



# Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Newsletter



Founded December 30, 1930

November, 2006

## Pfafftown Hamfest a Success



**KE4VXR came to the Pfafftown Hamfest in style - motorcycle style that is. Not shown is what kind of U-Haul trailer he packed all this stuff in. He said he packed it all on the bike!**

Our October Pfafftown Hamfest went exactly as planned. As you know we hold two "social" hamfests ever year - the October and the January Hamfest. These "social" hamfests are designed to be as easy on club members as possible. A lot of planning and plain hard work go into holding even a small hamfest. By cutting out all frills the October and January events are a great way for local hams to get together, do a little swapping and a great deal of "hob-knobbing" among our fellow hams.

The June Hamfest is our big event and even though we have pared it down considerably it still requires substantial effort by a large number of people. That it continues to thrive is a blessing to the ham community and to all of those who have worked hard to make so over the years. The October and January events are much smaller affairs by design. In Forsyth county alone there are over a thousand licensed hams and high ham populations in surrounding counties. Any opportunity for many of us to get together is great for the ham community.

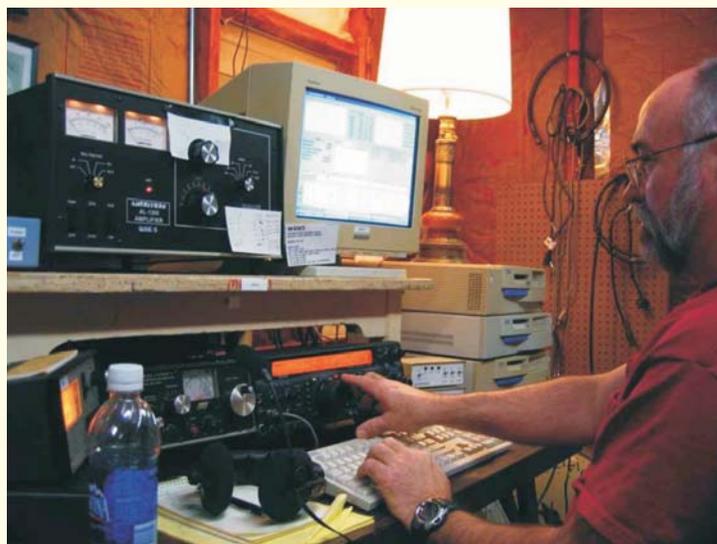
*Continued on page 5, bottom, right*

## CQWW

A long, long time ago (and a galaxy far, far away) I had a chat with a young Henry Heidtmann, then N4VHK now W2DZO, who had recently been in his first ham contest. One of my comments then was "Don't ever think you are going to win one of these, especially CQWW. There are guys who work and plan all year and write very big checks to cover the costs." Little did I understand Henry.

In the last ten years W4WS has constantly improved and done better and better, especially by consolidating our efforts at Robert's KG4NEP. I had thought that we had probably maxed out by coming in sixth, fifth or fourth in the US. The last few increases in score usually come at great expense and effort because all the easy improvements have been done. Usually there was a big gap between our score and the next higher score. Our contester group is getting noticed.

*Continued on page 4, top right*



**Gene Bowman, WB4MSG at Run-Station 2 on 15 meters. More photos are on page 4. Photo courtesy of KB6MTH**

# HAMFEST! SATURDAY, JAN 6

## Club Meeting, Monday November 13, 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 is the annual Hombrew Contest - bring something!**

**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:

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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.

## Short Circuits

### October Program

Our thanks to Gary Carter WA4IAM for presenting the October program on pre-WWII German Television. He brought a DVD of recently found films that were the source material for broadcast. For live broadcasting they shot on film with the cameraman on top of a truck. The film was immediately drawn into truck and through an automated development process and then scanned and broadcast. An interesting process. As interesting as the technical process were the unedited views of pre-war Germany social issues.

### Lost and Found

John Kippe N0KTY is missing two headsets from field day. One is a Radio Shack pair and the other is a new Heil headset bought at this year's Dayton. It was a sad Kippe at CQWW this year without his headset. The thinking was that they had been packed away with the club gear from Field Day. All of that has been gone through and they didn't turn up. Please check your field day stuff and see if John's headsets were accidentally packed away with your stuff.

### HPIB Interface or Printer

If anyone has an unwanted printer hanging around that has an HPIB (aka GPIB) interface or a computer interface card for HPIB I would be most happy to give it a new home. I've been trying to locate one of each for a while without a lot of luck. Not too many years ago I could have saved scads of them from the dumpster but didn't.

Don, WS4NC, 336-413-3838

### Small Rotor Wanted

Looking for a small rotor for 2 VHF/UHF beams. (11.3 ft and 28 ft. in length) Total weight of the two without the mast is 15 pounds. Combined windload is 2.63 sq. feet. Mast size will be 1.250"

Ed KU4BP

### 145.47 Repeater Problems

Yes, the '0.47 repeater has been feeling puny lately. The spare duplexer has been tuned and should be going up the mountain Nov. 11 or 12. The duplexer in use is probably the better one - it will be re-tuned and returned probably the following weekend. Kudos go to Dale WB9SZL and Raymond WX5AAA for doing the hard work. Also it is more and more apparent that the Motorola radios we based the repeaters on are growing very long in the tooth. A major subject at the business meeting on Nov. 20 will be a migration plan to new equipment and how to pay for that.

### Cushcraft ARX-270 Ringo Ranger

Dick Genaille W4UW has a dual band 70cm/2M Ringo Ranger for sale. \$25.00 Call Dick at 765-4697.



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## Upcoming Hamfests & Other Ham Dates

November 11 BEACHFest, ARRL State Convention, Myrtle Beach, SC  
**November 13 - FARC Meeting at Red Cross, Winston-Salem**  
November 19 - JARSFEST, at American Legion, Benson, NC  
**November 20 FARC Business Meeting at Chrome Restaurant, Deacon Blvd**  
**November 27 - PVRC Contesters' Meeting at Chrome Restaurant, Deacon Blvd.**

December 2 - Farmers Market GAARC Swapfest, Gastonia, NC  
**December 11 - FARC Annual Dinner at Diamondback Grill, Winston-Salem - All Welcome**  
**December 13 - FARC Business Meeting at Chrome Restaurant, Deacon Blvd**  
**December 20 - PVRC Contesters' Meeting Chrome Restaurant, Deacon Blvd.**

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

**June 9 - Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC**

## 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 - October 12, 2006

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

Check-ins - 11. Stations were K4GHS Ben, KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, KF4EOD Mike, KI4NHP Boyce, KI4NHQ Karen, WB9SZL Dale, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KC8OEX Terry and N4PAA Carl.

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

No EC was available for the ARES meeting. KC8OEX had a query which generated some lively discussion on several ARES topics.

Formal Session - 20 minutes. Informal session - 11 minutes. Total time - 31 minutes.

*N4PAA Carl*

### FCAN Report - October 19, 2006

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

Check-ins - 14. Stations were K4GHS Ben, KG4ECI Dan, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, KF4EOD Mike, N0KTY John, NW4O Jack, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, KF4HHG Tim, W5KC Carl, KB2EOK Brad, KG4DKN Buddy and KC8OEX Terry.

There was one announcement by KG4FGC Ken that the WF4DD net will be at 9 PM or immediately following this net.

N0KTY John held the ARES meeting. He noted that we made it through the summer with few major storms nationally and few severe storms locally. What winter will bring we will wait and see. He reminded us to keep our batteries and backup power ready in case shelter volunteers are

needed for ice or snow storms. He thanked all who had made the year successful by volunteering for all the public service events that ARES supplied communications.

Formal Session - 15 minutes. Informal session - 17 minutes. Total time - 32 minutes.

*N4PAA Carl*

### FCAN Report - October 26, 2006

Net started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KG4ECI Dan. [Net on 146.64 due to failure of 145.47].

Check-ins - 12. Stations were WX5AAA Raymond, N0KTY John, KB6MTH Raja, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, KG4FGC Ken, WF4DD WFU Club, K4GHS Ben, KC4WSK Van, WB4QXG Fred and KG4ECI Dan.

There was one announcement by NA4P Fred that the WF4DD net will be at 9 PM or immediately following this net on the 146.64 repeater this time.

N0KTY John held the ARES meeting. The state Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for this weekend and it happens to also be the CQ Worldwide DX contest. Since the EC and both assistant EC's would be DXing, the county SET will be at a later date. Stations were asked to listen for and check into neighboring county SET exercises. There was a discussion concerning Red Cross requirements for criminal background checks required for any shelter volunteers. This will be checked into and reported on another net soon.

Formal Session - 12 minutes. Informal session - 5 minutes. Total time - 17 minutes.

*N4PAA Carl*

## Nets

Checking into our ARRL 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.

## November Meeting - Homebrew Show-&-Tell

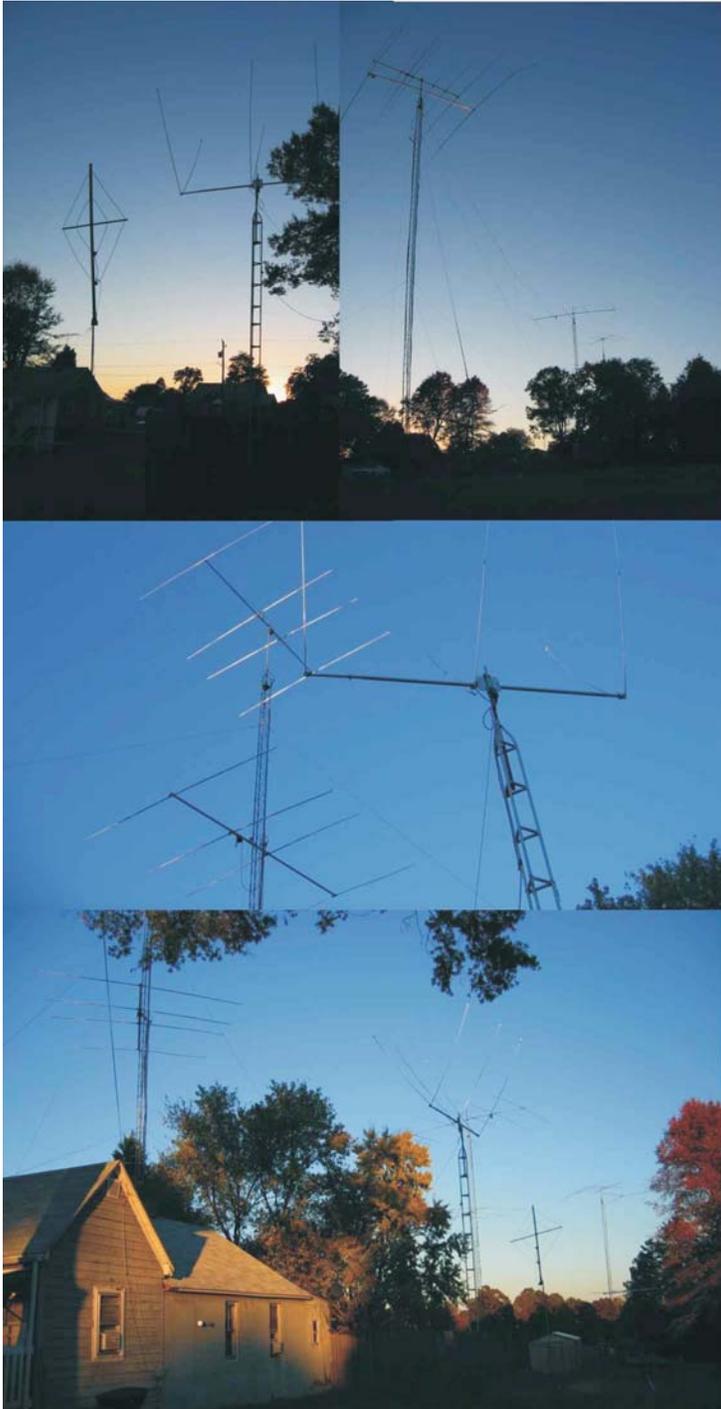
Yes, it's here again. **Remember all those resolutions you made last year about having something built to show this year?** Now is the time. It doesn't have to be fancy. Or are you going to let Tim KG4RZ take home the prize again?

If there aren't enough entries I will either have a pop quiz (don't tempt me!) or another one of my DVD's.

## 2006 CQWW

*Continued from Page 1*

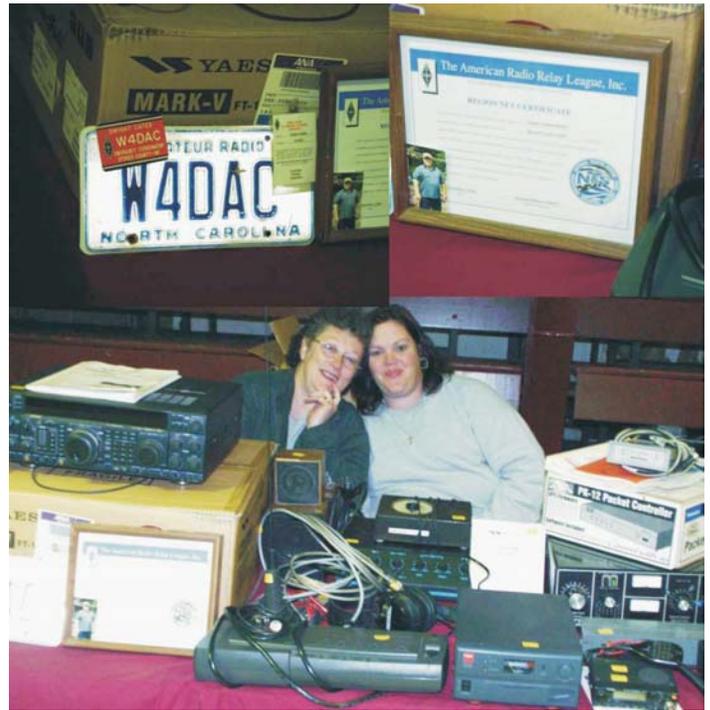
Again it doesn't pay to underestimate Henry and his coaching (and occasionally whipping when necessary!). These results are only submitted scores - the official results will take months. But W4WS barely missed 2nd US. We had the same number of total QSOs as number 2 but a marginally lower score. The exact results could move us either way (but we'll likely stay at #3). OK - maybe we actually CAN win. It would not be wise to bet against it. Congratulations to all who helped in this year's effort.



On the left are pictures taken of the W4WS antennas by KB6MTH. In the bottom photo the lower 15-meter antenna is viable on the left. The 4-element 10-meter delta loop partially hides the 20-meter stack. The diamond thingee is the 160/80-meter receive loop. In the far background is the 2-element 40-meter beam. In the right photos at the top is Robert KG4NEP, 2nd line David McDonald looks happy while Tim AG4RZ is running Run-2, next down is Henry - a blur like always, bottom left Robert is dealing with a harmonic problem (aka Alex), lower right around 3 AM Dan-O is looking for any we missed earlier.



Some random photos from the October Hamfest. Hard to see above are the pictures at the top taken before 6 AM; notice that Dan-O KC4ECI is on guard selling tickets long before the sun was up.



Dwight Cates W4ADC passed away not too long ago. It was a shock to all of us as we didn't know that he had been sick. Dwight's XYL and daughter were at the Pfafftown hamfest moving Dwight's gear to new homes. Although we missed Dwight in person - I'm sure he was there in spirit.

## Pfafftown Hamfest

*Continued from Page 1*

A number of clubs have stopped holding hamfests. There are a variety of reasons, among them: 1) selling on eBay - generally great for sellers and less-great for buyers; 2) lower attendance; 3) hamfests are unpredictably profitable and can be financially ruinous; and 4) the effort required leads to member exhaustion. We have tried to adapt to all of these problems. Gone are the days when there was a local hamfest within an hours driving time every month of the year. Gone also are the days of renting the convention center, huge mailings and massive bills. The return-on-investment makes those impossible now. But FARC has looked on hamfests for more than money. Hamfests are a service to the local ham community. They offer a reason for many of us to get together and have a leisurely conversation and catch up with old friends face-to-face. Generally I go to hamfests as much or more to meet my friends than to acquire or sell goodies. Fortunately we have managed to accomplish both a little profit for the club from each event and holding more events to fill the void created by fewer local hamfests.

There are a lot of people who deserve credit for bringing us this far. If I start naming people I'm almost certain to leave some one out. So let me say "Job well done" to the entire club. Everyone in FARC has reason to be proud of all the accomplishments by FARC. Every participation in any club event from hamfests to field day to attending meetings or even just by paying dues makes FARC stronger. FARC has been a strong, enthusiastic group for 76 years this December. With the good group we have I have no doubt that we will be around and strong as long as there is ham radio. Congratulations all!

That's all for this month. Thanks to W2DZO, N0KTY, KB6MTH & WB4MSG for submitting photos. You know - I would be *thrilled if someone would actually \*write\* an article for the newsletter. The close is usually the week with the last day of month.*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## MOMENT OF ZEN

Not too long ago I found a picture of me taken around 1958 or 1959 at my Grandmother's house. The photo was almost certainly taken with a box Kodak on 610 film. I was amazed to see how high my forehead was then. You can see the resemblance to my appearance 2006. Wonder why I scare people around Halloween? The dog in the picture was King, a most excellent friend.

*73, Don, WS4NC*

