

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Newsletter



Volume 2002, Issue 1

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January, 2002

December seems to be a slow Club and ham news time. I read this article last year on eham.com and the story it tells reminds me of my early years as a SWL'er. Yes I had a ham license but there was always something about listening to short wave broadcast that thrilled me. Listening to mysterious and strange parts of the world was fascinating in a way that is hard to relate. When this article was posted on eham it rang a bell with me that resonated for months. Recently I searched out the article (it was a little hard to find again) and tried to contact the author for permission to reprint but couldn't find him. I hope he doesn't mind. (de Don, WB4KQN)

You have been listening to . . .

Dan Cox (KD6NXI) on October 19, 2001

' . . . The BBC World Service. Tune in next week at the following frequencies . . .' Of all the times I have spent listening to shortwave, no sign or announcement stands clearer in my memory than variations of the phrase, 'Good evening, you are listening to the B - B - C (slight pause) World Service'. The ethereal sound of a distant station straining to be heard on my Hallicrafters S-53A was a mystical experience indeed.

As you hear a station that is so weak in signal strength it produces that strange phasing sound where the voice sounds as though it truly is coming from the great beyond, far outside your bedroom or small town. Hearing the station fade in and out, and perhaps drift up or down the band while your tubes warmed up, was all part of the experience. You try to keep your hand steady and stay with the signal - but if you are just a bit too cold and your hands might shake, or the dial cord too loose, you might lose it in an instant. If you were fortunate enough to have a bandspread control for selectivity, you might be able to get rid of some of the heterodynes that were inevitably generated while stations on adjacent frequencies competed with one another for your attention. Or, you might be listening to your favorite broadcast and a loud pop would suddenly be heard and the radio would go nearly dead. In your moment of panic you tap the first detector/oscillator tube in your set just lightly enough to prevent the heated elements from shorting against one another. With another mighty pop your station rolls back in again and you feel thankful that you've gotten the mysterious forces of shortwave to accommodate you once again on that cold winter's night.

Con't top of Pg. 2

Amateur Radio Exams

Amateur Radio exams are given at the American Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC (Beside WXII-TV), first Saturday of each month at 9:00 A.M. by the W4VEC VEC Group. For more information see the W4VEC VEC website at: www.w4vec.com or contact Rick Batte', N4MBI at n4mbi@ols.net or 336-924-1881. Be sure to bring two forms of ID, one being a photo ID, your SSN, original license, photo copy of your present amateur license, and any CSCE's. Also you need to bring your FRN which is required by the FCC. This can be obtained from the CORES database, or you can refer to the letter that you received or will receive from the FCC.

Annual Dinner Night



Our December meeting is always our annual awards dinner. This year there was much to celebrate. Under Woody's able leadership the Club has grown in many ways. Our membership has grown, ARES activity is up, the contesters have continued to improve, the treasury is in the best shape in years, we've had two great field days, the Hamfest has done well, our relationship with the Red Cross has improved, we are now sponsoring the NC QSO party and on and on. It's not that Woody did all these things, there was lots of help, but the results are the evidence of his great leadership. John Kippe has a tough act to follow.

And there was the Ham of the Year, **Carl Brown, N4PAA**. Carl is one guy that can always be counted on to be there when needed. He does his job, does it well but hangs in the background. Don't think it's gone unnoticed!

And not to go unnoticed **N4VHK** was surprised with the #1 FARC Worldwide Contester Award for his leadership of the contesting wing of the Club. It has been a great year!

Photos by Paul, KG4LDB.

Club Meeting - Monday, Jan. 14, 2001

We will meet, as usual at 7:00 PM, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 610 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM but come early, say, 7-ish, to 'hob-nob' with your fellow hams. The program hasn't confirmed by Newsletter deadline but Tim has a backup in case. Either one is going to be a great program so don't miss it.

Hunched over your rig with the lid propped up just enough to utilize some of that excess heat for your own comfort, and soothing your slightly singed finger, you begin to relax once again and let your mind drift off to somewhere perhaps more interesting or exciting than where you are. No longer fenced in or shut out from the world, you are free to explore through transmissions emanating from all continents, some in languages you don't even understand, but that doesn't matter. You've made your personal link to the far reaches of the planet through modest means and are relishing your accomplishment, forgetting all of the day's troubles. Tuning across the 41 meter band you think you hear the familiar tune of Yankee Doodle Dandy. Not sure if you are correct you try to find it again. Suddenly you've hit it right on and then it comes full bore through your speaker, that patriotic old tune rising out of the mists of radio, followed by 'This ... is..... Voice...of...America,,, Signing Off!' and the music comes roaring back in with a final series of drum rolls. A brief period of silence is heard as the music stops and then a healthy THUNK is heard as that big 500KW plate modulated AM transmitter goes off the air and the static rolls in like a huge wave into your set, seeming as though it had been kept at bay all this time by the might of VOA, almost fearful not to intrude.

But of all the most eerie or otherwise thought provoking transmissions I have ever found, was one that I encountered late at night somewhere around 8 MHz. I heard two operators, one calling itself 'drumbeat' the other one I can't recall. 'Drumbeat this is X do you copy over', repeated several times. Then, 'This is Drumbeat I copy over, 'Drumbeat, begin firing sequence'. Miscellaneous checks are then read off and responded to, similar to the sequence on board the B-52 in the cold war satire film Doctor Strangelove, and just when it seems that the test of whatever it is will begin, I hear 'This is only a drill, DO NOT initiate, I repeat DO NOT initiate'. The details are foggy but I recall much lingo that most certainly was related to the launching of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. I was on the edge of my chair as I almost expected to hear, 'This is Drumbeat, was that Initiate or Not Initiate OVER!?'

You can view comments about this article on www.wwham.com

*Good listening and keep your tubes warm,
KD6NXI*

Cool Web Sites

For more information on the Warbler Build-A-Long: While quite a few members said they wanted to build the Warbler no one has sent in the money for it. Several of us are going to go ahead and build it, anyway. If you want to join along it's \$45 including postage. <http://www.njqrp.org/warbler/index.html>

Now Chill out! I'm not pushing pirate radio! But my theme this month is SWL'ing. I ran across this url in some newsgroups. If you've ever tuned below 7 MHz you're likely to hear some strange stuff. This is the favorite haunt of the unlicensed pirate broadcasters. The regulatory people shuts them down rather regularly. Quite a few operate in Great Britain. This website is from a guy who actively searches them out, records them, and posts the audio on the web. And he gets QSL cards from them!

<http://piratestuff.topcities.com/>

Con't next column

Cool Web Sites Continued

This isn't exactly a web site but it might make some interesting listening. I thought that the mysterious numbers stations had gone away with the cold war, but apparently they are still around according to this tidbit I picked out of the newsgroups:

"1/3/2002 20:14 Radio Bob This has been heard this past week. Cuban Spy Numbers station, Enigma ID V21 on the frequency of 6529khz, USB late afternoons and early evenings e.s.t. OM or YL SINGING the numbers. Heard them myself here in Ga. Strong signal. Unique "format" of singing the numbers. Curious and funny? Thanks to Spy numbers officiado Chris Smolinski of Md. For this tip."

It's the 21st Century! Get with it!

See what you've been missing if you haven't been on the FARC list-server:

I recently sent out a message for a beta-test of sending the Newsletter on line as an Adobe pdf file. I pointed out that you might get a message that read : *Acrobat Reader - Error Reading linearized hint data*, and what to do to correct that. I don't know what that meant but I did find out what to do to fix it. The responses were like this:

David Griffith wrote:

Why don't you linearize your data when you make the pdf file?

A possibly(?) helpful suggestion to which N4IOZ replied:

I tried to linearize the data. First, I had to put network cards that have a thin-ethernet output in a couple of computers , and I made up a couple of BNC-to-PL259 cables so I could hook it up to the SB220 I borrowed from Henry. It all worked OK until I tried to transfer the file through the linear. I now have two piles of charred metal. I'm sticking to QRP from now on.

And then these helpful comments by Tim:

Tom, I think I know the problem..... You can't use the BNC-to-PL259 adapters....you have to change out the connectors on the SB-220 to match those of the ethernet card....

David Griffith:

Whoops Tom! I think you must have been using a Class B Linear - needs to be Class C.

Dale Miersch:

Dave, I think you got it! Yea, Class C will work better than Class B or even Class A1. If all else fails, Yep, I guess He can run a "loop-back" test (several times of course hi hi) to make sure the data is linearized. What do ya think?? 73, Dale

See the intelligent banter you've been missing! Join. It's easy. To join, just send an email to subscribe-w4nc@yahoo.com . That's all that is necessary, no subject, nothing in the body of the message. To send an email to everyone on the list server just send an email to w4nc@yahoo.com . In minutes (usually) it shows up in the mail boxes of all those who've signed up.

Newsletter on-line

And speaking of the Newsletter on-line (it's about-ready-for-prime-time) coming soon will be the FARC Newsletter on-line for *current* club members. Old Newsletters (at least 4 months old) will be archived and may be available on line for all to read. You will need

Con't next page

the Adobe Acrobat reader which is free on line. Of course, to email a newsletter I'll need to have your current email address which brings me to...

What's the back page all about?

If you haven't renewed your dues yet this year well now is your opportunity. I've included all the Club database information that I have on file for you on the back page. Please check it over for any corrections and updates and mail it back in. There's even an addressed envelope for your convenience. Now I can guarantee that I've made mistakes somewhere. Probably lots of somewhere's. Please don't shoot anyone (especially me). If there is a mistake just let me know and I'll correct it. I would really like to have a fully up-to-date database by February sometime since a club roster will be published shortly thereafter. Note that there are a few new newsletter options. Since I can soon start mailing the newsletter by email I will do that on request. You can still receive a mailed copy if you like, but you'll get the email version earlier since I can send that out as soon as I'm done editing and before it's even printed. I'll change your mail code from 'Y' which just means that you've paid your dues and get a mailing, to either 'E' for email only or 'EY' for both. Several other mail codes are 'H' for Honorary for League Officials, special supporters of the Club and such; 'N' for no mailing (several club members have different addresses for different times of the year; 'C' for complementary, generally for someone who has shown a interest in the Club but hasn't joined yet, they usually get about a 3-month subscription; 'L' for eLapsed which means that your dues aren't paid up. The biggest recurring expense we have is for postage. Right now we are mailing 200 copies a month (more at certain times of the year) which is \$68. And yes, we tried Bulk mail. Deadlines had to be about 6 weeks ahead and still some members received their newsletters late or not at all. And it is a VERY big headache to process.

Minutes

The monthly board meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC) was held at Cobalt's Eat and Drink on Monday, December 17, 2001. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President John Kippe N0KTY. Attendance was 10.

Old business:

The club secretary will henceforth check the club's telephone answering machine routinely and direct the inquiries as appropriate.

The Silent Key and QSL plaques are in need of upgrade and will be attended to forthwith. Any expenses involved were pre-approved by consensus of the board.

An offer to purchase FARC's antenna was denied, by consensus, due to price.

Purchase of a new refuse receptacle for the club shack was approved by consensus.

New business:

Paul Jordan KG4LDB was nominated for Skywarn president by N0KTY...the motion was seconded by Woody Kinney KD4PLQ and approved.

Con't next column

Upgrades to the club website (www.w4nc.org) were proposed by Henry Heidtman N4VHK. In an effort to make it more professional, the banners (ads) can be removed. This costs \$6/month and requires a club credit card. The cost and card were approved by unanimous consensus of the board and the treasurer will open the account in the club's name.

Don Edwards and N4VHK brought to issue the topic of estate liquidations being handled by the club. This is a very time consuming endeavour and all in attendance agreed there should be some type of format with regard to such liquidations... discussions will continue at future meetings.

Treasury Report:

The treasurer was absent, but the treasury remains in good standing.

Technical Report:

Both machines continue to function well. Upgrades to 145.47 are pending over the next several weeks, and the selective receive feature is enabled.

Comments and Announcements:

Robert KG4NEP thanked the club for use of their contest callsign and earned 131,440 points during the contest.

Field day is the last full weekend in June.

The meeting was motioned to adjourn by N0KTY at 9:20 pm.

*Submitted for approval,
Dan O'Leary KG4ECI, Secretary*

Stuff for Sale

1. US **Tower** "Ham Radio Tower", Model MA-550 Crank-up Tubular Tower, Max Height: 55', 3 sections, plus 10ft. extension with rotor mount. All Hardware, Manuals, instructions, Good condition. *Asking \$500.00*
2. *Hy-gain* by Telex...**Ham-IV** 120vac 50/60Hz Rotor, Meter/controller, and cable. *Asking \$175.00*
3. Cushcraft, World Ranger **Rotatable Dipole** D3 10,15, 20 meter antenna with Balun and 100ft. Coaxial cable. *Asking \$70.00*

*For more Info. Call 336-595-3134, Paul Rice
price@anacomp.com*

Mosley PRO 67-C-3 HF Multi band Yagi

It's sold! It will be taken down in March and the buyer will pick it up then. Why did we sell it? Concern has been growing about the loading we have on the Red Cross tower. This antenna is built like a tank but that means it is heavy. It was picked because of the WARC bands capability, and also because of Mosley's reputation for building very strong antennas. At a board meeting earlier this year it was decided to replace the antenna with a much lighter Force-12 40-10 beam, but to wait until after hurricane season because we might need the station. And we don't lose capability on the WARC bands because the Force-12 works on those too, although a little differently..

*73, Henry, N4VHK
Winston-Salem, NC*

How do you 'Tuna' transmitter?

I don't know how he wrangled it, but Ken Hogland, KG4FGC, managed to get his hands on the original Tuna Tin transmitter that was built by Doug Demaw, W1FB, and was featured in QST. The recovery of the original transmitter was covered in the March, 2000 copy of QST. Ken and friends operated the 'Tuna' on Straight Key Night, which is held at 0000 GTC Jan 1 for 24 hours every year. Way to go Ken!



The original TT2 on the air at W1AW with W1RFI at the key.
Photo N1RL & ARRL

Hamfest Calender



Courtesy of ARRL & SERA Repeater Journal

2 Feb 2002 Charleston ARS, North Charleston, SC
<http://www.qsl.net/wa4usn/index.html>
Email: brycemyers@aol.com

10 Feb 2002 Virginia State Convention, Richmond, VA
Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society
<http://www.frostfest.com>
Email: w4pw@arrl.net

24 Feb 2002 Briarpatch & Foothills ARCS, Elkin, NC
Email: kg4fla@hotmail.com

3 Mar 2002 Vienna Wireless Society, Annandale, VA
<http://winterfest.home.att.net>
Email: w4jtp@aol.com

9-10 Mar 2002 Mecklenburg ARS, Charlotte, NC
<http://www.w4bfb.org>
Email: hamfest@w4bfb.org

16 Mar 2002 Charleston Area Hamfest & Computer Show, Charleston, WV
Email: k8wmx@juno.com

24 Mar 2002 Down East Hamfest Association, Kinston, NC
Email: jeanhd@icomnet.com

14 Apr 2002 North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh, NC
Raleigh ARS
<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>
Email: k4hf@arrl.net

20 Apr 2002 Catawba Valley Hamfest Committee, Morganton, NC
<http://cvhamfest.linuxham.org>
Email: kc4qpr@vistatech.net

20 Apr 2002 Chesapeake AR Service, Chesapeake, VA
<http://www.qsl.net/cars>
Email: ruthis23505@yahoo.com

2 Jun 2002 Ole Virginia Hams ARC, Manassas, VA
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>
Email: n4yic@arrl.net

27 Jul 2002 Western Carolina ARS, Waynesville, NC
<http://wcars.org/hamfest/index.htm>
Email: wa4ola@arrl.net

24 Aug 2002 West Virginia State Convention, Weston, WV
West Virginia State AR Council
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc>
Email: ka8zgy@arrl.net

Contest Stuff

Contest Calendar

January, 2002:

AGB NYSB Contest	0000Z - 0100Z, Jan 1
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest	0800Z - 1100Z, Jan 1
AGCW QRP Winter Contest	1500Z, Jan 5 - 1500Z, Jan 6
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 5 - 2400Z, Jan 6
Japan Int. DX Contest 160-40m	2200Z, Jan 11 - 2200Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z - 2000Z, Jan 12
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 12 - 0600Z, Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0530Z - 0730Z, Jan 13
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0800Z - 1000Z, Jan 13
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z - 1400Z, Jan 13
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z - 1059Z, Jan 13
LZ Open Contest, CW	1200Z - 2000Z, Jan 19
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 19 - 2359Z, Jan 20
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 19 - 0600Z, Jan 20
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 19 - 0400Z, Jan 21
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 25 - 1600Z, Jan 27
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 26 - 1800Z, Jan 27
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 26 - 1200Z, Jan 27
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 26 - 1300Z, Jan 27
Kansas QSO Party	1800Z, Jan 26 - 1800Z, Jan 27

Worked All North Carolina Counties Award recipients:

CW: N4RS, Tom Pennebaker, Stoneville, NC.....#001
Mixed: KA2BOK, David Selbert, Henrietta, NY.....#001

*Ed Swiderski KU4BP
WANC Manager*

FCC Exam Report

This past session on January 5 we had 2 new Techs, 1 new General (who came from ground 0 all the way to General!), one who passed element 3 written and one new Extra. A very productive session.

73, Rick, N4MBI

Random Scuttlebutt, Rumors and Innuendo

The first Worked All North Carolina (WANC) county award for CW, sponsored by FARC and administered by Ed, KU4BP, was awarded to Tom, N4RS. Tom sent this note of appreciation:

The WANC award is pictured in the January issue of CQ. Thought this would be an appropriate way of showing my appreciation. Tnx to Ed KU4BP and the rest of the W4WS group for offering me the opportunity and giving me #1 all CW. Thank you all very much.
Tom N4RS

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, 610 Coliseum Dr., Winston-Salem, NC and also maintain two 2-meter repeaters, 146.64 (100 Hz tone) and 145.47 (100 Hz tone). For more information mail us at FARC, PO Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC 27116 or visit our web site at www.w4nc.org. Club email is to w4nc@triad.rr.com. Officers for 2002 are: **President: John Kippe, N0KTY**, 336-969-4461, fancie@alltel.net; **Vice-President: Tim King, KG4MQD**; **Secretary: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI**, 336-922-6579; **Treasurer: Don Donadio, KT4KV**, 336-724-5821, kt4kv@bellsouth.net. Newsletter comments (the rare good ones and the frequent bad ones) about the newsletter should go to Newsletter Editor: **Don Edwards, WB4KQN**, 336-413-3838, wb4kqn@triad.rr.com To join our list server send a blank email to w4nc-subscribe@yahoo.com. All content is Copyright 2000 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. 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.

PHOTO RESTORATION

Do you have precious photographs that are faded, damaged or deteriorating? Those photos can be copied, scratches and destroyed areas repaired. Black & white prints can be colorized. Copies printed on canvas or photo paper. The original photos are not harmed.

Don Edwards 336-413-3838



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Editor's Corner

WHAT! Only four pages this month? OK, five counting the back of your renewal form. Well, don't blame me, blame the post office. I'm trying to keep us below the one ounce limit so we stay at \$0.34. This month will have a card and envelope for dues renewal purposes, so that raises the weight. Our average monthly mailing is 200 pieces, but this month I'm mailing to quite a few Club members who have not reviewed their dues for a year or more. This month will be about 300 mailings.

And speaking of dues, yes it's that time again. Dues are \$24 per year, \$12 for over 65 or in school. More than one ham in the family? \$6 more makes them all official club members, provided there is only one mailing.

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 edwardd@rjrt.com 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.

Late Breaking News Department

There was an historic opportunity to hear a Canadian spark-gap transmitter on 80 meters on December 13. This was on a frequency that is almost always quiet but every moron in the country decided to hold a QSO on the frequency that night. I hope that Riley was listening. Regardless I'm fairly sure I heard it at the beginning and VE3BBN confirmed a Wake Forest station as having heard it. I drove over the N4VHK's to get a better listen but by then the frequency was covered with morons. Really, really sad.

de Don, WB4KQN

NC QSO Party!

Sponsored this year by FARC! Will be held 1700 UTC February 24 through 0300 UTC February 25. Please check www.w4nc.org for rules and details. Henry, N4VHK is doing the legwork. We would like to have every NC county on the air. Also W4NC at the Red Cross and W4WS will be operating as special bonus points. At www.w4nc.org/active.html there is a map of each county that we know will be activated. Even if you can't operate from home, come out and help us operate at W4NC or W4WS. It will be great to be on the *receiving* end of a pile up.