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First Class Postage

Address Changes requested

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 January 1 of each year.

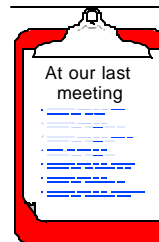
FARC nets meet each week on
Monday 8:30 pm on 146.850- and
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on or about 28.330

The FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The March FARC meeting was called to order at 7pm by our President, Mark Davis. We had 18 members present with no visitors.

In the absence of KA3JAL, John Germain, N4JJ, Jack Jackson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Balance Forward	\$2,333.63
Dues Received	+ 122.50
Expenses	- 49.82
Balance to Date	\$2,406.01

As Section Liaison, N4JJ reported that the ARRL has a backlog of QSL cards. Since they are several months behind, they have hired an extra person to help speed up QSL delivery. The ARRL also has a weekly update about ham radio every Monday which can be viewed at www.arrl.org

As PIO, N4JJ will try to advertise our VE sessions in the newspapers. The next test session will be in the B-wing of Carolinas Hospital on April 12.

Under Emergency Communications, McLeod Medical Center has placed 440 repeaters at two of its three locations, Florence, Darlington and Dillon, and the last will be installed soon. Carolinas Hospital will also have a 440 repeater. These repeat-

ers will be linkable with the HEART system in the event that all other forms of communications have failed, but at any other times ham operators will be free to use these frequencies.

KI4ORA, Jim Lavia may look into becoming the new EC since KG4BZK, Bobby Collins is no longer able to perform that duty.

All the repeaters, 85, 97 and the 440 are working properly.

The PL tone discussed for the 85 repeater will not be implemented at this time unless the interference increases.

At the last test session we had 7 candidates and all 7 passed. Quite an accomplishment!

Our goal for the FARC Scholarship at Florence Darlington Technical College has been reached and the school will award our first scholarship at the next Awards Day exercise. We were reminded that we can still make contributions to the fund which will allow a larger award as tuitions are rising yearly. The Red Cross Committee reported no progress yet however N4DOU,



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

John Schumacher, volunteered to take over the committee.

KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell reported that the N4B special event station would be operational from March 7 to March 12 on any band and any mode. All members are encouraged to operate, just get on and go! Detailed information is available on QRZ.com and announcements will be made on '85. The annual McLeod Sports Medicine 5 and 10K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, March 15th, at Briggs Elementary School. The event starts at 9am but operators are asked to arrive at about 8am.

KI4ORA has volunteered to teach a CPR training class at some point in the future. The cost will be \$15 for the three hour class.

There was a discussion about informational classes. N4JJ proposed that instead of technical classes, we should have a New Operators Day to inform new hams on basic information about the hobby and to help new Generals to learn about HF. It seems that there is a big drop off of amateurs in the first year after getting a license and we would like to train new operators to use the proper protocols and to feel comfortable with the equipment. The first such class will be in May, time and place to be decided at the April meeting.

Now that the new Burger King on Irby Street is open, we find that it is not suitable for our Saturday morning breakfast meetings. We will try to meet at the new BoJangles at the corner of Palmetto St. (Timmonsville Hwy) and Celebration Blvd. just south of town for the next few weeks and make a permanent decision at the April meeting. Note: It is better to leave BoJangles on Palmetto be-



cause there have been many accidents at the corner of Celebration and Cashua. Hope they will install a light soon.

N4TJ, Tommy Johnson, has been hospitalized. He seems to be in good spirits and the club will send a card. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

April Birthdays

- 21 Mark Davis, N4MXP
- 28 Ed Hendrix, WD4FJP

Upcoming Events

- April 6 Kinston, NC Hamfest
- April 7 SC SSB Net 50th Anniv.
7PM on 3.915 KHz
- April 12 VE Session at
Carolinas Hospital Sys.
- May 3 Upstate Hamfest
Spartanburg, SC
- May 16-18 Dayton Hamvention
Trotwood, OH

Member of the Month KG4BZK - Bobby Collins

Bobby is a native Florentine. He attended the old McClenaghan Junior High, South Florence High School and Florence Darlington Tech. His dad was the music director at McClenaghan and later Williams so Bobby was a member of the South Florence Marching Band. Bobby has always been interested in electronics and radio. While working at Dixie Cup, a technician operating a printing machine talked about ham radio and encouraged Bobby to try and the rest is history. Bobby is particularly interested in emergency services and community events. He served as the Florence County EC and later the District 4 EC. He had to leave that position due to business obligations.

Bobby was instrumental in working with the Red Cross. He worked on the equipment in the old building on National Cemetery Road and when Red Cross moved into the new building on Lucas Street, he helped set up the communications room and get the antennas placed on the roof. Bobby was very instrumental in getting the FARC to help with the MayFly event each May. He was our original liaison with the organizers and a willing operator at the event each year as well as the McLeod Run/Walk and the MS Bike Rally. His next ham goals include improving his HF station and upgrading to Extra.

Bobby is an Electrical Controls Engineer and Site Manager in Johnsonville where he is responsible for the electronics and the company radio system. He and his wife, Dianne, have two daughters, Ashley, KI4FFX, and Kristin.

McLeod Run/Walk 2008

On Saturday, March 15, eleven FARC members participated in the annual McLeod Sports Medicine 5 and 10 K Run/Walk and Dog Walk. This activity funds college scholarships for deserving high school seniors for athletic achievement.

The weather was perfect, overcast and not too hot, so although medical help was available, there were no heat related problems for the participants. The Florence Humane Society sponsored a pet adoption, there were games and clowns for the children and good food provided by various sponsors. The events started promptly at 9 AM for all participants. Some ran for just 5K, the serious runners ran for 10K, and others walked with their dogs. Prizes were awarded in many categories.

One of the winners has a FARC connection. Anna Webber, daughter of Tim Webber, WD4CHS and granddaughter of Oliver Webber, WD4CHR, came in second among the women and eighth overall in the 5K event. Anna received a bouquet of roses and a \$50 gift card to Best Buys, one of the sponsors. I have it on good authority, WD4CHS, that shortly after lunch she was out at the mall spending her winnings.



Congratulations, Anna!