



Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

October, 2006

Pfafftown Hamfest October 14

Join us for our fall classic - The Pfafftown Swapfest an indoor/outdoor event. Bring your own tables/chairs(none available on site). Plenty of prime outdoor tailgating space available. \$5 gets you on the grounds. Another \$5 to sell (indoors or out). Simple and fun. Questions? call 336-723-7388 and leave message or send email to:

Directions to WCCC: I-40 to Winston-Salem, then US421 north to exit 244. Make right at top of ramp, follow for 1 mile to Lewisville-Vienna Rd. and make left; go 2.5 miles to Yadkinville HWY, make right and go 1/4 mile. WCCC on right.

Red Cross Volunteers Needed This is a sudden need.

The RC needs as many people as possible to help with a fire Mitigation program on Wednesday, October 11. A local corporation was going to loan 55 people but pulled out at the last minute. The short story is that the volunteers will go out in groups of 2 to 4 people and hang flyers on doorknobs in apartment complexes. There will not be any direct contact with the public (beyond the incidental) while passing out the flyers. The flyers are in Spanish and English and outline ways to avoid fires. The need is especially critical in apartment complexes. I realize that this is late notice, but that was unavoidable due to the late notice. Breakfast and/or Lunch will be provided. Morning volunteers will need to be at the Red Cross by 8:15, afternoon volunteers will need to be at the Red Cross by 12:15 PM. Please let John Kippe 336-969-4461 fancie@winstream.net or Don Edwards 336-413-3838 dedwards2@triad.rr.com know if you can help out. There will be another need for people on Saturday October 14 (but don't forget the Pfafftown Hamfest!). Some of us may go over Saturday afternoon to help.

Blue Ridge Parkway Radio event September 16th and 17th



W4NC participated with other clubs in the Blue Ridge Bonanza. W4NC operated from Linville Falls (N0KTY), Cumberland Knob (W2DZO) and Mt. Pisgah (AA4S).

The following is condensed from Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club web site and Newsletter:

"Our multi-club event the Blue Ridge Bonanza is history.

"First I would like to thank the other clubs involved, Forsyth ARC (NC), Lexington ARC, Lynchburg ARC and Franklin County ARC for the activation of 14 stations along the Blue Ridge Mountain Parkway. A lot of effort was put forth to set up some great stations. Buena Vista and Devils Backbone had the strongest signals on the parkway itself from milepost 0 to Fancy Gap, they could be found on the band anytime I was looking for the other stations. Mabry Mill (Franklin County) had the largest, most public and elaborate station. They set up right in front of the restaurant with 2 vehicles and a shelter. They drew a large crowd, running 20 and 40 meters simultaneously with portable dipoles set up on tripods.

HAMFEST! SATURDAY, OCT 14

Club Meeting, Monday October 9, 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. The program will be about early German TV by Gary WA4IAM.

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 2006 are:

President: Don Edwards, WS4NC
ws4nc@arrl.net

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

Secretary: Megan Hardy, KI4KNM
medik286@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**

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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.

Blue Ridge Event, continued from page 1

"Peaks of Otter had the best operator friendly site but location wise the worst. Midday Sunday though they had the highest totals of the station's I visited. They were located in a very deep holler, right beside a small stream, underneath a large stand of trees but if I had to pick a station to work for two days this would have been it. We had some small problems like forgotten power cords, generators that didn't like power supplies and radios that did not last through the 1st day. From the number of stations requesting when certain locations would be on, I think, we had a good turnout working our multi-club special event (even though they couldn't find Ray AB4YZ when he was posted on DX Summit).

"As a club I think we pulled off a good event but more importantly we involved the other clubs to make this a super great event. We had more club members on the air than any other special event I have been involved in.

Now it's time to get ready for next year if we are going to do this event again. Whether or not we do this event again we need to write thank-you notes to the other clubs that helped make this a successful event."

*Hope to hear you on the air,
Ron AB4A*



The only photos I received were from Henry W2DZO. Henry and his sons went camping at Cumberland Knob. A fairly content W2DZO works stations in the lower left corner. Upper right, Henry IV N4VHK and brother William went along for the camping.

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Short Circuits

September Program

Our thanks to Raymond, WX4AAA for presenting a spellbinding and very emotional program detailing his experiences surviving Hurricane Katrina. Raymond is working on putting the video he took during the hurricane into a full presentation.

Not Exactly Ham Radio but . . .

Last month I listed the NC traffic camera site:

<http://www.ncdot.org/traffictravel/cameras/winston-salem.html>

Club member James KE4DTX works with those cameras and he has a yahoo widget that allows you to keep the camera views in a small window on your computer desktop. Thanks James.

<http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/view.php?widget=40043>

Upcoming Hamfests & Other Ham Dates

September 16-17 - VA Wesleyan, Virginia Beach, VA

October 7* - York County Fairgrounds, Rock Hill, SC

October 14 - Pfafftown Hamfest

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 - Greenwood ARS Hamfest, Greenwood, SC

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 Report - Sept. 7, 2006

Net Started - 8:30 PM Net Control - KG4ECI Dan

Confirmed Check-ins: 9. Stations were KI4KNS Austin, N0KTY John, KG4FGC Ken, KE4DTX James, KC8OEX Terry, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, NW4O Jack and KG4ECI Dan. The 145.47 repeater was down and the net was held on 146.64.

There was one announcement by KG4FGC Ken that the WF4DD net would be held on 146.58 simplex at its usual 9 PM time.

No formal session was held due to the repeater problems. There was no informal session, either. Total time was 10 minutes.

N4PAA Carl

FCAN Report - Sept. 14, 2006

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

Check-ins - 12. Stations were K4GHS Ben, KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, KC8OEX Terry, KI4RBA John, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KI4PNL Shane, WB9SZL Dale, KE4ZFN Bryce and N4PAA Carl.

There were three announcements. KG4FGC Ken announced there will be an Skywarn Advanced Spotter training class on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7 PM at the Thomasville Fire Station #2, near I-85 in Thomasville. Also, the WF4DD net would follow this net.

WB9SZL Dale informed the net of the interference opportunities that are affecting the 145.47 repeater, and that the impulse timer has been set to 1.6 seconds. That means to start the repeater from its sleep mode takes a signal over 1.6 seconds. That is why you can't seem to "kerchunk" the repeater but it is still there and working.

KG4ECI Dan updated the net on the ARES activation to help with the search for the two missing boys in Stokes County. The operation was taken over by the Stokes County Office of Emergency Management.

No EC was available for the formal session. Net Control thanked all stations that participated in the Tour to Tanglewood on the previous weekend.

Formal session - 19 minutes. Informal session - 15 minutes. Total time - 34 minutes.

N4PAA Carl

FCAN Report - Sept. 21, 2006

Net started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.

Check-ins - 9. Stations were KC4WSK Van, KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, N0KTY John, KF4HHG Tim, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, KG4DKN Buddy and KC8OEX Terry.

There were net announcements by KG4FGC Ken that the Skywarn Advanced Spotter Training Class will be Wednesday Sept. 27 at 7 PM at the Thomasville Fire Station #2 and that the WF4DD net will be at 9 PM or immediately following this net.

N0KTY John held the formal session. He recapped the Tour to Tanglewood, mentioning that between the Guilford and Forsyth ARES groups, 45 different hams helped on one or both days. This was the first time that there were "extra" hams, several that were given assignments when scheduled hams couldn't make it. We helped 1,300 bike riders get from Greensboro to Tanglewood and back with only a few minor accidents. The MS chapter thanked ARES for helping the event to run successfully.

John also updated the net on the "Blue Ridge Bonanza" that was held this past weekend with 11 different stations set up at various points along the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway. He also mentioned that although we had been blessed with no severe weather of any kind lately, if anyone plans to help in a real emergency, then they should take the recommended FEMA classes available online. The classes were covered on a recent WF4DD net.

Formal Session - 15 minutes. Informal session - 12 minutes. Total time - 27 minutes.

N4PAA Carl

FCAN Report - Sept. 28, 2006

Net started - 8:32 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX Terry.

Check-ins - 10. Stations were K4GHS Ben, KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, WA4GJS Tom, N0KTY John, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, WA8IHW Jack and KC8OEX Terry.

There was one announcement by NA4P Fred that the WF4DD net will be at 9 PM or immediately following this net.

N0KTY John held short ARES meeting, as his station was under a thunder and lightning storm at the time. He reminded us that severe weather is still with us, and it can happen at any time. Thursday evening was one of those times with damaging hail in isolated areas and wide spread heavy rain.

Formal Session - 12 minutes. Informal session - 6 minutes. Total time - 18 minutes.

N4PAA Carl

George Lee Bowermaster - SK

Although he wasn't a ham, he was a major voice on the local radio for years. His air name was George Lee and a memorable presence on his radio shows. George was going to be one of our Club programs earlier in the year but went into the hospital shortly before so he had to cancel. George was a special sprit and he will be missed.



George Lee Bowermaster, 67, of Winston-Salem, died Friday, Sept. 29, 2006, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born March 12, 1939, in Wheeling W.Va., to George Earl and Margaret Sharp Bowermaster, both of whom preceded him in death. In 1960, George moved to Winston-Salem, where he began a long and remarkable career in radio. He was known as one of the WTOB Good Guys, but was most well known for his show on WSJS The George Lee Showboat, where each evening he signed off with "Drive a little slow and be a little late. The life you save could be mine. I'd rather be a little late than the late George Lee." After 22 years in radio, he went out on his own, becoming a much sought after voice and on-camera talent. George was a devoted and active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He was a longtime member of the choir as well as the Order of St. Luke. He participated regularly as a lector and chalice bearer. He is survived by his daughters, Kimberly Beth Bowermaster Brown (Kenneth), and Susan Brooke Bowermaster, all of Winston-Salem; his sister, Nancy Bowermaster Filkins of Point Pleasant, W.Va.; five grandchildren, Kenneth Bradbury Brown Jr., Kirstin Brooke Brown, Keenan Benjamin Brown, Helen Claire Peplowski and Frank Anthony Peplowski III, all of Winston-Salem; four nephews, Lawrence Earl Filkins (Brenda) of Leon W.Va., Randolph Lynn Filkins of Point Pleasant, W.Va., Mark Allan Filkins (Sue) of Holly Springs, and Bruce Kenneth Filkins of San Diego, Calif.; two great-nephews, Shane Kenneth Filkins of Point Pleasant, W.Va. and Kenneth Charles Filkins of Leon, W.Va.; and a great-niece, Ashlee Nicole Filkins of Point Pleasant, W.Va. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 2 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 520 Summit Street. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul's music ministry, the Order of St. Luke or to Kate B. Reynolds Hospice and Palliative CareCenter, 101 Hospice Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. Hayworth-Miller is assisting the family.

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Nets

Checking into our section nets and handling traffic is fun and helps prepare you for the next emergency. In addition to the many local VHF/UHF nets, there are seven HF nets to choose from and all welcome newcomers:

7:45am, 3.926MHz: Carolina Morning Net (SSB)
6:30pm, 3.923MHz: North Carolina Evening Net (SSB)
7:00pm, 3.573MHz: Carolinas Net - Early (CW -- 20-22wpm)
7:00pm, 3.908MHz: Coastal Carolina Net (SSB)
7:30pm, 3.923MHz: Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES Net -- SSB)
8:00pm, 3.695MHz: Carolinas Slow Net (CW, 8-10wpm)
10:00pm, 3.573MHz: Carolinas Net -- Late (CW, 15-18wpm)

With all those choices why not try at least one? With little or no traffic handling experience you can still partake in the excitement and learn how to take and pass traffic from some of the best in the state. It is very worthwhile and easy to learn as well. There are no tests, just check in and listen, or just listen for a few nights and check in when you feel comfortable.

HELP! MAGNETIC NORTH IS MOVING!

Calm down Chicken Little. A little wobble happens all the time. I needed this for a project I'm working on and thought you might find it interesting. If you're interested in finding out exactly how much the current estimated value of magnetic declination is from true North at your location - go to:

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/geomag/jsp/struts/calcDeclination.jses?sid=566C03BFE5D6CA6978E57E8ACD510A5A>

To compute the magnetic declination, you must enter the location and date of interest. I used 36.062543 N by -80.183453 W which is good enough for Piedmont NC..

As of 10/4/2006 Declination = 7° 45' W changing by 0° 2' W/year.
On 04/08/1953 (my birthday) 2° 29' W changing by 0° 1' W/year.
Assuming it's linear over time (not exactly, it's a bit complicated) that would be about 0.1° a year.

If you enter December 23, 2012 (date for the end of the world according to the Mayan calendar) the calculation blows up, therefore that must be the end of the world. (Before the "End of the World People" come after me - the calculator has some predictive power up to about 5 years - after that the errors become too great.) The magnetic strength is also weakening over time which some people believe is a clue that a polarity reversal may be in our future.

Don, WS4NC

Editor's Corner

That's all for this month. You know - I would be *thrilled* if someone would submit an article for the newsletter. The close is usually the week with the last day of month.

73, Don, WS4NC