SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter

OUR 79TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

March, 2009

March Meeting

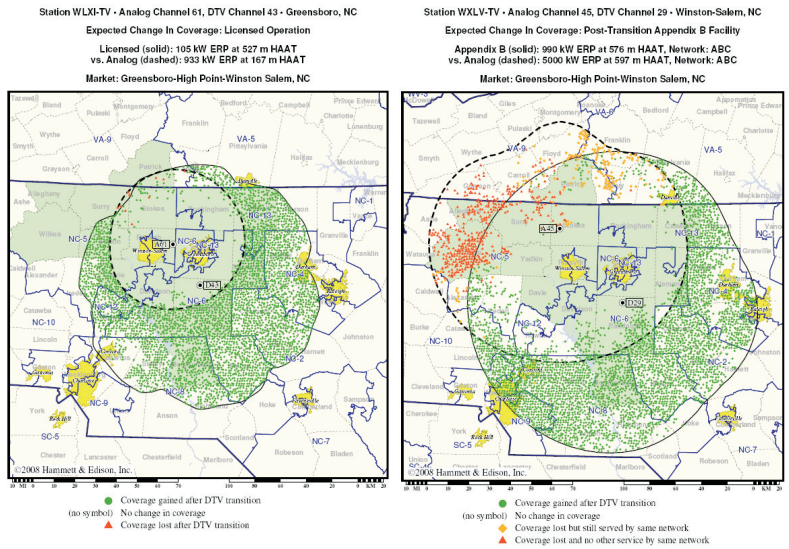
Our next club meeting will be held as usual at the NW NC Red Cross building on 610 Coliseum Dr. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM but arrive early, say 7-ish, to hobnob with your fellow members. The program will be by Bill Fisher W4GRW from Charolotte on VHF antennas

February Meeting

Michael Pulitzer from WXII made a riveting presentation about the change to Digital TV for over-the-air broadcasting. "Digital television or DTV is an innovative new type of over-the-air broadcasting technology that will transform your television viewing experience. DTV enables TV stations to provide crystal clear pictures and CD quality sound."

One might expect that FARC hams would be highly informed about the planned changeover - but based upon the questions received knowledge varied from the very basic to advanced questions about bandwidth and antenna directionality.

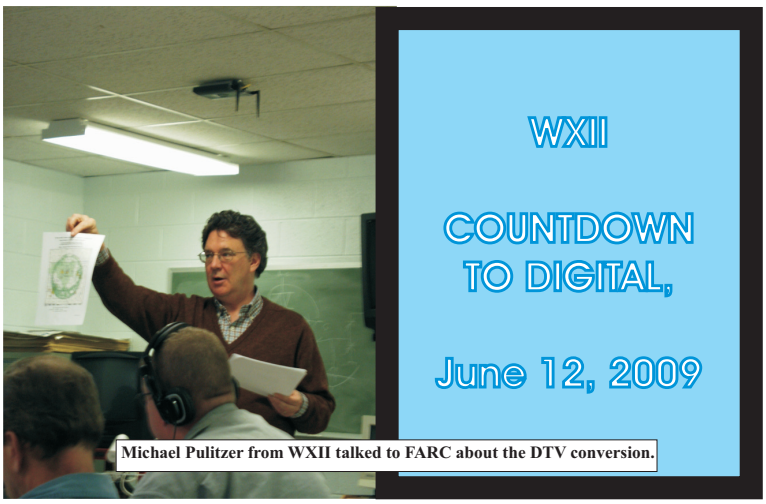
Even though they will be still known by their old channel assignments most TV stations in the triad will change frequency. Some will change transmitter locations. For most stations in the Triad coverage areas will remain about the same, but a few will be greatly different. For WXII Channel 12 which will change from the old channel 12 assignment around 205 Mhz to channel 31at 573 Mhz, it will continue to be known as Channel 12 and will continue to have essentially the same coverage area.



Changes in Channel 61's (left) and Channel 45's (right) coverage areas.

Channels 45 and 61 are moving their transmitter locations to near Randleman and will greatly increase coverage areas. Both stations will lose some coverage to the northwest.

One issue that has seen little public awareness is that antennas used at UHF frequencies will be more directional. Part of the reason is that transmitters will run lower power and receive antennas will be higher gain. In the past it was possible to find a "sweet spot" for a VHF analog antenna to split several stations. DTV antennas will likely be more persnickety.



Michael Pulitzer from WXII talked to FARC about the DTV conversion.

Lewis Elias W4DBT - SK

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Lewis Elias. Lew taught many ham radio classes over the years and there are a number of hams who earned their licenses with Lew's help. 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 info -at w4nc.org .

Officers for 2008/2009 are:

President: Phil 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.

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.

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

ALINCO Radios
APP Anderson Power Products
KMA ANTENNAS
Radio & Electronics, LLC dBj A 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 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: March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, June 13 (Hamfest), July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9. None in December.

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

All sessions 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.

Bob Gates KJ4IC
Session Manager
Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

The following are the results from the recent FCC exams given at FARC meetings. Congratulations to all and special thanks to the VE's Don WS4NC, Raja KB6MTH, Dan KG4ECI, Dale WB9SZL, Tom N4IOZ, Henry W2DZO .

1-16-09
MICHAEL P SALE KJ4IYK T
MICHAEL S HUNTER KJ4IYL T
JERRY K ROBERTS JR KI4PAQ G
DAVID H PRIDDY KJ4HXM G
COREY A EZELL KF4BST G

1-22-09
MONICA B HEDRICK KJ4JAM T

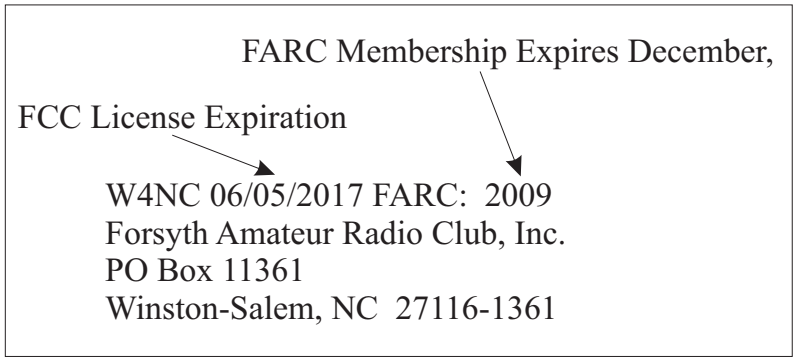
2-13-09
MICHAEL S HUNTER KJ4IYL G
JAMES T BOWMAN KJ4JMW T
JOSEPH P BURDETTE KJ4JMX T
DAVID H PRIDDY KJ4HXM E
DONNIE L SWAIM WB4ZSL G

Has my licensed expired?

When Does My Membership Expire?

In updating the Club roster it was noticed that a couple of club members had, gasp, not just allowed their FARC membership to expire but had allowed their licenses to expire. Starting with this Newsletter the mailing label will have your call first, followed by your license expiration date, then FARC and the expiration of your FARC membership. If you get the Newsletter by email there will be a special email that goes out early in the year. All memberships run from January to December and renew at the first of the year.

Did you know that according to the FCC that there are over 1000 hams in Forsyth County? Keeping our membership records up to date is quite a job. Tom Gallagher was a big help in compiling the expiration dates.



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 list of bounces next month.

For Sale by FARC

Mike Adkins has asked to purchase a push-up mast that the Club owns and is not currently using. He has offered $200. The mast is currently located at Robert's KG4NEP QTH. It extends to about 35 feet, needs some work (ie, new cable for winch) and is extremely heavy - it will probably require special equipment to move. Mike has offered to purchase it, take it down (not an insufficient task) and move it for $200. Unless someone in the club wants to make a higher offer by the end of the March meeting, the board will accept Mike's offer. Offers and questions/comments can be made to the treasurer Henry Heidtmann.

Ham Calendar

Some dates are courtesy of the South East Repeater Journal.

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
8 ARES 10-meter simplex test at Hanging Rock
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
25 ARES: MS Walk at 4th July Park in Kernersville
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

Lewis Weimar Elias Jr. W4DBT-SK

Lewis Weimar Elias, Jr., age 96, of 2945 Reynolda Rd., Winston-Salem, North Carolina, died at Forsyth Memorial Hospital on Saturday, February 21, 2009, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Born on November 16, 1912 in Biltmore, N.C., he was the son of the late Dr. Lewis Weimar Elias and Frances Rawls Carter Elias of Asheville, North Carolina. He was educated at Fishburn Military Academy in Waynesboro, Virginia and Biltmore College (now the University of North Carolina at Asheville) in Asheville, NC. He married his late wife, Gena Howell Hix Elias in 1942 at College Station, Texas and in 1956, they moved their family to Winston-Salem, NC. Mr. Elias began his career in communications as Station Engineer at Radio Station WWNC in Asheville, NC. As a Veteran of World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1945. After completing, what were then top secret courses in RADAR, (Radio Direction and Ranging) at the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas, he served as a Radar Technician. He then became an Instructor at the Navy Airborne Technical Training Center or Radar School on Ward Island and Corpus Christi, Texas. After being stationed at Inyokern and the Salton Sea Test Ranges in the Mohave Dessert in California, he returned to his former position at WWNC. In 1947, he became Chief Engineer for Radio Station WESC in Greenville, SC. He was later employed as a Field Engineer for RCA, the Radio Corporation of America. He was contracted to The Department of Defense, serving at the Naval Communications Facility in Yokosuka, Japan, and at Testing and Tracking Stations in the Bahama Islands of Eleuthera, San Salvador, Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, LA and the U.S. Navy in Charleston, South Carolina. He served as Chief of Communications at Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida from 1951-1953. In 1956, he was employed by Western Electric in Winston-Salem, NC, where for 20 years, he worked in the Technical Publications Department and briefly on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He retired from Western Electric in 1976 and later taught Basic Electronics Classes for the Continuing Education Department at Forsyth Technical Community College. As an avid Amateur Radio Operator for almost 70 years, he was first licensed as a Radio, Telephone and Telegraph Operator by the Federal Communications Commission in 1934. His call letters when broadcasting over the air waves were "W4DBT". He was a member of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, the American Radio Relay League and The Antique Wireless Association. In 1965, he organized the formation of the Carolina Chapter of The Antique Wireless Association, (The C.C.A.W.A.) and was awarded a Lifetime Membership. He was a member of St. Paul' s Episcopal Church for over 40 years where he had taught Sunday School. He was a devoted husband and a loving father. He had a zest for scientific knowledge and a wonderfully keen sense of humor which he shared with his family and friends. He was preceded in death by Gena Howell Hix Elias, his wife of 60 years. He is survived by three daughters, Elizabeth Tim Elias Gish and her husband, Dr. Larry Morgan Gish of Salisbury, NC; Cassandra Hix Elias Callison and husband, Michael Guy Callison of Winston-Salem, NC, Frances Carter Elias Binder, and her husband, Dr. Steve Binder of Cornelius, NC and one son, Lewis Weimar Elias III and his wife, Renee Elias of Clemmons, NC; five grandchildren, Teresa Anne Gish Perry and her husband, Charles Kent Perry of San Carlos, California, Ellen Elizabeth Gish Dutton and her husband, David Glenn Dutton of Pleasant Hill, California, James Brian Hawley of Greenville, NC and Liane Elizabeth Elias of Greensboro, NC, and Adam Carter Elias of Pilot Mountain, NC and four great-grandchildren, Madeline Elise Perry and Benjamin Morgan Perry of San Carlos, California and Emily Grace Dutton and Elizabeth Morgan Dutton of Pleasant Hill, California, and one great-great-grandchild, Addison Elias, of Pilot Mountain, NC. Also grandchildren, Brandon Sexton, Charlie Sexton, Ranita Abedelfi and husband, Kaled Abedelfi and their children, Ibrahm Abedelfi and Yussef Abedelfi and one neice, Susannah Carter Bacon of Asheville, NC, and three nephews; Lewis Carter Wright, Joe Kordich, and Thomas Wright of San Pedro, California. Memorial Service for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Pauls' Episcopal Church, 520 Summitt Street, Winston-Salem, NC with the Reverend John E. Shields officiating. Interment in Dalton Memorial Gardens at St. Paul' s Episcopal Service will follow. Memorials may be made In Remembrance of Mr. Elias to Hospice and Palliative Care, 1100 South Stratford Road, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27103. Voglers Funeral Home is assisting the family.

ARES Reports

By Carl, N4PAA

Feb. 4, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.
Check ins - 7. Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, WB9SZL Dale, WB4QXG Fred, KC4WSK Van, WX5AAA Raymond, KF4EOD Mike and N4PAA Carl.
There were no announcements or traffic this evening.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric didn't have to remind us but the recent weather has been cold. He went over the dangers of frostbite. He also went over items that should be available in a "Disaster Kit" so you could comfortably survive the possible 72 hours after an event before the official recovery workers take charge of the situation.
Formal Session - 13 minutes. Informal Session - 7. Total time - 20 minutes.

Feb. 11, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.
Check ins -12. Stations were KE4MOY Mike, KF4ILN Robert,

WX5AAA Raymond, KJ4DLS Eric, KD4JZZ Phil, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KF4PLQ Woody, KC4WSK Van, KF4EOD Mike, WB4ZWS Cedric and KG4ECI Dan.

There were no announcements or traffic this evening.

Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric discussed the current weather with wind and rain and severe weather to our south. Skywarn was active this evening with a wind advisory for our area. The first scheduled ARES event will be the MS Walk at the Fourth of July Park/Kernersville Elementary School in Kernersville on April 25th. This event requires a half dozen volunteers and normally lasts from 8 AM to noon (with a free lunch).

Formal Session - 12 minutes. Informal Session - 13. Total time - 25 minutes.

Feb. 18, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.

Check ins - 9. Stations were KF4PLQ Woody, KJ4DLS Eric, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KC4WSK Van, KD4CFS Hubert, KD4JZZ Phil, WB4ZWS Cedric and KC8OEX Terry.

There were no announcements or traffic this evening.

Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric discussed the weather, which had severe super cells in Georgia but not expected to make it this far east this evening. He asked us to check out calendars for the April 25th MS Walk. It will be at the Fourth of July Park/ Kernersville Elementary School area from 8 AM to noon. He also announced a 10 meter simplex test on Sunday, April 8th at Hanging Rock State Park to see of the area can be effectively covered with 10 meter simplex operations. This area has been a challenge for the two bicycle events held in that area each year where coverage gets blocked by the mountains. He also reminded us that the Dobson (former Elkin) Hamfest is this Saturday.

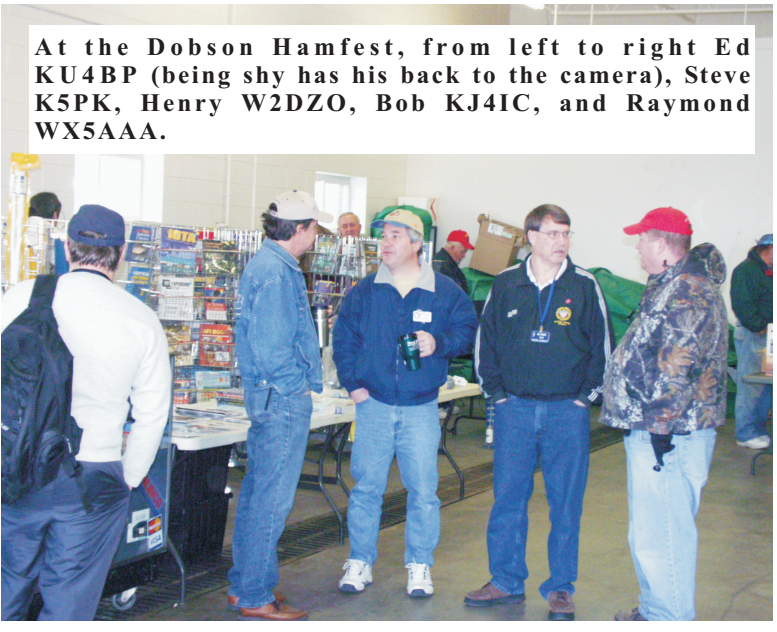
Formal Session - 17 minutes. Informal Session - 15. Total time - 32 minutes.

Edie Brown, wife of Carl N4PAA

Edie is in the Baptist Hospital and will be there for a couple of weeks for some surgery. We are all praying for Edie and hope for a quick and speedy recovery. Carl will be caring closely for Edie in the next couple of weeks and will likely be unable to provide weekly ARES reports for a while.

Dobson Hamfest Review in Pictures

At the Dobson Hamfest, from left to right Ed KU4BP (being shy has his back to the camera), Steve K5PK, Henry W2DZO, Bob KJ4IC, and Raymond WX5AAA.



Above at the Dobson Hamfest James and Bob Austin from DBJ Electronics. Below left Bob KJ4IC chats with a cheerful Steve K5PK and below right W2DZO admires the goodies on a table set up by Dave Rawley K4XO.

Calls Heard

In the 1910s and 1920s there was a column in QST listing calls heard (naturally) on the bands. Not worked, just heard. The world was a simpler place then. This column is just a list of those who attended the February FARC meeting.

Don Edwards WS4NC, Dan O'Leary KG4ECI, Jack O'Leary, Dylan O'Leary KJ4GJD, Dale Mierisch WB9SZL, Woody Kinney KF4PLQ, Ambarcesh Pardit, Eric Bowen KJ4DLS, Charlie Klutz W4TMR, Gene Bowman WB4MSG, Don Swaim WB4ZSL, Scott Swaim KJ4IVX, Van Key KC4WSK, H. Joyner KG4FNN, Bob Gates KJ4IC, Tom Gallagher N4IOZ, Mike Mahan KB4WJA, David McDonald N5WNB, Terry Brown KN4BA, Tommy Bowman KJ4JMW (new tech), Jack Davidson NW4O, Ben Wasilauskas K4GHS, David Priddy KJ4HXM, Dick Genaille W4UW, Jeff Stafford AC4YN, Raymond Tabor WX5AAA, Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, Cedric Rodney WB4ZWS, Carl Brown N4PAA, Doug Rice KJ4IGQ, Kevin Shields KB0WFM, John Sherrer KI4ARK, Dave Griffith WA4MKK, Phil Nunn KD4JZZ

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Be a member!

$24 a year for regular - $12 a year for over 65 or student.

More than one ham in the family? All can join and be full members for ½ the main member's dues.
Only one US mailed Newsletter though but everybody gets the email version.

Call:_____Over 65? (__) Y (__) N

Name:_____

Address;_____

City:_____

State & Zip:_____

Home#:_____(_)

Work#:_____(_)

Cell#:_____(_)

Email:_____(_)

Do you want your Newsletter by:

(_____) email (_____) USMail (_____) Both

Other family members who are also hams can be full members of FARC for ½ the Main Members dues (covers 1 or more - same price) provided only one newsletter is mailed.

Other family members who are hams:

#1. Call_____Name_____

email_____

#2. Call_____Name_____

email_____

#3. Call_____Name_____

email_____