



# Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

# Newsletter



## FARC NOW 80! Founded December 30, 1930

February, 2011

### FirstFest Review

With the weather looking scary the decision was made to postpone the FirstFest from January 8. In retrospect the decision was probably the best thing to do. Even without the snow it was going to be cold and very windy - not the best combination.

In 2010 we started out at 14 degrees at 6 that morning. There were only a few brave souls in the parking lot. But 2011 we had great weather. Lots of dealers inside, lot of tail'gators outside. It turned out that we had one of the warmest days in weeks. It was still brisk but compared to recent weeks it was like a heat wave.



## NC QSO PARTY THIS WEEKEND!

**NCQSO Party is next weekend. The RC shack will be open and we will be running W4NC as a bonus station again. The other Bonus station will be the battleship North Carolina**

### February Meeting

By now you should now that we postponed our February meeting. It was originally scheduled on the second Monday like always, but this year the second Monday was Valentine's Day. Discretion being the better choice - we sought to avoid other possible "storms" by moving to the third Monday - February 21. The program is about how "NOT" to put up a tower.

### 2011 NORTH CAROLINA QSO PARTY

The following changes have been posted for the 2011 North Carolina QSO Party. 1. NI4BK has replaced W4WS as a bonus station. This is the station of the USS North Carolina. 2. A suggested mobile window of 5 khz (CW) and 10 khz (SSB) below the suggested freqs has been created. 3. A mobile/SSB only category has been created.

Remember, we have added plaque sponsorships for \$30. If you or your group/club is interested in sponsoring an award see the NCQP page at <http://w4nc.com> for more information. Non-sponsored plaques will receive certificates.

We hope these additions will make the NCQP more enjoyable for all, and we hope to see you all at the January FirstFest sponsored by the Forsyth ARC!

Time/Date: 1700 UTC Feb.27 through 0300 UTC Feb.28 (10 hours)

OBJECT: Out of State stations work as many NC stations as you can. You may work stations once per each band/mode combination for QSO points. Work NC mobiles again as they change counties for QSO points. NC fixed stations work as many NC counties, States, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as you can. NC mobile stations work from as many NC counties to as many NC counties, States, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible.

EXCHANGE: Callsign, QTH (NC county, State, Canadian province or DXCC country)- Use of 59 or 599 is optional and will not influence your score! Be sure to stick to the official county abbreviations downloadable below.

SUGGESTED FREQS: CW - 3.540, 7.040, 14.040, 21.040, 21.140, 28.040, 28.140; PHONE - 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360. \*(New in 2011) \*Suggested mobile window is a 5khz window below the suggested freq on CW, 10 khz below the suggested freq on SSB. Fixed stations, please refrain from calling CQ within these windows in order to allow for mobile operation there. Let courtesy and common sense prevail!

**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 336-245-5740; or visit our web site at [www.w4nc.com](http://www.w4nc.com). Club email is to [info-at-w4nc.org](mailto:info-at-w4nc.org).

Officers for 2011 are:

President: Terry Brown, AK4D

Vice-President: Eric Bowen, WK4CW

Secretary: Tom Gallagher, N4IOZ

Treasurer: Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO

Newsletter Editor: Don Edwards, WS4NC

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

## Ham Radio License Testing

First congratulations to Greg Martin who became KJ4ZXY on January 17!

Amateur radio testing for new applicants as well as upgrades will be given the 2nd Monday of every month, except December, prior to the FARC regular meeting. All test participants are invited to attend the meeting. The time is 6:30 PM and the place is the Red Cross building on Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. Pre-registration is required via e-mail, listing the elements you wish to take and your phone number. You may pre-register or get additional information via e-mail to [info-at-w4nc.org](mailto:info-at-w4nc.org), attention Dale Mierisch WB9SZL. Replace -at- with the usual symbol. Other dates/times will be published as we schedule them.

*Dale Mierisch WB9SZL*  
*Session Manager - Forsyth Amateur Radio Club*  
*1-336-766-9675*

## FARC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you, thank you, thank you to those who returned the renewal cards. I've been running a little behind in getting all the cards made. A number of them will be available at the FARC meeting on Monday night. The rest will go out with the March Newsletter.

If you didn't return a renewal card (or didn't get one last month) here's a third chance. The renewal card included with this month's Newsletter serves several purposes. Obviously there is the renewal of FARC dues and **updating our records**. Secondly there will be published next year a Callbook of Forsyth County which will include phone numbers, email addresses for Forsyth County Hams and selected others such as NC ARRL officials and SERA Journal officials. This is so you can have one source for finding that information. Also this will be the basis for producing the **NEW FARC NAME TAGS** (see below). **Even if you have paid your FARC dues please return the card.**

To answer a few questions:

1. **But #@\$%! I paid my 2011 dues (or there's a mistake here)!** Or something else is wrong. Sorry, I'm human and keeping this up to date can be an error prone process. Just tell me - I'll fix it.

2. **I don't want my phone numbers published.** OK just mark the NO beside the phone numbers. We want the phone numbers because part of Amateur Radio is dealing with emergencies - even if you are not part of ARES it is part of being prepared to have a list of numbers. Also if an emergency should happen at an FARC event we have some contact points. If your numbers are already marked private in the database they will not appear on the card - that is because they are on the unpublished list (duh!) - please update them anyway and mark no publish if that is what you wish..



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3. **Why do you want my BIRTHDAY?** Well to say "Happy Birthday!" of course. Please put your **birthday** on the card. It's also something that helps with the automation of the database - anything that removes manual labor from this is welcome. Please help me.

4. **Why email address?** Email addresses are very important. It is the prime way most people communicate today. And sending a paper Newsletter costs about \$0.80 a copy for printing and postage. The Newsletter is about the biggest expense for the Club (and the printing, folding, stamping and trip to the PO are the biggest headache for the Newsletter editor!).

5. **I don't want to join your silly little Club.** OK but if you want your information to be correct in the Forsyth County Callbook then you need to return the card. I do have a few people marked as "NO MAIL" but sometimes I may slip up when I update the list. If you don't want to be included then the only way I have to know this is if you return the card and your record will be marked as NO MAIL. December goes only mostly to members, in January the Newsletter will go out to many of the (over 1000!) hams in Forsyth County.

6. **Family members** cards will be included with the main members card. Please update them and return them. We try to be inclusive of everyone. Family members are still full members of the Club - but only one mailed Newsletter is allowed - emailed copies are not

**Front of the new FARC name badges. For ARES members the back will also be an ARES badge. Join FARC to receive your own ID badges. For those who have sent in renewal cards ID badges will be available at the January meeting.**



## SNAZZY NEW NAME TAGS

I've been running a little behind in getting all the cards made. A number of them will be available at the FARC meeting on Monday night. The rest will go out with the March Newsletter. Everyone that sends the renewal card back with their 2011 dues payment will receive one of the new ID Badges. For those few who have pre-paid your 2011 dues the name badge will be processed automatically **but it would help to have the renewal card returned.**

If you are a member of Forsyth County ARES please indicate on the renewal card. Any certifications such as the Introduction to Disaster services training from the Red Cross or the National Weather Service basic or advanced training will be noted on the ARES side. It is very important to have the NIMS certification for ARES (see ARES News) and that will also be noted. It would be great if you could complete the NIMS certification by December. The first name badge comes with your dues - there will be a nominal charge for a replacement.

## ARES Announcements

*Eric WK4CW*

Anyone having questions about our ARES group or would like to volunteer for upcoming events, feel free to contact me at [wk4cw@arrl.net](mailto:wk4cw@arrl.net) or 336-231-4182. ARES net Thursday evenings 8:30 p.m. on 145.470.

The first Thursday of every month will be "Emergency Power Night" on the Forsyth County ARES Net. All stations are asked to check in using emergency power setups and this will give stations a once per month opportunity to check out their equipment in emergency power mode.

## ARES Reports

*By Carl, N4PAA*

### Jan 6, 2011 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA.

Check ins - 27. Stations were WA4NOT Jim, W4KG Steve, AK4D Terry, KF4EOD Mike, WB9SZL Dale, WB4QXG Fred, KC8OEX Terry, WA4RDZ Stan, KC4WSK Van, KE4ZFN Bryce, WD8KJX Brad, WA4ZKI Jerry, KA4JRL Jason, KJ4ENM Ed, KE4ENV Ron, KJ4MPP Rick and N4PAA Carl

There was no traffic this evening.

AK4D Terry announced that the FirstFest will be this Saturday from 7 AM to noon at the Summit School on Reynolda Road in Winston-Salem. The FARC meeting will be this coming Monday evening at the Red Cross Building starting at 7:30 PM.

Our EC - WK4CW Eric was absent this evening, so there was no formal meeting.

Formal Session - 24 minutes. Informal Session - 15. Total time - 39 minutes.

### Jan. 13, 2011 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - N4PAA.

Check ins - 29. Stations were WK4CW Eric, W4KG Steve, AK4D Terry, WA4NOT Jim, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KC8OEX Terry, WD8KJX Brad, KC4WSK Van, WA4ZKI Jerry, KD4ENV Ron, KE4ZFN Bryce, KJ4UFG John, KF4EOD Mike, KA4JRL Jason, KB4MB Chris, WN4LTY George, KJ4ENM Ed and N4PAA Carl.

There was no traffic this evening.

AK4D Terry announced that both the Firstfest on Saturday and the FARC meeting were postponed due to bad weather (actual and predicted). The FARC meeting will be this coming Monday, Jan 17, same place, same time. The Firstfest is rescheduled to Jan. 29.

Our EC - WK4CW Eric held the formal ARES meeting. He reviewed the normally occurring ARES events for a year - MS Walk, Three Mountain Madness, and Tour to Tanglewood. He said there will be a training exercise coming up this spring. As of December, Eric had 23 official ARES members of which 9 have

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NIMS certification. He needs more certified members to work with served agencies in simulated and real emergencies. Training is free and on line - details are on the ARES page of the W4NC.com web site. There is work in process to start and Area 9 ARES net - expected to be once a month. Also, Yadkin and Stokes Counties still need EC's. For more info, contact Eric at wk4cw@arrl.net.

Formal Session - 25 minutes. Informal Session - 14. Total time - 39 minutes.

#### **Jan. 20, 2011 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report**

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - KC8OEX.

Check ins - 21. Stations were WA8IHW Jack, WK4CW Eric, W4KG Steve, KF4ELD Larry, AK4D Terry, KG4FGC Ken, WA4NOT Jim, W8LWX John, WB9SZL Dale, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, N4PAA Carl, WA4ZKI Jerry, KJ4UFG John, AF4XC Ed, KF4EOD Mike, KA4JRL Jason, KD4CFS Hubert, KG4HTR Mike, KJ4SHX Ron and KC8OEX Terry.

There was no traffic this evening.

KG4FGC Ken announced that the WF4DD net is back in session starting this evening after this net. He also announced a Basic Skywarn Class to be held Feb. 24, 7 to 9 PM at the Single Brothers Workshop, 600 S. Main Street in Old Salem.

Our EC - WK4CW Eric held the formal ARES meeting. He reminded us that the Firstfest is rescheduled for Jan. 29 at the same Summit School location. He also reminded us that the weather has been befitting of winter and to stay prepared for anything. Speaking of which, there will be a county wide EOC drill coming up in April, tentatively the 11th, with locations, times, etc to be announced later as the details get worked out. For further information from Eric, contact him at wk4cw@arrl.net.

Formal Session - 26 minutes. Informal Session - 12. Total time - 38 minutes.

#### **Jan. 27, 2011 - Forsyth County ARES Net Report**

Net Started - 8:30 PM. Net Control - WK4CW.

Check ins - 20. Stations were WA8IHW Jack, WA4NOT Jim, KG4FGC Ken, AK4D Terry, WB9SZL Dale, N4PAA Carl, NA4P Fred, WF4DD WFU Club, KA4JRL Jason, WA4ZKI Jerry, KC4WSK Van, KB4SE Chris, KJ4UFG John, KF4EOD Mike, KJ4RNK Ken, KK4KK Pete, KJ4GOU Joe, KD4AWI John and WK4CW Eric.

There was no traffic this evening.

KG4FGC Ken announced a Basic Skywarn Class to be held Feb. 24, 7 to 9 PM at the Single Brothers Workshop, 600 S. Main Street in Old Salem.

AK4D Terry announced that FARC's Firstfest will be this Saturday - 7 AM to noon at Summit School located at 2100 Reynolda Road. Also, the regular FARC meeting is moved to Monday Feb. 21 to solve a conflict with Valentine's Day.

Our EC - WK4CW Eric held the formal ARES meeting. He went over some details of the severe tornado outbreak that occurred on New Year's Eve in Missouri. New Year's Eve in NOT prime tornado weather, so this should point out we need to be ready for anything at any time. There is a new bill in congress that would provide relief for amateur radio antennas that run into zoning laws, development covenants, etc. Keeping to the bad weather news, this year's annual National Hurricane Conference will be held in Atlanta in April. Then we get to see the predicted amount of bad weather next summer.

Eric discussed the California Bay Area Radio Club and that it now requires 8 different NIMS or other courses before a member can participate in an exercise with a served agency. Currently we only require four NIMS courses in NC. Eric encouraged us to look up the on-line courses and take them so there are more ARES members able to participate in simulated or real emergencies with served agencies. Speaking of which, a simulated emergency drill is in the works for Forsyth County in April. More details as they become available.

For further information from Eric, contact him at wk4cw@arrl.net.

Formal Session - 34 minutes. Informal Session - 9. Total time - 43 minutes.