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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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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+



Departing from our normal opening procedure, our President, Bob Austin, K7DVB, opened the May meeting by requesting a vote for membership for KF4KAE, Tom Hall. Once Tom was voted into membership, each person introduced themselves, then the new upgraded licensees were congratulated. The first order of business was the Treasurer's report by KA3JAL, John Germain as follows:

Began April:	\$2,321.16
Dues Refund	- 12.47
Transfer to Repeater	- 659.16
Bell South '85	- 34.44
Cash Deposit	+ 127.50
End April:	\$1,742.59

Repeater Savings at \$2,573.64 K7DVB then passed a sign-up sheet for members willing to work on the MayFly Airshow on Memorial Day Weekend. This will be a very long event, from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. on both Saturday and Sunday. We will need at least 20 operators to allow for rotation. We got a total of 16 operators and hope to get more from other clubs. We will make announcements on the Dillon, PALS and SCSSB Nets as well as e-mail to other interested Hams. N4JJ, Jack Jackson, reported that all was quiet in the SC

section. The S.C. Single Side-band Net celebrated its 49th Anniversary and is already starting to plan for the 50th. He also mentioned how quickly the FCC was able to publish the new license and the upgrades from the VE Session we held on Saturday, April 28 before 11 A.M. on Monday.

W4PFZ reported that the '97 Repeater was rocking along and W4YLX reported no problem with the '85 Repeater.

Under Old Business, we had a spirited discussion about insurance for the repeater equipment. Having a full inventory of equipment for all three repeaters and the pricing of such insurance, the club voted to self insure for the foreseeable future.

Our second discussion question involved the purchase of a brick for the new courtyard being built at ARRL Headquarters in Connecticut. The club voted to donate \$250 to the Diamond Club to support the organization that supports us.

K7DVB then told the whole club how well the VE Session at Methodist Manor turned out.



Meeting at
7:30 PM on
the 5th. at
Shoney's

The Manor is an ideal location for testing and we were treated very well by the staff. We had four tessees and from that group we got one new Technician, KI4VNE, Lydia King, two new Generals, KI4MVA, Jim King and KG4HIE, Scott Thompson, and one new Extra, K4KSX, John Ratliff. We had quite a successful event. Also, KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, upgraded to Extra earlier that week so we have four upgrades within one week.

K7DVB reminded us that we need to support the FARC Scholarship at Florence Darlington Tech and that the matching funds are still available.

Under New Business, KM4D, Dave Jones, gave us a preview of the new ARRL Mentoring Program which will focus on HF and CW operations. N1ND, Dan Henderson, of ARRL Headquarters will be at the Spartanburg Hamfest and we may get some additional information at that time. Our lucky Vice President, KM4D, Dave Jones, won the raffle and was presented with a very nice foot switch for his shack. We will look forward to having a talk by N4JJ about QSL Cards and the bureau at a subsequent meeting.

Upcoming Events

June 23 & 24 - Field Day
Lake Darpo

June Birthdays

8 Jim Starling, W4GEY



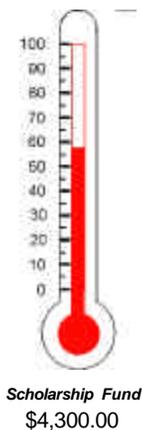
The Littler Club That Does

by KG4YVJ

In this issue, I am starting a new series to alternate with the Member of the Month series. These articles will highlight the activities of other clubs and organizations. If any of you would like to recognize an organization please let me know and I will try to develop an article with your help.

A couple of years ago, our former member, KV4C, Laurie Sansbury, Jr., wrote an article which was published in QST and on the ARRL Website about FARC entitled "The Little Club That Could." K4AVR and I belong to another club in Columbus, N.C., the Thermal Belt Amateur Radio Club, TBARC, which I call the Littler Club That Does.

TBARC has a total membership of 35 and with two exceptions, all members are over 50, most are retired, and some are part-time residents like ourselves. At any meeting there are usually 12 to 15 members including one perma-



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

nent guest. During the course of a normal year, TBARC has sponsored two major events and helped with another. This past year they were able to add two new events and did so with quiet dignity, style and grace.

Every April TBARC supplies operators for the Blockhouse Steeplechase in Tryon, N.C. This past month, 13 members (or 38%) provided communications for the judges since two of the jumps are not visible from the observation tower and others interfaced with the Rescue Squads and manned various gates which allow spectators to cross the track from the infield to the outfield. These gates must be closed during each of the races. This annual event lasts from 10AM until at least 4PM.

In June last year, 12 members (or 34%) helped with The Assault On Mt. Mitchell cycle race, which goes through Polk County on its way from Spartanburg, S.C. thru Marion, N.C. to the top of Mt. Mitchell (Elev. 6684). Members man dangerous intersections to control traffic for the safety of the typically 3,000 riders. This event usually last about three hours because the riders are anxious to get to the next county.

On July 4th, the TBARC provides all communications for the "Fabulous Fourth Metric 100" cycle event which covers 100 Km (62.5 Mi.) through Polk and some of Greenville County, SC. Assignments include safety and traffic control at dangerous intersections along US highways, SAG (transporting tired or injured cycles and riders) and sweep which follows the final riders making sure that all riders are safe and accounted for. Last year, 14 members (40%) helped out from 7:30 AM until after 4 PM.

On October 7, with only about two weeks notice, TBARC was able to provide 12 members (34%) for a new activity, providing safety, SAG and

sweep for two different courses of the Tour de Leaves cycle event through Polk County but sponsored by the Hendersonville YMCA.

This past January, TBARC set up and manned both HF and VHF stations at the Polk County campus of the Thermal Belt Community College for Kids Day. Ten members manned the stations and three others supplied equipment and displays (37%). This event was open from 1:00 to 7:00 PM and served ten interested youngsters and 15 to 20 adults who came through just to learn more about Amateur Radio.

A new PR project is now in the works to coincide with a new annual event in Tryon, NC to be held in October. called Horsin' Around Harmon Field. This will highlight the efforts of the group in the hope of getting some new members. In addition there are 22 ARES members (63%) and 10 VE's (29%). This is quite an active group.

Hope you guys are taking notes. FARC has 20 ARES members (34%), 12 VE's (21%) and we had 9 members (16%) at the McLeod Run/Walk, 3 members (5%) at the Sandblast, 6 members (10%) at the ARES Hurricane drill, and only one (2%) in the MS Breakaway To The Beach cycle race. MayFly was cancelled last year but is coming up on Memorial Day Weekend. How about a better showing and on Field Day!

