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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 on 146.850- and
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on or about 28.330

Florence ARES Net meets
the Second Tuesday each month at
8:30 pm on 146.850-

**The
FARC**

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



Our President, Bob Austin, K7DVB, opened the April meeting and as usual each person introduced themselves. The first order of business was the Treasurer's report by KA3JAL, John Germain as follows:

Began February:	\$2,389.04
Bell South	- 33.44
Bell South	- 34.44
End March:	\$2,321.16

Repeater Savings at \$1,914.48
Membership dropped to 53 as of April 1.

N4JJ, Jack Jackson, reported that there have been several changes at ARRL headquarters including Debra Johnson being named as Field Service and Membership Coordinator.

KG4BZK, Bobby Collins, reported that not much is happening with ARES and that MAYFLY will be held on Memorial Day Weekend this year but he will be unable to attend planning meetings due to work commitments.

All of the repeaters are working well but there was a short discussion about the courtesy tones. KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, reported that the Elmer information is ready for handout but could be formatted into a flyer or brochure in the future.

K7DVB took the club to task

about volunteers for the McLeod Run/Walk. It took a lot of phone calls to get enough operators to work the event and that the required number was met only days before the event. If the club commits to an event, we need to have enough operators lined up well in advance. We have MAYFLY coming soon. We need as much help as we can get, both from club members and other interested Hams. Please talk this up and try to get help for this two-day event.

There was a long discussion about insurance for the repeater equipment. At the present time we have liability coverage only. KA3JAL offered to look into the cost of equipment insurance and W4PFZ, Olin McDaniel, and K4AVR, Mac Cullom, will compile a list of the replacement costs for all three repeaters and installations. This information should be available at the next meeting when we can decide whether to insure all the equipment.

The next discussion revolved around the Repeater Fund. For the past three years, we have



Meeting at
7:30 PM on
the 1st. at
Shoney's

added a \$14/year surcharge to the yearly membership fee to collect funds for the next repair or replacement of repeater equipment. We all remember "Passing the Hat" to fund the antenna and feed line replacement for '85. Hopefully this fund will provide for such repairs in the future. N4JJ proposed that we make this assessment permanent and the vote to keep the additional amount, which is only a little over a dollar a month, was unanimous.

W4ORW, Wayne Howell, reminded all VE's that he has scheduled another training session for Thursday evening, April 26th at 7:00 pm at the Bell South Building, to prepare for the upcoming VE session. Since the testing will start promptly at 9:00 am on April 28th at Methodist Manor, please plan to arrive early.

KA3JAL reminded us that matching funds are still available for any donations to our Scholarship Fund at Florence Darlington Tech. We are more than half way to our goal. Our most senior member, W8IXZ, Harry Paxton, has had several health reverses. Within the past month, he has been hospitalized for compression fractures of the spine and has had some major dental work. We wish him well and hope that he will be able to join us at a meeting in the near future.

KI4ORA, Jim Lavia, brought us a sample of an excellent quality, polo style shirt which would cost \$16.95 as shown with an additional \$3.95 each to have a name or a call sign embroidered.

N4JJ reported that he is running out of small items to raffle off at the club meeting. Anyone having something they



would like to donate, please bring it along to a meeting.

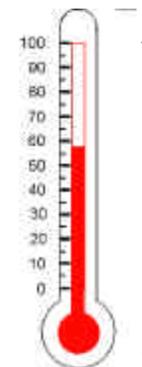
We voted two new members into the club. K4KSX, John Ratliff, was one of the founding members of this club but has been off the air for many years. KI4TTS, Doug McDonald, is a brand new ham who is very enthusiastic. We are very pleased to welcome both to our group.

N4JJ brought up the idea that our club might like to donate a brick to the ARRL in memory of W4ULH to help build a new patio at the headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. (See related article below.)

This will be discussed next meeting and a vote may be taken at that time.

Upcoming Events

- April 28 - VE Session at Methodist Manor at 9am
- May 5 - Upstate Hamfest Spartanburg
- May 27&28 - MAYFLY Florence Airport



Scholarship Fund
\$4,300.00



Don't forget to make a donation to our scholarship fund at F-D Tech.

Diamond Terrace Invites Members to Engrave Call Signs in Stone.

Newington, CT, March 8, 2007 --

"The ARRL Diamond Club is now offering the opportunity to make your call sign a permanent part of ARRL Headquarters by contributing an engraved brick to the Diamond Terrace. A project of the Diamond Club, the Diamond Terrace will be constructed of personalized, 4x8-inch laser-engraved bricks to grace the new entrance to ARRL Headquarters. These bricks will recognize donors wishing to venerate their own call signs or to honor or memorialize the call sign of a family member, club or "Elmer".

Donors may request up to three lines of 16 characters (spaces and punctuation included) per line. The legend may consist of a call sign or a name -- or both -- or a club name and call sign and even a year. Diamond Club members contributing \$250 may add a brick to the terrace and especially generous donors may wish to donate a garden bench for an initial donation of \$10,000.

The Diamond Terrace project will get underway this spring and new bricks will be put into place 50 bricks at a time each year during May and June. Bricks will be set in sand and treated to withstand a harsh New England winter. A brick locator will be posted on the ARRL Website. The terrace will ultimately consist of 5000 bricks.

For more information contact the ARRL Chief Development Officer, Mary Hobard, K1MMH at (860) 594-0397 or by e-mail. You may also visit the ARRL Web site to learn more or to sign up for a brick."

May Birthdays

- 1 Joe Pennington, KI4MUZ
- 7 Juby Phipps, W4JUB
- 23 John Schumacher, N4DOU
- 27 Doug MacDonald, KI4TTS

Member of the Month

KA4PVT - James McColl

James is a local boy who grew up in Marion. When he was in the Air Force, a friend was a Ham and built a transmitter which sparked James' interest. Later when he worked for CP&L, Jack Parker of Bennettsville was a Ham who let James observe and talk on his radio. Jack even gave James a key. James was hooked.

About 25 years ago, James went to a class put on the Florence Amateur Radio Club. He is active on many nets including the Lunch Bunch, the 10 Meter Net and the Monday Rag Chew Net. He has a cabin in Yancy County, NC, and checks into the South Carolina Single Sideband Net whenever he is up there enjoying the mountains. James is very proud to have helped Dr. John Kirkland, KF4HJS, learn his CW. We are glad he was so successful.

James' wife, Margaret is not well and James is often unable to attend our regular meetings, but he is a valuable member of the club and always willing to help us as much as possible.

Your editor runs into James now and again around town but a few years ago we met in the parking lot at Chimney Rock Park in Lake Lure, NC. That was a shock because normally at that time I would see him at a South Florence High School function when our children went to school together.