



Newsletter



Volume 2003, Issue 7

Founded December 30, 1930

Summer, 2003

A Tale of Two Hamfests

It was the best of lemonade; it was the worst of lemons. This is not a tale of two cities, but a tale of two hamfests.

One is any of a number of the past few years of warm June sunshine at the Winston Hamfest. And the other is the worst possible scenario for our Hamfest - continuous rain. That's what we had this year. But this year Providence smiled on us and forced us to move to the Home and Garden building. A scheduling problem at the fair grounds gave us this blessing at the same cost we were scheduled to pay for the food-booth area. A number of bigger dealers have stayed away because we can't offer an indoor environment. And we have had some concern about what would happen if it rained.

Putting on the Hamfest is not a zero cost affair. If no one shows, it is still going to clean out our treasury. We depend on the hamfest to clear about \$1000 every year. The worst case is not only not getting that kilo-buck, but also still costing about \$3 kilo-bucks to run. It would be ruinous financially. If we hadn't had the building this year we would have had that worst case. But fortunately for us, Providence smiled down on us (and not on the people who forced us out of our usual area). I thought it was a touch brazen that they come over to check out "our" building for "our" date next year while we were cleaning up.

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A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY!

Henry Heidtmann celebrated his 40th birthday in July. Usually he holds his own birthday party but he tried to hide this year. After allowing him to think his friends forgot it, or worse, didn't care, we trashed him after the July FARC meeting. This rare photo, censured for nearly 40 years, was unearthed by the Newsletter using the Freedom of Information act. The photo shows Henry III shortly after his birth. It is amazing what plastic surgery can do. Sadly though, it really didn't do all that much for Henry.

!FIELD DAY!

2003 W4NC Field Day Leinbach Park

Field Day was held at Leinbach Park again this year and a great time was had by all. This is the first year where the Club has owned equipment that is packed and ready to go without pulling equipment out of the shack. The only big item to move is the generator. The antennas are always a fun thing to put up but with Van's (KC4WSK) "Potato Blaster" even that is not hard. We had a great cookout on Saturday afternoon. Even John Covington, W4CC, from the ARRL came by.

Those participating (Jeeze, I hope I didn't miss anyone) were: AC4YN, AG4RZ, KB4JO, KC4WSK, KD4VED, KE4JHJ, KF4ILN, KF4PLQ, KG4ECI, KG4JWU, KG4NEP, KG4UGZ, KT4KV, N0KTY, N4PAA, W2DZO, W4DCW, W4UW, WB4MSG, WB4VHC, WB4WDN, WB9SZL, WS4NC, WX1NCC



Amateur Radio Licensing Class

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC) is pleased and proud to announce it's 2003 FALL LICENSING CLASS for people interested in obtaining their first Amateur Radio Operator's License. No Morse code knowledge is required to obtain this license, and the course is open to students of any age. The class will be held the weekend of November 22-23 at the American Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC. More details are on page 3.

Club Meeting, Monday, October 13, 2003

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. A great program is planned on PIC controllers - see the details on page 2. A new slate of officers will be presented by the nominating committee for 2004. President: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ; VP Don Edwards, WS4NC; Treasurer: Don Donadio, KT4KV; Secretary: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI. Elections will be in November (or December if there are nominations from the floor).

October Meeting Program:

David C. Szakelyhidi Jr., a BioSystems Engineer at Triad Semiconductor will put on a practical demonstration and discussion of PIC microcontrollers. Dave has done some very interesting work with a biomedical device. This device uses a PIC microcontroller. I heard him speak at the IEEE meeting here at WFUHS this week. David will speak to us for 20 to 30 minutes.

Background: PIC microcontrollers are used extensively in Amateur Radio homebrew projects. Essentially, the PIC is a single chip that has a computer processor, a small amount of RAM, and some EEPROM to store code in. There are often other built-in features such as A/D conversion, audio processing, etc. Basically, it's an entire, very small, computer on a single chip that you can program to do whatever you want. No operating system, per se. These can be used to replace many analog parts in a homebrew project and shrink the size of your project and make it reconfigurable.

Continued at the top of 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, 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 2002 are:

President: Raja Chatterjee, KB6MTH
336-922-9801
kb6mth@arrl.net

Vice-President: Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP
336-414-4864
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Secretary: Dan O'Leary, KG4ECI
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336-724-5821
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Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC
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To join our list server send a blank email to
w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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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.

Possible PIC Projects: (i.e. what you can make)

frequency counter, modem, fox hunting transceiver, voltmeter, LCD serial terminal, dialing alarm, 50MHz microwattmeter, morse keyer, packet radio monitor, battery monitor, 10M balloon beacon, DVM, beacon keyer with telemetry, synthesized signal generator, sine/noise/pulse sweep generator, UTC Superclock, rotor controller, 40 mW AM/CW QRP rig, RC car controller/xcvr, infrared remote control, and much much more.

Websites:

<http://www.rentron.com/Myke3.htm> (a nice tutorial)

<http://www.microchip.com> (company website, they sell the PIC)

<http://members.optushome.com.au/vk3biz/micro.html> (a list of projects)

73's de KB6MTH (Raja)

Get Building!

November: Homebrew "Show & Tell"

November is going to be here before you know it. What are you bringing to Homebrew "Show & tell"? There are a number of kits available for a few dollars that are a marvel. John Covington made his pass through as many NC field Days events as he could and FARC was his number 7. He had with him his recently completed Rockmite "Altoids" transceiver. This kit is only about \$30 and actually makes a great single band CW rig. Another great kit is an 80 meter "Warbler". Add an antenna and a computer and you have a complete 80-meter PSK rig that will work well out to several hundred miles. If you haven't planned something for our homebrew contest those are a couple of ideas to at least get you thinking



W4CC and his very cute Altoids transceiver at W4NC Field Day.

It really is a contest this year. There will be quality prizes (like the door prizes) this year for the top three entries. Voting will be by the club members present at the November meeting. I'm hearing that there really is some interest "building" (pun intended). In past years we've had everything from homebrew microphones to commercial kits. The only rule is that it needs to be related to ham radio and you will need to make a short presentation about it. And, yes you can bring more than one item. As a matter of fact, it's encouraged!



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New Ham Training Class

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC) is pleased and proud to announce it's 2003 FALL LICENSING CLASS for people interested in obtaining their first Amateur Radio Operator's License. No Morse code knowledge is required to obtain this license, and the course is open to students of any age.

The class will be held the weekend of November 22-23 at the American Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC. Check-in will be from 8-9 AM Saturday, with class running 9-4 and 7-9 Saturday, 1-5 Sunday. Students should plan to attend all sessions.

Registration will officially open at the regular October meeting of FARC on Monday, October 13 at 7:00 PM at the Red Cross Chapter House and close at the next meeting on November 10. The registration fee for the course is \$15 and includes the textbook and the license examination fee.

For more information call (336) 416-6542 (8AM-8PM), write to HamClass, c/o Tom Gallagher, PO Box 12175, Winston-Salem, NC 27117-2175, or email hamclass@triad.rr.com by November 7.

Nets

There are a number of nets that go on every day. It's said that if there are three hams anywhere there will be at least two nets. But there are several that are really important locally. I'm starting a list of all the nets I'm told about locally and I'll run the list most months in the Newsletter, space permitting. This month, in order by frequency. Please send additions/corrections to w4ws@arrl.net. AM/PM = local time.

3.567	M-Sun	7:45	PM	Fourth Region Net (NTS)
3.567	M-Sun	9:30	PM	Fourth Region Net (NTS)
3.573	M-Sun	7:00	PM	NC/SC Net Section Emergency Traffic Net
3.573	M-Sun	10:00	PM	Carolinas NTS Traffic Net
3.695	M-Sun	8:00	PM	Carolinas Slow NTS Traffic Net
3.923	M-Sun	6:30	PM	NC Evening NTS Net. Section-Wide Emergency Net
3.927	M-Sun	7:45	AM	NC Morning NTS Net. Section-Wide Emergency Net
3.938	M-Sun	7:30	PM	NC SSB Net. Emergency Traffic
3.923	M-Sun	7:30	PM	Tar Heel Section-wide Emergency Net.
3.940	M	0300	UTC	SATERN
7.232	M-Sun	7:30	PM	Tar Heel Section-wide Emergency Net.
7.238	Continuous			Mobile Emergency and County Hunter's Net
7.245	M-Sun	1230	UTC	Navy Amateur Radio Club
7.250	Sat	1700	UTC	SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emerg. Net)
7.265	Sat	1630	UTC	SATERN
7.243	M-Sun	1:45	PM	Fourth Region Net (NTS)
7.243	M-Sun	3:30	PM	Fourth Region Net (NTS)
7.240	M-Sat	10:00	AM	Service net for weather/travel info
14.0565	Continuous			Mobile Emergency and County Hunter's Net.
14.336	Continuous			Mobile Emergency and County Hunter's Net.
14.325	As needed			Hurricane Watch net
14.265	M-F	1400	UTC	SATERN
28.337	Mon	100	UTC	Grit net
28.364	Wed	8:30	PM	Raleigh ARS HF Net
50.170	4thTues	1:30	UTC	Six Meter World-Wide DX Net
50.250	Tues	8:00	PM	K4IRT Lexington SC
50.150	Wed	9:00	PM	Wheeling West Va
50.200	Thurs	8:00	PM	KJ4RB Pink Hill NC
50.400	Fri	9:00	PM	W4KCS Lynchburg VA
50.200	Sat	8:00	AM	KD4MYE Wake Forest NC
50.213	Sat	9:00	PM	Charleston SC
53.01	Sat	9:00	PM	Lexington VA
144.220	Sun	8:30	PM	N1GMV Zebulon NC
144.230	Mon	9:00	PM	Tidewater VA
145.35-				Piedmont Emergency Training Net Emergency Traffic
146.94	M-Sun	9:00	PM	Metrolina Emergency Traffic Net
147.255	Tues	8:30	PM	Triad SkyWarn
146.82-	M-Sun	9:30	PM	Central North Carolina Traffic Net (NTS)
145.47-(100)	Thu	8:30	PM	Forsyth County ARES Net
147.15+	1st Fri	8:00	PM	Grit Net-ARES Western NC



PIANO TUNING

Paul V. Jordan
KG4LDB

381 Westoak Trail
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
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Minutes

August Club Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club was held Monday, August 11, 2003 at the Red Cross chapter house on Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by Secretary Dan O'Leary KG4ECI.

The meeting was conducted by Henry Heidtmann W2DZO; and was opened with introductions of those present. A coinciding Skywarn spotter training session affected attendance.

Program: W2DZO gave a presentation on Echolink- Amateur Radio linked via the internet; followed by a video highlighting the interference to Amateur Radio caused by Broadband over Power Line.

Treasury: The FARC remains fiscally sound.

Announcements: The Club recently liquidated several surplus equipment items.

Silent Key: It is with sadness we note the passing of Harold Garrison W4RNU.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33.

*Respectfully submitted for approval,
Dan O'Leary KG4ECI
F.A.R.C. Secretary, 2001, 2002, 2003*

Congrats to various Club Members

Congrats to Melissa:

I recently received this email from Melissa: After 15 and a half months of unemployment and under employment I was offered and accepted a full time job with the W-S Journal. September 15 I will go to work on the Features Desk at the Journal. I am looking forward to this exciting new chapter in my life. If you have things you want in the Journal, let me know. That's what I'll be doing.

Thanks for all your support and good thoughts.

Melissa, KG4VED

W4WS 8th in US in CQWW

We were, for the first time, a BOLD call sign in the report, We even had our QRM published.... We were 8th US (of 64 teams) & 2nd in 4 land (of 9 teams)! Mark your calendars- October 24-25, 2003.

73, Henry, W2DZO

been extremely valuable to the Section.

Danny has provided equipment and countless hours of his time to creating and maintaining Amateur Radio repeater networks in the state of North Carolina during the last thirty years. This is important to ARES and NTS because repeaters provide a substantial portion of our disaster and public service communications capability.

Danny set up a pair of repeaters in the Raleigh area in the 1970s as a personal project. The repeaters became very popular and the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network was formed to support this network. Today PCRN consists of over 30 independently-owned repeaters linked together using a linking system designed by Danny. His knowledge of the broadcast and two-way radio industry has helped others setting up repeaters also. As a result we have excellent coverage even in rural areas.

Danny is also the North Carolina Director of the SouthEastern Repeater Association, and has been involved in the Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance communications project.

I'm pleased that someone in our section has won this prestigious national award. Those of you that know him know this award is well-deserved.

*ARRL North Carolina Section Manager
John M. C Covington, W4CC
W4cc@arrl.org*

Editor's Corner

Sorry I've been a little slack on the Newsletters lately. I had more than a few problems so ham radio has taken a back seat. Hopefully I'll be able to keep up in the future. And maybe even get the "Atlas" of club members published by the end of the year. That's pronounced "At-Last".

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, WB4KQN

A Tale of Two Hamfests, Continued from page 1

Regardless of the rain and even though attendance was down, we had a great event. The dealers who were there went away very pleased. We had several dealers who were selling high dollar items like older Collins gear, who told us that they did great. Chef Hank's food went over great. For the first time in many years we made breakfast biscuits and we all but sold out of those. Hot dogs and especially Bar-B-Que went well. The food booth is responsible for about half of our profit. All in all we fell about \$50 short of our goal, so this year has to be regarded as a stupendous success. Probably we will keep the building next year.

There was one dealer who decided to brave the rain in the grassy area. Our chairman decided if he wanted to brave it, he was welcome to it.



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Hamfests & Other Events

Friday, Oct 24 - Sunday, Oct 26 - CQ World Wide Contest. The "Super Bowl" of ham radio. Great way to quickly get DXCC even if you don't contest.

Saturday, Oct 25, 2003 Clarksville, TN 8 AM - 2 PM, Clarksville Fairgrounds 48/13, VE Testing, Forums, Camping and Door Prizes, Talk-In Frequency: 147.39+, PL Tone 123.0, website: <http://www.qsl.net/kf4l>

Upcoming DX

Some of the countries scheduled over the next 6 months: 30/Sept/03 to 17/Oct/03: XZ7Z, Myanmar; 1/Oct/03 to 10/Oct/03: T88ZX, Palau; 11/Oct/03 to 26/Oct/03: BQ9P, Pratas Is.; 11/Oct/03 to 26/Oct/03: ZM8CW, Kermadec; April/2004(tentative) T33, Banaba Is.

Ed, KU4BP

The Newsletter Hamfest:

Hy-Gain TH6DXX "Thunderbird" 6 element beam. 4 elements on 10, 3 elements of 15 and 20. 24 foot boom. This beam has recently been refurbished and still works like a champ. With original installation and operating instructions. \$150 Dick Genaille, W4UW Tel 336 765-4697

IC-211 all-mode 2-meter transceiver, 10 Watts, has AC supply, runs off battery, cigarette lighter in car; mike and documentation included; 80 watt solid-state amp with built-in preamp; asking \$225.00. Icom IC-471A all-mode 25 Watt 430-450 Mhz transceiver, included mike and documentation; 100 watt solid-state amp with preamp and documentation; asking \$425.00. Ameco preamp, solid-state 1.8 - 54 Mhz; has built-in power supply, nice case; asking \$25.00. Wally Bernath, K4UAS, 158 Buckingham Rd., WS 336-725-0176

Rohn 45 Tower Section Wanted: Since I hope to get my tower up before spring it would be nice to have one additional tower section. Don Edwards, WS4NC, 336-413-3838

Towers For sale: Eighty feet in four twenty-foot sections of Rohn 6N tower. Four-foot face w/platform @ top section; step bolts on one leg! This tower is in very good condition! No rust. Used to hold up Doppler radar!!! Very strong!!! Could mount other tower such as Rohn in top section to increase height. Asking \$3,500.00, located in the W.S. Area. Selling for a friend: Eleven 10-foot sections of Rohn-25 & one eight-foot top sect. They are all nice and straight & the stubs look very good. They could use a coat of galvanizing. No heavy rust or pitting. He is asking \$40.00 per sect. or \$350.00 for all. The tower is located at my QTH and you are welcome to take a look if interested. I will deliver it within a 50 mile radius of Winston-Salem or you may P.U. Robert/KG4NEP 336-414-4864, kg4nep@earthlink.net

North Carolina ARRL Section News

Congratulations is in order for our Technical Coordinator, Danny Hampton, K4ITL of Raleigh. Danny is the recipient of the 2002 ARRL Technical Service Award, so designated by the ARRL Board of Directors during the July meeting.

His technical service has been outstanding. Danny has served as ARRL Technical Coordinator under two different Section Managers in the North Carolina Section. Danny's technical expertise has served us well during disasters, including locating backup repeater resources on short notice during the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd (1999). His advice in resolving RFI problems between repeaters and commercial services, and other technical matters, have

Continued at the top of next column