Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

OUR 79TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

October, 2009

The Pfafftown SwapFest

Saturday October 10, 2009 8AM - 12 Noon
(load in begins at 7am)
$5 gets you in the gate/outdoor tailgating/indoor space available (bring your own tables!) Free Coffee/Donuts

Talk-In 146.64 (100Hz) - alternate 145.47, (100Hz)
West Central Community Center
6130 Yadkinville Road, Pfafftown, NC
Take 421 west from Winston-Salem to exit 244 (Lewisville/Williams Road). Make right at circle, go 1 mile to Lewisville-Vienna Rd. and make left. Go 2 miles and make right onto Yadkinville Rd. WCCC is 1/4 mile on your right.

October 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.

Blue Ridge Bonanza

Don WS4NC

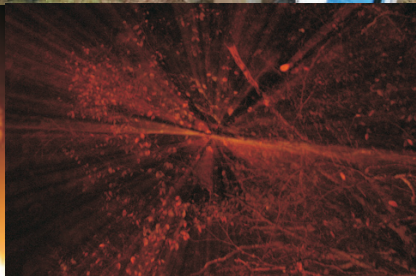
It was a dark and stormy night . . . Well it was! Saturday morning it was cool and overcast when Henry W2DZO started out to Doughton Park to claim a space. He was able to secure a good spot and erect a tarp and his tent and was quickly on the air. Later Doug KJ4IGQ would get there followed by Don WS4NC, Eric KJ4DLS, Raja KB6MTH and then Steven KG4JWU.

We operated until the specified 5PM time, although there were a few battery problems. Dinner time was exceptional. Henry was in his element as chief chef. We had NY Strip, potatoes and corn with cheese and bacon. "Everything is better with bacon. Even bacon is better with bacon." (Copyright KB6MTH 2009)

That night we had a great campfire even though it misted rain quite a bit of the time. One of the logs we put on the fire was loaded with ants and I would say that the ants did not have a good time. But the rest us of did. For a while . . . [Insert eerie laughter and dark music here . . .]

By bedtime Doug had decided that discretion was the better part of valor and he departed for points south. Steven hadn't planned on spending the night. Raja spent the night in his van, snug and dry. I had brought my cot and stayed under one of the tarps with a wall around it. Henry had promised me an air mattress. He did not promise me an air mattress that would actually hold air. It was good that I brought a foam pad which required no inflation.

Henry also brought an air mattress for himself. It would actually hold air, just not for more than a hour. By bedtime it gave all the cushioning that two pieces of thin plastic could offer. When shopping for a tent it is often a good idea to buy one that is waterproof.



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.

That night it rained. And rained. And RAINED. At one point the animals were lining up two-by-two. Raja was warm and snug and dry in his van. Although I suffered a splat or two I stayed nice and warm and dry under the tarp in my down sleeping bag with the foam mattress on the cot. The sound of the rain on the tarp was actually relaxing. Henry had found that if he curled into a tight fetal position in the center of the tent he could avoid the largest of the rivers that flowed through the tent. Also the gravel under the tent offered some cushioning, but less than a nice functioning air mattress might.

Eventually it became light. Some might say that the sun came up, but we didn't see it. It was that beautiful foggy quiet with rain gently falling where you could see about eight feet through the fog. I was awakened to grumbling and the sound of ham gear being stored away and tents coming down. It was apparent by the expression on Henry's face that there would be no discussion about staying. He was heating some coffee on the stove, so his mood had improved somewhat. That said, the look in his tired bloodshot eyes hadn't completely lost that crazed homicidal gaze. They basically said "don't mess with me".

I went over several times to gently wake Raja. On the third attempt it was obvious that *gently* was not the right approach. I banged on the window while yelling "Dr. Chatterjee it's Code Blue on your ham radio weekend." I wish I had brought the camera. Raja jumps up and looks around with the 'where the Hell am I and where is the fire?"

Continued on the next page

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APP Anderson Power Products
KMA ANTENNAS
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"For all your radio, cable & accessory needs"
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look. It took maybe 60 seconds for him to get his bearings. And I thought I was not a morning person. By this time Henry and I had pretty much packed everything.

There was little conversation. There was no cheerful conversation. It was also clear that we weren't even stopping for breakfast. Ah, the delight of camping out in the fall.

Radio wise Saturday was a great day. Henry kept the radio humming from start up time until Eric got there. Eric masterfully kept the radio going in the afternoon. I didn't get the total number of contacts but I think it was greater than last year. We even played on my 817 and made contacts after dark. The campfire time was great fun with various stories passing around. Next year you need to add BRB to your calendar.

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 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.

Congratulations to Ronnie who recently passed his Tech Exam. His call is KJ4PCG.

Here is our exam schedule as it stands now for 2009: October 12, November 9. None in December. 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

ARES Reports

By Carl, N4PAA

Sep. 3, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.
Check ins - 16. Stations were KE4TSY Raymond, N4EY Steve, KF4ILN Robert, KJ4IC Bob, KE4MOY Mike, KN4BA Terry, WB9SZL Dale, NA4P Fred, N4PAA Carl, KC8OEX Terry, WB4QXG Fred, KC4WSK Van, KJ4DLS Eric, KG4FGC Ken and KG4ECI Dan.
There was no traffic this evening.
NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD net will start at 9 PM or at the conclusion of this net tonight.
KC8OEX Terry announced there will be a simulated emergency test (SET) on Saturday, Oct. 3 that will be a reenactment of Hurricane Hazel. More details will be available closer to the event.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric held the ARES meeting. He is trying to get enough interest to have a CERT training class over the winter. He announced the FARC meeting will be next Monday, and that the Shelby Hamfest is this weekend. He also covered the Tour to Tanglewood coming up on Sept. 26 and 27 and that volunteers are needed both days. Contact Eric on the repeaters or via e-mail at kj4dls@arrl.net to volunteer for the Tour or to sign up for a potential CERT training program.
Formal Session - 17 minutes. Informal Session - 11. Total time - 28 minutes.

Sep. 10, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.
Check ins - 15. Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, KG4FGC Ken, KJ4IC Bob, KF4HHG Tim, NA4P Fred, KC8OEX Terry, KC4WSK Van, WF4DD WFU Club, KA4JRL Jason, KF4EOD Mike, KB6MTH Raja, KJ4CDM Frank, KE4TES Sparky, KN4BA Terry and N4PAA Carl.
There was no traffic this evening.
KG4FGC Ken announced that the WF4DD net will start at 9 PM or at the conclusion of this net tonight.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric held the ARES meeting. His announcements covered the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) that will be all day Saturday, Oct. 3 that will simulate Hurricane Hazel hitting again and the Tour to Tanglewood on Sep. 26 and 27. Eric still needs volunteers. Contact Eric on the repeaters or via e-mail at kj4dls@arrl.net to volunteer. The training this evening was on electromagnetic pulse (EMP). Since EMP is a byproduct of a nuclear explosion, there might be bigger problems than an EMP disabling all solid state electronic devices. Older tube type radio equipment would still work - if anyone was left to work them. This was from a conference held in New York on the subject of EMP and modern communications.
Formal Session - 25 minutes. Informal Session - 12. Total time - 37 minutes.

Sep. 17, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.
Check ins - 13. Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, KN4BA Terry, KE4MOY Mike, KF4JZD Tom, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KC4WSK Van, AF4XC Ed, KA4JRL Jason and KC8OEX Terry.
Traffic this evening was a message from KF4JZD Tom to KJ4DLS Eric concerning the Tour to Tanglewood.
NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD net will start at 9 PM or at the conclusion of this net tonight.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric held the ARES meeting with more discussion on the Tour to Tanglewood. More volunteers are needed and you can either notify Eric at kj4dls@arrl.net or Tom Hatley at KF4JZD@bellsouth.net to help out. Eric also mentioned he would like to see enough people interested in CERT training so classes could be taken this winter. Also, the state SET will be all day Saturday, Oct. 3.
Formal Session - 35 minutes. Informal Session - 5. Total time - 40 minutes.

Sep. 24, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KJ4DLS Eric.
Check ins - 20. Stations were KC8OEX Terry, KA4JRL Jason, KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, KG4DKN Buddy, KE4MOY Mike, WA4NOT Jim, NA4P Fred, KN4BA Terry, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KF4HHG Tim, KC4WSK Van, WF4DD WFU Club, KG4ECI Dan, KG4JWU Steven, WD4DLP Darin, KE4TSY Raymond and KJ4DLS.
There was no traffic this evening.
NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD net will start at 9 PM or at the conclusion of this net tonight.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric held the ARES meeting. He covered other activities first. The Western Region ARES Meeting will be held at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton on Oct 17 from 9:30 to 12:30. If interested in going, contact Eric for details. The NC SET will be Oct. 3 & 4 with details on the Friday night Tarheel Emergency Net - on 3.923. Also, the annual Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air will be on Saturday, Oct. 17 as well. The Pfafftown Swapfest for the FARC will be on Saturday, Oct. 10.
The rest of the meeting covered all the details for the Tour to Tanglewood this coming weekend. Assignments were passed out with times and locations.
Formal Session - 43 minutes. Informal Session - 15. Total time - 58 minutes.

Oct. 1, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report
Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan.
Check ins - 15. Stations were KJ4ENM Ed, KJ4DLS Eric, KJ4IC Bob, WA4NOT Jim, KN4BA Terry, KC8OEX Terry, KE4MOY Mike, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, WB4QXG Fred, N4JNM John, KC4WSK Van, KI4SVH Joe and KG4ECI Dan.
There was no traffic this evening.
NA4P Fred announced that the WF4DD net will start at 9 PM or at the conclusion of this net tonight. There would be check-ins only this evening - no program due to unusual circumstances.
Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric held the ARES meeting with a wrap up of the Tour to Tanglewood and a thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it another successful event. Then he covered upcoming events. The Regional ARES meeting will be held at Western Carolina Community College in Morganton on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9:30 to 12:30. Also on Oct. 17 will be the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air. The NC SET will be this Saturday, Oct. 3 starting at 8 AM. For details, tune in the Tarheel Emergency Net Friday night on 3.923. Last but not least is the FARC Pfafftown Swapfest on Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Pfafftown Community Center.
Formal Session - 20 minutes. Informal Session - 12. Total time - 32 minutes.

ARES Announcements

Eric KJ4DLS

At a recent club meeting, Darrell Jeter from the Forsyth County Office of Emergency Management gave a very informative presentation on CERT, which is the acronym for the Community Emergency Response Team. CERT was formed in 2003 under the US Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps program, with it's target audiences being private citizens, businesses and schools that want the skills and the knowledge required to prepare for and respond to disasters. The program covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. CERT is a 21 hour course taught by local emergency responders including law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel. The course includes eight units covering everything from fire safety and EMS operations to light search and rescue and disaster psychology. The courses can beheld on Saturday to accommodate working peoples schedules.

There are requirements to enter the program, with the main one being a committed group of 15-25 people, that are willing to put in the time for the training. For example, if the course was held on Saturdays, with training for three hours every weekend, the course would be completed in seven weeks. That group would then have the knowhow to sustain themselves and their community for the first 72 hours of a disaster in case emergency workers are overwhelmed or unable to access the affected area.

CERT and how it applies to Amateur Radio (ARES)-As Hams, we often provide communication when it is needed most- during disasters. We also help out during non-emergency events such as walk-a-thons, bike races and so forth. The skills that can be learned in CERT can be applied to both. For example, sometimes the disaster comes to us. It may be our own neighborhoods that are flooded or ravaged by strong winds from severe storms or land-falling hurricanes. In that case, we just wouldn't be communicators trying to relay messages but also helping out our neighbors and fellow citizens with any help they may need as well, aside from communications. During bike races and walk-a-thons, we have been fortunate recently but there is always the chance someone may get injured during these events and especially since they are usually held during warmer months, there is the chance of heat related sickness.

We are not in emergency communications to take the place of first responders. But wouldn't we be more helpful to ourselves, our group and our community to acquire basic knowledge that one day could help save someone's life when first responders may not be immediately available. And as a group, that's how we can apply CERT to Amateur Radio.

If anyone has any questions you can reach me via e-mail at kj4dls <at> arrl.net or landline at 336-231-4182. Thanks everyone for your participation in our ARES group.

Ham Calendar

Some dates are courtesy of the South East Repeater Journal.

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

Around FARC

W2DZO - OK - it's taken four years. But Henry W2DZO has a tower back up. Maybe we should invite ourselves for a contest.

March, 2010 - It's been discussed. It has been talked about. Everybody is excited about it. It's finally on the calendar. The program for our March meeting in 2010 is a special, never-been-done-before program on **Weather Radar** by Jeff Oreck from the National Weather Service. Plan on being there. It is not to be missed. As with all of our programs this is open to the public and will probably be well attended. Plan on coming early to get a good seat.

January & February, 2010 - The plan is to have a special program in two parts for January and February. The Red Cross Introduction to Disaster Training is to be presented in two parts over these two FARC meetings. Again plan on arriving early to get a good seat.

Officers for 2010 - The Nominating committee chaired by Bob Gates KJ4IC has met several times and approached several people about serving next year. At the October meeting the proposed slate of officers will be presented. For President: Terry Brown KN4BA. For Vice President: Eric Bowen KJ4DLS. For Secretary: Tom Gallagher N4IOZ. Henry Heidtmann has been asked to serve as treasurer again. This slate will be presented at the October meeting. Any nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November meeting (please check with the person first!). The elections will be at the November meeting and officers installed and the "gravel" passed at the December meeting.

CQWW - CQ World Wide SSB Contest is the last weekend of October. This is like the superbowl for ham radio. You can work DXCC in one weekend. And never have to talk to people! It's all 59-05. In the past the hard-core contestors in the club made this a big event and we have the scores to show it - usually in the top ten if not the top five scores. This year we are going to operate from the Red Cross. We will have the mobile tower setup plus some extra antennas. The contest starts at 7 PM Friday and we will operate from the start until the end of the contest on Sunday night at 8 PM. If you haven't operated during a contest this is your opportunity. If you are just curious that's good too. Come out and help our group push to another big time score.

Tour-to-Tanglewood - Thanks to the planning of many people this went off very well. Unfortunately Tom KF4JZD from Greensboro, who had done much of the advanced planning, was unable to serve due to health reasons. Thanks to Tom for all his advance work. Eric KJ4DLS Forsyth County EC stepped in and managed the event as net control on Saturday with KC8OEX as backup. Thanks to KF4JZD N4PAA WS4NC KG4UQV KG4JWU N4AMP K4TLD N8XMB KJ4RW KJ4DLS W2DZO KJ4MSL KJ4OIL KC4AIY KA4JRL N0KTY KC8OEX KF4HHG WE4MOY WB9SZL KJ4ADX NW4O WA4NOT (hopefully I didn't leave anyone out!). Communications went very well and congratulations to all for a job well done. Thanks to KJ4MSL for the photos.

The Pfafftown SwapFest

Saturday October 10, 2009 8AM - 12 Noon
(load in begins at 7am)
$5 gets you in the gate/outdoor tailgating/indoor space available
(bring your own tables!) Free Coffee/Donuts

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Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 11361
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-1361
336-245-5740

Congratulation to Chris Plumblee WF3C and Family

Lillian Lee (Lily) Plumblee

7 lb. 14 oz. 20" long; born 6/5/09 at 8:02 pm.

[Editor: I didn't see this email right away since it went to an old email address. Chris was an FARC member while he attended Wake Forest. Chris, Taylor and Lily are living now in Orlando, Florida.