SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Newsletter

OUR 80TH YEAR!

Founded December 30, 1930

January, 2010

FARC turns 80 this year!

On December 30, 1930 the Winston-Salem Radio club was incorporated. After a few changes over the years we eventually became the Forsyth County Radio Club. That means at the end of this year we will turn 80. Quite an accomplishment for FARC.

December Meeting

We held our annual Christmas dinner at Big Shotz on Stratford road. They have an excellent meeting room, the best we've found in Winston-Salem so we will likely return for 2010. Congratulations to Ham-Of-The-Year Eric Bowen KJ4DLS. Eric has shown great leadership in meeting the many challenges as EC for Forsyth County in the past year as we appreciate his efforts. Also installed were the officers for 2010 - Terry Brown KN4BA as President, Eric Bowen KJ4DLS as Vice President, Tom Gallagher N4IOZ as secretary and Henry Heidtmann W2DZO as treasurer. See page 5 for more photos.

Eric KJ4DLS receiving the Ham of the Year Award from outgoing President Phil KD4JZZ.

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

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 2010 are:

President: Terry Brown, KN4BA

Vice-President: Eric Bowen, KJ4DLS

Secretary: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ

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.

New Antenna on 145.47

The new antenna on 145.47 has been a success. It has made a huge difference in coverage and nobody misses the noise.

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.

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 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.

There are no more exams scheduled for January, we will offer testing again later this 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

Dec. 3, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan started net on 145.47 but due to repeater problems, net operations shifted to 146.64 with KC8OEX Terry serving as net control.

Check ins - 14. Stations were KN4BA Terry, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, KJ4IC Bob, WA4NOT Jim, KG4ECI Dan, KC8OEX Terry, N4PAA Carl, KI4SVH Joe, WA8IHW Jack, NA4P Fred, K4HED Kelly, W4KG Steve 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. Eric covered the ICS courses recommended by FEMA for amateur radio operators wanting to help during official disaster operations. They are available at training/fema.gov on the web. He mentioned this is winter preparedness week and that the NOAA weather radios were giving daily hints on how to better cope with winter weather. All the topics are also on the web at the regional link - weather.gov/Raleigh. 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 - 26 minutes. Informal Session - 4. Total time - 30 minutes.

Dec. 10, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl (on newly repaired 145.47 repeater again)

Check ins - 16. Stations were KJ4DLS Eric, KG4FGC Ken, KN4BA Terry, KJ4CDM Frank, KJ4IC Bob, W4KG Steve, WA4NOT Jim, WB9SZL Dale, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KC8OEX Terry, KE4MOY Mike, KF4EOD Mike, KA4JRL Jason, KC4WSK Van and N4PAA Carl.

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 didn't have to remind us that it is COLD with the predictions that this winter will be colder than "normal". So much for global warming. He reminded us that a good thing to do on cold winter evenings is to look up the recommended classes at fema.goc/training and complete them. You should complete ICS 100A, 200A, 700 and 800B for the complete recommended training. He complimented us on a good job of switching repeaters and net control operators last week due to repeater problems. (WB9SZL Dale also gave us a brief update on the repeater repairs completed this past weekend.) 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 include the Red Cross Basic Disaster Training course - Part I in January and Part II in February. Also, the first Thursday net of each month is being designated emergency power night - check in using your emergency power back-up on this net.

Formal Session - 20 minutes. Informal Session - 13. Total time - 33 minutes.

Dec. 17, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

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

Check ins - 15. Stations were KA4JRL Jason, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, KF4EOD Mike, KJ4IC Bob, KE4MOY Mike, W4KG Steve, WA4NOT Jim, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, KC4WSK Van, KJ4DLS Eric, K4HED Kelly, KG4DKN Buddy 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. The first real winter storm in years is headed this way - due to arrive tomorrow. The storm track along the coast will determine what type and how much precipitation we get. Get your batteries charged, etc, just in case. Eric covered ARRL Bulletin 37 - an emergency communications bill that directs the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate use of amateur radio in emergencies. It also contains some wording concerning antenna restrictions. He again mentioned the four FEMA ICS classes recommended and available at fema.gov/training. 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 - 22 minutes. Informal Session - 19. Total time - 41 minutes.

Dec. 24, 2009 Forsyth County Ares Net Report

An informal net was held on Christmas eve for those wanting to participate. I was in Virginia and missed it.

Dec. 31, 2009 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA Carl.

Check ins - 10. Stations were W4KG Steve, KE4MOY Mike, KN4BA Terry, KJ4IC Bob, KC8OEX Terry, KE4ZFN Bryce, WB4ZWS Cedric, KF4EOD Mike, WB9SZL Dale and N4PAA Carl.

There was no traffic this evening.

KE4ZFN Bryce announced that the monthly Vagabond group lunch will be at noon this Saturday at the Golden Corral at Hanes Mall - postponed due to last weekend's snow storm. Any amateur is invited to join them.

Our EC - KJ4DLS Eric was not available for the New Year's Eve net. Net Control commented on some of the highlights of ARES activities this past year. 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. Best wishes for the New Year were exchanged, etc.

Formal Session - 15 minutes. Informal Session - 10. Total time - 25 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

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.

Richard, W4UW: Glorioso Island in the Indian Ocean that was one of the remaining 5 or 6 countries in the world with which I needed to make a code (cw) contact, and did so in late September, has confirmed the contact FT5GA with a confirmation card which I received Tuesday December 14.

Ed KU4BP: Nothing better that to start the new radio year than with a new zone and country on 80m. UN7AD in Kazakhstan. Zone 17. DX. The contest that never ends.

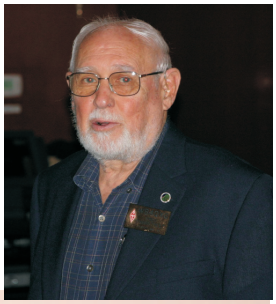
Gene WB4MSG: Preliminary results of Aug 09 NAQP SSB show Gene winning QRP by a wide margin.

Single Op QRP Top Five

WB4MSG	**21,660**	**228**	**95**	**W4WS Bunch**
K3MD	8,024	136	59	
KG4JGQ	7,930	130	61	
N2WN	6,215	113	55	
KS4X	3,000	75	40	

Ham Calendar

Some dates are courtesy of the South East Repeater Journal.



January, 2010
9 Winston-Salem FirstFest, Summit School, Winston-Salem
11 FARC General Meeting at the Red Cross
18 FARC Board meeting at Mellow Mushroom
25 PVRC Contest Group Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

February, 2010
1 FARC QRP Group Meeting at Mellow Mushroom
6 Charleston SC Hamfest
6 FrostFest, Richmond, Va
8 FARC General Meeting at the Red Cross
15 FARC Board meeting at Mellow Mushroom
22 PVRC Contest Group Meeting at Mellow Mushroom

More Photos from the Dinner:

Top: Fred WB4QXG Overstreet - he does exists! 2nd: The installation of new President Terry Brown KN4BA. Bottom: Obviously Mike KG4HTR and family is happy to be here.

Top: Thank you to Van "The Highlight of the Meeting" Key KC4WSK. 2nd: Thanks to outgoing President Phil KD4JZZ. 3rd: It was especially good to see Carl N4PAA and his wife Edie. Edie has had a tough year with medical problems in 2009. Bottom clockwise from top left: Dick W4UW is the first to pay his dues for 2010! Phil and his new bride. Everybody loves Raja's Festive Hat!

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

Firstfest This Saturday!

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

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_____