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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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ARES -

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+



After the normal introductions, the following June Treasurer's report was given by KA3JAL, John Germain:

Began June	\$1,491.21
Field Day food	- 212.56
'85 Phone	- 34.73

Ended June with	\$1,243.92
Repeater Fund at	\$2,573.64

Probably due to the July 4th holiday, there were only 17 members at the July meeting and all were members.

N4JJ, Jack Jackson, the PIO talked about the excellent coverage we received from the local media for Field Day. There were articles in the Darlington News and Press, The Morning News and the News Journal in Florence. Everyone was very happy with the coverage.

There was a lively discussion about Field Day at Lake Darpo. We had the best ever results having 867 cw contacts and 392 phone contacts. Everyone had a blast. KM4D, Dave Jones, is working on the final numbers. If you would like some pictures, please contact W4PFZ, Mac McDaniel, W8IXZ, Harry Paxton or KA3JAL, John Germain.

We discussed possible subjects for our meetings. N4JJ will e-mail the membership to get inputs for programs. Please share any ideas you may have. We will continue this discussion at the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

### Upcoming Events

Sept. 1 & 2 - Shelby Hamfest  
Sept. 30 - 2-Meter Picnic at  
Cheraw State Park  
with VE Session  
Oct. 27 -- Sumter Hamfest  
Nov. 7 -- VE Session at  
Red Cross  
Nov. 10 -- MB Hamfest in  
Conway

### August Birthdays

4 Suzie Cullom, KG4YVJ  
8 Bennie McWhite, N8KWD  
9 Jim Dedonis, KD4VH  
12 Tommy Johnson, N4TJ  
22 Jack Jackson, N4JJ  
28 Laurie Sansbury, Sr, K4OVV



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

## Scholarship Fund

As you can see by the graphic, we are two thirds of the way to our goal of \$7,500 to fund a FARC Scholarship at Florence Darlington Tech. Let's make a concerted effort to reach that goal during the school year which will be starting this fall. Don't forget that we have an anonymous donor who will match any donation dollar for dollar. We would be helping some worthy student become interested and knowledgeable in electronics and at the same time get some very favorable publicity for Amateur Radio. Let's dig a little deeper guys!

## Another Great Field Day At Lake Darpo

This year's Field Day proved to be a great success. The old T-33 Tri-Band antenna was taken out of storage and erected. Harry Paxton, W8IXZ, got



some good photos of that installation. Although there were fewer total people in attendance, there were more actual operators than last year. The highlight of the event was the CW participation. In addition to the usual N4JJ, KM4D and K4NOC on the paddles, add Greg Davis, N3ZL, and Jay Nestor, KF8MC. It was really good to see Dr. Jim, KD4VH, have such a good time operating on the radio rather than



on hearts. And everyone enjoyed the BBQ. Thanks, Bonnie!

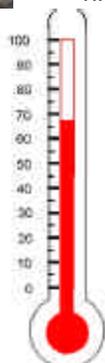
As you may have heard, Dave Jones, KM4D, will be moving from Lake Darpo in the near future but we have secured the use of the facilities for next year's Field Day. It is such a good location for us, we would hate to lose it.

## PALS

### W4APE's Dream Has Come True

by KG4YVJ, Secretary, PALS

Most of you probably remember W4APE, Jack Pegues, of Cheraw. Although Jack is now a Silent Key, his memory and his dream live on with the Palmetto Amateur Linking System Network. This organization was started after his death to continue the linked repeaters which cover most of the eastern half of the state. Jack started his radio interest as many others did, with Citizens Band but soon became a Ham. His business was delivering ice and he was on the



Scholarship Fund  
\$5054.00



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

road all day, every day. He envisioned a 2-meter system that would allow him to remain in contact with other hams no matter where he was during the day. He owned some property on Rocky Ridge in Wallace which is a natural radio site. He installed a tower and repeater on that property and then added a linking hub to connect Cheraw with another repeater he installed in Pageland. Once that occurred, he was off and running. He added additional sites at Lucknow (Bishopville) and Florence.

Dr. Jack Wood, KI4CB, of Pawleys Island liked the idea and wanted to connect with the Jack's system and Abb Brown, KG4AQH, of Kingstree, also wanted to join. So the PALS Net was born. First, the hub was moved from Rocky Ridge to Timmonsville. Dr. Jack set up repeaters in Nixonville just north of Conway and in Georgetown. Abb put his repeater on the old WHLZ tower in Greeleyville at the 800 foot level. The system was a great success and was able to cover from Charlotte to Charleston and from the Beach to Columbia. In addition this system is often used by the National Weather Service to collect information about severe weather and is available for ARES and other emergency situations.

Within a one year period starting in 2004, the PALS system was stressed with a number of serious reverses. First W4APE died and ownership of his equipment was in limbo for well over a year due to legal problems. Six months later Dr. Jack died and the Georgetown equipment and frequency were given to K4SHP for his Myrtle Beach area system. The Nixonville site was lost but the equipment and frequency were saved for future expansion of PALS. Next the Timmonsville hub site was lost. We were very fortunate that there was a spot on the Florence ETV tower that could be used

so the hub was moved. Then the Florence repeater which had been located on the Bell South Tower was asked to move. We were able to find space on an ETV owned tower on the Florence Darlington Tech campus and it is now up and running.

At this time there is no repeater covering the beach area. Many of the base stations are able to reach the Greeleyville site but mobiles are just out of luck. PALS has secured a site in Mullins and is working on getting a repeater there that should cover the north end of the beach and into North Carolina. Another hub has been located at the Greeleyville site which will allow expansion to the south and west giving better coverage to the Charleston area and possibly into Beaufort and Orangeburg.

PALS was organized as a club on February 20, 2005 by a number of Hams who did not want to abandon this great resource. All of the equipment remains the property of the owner however the club is now a 501-C-3 Tax exempt organization and an ARRL affiliated club. There are no dues but donations are requested to defray the costs of rents, power and repairs. There is a net at 9:30 PM every night of the year. All local hams and visitors are invited to check-in.

The club has one meeting during the year to conduct business at the picnic scheduled for the last Sunday in September at a State Park. This year we will meet at Cheraw State Park on September 30th. The FARC VE Team will provide testing, there will be a short business meeting with the election of officers and there will be lots of good food. All Hams are invited, just bring a dish to share and any musical instrument that you play for our impromptu jam session. Please join us.