



**Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

# Newsletter

**OUR 83<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!**

Founded December 30, 1930

**November, 2014**



## November Program RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH!!

This is a program not to be missed! Retired FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will be here to discuss life after the FCC and “What We Owe Amateur Radio.” In 1998 Hollingsworth became Special Counsel with the FCC’s new Enforcement Bureau. He also managed the interference resolution programs in the Land Mobile and Public Safety services. Prior to Enforcement Riley was Deputy Chief of Licensing, Assistant Bureau Chief of the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau and legal advisor to the Compliance and Information Bureau. He has filled a number of other jobs and advisor roles in the FCC during his long and distinguished career including serving as a Member of the Delegation from the US State Department to Romania to discuss licensing in the US. He received the Vice President Gore “Hammer Award” for efficiency in government. He retired from the FCC in July, 2008.

The Club meeting will start early at 7:15 PM to make time for a short business meeting. Our usual Homebrew Show-&-Tell program has been moved to January to accommodate Riley’s schedule! This will be a heavily attended meeting with guests from out-of-town. Arrive early to help to get a good seat.

## Nominating Committee Report

As provided in the constitution the officers of the Club asked one member to form a committee and select its Chairman. David Shoaf KC4X was asked to form a committee who consisted of David (as chairman) and Steven Mierisch KG4JWU, Bob Gusek NC4RG, Andrew Gusek NC4AG and Harold Richardson N4HER. As has been customary for all officers except Treasurer, if the current officers have served only one year, they are asked to serve a second year. This has certain efficiency because these are working jobs and require a certain amount of time to come up to speed. The role of Treasurer is more involved and requires more work on a monthly basis and familiarity with banking and tax laws and regulations, especially with keeping our 501c3 status – for these reasons the Treasurer is a longer term position. Each of the current officers, except Treasurer, has served only one year. They have been asked, and

they agreed, to serve another year. At the November meeting the following motion will be made:

Motion: The Nominating Committee has asked the following officers to serve a second year for 2015: President Jerry Minor K4GW, Vice President Jim Atkins W4UX, Secretary Terry Brown AK4D. The NomCom also has asked Henry Heidtmann W2DZO to remain as Treasurer for 2015. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the November meeting. Please do not nominate someone unless he has been asked and agreed to serve.

## October Program

Jim Mansfield, WA4NOT, Forsyth County ARES gave an interesting dog-by-dog explanation of the behind-the-scenes at Tour-To-Tanglewood at our October meeting. A really fun program.

## Another New Young Ham Robert KM4EZJ



FARC has been blessed with a number of new hams recently, especially young hams. We are very happy to welcome aboard 11-year-old Robert George KM4EZJ who passed his technician test at the October test session. Six other people either passed or upgraded at the October session. Names and details are on page 3.

## December Meeting

**Monday December 1, 2014.** Just to warn you early – we are holding the December meeting at the same location (River Ridge Tap House in Clemmons on 421) as last year but it will be on the FIRST Monday; second and third Mondays were already reserved. The main club meeting is still the second Monday of the month (except December) at the Red Cross building on Coliseum Drive.

# January Program

**Homebrew Show-&Tell!** Our annual homebrew Show & Tell has been moved from November to January. Now you have more time to construct goodies to show.

## Pilot Mt. to Hanging Rock Ultra Marathon

*By Dennis, N4DSM  
Stokes County Amateur Radio Society*

SCARS provided communications for the "1st Annual Pilot Mountain to Hanging Rock Ultra Marathon". We received STELLAR reviews on the quality of our service and professionalism. I cannot possibly thank our team enough for the OUTSTANDING job each of us did in making this happen.



Our team deployed from 0800hrs to 2245hrs and ensured that each and every runner was accounted for. This was an enormous task when you consider this 50 mile race traversed wooded trails and terrains of every degree.



An extra special THANK YOU goes to Steven Mierisch (KG4JWU) for his excellent leadership in coordinating the club with race officials seamlessly to give SCARS an excellent image.

A special THANK YOU to Helena George (KM4DAN) and Maria George (KM4DAM) for using their horses to the point of exhaustion to ensure no runner was left in the woods unaccounted for. This was something the race officials had not expected to be provided and definitely added to our capabilities.

A special THANK YOU to Troy Brown (K4OBI), Brandon Warren (KM4ATA), Jeff Lansing (KM4BON), and Frankie Lansing (KM4CBQ) for moving forward to unmanned stations throughout the day to ensure SCARS gave superior service. To Charles Kavanagh (KK4RED) to staying on top of all the madness at the finish line to the very last runner completed the race. To Danny Baker (KB3MUP) for remaining mobile & connected in the SAG for transport. To Michelle McClure (K4DAM), David Peterson (KK4GAF), and John Kippe (K1PPE) for providing excellent service to their stations for the day from setup to the last runner passing them.



As for myself, I am very proud of our club having only been founded a few short months ago to come together and exceed everyone's expectations for this sort of endeavor. We had multiple contingencies planned and had to resort to plan B quickly on some things that the race organizers were never made aware of, we operated through intense fog and periods of rain throughout the day, and we used every resource we had at our disposal without so much as a delay in service. My hats off to each and every fellow member for a JOB WELL DONE...

I think we are ready for the next level...stay tuned...the wheels are in motion!!!

[Ed. Note: We are very proud of our new sister Stokes County Club, who took the lead on this Stokes County event – it was a very long day. See more about the SCARS at their website:

<http://www.k4stk.com/news.html> ]

## And More Ultra Marathon

By Steve, KG4EDU



These are some of the better pictures I took of the Pilot Mountain to Hanging Rock Ultra-marathon on Saturday,



October 11, 2014. The event was a 50 k and 50 mile race on trails maintained by NC State Parks and the Sauratown Trails Association. I was out there for the day, supporting the event, while wearing two hats. I



organized the ham radio operators for communication support, and I was also out representing STA. The Stokes County Amateur Radio Society (SCARS) provided most of the ham volunteers for the event.



**Bringing the club meeting to you.**  
Every 2nd Monday of each month.  
7:30 PM EST  
[w4nclive.com](http://w4nclive.com)

## Arduino Workshop

& Future Technical Saturday Workshops

By Don WS4NC

We continue to have Arduino workshops, although October's had to be rescheduled. It is now set for November 22. Originally planned for November 8 but so many were unable to make that date it was felt to be better if we scheduled for a later weekend. Even if you have never participated come on out and join us. We'll get your started. You will need a Mega 2560 Arduino, some accessories and a laptop. There will be a few Arduino 2560s and accessories to purchase at the workshop but those supplies are very limited.

We have a number of projects on the list, including sweep generators and an SWR bridge. A second order has gone out for Arduino parts. If you are not on the email list and want to be send an email to ws4nc <at> dwepe <dot> com.

Andrew, NC4AG; Bob, NC4RG; Don, WS4NC; Henry, W2DZO; Jerry, K4GW; Kip, K1PPE; Dan, KG4ECI; Geoff, KK4MOV; Steve, WA3RTC; Steve, KG4JWU; Dale, WB9SZL; Harold, N4HER; Ray, K4ZGV; Van, KC4WSK; Jim, W4UX; Carl, N4PAA; Gene, WB4MSG; Charlie, W4TMR; Randy, NC4RT; Jim, KV4SJ; Terry, K4D; David, N5WNB; Randy, NC4RT , William Harmonic-W2DZO

## FCC Exams

By Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL  
VEC Session Manager

Allow me to offer all of you a hearty congratulations on your Amateur License's and Upgrades:

WILLIAM A WHITAKER KK4KHC E G  
MICHAEL S HUNTER KJ4IYL E G  
JOHN S HANLEY JR KM4AFY E G  
DALE A WALL KM4EZG T G  
SAM L KOCH KM4EZH T G  
WILL CLARKE KM4EZI T G  
ROBERT M GEORGE KM4EZJ T G

I look forward to chatting with each of you on the air. For new hams, please complete the information on attached form for a free Membership to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club (FARC).

Mark the form "New Ham-9/8/2014". Once the form is completed, bring to the next club meeting, or please scan and email to me.

More about FCC exams on the next page . . .

## FCC Exams and FARC Membership

73, Dale Mierisch, WB9SZL  
VEC Session Manager

For non-FARC members, if you took an FCC exam, either for a new license or an upgrade, you should have an attachment to your email for a free membership in FARC. Mark the form "New Ham-9/8/2014" Once the form is completed, please scan and email to me.

Exams are offered before the FARC and start at 6:15 PM in room 109 at the Red Cross building. Pre-registration is strongly suggested at info <at> w4nc <dot> com. We try to accommodate walk-ins if we can. Our biggest challenge continues to be convincing Upgrade candidates to bring a **copy** of their license to exam sessions. A copy of your license must accompany the application to the FCC. Any missing copy unfortunately delays the entire license process for all candidates. Pre-registration is strongly suggested at info <at> w4nc <dot> com. We try to accommodate walk-ins if we can. Bring your original license, if you have one, two forms of ID, \$12.00, and for License Upgrades, please assure:

1. That you bring your original license for viewing -AND
2. **That you provide a "Required" copy of your license and successful completion forms (CSCE's - if any) to accompany your FCC Upgrade application.** Please try to have those copies with you upon arrival.

Exams at held at the general club meeting on second Mondays

## Thoughts on T2T

By Randy, NC4RT

Some thoughts on my little Tour To Tanglewood experiment...

I received several comments from other riders asking what that thing (whip antenna) was hanging out of my musette bag. One guy said there was a rumor going around that ride marshalls were mic'd up this year...

When we ride, we keep our ears peeled for sounds and voices behind us... Since my HT was typically riding in the musette, and was swung back behind me, I heard much of the repeater traffic as riders behind me having a conversation. It took quite a while to relax and automatically know it was the HT.

HT reception of the repeater faded significantly at the Lake Thom-A-Lex rest stop (the farthest distance from Sauratown? and a bit below grade).

Once a biker gets up to 12 mph or so, the wind in his ears makes monitoring an HT impossible. Surely

motorcycle mobile ops know this, but I had to learn it the hard way. I wouldn't want to wear an earpiece; hearing other riders and auto traffic is too important.

The dog bite came at the residence I've been threatened nearly every year. Apparently this guy gets his jollies by letting his dog(s) bother bikers. I'm sure the race folks know of this, and have no doubt tried to get him to control his dog...

I'm not sure whether I'll carry the HT with me again... There were a couple of times I might have used it to contact you but in each case the riders said SAG was on the way. How did they know that? Cell phone?

Thanks guys, for this tremendous service. All the amenities of a supported ride (traffic control, SAG, rest stops, cue sheets) make this a really fun way to ride.

[Ed. Note: Yes, Randy, I got it, your last name is spelled funny – there's no "t" in Tompson – Thanks for the correction! And Randy points out that he only lives 24,856.2 miles from Jim, WA4NOT (long path). That's about ½ mile for non-hams.]

## Amazon Smile Program

Do you buy stuff from Amazon? If you do there is a way for FARC to earn a little money here. Go to the Amazon Smile link below and register and select Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to FARC. It costs you nothing more, but it benefits the club. Any thing you order has to be ordered from the Amazon Smile link – if, after you register, you forget to order through the smile program it will usually remind you. Again it costs you nothing more. Amazon is supporting legal 501c(3) organizations through this program. Thanks to Raja, KB6MTH for pointing this out.

[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)

## Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club Meeting—13 October 2014

By Terry Brown, AK4D,  
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Minor, K4GW, at 1935 hours and welcomed the approximately 35 members attending.
2. Announcements/Club Business:
  - a. Treasurers Report: Henry Heidtmann stated that the club balance was approximately \$2803 and all major bills had been paid. Henry stated that he was investigating a two dollar billing fee if we continue to receive paper bills with paperless billing being the most likely solution.
  - b. Results of the FARC Club Station as a W1AW/4 Centennial QSO Party Station: Henry also thanked everyone who participated in the W1AW/4 five hour session held at the FARC club station. Several

club members got to operate in this event, 320 contacts with 42 states were made and the 40 meter band was used.

c. Dayton Hamfest News: The Dayton Hamvention will be held 15-17 May 2015. Henry reported that he had reserved two room areas for attendees from FARC with a total of 12 spots available. Other details will follow.

d. Repeater Status and Revised Repair Amount: Dale Mierisch stated that all three club repeaters were operational. However, Echolink was only functional on the 145.470 repeater. Efforts were continuing to get Echolink functional on the 146.640 repeater. Dale stated that he and Mike Atkins visited the Sauratown repeater site ten days ago to fully determine what items were needed for previously discussed repairs there. Henry Heidtmann asked that Dale give him a list of needed items and he will order those for the club. Jerry Minor then stated that the previously member voted upon and approved amount of \$1000 to improve and repair the Sauratown Mountain repeater needed to be revised upwards to \$1300 to cover repairs to or replacement of the repeater tower. A motion was made, seconded and approved by meeting attendees to do this. It was discussed and agreed upon that if the work could not be done by the end of November, that work be postponed until the following spring.

e. VE Test Session Report: Dale Mierisch thanked the VE's who helped with the test session prior to the club meeting, Ed Eller, John Kippee and Mike Aiken. Dale stated that seven of the eight test takers succeeded. There were four new technician licenses (Dale A. Wall-KM4EZG, Sam L. Kock-KM4EZH, Will Clarke-KM4EZI, Robert M. George-KM4EZJ) and there were three upgrades to Extra (William A. Whitaker-KK4KHC, Michael S. Hunter-KJ4IYL, John S. Hanley Jr-KM4AFY).

f. House Bill 4969, Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014: Terry Brown gave an update on House Bill 4969. No action was currently ongoing and not expected until after the November election since all 435 members of the House of Representatives were up for re-election for another two year term.

g. Arduino Class: Bob Gusek thanked everyone of attending the prior Arduino class and stated that everyone was welcome to attend the next session scheduled for 8 November. He had ordered extra parts for any new attendees. The next project being considered may be either a frequency generator or SWR meter. He will be giving details on downloading a free book on Arduino.

h. Special Guest for the November FARC Meeting: Henry reminded everyone of the special guest for the November meeting, Riley Hollingsworth who was a former FCC enforcement director. He encouraged everyone to attend. (Note: this special meeting on Monday, 10 November will start at 7:15 instead of the normal 7:30 meeting time).

i. Firstfest Hamfest: David Shoaf reminded everyone that the Firstfest Hamfest was coming up soon and that he would need everyone's help to make this one a success and better than last years hamfest.

j. Cystic Fibrosis Hike on Hanging Rock: Jim Mansfield informed everyone about the upcoming 21 mile hike up Hanging Rock State Park on 18 October. It is estimated to take 11 hours, starting at 0600. He stated that he needed five operators to cover four rest areas.

k. Thanks from Gene Bowman: Gene Bowman thanked everyone for the help given to his family over the past few weeks.

### 3. Meeting Main Topics:

a. Tour to Tanglewood Report and Discussion: Jim Mansfield gave a summary of the Tour to Tanglewood bike fund raiser event for MS, overall

casualty free with the exception of a dog bite to one rider. Several stories were told from those that helped out and suggestions were made to improve next years coverage by FARC members.

b. Ultra Marathon: Steven Mierisch briefed everyone on the Sauratown Mountain to Hanging Rock Ultra Marathon that had 130 runners. This event started at 0735 and went into the night with runners using headlamps. The event finished at 2245 hours, one hour ahead of time. He thanked everyone who helped with this event. Discussion was held on communication issues in this area and possible solutions including using the club trailer to mount a portable repeater and antenna (Gene Bowman).

4. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2045 hours.

5. Meeting Attendees: The names of the meeting attendees who signed the attendance list follow:

Don Edwards-WS4NC; Gene Bowman-WB4MSG; Jim Atkins-W4UX; David Ramsey-KJ4OIL; Geoff Rudy-KK4MOV; Harold Richardson-N4HER; Steve Patterson-WA3RTC; Van Key-KC4WSK; David McDonald-N5WNB; Andrew Gusek-NC4AG; Bob Gusek-NC4RG; Les Jongberg-KJ4VYZ; Jim Mansfield-WA4NOT; David Shoaf-KC4X; Terry Brown-AK4D; Ava Bazonski-Granddaughter of AK4D; Jeff George-KG4BDV; Robert George-KM4EZJ- Congratulations on getting his Tech!!; Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU; Jim Register-KV4SJ; Bill Starkey-N4WWS; Randy Tompson-NC4RT; John (Jack) Hanley-KM4AFL; Gary Miller-WA4VMC; Mike Atkins; N4VE; John Kippee-K1PPE; Ed Eller-KJ4ENM; Dale Mierisch-WB9SZL; Jerry Minor-K4GW.

## Minutes of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Business Meeting—20 October 2014

*By Terry Brown, AK4D,  
Secretary, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club*

**1. Attendees:** Thirteen attendees: Terry Brown-AK4D, Don Edwards-WS4NC, Henry Heidtmann-W2DZO, Bob Gusek-NC4RC, Andrew Gusek-NC4AG, John Kippee-NOKTY, Jim Atkins-W4UG, David Shoaf-KC4X, Steven Mierisch-KG4JWU, Harold Richardson-N4HER and Jim Register-KV4SJ. Additionally, Gene Bowman-WB4MSG called in via phone.

**2. Call to Order:** Meeting, at Oscar's Grill, 3348 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, was called to order by Vice-President Jim Atkins at 1934 hours.

**3. Treasurer Report:** Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, FARC Treasurer stated that a club balance of \$2729.20. The two dollar fee discussed by Henry in the October club meeting will be waived as an online account had been established for utilities.

### 4. Meeting Topics:

#### a. Future Meeting Topics:

November: Riley Hollingsworth, Former FCC enforcement division. This special meeting will start at 1915 instead of the usual 1930 hours.

December: Holiday banquet

January 2105: Homebrew

#### b. Future FARC Shack issues: Some

discussion was made about the FARC club shack issues. Also discussion about reaching out to SciWorks for possible future projects together is including an exhibit. Henry Heidtmann will make some inquiries.

**c. Nomination Committee:** The nomination committee consisting of David Shoaf, Andrew Gusak, Bob Gusak, Harold Richardson and Steven Mierisch is handling club officer nominations for 2015. All current officers are available to continue for a second year. The club newsletter will be sent out noting this.

d. **Sauratown Mountain Repairs:** Henry Heidtmann reminded Steven Mierisch that Dale needed to make a list of items needed to do the repairs to the Sauratown Mountain repeater. Henry would order needed items.

e. **Firstfest:** David Shoaf talked briefly about the Firstfest Hamfest scheduled for 10 January 2015 at Summit School. Henry Heidtmann was confirming that the school cafeteria was available.

5. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 2034 hours.

## Gene Bowman WB4MSG Grand-Harmonic

Joshua Zachery Knight born October 18 around 3:30 AM, 6 pounds 13 oz (If I remember correctly). 10 toes and 10 fingers! Both Mama Genia and baby are fine. No information about whether he has learned his first CW characters yet. Congratulations to Gene and family!

## Update on HR4969 Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014

*By Don Edwards, WS4NC  
with help from Terry, AK4D*

Terry Brown, AK4D advises that most any action on the Amateur Radio Parity Act will not happen until after the election.

## Contests

*By Don WS4NC*

Wondering about when the next Contest is happening? This is a contest list courtesy of PVRC that lists the major upcoming contests. Even if you are not "into" the contesting thing, operating during one contest is a great way to secure the 100 countries for DXCC in international contests or the 50 states for WAS in a US Contest.

Contest Name	Start Date	End Date	Log Due Date
<a href="#">ARRL SS CW</a>	11/1/2014	2014-11-03	2014-11-18
<a href="#">WAE RTTY</a>	11/8/2014	2014-11-09	2014-11-24
<a href="#">ARRL SS SSB</a>	11/15/2014	2014-11-17	2014-12-02
<a href="#">CQWW CW</a>	11/29/2014	2014-11-30	2014-12-05
<a href="#">ARRL 160M</a>	12/5/2014	2014-12-07	2015-01-06
<a href="#">ARRL 10M</a>	12/13/2014	2014-12-14	2015-01-13

Contest Name	Start Date	End Date	Log Due Date
<a href="#">ARRL RTTY Round Up</a>	1/3/2015	2015-01-04	2015-02-05
<a href="#">NA QSO Party - January CW</a>	1/10/2015	2015-01-11	2015-01-18
<a href="#">NA QSO Party - January SSB</a>	1/17/2015	2015-01-18	2015-01-25
<a href="#">ARRL January VHF</a>	1/17/2015	2015-01-19	2015-02-18
<a href="#">CQ160 CW</a>	1/23/2015	2015-01-25	2015-01-30
<a href="#">CQ WPX RTTY</a>	2/14/2015	2015-02-15	2015-02-20
<a href="#">ARRL DX CW</a>	2/21/2015	2015-02-22	2015-03-23
<a href="#">CQ160 SSB</a>	2/27/2015	2015-03-01	2015-03-06
<a href="#">NA QSO Party - February RTTY</a>	2/28/2015	2015-03-01	2015-03-08
<a href="#">ARRL DX SSB</a>	3/7/2015	2015-03-08	2015-04-07
<a href="#">Russian Dx Contest</a>	3/21/2015	2015-03-22	2015-04-06
<a href="#">CQ WPX SSB</a>	3/28/2015	2015-03-29	2015-04-03
<a href="#">CQ WPX CW</a>	5/30/2015	2015-05-31	2015-06-05
<a href="#">ARRL June VHF</a>	6/13/2015	2015-06-15	2015-07-14



**Bringing the club meeting to you.**  
Every 2nd Monday of each month.  
7:30 PM EST  
[w4nclive.com](http://w4nclive.com)

## Diddle-De-Dah-De-Don

*By Don WS4NC  
Newsletter Editor*

Congrats to the Raleigh Club who received news coverage of their 1938 field day in Raleigh's News & Observer 9/25/2014 – the dates are not a typo. Nice vintage photos. Go check it out.

[http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/09/25/4180420\\_amateur-radio-broadened-raleighs.html?sp=/99/106/1552/&rh=1](http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/09/25/4180420_amateur-radio-broadened-raleighs.html?sp=/99/106/1552/&rh=1)