

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Newsletter



Volume 2002, Issue 3

Founded December 30, 1930

March, 2002

Wayne Williams, K4MOB, SK

WILLIAMS

COLFAX - Mr. Wayne Crosby Williams Sr. "K4MOB", 65, of 600 Lakedale Road died Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2002, at his home. Mr. Williams was born March 14, 1936, in Rocky Mount, Va., a son of the late James Thomas and Jacqueline Evans Williams and was a U.S. Navy veteran. Mr. Williams grew up and was educated in Pittsylvania County, Va., and was a graduate of the Danville Technical Institute. He worked in the production area with the Winston-Salem Journal newspaper for many years and was a dedicated ham radio operator for almost 50 years, assisting mainly with public services, and was a broadcasting engineer. He was preceded in death by a son, Greg Maloy Williams. Surviving are his wife, Geraline Butts Williams of the home; two sons, Wayne Williams Jr. and his wife, Diane, and Christopher Allen Williams, all of Colfax; a brother, Michael Keith Williams of Danville, Va.; and four grandchildren. A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Hayworth-Miller-Cain Funeral Home Chapel, by the Rev. Chuck Peters. A graveside service will follow at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Highland Burial Park in Danville, Va. The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home and other times at the home.

by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

Wayne Crosby Williams, Sr., K4MOB, editor of the SouthEastern Repeater Association magazine "The SERA Repeater Journal", died at home early Tuesday morning, February 12, 2002, of complications from cancer. He was 65 years old. Wayne is survived by his wife Gerry, KB4SER, and two sons, Wayne Jr. and Chris. A third son, Greg, died in 2000.



Wayne's passion in Amateur Radio was FM and repeaters. He became active in SERA's predecessor, the Carolinas-Virginia Repeater Association (CVRA), in the early 70's, when two meter FM

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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 most months at 9:00 A.M. by the W4VEC VEC Group. For more information see the W4VEC VEC website at: www.w4vec.com or contract 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.

Stormy weather?

February meeting program highlights.



February was our bi-annual weather spotter training. We had a really great turnout, right around 100 people. Clockwise from top: 1) This picture was taken before it became standing room only. 2) Bill Boyes and WXII Chief Meteorologist Lanie Pope discuss SkyWarn and amateur radio. 3) Main presenter Forecaster George Lemmons from the Raleigh Weather Service. 4) Ruth Smith from the Raleigh Service. 5) Our new TV system in room 09 for the overflow crowd. 6) Introduction and opening remarks by Triad SkyWarn Coordinator Bill Boyes, KB1G

IMPORTANT! SPECIAL MEETING!

Club Meeting Monday, March 11, 2002

We will meet, as usual, on the 2nd Monday of the month at 610 Coliseum Drive in the Red Cross Building. This meeting starts at 7:30 PM sharp in Room 09, but come early, say, 7:00-ish, to 'hob-nob' with your fellow hams. This is a special meeting where the club will offer for sale a vast number of donated and other items at sealed-bid auctions. More details on page 4.

was just beginning its booming popularity. In 1977 he became the editor for the group's magazine, the Repeater Journal. The Journal was already a respectable 44 page booklet, with regional advertising from local dealers and hamfests, but over the next 23 years, Wayne built it into a real quarterly magazine, featuring full-color covers and both national and regional advertising. The heart of the Journal was the Repeater Index, a list of all repeaters in the eight SERA states, but the magazine also included news and feature articles, and regular columns from correspondents in each state.

The story of the growth of FM and repeaters in Amateur Radio is a remarkable one. Hams "discovered" the mode in the late 1960's. In the 70's band plans were developed and frequency coordinating bodies were formed that lead to the kind of organized effort that repeaters demanded to prevent interference and chaos. Wayne Williams chronicled that development from its earliest days to the present, and helped SERA grow into one of the nations largest, most effective coordination bodies.

Continued next column

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).

FARC has a general membership meeting with a program on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Red Cross building, 610 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The club conducts its main business 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 clubs 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.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,
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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. *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.

In parallel with his SERA activity, Wayne also established Williams Radio. He started the business by amassing a huge inventory of crystals. In that pre-synthesizer era, two meter FM radios required a pair of crystals for each frequency used. Williams was one of the few "instant" sources of crystals for almost every frequency, and for almost every radio. Other crystal sources made hams wait days or weeks before they got the crystals needed to operate a new radio. Soon, the business added accessories and several lines of radios. It was a family affair, with Wayne's wife, brother and sons pitching in at hamfests across the region. Wayne "retired" from Williams Radio in 1997.

In 1999, Wayne was diagnosed with cancer. In late 2000, he described the experience in an editorial titled "Superman Got Shot Down," in which he warned readers not to ignore symptoms the way he did. By that time, several surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatments had eradicated the cancer. But the experience left Wayne feeling mortal, and he realized that he was putting SERA and the Repeater Journal, his pride and joy, at risk. The Repeater Journal had many contributors, but the job of editing and publishing fell to Wayne alone.

Who could keep the Journal going, matching Wayne's quality and maybe even adding a touch or two? Wayne watched the next lower tier of ham radio journalism, club newsletters. In early 2000, he was impressed by an editor who was turning out a newsletter with good graphics and content. The newsletter was the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society "Exciter", and I was that editor. I was familiar with graphics professionally, and I had been writing articles for the Exciter, and a column for the Repeater Journal, for several years. I had hoped to edit the Exciter for a long time, but when Wayne explained the situation, I agreed to step up to the Journal.

During 2001, Wayne began teaching me the details of the Repeater Journal. I produced a few pages for the August issue, and about a quarter of the November issue. During that time, Wayne received more bad news. The cancer had returned. The doctor couldn't operate again - Wayne hadn't fully healed from the first round of surgery. Chemotherapy kept the cancer at bay, but there was an unspoken feeling that we may now be racing the clock.

Continued next page



PIANO TUNING

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The plan called for me to assume the title of editor and produce the February, 2002, book myself, though Wayne prepared most of the advertising. Wayne planned to keep handling advertising for the next year or two. It took a lot more work to produce the magazine than I expected, but by late January it was finished, and headed to the printer. About that time, Wayne began feeling worse, and went to see his doctor. He got the news everyone was dreading. The cancer had spread, and was inoperable. The doctor predicted that Wayne had days, maybe weeks... but not a month... to live.



At the June, 2000 Winston-Salem Hamfest Wayne was presented the FARC 1999 Distinguished Service Award not only for his support of FARC over the years but also in recognition of his years of service to ham radio through SERA.

The issue I produced was designed to be a tribute to Wayne's 23 years as Editor and prime motivator in SERA. The cover featured a "passing the torch" picture of the two of us examining film negatives (it was the first and only time Wayne appeared on a cover). That picture was surrounded by small reproductions of some of the many issues Wayne created over the years, along with a plaque honoring his service that SERA had presented to him a few weeks earlier. Inside were testimonials written by SERA officers spanning the organizations 30 years. As the magazine was completed, I realized that it could become a memorial more than a tribute, although articles inside said that Wayne was planning on continuing to work with SERA in a more behind-the-scenes role.

When the first two "proof" copies came off the press, the printer rushed them to Wayne's house personally to make sure Wayne had a chance to see them before it was

too late. That effort was only a little premature. Wayne lived another two weeks. He died as the magazine was in the mail to several thousand SERA members.

In his last weeks, Wayne maintained a remarkably positive attitude. He accepted his fate, and, while family, friends and his SERA colleagues prayed for a miracle, he said he had already received one. He had the time to take care of his affairs, spend time with his family and say goodbye to his many friends. The doctor stopped the

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chemotherapy that could now only slow the disease slightly, and concentrated on pain relief. Though Wayne grew weaker each day, he was able to sit up and visit with company, take phone calls, and continue to advise me on the Journal, up to the end.

We will miss him.

by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

Gary graciously permitted FARC to reproduce his eulogy to Wayne from the SERA web site. Wayne was more than a member of FARC, he was a special friend. Wayne had mentioned to me in late 2001 that his cancer had returned, but the off-hand way he brought it up did not lead me to believe that it was untreatable. He and I chatted over the phone and by email five or six times in December and January and not once did he mention the severity of his illness, even when asked. While it was convenient to have Wayne as a nearby ham dealer I was glad to see Wayne leave the ham radio business because the stress of dealing with the fiercely competitive and difficult ham marketplace was telling on him. At heart Wayne always was a true southern gentleman and was a credit to the ham community as a businessman, as the editor of SERA Journal and as a ham. Other people can and will assume the jobs that he did, but Wayne was irreplaceable.

de Don, WB4KQN

The North Carolina QSO Party-A Success!

By Henry Heidmann, N4VHK

The NC QSO Party was held on Sunday, February 24, 2002 under the new sponsorship of The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. The weather was perfect, and the turn out couldn't be better. At this writing, we already have 9 logs submitted, with 84 counties activated (79 were activated last year for all 39 logs submitted!), with 14 states, 2 VE provinces, and 5 DX stations participating! The W4NC and W4WS bonus stations were in full swing, with Chris KG4CZU and Don WB4KQN holding down W4NC on SSB, Gene WB4MSG and Tim KG4MQD working CW, and Henry N4VHK working 18 counties SSB mobile and running CW from the Kiva. Tom N4IOZ took advantage of the good weather and traveled to the mountains to activate 5 mountain counties including Avery, Madison, McDowell, Yancey and Mitchell. We look forward to getting all the logs checked and mailing out some handsome plaques and certificates to the top scorers. We are hoping to have all 100 counties active. We'll let you know when all the dust settles. Needless to say, the NC QSO Party has become one of the more interesting QSO parties with over a dozen mobile operators from 3 states pounding out hundreds of qsos while driving a combined 3000+ miles in 10 hours. Congrats to all participants!

NC QSO Party Soapbox

Tom Pennebaker, N4RS: Here is the list of counties I put out....

EDGEcombe, MARTIN, BEAUFORT, HYDE, DARE, TYRRELL, WASHINGTON, BERTIE, CHOWAN, PERQUIMANS, PASQUOTANK, CAMDEN, CURRITUCK, CAMDEN, PASQUOTANK, GATES, HERTFORD, NORTHAMPTON, HALIFAX....In this order, ALL CW.....775 Miles..Tom N4RS

Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ: First, let me begin by saying (for the benefit of the non-FARC/W4WS folks who subscribe here) that my operations in the 2002 NC QSO Party contest was "not for credit." As a member of FARC, I am not able to compete (according to the rules) in this contest. That aside, I had a great time. Got to play radio, which can be fun. The method of operation was this:

Primary objective was to "activate" Avery County, NC for this contest. Past contest submissions have shown that Avery has not been available for contact by NCQP participants in the past few years, and one of the objectives of the contest director (at W4WS) was to get as near to 100% activation of NC for this contest. Operation from Avery was with a (barefoot) Kenwood TS-50 into a dipole up 20 feet--- on top of a rock about 4200' AMSL. This seemed to work pretty well. Activation from McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey, and (and here's a rare one) Madison counties was into a hamstick on top of my Chevy Astro Mini Van. Since I only got the cheap 1-magnet mount, operation while in motion was not possible. Since mountain roads are winding and hilly, operation while in motion was not prudent, either. In case you were wondering, the magnet really does have remarkable holding power to the roof of a vehicle, as was demonstrated once when I forgot to dismount the antenna before moving. Unfortunately, the holding power of the magnet to the base of the antenna is not as great.

So, for the benefit of those who want to see how they might have fared, here are my observations, broken into three categories: (1)counties I worked, (2)counties activated by me (N4IOZ), and then counties that I heard being worked (although I wasn't too diligent in keeping track of that last group). What this means is that these counties COULD have been worked for credit, had your VFO and propagation coincided to make it possible.

AVERY², ALAMANCE¹, ANSON¹, BEAUFORT³, BURKE¹, CAMDEN¹, CATAWBA¹, CHATHAM¹, CHEROKEE¹, DAVIDSON³, DURHAM¹, EDGECOMB¹, FORSYTH¹, GRAHAM¹, GRANVILLE¹, HENDERSON¹, HOKE¹, HYDE³, JACKSON¹, JOHNSON¹, MADISON², MCDOWELL², MECKLENBURG¹, MITCHELL², NEWHANOVER¹, PERQUIMANS¹, PITT¹, RANDOLPH¹, ROBESON¹, ROWAN¹, SURRY¹, UNION¹, WAKE¹, WARREN¹, WATAUGA¹, WILKES¹, YANCEY²

*73 and good luck next year!, Tom, N4IOZ
Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC
W-S Contest Crew, W4WS*

The March Meeting- A chance to purchase some great gear!

The March meeting of the FARC will be a bit different from our regular meetings. In the past year, the club has been the recipient of many pieces of ham gear donated by local hams, or given to us by family members of silent keys. The equipment comes from the estate of Joseph Merritt N9LOS, the estate of Hat Hatfield K4CCZ, and Harold Williams WA4VPA, a local ham who is no longer active in ham radio and items recently donated by Norm Byerly, N4ANE.

At the last board meeting, all the equipment was put out on tables and we decided what the club would keep to update the club shack and our repeaters. The remaining equipment will be offered for sale at the March meeting. The prices for the equipment will be significantly lower than market value, and the pieces not purchased then will be taken to upcoming hamfests or sold on E-Bay. There is test equipment, several HF rigs, power supplies, parts, collectibles, antennas, 2M rigs, handhelds, the list goes on and on.

The doors will open to inspect the equipment at 6:30pm. The Board has decided to make this a silent bid auction. Each item will be labeled with a minimum price. If you are interested in it, you will write down your highest offer for the piece of gear, put your name down, and seal it in an envelope provided. At 8:30PM, the envelopes will be unsealed and the highest bidder will get the item for \$5 over the second highest bid. In the event of a tie, the tied bidders will go head to head until someone wins the bidding. Cash and checks will be accepted, but only club members can write checks for security reasons. Be prepared to remove the equipment at the end of the night, as we have NO ROOM to store this gear. We hope that this method will be the best way to get our club members some good equipment at a fair price while helping the club financially.

The following list represents only a portion of what will be available for sale that night:

- Kenwood TS690SAT HF/6 Transceiver, with PS-53 Power supply, matching speaker, works perfect, clean cosmetically, nice package \$550
- Kenwood TS930, 250 Hz CW filter, 7of 10 cosmetically, built in power supply (no autotuner), works great, \$390
- Kenwood R-2000 General coverage receiver, \$75
- Kenwood MC-60 desk mic, \$50
- Icom IC2A 2m mobile rig, works FB, - \$45
- Rockwell Collins KWM-380 HF Transceiver w/ blower kit, Collins SM280 desk mic, all service bulletins, repair receipts, tested works FB, Clean and 9+ of 10 condition- \$2990
- HL32V 144 Mhz RF amplifier- \$20
- Telex Ham3 antenna rotator and control box- \$95
- Telex CD-44 rotor control box, 8 wire - like new, \$60
- JPS NF-60 notch filter console- \$25
- Nye-Viking WM-V Matchbox- original box/manual- \$300
- Santec HT1200 2m Handheld transceiver w/hand mic- tested, working- \$25
- Collins 312B Station console- Clean, original manuals (2), \$300
- B&W TR switch model 593check, classic, rare, \$50
- B&W Coax switch- 4 position, \$20
- Uniden 14 channel #2000check Scanner, \$25
- High Mt. Labs antenna balun, untested, \$20
- Instructograph code machine with 10 tapes, museum piece, \$25
- Bud Code oscillator, very good condition, works, \$15
- (2) Realistic 3 channel TR-99 CB walkie-talkies, untested, \$10/pr.
- (2) Eimac 4CX-1500 Transmit tubes- good, used, \$80 each
- Diawa #CS401 coax switch. 3 to 1, new in box- \$25
- Clegg 12v power supply model 31, 10 amp supply, \$25
- 100' Belden 3277check coaxial cable, 75 ohm, NIB, \$25
- 100' Belden 3287 coaxial cable, 50 ohm RG8, NIB, \$25
- 4 boxes various vacuum tubes, \$40
- ...and much, much, MUCH more!

The sale is open to all so be sure to invite anyone you think might be interested in acquiring some great ham gear while helping the club. Prepare for an exciting night!



Yes, due to requests FARC now accepts advertising in the newsletter. If you would like to help support the newsletter, please contact Don Edwards (email: wb4kqn@triad.rr.com). Ad deadlines are 3 days before the end of the month. Rates for a space this size are \$20 for 3 months (minimum), \$30 for 6 months, and \$50 for 12 months.

Trouble - Right here in River City-

by Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK

As I am sitting here in the shack writing these notes for the newsletter, I am embroiled in a very frustrating situation in my neighborhood. It seems that a CB'er down the block has put up a nice new 5 element beam on a 30' tower and is running so much illegal power that it is getting into everyone's telephones, computer speakers and TV's. I have had to run to the computer each night for the last week to unplug the speakers because of the completely insensitive, rude and foul-mouthed language filling my dining room- with my 3 children in the room. Based on his language, he does not seem to be the kind of person who would be interested in having a civil conversation with me or my neighbors.

I have begun steps to report his illegal operation to Riley Hollingsworth, including transcripts, RF measurements, and tape recordings of the incidents. Hopefully, he will get the message soon enough. My nearby neighbors thought it might have something to do with my towers, but I explained that I got rid of my roger beep in 11th grade. For you techies, this guy's modulation is so distorted and his illegal amp is running so poorly that it would make a RF tech cry. I would venture, based on my RF readings, that he is running well over 500 watts on 27.217 MHz AM. But so much for my problem, here's the interesting part.

So I'm sitting here typing, my dog is sitting in his chair, and I hear something that sounds like an animal crawling around in the shack. The dog is barking, and I'm waiting for some wild squirrel or mouse to run across the room. I slowly begin lifting up boxes, shielding my face in the event of a face-to-face meeting with this rogue visitor to my shack, when I hear it scurrying again. I then find the culprit under the baby stroller. Its my son's radio-controlled monster truck. I pick it up, turn it over, and lo and behold, the frequency it operates on? 27.170Mhz.

I turn on my TS 850, dial up the "loudmouth" channel on 27.217 and notice that with every word he utters, the truck moves. This guy is 5 blocks away, and making the toys run in my shack. This has got to stop. I'll be sure to update you on the story in the next newsletter.

(Editor's note: I too have a 'Loud-n-boomer' in my neighborhood, actually several of them. They get into the cable system and tear-up several channels. If I put up any noticeable ham antenna I'm sure I will get the blame. Maybe we should have a 'search-and-destroy' mission to document as many of these guys as possible and notify the FCC.)

Club Shack Update

By the time this newsletter gets out, we will have already taken down the Mosley PRO-67 off the club tower and started assembling the Force 12

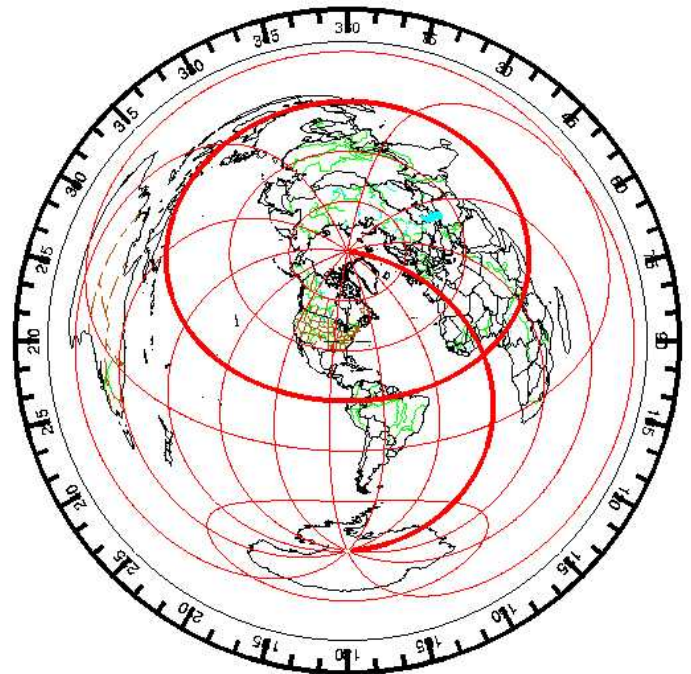
C4XL. We will be raising the new antenna on Saturday, March 16th around 9am, weather permitting. Come on out and be a part of the fun- even if you just bring coffee and watch. It should be fun, and we're excited about having this new antenna as part of our club station. The buyer of the Mosley will be picking it up on the same day. We'll also be putting up a Cushcraft vertical, running and dressing coax, and tightening the guy wires. A little maintenance sure goes a long way, and we don't have work days too often, so try to come by and help.

Cool Web Sites

Want a ham radio related map? Try this web site. WM7D has spent considerable effort on this program. Be prepared to take some time to look over all the options - which are considerable.

[Http://www.wm7d.net/azproj.shtml](http://www.wm7d.net/azproj.shtml)

The great circle map I made shows the world centered on W4NC. It obviously loses a lot of resolution by being reproduced here in much smaller form. The original was 11X17 and in color.



FARC Meeting Minutes

Monthly Membership Meeting:


The monthly club meeting of the FARC was held at the Red Cross building at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 11, 2002.

Program: This was the bi-annual weather training meeting. The meeting was held in room 109 due to the expected crowd. House Chairman Van Key, KC4WSK provided most excellent cookies and drinks for munchies. Henry, N4VHK had the new A/V equipment set up to "beam" the program downstairs to the room 09 overflow area. Since this was a large group and a long meeting no other business was conducted.

Business Meeting:

The monthly business meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club was held at the Red Cross building on Monday, February 18th, 2002. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Continued next page



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Minutes, continued from Page 5

Old business:

The format of the meeting was a work session. The board spent much of the meeting "cleaning out" the club shack of its superfluous and space consuming collection of old parts, containers, et cetera.

New business:

In addition to old items, the board spent the evening sorting equipment recently donated to the club. In order to facilitate the disposition of these items, and aging club equipment, a motion (1st WB4KQN, 2nd Paul Jordan) was made for the following:

-To offer for sealed bid auction, at the next club meeting, all donated items and selected shack equipment except those items needed for club shack and repeater use/upgrade. (N4VHK will determine minimum bids.)

- To allocate those funds, upon receipt, for the following:
- Upgrade club shack with computer HF rig (TS-2000)
- Upgrade/repair 145.47, 440, and 146.64 machines in that order
- To poll club members at the next club meeting for final spending decisions.

Treasury Report: The treasury remains in good standing.

Technical Report: WB9SZL reports both machines in good working order and proposed numerous upgrades, as well as putting our 440 machine "on the air".

The meeting was motioned to adjourn by N0KTY at 9:30 PM.

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

ARES



At this time the STOKES COUNTY ARES NET (SCAN) is now on 145.470 MHZ repeater each Thursday at 8:00 PM local time. At the present time (SCAN) has nine members. We are hoping to increase in membership soon. I, Harry as EC STOKES COUNTY do thank all stations for their support. Also TNX to the (FARC) for the use of the 145.470 as our primary repeater, also TNX to the (TARA) for the use of the 146.790 T107.2 as BACK/UP.

73 KF4OZF, Harry (SCAN) EC

SkyWarn Training in Raleigh

For those who missed the bi-annual weather training and would still like to get their training certificate the training will be offered in Raleigh, March 28 at 7:30 PM at the McKimmon Center on Western Blvd. near NCSU.

RSVP REQUESTED! Each person who is planning to attend the meeting, should send an e-mail to: N4NC@ARRL.NET, with a Subject of: Spotter Update, giving three things in the text:

1. Yourlast name,
2. Firstname, and
3. One of the following: Amateur callsign OR the public service agency you represent (e.g., Fire, Police, EMT, etc.). Multiple persons may use the same e-mail to save time provided the information is given.

PLEASE: This e-mail is vital as the date approaches, since the McKimmon Center staff will try to fit us into the most suitable room available. That will reduce our cost!!!

Caution: It is possible that the attendance may be considerable. Therefore,

parking space may become a problem. Carpooling is advised wherever you can.

Talk-in directions on the 146.88 Repeater.

*73, Herb, W3HL
Cary ARC
InfoManag@aol.com*

Hamfest Calender



9-10 Mar 2002 Mecklenburg ARS, Charlotte, NC

This is a 'super-biggie' and it, along with Shelby over Labor Day, are both events not to miss!

<http://www.w4bfb.org>

Email: hamfest@w4bfb.org

16 Mar 2002 Charleston 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 NC State Convention Raleigh, NC, Raleigh ARS

<http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

Email: ac4zo@arrl.net

20 Apr 2002 Catawba Valley Hamfest Committee Morganton, NC

<http://cvhamfest.linuxham.>

Email: kc4qpr@vistatech.net

20 Apr 2002 Chesapeake AR Service Chesapeake, VA

<http://www.qsl.net/cars>

E mail: ruthis23505@yahoo.com

27 Apr 2002 Salkehatchie ARS Windsor, SC

<http://www.qsl.net/kf4cvo>

Email: af4qz@arrl.net

4 May 2002 Blue Ridge ARS Spartanburg, SC

<http://www.brars.org>

Email: w4rgw@arrl.net

2 Jun 2002 Ole Virginia Hams ARC Manassas, VA

<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams> Email: n4yic@arrl.net

8 Jun 2002 Forsyth ARC Winston-Salem, NC

<Http://www.w4nc.org>

Email: pj735@bellsouth.net

ARRL Public Service Forum

ARRL Public Service Forum will be at 2:00 PM, March 9, 2002 at the Charlotte Hamfest. Hope to see you there!

At <http://www.arrl.org/sections/NC.html> you will find the new Section News pages on ARRLweb. To get us started, there is a copy of the Section News column submitted for January and February 2002 QST. I'll be posting other information from time to time as well. Don't forget that we also have the North Carolina ARRL web site, <http://www.ncarrl.org>, which has lots more information.

*73, John Covington, W4CC
ARRL NC Section Manager*

Would you like to become a member of FARC? It's easy! Dues are \$24/year (\$12/year for over 65 & students) prorated to end in December, i.e. in April dues would be \$16 (\$8 for over 65 and students). Feel free to drop into any meeting, we'd love to have you. Second Monday of every month at the Red Cross, 610 Coliseum Dr. Or email w4nc@triad.rr.com for more details.

Tech News this month:

- * 146.64 NCBH repeater status
- * 145.47 Sauratown Mt repeater status
- * Autopatch news
- * "Repeater Tips"
- * For our New HAM's
- * Murphy's Law "Quote of the month"
- * What's new?
- * FARC Tech Notes 2002-01
- * FARC repeater "user" commands

February 2002 has been another good month for the FARC repeaters.

146.64 NCBH system:

The North Carolina Baptist Hospital (NCBH) repeater has been operating well. Temperature inversions have been minimal. Our sister machines in Hendersonville, NC on 146.64 MHz have been heard occasionally in the early morning hours, and Raleigh, NC has not been heard since their new tower has been installed. Discussions have taken place with our Hendersonville partners concerning the same 100 HZ PL assignment. PL changes will be made to minimize future interference.

145.47 System:

The Sauratown mountain repeater has been operating well. However, it has been necessary to operate the repeater in a PL mode, exclusively, to minimize interference.

Repeater Updates:

- Normal monthly configuration updates were performed to maintain both repeater systems.
- Please remember to reset the "325" PL Inhibit when using on the .47 machine. Onsite interference has "falsed" the 325 timer into thinking an active QSO is still in progress and the PL has not automatically reset.

For our new and out-of the-area HAMS:

(1) The 146.64 MHz and 145.47 MHz machines are configured with a PL-Defeat. The PL-Defeat can be useful for members that don't have a PL encoder installed, or for Hams passing through the area. The PL-defeat can be enabled by properly identifying and issuing a DTMF 325. The repeater will respond with an "OK-UP", and the PL will be disabled for a 10-minute period.

(2) Note: At the end of the 10-minute period the repeater will automatically reset itself to a PL-Mode. However, considerable noise on the mountain has prevented the automatic Reset back to PL Mode. If you use the 325 function, please manually reset the repeater to PL mode at the end of your QSO. Simply enter 325 again and the repeater will respond with "OK-DOWN".

Continued next column

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

Aliens From Outer Space

In 1996, the U.S. docked a space shuttle at the Russian Mir space station, and as part of the *routine* operation, exchanged some crew members, bringing two Russian cosmonauts back to earth. After the Shuttle was in orbit, some bureaucrat realized there might be a problem: neither of the Russian cosmonauts had passports and visas for their arrival in the United States where the Shuttle would be landing. The solution to this immigration and diplomatic faux pas was for Congress to pass emergency federal legislation exempting "aliens from outer space" from passport requirements. When you realize your tax money is paying people to sit around and worry about this bureaucratic silliness, it kind'a gives you a warm & fuzzy about paying your taxes.

(3) How do I know if the 146.64 machines PL is enabled?

When the 146.64 machine PL is enabled. The repeater ID will say "PL 100Hz" and will give a CW "PL" on occasional squelch tails. When the 146.64 machine is in carrier mode (COS), the PL id's will be absent from the ID and the squelch tails.

The same PL id's and squelch tails will be implemented on the 145.47 machine in the future.

Autopatch News:

Attention All FARC Members!!:

**There are still a number of
UNIDENTIFIED AUTOPATCH
TRANSMISSIONS
taking place on the 146.64 MHz machine.**

This is an unacceptable practice, and one that is outside of the FCC rules. Please help us monitor and do your part to politely educate these Autopatch users in the proper process of identifying their transmissions.

Please note that if the unauthorized Autopatch transmissions continue, violators may lose their Autopatch privileges and phone numbers will be blocked in the repeater. If you have questions, please contact the FARC Technical committee.

* SpeedDials Changes since last month:

-New Users: None Changes: None

-Note: Any FARC member desiring a "SpeedDial" number assignment or number change. Please contact WB9SZL via email or telephone.

- Updated SpeedDial lists are updated twice a year and are available for distribution in the FARC club shack.

Mar 2002 Autopatch Report: Calls Made

| Autopatch Type | Dec 2001 | Jan 2002 | Feb 2002 | 2002 YTD |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Manual: | 83 | 42 | 126 | 168 |
| Speeddial: | 31 | 2 | 13 | 15 |
| Emergency: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 114 | 44 | 139 | 183 |

Repeater Tips:

- Recommend programming your rigs to transmit the FARC 100 HZ PL tone at all times. This way you will always be able to access FARC repeaters.
- Members having a PL-Decode capability can also utilize this feature to minimize interference from "sister repeaters" operating on the same frequency. This feature is available on the 145.47 machine.
- Recommend that you secure your mobile mic, between QSO's on a mic clip. This will prevent the accidental keying/jamming of the repeaters; in the event the Mic gets "stuck" between the bucket seats of your vehicle.

Murphy's Law Quote of the Month:

"Any wire cut to length is always too short"

Tech. Report is continued on the next page

What's New?

- Still awaiting replacement crystals for the new 145.47 receiver. Unfortunately the newly received Crystals are defective, and have been sent back to the manufacturer for replacement.
- The 145.47 and 146.64 repeater will be visits have been postponed new parts orders are received and equipment can be upgraded.
- A visit to the Elkin hamfest, yielded the procurement of additional equipment for the 145.47 machine. Watch upcoming new letters for proposed repeater upgrades.
- A new Digital New Signal-Report capability has been working well on the 145.47 machine. Feel free to try this function, to test that quality of your signal into the repeater. Please see details in the FARC TechNote: Feb 02-1.

Plans continue to develop additional functions on the FARC repeaters. Watch for announcements in upcoming newsletters

73, Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL
 FARC Tech Committee Chairman
 Email: wb9szl@triad.rr.com
 1-336-766-9675

FCC Exam Report

We've had some very productive sessions this year. 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.

At the Elkin Hamfest:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Amateur Extra Class | 2 |
| General Class | 2 |
| Technician Class | 10 |
| Written Element 3(CSCE Only) | 1 |

Saturday, March 1:

We had a pretty good session with 7 people showing up. One was a renewal, but was way too early to renew. A couple did not pass their exams, however, we did end up with the following:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| General Class: | 2 |
| Amateur Extra Class: | 1 |

Please note there will not be an April session!

W4VEC VEC Testing Schedule for 2002- Winston-Salem, NC

| DATE/MONTH | LOCATION |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 02 March 2002 | Red Cross |
| April 2002 | No Testing |
| 04 May 2002 | Red Cross |
| June 2002 | Winston-Salem Hamfest ONLY |
| July 2002 | No Testing |
| 03 August 2002 | Red Cross |
| September 2002 | No Testing |
| 05 October 2002 | Red Cross |
| November 2002 | No Testing |
| 07 December 2002 | Red Cross |
| January 2003 | No Testing |
| February 2003 | Test Session at Elkin Hamfest ONLY. |

73, Rick, N4MBI

Seen at Elkin Hamfest



Here's a sample of what may be at the March meeting...



Before you ask
 the club is keeping the full
 Ten-Tec Omni rig with Amplifier!
 That's the club's new main rig.

Editor's Corner

Thanks to those who helped get out last month's newsletter. This was a much bigger job than usual and it had to be done in half the time planned. Thanks to Paul, Tom, Henry, Raymond and Dale (I hope I didn't leave anyone out - I wasn't in best form that night) you received a newsletter last month. Just to make matters worse I developed the flu and was feeling mighty low at the worst possible time. Plus I lost my voice for about three weeks. (Some claim that was a blessing!) After multiple doctor visits and innumerable prescriptions later - I still have some remaining symptoms as I write this.

WHAT! No color for page one! (Actually there are some color covers and I'll used them first for mailing.) Well there are two reasons. One, I'm running behind and the color is time intensive - not to mention expensive. And I'm trying to get as many people to move to the email version as possible, where you get full color. The writing of the Newsletter isn't bad. The printing isn't even too bad. The collating, stapling and folding push things a little. And stuffing, sealing and stamping the envelopes - now that's bad.

I'm running a little behind getting information in the database from all the renewals and the big mailing last month. If your information isn't up-to-date, don't worry. I'll have it all caught up by next month. And the email reflector on Yahoo didn't work right last month - and is more trouble than it's worth. I'm going to start direct emails from w4nc@triad.rr.com.

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.

73, Don, WB4KQN



Wayne is demonstrating one of his specialized pieces of test gear. This is a Gate-Dip-Meter, but only for the broadcast band for working on old radios. In the inset it is checking the tuning of a old BC radio.



Editor's Corner

Hi all! Another newsletter is now in the can. Whew! There was a lot to show-horn in this month. Thanks to all the contributors. This can't be done without help. If this is the first FARC newsletter you've received don't let it be your last! Join us. We'd love to have you.

One last bit: To the right is an excerpt from the Carolina DX Association newsletter. They are bragging on 'their' Ed, KU4BP. Well, they can't have him, he's ours. But we'll share, I guess, occasionally. Great job Ed!

'Til next month,

73, Don
WB4KQN

Tech. Report, continued from Page 4

ARES Continued

W4RDG , continued from Page 2

Continued next column

Cool Web Sites continued:

Tech. Report continued

W4RDG , continued from Page 1

Odds and Ends:

Continued on Page 6

Norm Byerly, N4ANE, very graciously donated a large load of goodies for sale at the Club Table at the Hamfest in June. Thanks Norm! *Minutes, continued from Page 5*

Construction article! Henry, N4VHK, has been building a little 40 or 80 meter transceiver which will be featured in an upcoming newsletter. We might even have a circuit board available.

Andy Pitts, WA4GIC - SK. There is a memorial site at www.rbdc.com. Comments are welcomed from those who knew Andy. *Glass Doobies, continued*

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