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# The FARC QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-

## A 20 meter QRP Xcvr built into an Altoids box



Believe it or not! This little transceiver, complete with a key, fits inside of an Altoids 3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" by 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tin box. It was something N4JJ did during the Christmas Holidays. The picture shows the key on the left and 9 volt battery below the rig. He had to use a magnifying glass at time to check his solder joints.

Jack has received two 599 RST reports on QSLs from NJ and OK on his QRP rig.

## February meeting is record setting for FARC

Who would ever believe that we would have 38 people present at our February meeting that set an all-time high. It was great to see so many people present. We also

had some new faces present as well. They were **Jim Dedonis** KD4VH, **Sam Watson** W4STW, and **James Rawl** KD4BAN.

We had the following people join or rejoined the club in January and February. We welcome **Jason Wright** KI4CFQ, **Ralph Thompson** KI4AOQ, **David Milligan** N4URR, **Dyke Green** KI4DJG, **Bill Kempf** KE4KQP, and **Angela Brower** KI4CCE. Welcome aboard.

Continued on next page



XYL Family Amateur Radio Dinner on the 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm at Western Sizzlin

### THE FARC QSO

FARC QSO is published monthly by the Florence Amateur Radio Club to provide information to its club members, to all persons interested in wireless communication, and to encourage the promotion of amateur radio in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina.

The editorial staff reserves the right to edit and rewrite for content and space. Deadline for all articles is the 15 of the month.

The editor welcomes your suggestions and comments about this or future publications.

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**Florence Amateur Radio Club**  
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Annual dues are \$36 and payable before January 1 of each year

FARC nets meet each week on  
Monday, 8:30 pm ET at 146.850 -  
and  
Wednesday at 8:30 pm ET  
on or about 28.330 MHz

Meeting at 7 pm on  
Tuesday, the 2nd of



at Western Sizzlin'  
2004

Our treasurer reported that we have \$2,132.20 in the bank account. We presently have 47 members in the club with 36 who have paid their 2004 dues.

At the February meeting it was voted that we have name badges for each member. The badges will be given to members before the meeting and collected after each meeting. This way we are able to keep a double record of members who are present.

The club is looking for two dependable members who would like to do some volunteer work. We need a chairperson for "Sky Warn" and "Kid's Day." If you are interested, contact president Rudolph Hatcher 662-3898 ASAP.



New Members in Jan. are Bill Kempf and David Milligan with his daughter.

### Sandblast rally runs full speed ahead

by "Mac" Cullom, K4AVR

The Sandblast is probably new to many in the club. Unlike other races, it is run in seven segments totalling 65 miles of sandy, dirt trails through the Sandhills State Forest, located along US-1 close to Patric, SC. The Chesterfield County Amateur Radio Society used its repeater which was located at the H. Cooper Black Recreation Area. Our very own FARC Mac K4AVR and his XYL, Suzie KG4YVJ, provided the net control station from their motor home.

During the rally, hams were stationed with the timing crews at the start and finish of each stage and in the spectator areas for that stage. The hams job was to let

NCS know each car number as it entered and left each stage of the race. If a car was overdue at the finish line, the finish line ham would ask the next drivers if they knew what happened to driver in front of them if he knew what happened the missing car and driver.

"Spectator hams" ensure that people didn't block the course. A ham was also stationed the



Two more new members received at January meeting

We had a great crowd at the February meeting. Let us see if we can beat that record at our March meeting.



Dyke Green and Angela Brower were welcomed into FARC on February 4th

"sweep car" to pull out any disabled cars along the seven segments or stages of the race. Hams were also stationed aboard with medical emergency teams.

In addition to the seven stage duties, a number of hams were also part of the rally administrative team. They were involved in surveying the course to be sure that all the timers and their support hams were working.

Amateur operators representing the Chesterfield County ARS, Grand Strand ARS, and Florence ARC supported the event as well as a number of hams from all over the country were part of the Sandhills Sandblast Rally 2004. A total of 27 hams participated.

Come join your ham friends at Burger King every Saturday morning

BK Lounge, Sat. 9 a.m.

South Irby Street near Coles Crossroads

### FARC Bulletin Board

FARC amateur radio exams will be held at the Florence Public Library on April 17, Saturday at 9 a.m.

Calling the XYL dinner group that meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm this

March: **Wayne Howell**  
April: **Bob Lowman**

**CLUB MEMBERS** - If you have not paid your 2004 dues by April 1, your name will be dropped from the membership, and this will be the last issue of FARC QSO.

It is through our dues that we are able to maintain the two repeaters/auto patches.