



# Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

June, 2006

## Results of The 2006

### NC QSO Party

By all estimations, this year's NCQP has to be considered the best ever-with 117 logs entered (another 20% jump) and 98 of 100 counties accounted for. Activity was up in all 8 major categories, and several all time high scores were eclipsed. The sun truly shone on North Carolina, as weather played no part in dampening this party. Operators



FARC-VP Melissa Hall, W4RXG presents John Covington, W4CC his plaque at the Dayton Hamfest.

from all 50 states and 22 DX countries tried their hand at working over 35 North Carolina stations (8 of them mobiles who logged a little over 3000 q's in total!) on CW and SSB, with most contacts taking place on the 40 or 80 meter bands. That's a lot of activity in only 10 hours. The soapbox on the web page shows how much support there is for this QSO party, and the FARC is so grateful for that support. We also would like to thank our participating mobile stations who do such a great job to bring people from all over the globe to this event year after year. As always if you have any ideas to make our party better, please do contact us and we'll take a look at your suggestions. All plaques will be available for pickup at the Dayton Hamvention fleamarket spot #3320. If you are a plaque winner and you will be unable to attend, drop us an email and we'll ship your plaque. (Or you can make arrangements to pick it up at our June Hamfest, June 10, 2006 at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds Home and Garden building in Winston-Salem, NC- a shameless promotional plug.) Certificates will be mailed shortly after the Dayton Hamvention.

**SINGLE OPERATOR - IN STATE:** Russ AK4GY from Cabarrus County is our instate plaque winner with close to 300 q's with Alan AA4FU coming in second from Wake County. Richard K4DJ finished 3rd from Catawba on the other side of the state. Of note is how these 3 operators slammed the 40 meter CW band for the majority of their points, and were within seven thousand points of each other. Adam KD4MCA wins the instate multiplier plaque for his 58 counties worked from Ashe County. It's nice to see that whether you're in the east, central or western part of the state, you can be successful in this event.

The instate QRP award goes to former NC section manager John Covington W4CC who logged 134 q's from Mecklenberg County. Roy WA4DOU of Nash County was the 2nd place finisher with 111 contacts and Kevin KI4DEF took 3rd place from Beaufort County. As expected, CW was the mode of choice in the QRP category.

**OUT OF STATE:** John K4BAI from Georgia captured the Out of State category by working 73 NC counties (John takes the out of state mult award as well), edging out 2nd place finisher Norm VE3NBJ (Ontario) and 3rd place op James K4AMC from Tennessee. A look at the score grid shows that all 3 of these operators worked a steady stream of CW and SSB on both 80 and 40 meters. This also proved to be the tightest race with all 3 scores within 3600 points of each other.

Paul W8TM from Ohio is this year's out of state QRP winner. Paul worked exclusively on 40 meter CW and picked up 57 NC counties to lead the pack followed by Brian NA4BW from GA and Tom K3TW from MD.

**MOBILE OPERATIONS - IN STATE:** Our QSO Party prides itself on the operation of our mobiles, and this year was no exception. This year's plaque goes to Jeff NY4N who was jumped the state line from Tennessee for several years to compete in the NCQP. Jeff made

*Continued on the next page*



On the left Adam KD4MCA receives the instate multiple plaque at the Dayton Hamfest from WS4NC. Adam has just changed his call to WK4P. On the right John K4BAI is presented with the winning plaque for the Out-Of-State category by Henry, W2DZO. John worked 73 NC counties.

# HAMFEST! SATURDAY, JUNE 10

## Club Meeting, Monday June 12, 2006

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.

**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](http://www.w4nc.com). Club email is to [w4nc@triad.rr.com](mailto:w4nc@triad.rr.com).

Officers for 2006 are:

President: Don Edwards, WS4NC  
[ws4nc@arrl.net](mailto:ws4nc@arrl.net)

Vice-President: Melissa Hall, W4RXG  
[mhall@triad.rr.com](mailto:mhall@triad.rr.com)

Secretary: Megan Hardy, KI4KNM  
[medik286@yahoo.com](mailto:medik286@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO  
[henry@summitschool.com](mailto:henry@summitschool.com)

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC  
[ws4nc@arrl.net](mailto:ws4nc@arrl.net)

**To join our list server send a blank email to  
[w4nc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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.

## 2006 NC QSO Party

617 q's to take the #1 slot, with Tom N4RS taking 2nd place. Harold W9HB was the 3rd place operator. One interesting note is that all 3 top finishers this year were from out of state (TN, MO and IL).

**MOBILE - OUT OF STATE:** This year we saw 5 station competing for the out of state mobile category, but Jerry N4JF from Alabama takes the 1st place plaque for 2006 by working 84 NC stations in 49 different counties. Don K4PK from VA grabbed 2nd place and Michael W5JBV from FL wins 3rd place overall.

**CLUB COMPETITION:** The Carolina DX Association operated W4DXA from the marvelous Discovery Place HF station in Charlotte and gets the repeat victory in the instate club category, with the Brightleaf ARC from Pitt County gets 2nd place and the Randolph ARC picks up 3rd place. The out of state category continues to be dominated by the Cornerstone ARC in Florida- they'll need to put up another wall for another NCQP plaque! Thanks to all our clubs, both in and out of NC for opening their club doors and participating in the NCQP. It is a great opportunity to get some new HF ops in the air! A special thanks to station NI4BK who operated from the USS North Carolina and made a lot of people happy by putting their special event on.

**FORSYTHARC COMPETITION:** The rules of our QSO party state that members of the FARC can only compete in the FARC category, but both operators deserve special mention. Ron AA4S/M made an astounding 763 contacts and 134,216 points in the mobile category, with fellow club member Ben K4GHS piling up 316 q's and almost 72,000 points in the Single operator column. Thanks to both of them. Also, we'd like to thank the many members of the FARC who helped man our 2 bonus stations for the 10 hour event. They include Robert KG4NEP, Don WS4NC, Raja KB6MTH, John N0KTY, Dan KG4ECI, Kelley K3AEB, Austin KI4KNM, Megan KI4KNS, Terry KC8OEX, Woody KF4PLQ and David N5WNB. We also appreciate the check logs from NI4BK, N1NN, and HA7UG.

We'll see you at the FARC hamfest on June 10, or on the air!

*Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO*  
*NCQP chair*

The full NCQSO Party results are available at:  
<http://www.w4nc.com/ncqpreresults.html>

There were so many they wouldn't fit into the Newsletter this year! -Editor



**ALINCO** Radios  
**APP** Anderson Power Products  
**IMA ANTENNAS**  
**Radio & Electronics, LLC** Jamestown, NC  
**CommScope** Coax/Cable  
**OPEIK**  
**www.dbjre.com**  
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404 Edwards Place  
Jamestown, NC 27282  
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"For all your radio, cable & accessory needs" **secure credit card transaction**

# SHORT CIRCUITS

## WA4LRE Tower Donation

Clyde Rakes, WA4LRE graciously donated his old Rohn-45 tower to FARC. This tower was originally the tower used by the Greensboro AT&T group. The tower was in need of some repair after standing in its current location since 1979. Clyde is going to be installing a shorter tower soon. Clyde's tower, along with the Rohn-45 sections owned by WS4NC, will be reinstalled as a 125-foot tower at the W4WS contest site at Robert's KG4NEP for the 20-meter stacks.

## Cobalt's Closes

The restaurant Cobalt's closed its doors in May. Cobalt's has been the after-meeting meeting place for many of us and it will be missed. It will be under new management and rumor has it that it will be a "biker bar" motif, the blue and copper being replaced with mostly chrome.

## Field Day Arrangements

Please mark your calendars for Field Day. It will be held again at Hobby Park. We always have a cookout for all the club members and families. June 24 and 25.

## June Hamfest

June 9, the night before our June 10 Hamfest, is scheduled to be a fireworks at the warthogs game. Those of us helping to set up will get a treat again. Please note - that we can NOT get the building until 8 PM that Friday because it is being used for another event.

## Upcoming Hamfests & Other Ham Dates

June 3 - Atlanta RC Hamfest, Atlanta, GA  
June 3 - Pig Pickin'/Tailgate, Franklin, VA  
June 10 - Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Winston-Salem, NC  
June 24-25 - ARRL Field Day

July 8 - Firecracker Hamfest, Salisbury, NC  
July 15 - Midsummer Swapfest, Cary, NC  
July 29 - WCARS Hamfest, Waynesville, NC

August 5 - Roanoke Valley Hamfest, (Vinton) Roanoke, VA  
August 12 - 8th Annual CFARS Swapfest, Fayetteville, NC

September 2-3 - Shelby ARC Hamfest, Shelby, NC  
September 16-17 - VA Wesleyan, Virginia Beach, VA

October 7\* - York County Fairgrounds, Rock Hill, SC  
October 14\* - Wataugua ARC Swapfest, Boone, NC  
October 15\* - Hamfest, Maysville, NC  
October 28\* - Sumter ARC Hamfest/Computer Fair, Sumter, SC

November 11 - BEACHFest, ARRL State Convention, Myrtle Beach, SC  
November 19 - JARSFEST, at American Legion, Benson, NC

December 2 - Farmers Market GAARC Swapfest, Gastonia, NC

January 6 - Winston-Salem Firstfest, Winston-Salem, NC  
January 13 - GreenwoodARS Hamfest, Greenwood, SC

## Hurricane Disaster Presentation

The National Weather Service (NWS) will present "North Carolina's Next Hurricane Disaster" presentation for first responders and officials reference a large hurricane impact on North Carolina. Will detail a worst case hurricane strike in NC impacting over 4 million people. This type storm would have a significant impact to the Piedmont.

This class is important for those involved in planning, preparing for and responding to major events. Please RSVP to August Vernon at 767-6161 or via email at [augustv@cityofwsfire.org](mailto:augustv@cityofwsfire.org) no later than June 16th.

Course: North Carolina's Next Hurricane Disaster Presentation

Date: June 28th, 2006

Time: 0900 to 1030

Location: Forsyth County Fire Dept, 3000 Aviation Drive, Winston-Salem

## 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 EC*

## FCAN - June 1, 2006

Net started at 8:30 PM. Net Control station - KG4ECI Dan

Check-ins: 12. Stations were KE4DTX James, KF4EOD Mike, KG4FGC Ken, N0KTY John, KI4KNS Austin, KG4JWU Steven, KF4KYD Jim, N4PAA Carl, KC4WSK Van, KI4FCP Jack, WB9SZL Dale and KG4ECI Dan.

There were no announcements and no traffic.

The ARES meeting conducted by N0KTY was mainly a prep session for the 3 Mountain Madness Bicycle Rally to be held this Saturday. Initial meeting place is the McDonald's at the Rt. 65 and US 52 intersection at Rural Hall at 7:00 AM. Also, we were reminded that the FARC Hamfest is next Saturday, June 10th.

Formal session - 15 minutes. Informal session - 8 minutes. Total time - 23 minutes.

*Carl, N4PAA*

## FCAN - May 26, 2006

Net started at 8:30 PM. Net Control station - K3AEB Kelly

Check-ins: 10. Stations were KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD Wake Forest Club, KF4EOD Mike, K4LZU Jim, N4PAA Carl, WB4QXG Fred, KG4DKN Buddy, KI4FCP Jack and K3AEB Kelly

There were no announcements and no traffic.

No EC was available for the ARES meeting. The Stokes County bicycle event is coming up next Saturday, June 3.

Formal session - 12 minutes. Informal session - 9 minutes. Total time - 21 minutes.

*Carl, N4PAA*



## FCAN - May 18, 2006

Net started at 8:30 PM. Net Control station - KG4ECI Dan

Check-ins: 15. Stations were K4GHS Ben, KG4FGC Ken, K4LZU Jim, KI4KNS Austin, NW4O Jack, KC8OEX Terry, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, N4PAA Carl, WB4QXG Fred, KF4KYD Jim, KF4EOD Mike, WD4DLP Darren, KG4JWU Steven and KG4ECI Dan.

There was one announcement and no traffic. KG4FGC announced that the North Carolina Hurricane Awareness Week starts this Sunday. There will be a topic featured daily on the NOAA All Hazards Radio stations - 162.40 locally. Also, the WF4DD net will follow this ARES net or start at 9:00 PM, whichever comes last.

No EC was available for the ARES meeting. N0KTY John has attended meetings with the organizers of the Stokes County bicycle event coming up on June 3rd, but wasn't available to provide more details. Volunteer ham operators are still needed. The FARC Hamfest will be the following Saturday.

Formal session - 13 minutes. Informal session - 11 minutes. Total time - 24 minutes.

*Carl, N4PAA*

## FCAN - May 11, 2006

Net started at 8:30 PM. Net Control station - N4PAA Carl

Check-ins: 14. Stations were KG4FGC Ken, NW4O Jack, KC8OEX Terry, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KE4DTX James, KF4PLQ Woody, WD4DLP Darren, KF4EOD Mike, KI4BWS Scott, KD4WNU Josh, N4IOZ Tom, KI4DDC Marie and N4PAA Carl

There was one announcement and no traffic. KG4FGC announced that the upgrade to the 162.400 All Hazards Radio has 500 watts during normal operation but drops back to 300 watts transmit power when operating on emergency power. This is still better than its former 100 watts power, and plans are to upgrade its back-up system to maintain 500 watts all the time. Also, the WF4DD net will follow this ARES net or start at 9:00 PM, whichever comes last.

No EC was available for the ARES meeting. N0KTY John was attending a meeting on the June 3 Stokes County Bicycle event, and should have lots of additional information for the next net. Net Control reminded participants of that event and that the FARC Hamfest will be held at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds on June 10, the weekend after the bike event.

Formal session - 18 minutes. Informal session - 12 minutes. Total time - 30 minutes.

*Carl, N4PAA*

## FCAN - May 4, 2006

Net started at 8:30 PM. Net Control station - KG4ECI Dan.

Check-ins: 14. Stations were KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, W4EVA Joe, N4SEW Ann, KF4EOD Mike, KK9DOG Gary, N0KTY John, KI4KNS Austin, KG4JWU Steven, KC8OEX Terry, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred and KG4ECI Dan.

There was two announcements and no traffic. KG4FGC announced that

the 162.40 NOAA All Hazards radio located on WXII's main tower on Sauratown Mountain was upgraded from 100 to 500 watts. The antenna is to be relocated higher up the tower soon as Phase II of the upgrade. NA4P announced a new net for the Wake Forest Club to start at 9 PM or the conclusion of the regular ARES meeting (whichever is later) starting this evening. ARES members were asked to check in and listen in.

The ARES meeting was conducted by N0KTY John. The MS Walk was successfully completed with one sprained ankle for the entire events. Thanks were extended to all who helped out. The next event is the June 3 Stokes County Bike event that is to get underway at 7 AM and should last all day until 5 or 6 PM. John still needs more operators, so volunteers are welcome. There is a possibility of severe weather this weekend, so keep an eye on the weather forecasts and see how it turns out.

Formal session - 17 minutes. Informal session - 11 minutes. Total time - 28 minutes.

*Carl, N4PAA*

## More Short Circuits -

### AMATEUR RADIO APPRECIATION WEEK DECLARED BY GOVERNOR EASLEY!

Thanks to some hard work by Bill Morine, N2COP, Governor Easley has declared Field Day week, June 18-25, as "Amateur Radio Appreciation Week". The proclamation can help you publicize Field Day in your community and will help if your group wants to apply for a similar proclamation from your local government. A sealed copy of the proclamation can be obtained by sending \$7.50 and a request for the "Amateur Radio June 18-25 Proclamation" to:

Ms Kelley McFarland, Governor's Office - Citizens and Community Service Office, 116 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603 It will take up to two weeks for your certificate to arrive. The text of the proclamation is posted at [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org).

*Tim Slay, N4IB  
NC Section Manager*

## Ernest "Ernie" Caswell Brewer, - SK

LEWISVILLE - Ernest "Ernie" Caswell Brewer, 85, died peacefully Wednesday, May 31, 2006, in his sleep, at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home. He had been ill since December. He was born Aug. 30, 1920, to George Monroe and Nancy Ellis Brewer in Ramseur. He grew up in High Point and was a lifetime member of Green Street Baptist Church. He spent his career in the restaurant business as an owner and manager. He played minor league baseball and was an avid golfer. He was a veteran and served in the Army in Germany and France during World War II. He was a HAM radio operator, licensed by the U.S. Army MARS program to receive messages from those serving overseas and deliver them to their families. He was active in the Triad Amateur Radio Association and a VE volunteer. He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters; and his beloved son, Michael. He is survived by his loving wife of more than 50 years, Dolores "Frieda" Brewer, of the home. Also surviving are his children, Lauren (Don) Hurst of Clemmons; Mark (Loretta) Brewer of Conway, S.C.; Paul Brewer of Conway; Bill Brewer of Richmond, Va.; Jim (Maryanne) Brewer of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Nancy Brewer of Lewisville; Ron Brewer of

Winston-Salem; Carolyn Bost of Knightdale; and Barbara Finch of Raleigh. His surviving grandchildren are Brenda (Tommy) Sauer of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; Chris (Martin) Deal of The Woodlands, Texas; Carol (Jonathan) Faison of Knightdale; Pam (Andrew) Greeson of Greensboro; Craig Finch of Clayton; Jaime (Gary) Terrell of McDonough, Ga.; Ben and Sam Hurst of Clemmons; and Steve Gilbow and Heather Hamilton of Myrtle Beach, S.C. Also surviving are five great-grandchildren, Anne Deal, Taylor and Jarrett Sauer, Joshua Faison and Riley Terrell. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, June 4, at Vogler's in Clemmons. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, June 5, at River Oaks Community Church, 1855 Lewisville-Clemmons Road. The body will be in the church one hour before the service. Pastor Sonny Flowers will officiate. A military service by the VFW Honor Guard will follow at Westlawn Gardens of Memory in Clemmons. The family will receive visitors at the family home throughout the weekend. Memorials may be made to Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home, 101 Hospice Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, or to River Oaks Community Church Building Fund.

Published in the Winston-Salem Journal from 6/2/2006 - 6/3/2006.

### Jess J. Swiderski, SK

4/18/18 - 6/5/06

Ed Swiderski's dad passed away on June 5 after a sudden illness. Mr. Swiderski was not a ham, but he raised 2 (WB1COJ, KU4BP) and was grandfather to one more (N1VUK).

### NCARRL SECTION MANAGER'S MONTHLY

I can't open my first monthly section news without once again thanking my predecessor, John Covington, W4CC, for his six years of outstanding leadership. John was one of the hardest working, most traveled, and most effective section managers in ARRL history. During his three terms, John devoted innumerable hours to our section, visiting countless club meetings, hamfests, and special events. John drove over 10,000 miles/year on league business and visited all 100 counties in the state. John brought a wealth of expertise and professionalism to this volunteer position and set a high standard for me and the others who follow him. I'm especially grateful that John recruited such an excellent section cabinet and I'm honored they've agreed to continue to serve North Carolina hams as I begin my term. In my 30 years as a ham, I've held numerous elected and appointed positions, but I've never held a section-level job. So I'm glad John will still be around to offer advice and I appreciate your input (and patience) as I learn the ropes!

#### WHO ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Of the 675,274 amateur radio operators licensed in the US, North Carolina has 18,539. We're the tenth largest state in terms of ham population. But only 3,792 of those hams are ARRL members, and that's probably a good estimate of the number of active hams in the state. There are 91 ARRL affiliated clubs in North Carolina, but only 51 are current in the ARRL database. There are currently 11 ARRL-affiliated hamfests scheduled in the section. Our section also has 210 volunteer ARRL appointees, not to mention hundreds more who have leadership positions in local clubs. There's a lot to be excited about, but also challenges to be faced. Our hobby is threatened by pressure on our bands from commercial interests and the interference threat of BPL. Restrictive covenants that prohibit antennas are almost ubiquitous in newer subdivisions. But the biggest threat is in the numbers I listed...they're dropping every year. We're not recruiting enough new hams to replace the silent keys. The average age of an amateur radio

operator is somewhere around 50 and for an ARRL member, its approaching 60. Those averages are going up by 1 every year. So where will our hobby be in 20 years when I'm ready to join so many of you as a retiree and full-time ham? And will my 6 year old daughter, who is learning Morse code, be able to have a CW QSO when she's my age? Over the next two years you're going to hear me talk (and listen) a lot about this problem and I'll be sharing some of the great things clubs across the state are doing to spread the magic of ham radio.

### PRB-1 PROGRESS REPORT

Our PIO, Bill Morine, N2COP and former Wilmington mayor Ham Hicks, KB4BR are keeping up the momentum as we try to get a PRB-1 bill passed by the North Carolina legislature. Ham is scheduled to testify before the legislature's Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Recovery Study Committee on April 20. Write your state legislator to educate them on the problems faced by hams who try to install antennas in areas with restrictions. These restrictions not only threaten our hobby, but also affect our ability to provide emergency communications after a disaster.

*Tim B. Slay,  
ARRL NCSM N4IB  
[n4ib@arrl.org](mailto:n4ib@arrl.org)*

### Pictures from Dayton Hamvention



**Upper left:** Jim WX3B, President of PVRC with Henry W2DZO, Michael N3CA, and Don WS4NC. N3CA made a presentation at the Youth forum and he's becoming quite the contender; unfortunately there's no cure. **Upper right:** There were a number of military radios at Dayton - how about with labels in Chinese? **Bottom right:** Our "space" at Dayton. Space was a relative word - maybe next year we will take two spaces. **Bottom Left:** the NCQSO Party plaques waiting to be picked up.

### Editor's Corner

I would like to welcome Tim Slay N4IB as the new ARRL NC Section Manager. He will have some big shoes to fill - John Covington W4CC managed to be everywhere, all the time.

That's all for this month! See you at the Winston-Salem Hamfest and the Club meeting Monday night.

73, Don, WS4NC



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## MOMENT OF ZEN

More photos from Dayton Hamvention. Left is a beautiful Edison phonograph with a number of Edison recordings spotted and photographed by Ed, KU4BP. Upper right Henry W2DZO goes "back to the future" - posing with a Delorean. Bottom right I suppose that someone is planning an "explosive" Dayton. In the bottom center the Icom Girls were everywhere giving out Icom hats. Photos courtesy of Ed, KU4BP.

