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## 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 15th 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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ARES - Bobby Collins KG4BZK

Annual Dues at \$36, plus \$14 repeater fund,  
payable on or before January 1 of each  
year.

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

Florence ARES Net meets  
each week on Monday 8:00 pm at 146.850

The  
FARC

# QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850, 146.970



The October meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by our president, Jack Jackson, N4JJ. All members introduced themselves. We had 24 members and 7 guests. Neither Jack nor Mac had a copy of the treasurer's report. Jack reported "We started with some money, we spent some money and we ended with some money. The actual report will be printed in the QSO."

No ARRL report.

ARES Report given by Mac Cullom, K4AVR

1. Weapons of Mass Destruction drill to be run on Saturday, Oct. 8. All members are asked to monitor the '85 repeater and help if and when requested.

2. ARES Net is held each Monday evening at 8:00 P.M. just before the Rag Chew net. All ARES members are asked to participate and the Net Control position will be rotated among all the members to get everyone used to doing that. Hopefully traffic messages will be passed to learn that skill.

3. Bobby Collins, KG4BZK, would like to start an Amateur Radio Emergency Level One Communications course to be held on

weekends. Nine members signed up and several more who were not in attendance expressed interest.

Repeater Report:

1. '85 - The controller upgrade will be installed soon. The proposed announcements included the regular meetings, Monday and Wednesday night nets and ARES events. All members were asked for additional input.

2. 440 - Carolinas Hospital has agreed to put the 440 repeater on their roof. Pete Sealy is preparing a price quote to place the antenna on an existing tower.

3. '97 - Everything is working well and the tone has been returned.

4. '195 - The Florence PALS repeater is currently on Jack's floor. Plans are in the works to find it a new home this month.

Nominating Committee:

Dave Jones, K4DLJ, our Vice President, reported that the



Meeting at  
7pm on  
Tuesday the  
4th. at  
Shoney's'

committee has several names it is considering and will make a full report and recommendation at the next meeting.

#### 2-Meter Picnic:

There were 10 FARC members at the picnic. A good time was had by all and all FARC members were asked to come next year to Santee State Park. Mike Duff, KG4SLH, did preside at a VE session. One ham passed both code and the General written, one passed the General written only, and two did not pass.

#### JOTA:

Since there has been no information from the Boy Scout Council, we will not participate this year but will help on the air if asked. Maybe we can connect with the Council and prepare something for next year.

#### ARRL Membership:

Membership renewals will be due soon. John Germain, KA3JAL, can help you renew your membership through the club which will give a small rebate to the club.

#### ARRL DVD:

Jack has a copy of the newest DVD presentation featuring Walter Cronkite. If anyone would like to borrow it, please contact Jack.

#### Common Power Connectors:

Jack recommended that all members try to standardize the power connectors for their equipment so that all radios will work on all power supplies. The Columbia Club has a source to buy Power Pole connectors in bulk for \$1.25 per pair. Locally J&M has both connectors and the proper crimping tool. A recommendation was made that anything over 15



amps. Should be soldered. More discussion later.

The meeting was adjourned.

Bob Austin, K7DVB, brought a vintage Nutrodyne Receiver built in 1928 by the R. E. Thompson Co. in Jersey City, NJ for the membership to examine. This receiver will be donated to the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum in Asheville, NC.

### September Treasurer Report

Began Sept. with:	\$1,413.10
Copies	6.12-
Card Holders	15.81-
Repeater Upgrade	330.67-
Sera Dues	20.00-
'85 Phone	32.89-
End Sept. with:	\$1,007.61

Membership stands at 50 and there were 22 members and one guest at the September meeting.

### November Birthdays

1 Tim Webber, WD4CHS  
14 Wayne Cooke, W4ID

### Upcoming Events

Dec. 3 - VE Session at  
Red Cross Bldg.  
Dec. 6 - Christmas Party &  
Election of Officers  
Scavenger Hunt - till 12/31

### CW Love It Or Leave It

Submitted by N4JJ

Old Timers Club member Harry Robinson, W2AZ, was standing beside Ted McElroy as he set a new CW copying record during a special competition on July 2, 1939. Harry is one of 4 or 5 remaining eyewitnesses from that historic day.

The following is an excerpt from an account originally published in "The ARC", the newsletter of the Asheville Amateur Radio Club, North Carolina, dated August 2, 1939.

"The code machine had been adjusted to take the high speed and the judges made sure that the text had been sealed and was intact just as it was received from the FCC office in Boston. W4HX sends a few preliminary centimeters of tape through the machine and the contestants adjust their 'cans.' One can observe intent concentration in the faces of the contestants. W4HX glances at his stopwatch, says 'ready', and pulls a switch and a code contest that is destined to make history begins.

The machine is hitting up at 40 wpm and McElroy, McDonald, W4CRV and one or two others are transcribing effortlessly. Then W4HX at the machine, steps it up to 45 wpm. One or two contestants sigh, and take off their 'cans.' At 50 wpm, the staccato clicks of the typewriters at the far end of the table become piano, then pianissimo. Now there are

only 2 contestants left plus McElroy. At 55 wpm, they increase their tempo but W4CRV slackens noticeably, and resigns himself to the inevitable. All the while, McElroy and McDonald seem to be playing a symphony with four hands, so perfectly that their typing seems to blend into one cacophony of sound. As the machine is stepped up to 60 wpm the silence among the spectators becomes almost eerie. The machine drones on and the two contestants pound relentlessly.

At 65 wpm, they are approaching the world's record. Bulldog like, McDonald hangs on as McElroy is keeping an even rhythm. At 70 wpm there is discord in the typing of the two contestants. A glance of the eye reveals that McDonald is losing his timing but McElroy with only a momentary pause to adjust, gathers more momentum. McDonald takes off his 'cans' and moves a shaking hand across a perspiring brow and concedes victory to McElroy.

Meanwhile, the machine does not stop. At 75 wpm, McElroy, having already eclipsed his former record of 69 wpm at Brocton, Massachusetts, in 1935, tires and slackens his speed. At 80 wpm, he copies furiously for a breath or two and then halts the movement of his hands on the keyboard.

Amid the silence, W4HZ stops the machine and the full impact of the occasion dawns upon the gallery. There is an almost deafening volume of applause. A new record in receiving code had been established."

### CONDOLENCES

FARC would like to extend our condolences to John Schumacher, N4DOU, on the death of his mother.