are now available on youtube and more are finding there way there. Go to www.youtube.com and search for these, or just enter the link as published below. Thanks to Ralph Brown of the Salisbury club for publishing this one:

1937 "On the Air" - How Radio Works by Chevrolet
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VHtZr_xsT8

The following are a few more of interest. This only touches a few. I have excluded anything not ham related. Nothing is more than ten minutes.

"Radio Hams" Film (Pete Smith Specialty) 1939
This is one of the best. The code is fairly copyable.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGIdf0VjQ4&feature=related

Andy Hardy (1939) and Ham Radio
Really great, a must see. This and "Radio Hams" are the two to see, if you watch no others. Well, maybe you should catch the Hitler one under the newer stuff.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJcIDxOTtYE&feature=related"

Voice of Victory" Hallicrafters HT-4 Production WWII
This has been shown at FARC meetings.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3YYEAheeDI

The Largest Radio Transmitter in the World - 1950
One million watt navy transmitter.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYI92eVkTk8&feature=related

Twilight Zone: Why Amateur Radio is Bad
From the episode "Black Leather Jackets".
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKd5hupXJVo&feature=related

ALINCO Radios
APP Anderson Power Products
KMA ANTENNAS
Radio & Electronics, LLC dBj Jamestown, NC
CommScope Coax/Cable
OPEK
www.dbjre.com
dBj Radio & Electronics, LLC
404 Edwards Place
Jamestown, NC 27282
336-430-9087
"For all your radio, cable & accessory needs"
secure credit card transaction

Ham Radio Set
The neighbors find out Steve has a ham radio. I think this is also a Twilight Zone episode, but I'm not sure. Creepy.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_LrOAbtZjI&feature=related

Hitler driven crazy by ham radio
This is almost a must watch. This is more than a little creepy, but the contestors need to see this one, especially if they participated in SS (think about it). Maybe all active hams need to see this. Somebody has way too much time on their hands.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiVlvciPZx4&feature=related

PA0ASD in 1935
A famous Amsterdam ham from decades ago. Silent.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUE04hpwQ1Q&feature=related

Dwight R. Hutton (W7HB) Ham Radio, VJ Day. Pearl Harbor
Pictures from WWI Hawaii set to period big band music.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mox-BabjsSo&feature=related

Morse code related:

Morse Code in China (1944s) (Edited by VR2HAM)
Morse code in Cantonese. Good luck copying this, although parts are understandable, like say, *sk*.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yvMCSoMiFQ&feature=related

50 WPM Morse Code (CW) with a Begali Scultpure
This is specially for Raja, KB6MTH. I'm sure he will have no trouble with either the language or the speed.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_ZEwZzuqW0&feature=related

How to pound a Straight Key (JA style)
Practice your Japanese and Morse code at the same time.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S78NL3eOvms&feature=related

CW with a Sideswiper: the forgotten key
I have had a chance to play with one of these. There is no keyer or weighted lever, you just swing the lever from side to side making dits and dahs manually, as you would with a straight key. After trying one I can confirm that these are instruments of the devil and were created by a nefarious soul. But these keys bring multi-hundreds of dollars ($400 for the one I know about) on the rare occasion that one is for sale. They are quite rare.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTDECa1v0NQ&feature=related

RMS Titanic "SOS"
Simulated, but realistic.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snkwsU98QlQ&feature=related

Not vintage, but worth a look:

How NOT to put up an antenna at Field Day
This is not vintage, but it is funny. Reminds me of a certain Miller Park Field Day and 60-feet of PVC. Yeah, we can stand 60 feet of plastic noodle straight in the air! If anyone has a video of that, it should go on youtube. I do have photos and if I'm paid enough I will ***not*** publish them.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqmQ1CMrqkY&NR=1

The Simpsons on Ham Radio
Again not vintage. "Seymour, isn't it about time you made a real friend?!" "Mother please! I'm communicating with my fellow hams." "How do I talk? - push this button here? - 'You are all losers!'."

Hey, if it hurts, don't watch.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fo-W1wDXHA&feature=related

There are a lot more. I didn't even cover the ones on Western Electric, various tube manufacturers, or anything Western Union or landline. And I'm sure I have missed some very good ones.

What happened to CHU on 7.335 MHz?

Although not as common as it used to be, in the US most hams know and use WWV for time checks. But many older ham transceivers do not receive 2.5, 5, 10, 15 or 20 MHz. For those older rigs Canada's CHU has always been there on 7.335 MHz, but no more. After 70 years CHU has moved to 7850. The move occurred on January 1. Sadly many older transceivers now can not receive a time and frequency station. The move was required when in April 2007 the ITU reallocated the 7300 to 7350 band to international broadcasting. Interference from broadcasters required the move. I, for one, will miss them..

OK Get Ready for a Biggie - Desecheo

Don WS4NC

One of the most wanted DX countries will be on the air February 12 through the 26th as K5D. Desecheo is about #2 or #7 on the most wanted lists depending on who's doing the listing. And we couldn't be better located to work them. Desecheo Island is an island just off the coast of Puerto Rico. Access is tightly controlled by the US Fish and Wildlife Services, plus the island is used for target practice by the military. Lots of unexploded ordinance around. Desecheo gets activated perhaps every 10 to 20 years, so get it this time or you'll have a long wait. They will be active on 160-meters to 6-meters. ***Did I mention 6-meters?*** With only minimally good conditions we can hit them on 6-meters. Don't miss it. If you don't have 6-meter capability the 40-meter beam at W4NC does a fairly good job on six. We could operate from the Red Cross a night or three if there is interest.

Email Addresses

Keeping up with email addresses is a pain for your Newsletter editor. I have updated the database with all the new info I have. I would say that if you don't get this - email. But that won't work. I'll publish a lists of bounces next month.

Ham Radio License Testing

Amateur radio testing for new applicants as well as upgrades will be given the 2nd Monday of every month, except December, prior to the FARC regular meeting. The time is 6:30 PM and the place is the Red Cross building on Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. Pre-registration is required via e-mail, listing the elements you wish to take and your phone number. You may pre-register or get additional information via e-mail to info -at- w4nc.org, attention Bob Gates KJ4IC. Replace -at- with the usual symbol.

Here is our exam schedule as it stands now for 2009: February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, June 13 (Hamfest), July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9. None in December.

All sessions below start at 6:30 PM at the Red Cross building in Winston-Salem. Pre-registration is required at info <at> w4nc.org , Att: Bob Gates KJ4IC. This is just before the FARC regular club meeting. All test participants are invited to attend the meeting.

The June 13, 2009 at the Winston-Salem hamfest – time TBA. I will send any other dates/times to you as we schedule them.

Bob Gates KJ4IC
Session Manager
Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

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 (usually) held at Mellow Mushroom on Fourth St. The contesting group meets on the fourth Monday of the month and that is also (usually) held at the "Shroom".. That leaves the first Monday of the month. Several of us have started (usually) meeting again at Mellow Mushroom on the first Monday allegedly to talk about QRP and maybe build up some interest in QRP projects. The real reason is to have victuals and talk ham radio. All are welcome at any of the Monday night meetings. **If we are NOT at Mellow Mushroom then we have moved West on Fourth St. about 1 ½ blocks and we should be at Foothills Brewery.** We have done that several times due to bands/parties or other crowded, noisy or just plain aggravating conditions.

Ham Calendar

Some dates are courtesy of the South East Repeater Journal.

January
5 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
12 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
19 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
26 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

February
2 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
7 Richmond, VA Frostfest
9 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
11 NAQCC 0130 - 3330 UTC www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/
12-26 Desecheo DXpedition K5D
15-16 ARRL Classic-Exchange Contest Vintage Gear
16 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
21 Dobson Hamfest
21-22 ARRL DX CW contest
23 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
28 Dalton, GA Hamfest www.w4drc.com

March
1-2 NCQSO Party 1700 - 0300 UTC www.w4nc.com
2 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
9 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
14-15 Charlotte Hamfest www.w4bfb.org/Hamfest.html
16 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
21Charleston, WV Hamfest
23 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

April
5 Down East Hamfest Kinston, NC
6 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
11 RARS Raleigh, NC Hamfest
13 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
18 Catawba Valley, NC Hamfest Morganton
20 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
24-25 Southern VHF Society conference, Charlotte, NC
27 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

May
4 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
11 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
13 Rockingham Hamfest, Reidsville, NC
13 DurHamFest, durham, NC
15-17 Dayton Hamfest, Dayton, OH
18 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
25 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

June
1 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
8 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
13 WinstonSalem Classic Hamfest
13 Knoxville, TN hamfest
15 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
22 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
29 Fifth Monday!

July
TBA - Firecracker hamfest, Salisbury, NC
6 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
13 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
18 Mid-summer Swapfest, Cary, NC
20 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
27 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

August
3 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
8 CFARS Hamfest, Fayetteville, NC
10 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
17 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
24 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
31 Fifth Monday!

September
7 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
14 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
19 Dallas, GA Hamfest
21 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
28 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

October
5 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
10 Pfafftown Hamfest
12 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
19 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
26 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

November
2 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
9 FARC Club Meeting at Red Cross
16 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
23 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
30 Fifth Monday!

December
7 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
14 FARC Club Dinner Meeting TBD
21 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
28 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

Edwin Felts Jr.

FELTS STATESVILLE - Mr. Edwin Reese Felts, Jr., 78, of 705 Alexander St., Statesville, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009 at Forsyth Regional Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Born Feb. 24, 1930 in Virginia to the late E.R. Felts, Sr. and Margaret Keister Felts of Roanoke, VA. He served in the U.S. Airforce during the Korean War and retired from WSJS channel 12 as a TV Producer and TV Personality. Funeral grave side services will be conducted at Evergreen Burial Park in Roanoke, VA at a later date. A memorial service in Statesville will be announced at a later date. Nicholson Funeral Home of Statesville is serving the family of Edwin Reese Felts, Jr.

Reese was a Life Member of FARC and made a major donation to the club in 1989 that enabled some major improvements, notably the upgrade to the 146.64 repeater (which coincided with the change on the repeater to callsign W4NC) and the generator that is still in the Chapter House garage today.

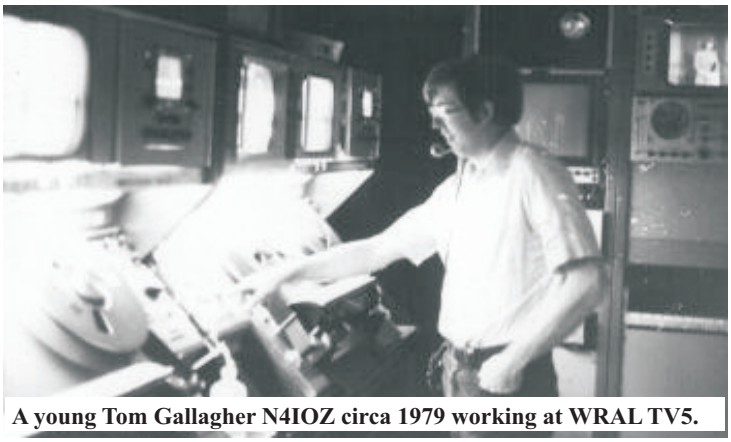
Dobson (formerly the Elkin) Hamfest

Dobson is having its regular hamfest on the 3rd Saturday, February 21, 2009, at the Dobson Fire Department beginning at 8 AM until . . . Admission is $5 which all goes to the Foothills Food Pantry in Dobson. Talk-in frequency will be 145.43 (-600) which is the Green mountain Repeater. There is no additional charge for setup inside or outside (although contributions are welcome). For more information email ad4t@triad.rr.com.

N4IOZ and World Wide/Mid-Atlantic Wrestling

Yes you read that correctly. N4IOZ and Wrestling. What could the two have in common? WRAL TV-5 in Raleigh and 1979 - 1982 for one thing. Tom did the taping at WRAL for the 2:20 promos for the up-and-coming wrestling events, among many other taping jobs for WRAL. This was back in the day when the changes had to be made on the ORIGINAL tape so boo-boos were not allowed. Tom has a write-up on the following url that really makes an interesting read:

Http://www.midatlanticgateway.com/Almanac/tv_history/tv_studios/wral/wral_gallagher.htm



A young Tom Gallagher N4IOZ circa 1979 working at WRAL TV5.

Digital TV Transition Feb 17

Don WS4NC

It's going to happen. It will be interesting to see the villagers in the streets with pitch forks and torches. Despite all the hype and the coupons there are going to be a lot of people without television this month. The FCC encouraged hams to help but then told us "At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or install equipment. They should not broker or sell conversion boxes in any way." Their suggestion for assistance stops at possibly a few public demonstrations or maybe a help phone line. I have a few relatives that are not quite phone-literate, I couldn't imagine trying to talk them through this over the phone. Hopefully all will go reasonably well, but I suspect we'll see something like this FCC effort reported in the January 30 New York Times report on the upcoming transition:

> "The Federal Communications Commission decided to spend $350,000 sponsoring a race car named "The Digital TV Transition." Government officials no doubt imagined the golden moment when a Nascar announcer cried: "It's the Digital TV Transition — over the finish line in record time."
>
> "In the first race, the car hit a wall. In the second, it crashed and burned. Fans got to hear commentary along the line of: "Well, it looks like the Digital TV Transition is going to have to be towed off the track."

Kind'a like the FCC's track record on BPL. It will be interesting to see what really happens on February 17.

NAQP

Bob KJ4IC (left) and Ed KU4BP running at the NAQP.

The Red Cross station was operated in the North American SSB QSO party as a multi-single low-power station. We operated for 12 hours. Unfortunately very noisy conditions on 40 and 80, especially 80 limited operations. A group is currently finding those noise sources around the Red Cross area and seeing what can be done about them.

Band QSOs Mults

160: 61 23
80: 40 22
40: 315 44
20: 175 29
15: 3 1
10: 0 0

Total: 594 119 Total Score = 70,686

WS4NC in the Hospital

Yes, that would be me. Seems I had a little stroke. I only mention it so that I can thank some kind FARC members who looked after me. First there was Henry and Julie Heidtmann. Henry was there as only a good friend can be, visiting often and calling at other times. The good Dr. Raja came by frequently and keep me from crawling the walls. Tom Gallagher checked on me. And Melissa (but no Darwin!) And Dale and Steven Miersch and John and Kathy Kippe were there too. Mike Mahan actually saved me life by smuggling some special contraband in for me. I appreciate all my friends who came by or called. Thanks to all and I'm doing better. And I'll try not to let it happen again.

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 11361
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-1361
336-723-7388

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ARES Reports

By Carl, N4PAA

Jan. 7, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.
Check ins - 12 Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, WA8IHW Jack, KJ4HED Kelly, KD4JZZ Phil, AG4PJ Dave, KF4ELD Larry, KJ4IC Bob, WB9SZL Dale, W4INT Brad, KF4EOD Mike, KC8OEX Terry and N4PAA Carl.
There was one announcement by KD4JZZ Phil that FARC's First Fest will be this Saturday at Summit School with the main activities starting at 7 AM and over by 12 noon. Come out and support the club.
Our new EC, KJ4DLS Eric welcomed us and covered the new organization with him as EC and KG4ECI Dan, KJ4IC Bob and N4PAA Carl serving as Assistant EC's. The normal ARES activities will get started in April with a bicycle ride at Hanging Rock State Park. Details of it will be available closer to the event.
Formal Session - 15 minutes. Informal Session - 8. Total time - 23 minutes.

Jan. 14, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.
Check ins - 12. Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, W4KG Steve, KF4ELD Larry, WX5AAA Raymond, KJ4IC Bob, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KC8OEX Terry, KC4WSK Van, KE4ZFN Bryce, KF4EOD Mike and KG4ECI Dan.
There were no announcements or traffic this evening.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric did not really have to remind us that we were experiencing the coldest weather in years - but he did. He suggested we check up on any house bound folks in our neighborhoods to make sure they were doing okay with the extreme cold. He also reminded us that winter weather is in the forecast for the weekend and to stay updated on the potential storm as it gets closer to the weekend. He also mentioned he enjoyed the FARC First Fest this past weekend and met several of us there.
Formal Session - 12 minutes. Informal Session - 8. Total time - 20 minutes.

Jan. 21, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.
Check ins - 10. Stations were KD4JZZ Phil, KF4EOD Mike, KF4ELD Larry, KJ4DLS Eric, KJ4CDM Frank, KD4CFS Hubert, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KC4WSK Van and KC8OEX Terry.
There were no announcements or traffic this evening.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric - welcomed us and reminded us that we had a brush of winter weather on Tuesday and another possible storm may get organized for the weekend. Be sure to stay up on the weather forecasts for updates on that storm's track. Eric gave us his e-mail address - kj4dls@live.com - as another way to contact him. Eric is looking into 10 meters as a possible mode for simplex communications across the county. He will have details of a test at a future date and time.
Formal Session - 13 minutes. Informal Session - 7. Total time - 20 minutes.

Jan. 28, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KJ4DLS Eric.
Check ins - 5. Stations were WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KC8OEX Terry, KF4EOD Mike and KJ4DLS Eric.
There were no announcements or traffic this evening.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric - pointed out that a major ice storm has damaged large parts of the country but it visited us as a rain storm. There are major power problems in a number of states. We should be prepared in case some real winter weather arrives in this area. On the ARES schedule, the first event will be a bicycle ride at Hanging Rock State Park in April. Details will be available closer to the event date.
Formal Session - 9 minutes. Informal Session - 16. Total time - 25 minutes.