SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Newsletter

OUR 79TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

December 2009

Annual December Meeting

Our annual December meeting is in the banquet room at Big Shotz on Stratford Road December 14. (Big Shotz is in the location of the former Lucky 32, about ½ block north of Business-40.) Order off the menu. We will gather starting at 5:30 for drinks. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM and will be followed by a short program and installation of new officers around 7 PM.

November Meeting
Annual HomeBrew Show-&-Tell

The November meeting is always the Homebrew Show-&-Tell, usually dominated by Tim AG4RZ. James *Where-The Buffalo-Roams* Kretzschmar AE7AX, now living in Wyoming, said he couldn't allow Tim to go unchallenged so he sent two entries, both of his usual high quality. But where was Tim? He didn't show! I suppose that he found out that he would be intimidated by James' goodies, especialy the 2-Watt 20 SSB Transmitter. The only other entry was KC4WSK Van *Always-the-Highlight-of-the-Meeting* Key's coffee. This was Van's "last supper" as house chairman. Accordingly his coffee was voted best of the homebrew - although it was an unconventional entry.

On the left is James' KE7AX 20-Meter transceiver. The blank area is for the VFO. On the right WS4NC does his best to talk about James' 10-MHz 25 mW CW Transmitter.

New Antenna on 145.47

145.47 has suffered some problems in the past, especially with noise. Now the crackling and popping are in the past. On the left, it is a little hard to see, but the top 2/3 of the old antenna is hanging down the side of the tower without its fiberglass cover. In the middle is a view of Henry W2DZO and Bob KJ4IC on the tower. To get a perspective look at the lower right of the center picture, we are looking *down* on Pilot Mountain, and check out the hawk photo on page 5.At the right is a closer view of the antenna with W2DZO and Dale WB9SZL. The new antenna is a heavy-duty four-bay commercial folded dipole antenna with new 7/8-inch hardline.

Changed Meeting Times in January/February

The January and February FARC Meetings will be the Introduction to Disaster Training class by the Red Cross. Both meetings **will start at 7 PM** (rather than the usual 7:30) and should run to about 9 PM. If you'd like- you could take this brief online Intro to Disaster class: http://www.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/

The very worst disaster plan is no plan. The next worst disaster plan is two plans. Be Red Cross Ready - Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.

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.

QRP Field Day Win

Bob Gates KJ4IC

W4NC won our category, 5A, in the 2009 milliWatt FD!! And, we ended up 3rd overall out of 22 entrants. Congratulations to everyone. A great way to start SS weekend!

(For those of you who ask, "when did we enter mW FD?", it was a contest sponsored by the QRP ARC International that runs simultaneously with the ARRL FD. The rules are the same, except all power must be 5W or below. We just had to submit a separate log to QRP-ARCI.)

Monday Nights

The FARC main Club meeting is always on the second Monday of the month at the Red Cross ***except in December***. 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 Dustin Lampkin KJ4QKQ and Matt Bremer KJ4QKP for passing their technician tests. And too bad about the calls.

There are no more exams scheduled for 2009, we will offer testing again next year. 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

Nov. 5, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KJ4DLS Eric.

Check ins - 17. Stations were KN4BA Terry, KJ4IC Bob, WA4NOT Jim, WB9SZL Dale, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, WB4QXG Fred, KC8OEX Terry, N4PAA Carl, KA4JRL Jason, KF4EOD Mike, W4KG Steve, KE4MOY Mike, KC4WSK Van, KB3DOR Rob, AB4BC Bryan and KJ4DLS Eric.

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 started off by explaining how ARES differs from the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. He then explained that ARES is adopting the FEMA National Incident Management System and that the four courses available on line are recommended for anyone planning to volunteer for any serious incident. These classes can be found at training/fema/gov and are NIMS 100A, 200A, 700B and 800B. You get an e-mailed certificate if you successfully complete each classes "final exam". Keep the certificates and get a copy to Eric for his records. Eric is still looking for volunteers for a CERT training class to be held this winter and spring along with FARC members. You can sign up by contacting Eric at KJ4DLS@arrl.net.

Formal Session - 27 minutes. Informal Session - 18. Total time - 45 minutes.

Nov. 12, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KJ4DLS Eric (due to repeater failure and switching to 146.64 for net)

Check ins - 14. Stations were KN4BA Terry, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, KJ4IC Bob, WA4NOT Jim, WB9SZL Dale, NA4P Fred, N4PAA Carl, KF4NCH Joe, KE4MOY Mike, KC4WSK Van, W4KG Steve, KD4CFS Hubert and KJ4DLS Eric.

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. He commented on our brush with the remains of Hurricane Ida that wet down the area but was otherwise uneventful. He thanked all who were standing by in case of any activations. He went over the FEMA National Incident Management System again and that the four courses available on line are recommended for anyone planning to volunteer for any serious incident. These classes can be found at training/fema/gov and are NIMS 100A, 200A, 700B and 800B. Volunteers will be classes as either "trained" (have certificates) or "untrained" and jobs will be assigned accordingly in any FEMA activations. Eric is still looking for volunteers for a CERT training class to be held this winter and spring along with FARC members. You can sign up by contacting Eric at KJ4DLS@arrl.net.

Formal Session - 23 minutes. Informal Session - 6. Total time - 29 minutes.

Nov. 19, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

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

Check ins - 15. Stations were KA4JRL Jason, KJ4DLS Eric, KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, KB3X Drax, KE4MOY Mike, KN4BA Terry, KJ4IC Bob, WA4NOT Jim, N4PAA Carl, KC4WSK Van, WB9SZL Dale, W4KG Steve, KG4ECI Dan and KC8OEX Terry.

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. He commented that the 145.47 repeater is working better this evening and the net did a good job switching to the backup repeater last week. He covered the recommended FEMA training recommended for serious incident volunteers and corrected the web site for the classes. You can find them at fema.gov/training. The four recommended classes are IMCS 100A, 200A, 700 and 800B Eric is still looking for volunteers for a CERT training class to be held this winter and spring along with FARC members. You can sign up by contacting Eric at KJ4DLS@arrl.net.

Also, the January and February FARC meetings will Red Cross Basic Disaster Training classes - taught by Red Cross personnel.

Formal Session - 20 minutes. Informal Session - 9. Total time - 29 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 be held 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 know how 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.

Beginning January 7th, the first Thursday of every month will be "Emergency Power Night" on the Forsyth County ARES Net. All stations are asked to check in using emergency power setups and this will give stations a once per month opportunity to check out their equipment in emergency power mode.

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.

Around FARC

Who was that (bearded) man? - Boyce *Who-Was-That-Bearded-Man?* Rogers WB4WOM dropped by the November Club meeting for the first time in eons. We've missed you Boyce.

Donation of 10-years of QST - Terry Overstreet KU4MN donated 10-years of QST to FARC. Some of newest hams have met the donation with great enthusiasm. Thanks Terry.

The Pains of Leadership - After 2 grueling years being President Phil Nunn will be turning the reins over to Terry Brown at the December Meeting. Thanks Phil.

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.

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.

Officers for 2010 - At the November meeting the proposed slate of officers was elected. 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. The "gravel" will be passed at the December meeting.

TARHEEL NET MOVED TO 160M

Tim Slay N4IB
ARRL North Carolina Section Manager

Since the change back to standard time, regional propagation on 75m has been very poor at 7:30pm and the Tarheel Emergency Net has been struggling. Net Manager Mark Cantrell, KD4IMA, has announced that effective immediately the net will be moving to 160m. Mark reports "our plan is to start at 1.943, then if we find the frequency in use, move up by 10 kHz increments - 1.953, 1.963, 1.973, 1.983, 1.993. None of those frequencies are listed in the ARRL Net Directory as being used at any time. I think that we can find a frequency on 160m that will allow us to stay on the air. There are many cheap and easy designs to get an antenna on 160 if folks want to try it". The solution at N4IB is to temporarily extend the legs of my 75m dipole to make it resonant on 160m. The extra length can be run in almost any direction - up, down, sideways. It may not be perfect, but it was pretty effective last winter during testing and 160m can provide excellent regional coverage at night. The Tarheel Net will leave a station behind on 3.923MHz at net time to move any potential check-ins who aren't aware of the change.

Ham Calendar

Some dates are courtesy of the South East Repeater Journal.

December
7 QRP meeting at Mellow Mushroom
14 FARC Club Dinner Meeting Big Shotz Stratford Road
21 FARC Board Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
28 Contestors Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

January, 2010
9 Winston-Salem FirstFest, Summit School, Winston-Salem

February, 2010
6 Charleston SC Hamfest
6 FrostFest, Richmond, Va

March, 2010
6 Cave City, TN Hamfest
13-14 Charlotte Hamfest, Cabarrus Arena, Concord, NC
20 Charleston, WV Hamfest
20 Middle TN ARS Hamfest, Tulahoma, TN
25-27 Antique Radio Conference, Airport Sheraton, Charlotte, NC

Another perspective on how high Sauratown Mt. is. There were about a dozen hawks hunting on Sauratown. We were looking down on the hawks. Camp Hanes is in the background. This was shot with the equivalent of a 480 mm telephoto lens.

April, 2010
3 Raleigh Hamfest, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC
17 Catawba Valley Hamfest, Burke County Fairgrounds, Morganton, NC
24 Calhoun, GA Hamfest

May, 2010
13-14 Charlotte HF, Concord, NC

June, 2010
3 Atlanta Hamfest, Jim Miller Park, Marietta, GA
12 Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC

July, 2010
17 Cary Swapfest, Ritter park, Cary NC
24 Western Carolina Hamfest, Haywood County Fairgrounds, Waynesville, NC

August, 2010
7 Cape Fear ARS SwapFest, Methodist University, Fayetteville, NC

Ham Classifieds:

For sale - $120 Ham-III rotor and control box, works well. Rohn 25 top section - $20, 7-ft section - free with top section purchase, 6-ft section - free with top section purchase. Pick-up only - located in NE Winston-Salem, Contact Bob Gates KJ4IC, Cell 336-215-0313.

A Shack Like No Other

Think you have a nice ham shack? Check this out: http://www.qrz.com/db/w9evt

The Winston-Salem
FirstFest

Saturday
January 9, 2010
7 am – 11 am

Summit School Parking Lot
2100 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC

New this year!
Indoor space!

$5 gets you in the lot.

No extra charge for tailgating!
Sell / Buy / Swap or just chat!
Simple and fun!
Free coffee and donuts!

Bring your own tables and chairs.

Questions?
Phone: (336) 245-5740 e-mail: hamfest@w4nc.org

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

Renewal Time - 2010!

Yes - it's that wonderful time again - time to renew your FARC dues.
$24 a year for regular - $12 a year for over 65 or student.

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

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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_____