Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Newsletter
OUR 85 YEAR!
Founded December 30, 1930
January, 2016

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ... US!

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club was incorporated as the Winston-Salem Amateur Radio Club, Inc on December 30, 1930. Although the name has changed we have been in continous operation ever since the 1930. That is quite an accomplishment for any civic organization and one of which we should all be proud.

There are some scattered records that are evidence of a radio club meeting in Winston-Salem in the early 1920s, some of which has ran in this Newsletter over the past few months - but we know very little about it. The original group met in the YMCA building as early as 1923 and included Robert Day, who later became one of WSARCs presidents. That is about all we know. Unfortunately there was a fire in the original club shack which destroyed a lot of records. Other records have just kind of walked away over the years.

We will have a celebration at the June Hamfest. Cake and cookies and . . . June seems a better time than in the middle of the bitter cold we had at the end of December and early January. The board is asking for input from the membership on how we would like to celebrate this historic event. Please bring an idea to the next meeting - a birthday party for the public at the shack? A special event station with special QSL card? How about an FARC 85th Anniversary lapel pin? Some blue FARC shirts or coats like we did about 20 years ago? Maybe a post birthday shindig at the June Hamfest (definately!) The troposphere is the limit. Let us know how you would like to celebrate!

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February Meeting Program

The program will be "The future of commercial 2-way radio - Trends in that field - Maybe a few crazy stories" by Matt Jordan. Matt graduated in Media and Broadcast from Appalachian State University and did an internship with Christchurch Polytechnic Institute in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has done on-air and production work at numerous broadcasting stations. For the last many years he has worked with Duke Energy's many and various communications needs. This will be one our best programs in a while - don't miss it! We will meet in room 09, Monday, February 9 at 7:30 PM at the Red Cross Building on Coliseum Drive. Plan on arriving around 7 PM to get a good seat. FCC Exams will be offered starting at 6:20 PM and will be held in room 109.

The next FARC Business Meeting will be at Hamm's Restaurant at Thruway Shopping Center Monday, 14 November at 7:00 pm.

President's February Letter

By Jim, W4UX

FARC February Events: We have a great program this month. Come to the meeting on Monday, February 8th, and learn everything you ever wanted to know about the future of business two-way radio. Surely some of this info will apply to ham radio!

Be sure to mark Sunday, February 28th, on your calendar. The North Carolina QSO Party will be held from 10 AM until 8 PM local time. Get on the air and hand out some QSO's to others looking for you. This is one event where others will be chasing you so enjoy the experience. For more information visit http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/. We may activate W4NC, our club station, for this event. More information will follow or come to the meeting for more information.

We had a great annual Homebrew Show and Tell in January. Ken Melvin, KM4NFQ, was voted the best use of homebrew

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) and a 444.275 repeater (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 (the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at Ham Restaurant, located in the Thruway Lower Mall on Knollwood Street. 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 <dot> com *

Officers for 2015 are:

President: Jim Atkins, W4UX
Vice-President: Harold Richardson, N4HER
Secretary: Terry Brown, AK4D
Treasurer: Henry Heidtmann W2DZO
Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC
Tech Chairman: Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL
Hamfest Chairman: David Shoaf, KC4X
Field Day Chairman: "Doc" Holliday, WB4QIZ
Arduino Workshop: Bob Gusek, NC4RG

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We trade newsletters with other clubs, and many clubs are on our mailing list. If your club has a newsletter and would like to trade please send us a copy.

Submissions and inquiries please send to ws4nc <at> dwepe <dot> com *

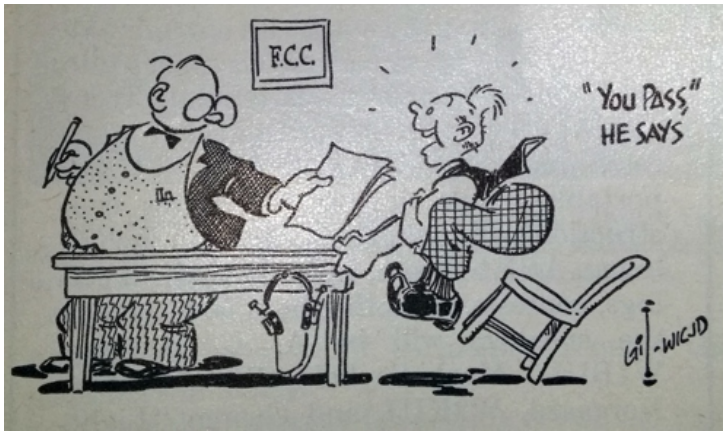
*The "funny" email addresses are to confuse the Spam bots. Spam shall be cause of the fall of Western Civilization. Either that or the spork.

with his handmade straight key and code practice oscillator. Well done, Ken!

I want to thank David Shoaf, KC4X, again for his great effort with the Winston-Salem FirstFest. It was a very successful FARC event once again. Thank you David!

I ran across the following article about CW still being taught by the Air Force. Check it out. Who says CW is no longer relevant?
http://swling.com/blog/2015/12/morse-code-training-in-the-air-force/

I hope to see you at our monthly meeting on the 8th. 73.



FCC Exams Report and FARC Membership

by, Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL
VEC Session Manager

Allow me to offer all of you a hearty congratulations to all recent exam candidates on your new Amateur License's and Upgrades. I look forward to chatting with each of you on the air.

For new hams/ non-FARC members or any upgraded hams, please complete the information on attached form (last page of the Newsletter), if you have not already done so. This form will provide you a free membership to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC). Mark the form "New Ham-date (the date of your test)". Once the form is completed, bring it to the next club meeting, or please scan and email to me.

Exams are offered before the FARC meeting 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 encouraging 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 copies unfortunately delays the entire license process for all exam candidates. Bring your original license, if you have one, two forms of ID, $12.00 and successful completion forms (CSCE's - if any).

Exams are held at the general club meeting on second Mondays at the Red Cross starting at 6:20 PM except for the month of December.

'Twas the night before the hamfest . . .

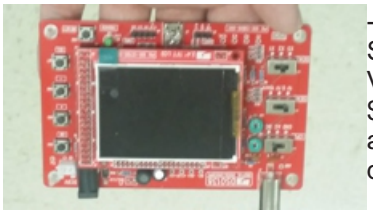
FARC enjoyed another great hamfest at the begining of January. We were threathened with rain but nothing too severe. Lots of HF and other radios. There was even a really old, and I do mean old GR LCR bridge there, with Nixie tubes! Must have weighted a ton! These two photos were taken the night before after Mike and Harold had set up.

January, 2016 FARC Meeting Homebrew Show-&-Tell!

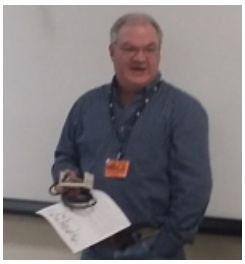
Really nice job guys. A number of really nice projects were shown off at the January meeting. First I need to apologize to Harold, N4HER because I didn't get a photo of his air-power antenna launcher (nerf-cannon?). Maybe I can publish details in a future Newsletter. That is, if he isn't

arrested first - it does look intimitating. Ken, KM4NFQ, brought the house down with his homemade Morse key. Ken is shown at the right with his key.

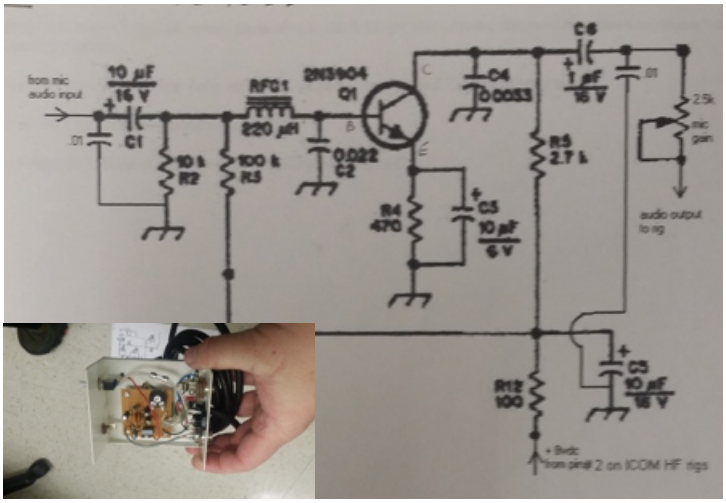
Ray Prudue, K4ZGV, left, showed off a oscilloscope he had build from a kit. Ray advises that one source is http://www.banggood.com/DSO138



-DIY-Digital-Oscilloscope-Kit-SMD-Soldered-13803K-Version-p-984002.html. It's $23.50 with free shipping with all the surface mounted devices pre-soldered. A picture of the oscilloscope appears to the left. A scope is always handy, sometimes a little one is just what's needed. Nice job, Ray.



Neal Pruit, WD4LSS, right, learned to his dismay after acquiring an Icom that some Icom radios do not like standard dynamic



microphones as in Heil headsets. That insired him to produce a microphone pre-amplifier that was very nicely built into a little box. Schematic and a picture appears above.

Steve Patterson, WA3RTC, showed off his 6-40 meter spiral antenna - a work in progress. Harold is developing a similar antenna. We would love to see an article on these with a little more detail. How about that idea Harold or Steve?

But the one goody that impressed everybody was not electronic but electro-mechanical. Ken's key took the prize - literally. A shiny new FARC-Blue Baofeng. More details about how to build your own are on page 5.

Calendar of Upcoming Ham Events
Hamfests, Special Events, Contests, Club meetings, etc.

By Don WS4NC

[Ed. Note: Please help with this. It is a real pain finding when and where events of ham interests are held. There really isn't one source to find this information and putting this together requires digging across various club Newsletters, NC ARRL Section newsletter (thanks Karl!), QST, CQ and other sources. Please all clubs, unless you are just trying to keep secrets – read your websites and make sure that Who, What, When, Where, and How are answered. If you know of a correction or something that should be here please send it to ws4nc <at> dwepe <dot> com. I know I am missing a number of NC clubs and NC (and big national) events that should be on the list. With your help I can make this a more useful list including events in NC, GA, VA, SC and TN.] *non FARC event - confirm with event sponsor.

Jan/Feb? Classic Exchange (CX) Contest Encourages older commercial and homebrew gear use. Details: www.classicexchange.org see page 6.

January-February, 2016,VP8 South Sandwich and South Georgia DXpedition, see http://www.intrepid-dx.com/vp8/

Feb 8 FARC General Membership Meeting at the Red Cross on Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. FCC exams at 6:20 PM, meeting starts at 7:30 PM. The program will be by Matt Jordan about Cell tower and microwave installation and maintenance.

Feb 15 FARC Board Meeting. Our new meeting place is at Hams located in the Thruway Lower Mall. 7PM. Thank our hosts by ordering something and tip your waitress!

Mar 11, 2016 Charlotte Hamfest, Concord, NC, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, http://www.charlottehamfest.org

March 12-13: Battle of Guilford Courthouse – 235th Anniversary, 1300Z-1900Z, N4G, Greensboro, NC. Greensboro Amateur Radio Association. 21.325 14.325 7.235. QSL. N4G Special Event Station, GARA, PO Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417. DSTAR REF054C. This event is NPOTA activation (MP-04). Request SASE for QSL. www.n4g-gch.org Special Event Station listings in the NC Section newsletter are based on what appears on the ARRL website, see http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations Please consider listing your Special Event Station at least 60 days before the event, see http://www.arrl.org/special-events-application

~March 16-April 8, 2016, VK0EK The Heard Island DXpedition, see http://vk0ek.org/

Mar 19, 2016 Charleston (WV) Hamfest and Computer Show, Charleston, WV, Charleston Hamfest Committee

Apr 2, 2016 North Carolina Section Convention (Raleigh Hamfest), Raleigh, NC, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, http://rars.org/rarsfest

Apr 9,2016 Culpeper Amateur Radio Swapfest, Culpeper, VA, Culpeper Amateur Radio Association, http://w4cul.org

Apr 15, 2016 VHF Super Conference, Sterling, VA, Southeastern VHF Society, North East Weak Signal Group & Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club. Hosted by the Grid Pirates Contest Group and Directive Systems and Engineering, http://vhfsuperconference.com/

May 28: 42nd Annual DurHamFest, Durham FM Association (DFMA), Durham,
NC (new location), http://dfma.org

July 9: 31st Annual Firecracker Hamfest, Rowan Amateur Radio Society, Salisbury, NC, http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest

July 16: Mid-Summer SWAPFEST, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC, http://www.qsl.net/n4nc

August 13: 18th Annual Cape Fear ARS Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio
Society, Fayetteville, NC, http://www.cfarsnc.org/

Sept 3, 2016 North Carolina State Convention (Shelby Hamfest), Shelby, NC, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, http://shelbyhamfest.org

Nearby NC Ham Club Meetings:

****Quarterly QCWA Meeting** usually April, June, September and December. See the website for details. Locations varies. ALL members and guests are welcome! Wearing your Ham badge is encouraged. Always a good program. QCWA Chapter 126 Weekly Net: 3.826 MHZ, 8:45AM each Saturday morning.

1st Tuesdays Durham FM Association: Meets for Dinner (optional) at 6:00pm and the business meeting and program at 7:00pm. We are meeting at Bullock's BBQ, on 3330 Quebec Drive in Durham. For more info on each meeting, check http://www.dfma.org/

1st Tuesdays Davie County Amateur Radio Club: This may not be accurate. Last info I had was from Kris, KB4MB that "they are 'slightly' active, but basically there is a small group of 2m guys, and a few HF guys and that is it. Maybe 6-10 members at this point?" Doyle, KM4BGJ advises that "The last meeting was in August at the Harmon Masonic Lodge located at 3229 Ray T Moore Rd. Yadkinville,NC 27055 at 7:00 pm. We will be looking forward to this meeting. The club gained several new members on Field Day and also had a new Ham get their ticket on Field Days." Contact Doyle at doyle5362 <at> yahoo <dot> com

2nd Mondays: The Orange County Radio Amateurs meet at 1900 at the Orange Count EOC in Hillsborough.

2nd Tuesdays: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society General Meeting on second Tuesday of each month, Location: Ridge Road Baptist Church, 2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC, 27607. Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM, The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM. RARS also meets for a monthly dinner on the first Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Next Dinner at Golden Coral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh 27612.

2nd Mondays Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. at the Red Cross Building on Coliseum Drive. FCC Exams are offers starting at 6:20 PM (please preregister at info <at> w4nc <dot> com.) Meetings start at 7:30 PM with a program on various ham related topics.

2nd Mondays Rowan Amateur Radio Society at the Rowan County Rescue Squad Building at 1140 Julian Road. Monthly meetings usually begin at 7:00 PM local time, except for the July and December meetings which are "dinner" meetings and thus start a little earlier, usually beginning about 6:00-6:30 PM. Programs may include equipment demonstrations, movies, guest speakers, or just open discussions on radio. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. http://www.rowanars.org/

3nd Mondays Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Business Meeting. Open to all FARC members and interested visitors. We meet at Hams Restaurant (how appropriate!) located in Thruway Lower Mall starting at 7PM.

3rd Mondays(?): Guilford Amateur Society usually held at Tex & Shirley's Restaurant in the Friendly Shopping Center on Pembroke Rd. 6:00 PM to eat, 7:00 PM to meet. Verify the dates at http://www.w4gg.org/

4th Mondays(?): Guilford Amateur Radio Association Eat at 6:30pm and the meeting is at 7:15pm. Captain Bill's Seafood & Steakhouse, 6108 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409. Verify the dates at http://www.w4gso.org/

1st Saturdays(?): Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, Thomasville: Breakfast at 8:30 am on the first Saturday of each month at the Denny's in Thomasville, 103 Sedgehill Drive (map it). For more details see: http://nc4ar.org/us/page.php?2

Last Mondays: Stokes County Amateur Radio Society SCARS http://k4stk.com/index.html

Knightlites QRP Club http://www.knightlites.org/ Meets in Cary. See website for details.

Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club - Next club meeting in 2015 is ? ; the meeting will be held at TCRH. Meetings and FCC Test Sessions Test sessions are held at the Twin County Regional Hospital in Galax, VA unless otherwise announced. http://galaxbarc.tripod.com/

Amazon Smile Program

{Who was}

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. Anything 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

Making Your own Key

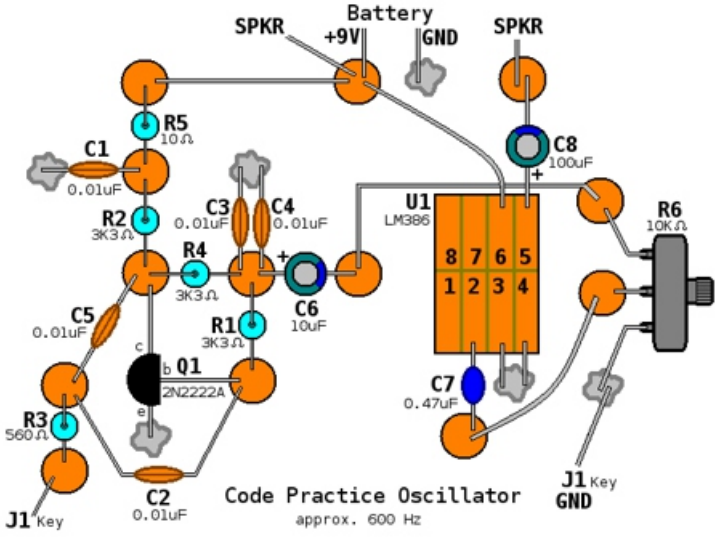
by K.W. "Ken" Melvin, KM4NFQ

If anyone has any questions about the homebrew brass straight key that I shared with the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club at last January's meeting, I can be reached via email at km4nfq <at> gmail <dot> com

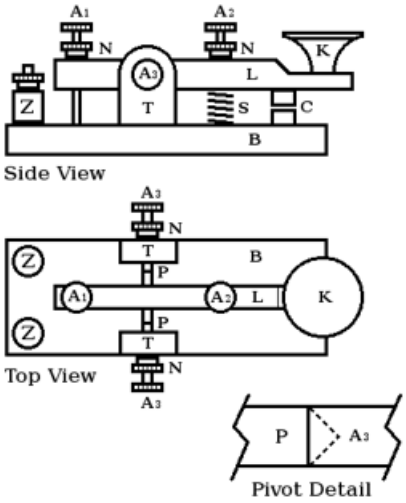
I was very surprised and extremely pleased to win the "homebrew contest" that night. The prize is really nice. Thank you very much for programming it with 2m and 70cm repeaters.

Attached, please find my drawing of the layout for the Code Practice Oscillator, built using Manhattan Style Construction. I cannot take credit for the circuit, as it was built from a combination of circuits. One circuit was a Twin-Tee Oscillator, and the other circuit was a Simple Mini-Amp. I just mixed and matched the two circuits to come up with the one I made.

There was a fellow at the meeting who asked me about the brass construction techniques I used to build the key itself. At that very moment, you asked to take a picture of me with the key and the Baofeng radio. Afterwards, I forgot to answer the fellow's questions.



Anyway, I build the straight key using some brass stock that I had in my junk box, and jewelry fabrication techniques which I learned in Art School. Tools used included a jeweler's saw frame with 2/0 saw blades, a bench drill press and bits, an air-acetylene torch, files, and sandpaper.



References:

Twin-Tee Oscillator
CPO Ripples in the Ether:
http://nt7s.com/tag/cpo/

Mini-Amp
Getting Started With Audio Electronics:
http://blog.ponoko.com/2011/06/10/electronics-for-kids/

Brass Straight Key
Telegraph Key Bibliography:
http://www.circuitousroot.com/artifice/telegraphy/projects/index.html

Plus Internet Google searches for anything related to keys for Morse Code, Telegraphy, Ham Radio, and so forth. I looked at quite a few images of keys posted by collectors, makers, and others.

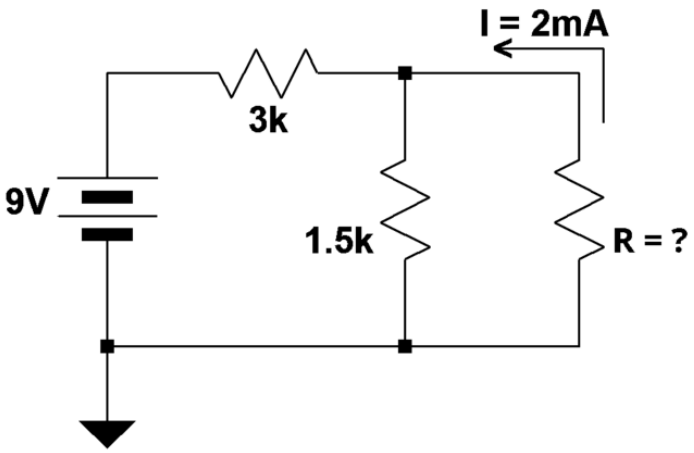
Winner - Winner, January Baofeng!

He ran out the door before I could get a photo! Jim Marler-KM4HUZ, Congratulations Jim.

Thevenin equivalent circuits

by Jim, KV4SJ

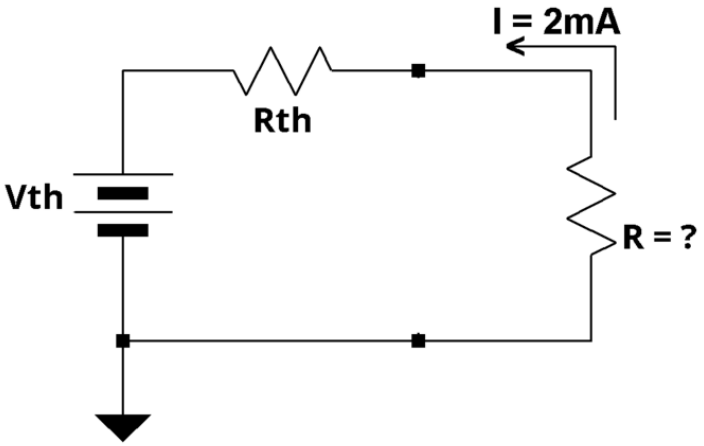
Instead of a treasure hunt for the giveaway, Don offered us a challenge, drawing a circuit on the board for us to solve.



Don also said, “It's easy to do in your head, and it's even easier if you know the current divider rule” or something like that.

[Editor’s note: The part I didn’t want to give away was to Thevenize the circuit. I spent almost 10 years training technicians in a 12 week course. While I could ask someone to Thevenize something, and they would do it, no one ever seemed to know how to apply this very powerful technique. Being able to Thevenize is one of the most powerful ways to pick up a schematic and actually understand what is going on. I’ve had techs say to me something like “Thevenin has no actual use in the real world . . .” What they meant was they just didn’t understand how to use it. This circuit looks deceptively simple, and it is, if you Thevenize it, otherwise you will spend a lot of algebra to find the solution. Understanding the current divider rule, another technique, allows you to find the equivalent of parallel resistors in your head with out a calculator. Now back to your regularly scheduled article already in progress . . .]

The circuit was a basic voltage divider, with an unknown resistor across the output. The task was to pick the unknown resistor value such that the current through the resistor would be 2mA.



I copied the schematic and thought, "Easy, I've done this a bunch of different times and a bunch of different ways in school." Yeah, well, that was a long time ago. The unknown resistor loading down the output of the voltage divider complicates solving the entire circuit at once. I kept trying the direct approach, trying to solve the entire problem at once. That lead to either simultaneous equations or possibly quadratic equations, neither something to be managed in my head.

There are shortcuts to solving this kind of problem, shortcuts that are so important they are taught immediately after the basics of circuit analysis. (They do wait until after the student has had lots of practice doing it the long way...) These shortcuts are the Thevenin and Norton equivalent circuits. For this problem, we'll pick Thevenin.

Looking into the circuit from the point of the unknown resistor, we see two terminals that are the output of a voltage divider. If we imagine the circuit without the unknown resistor, we can apply Thevenin's Theorem to simplify that circuit and come up is 1k, so RTH = 1k.

Now we have a Thevenin equivalent circuit of a 3V source in series with a 1K resistor. If we want to draw 2mA from the 3V source, we have to have a total series resistance of 1.5k. The equivalent circuit already provides 1k, so our unknown resistor will have to be 500 ohms to make up the difference.

Ref:
http://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/dccircuits/dcp_7.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Th%C3%A9venin%27s_theorem

http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hbase/electric/Thevenin.html

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Field Day – Antenna Captains needed NOW

One BIG thing - we are looking for captains for each band antenna next year. The antenna captain will be responsible for checking and setting up and taking down one particular band antenna. The work for all the antennas on Gene alone is just too much. Sometime in the next year each captain needs to meet at Gene’s where we will go over each antenna make any adjustments necessary and re-pack them for 2016 FD. Contact Gene, WB4MSG at the next FARC meeting or at gbowman4 <at> triad <dot> rr <dot> com

FARC Programs

By Harold, N4HER
FARC VP

January, 2016 was the Homebrew Show-&-Tell. thanks to all who participated who made this a great program. And congratulations to Ken for his superb presentation of his homemade key.

February, 2016 promises to be one of the best progarms of the year. Matt Jordan will be sharing his long time experience with commercial commercial two-way radio. Don't miss this one!

March, 2016 will be about ARES by Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT.

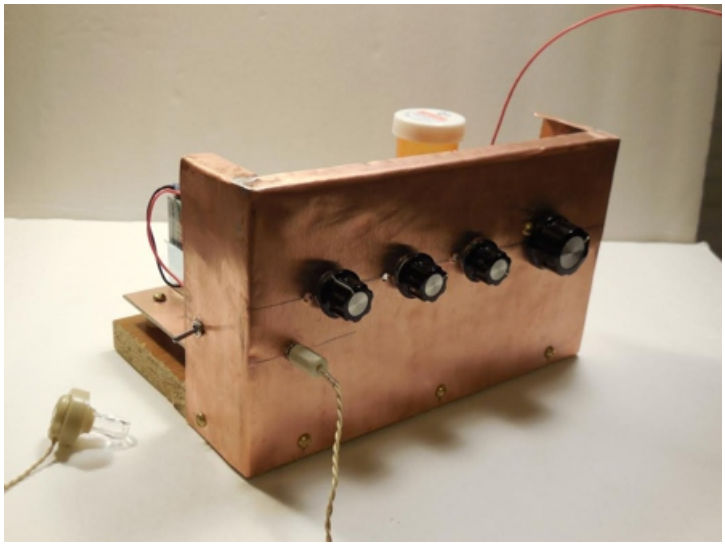
I hope to see everyone at the meetings, normally starting at 7:30, Red Cross Building, 690 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem. Be sure to keep in touch with our website as meeting times or programs may be altered: http://www.w4nc.com

Don't forget to put the **June 11 Classic Hamfest** on your calendar!

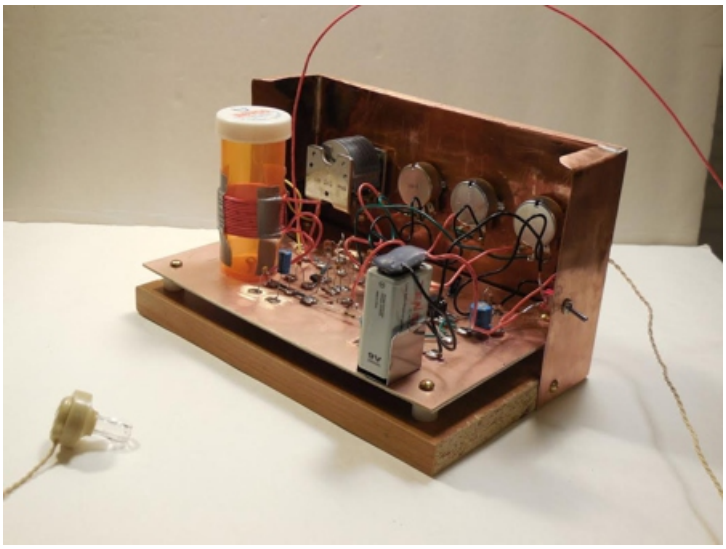
Homebrew Regren Receiver

by Ken Melvin, KM4NFQ

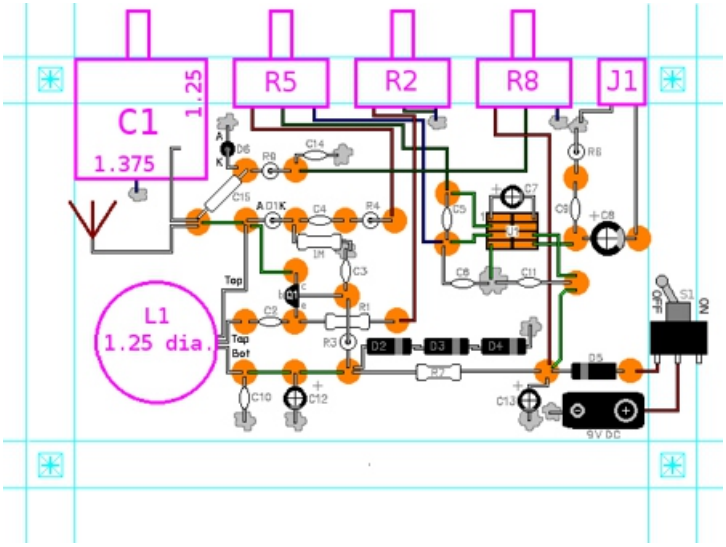
I recently "finished" (are they ever really "finished"?) a homebrew regen receiver that I have been working on for awhile now. It "works" in a manner of speaking. I have been able to hear Radio Habana Cuba using a 39-inch wire antenna. The radio receiver is powered by a 9V battery. I built this regen receiver by following the instructions in an article that originally appeared in the September 2000 issue of QST magazine, titled "A Simple Regen Radio For Beginners," by Charles Kitchin, N1TEV. Here are a couple of snapshots of the radio I made:



The Front Panel was fabricated from a scrap piece of Copper Roof Flashing. The circuit board was populated using Manhattan Style Construction. The coil was wound on a 1.25 inch diameter pill bottle. The pill bottle and the battery clip are fastened to the circuit board with brass machine screws and nuts. The standoffs for the circuit board are the plastic cylinders from dental floss. The earphone is high impedance.



Here is the layout I used:



This project was so much fun to make that I am already starting on a new regen radio called "The Desert Ratt 2" by Paul Harden, NA5N. This time I am following the one built by Dave Richards, AA7EE.

I got my Ham license because I wanted to learn how to build my own radios (I will eventually build my own transceiver - if I live long enough). The above radio is my second receiver. The first was an oatmeal box crystal set. I built my first crystal set when I was 13 years old (50 years ago). I can hear local AM broadcast stations with my crystal set. ;)

Thanks for taking a look at my radio. 73, K.W. "Ken" Melvin, KM4NFQ

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—7 December 2015

by Terry Brown (AK4D)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The annual Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Holiday Dinner Meeting at the River Ridge Tap House was called to order by President Jerry Minor-K4GW, at 1918 hours. He welcomed all attendees.

2. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO gave a detailed 2015 FARC financial report via a power point presentation which is reproduced below:

a. Slide One:
January 2015 Beginning Balance: $2326.13
Income:
Dues: 1213.00
Hamfest Gross Profit: 2515.12
Hamfest Expenses: (295.32)
Hamfest Net Profit: 2219.80
Donations: 2899.00
Total Income: $6331.80

b. Slide Two:
Expenses:
Repeater Phone: $399.95
Hamshack Cable*: 236.97
Repairs: 180.00
Office: 428.38
House: 462.01
Field Day: 578.12
Assets: 3152.38
Insurance: 779.00
Awards/Post Office/Postage: 103.00
Total Expenses: $6319.81
*Benefits Red Cross as well

c. Slide Three:
Beginning 2015 Balance: $2326.13
2015 Income: 6331.80
2015 Expenses: 6319.81
Balance as of 7 December 2015: $2338.12

3. Recognition of 2016 Club Officers: Jerry Minor-K4GW, recognized the upcoming 2016 Forsyth Amateur Radio Club officers. Persons recognized were President Jim Adkins-W4UX, Vice President Harold Richardson-N4HER, Secretary Terry Brown-AK4D and Treasurer Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO.

4. Repeater and Volunteer Examiner Report: Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL gave an update on FARC repeater status and repairs. He also thanked all of the Volunteer Examiners (VE's) who are essential for the club's Amateur Radio licensing activities.

5. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT gave a summary of the 2015 events that ARES was involved in. He announced that he was recognized as volunteer of the year by the MS Tour to Tanglewood organization but this distinction was for all of the volunteers involved in this event. Congratulations Jim (and everybody!)

6. Ham of the Year: President Jerry Minor-K4GW presented Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ with the FARC Ham of the Year award for his accomplishments with Field Day and other club activities.

7. Presentation to President Jerry Minor-K4GW: 2016 FARC President Jim Atkins-W4UX presented Jerry Minor-K4GW with a plaque for his accomplishments as FARC president during 2014-2015. Jerry Minor then presented Jim Atkins with a ham radio necktie.

8. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by many attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 1941 hours.

9. Partial List of Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of FARC member attendees based upon names entered into the handheld radio contest. Jim Atkins-W4UX, Van Key-KC4WSK, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Tony Poindexter-KW4OQ, David Peterson-KK4GAF, Bill Starkey-N4WWS, Gary Miller-WA4VMC, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Kristin Shields-KM4OUY, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, KM4OCS-Catherine Melvin, Kenneth Melvin-KM4NFQ, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Mike Atkins-N4VE, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS, John Isley-KM4OUZ, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Terry Brown-AK4D, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT and David Shoaf-KC4X. There were many family members present also.

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Business Meeting—14 December 2015

by Terry Brown (AK4D)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The monthly Board of Directors Business Meeting, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, was held on Monday, 14 December 2015 at Ham's Restaurant, 367 Lower Mall Drive, Thruway Shopping Center, Winston-Salem. The meeting was called to order by new 2016 FARC President Jim Atkins-W4UX, at 1932 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees.

2. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, FARC Treasurer was not able to make the meeting, but had left word that the club balance was the same as presented at the Holiday Dinner meeting, a week prior.

3. Needed Changes in W4NC Website: Jim Atkins-W4UX led discussion on needed W4NC website changes for the upcoming FirstFest hamfest and would contact Jerry Minor-K4GW, and/or alternate Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO on the needed changes. No VE test session is planned for the hamfest and this also needed to be stated on the website. A link to the NC QSO Party is still on the W4NC website. Since the Raleigh club is now in charge of the event, a link to their website is needed on our website.

4. Video of Club Meetings on Website: Discussion was held on resuming a real-time broadcast of club meetings or putting

a roughly edited video of club meetings on the W4NC website. Motion was made by Terry Brown-AK4D to make this a club initiative, seconded and full approval. Jim Atkins-W4UX was to contact both Raymond Taber-WX5AAA and Henry Heidtman-W2DZO to gather info on equipment and effort needed to accomplish either the real-time or rough cut video of club meetings.

5. Hospitality Committee Discussion: Kent Englebert-K4HKE led discussion on hospitality committee efforts. He proposed making a new member welcome packet with club history and info, points of contact for specific amateur radio expertise, a listing of procedures for operating equipment in the club shack and other info. There was also discussion on a mentoring program for new hams as well as a single handheld radio prize drawing for the population of new club members.

6. SC QSO Party: Jim Atkins-W4UX reported that the South Carolina QSO party had been moved to the Saturday prior to the Sunday (28 February 2016) NC QSO party.

7. Upcoming FARC Main Meeting Programs: Topics for upcoming meetings are:

a. January 2016-Homebrew
b. February 2016-Cell Tower
c. March 2016-ARES
d. April 2016-possible presentation by Jim Brown-K9YC doing a presentation from California on RFI. WEB-EX might be a possibly way for a remote presentation. John Steinberger-W8LWX stated that the new version of Firefox also had capability for conferencing.
e. A future possible meeting topic on QSL cards was also discussed.

8. FARC FirstFest and June Hamfest: Discussion was held on FirstFest (Saturday, 9 January 2016). Jim Atkins-W4UX stated he had the prize packet from ARRL and there was a need to approach vendors for door prizes. Don Edwards-WS4NC stated he would print off tickets for hamfest attendees and also discussed hamfest promotion for the June hamfest. He also stated that John Kippe-K1PPE would be limited in what he could do at the FirstFest. Need to have at least six club members lined up to help.

9. Club By-Laws and Constitution: Don Edwards-WS4NC and John Steinberger-W8LWX discussed the old and recently marked-up club by-laws and constitution. More work is needed on documenting recent changes to those documents and having changes formally recorded.

10. 2016 Club Renewals: Terry Brown-AK4D led discussion on 2016 club renewals. The process discussed was emailing renewal material to the 2013, 2014 and 2015 club members followed up by renewal notices delivered via US Mail. Printed renewal material would be done via commercial print. Kent Englebert-K4HKE and John Steinberger-W8LWX discussed the possibility of using PayPal as an option for club renewals. Jim Atkins-W4UX stated he would investigate this with Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO. Also needing to be explored would be mailing FARC club material to all hams in the Forsyth County area.

11. Presidents Article in Monthly Newsletter: Jim Atkins-W4UX stated he was planning to have an article for the club newsletter each month.

12. 145.47 Repeater Request by John Steinberger-W8LWX: John Steinberger-W8LWX stated that he was the 2016 President of the Vagabond Net. He discussed the sensitivities, FCC laws, repeater do's and don'ts and the misuse of the 145.47 repeater several months ago. He requested that he be contacted if misuse of the repeater by Vagabond members was observed.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and adjourned at 2109 hours.

14. Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of meeting attendees: Jim Atkins-W4UX, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC and John Steinberger-W8LWX.

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Special Business Meeting —4 January 2015

by Terry Brown (AK4D)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: A special Board of Directors Business Meeting, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, was held on Monday, 4 January 2016 at Ham's Restaurant, 367 Lower Mall Drive, Thruway Shopping Center, Winston-Salem. The meeting was called to order by new 2016 FARC President Jim Atkins-W4UX, at 1912 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees who are listed in the last item of these minutes.

2. Upcoming Hamfest Discussion: David Shoaf-KC4X stated that preparation for the hamfest this coming Saturday was progressing and in good shape. Meeting attendees discussed Friday load-in, vendor attendance, printing tickets for attendees, providing a heater for outside volunteers, a minor basketball practice conflict, 146.640 repeater talk-in, no VE testing, updates for the FARC website, refreshments and coffee, door prizes and the hamfest announcement scheduled for Friday's Winston-Salem journal. After hamfest note: Door prizes were two $25 and one $50 ARRL gift certificates, a $10 gift certificate from the Cable Guy, three books from DBJ, a J-Pole antenna from N4HER, and three Baofeng handheld radios, two were from N4VE (Triad Electronics) and one from FARC.

3. Equipment Donations: Gene Bowman-WB4MSG stated that he had been contacted by a family of a deceased ham who wanted to donate radio gear to the club for sale, but wanted proceeds from the sale to benefit youth who were showing activity in ham radio. Gene provided a listing of the equipment and approximate value to meeting attendees. After much discussion, it was agreed that the equipment would be put up for sale at the hamfest. Some basic radio gear would be obtained from the sale proceeds for a Boy Scout Troop who had attended recent club activities. Don Edwards-WS4NC stated that he could oversee a table with the equipment at the hamfest. Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated he could provide

the family a listing of donated equipment for their documentation. After hamfest note: Some of the equipment was sold at the hamfest, but the majority was auctioned off by Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO to meeting attendees. Approximately $826 was made from both the sale and auctioning of the equipment.

4. Donated Antennas: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO discussed a note he had received from Gary Carter-WA4IAM a ham who was moving across the country and was donating his antennas to the club. One of the antennas being donated is a hex beam. Some discussion was held on using the hex beam in lieu of the club tri-bander on Field Day.

5. Field Day Preparation: Gene Bowman-WB4MSG stated that he would be working in getting antennas ready for Field Day. Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ stated that he had enjoyed being Field Day chairman for past years, but a new chairman would be needed this year.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and adjourned at 2020 hours.

14. Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of meeting attendees: Jim Atkins-W4UX, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC, David Shoaf-KC4X, Henry Hiedtmann-W2DZO, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Mike Atkins-N4VE, John Kippe-K1PPE and Jerry Minor-K4GW.

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—11 January 2015

by Terry Brown (AK4D)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The 11 January 2016 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club at the Red Cross Building, 690 Coliseum Drive, was called to order by President Jim Atkins-W4UX, at 1931 hours. He welcomed all attendees, approximately 40 plus.

2. Treasurers Report:

a. FirstFest Hamfest: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated that 150-155 attendance tickets were sold and gave a detailed financial breakdown of the FirstFest hamfest held the prior Saturday. Rounded numbers are below:

Gate Cash Count: $1100
Donations: 54
Change: -300
Hall Rent: -125
Refreshments: - 39
Net: $ 690

{Murphy's Lw}

b. Estate Sale: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated the proceeds of the estate sale at the hamfest were $826. Henry stated that Don Edwards-WS4NC would give a background report on this item.

c. Club Balance: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO reported that the club balance was $4024.66, but that amount included the proceeds of the estate sale in item 2.b above.

d. Time Warner Bill: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated that the new Time Warner had gone from $20 to $190. He called Time Warner, explaining that the club was a 501(c)3 and providing services to the community and the Red Cross. He got the bill reduced back to $35.

3. Donated Estate Equipment and Proceeds From Sale: Don Edwards-WS4NC updated attendees on the estate sale from a deceased ham's family. The family wanted proceeds from the sale of the equipment to benefit youth. Don further described the interest of Boy Scout troop 719 in ham radio and their involvement in both our Field Day and the Jamboree on the Air activities. He made a motion to take the donated equipment proceeds and to purchase ham radio equipment (Yaesu FT-450 with power supply) for that Boy Scout troop. Jim Atkins-W4UX seconded and the motion was carried. Gene Bowman-WB4MSG discussed the equipment in the estate and how he was contacted about the situation. He also described an older Icom radio that was part of the estate. Gene suggested the club retain this radio and use it to help anyone age 16 or younger who was interested in ham radio or trying to get their ham radio license. He also stated that other club members had other equipment and antennas that could be used with this radio on a temporary basis.

4. Summit School Ham Radio: Don Edwards-WS4NC updated attendees on Summit School using an old radio receiver that needed replacing. The school had raised $300 to help purchase a replacement radio. He made a motion that the club accept the $300 for a surplus Yaesu FT-920 radio that the club had. Jim Atkins-W4UX seconded and the motion was carried.

5. 2016 FARC Renewals and Message from Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH: Terry Brown-AK4D thanked everyone who had renewed their club membership for 2016. Jim Atkins-W4UX told about life member of the club, Riley Hollingsworth-K4ZDH, formerly FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, who had sent in a donation to the club and had indicated doing another talk at a club meeting.

6. Antenna Donation from Gary Carter-WA4IAM: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO gave an update on Gary Carter-WA4IAM from Reidsville who is retiring and moving to Seattle. He will be donating his antennas to the club, including a hex-beam, a 2-meter and a 6-meter antenna. Antennas are currently mounted on a tripod mount on his roof and he will let us know when they need to come down, most likely late March or early April.

7. Upcoming Field Day Info: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated that he had ordered and just received the permit allowing the club to use Hobby Park for Field Day. President Jim Atkins-W4UX stated that Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ will not be Field Day Chairman this year for his fifth year in a row and that a club member will need to take over that position.

8. Ham of the Month: President Jim Atkins-W4UX presented David Shoaf-KC4X with a FARC Ham-of-the-Month Award for

Continued on the next page

his achievements as hamfest chairman for several past hamfests.

9. ARES Report: Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT talked about a foul weather and weather reporting drill and exercise scheduled for 3pm-4pm on 23-24 January (Saturday and Sunday) on the Sauratown Mountain repeater (145.47, 100 Mhz PL tone). He asked participants to travel to a spot where an issue has happened or likely to happen and to call in a simulated emergency or weather issue. He emphasized that to state "This is a drill" both before and after each simulated issue that will be called in. Jim asked that anyone with ideas or questions contact him at WA4NOT@arrl.net.

10. Repeater and VE Test Report: Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL updated everyone on repeater status. He thanked VE's Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Mike Atkins-N4VE, Kent Englebert-K4HKE and Ed Eller-KJ4ENM for helping in tonight's session. Dale stated that four people had attempted to either get or upgrade their ham radio license at the VE session preceding the club meeting. Two had succeeded:

a. Amy Treadway-KM4QEH got her Technician license.
b. Henry Smith-KE4CSO upgraded his license to extra.

11. Baofeng Hand Held Radio Winner: Don Edwards-WS4NC presented Jim Marler-KM4HUZ with a new Baofeng handheld radio as winner of this months contest.

12. Homebrew Presentations: There were five hambrew presentations.

a. Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ: New ham Ken Melvin stated that he wanted to learn morse code and needed a practice key. He demonstrated his homebrew old style straight morse code practice key built from brass stock. He coupled the key with an oscillator circuit board with components mounted Manhattan style and speaker. He offered to give anyone a copy of the circuitry that he used to build the Manhattan style board.

b. Ray Purdom-K4ZGV: Ray demonstrated his digital oscilloscope built from a kit with a two inch screen and is considering using the scope with his transceiver.

c. Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS: Neal showed a pre-amp he had built to use a Heil microphone with his Icom transceiver. The pre-amp was built from a circuit he had found in an article, needing an 8 volt power supply, but he was using a 12 volt supply with a regulator.

d. Steve Patterson-WA3RTC: Steve showed a work in progress, a spiral multiband 6-40 meter off-center fed antenna designed after an article he had seen on the internet. One complication is that you could not use an antenna analyzer to check the antenna swr/efficiency. Steve also showed the four to one balun he had built for using the antenna. Harold Richardson-N4HER commented that he had built a similar antenna, had used it with the Whisper software using one watt output and had gotten contacts with Germany.

e. Harold Richardson-N4HER: Harold showed his air powered antenna launcher made from high pressure pvc pipe, an attached scope, a sprinkler valve, pressure gage, battery box to active the 24 volt solenoid, part of an old fishing rod with reel, and an air valve for attaching a bicycle pump to pressurize the launcher. The launcher propels a small six ounce projectile that is attached to the fishing line on the reel. He recommended being very liberal with the pvc cement and a pressure of near 60 psi.

f. Home Brew Winner: The winner of this years home brew was Ken Melvin-KM4NFQ. Ken was presented with a Baofeng handheld radio for being the winner.

13. Next Month's Meeting Main Topic: Future of Two-Way Radio by Matt Jordan.

14. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Kippe-K1PPE and seconded by Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO and other attendees. Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

15. Partial List of Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of FARC member attendees. Jim Atkins-W4UX, Van Key-KC4WSK, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC, Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Tony Poindexter-KW4OQ, Gary Miller-WA4VMC, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Jeff Stafford-AC4YN, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL, Catherine Melvin-KM4OCS, Kenneth Melvin-KM4NFQ, Daryl Knight-N5WK, Mike Atkins-N4VE, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Neal Pruitt-WD4LSS, Doc Holliday-WB4QIZ, Terry Brown-AK4D, Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT, Ed Eller-KJ4ENM, David Ramsey-W4OIL, David McDonald-N5WNB, Andrew Gusek-NC3AG, Bob Gusek-NC4RG, Steve Iltis-KM4OCR, Les Jongberg-KJ4JYZ, Ray Purdom-K4ZGV, Chuck Small-KM4IVY, Jim Marlet-KM4HUZ, Amy Treadway, Sam Poindexter-KM4LUD, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, Dave Larson, Jim Register-KV4SJ, Bill Kennedy-WD4OTY, Jerry Minor-K4GW, John Kipee-K1PPE, Don Edwards-WS4NC and Brian Kuebert-N4UEZ.

Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Business Meeting—18 January 2015

by Terry Brown (AK4D)
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The monthly Board of Directors Business Meeting, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, was held on Monday, 18 January 2016 at Ham's Restaurant, 367 Lower Mall Drive, Thruway Shopping Center, Winston-Salem. The meeting was called to order by FARC Vice-President Harold Richardson-N4HER, at 1917 hours. He welcomed all meeting attendees.

2. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, FARC Treasurer stated that the club balance was $4088.70, all expenses paid to date.

3. W4NC Website: Harold Richardson-N4HER discussed access capability and ease of making changes to the club's www.W4NC.com website. Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO stated that he had gotten more accessibility to make changes along with primary website manager Jerry Minor –K4GW. Henry stated that any needed changes should be sent to he or Jerry.

4. Video of Club Meetings on Website: Discussion was held on resuming a real-time broadcast of club meetings or putting a roughly edited video of club meetings on the W4NC website. On a trial test basis, Henry Heidtman-W2DZO will set up his video camera to do a real-time broadcast feeding the signal through a laptop physically connected to the room router. If the test is successful, then a club acquisition of a video camera will be explored.

5. Hospitality Committee: Kent Englebert-K4HKE led discussion on hospitality committee efforts, a new member welcome packet with club history and info, officer names and contact information, specific amateur radio expertise contacts, procedures for operating equipment in the club shack, club equipment available for temporary loan and other info.

6. FARC Hamshack: Discussion was held on what was needed to finish upgrades to the club hamshack. Gene Bowman-WB4MSG felt that the cost of getting dummy loads and switches would be less than $500.

7. PayPal Capability: Following recent requests, discussion was held on adding PayPal capability to the club website for membership renewals. Costs of doing this appeared to be minor. Henry Heidtman-W2DZO stated that he would go to PayPal, open up an account there and determine what was needed on the club website to get this process activated.

8. Yaesu FT-450 Transceiver for Boy Scouts: Gene Bowman-WB4MSG discussed the Yaesu FT-450 purchased for the Boy Scouts, partially closing out the family request of donated radio equipment that had been sold at the FARC FirstFest hamfest. Closing out the family's request will be adding a power supply and a go-box. Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV stated that the equipment will be placed in a locked area in the church sponsoring the Boy Scout troop when the equipment is not in use.

9. Club By-Laws: Don Edwards-WS4NC stated that he had the old FARC club bylaws and needed markups that were needed to document and update recent changes to the club and club procedures. When ready, changes will be presented at normal club meeting for a vote of acceptance.

10. Upcoming Monthly Club Programs: Upcoming club programs are:

a. 9 February-Matt Jordan on Cell Tower experiences
b. 14 March-Jim Mansfield-WA4NT on ARES
c. 11 April-maybe Jim Brown-K9YC on RFI

Other possible program presentations discussed were QSL methodology, modern test equipment, passive repeaters and solar cycle forecasts and what they mean.

11. Presidents Article in Monthly Newsletter: Harold Richardson-N4HER mentioned that Jim Atkins-W4UX, FARC President is planning to have an article for the club newsletter each month.

12. NC QSO Party: Discussion was held on a club participation in the NC QSO party which will be held on Sunday, 28 February, from 10am to 8pm local time. More discussion will be held on this later. It was mentioned that the South Carolina QSO party would be held the previous day.

13. Adjournment of Meeting: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and meeting was adjourned at 2033 hours.

14. Meeting Attendees: Below are the names of meeting attendees: Kent Englebert-K4HKE, Harold Richardson-N4HER, Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG, John Kippe-K1PPE, Steve Patterson-WA3RTC and Jim Register-KV4SJ.

HR 1301 and S 1685

from ARRL

NOW, "CLARITY ON PARITY" – THE VIDEO! – In August, the ARRL responded to the concerns expressed by community and neighborhood associations regarding HR 1301 and S 1685 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 by publishing, "Clarity on Amateur Radio Parity." This document clarifies that the Bill would not result in new federal policy on outdoor amateur radio antennas and it would not require approval of large antenna towers by homeowner associations. For further information on the document, see

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Clarity%20on%20Parity.pdf

Now, a new video has been produced, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 – Separating Fact from Fiction", which reinforces the arguments discussed in the ARRL statement. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, said the video will be made available on Capitol Hill to make sure that Members of Congress have correct information, instead of misrepresentations. For further information on the video, see http://www.arrl.org/news/now-clarity-on-parity-the-video

AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015 PAGE ON ARRL WEBSITE (REMINDER) – A combined web page has been setup by the ARRL to accommodate activities related to HR 1301 and S 1685, and to provide a central location for information on these identical Bills. ARRL members are urged to contact their Members of Congress in the House of Representatives and the Senate and ask them to sign on to the Bills as a co-sponsor. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-website-has-new-amateur-radio-parity-act-of-2015-page and http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-parity-act

More on HR 1301

Terry Brown, AK4D has been very proactive in contacting elected officials to garner support on the Ham Radio Parity Act. Below is his recent correspondance with Virginia Fox.

Terry M. Brown, AK4D
211 Plumstead Ln.
Clemmons, NC 27012

12 November 2015

The Honorable Representative Virginia Foxx
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foxx:

I previously wrote you on 15 May of this year requesting your support of H.R. 1301 - "The Amateur Radio Parity Act", copy of previous letter attached.

As an update, I have attached two releases from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) clarifying what S. 1685 would do AND what it would NOT do.

I have heard and read some incredibly misleading statements made by special interest groups concerning S. 1685. That is the reason for me including the two attachments from the ARRL clarifying the purpose of the bill.

I again ask you for your help in supporting H.R. 1301 - "The Amateur Radio Parity Act". It is critically important in the maintenance of communications capability in times of local and national emergencies. Your support will be recognized by the nearly 22,000 amateur radio operators in North Carolina and the 750,000 amateur radio operators in the United States.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me for further information, 336-769-6671. Thank you for your time and your service to this great nation.

Sincerely,

Terry M. Brown, callsign AK4D
211 Plumstead Ln.
Clemmons, NC 27012

VIRGINIA FOXX
5TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

HOUSE REPUBLICAN
CONFERENCE SECRETARY

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COMMITTEE ON RULES
VICE CHAIRWOMAN

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE TRAINING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3305

December 15, 2015

Mr. Terry M. Brown
211 Plumstead Ln
Clemmons, NC 27012-9643

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for forwarding me two releases from the American Radio Relay League and for voicing your continued support for H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. It is important for me to hear from constituents and I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts.

As you know from our previous correspondence, we agree about the important role "ham radio" operators play in disseminating critical information, especially during emergencies. At this time, no legislative action has been taken to advance H.R. 1301. Because of previous experiences where pieces of legislation have gone from advocating one thing when introduced to advocating exactly the opposite when they come up for a vote, I have made it a practice to cosponsor only a small percentage of bills. Once one signs on to a bill, people can tout that you supported it regardless of whether the legislation changes and, as a cosponsor, I have no control over amendments.

Therefore, it is better to ensure that a piece of legislation represents my position and values by voting for it rather than cosponsoring it. The bill has yet to be considered by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and could see significant changes before coming before the full House for consideration. Rest assured, I will keep your support for H.R. 1301 in mind should it come to the House floor for consideration and have duly noted your support for this measure.

If you have not had the opportunity, I hope you will visit my award winning website, www.foxx.house.gov. We update our site often and it is a great resource to learn about constituent services, legislative updates and my work in Congress. You can also use my website to sign up for my weekly e-newsletter to receive updates on my activities in Washington when the House is in session. My best wishes.

Sincerely,

Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
Representative

2350 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-2071

3540 CLEMMONS ROAD, SUITE 125
CLEMMONS, NC 27012
336-778-0211

400 SHADOWLINE DRIVE, SUITE 205
BOONE, NC 28607
828-265-0240

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Read-The-Newsletter, Attend-The-Meeting (RTN-ATM) -

Maybe win something!

To celebrate our 85th birthday (12/30/2015) we are having a special *participation* drawing. First - you need to read the Newsletter - hidden within will be some little stupid saying, poem, question or puzzle between two curley brackets { } on several pages. The words have been converted to curves so doing a CTRL-F will not work; you have to actually look and read - that requires a small investment of your effort and skill. Write what you find on a 3X5 card (provided at the FARC meeting) along with your call.

Just after the program there will be a drawing for a ham-related goodie. Each month we will pull one entry from that month - the winner must be present to win. At the December, **2016** Banquet all the cards (including monthly winners) received from 8/2015 to 12/2016 will go into one drawing for a new **mobile** 2-meter, 440 radio (Jetstream JT270M or equivalent); for the Big December, 2016 prize you will not need to be present to win (but we hope you will); for the monthly prizes you must be present to win or we will draw another card.

We say JT270M or equivalent because due to the Chinese imports the market is changing so fast that we don't know what will be the best choice in December, 2016 - we will commit to a particular radio around this time next year. The costs of all this has been paid by a special anonymous donation.

The prize for February will be a pretty, blue Baofeng UV-5R already programmed, charged and ready to go. The odds are really good each month so read and be there. The plan right now is continue with blue UV-5Rs each month, depending on availability or if something better comes along. The Newsletter will announce what is coming each month.

Repeating the text from last year's Diddle-de-dah-de-Don: "There is a new secret message hidden in the Newsletter - look for {}. Print the secret message *exactly* on a 3X5 card (cards will be provided at the club meeting) or you can print the secret message on the back of a *non-refundable* $20 bill - $100s are also good (thanks Click and Clack!) and drop it in the box at the next FARC meeting. Rules: 1) Message must be exact. 2) Must be on a 3X5 index card and appear exactly as required in the Newsletter. 3) One entry per person. 4) Winner must be present to win or another entry will be drawn. 5) No cash value. 6) Prizes will vary from great stuff to OK stuff - no substitutions. 7) At least one prize per meeting. 8) At the December meeting all yearly entries, including winners, will go back into one drawing for a special goodie. 9) Entries are the property of FARC, Inc. - except for the 20s and 100s - the Newsletter editor may keep those!) The sprit of the idea here is that a) you must read the Newsletter and b) you must come to the club meeting. There is nothing nefarious about it."

One additional rule - FARC reserves the right to end this promotion early (but that is not the plan!)

{named after?}

Help! Early FARC Records

by Don, WS4NC

Just in case it isn't obvious I am trying to locate as much old history of FARC as I can find. The club was originally called the Winston-Salem Amateur Radio Club. Sadly most all of the early records were lost in a fire in the club shack around 1960. If you have any early records of FARC we would appreciate either the donation of those or at least the opportunity to copy them. Sadly the first thing a family throws out after a ham dies is the paper work - I've been told directly by one family that "that was just old ham radio papers and work papers - no one is interested in that trash."

The early history of FARC was written in 1934 by Wilson Lamb, W4BOH. You can read it all at:

http://www.dwepe.com/FARCHistory/1934%20FARC%20History%20by%20W4BOH.htm

This month is the next part of the history compiled by Henry Heidtmann, III from Next month we will have the next installment of FARC's history.

New Member Welcome Packets

by Kent, K4HKE
Hospitality and New Members Chairman

We are preparing a packet of information for members. This is primarily for new members but it will also be available to all members of FARC. There have been a lot of suggestions about what to include. There are two things that would really help with this.

1. I could use some help getting this together.

2. It would be nice to have a few helpers to greet any visitors/new members that come to the FARC meeting. We want all to feel welcome.

3. It would be nice to have a list of members who have special expertise. New members often have questions about many basic issues. You don't have to be an "expert", most questions are issues that most hams hve been through like "how do I put up a dipole?" If you would like to help a new-bie please let me know, I'll be putting together a list starting at the February meeting.

Arduino Workshop

& Future Technical Saturday Workshops

Great appreciation to Bob Gusek NC4RG for his great job doing the Arduino workshops. Sadly, they are on hold for moment as Bob deals with his work schedule and recovering from surgery. The date for the next workshop is TBD and will probably be the first workshop on Raspberry PI. For more details see Bob's website at http://ncbob.info/arduino-class/

Florida Ham Agrees to Penalty for Failure to Identify ARRL12/10/2015

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has entered into a consent decree with a Florida radio amateur to resolve an investigation into whether the licensee violated Sections 97.113(b) and 97.119(a) of the FCC rules by transmitting one-way communications and failing to identify. As part of the deal, Thomas J. Warren, K3TW, of Lecanto, Florida, will pay a monetary penalty. The FCC issued an Order incorporating the Consent Decree on December 9 in the case, which dates back to June 2015.

"In response to complaints that an unidentified station was transmitting on an Amateur Radio frequency at 14 MHz, FCC agents determined that the transmissions were coming from Mr Warren's residence," the FCC said in its December 9 Order. "To settle this matter, Mr Warren admits that he failed to transmit his assigned call sign, violated the Commission's rules, will report any noncompliance with rules governing the Amateur Radio Service, and will pay a $3500 civil penalty."

The Consent Decree provided a few more details of the case. The FCC recounted that, after tracking down the unidentified transmissions to Warren's residence, Warren conceded that he had not identified at least some transmissions that he'd made that day. "The agents issued an on-scene written warning to Mr Warren regarding the violations," the FCC said in the Consent Decree. "In his written response to the warning, Mr Warren acknowledged that he may have failed to transmit his station identification as required on June 25, 2015."

According to the Consent Decree, Warren's transmissions "related to an ongoing dispute with another Amateur Radio operator, whose intentional interference had allegedly disrupted communications on the American Foreign Service Net that operates weekly on 14.316 MHz."

The FCC said the Consent Decree terminates its investigation, and that it will not use facts established during the investigation and through the effective date of the Consent Decree to institute any new proceeding or take further action against Warren regarding the matters that were the subject of the investigation.

{February Treasure Hunt}

This month the {Treasure Hunt} is back. Find the {curley brackets} and enter your answer on a 3X5 card at the next FARC meeting. You must be present to win! Mybe you will win a pretty FARC Blue Baofeng and your entry qualifies you for the big prise drawing at the December FARC meeting.

NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY (2/28)

The North Carolina QSO Party, sponsored by Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2016, from 1000 EST to 2000 EST. For further information, see http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/

From ARRL

ARRL NATIONAL PARKS ON THE AIR 2016

The ARRL National Parks On The Air is QRV! Help the National Park Service (NPS) celebrate its 100th anniversary by activating NPS units, promoting the NPS, and demonstrating amateur radio to the public via participation in this operating event! For information on rules, answers to frequently asked questions, activator tips, NPOTA documents, answers to basic questions from NPS employees, the Leaderboard, list of NPOTA units, merchandise, NPOTA on social media, and latest news, see http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA (source: ARRL website)

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA) PARTICIPATION DIPS FOR THIRD YEAR

Scout participation in Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) for 2015 declined 8 percent
from 2014, even though there was little change in the number of registered stations and station reports. Since only 208 of 346 (60%) of registered stations filed a station report, the overall activity may have been higher. In 2015, twenty-two (22) stations were registered for JOTA participation in the NC Section. For further information, see http://www.arrl.org/news/scouting-s-jamboree-on-the-air-jota-participation-dips-for-third-year

FARC Supports Boy Scout Ham Radio

In the previous article national participation in JOTA may have decreased by some measures, but you would not know that locally. Because of the exceptional participation by BSA Troop 719, and through recent donations, FARC is sponsoring a ham radio station there. We are in the early stages, but a new Yaesu FT-450 has been acquired and will soon be installed. Expect a future article on the details.

Also FARC is supporting ham radio at the grade school level - we recently sold a Yeasu FT-920 to Summit School Ham Radio Club for a greatly reduced price. Looking forward to hearing some details there also.

January/February Birthdays!

W4UX	1	15
K4TAG	1	19
KK4LYL	1	23
W4XDM	1	25
WW4DX	2	1
N4ZKE	2	2
NA4P	2	4
WD4BYA	2	12
KC4SZO	2	12
WB4QCM	2	15
KK4FAE	2	20
WX5AAA	2	20
KI4WSB	2	20
W4RJR	2	22
N4HDT	2	25
KK4CST	2	26
WB4MSG	2	27

I know this list is out of date. We all need to get with Secreatry Terry and get everything up to date.

by Don, WS4NC

Thanks to everyone who helped with this month's Newsletter. I can't do this without the help of a lot of people and I appreciate it. We have a lot of participation in FARC and we are proud of our members.

I apologize for missing January's Newsletter and for the lateness of this one. Work has pushed me to the limit lately and for that I am grateful but it does interfer with my personal priorities such as the Newsletter. I guess I just need to get my priorities straight.

There is a lot of material that just didn't make it into this month's Newsletter, the FARC December dinner for one thing. It may be late, but I'll try to get that into next month's Newsletter.

Please welcome our new Hospitality Chairman, Kent Englebert, K4HKE. This is a job that has needed filling for several years and we are proud that Kent took this over. Please help him welcome any new members/visitors that show up at our meetings.

Thanks to Karl, W4CHX who sent the following note to Terry, AK4D, after the Hamfest.

"Terry: Please extend my gratitude to all FARC members for making my visit to FirstFest enjoyable. It is great that hamfest season is beginning! Also, thanks for sending me copies of the letters exchanged between you and Representative Foxx. Happy new year and 73, Karl W4CHX, ARRL NC Section Manager, (919) 669-6068 (cell)"

Karl, you are always welcome here and it is a pleasure to see you.

Also we acknowledge the kind donation of antenna by Gary, WA4IAM. Gary used to attend a number of our club meetings but Winston-Salem is a long way from Reidsville. It looks like about the same group of guys who put the antennas up will be taking them down. Henry, W2DZO and I helped put them up.

This year, FARC officially turns 85 years old. Our earliest records show a club in Winston-Salem that was meeting in 1923 at the YMCA building but we just don't know much about early ham radio in Forsyth County. A birthday party is in planning for our June Hamfest, a more celebratory time of year than cold December 31.

Thank you for your comments. I welcome any submissions.

73, Don WS4NC,
Newsletter Editor