

Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

New Year!

Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

January, 2005



Winston-Salem Winter Hamfest

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005 (rain or shine)

THE SUMMIT SCHOOL PARKING LOT

2100 REYNOLDA ROAD, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

6AM-NOON COST: \$5

Go through your shop, shack, garage, basement, and pack any items you might want to sell/swap/give away- (try to keep it limited to some sort of electronics, computer or radio related item, antiques OK, but weapons or inappropriate items not allowed.)

Simply arrive after 6AM, pay your entrance fee and drive in. Drop the tailgate and sell-- or swap--- or buy--- or just talk! The coffee is free, and so are the stories. Come out on a cool winter morning and enjoy a simple meet. Bring your own tables and chairs. We hope you will join us for a hot cup of coffee and a fun, old fashioned event- Please pass the word on to anyone you think might be interested.

License Exams

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club continues to offer license exam sessions on the FIRST Saturday of EVERY month at the American Red Cross Chapter House, 690 Coliseum Drive, in Winston Salem. More details inside this Newsletter on page 2.

Calls Heard (@ the December Meeting)

I don't think anyone took attendance. But we had fun! And food! And now we know to avoid hitting deers with a Cadillac Escalade. If you don't know what I'm talking about, well, you should have been there.

November Homebrew Contest

Congratulations to Tim, KQ4RZ for his winning entries in the December Homebrew Show 'n Tell. Tim was awarded a copy of the new 2005 ARRL Handbook. If you haven't bought a handbook in a few years - this one is really worth it. It has had a major overhaul and is up-to-date with all kinds of good stuff. Hopefully some inspiration for Tim in 2005.



Tales From The Sand

■ A Reserve Navy MD's Accounts of His Time in the Kuwait AOR

News from Raja in Kuwait!

Raja has started a blog (that's a web-log for those that don't know - it's like a personal journal - but everyone can read it). It is called "Tales from the Sand" and is available at this address:

<http://desertmedicine.blog.com/>

It is great reading and a source of inspiration. Raja can also read comments (as can anyone else) that you leave on the site. While I can't publish it, I have Raja's real mail address for anyone who would like to send real, genuine mail or a package.

Club Meeting, Monday, January 10, 2005

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. This month the program will be about the Military Affiliated Radio Service aka MARS.

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 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 2005 are:

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

Vice-President: Melissa Hall, W4RXG
mhall@triad.rr.com

Secretary: Robert Whitaker, KG4NEP
kg4nep@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO
henry@summitschool.com

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 2005 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: ws4nc@arrl.net). 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.

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!



Who is this handsome young man? This is Dick Genaille, W4UW, on Kwajaline Island right after WWII. Dick presented a great program in October on Kwajaline Island and his career.

The Newsletter Hamfest:

House for Sale (with towers!):

934 Franklin Street 3br/2ba, with wired shop outside, patio, hot tub, remodeled kitchen & both baths 50' and 60' towers negotiable. \$149,500. Convenient downtown location in historic West Salem.

Henry, W2DZO 336-761-8223



If walls could talk! Lots of ham history happened here at 934 Franklin St. It will be missed by all who visited. But it can be yours and continue that fine ham tradition. The towers and antenna are negotiable along with a fine "kiva" for the ham equipment.

TOWERS & HARDLINE

Fifteen sections, total 150 feet with 12 inch face looks like Rohn BDx but is guyed tower. Very good shape no rust. Base section has flanges with 7/16-inch holes for J-bolts to mount. Top section has nice heavy plate with hole thru middle. Guy points are made into appropriate sections. I think it is a Trylon tower but I am not sure. Asking \$650.00. Rohn 25G: Four 10-foot sections. Good and straight. No rust. Seven 10-foot sections, good, straight, very lite surface rust. Two 10-foot sections damaged. Would make fine base section. One 8-foot top section, good condition Asking \$500.00.

Rohn 6N, three 20' sections 4-foot face. Very good condition. One 18-foot section. Had to be cut off for removal! Otherwise in excellent shape. Top section has a platform. You could mount other tower like 25-45G in top to extend height. This is a very strong (BIG!) tower. It was used for small doppler radar. Perfect for large array like 80m beam. Asking \$1,500.00.

I also have several pieces of hard line I have taken down. 7/8-inch, 1-1/4-inch and 1-5/8-inch diameter. It is in lengths over 200' some 275'. I also have the connectors. Every piece will be checked with the TDR before I sale it. Im looking to sell it, not get rich off of it. \$0.75-1.50 per foot by size.

I also have hardline connectors from \$20.00 - \$75.00 by size. If you should wonder why you should use hardline - just checkout the db loss per 100' compared to RG-213.

If you're interested you can reach me by e-mail or or call!! Delivery can be arranged within 50 miles or so. But pick-up is desired!

*KG4NEP, Robert L. Whitaker Jr.
336-997-6896
kg4nep@yahoo.com*

Hi, I am looking for a used hand held transceiver that works good. There may be someone in the club that is selling one.

Gail, 725-3499

Equipment for Sale: Ten-Tec 227 antenna tuner; Bird Wattmeter; MFJ 949C antenna tuner; Swan WM-1500 wattmeter; Ten-Tec keyer paddle; A&A 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; AEA PK-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; Butternut 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.

Val Valentine, K4JO, Heritage Woods, 3812 Forestgate Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27103 336-768-4469

Upcoming Hamfests

Jan. 8	Winston-Salem Firsfest swapmeet
Feb. 5	Charleston ARS
Feb TBD	Richmond, VA
March 6	Kinston, NC
March 12-13	Charlotte, NC
April 17	Raleigh
May 20-22	Dayton, Ohio
May 21	Williamston,
May 28*	Durham, NC
June 11	Winston-Salem, the BIG June Hamfest
June 25-26	Field Day

* Date is not confirmed. List is courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal.

ARES Net

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, N0KTY

Forsyth Emergency Coordinator

16 December ARES Report

Net started at 8:30 PM. Check-ins: 7 Stations were KI4FCP Jack, KF4EOD Mike, N0KTY John, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club Station, KF4PLQ Woody and N4PAA Carl. One Announcement - N0KTY John reminded us of the January 8th SwapFest to be held at the Summit School parking lot. No traffic. EC's session for the evening was on preparedness for winter storms. The skeptical weather forecast for this weekend was used as a reminder that storms do start happening this time of year, and to be ready for the consequences of them. Formal session ended at 8:43 PM - 13 minutes. Informal Session ended at 8:48 PM - 5 minutes.

Net control - N4PAA, Carl

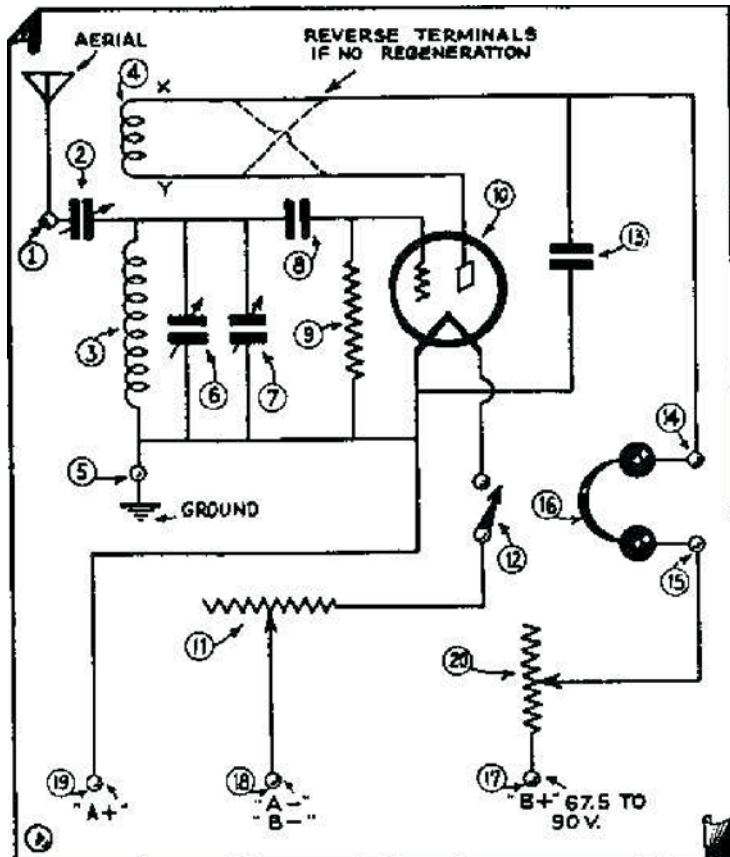
Hey! Go build something!

Every year in November we have had a homebrew Show'n-Tell. I can not understand why the entries are fewer and fewer each year. It is just as much fun to build stuff as it ever was. And the complaint about parts being hard to find? Bah! Even during the "heyday" of ham projects, the fifties and sixties, parts were both hard to find and expensive. Today the parts are ubiquitous, you just have to know where to look. And couldn't be cheaper.

See Homebrew, top of page 4

Now it is true that things are more complicated today with synthesizers and memories and all the glitz - but that's because we can do so much more cheaply and in a small space. A synthesized PLL radio was buildable in the 1940's - it just wasn't economical. And it would have filled a building.

But great things can still be done with simple stuff. The Yaesu 817 (and its competitors) let you talk the world with a few watts. Yes, it has a lot of features, but how many do you really use? At the heart is just a quality receiver (that could be simple) and a few watts of power.



A simple 1930-ish regenerative receiver. In 1930 prices the parts costs more than a few weeks groceries.

See the simple regenerative receiver shown above. To build such an item in the late 1920 and early 1930's was a considerable undertaking. Today you can scrounge the parts from the trash can. but if you bought them new, using today's parts, it could be done for less than \$10 if you have very little imagination. A lot of imagination would make it about \$0.

MPF-102 field-effect transistors cost about a quarter in small quantities, maybe less than a dime if purchased by the hundred. The MRF-102 will replace just about every tube used in low-signal work from the 1920's through the 1970's with only small circuit changes. Without a filament. There are other examples, the 2N3904 NPN transistors are only pennies each.

So why don't people build much anymore? This receiver about could be built out of household scrap with all the junked electronics around. So availability isn't it. And ordering new parts doesn't cost that much. So what is it? I guessing it's one of three things. One, that there is no fun in it anymore, the magic is gone. I don't believe that. Two, no one has time. We are all busy, but there is more to it than that. Three, lack of inspiration and ideas. Well I'm going to try to work on that this year. We'll start with this receiver next month and work our way on from there.

73, Don

Editor's Corner

First - blame me for the late mail delivery in December. I've changed to a new service for printing and mailing. It is actually cheaper than I can print and mail it myself, so I'm sticking with them for now. And I never have to touch paper! This is through a contractor for the Post Office. I just send them the pdf file and an address file and they do all the rest. My fault was believing them - they said they could get it in the mail on Wednesday before the dinner. It didn't get mailed until the Wednesday after the meeting. My bad. But now I know.

The deadline for getting something in the Newsletter is now the 4th Monday of the month. It will be emailed to the printer the next day. That should leave enough time to get it to your mail box the week before the Club meeting.

I've made a few changes in the Newsletter for 2005. One big change is that the Newsletter will be 6 pages minimum (3 sheets of paper). That's in order to mail it as a "booklet". Also I've cleaned-up my page layout a little. There are a few minor changes in the Masthead. But the biggest change is a larger font. It was tempting to make the font smaller and smaller until someone complained. No one ever did - until last month, Melissa, W4RXG said something about it. Before the smallest font was size 8 (and on occasion size 6). Now generally the smallest font will be size 10, and the regular text will be size 12. That should help those of us who need bifocals. Headlines go from size 14 to size 16. Sometimes I'll have to adjust the font size a little to "scrunch" things in.

For information to make it into the Newsletter, I need submissions no later than the morning of the 4th Monday of the month. 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

Renewal Time - 2005!

Yes - it's that wonderful time again - time to renew your FARC dues. This notice will be in all the January Newsletters. Sometime in January renewal cards will also be sent. So, avoid the rush and mail yours back today! If you received this by US Mail then your expiration date is listed on the other side of this page in your address just to the left of your call. If you do not want your phone numbers published in the club directory please put an X after the number. It's as easy as counting to 5!

1

Call: _____ Over 65? Y N

Name: _____ Call _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Home#: _____ ()

Work#: _____ ()

Cell#: _____ ()

Email: _____ ()

Member ARRL? Yes No

4

Main Members Dues	\$ _____
Over 65 or Student = \$12, Under 65 = \$24	
Family Members @ ½ Price	\$ _____
(\$6 or \$12)	
Donation	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

5

**Mail this page
along with a check to:**

**Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 11361
Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361
336-723-7388**

2 Do you want your Newsletter by:

email USMail Both
(Email saves us money! USMail is expensive!)

3

Other family members who are also hams can be full members of FARC for ½ the Main Members dues (covers 1 or more - same price) provided only on newsletter is mailed by USMAIL (email is OK).

Other family members who are hams:

#1. Call _____ Name _____
email _____

#2. Call _____ Name _____
email _____

#3. Call _____ Name _____
email _____



Don't let this be you! All this poor Ham did was forget to renew his FARC Dues.

Moment of Zen

Another interesting item that sold on eBay: “Here for your consideration is an authentic, antique ice card printed by Crystal Ice & Coal Co., which operated under various names in Winston-Salem, North Carolina from 1902 until the mid-1980s. Ice, of course, was a vital necessity for most households prior to the advent of the electric refrigerator. Ice was delivered to individual homes several times a week.

In addition to advertising, these cards served a very real purpose: they were hung on nails in windows or outside a door to signal the ice man what size block of ice to deliver, from 10 pounds up to an entire 300 pound block. This signal saved the ice man a trip to the door to take the order and speeded up his deliveries, no small consideration when an open bed truck was used to deliver a product that readily melted.”

Item number: 7102268874 sold for \$5.00: “Ice cards were widely used throughout the United States, but since they were cardboard they are rarely found in good shape. Crystal's cards are a little unusual in that they are printed on a coated paper (feels almost like a thin wax coating)



An antique ice card from Winston-Salem's Crystal Ice and Coal Company. Note the holes over the numbers for hanging on a nail and the “quaint” phone numbers.