

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

September, 2004

From the President

Since late 1972 amateur radio has served the Winston-Salem community from the top of what was then the "new" Reynolds Tower at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. On October 19, 1972 Bob Reagan, W4KGR was authorized to move his WB4QGE repeater to that location. Through the years that repeater operated under the callsign WR4ACA, WA4GIC, and since late 1989 the current W4NC. Upgrades and renovations have occurred to that repeater system over the years, primarily in the RF and control electronics. In mid-July of 2004 a deputation ascended to the rooftop to inspect the tower and antenna system.

The intrepid crew included Don Edwards, WS4NC; Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP; Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO; Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI; Mike Mahan, KB4WJA; Steven Meirisch, KG4JWU; Doctor Arjun "Raja" Chattergee, KB6MTH; and Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ.

What was found on the roof was not encouraging. Starting at the top, the antenna which serves both the 2m and 70cm repeaters is showing its age. A repeater antenna has a nominal useful service life of ten years. The current antenna has been in continuous use for twelve years now. The tower top section, which was damaged in the May 5, 1989 storm (see the August, 1989 SERA Repeater Journal) is still damaged and the bottom section is showing extensive signs of rust. The guy cables, which are vinyl-coated, don't maintain tension and the coating prevents adequate inspection. Finally, the feedline, which has a nominal service life of twenty years, has been in place for as long as anyone present could remember--- placing its age as at least twenty years or more.

What this proposal recommends is that the club membership approve, in accordance with our bylaws, a one-time disbursement of \$1276. This announcement serves as notice that a motion will be entertained at the September, 2004 meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc for this amount to be disbursed from the FARC treasury to cover the costs of this project.

The total project cost, as noted in the table, is actually closer to \$1500. However, thanks to Raymond, WX1NCC the \$224 cost of the antenna itself has already been taken care of. While the club is

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fortunate to be able to financially afford this expense today, this and any other donations are greatly appreciated--- and will help assure the continued financial health of our treasury.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this please contact myself or any member of the board of directors.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Rohn 25G Tower Section | \$115 |
| Rohn 25G Top Section | \$135 |
| EHS Guy Cable, Spool | \$110 |
| Hardware (Clamps, Turnbuckles, Bolts) | \$150 |
| Diamond X500HNA Antenna (2m/70cm) | \$224 |
| 5/8" Ohmax Feedline, 150 ft. | \$518 |
| Coaxial Connectors (1 Type N, 1 type UHF) | \$150 |
| Contingency (paint, etc) | \$98 |
| Project Total: | \$1,500 |
| Donated Antenna, New | (\$224) |
| Disbursement Request: | \$1,276 |

*73 de Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ
FARC President, 2004*

Nominating Committee Report

The officers nominated for 2005 are:

President: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ

Vice President: Melissa Hall, W4RXG

Treasurer: Henry Heidtman, W2DZO

Secretary: Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP

These names will be presented at the September meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor if the nominee has given permission to be nominated.

Respectfully submitted:

*Melissa Leonard Hall, W4RXG
Chairman, 2004 Nominating Committee*

License Exams

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club continues to offer license exam sessions on the FIRST Saturday of EVERY month (includes holidays!) at the American Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive, in Winston Salem. This is across the parking lot from the Arts Council Theater ("Little Theater"). Examinees need: Photo ID, ORIGINAL and COPY of all documents (License, CSCEs, anything else submitted for exam credit), Social Security Number, and fee of \$12. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Exams begin at 9:00. Please arrive before 9:00 because if you aren't there we might leave!

Club Meeting, Monday, September 13, 2004

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 690 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to "hob-nob" with your fellow hams. The program will be a presentation by Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP, on proper waterproofing of connectors.

Worked All North Carolina Counties Award (WANC)

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC, in Winston Salem, North Carolina sponsors an award for any stations who submit proof of 2 way contact with stations in all 100 North Carolina Counties. Endorsement for any mode, any single band or 5 bands. WARC bands are OK, but will not count for the 5 band endorsement. All contacts must be made using the same mode. No use of repeater or cross mode contacts. Use special application sheet available from the sponsor for SASE or as a .PDF file found on his website. Cards are not required.

GCR signed list by two non_family amateur licensees, General Class or higher. USA-CA holders applying for the "ALL CW" may receive the certificate by sending an e-mail to KU4BP, submitting their USA-CA ALL CW number and award date. Stations who have earned USA-CA for "PHONE" or "Mixed Mode awards should apply in the normal method. Award is FREE. Sponsor reserves the right to spot check any contacts. Send completed application and county record sheets to:

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Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc is a non-profit (IRS 501(c)3) North Carolina corporation for the promotion of Amateur Radio, and for the education and training of hams and the general public primarily in Forsyth County, North Carolina.

FARC was originally incorporated as the Winston-Salem Radio Club on December 31, 1930 and has been in operation ever since. We currently maintain a state-of-the-art ham station in the basement of the Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 690 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business meeting (sometimes inaccurately and wrongly called the Board Meeting) on the 3rd Monday generally at the same location. This is where most of the club's business is conducted and all attending members have a vote. All club members are strongly encouraged to attend the business meeting. For more information about FARC mail us at FARC, Inc., PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116; call 336-723-7388; or visit our web site at www.w4nc.com. Club email is to w4nc@triad.rr.com.

Officers for 2004 are:

President: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ
n4ioz@triad.rr.com

Vice-President: Don Edwards, WS4NC
ws4nc@arrl.net

Secretary: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI
kg4eci@webtv.net

Treasurer: Don Donadio, KT4KV
kt4kv@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC
ws4nc@arrl.net

To join our list server send a blank email to
w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

All content is Copyright 2004 by Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc, unless otherwise noted. Permission is given to reproduce for non-commercial purposes provided proper credit is given. If you would like to help support the newsletter with an ad, please contact Don Edwards (email: wb4kqn@triad.rr.com). Ad deadlines are 7 days before the end of the month. Rates are \$50 for 12 months. *Cheap!*

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

Ed Swiderski KU4BP

2105 D Fiddlers Court

Winston Salem, North Carolina 27107

E_mail: ku4bp@triad.rr.com

Website: <http://home.triad.rr.com/ku4bp/main.html>

73, Ed, KU4BOP

North Carolina ARRL Section Manager's Report

NORTH CAROLINA: SM, John Covington, W4CC - SEC: WA4MOK. STM: K4HA. TC:K4ITL.BM: KD4YTU. PIC: N2COP. OOC: W4ZRA. SGL: AB4W. ACC: N4JCK.

So far four tropical storms (Alex, Bonnie, Charley and Gaston) have affected North Carolina this summer, and a good chance that Frances will be the fifth around Labor Day.

We have been fortunate so far that damage in North Carolina has been fairly limited, especially when compared to Charley's impact on Florida. I'm pleased that many county ARES groups, along with our Eastern Branch staff, were able to activate stations at EOCs and shelters in anticipation of possible communications problems, especially during Charley. Skywarn activity during these storms have also been important - these tropical storms frequently spawn tornadoes. I have seen numerous compliments on our preparedness. Well done.

We are fortunate to live in a time when hurricanes can be detected several days in advance - fatalities are greatly limited, being caused more by flooding and tornadoes than by the hurricane itself. A hundred years ago fatalities were much higher, when these storms just suddenly arrived and did their damage to an unprepared public.

Remember, however, that the ground track predictions are just that - predictions. They are much more accurate than they were even twenty years ago, but many things can happen to suddenly change the path of a storm, as those in central Florida can certainly attest.

August and September seem to be our busiest months in NC for tropical storms. Please keep an eye on the National Hurricane Center web site (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>) for the status of current storms.

Sad to report some silent keys: Bob Chilcote, WA4FLR of Fayetteville, and Roy Smith, KC4VUX of Mooresville. Both have been involved in public service communications for quite a while.

July Traffic: W4EAT 2457 (BPL), W4DAC 1022 (BPL), WD4LSS 233, K4IWW 221, KE4JHJ 109, W0UCE 94, AA4YW 70, W3HL 63, AD4XV 61, W4FAL 46, KE4AHC 44, W4LN 34, AG4ZB 33, KG4OQA 30, WA2EDN 11, WA4SRD 9.

July PSHR: W4EAT 130, KG4OQA 125, K4IWW 120, AD4XV 120, W4DAC 120, KE4JHJ 110, W0UCE 110, W4LN 105, W4FAL 93, WD4LSS 90, AA4YW 80.

June Traffic: W4LN 103. June PSHR: W4LN 105.

*John Covington, W4CC
ARRL NC Section Manager*



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Name: | |
| Call Sign: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| City, State, ZIP code: | |
| e-mail address(es): | |
| Home phone number: | |
| Work phone number: | |
| Cell phone number: | |
| License Class: | |

Check bands and modes that you can operate:

| MODE | HF | 6 meters | 2 meters | 222 MHz | 440 MHz | Others |
|--|----|----------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| SSB | | | | | | |
| CW | | | | | | |
| FM | | | | | | |
| DATA | | | | | | |
| PACKET | | | | | | |
| Other modes (specify below) | | | | | | |
| Mobile Operation | | | | | | |
| Can your home station be operated without commercial power? Yes [] No [] | | | | | | |

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact ARES and ARRL Section Leaders in your area: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>.
 Learn about ARRL-sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Courses:
<http://www.arrl.org/cc/>

FSD-98 (01/04)

August Meeting

Another fine group assembled the second Monday of August for our monthly meeting. Logged-in were Carl, N4PAA; Dale, WB9SZL; Raymond, WX1NCC; Van, KC4WSK; Earl "The Beet" Farmer, KB6MTH; John, N0KTY; Steven, KG4JWU; Don, WS4NC; Henry, W2DZO; Dick, W4UW; John, N4JP; Ed, AF4XC; Ric, KE4ERK; Rick and Audry, N4MBI and N4QOV; Ray, KK4JI; Benny, REACT; Melissa, W4RXG, and Tom, N4IOZ. Checked in as a visitor this month was Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI, who was immediately pressed into service as club secretary. What a group: twenty of the finest radio amateurs in Forsyth County!

We didn't hold a 50/50 drawing in August.

Tom, N4IOZ

The Newsletter Hamfest:

Equipment for Sale: Ten-Tec 227 antenna tuner; Bird Wattmeter; MFJ 949C antenna tuner; Swan WM-1500 wattmeter; Ten-Tec keyer paddle; ASA Engineering 20-meter QRP transceiver; B&W 550A coax switch, Small Wonder Labs 40-meter QRP transceiver w/ audio amp; Vibroplex Bug No. 168864; Heil Operator headset; Astron RS-35M Power Supply; The Morse Machine MM-3 w/book and pwr supply; QRP or FD padded carrying case; Mirage B1016 2-meter amplifier (10 in - 160 out); Micronta multimeter; various coax cables w/ connectors installed; Vibroplex Bug no 171146; MFJ paddle and keyer model 422B-X; MFJ Versa Tuner III model 962B w/ manual; Micronta battery tester; the Power Station (portable 12-V gel cell); Ten-Tec model PM1 transceiver; Hobbico expanded-scale voltmeter for batteries; Lafayette Dyna-Com 23 handheld CB; CW audio filter; Heathkit VTVM; AEAPK-88 Packet controller; Zenith video cassette recorder; JVC Phono turntable; Brother electronic typewriter; 3-element Hygain 10, 15 and 20-meter Beam; 4-element 10-meter beam, 8 or 10-element longjohn wide-spaced 2-meter beam; 435-mHz beam; Butternt 4BTV 10, 15, 20 and 40-meter vertical; Ten-Tec Omni 6 HF rig; Icom IC251A all-mode 2-meter transceiver; Ten-Tec Scout with plugins for 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 meter bands; and 2 TV antennas. Contact Val Valentine, K4JO, Heritage Woods, 3812 Forestgate Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27103 336-768-4469

1. Kenwood TS-520S with manual, in great condition (my back-up rig for Africana Net control while overseas); 2. Swan 500C with manual and mike. Operational, but could use a new pair of finals (6LQ6's or 6MJ6's or 6JE6's); 3. Swan 350 with manual and mike, also operational, but could use a new pair of finals (6HF5's). I need a 2 meter handheld and will consider an arrangement on a trade or purchase. Contact Al, K14FJS 940-2147 day or night.

For Sale: 1. Icom 207H dual-band, \$200. 2. Motorola Ht600 plus convertacom with new battery, new antenna, programed for 4 local ham repeaters, 145.58 simplex and National Wx Service. \$100.00 each. 3. TriEx tower 51 foot crank-up with base, \$400.00. 4. GE TMX 900 Mhz \$150 each. 5. Icom V8000 \$160.00 6. Icom T7H battery drop-in charger, case, 1400 mah battery, \$180.00. Contact Raymond Taber, WX1NCC 336-202-6108

ARES

This month there is an ARES application in the Newsletter. If you haven't already done so, please fill this out and return it to me, either at the next Club meeting or by mail. Because of tighter security measures after 9/11, some disaster events may require you to be registered as a member prior to the disaster event in order to participate. Mail completed application to:

JOHN C KIPPE, N0KTY
 454 College St
 Rural Hall NC 27045

Just a reminder, please join us on the Forsyth County Ares Net Thursday evenings at 8:30 p.m. on the W4NC repeater, frequency 145.47 MHz.

73, John Kippe, N0KTY
ARES Emergency Coordinator

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 11361
Winston-Salem, NC 27106-1361
336-723-7388

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Upcoming Hamfests

October 2, Rockhill SC Hamfest at the York County Community College.

October 10, Hamfest, Maysville, NC

Nov. 13, GAARC Swapfest, Gastonia, NC (NEW!)

Nov. 21 JARSFest at American Legion, Benson, NC

I don't have a date, but I've heard rumors that there will be a hamfest in Wilkes county, possibly in October.

Editor's Corner

Henry Heidtmann contributed to a super write-up on ARRL's web site. If you are interested in contesting at all I suggest that you give it a read. It is in members only:

[Http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2004/DX-Phone/](http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2004/DX-Phone/)

Don't forget that November is supposed to be a Homebrew Show-&-Tell. I've heard from a few people that they have something planned. There is plenty of time to "whip-up" something. It doesn't have to be as complex as a spaceship. Just related to ham radio (or maybe not - but you'll be the one to face the crowd!)

My apologies to Val Valentine for misplacing his list of goodies for sale last month. I accidently filed in with work papers. It appears in the "Newsletter Hamfest" section.

It was nice to see so many friends at the Shelby Hamfest this year. I

hadn't set up the "Big Top" tarp for several years. Robert, KG4NEP, has now become the proud "Keeper of the Grande Tarp". This year we only setup a 20X20 section which wasn't so much work. There were (still are?) enough pieces to make a 20X60 ft tarp.

For information to make it into the Newsletter, I need it a few days before the end of the month. Sometimes I can squeeze it in on the last day, depending on when the 2nd Monday falls. Email me at ws4nc@arrl.net with any submissions. Just plain text is all that's required, most formatting will be redone to match the Newsletter's form anyway. Pictures can be most any form, but jpg's are probably best. Pictures need to be of the highest resolution possible.

73, Don, WS4NC

Moment of Zen



Greetings from the Island of Bert