Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Newsletter
SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB
OUR 83TH YEAR!
Founded December 30, 1930
September, 2014

Shelby very early Saturday morning as the sun rises. Photo by Scott WB4YZA.

Shelby Hamfest

By Don, WS4NC

It was a dark and stormy morning – on Sunday. John K1PPE and I went down on Friday. Even unofficial Friday was fairly well attended. Shelby went great on Saturday, although Saturday too started out foggy (see the photo above). The weather man lied completely about Sunday. All weather sites said no rain until Sunday afternoon. It started about 5AM Sunday and was generally light, but at times heavy, until 7AM. Kip and I were sleeping under tarps. I kicked Kip about 5 AM and told him to move away from the edge of the tarp. He grumbled but didn't move. I think he did the backstroke in between snores.

Not many people on Sunday. I think the rain scared them away – but then Sunday has always been lightly attended. Mike, N4VE, Harold, N4HER and Kip, N1PPE and I (WS4NC) had the corner across from the Shriner's Gazebo. Again Shelby was an event not to be missed. Lots of beautiful old gear and some real goodies for a great deal if you looked enough.

Release the hounds!

Our program had to cancel last month so we decided to hold a Fox Hunt. Unfortunately, the rain[1] told us to stay indoors. A Fox was hidden somewhere in the building. After a little introduction there was a Keystone Cops version of a Fox Hunt. It was fun to watch. Then the weather improved and a fox found its way outside, as did the calliope of hounds.

[1] It really was a dark and stormy night.

Arduino Workshop

Future Technical Saturday Workshops

By Don, WS4NC

Went Splendidly. Mucho Kudos to Bob NC4RG. Did not lend itself to video – Bob is working on making video and some links and will make those available soon. Generally Bob presented an idea and then went about the room helping each of us with little issues that would have taken hours for each of us working alone.

The workshop went so splendidly we are going to start holding one a month on Saturdays. The next one is Saturday, Sept 13. This one will be to get the Arduino DDS generator working. The one after will be an SWR bridge. September, October and November Saturday Technical Workshops will be for Arduino projects. If these go well next year we are considering: How to use KiCad PCB layout software and maybe in the spring a workshop on making circuit boards. Emails regarding these are only going out to those who request them. The following is the current list. If you want to be included email ws4nc <at> dwepe <dot> com and you will be added to the list (if you don't get a reply from me within a day – email me again).

Bob NC4RG, Don WS4NC, Henry W2DZO, Jerry K4GW, Kip K1PPE, Dan KG4NEI, Geoff KK4MOV, Steve WA3RTC, Steve KG4JWU, Dale WB9SZL, Harold N4HER, Ray K4ZGV, Van KC4WSK, Jim W4UX, Carl N4PAA, Andrew NC4AG, Gene WB4MSG, Charlie W4TMR

ARES Public Service: Two Opportunities

by Jim Mansfield WA4NOT
EC, Forsyth County ARES

Tour to Tanglewood 2014

SIGN UP NOW; ONLY 7 SLOTS LEFT!

For Saturday, September 27, we still need two operators for rest stops, an alternate net control and (lowest priority) an operator to ride with event medical director.

For Sunday, September 28, the empty slots are one SAG mobile operator, alternate net control and (again lowest priority) the medical director's mobile. Rest stop operators will work 4 hours or fewer, depending on the time the assigned rest stop is open. Alternate net controllers should be available for the entire event-day and may double as relay operators for the Concord-to-Tanglewood route net if a separate repeater is used for that route. Medical mobile would also work the entire event day.

Event-days are 0700 – 1500 Saturday and 0700 – 1300 Sunday (local time). Minimum equipment for rest stops and ANC would be a 5-watt HT with gain antenna: ¼ or 5/8 wave mag-mount, portable J-pole or Slim Jim, or one of the fox hunt antennas built last year. Mobile units of 10 watts or more output would be better if available. To volunteer, see Jim Mansfield at the FARC Club meeting, email mansfijr@gmail.com, or check into the Forsyth County ARES net 8:30 PM local on September 11, 18 or 25 for details.

NEW ARES EVENT:
DAWN TO DARK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11:

The premiere run of the PILOT MOUNTAIN TO HANGING ROCK ULTRA, a 50-mile (alternately 50 kilometer not-so-ultra) trail run, needs 6 – 8 hams on the course at any given time throughout the scheduled 17 hour event, **0700 - 2400 local,** Saturday, October 11. 6 radio positions will be at rest stops, and two will be mobile in SAG wagons. Ideally, a 9th station would be net control.
The newly formed Stokes County Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) is taking the lead on this Stokes County event, and they're asking for help from FARC. Rest stop positions will be open for 2 -4 hour periods as the race progresses. SAG and NC volunteers can also work out varying shifts to meet their schedule or sleep needs.
Equipment requirements for rest stops: same as T2T, above. SAGs: a 5-watt HT minimum, mobile unit better. For either type of radio in a mobile, a mag-mount antenna and power cord with 12-volt (cigarette lighter) plug.
To volunteer, see Steven Mierisch at the FARC meeting, email mierischs@juno.com or check into a Forsyth ARES net between now and October 9.

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—11 August 2014

By Terry Brown (AK4D
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Minor, K4GW, at 1937 hours with approximately 35 members attending, listing at the end of the meeting minutes. Attendees were welcomed.

2. Announcements/Club Business:

a. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann stated that the club balance was $3049.42. All Field Day bills had been paid as well as Marsh Insurance covering both liability and approximately $30,000 in property. Covered FARC property is now up to date. Henry also stated that the club auction at the July meeting of surplus and donated equipment raised $669.

b. FARC Club Station as a W1AW Centennial QSO Party Station: Henry Heidtmann thanked Jim Atkins for getting the FARC club radio station scheduled as a ARRL Centennial QSO Party station. FARC club station, W4NC, will become W1AW/4 on **Monday, 22 September** from 5pm to 10pm and will use the 40 meter band for contacts. Henry invited everyone to participate.

c. Repeater Status: Dale Mierisch stated that all three club repeaters were operational. However, Echolink was only functional on the 145.470 repeater. Efforts were continuing to get Echolink functional on the 146.640 repeater.

d. Purchase of New Repeater Antenna and Phasing Harness: Jerry Minor and Dale Mierisch led discussion on the purchase of new antenna and phasing harness to replace existing equipment on Sauratown Mountain. Jerry Minor stated that the board voted to give Dale a ceiling of $1000 to purchase replacement equipment and requested that meeting attendees affirm this decision. Motion was made, seconded and affirmed on the purchase. Dale stated that the equipment was available from CommScope Antenna Systems with antenna and phasing harness priced at $650, shipping cost of $150. Additional discussion was held on the need to also replace the tower system on Sauratown Mountain, a purchase outside the $1000 purchase previously discussed.

e. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, Jim Mansfield, John Kippee and Mike Aiken with Don Edwards and Henry Heidtmann as standby's. Dale stated that three of the four test takers succeeded.

f. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield updated everyone on a net control operator schedule change for the ARES net on Thursday night at 8:30pm. Jim then discussed the Tour to Tanglewood, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 27-28 September. He has gotten 12 volunteers for the Saturday shift, but needs a total of 19. He has also gotten 9 volunteers

for the Sunday shift, but needs a total of 18. He also discussed the new leg from Concord to Tanglewood and is coordinating with the Cabarrus ARC for assistance, so far one volunteer. Jim will also contact ARC's in Davie County, Yadkinville, Stokes County. The China Grove repeater might be needed for communications in the Concord to Tanglewood leg.

g. House Bill 49-69, Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014: Jerry Minor and Terry Brown led discussion on House Bill 4969, The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014. Two letters were prepared, one going to Representative Virginia Foxx and the other to Representative Howard Coble asking for their support of this bill. Club members were asked to sign the letter going to their representative.

h. Arduino Class: The Arduino class/session will be held this coming Saturday with Bob Gusek being the lead.

3. Meeting Main Topic: The main meeting topic was on Fox Hunting, originally scheduled for outside, but moved inside due to rainfall. Reasons for doing a fox hunt were discussed and two "foxes" were demonstrated. Meeting attendees with hand held radios demonstrated how to located the "fox". Harold Richardson demonstrated how to use a locator antenna on his hand held radio.

4. Attendance Sheet: Meeting attendees were:

Don Edwards-WS4NC,
David Shoaf-KC4X,
Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ,
Jim Atkins-W4UX,
Alan Simmons-KF4JHY,
John (Jack) Hanley-KM4AFY,
Steve Patterson-WA3RTC,
Wayne Collins-KK4ZHL,
Wendy Barber-guest,
Van Key-KC4WSK,
Jerry Minor-K4GW,
Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU,
George Lamb-N4ROT,
Harold Richardson-N4HER,
Gene Bowman-WB4MSG,
Dennis McClure-N4DSM,
Troy Brown-KK4RYZ,
Terry Brown-AK4D,
Judson Davis-KG4OHQ,
Dave Lambe-K4ICK,
Mike Atkins-N4VE,
Harlen Hawks-KM4BFV,
Gary Miller-WA4VMC,
Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT,
Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL,
Jim Register-KV4SJ,
John Kippee-K1PPE,
Wayne Collins-KK4ZHL,
Gary Tan-VA3YUM,
Raymond Taber-WX5AAA
Dave Ramsey-KJ4OIL
Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO
Michelle McClure-KM4AFZ
Doug Rice-KJ4IGQ

Business Meetings – 3rd Monday

We have now found a great home for the business meetings on the 3rd Monday: Oscar's Grill on Robinhood Road. The food is very good, prices are reasonable and we have quiet! All are welcome – we don't do major business at the 2nd Monday meeting, a) we couldn't get it all done, therefore b) there would be no time for a program, and c) some of us are so hard-core that one day a month isn't enough. All are welcome, and encouraged, to attend business meetings.

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting—18 August 2014

By Terry Brown, AK4D
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Attendees: Thirteen attendees: Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC, John Kippee-K1PEE, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Mike Atkins-N4VE, Jerry Minor-K4GW, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU, Jim Atkins-W4UX, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, David Shoaf-KC4X and Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT.

2. Call to Order: Meeting, at Oscar's Grill, 3348 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, was called to order by President Jerry Minor at 1938 hours.

3. Treasurer Report: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, FARC Treasurer reported that all major bills had been paid and the club balance was $2925.35.

4. Meeting Topics:

a. **Future Meeting Topics:** A discussion was held on meeting topics for the rest of the year and on potential meeting topics such as grounding. Henry Heidtmann reported that Jeryl Sears would be available to do a presentation on FARC club history at some future meeting. Discussion was also held on not only having future meeting topics planned out, but also having backup topics planned. The number of backups was debated with total primary and backup topics needed ranged from 18 to 24 but the lesser number seemed to be the preferred amount. Future meeting topics for this year are below, but there may be a change in future meeting topics if Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH, lifetime FARC member and retired FCC Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division, can attend an upcoming FARC meeting.

September: Don Edwards would do a program on surface mount technology and/or making PCB boards,

October: Don Dazo on towers, election business

November: Homebrew Show and tell, officer elections and

December: Holiday banquet (First Monday in December due to a calendar conflict at River Ridge Taphouse Restaurant in Clemmons)

b. Repeater Work Day: Jerry Minor led the discussion on this, stating that a trip to the Sauratown Mountain repeater is needed to assess what work needs to be done and how much time would be needed. Dale Mierisch would accomplish this. Jerry also stated that an amendment to increase the budget previously approved by the board and club on repeater repairs would be needed to also do tower replacement.

c. Ham Classes: Discussion was held on having the club hold amateur radio training classes similar to what both Mike Atkins and Dennis McClure was doing. A general agreement was that the winter months would be a better time for the classes and those classes would focus initially on Technician level classes followed by a progression of higher license level classes. Discussion was also held on the length of training classes and potential days of each month, possibly the third Monday.

d. HR-4969: Terry Brown reported that he had contacted Rep. Virginia Foxx's office in Washington, DC requesting a meeting in her Clemmons office to discuss HR4969 and that he was told that he would be contacted either Friday, 15 August or Monday, 18 August on scheduling a date. So far, there has been no contact from her office. He also reported that he had contacted Rep. Mike McIntyre's office and Rep. Walter Jones's offices to thank them for co-sponsoring the bill.

e. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield reported on the Tour to Tanglewood event and that he had gotten over half of the volunteers needed lined up. He also reported that the Concord route had some shuffling of route but the stop at Willow Run was no longer scheduled.

f. Arduino Class: Don Edwards stated that the Arduino class held the previous Saturday went well. Some potential attendees had conflicts and could not attend. Another class will be scheduled. Don stated that a class may be held on software used to do circuit boards. Henry Heidtmann stated that the Red Cross meeting room would be available on the third Saturday of September, October or November if needed for the class.

g. Support for Gene Bowman's Family: Discussion was made on what food was needed or gift cards to restaurants to help Gene and family. Henry Heidtmann reported that he had access to a lot of freezer space for temporary storage of frozen meals before transporting the meals to Gene's home. No special dietary needs were indicated. Restaurant locations/names were also well varied. Doc Holliday made a motion to make donations as needed from the club treasury to help with this. The motion was withdrawn when Henry Heidtmann stated that rules governing a 501(c)3 prohibited this.

5. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

December Meeting

Just to warn you early – we are holding the December meeting at the same location (River Ridge Tap House in Clemmons on 421) as last year but it will be on the FIRST Monday; second and third Mondays were already reserved. The main club meeting is still the second Monday of the month (except December) at the Red Cross building on Coliseum Drive.

FCC Exams

By Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL
VEC Session Manager

Allow me to offer all of you hearty congratulations on your New Amateur licenses and Amateur License Upgrades.

SAM O HORTON W4NVJ
TROY A BROWN KK4RYZ
MICHELLE L MCCLURE KM4AFZ

Exams are offered before the FARC and start at 6:15 PM in room 109 at the Red Cross building. Pre-registration is strongly suggested at info <at> w4nc <dot> com. We try to accommodate walk-ins if we can. Our biggest challenge continues to be convincing Upgrade candidates to bring a **copy** of their license to exam sessions. A copy of your license must accompany the application to the FCC. Any missing copy unfortunately delays the entire license process for all candidates. Pre-registration is strongly suggested at info <at> w4nc <dot> com. We try to accommodate walk-ins if we can. Bring your original license, if you have one, two forms of ID, $12.00, and for License Upgrades, please assure:

1. That you bring your original license for viewing ·AND

2. That you provide a "Required" copy of your license and successful completion forms (CSCE's - if any) to accompany your FCC Upgrade application. ·Please try to have those copies with you upon arrival.

Exams are held at the general club meeting on second Mondays

Can't Attend Club Meetings?

Watch most meetings live or archived at W4NCLive.com. Brought to you by the hard work of Raymond WX5AAA.

Amazon Smile Program

Do you buy stuff from Amazon? If you do there is a way for FARC to earn a little money here. Go to the Amazon Smile link below and register and select Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to FARC. It costs you nothing more, but it benefits the club. Any thing you order has to be ordered from the Amazon Smile link – if, after you register, you forget to order through the smile program it will usually remind you. Again it costs you nothing more. Amazon is supporting legal 501c(3) organizations through this program. Thanks to Raja, KB6MTH for pointing this out.
www.smile.amazon.com

HF Contests

By Don, WS4NC

Wondering about when the next HF Contest is happening? This is a contest list courtesy of PVRC that lists the major upcoming HF contests. Even if you are not "into" the contesting thing, operating during one contest is a great way to secure the 100 countries for DXCC in international contests or the 50 states for WAS in a US Contest.

Contest Name	Start Date*	End Date*	Log Due Date*
WAE SSB	9/13/2014	2014-09-14	2014-09-29
ARRL September VHF	9/13/2014	2014-09-15	2014-10-15
CQWW RTTY	9/27/2014	2014-09-28	2014-10-03
CQWW SSB	10/25/2014	2014-10-26	2014-11-01
ARRL SS CW	11/1/2014	2014-11-03	2014-11-18
WAE RTTY	11/8/2014	2014-11-09	2014-11-24
ARRL SS SSB	11/15/2014	2014-11-17	2014-12-02
CQWW CW	11/29/2014	2014-11-30	2014-12-05
ARRL 160M	12/5/2014	2014-12-07	2015-01-06
ARRL 10M	12/13/2014	2014-12-14	2015-01-13
ARRL RTTY Round Up	1/3/2015	2015-01-04	2015-02-05
NA QSO Party - January CW	1/10/2015	2015-01-11	2015-01-18
NA QSO Party - January SSB	1/17/2015	2015-01-18	2015-01-25
ARRL January VHF	1/17/2015	2015-01-19	2015-02-18
CQ160 CW	1/23/2015	2015-01-25	2015-01-30
CQ WPX RTTY	2/14/2015	2015-02-15	2015-02-20
ARRL DX CW	2/21/2015	2015-02-22	2015-03-23
CQ160 SSB	2/27/2015	2015-03-01	2015-03-06
NA QSO Party - February RTTY	2/28/2015	2015-03-01	2015-03-08
ARRL DX SSB	3/7/2015	2015-03-08	2015-04-07
Russian Dx Contest	3/21/2015	2015-03-22	2015-04-06
CQ WPX SSB	3/28/2015	2015-03-29	2015-04-03
CQ WPX CW	5/30/2015	2015-05-31	2015-06-05
ARRL June VHF	6/13/2015	2015-06-15	2015-07-14

W4DXCC PIGEON FORGE, TN

The W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention located in Pigeon Forge, TN starts September 26th and 27th, that's in 30 days. This is our 10th year and it will be another great event.

The presentation schedule is full and packed with presentations. We have had two new arrivals, Heil Sound and Steppir Antennas. Our manufacturers are located in the lobby right outside of the conference hall allowing you easy access to all the gear. Come and have a one on one conversation with the manufacturers and twist the knobs.

Heil Sound will have two workshops called "The Science of Audio" on Saturday. Come learn how to improve your audio from Bob Heil himself.
We will conduct Amateur FCC License testing. It's a great time to upgrade or get your spouse or friends licensed.

Pigeon Forge is a wonderful place for the family too, bring the family and they can enjoy the local attractions while you enjoy the convention.

Check out the details here W4DXCC > Home

NC MOUNTAIN STATE FAIR AND SPECIAL EVENT STATION, N4F

(September 5-14) the NC Mountain State Fair, which will be held from Friday, September 5th through Sunday, September 14th, at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, in Fletcher, NC. Last year, the fair attracted more than 191,000 people. This will be the second year for this project, which has the goal of introducing amateur radio to the Fair attendees. Philip Jenkins, N4HF and Bill Van Nuys, N4OOC, both from Fairview, have provided updated information on the plans for the upcoming Fair. Here is their edited report:

The NC Mountain State Fair has had various ham radio demo stations over the years, but on a small scale, and not every year. Similar to last year, The Road Show ARC contacted clubs in western NC to describe our plans and solicit their help. This year, the following clubs are providing manpower (set up, break down, operating, answering visitors' questions) and financial support: Blue Ridge ARC (Henderson County), Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service, Haywood County ARC, and The Road Show ARC (Buncombe/Henderson County). In addition, other individuals are welcome to help with the effort.

For 2014, there will be a large tent for the general public with information and demonstrations, including: D-STAR; Echolink; IRLP; APRS; WinLink; MARS; ARES; high-altitude balloon tracking ; a live HF digital station loaned by Elecraft; a MESH (Broadband-Hamnet) network ; a live working bench repairing rigs and building kits provided by Ten-Tec; videos on the history, contributions, and facets of ham radio; and, a quite popular 2 meter GOTA station. Behind the tent, there will be an operations trailer where Special Event Station N4F contacts will be made with a live internet video feed. Icom is generously loaning The Road Show ARC two high-end HF rigs, a D-STAR mobile rig, and a D-STAR HT for the event.

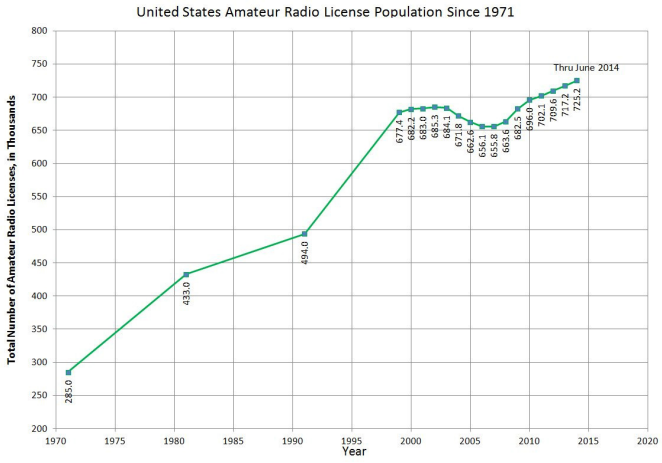
The NC Mountain State Fair will be held at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Fletcher, NC and it will run from September 5-14, 2014. For further information, see http://www.mountainfair.org/mountain-state-fair.html or contact Phil N4HF at n4hf@arrl.net Thanks to Philip Jenkins, N4HF and Bill Van Nuys, N4OOC for providing this information!

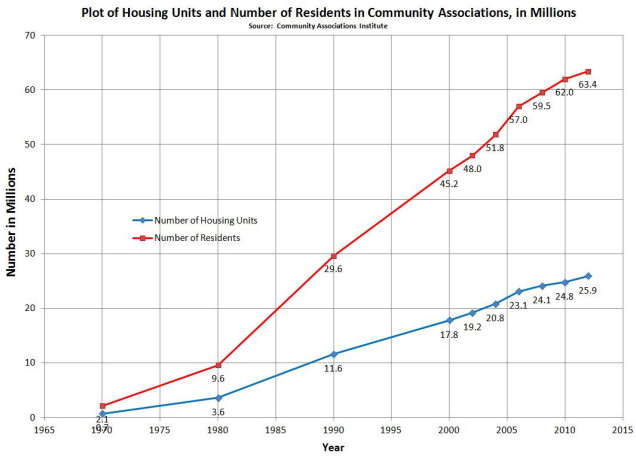
Update on HR4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014

by Terry Brown, AK4D

Why HR4969? Amateur radio operators use communications that serve a variety of purposes but one of the more important communications focus on emergency preparedness, communications exercises and activation during disasters. Amateur Radio Operators provide, on a volunteer basis, public service, emergency, and disaster relief communications using their own equipment, often with the equipment located in their residences. Emergency or public service communications that amateur radio operators provide cost taxpayers nothing and are provided at no cost to any served agency or to any government entity. Some agencies served include the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Defense. Emergency communication exercises and emergency communications certification courses guarantee trained amateur radio operators throughout the United States.

The plot below shows the growth of amateur radio operators in the United States.





As of 1998, one out of eight Americans lived in private common-interest communities, covered by Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's). A 1999 Gallup Organization poll of community association homeowner's concluded that more than four in five housing starts in the past five to eight years were built as part of an association governed community with CC&R's. CC&R's typically restrict amateur radio antennas, primarily outdoor, but sometimes both indoor and outdoor. As a result, amateur radio operators who live in communities or sometimes entire cities with CC&R's, can encounter encumbrances or even total prohibitions to communications. The amateur radio population is growing but the CC&R prohibition is growing also.

Twenty-nine years ago (1985), the FCC found there was a "strong Federal interest" in supporting Amateur Radio communications. The FCC also found that zoning ordinances often unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio antennas with impacts on effective communications. The FCC, in a docket proceeding referred to as PRB-1, created a three part test for municipal regulations affecting amateur radio communications. The three parts stated that municipal regulations:

1. Cannot preclude Amateur Radio Communications
2. Must make reasonable accommodations for Amateur Radio communications
3. Must constitute the "minimum practicable restriction" in order to accomplish a legitimate municipal purpose.

PRB-1 helped amateur radio operators living outside areas governed by CC&R's. Since the FCC stated that CC&R's are not generally a matter of concern to the Commission, PRB-1 did not override CC&R's.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 directed the FCC to remove restrictions on "over the air receive devices" (OTARD). This allowed regulations that would prohibit restrictions that impair a homeowner's ability to receive video programming services through devices designed for over-the-air reception of television broadcast signals, multichannel and multipoint distribution services or via direct broadcast satellite services. The FCC was instructed by Congress to extend this prohibition to nongovernmental restrictions such as "restrictive covenants and encumbrances". The Act noted that CC&R restrictions were primarily related to aesthetic concerns. Thru this, the FCC found that:

(a) it does have jurisdiction to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with Federal policy; and
(b) that private land use regulations are entitled to less deference than municipal regulations.

In 1999, the FCC strongly encouraged associations of homeowners and private contracting parties to follow the principle of reasonable accommodation and to apply it to any and all instances of amateur service communications where they may be involved. This has not happened.

This is where HR4969 comes into play. HR4969, if put into law, would direct the FCC to bring PRB-1 standards into those areas currently governed by CC&R's, allowing amateur radio operators a seat at the Home Owners Association table and allowing reasonable accommodations for amateur radio communications. Does this mean that 60 foot towers would spring up in currently restricted neighborhoods? No, but reasonable accommodations would happen in areas currently prohibited.

HR4969 needs the support of more members of Congress. Currently, the focus is on members in the House of Representatives. Nationwide and with the help of the American Radio Relay League, efforts are being made to gather support for HR4969. Efforts to gather support for HR4969 were started with the August meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club are listed below.

Actions with NC Fifth District Representative Virginia Foxx: At the 11 August FARC meeting, 26 meeting attendees signed a letter to Representative Virginia Foxx asking her support of HR4969. Two days later, at the request of her office staff, I sent a meeting request to Rep. Foxx's Washington office so that her personal aid could schedule a meeting. I was told that I would hear from them in one to two business days. I felt it was important to personally hand her the signed letter and to also talk with her about the need for and asking her to support or co-sponsor HR4969. After not getting any response of a meeting request in ten days, I submitted a second meeting request with her Washington office on about 25 August. So far, I have not received any reply on the second request. Her staffer had requested that I fax a copy of the letter to her Washington office and I quickly did this.

Actions with NC Sixth District Representative Howard Coble: Also at the 11 August FARC meeting, nine meeting attendees signed a similar letter going to NC Sixth District Representative Howard Coble. One of his staffer's told me that Rep. Coble was stepping down at the end of his term, but asked that I fax them a copy of the signed letter. I honored this request. His replacement will be decided later this year.

Both of the signed letters were also emailed to the ARRL as a pdf document.

Two representatives from North Carolina are either supporters or co-sponsors of HR4969. They are NC Seventh District Representative Mike McIntyre and NC Third District Representative Walter B. Jones, Jr. I called up both of their offices and thanked them for their support of HR4969.

Diddle-De-Dah-De-Don

By Don WS4NC

I'm going to gripe so put your ear plugs in. Brought to you by the North American Society for the Protection of the Apostrophe.[2]

Do you know what is the hardest part of doing the Newsletter? Formatting all the text to the Newsletter format. Really. I spend an hour, sometimes three, after the Newsletter is done setting the style to make it read consistently. This month was about 5 hours. I start the next month when the current issue goes out. I just copy and paste as things come in during the month. The composition is usually easy. But the formatting is done last, and is sometimes painful.

It would really help me if any submissions are:

1) Arial, 10-point text. Terry AK4D gets his own font as Secretary – Courier New. I don't know why – it just looks official and business-like. And I know how hard his job is, so he deserves it!
2) Title first (I'll set the font size and boldness), then author and call. I always put the "by line" in Arial 10-pt. Italics and right justify the by-line after the title. Why? I don't know, but I want to be consistent. There's no reason for it, it's just my policy.
3) TABS! Please don't use spaces to justify text. It never works out when it is copied over, and it is pain to change. Please learn to use TABS – actually just one; I'll set where the tab goes. Multiple tabs are almost as much a pain as spaces. I have to delete the spaces one at a time and then put a tab in.
4) Bullet Points: Hate 'em. They seldom cut and paste correctly and what looks good in your submission goes to squat when it is copied over. And sometimes the bullets will not go away in Word. I usually copy over to Notepad to remove any special formatting. Same thing goes to strange characters.
5) Submissions in an email usually copy over with line breaks where the email line ended so I really prefer submissions in Word format. I know there is an automatic way to fix this – but I never have time to go look it up. I just do it manually.

[2] Yes, they really exist. As does the Apostrophe Protection Society and a few other maniacal punctuation snobs. Generally harmless drudges with no real life. See main entry under Ham Radio Newsletter Editors.

6) One email is fairly easy and quick – but at the end of the month 6 to 12 pages of editing is a time-consuming pain.
7) I've heard it a number of times. "Don, just write something up for the Newsletter." Uh, how about you write something and I'll edit it. That is easier than writing, and then editing, 10 to 20 articles – usually near the deadline. And I'll forget something.
8) Minor things: I don't indent paragraphs. That's "Old School". Modern comma usage, not, between, every, word, in, funny, places, and, not, especially, after, 'and', in, a, series.

Currently I use Microsoft Word for the Newsletter. I actually dislike Word for this purpose – pictures have an annoying habit of moving to the wrong location, or even disappearing altogether. Formatting options are limited in Word. Word is very limiting and annoying – I may go back to CorelDraw.

Now that I've gripped – **Win Fame! Honor! And the envy of your Fellow Hams!** – Write something for the Newsletter. Yes, I'll edit it. – Even if it contains spaces instead of tabs, bullet points, indented paragraphs, special characters and even general weirdness. But I'd appreciate 10-pt Arial, with tabs and no bullet points. Pictures are nice too. Just write it, I'll polish it. But I never lernd too spel. And I have to go out and look at my truck tag to remember my own call, so I'll mangle someone's call every month, maybe yours.

Thank you to Terry Brown AK4D for his excellent submissions this month, Scott Hedspeth, WB4YZA for Shelby photos and thanks to "Eagle Eye" John Kippe, K1PPE for looking over the Newsletter for typos this month.

dit-dit.

More Pictures from Shelby

Harold's (N4HER) 2M/440 antenna. Photo by Scott WB4YZA

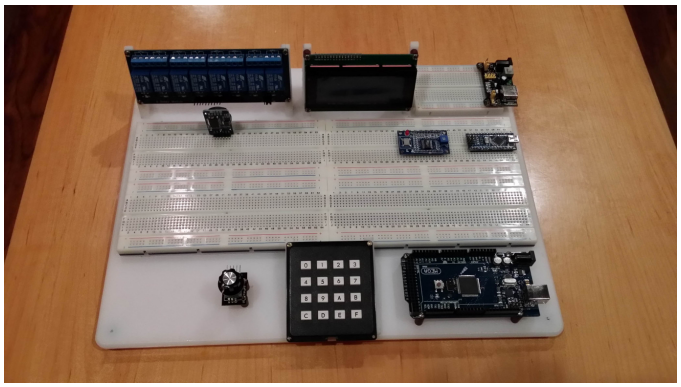
More of Harold's (N4HER) excellent antenna farm. Photo by Scott WB4YZA

Mike N4VE, Triad Electronics Supply had lots of goodies available at Shelby.

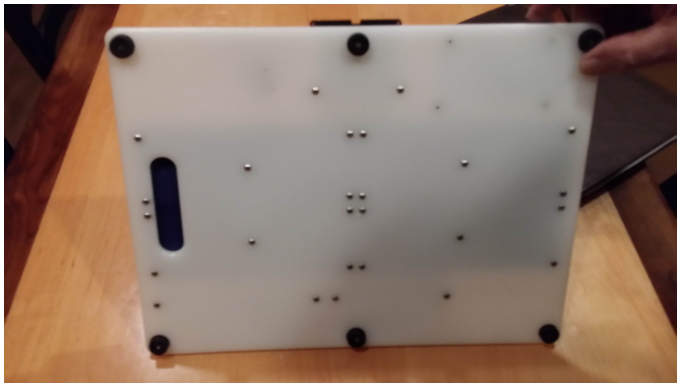
The ice cream man was running his antique ice cream maker. Peach was the hit of the party.

Arduino Goodies

After the August Arduino Workshop, Harold, N4HER, put his usual "persnicketyness"[3] to work making an Arduino breadboard with all the power supplies, innies and outies, and various goodies available on one unit. I must admit I'm envious and when time permits I want to do something like this. Harold uses kitchen cutting boards from that giant boxstore that starts with a "W".



At the top left is an 8-channel relay board. Center top is the LCD Readout and at the top right is a small bread board with 5V and 3V regulator. In the center are several breadboards that came from Electronics Distributing in downtown Winston-Salem. At the bottom is a 10-turn pot, a 4X4 keyboard and the heart of it all is the Arduino 2560 in the lower left corner.



On the bottom it is obvious from the handle-hole that this is a kitchen breadboard. Harold used stainless-steel screws and in the corners are LRBBBs. What are LRBBBs you ask? Little Rubber Baby Buggy Bumpers, of course.

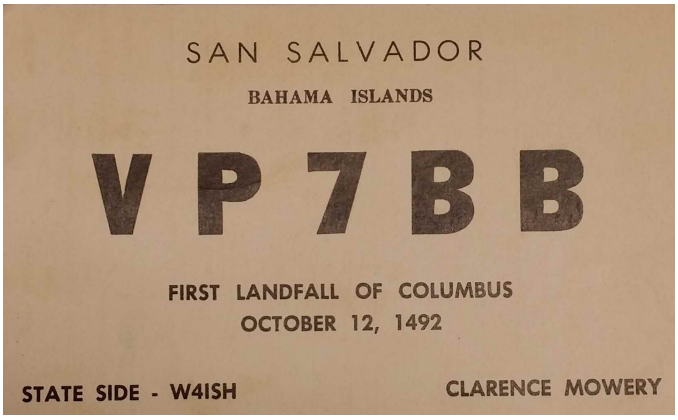
I'm sure that by the next Workshop Harold will have polished his project board. It is a really nice idea that makes it easier to keep all the goodies together in one place and working. When you have a bunch of gizmos spread out on a table with wires between them, it is too easy to knock something out of place and you will spend some (much?) of your time fixing things that pulled loose. This is a great solution.

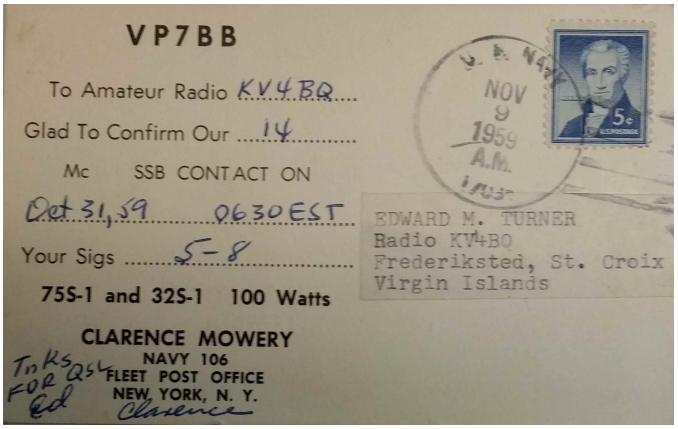
[3] Persnickety could be interpreted as attention to detail, or craftsmanship. We'll go with Craftmanship.

Ancient FARC/W4NC History

By Don WS4NC

Those who have a very long memory in this club may remember Clarence Mowery. Clarence was one of the early members of FARC and was the original trustee of the Club call. Recently in a visit with Dave Rawley, N4XO, Dave brought out one of Clarence's old QSL cards.





The QSL is from Oct 31, 1959. Clarence owned an AM broadcast station at the coast (I think it was in Myrtle Beach). Rumor has it that Clarence's friendship with FCC broadcast engineer JJ Freedman (now, there's a long book!) enabled FARC to acquire the W4NC callsign in the days before it was possible to request a callsign.

Gene WB4MSG, Cathy KB4TKO and family

Gene's son-in-law, John, was in a motorcycle accident back in May. He continues to recover, but very, very slowly. Gene's daughter Genia is pregnant with their first child and has been hospitalized for about the past 6 weeks. Genia is now home with the child due in October, but the baby is in a hurry to get here. If that isn't enough Cathy KB4TKO was hospitalized recently and although she is home now, she will be going into the hospital for surgery in a couple of weeks. Lots of issues going on with the Bowman family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.