

John F. Germain, KA3JAL Treas.
2731 Ascot Drive
Florence, South Carolina 29501
Telephone: (843) 667-9702

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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.

Suzanne Cullom, KG4YVJ, Editor
1907 Effie's Lane, Florence, SC 29505
(843) 662-0421
e-mail: fbcullom@worldnet.att.net

Florence Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 5062, Florence, SC 29502
Web site: www.w4ulh.org

President - Mark Davis N4MXP
Vice President - John Schumacher N4DOU
Sect/Treas - John Germain KA3JAL
Web Page - Lloyd Mitchell, KO4L
Publicity - Jack Jackson, N4JJ
Proof Reader - John Germain KA3JAL
ARES -

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

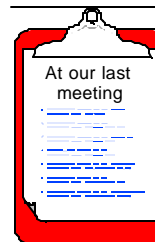
FARC nets meet each week on
Monday 8:30 pm on 146.850- and
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on or about 28.330

The
FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The April FARC meeting was called to order at 7pm by our President, N4MXP, Mark Davis. We had 25 members present with 6 guests.

KA3JAL, John Germain, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Began March with	\$2,406.01
Deposited Dues	+ 322.50
Paid 85 Phone	- 36.62

Ended March with \$2,691.89
The repeater fund stands at \$2,585.69 before transferring money from the general fund.

The ARRL SC Section report was given by N4JJ, Jack Jackson. There have been some changes in the Field Day rules which are available on www.arrl.org and search for Field Day and GOTA. This year's Beachfest will be held in Garden City rather than Conway. Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe has appointed ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to a four year term on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority.

All three FARC repeaters are still working and the SC HEART Florence repeater is the next one scheduled to be made operational. The N4B special event station was very successful. N4JJ made the most contacts and so far we have

105 QSL cards to return. The club authorized the purchase of 500 QSL cards for this event.

KA3JAL, John, thanked all who helped with the McLeod Run/Walk last month.

KI4ORA, Jim Lavia, is still willing to teach a CPR class if anyone is interested. He will soon become our ARES representative.

The club voted to hold an educational session for any new hams to be held on Saturday, May 17, at 9am at the SC Forestry Commission. The session should break up by noon and we should have equipment to demonstrate good operating procedures and to answer questions. (See related article.)

KG4BZK, Bobby Collins, represented FARC and the first meeting of the MayFly committee. MayFly will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 24 & 25, at the Florence Airport. We will need lots of operators to help. The club authorized an expenditure of up to \$350 to get shirts for the group. KD4BUF, Fletcher and KG4BZK, Bobby, are working on the shirt project.



Meeting at
Shoney's
7:30 PM on
the 6th.

Four members will represent the club at the 50th Anniversary luncheon for the SC SSB net on Saturday, April 5. (See related article.)

KM4D, Dave Jones, has a 35ft. tower and some other related amateur equipment from the estate of a silent key. See Dave for details.

Upcoming events were announced including the Manassas VA Hamfest on a Sunday, our normal Field Day activities on June 28 & 29 at Lake Darpo. The Shelby Hamfest is again having a dispute with the Fairgrounds and may have to relocate or cancel. Details as they become available.

With the consent of the membership, we will permanently move the Saturday morning Coffee meeting to Bo-Jangles on Palmetto Street and the announcement on the '85 repeater will be changed.

The next WCARS VE session will be on April 12 at Carolinas Hospital, on the second floor conference room in Mall B.

Members were encouraged to leave tips on the table for our helpful wait staff. KI4HIE, Scott Thompson, won the door prize, this month a Yaesu World Map.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Upcoming Events

May 3	Upstate Hamfest Spartanburg, SC
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention
May 24-25	MayFly
June 2	Manassas VA Hamfest (Sunday)
June 28-29	Field Day at Lake Darpo



May Birthdays

23 John Schumacher, N4DOU
27 Doug MacDonald, KI4TTS

Elmer Class Scheduled

At the last meeting we decided to hold a series of classes for new Hams to teach them the things that are not on the test. The first class will be held on Saturday, May 17, at SC Forestry. Anyone wishing to teach or to learn, please come!

Memorial Day MayFly

We will again provide radio assistance for the annual MayFly Air Show on Memorial Day weekend, May 24 & 25. Since this is a two day event, we will need many hands and many radios. We will have a motor-home at net control with shade and cold drinks. Y'all Come!!!

Successful VE Session

On April 12, we had four testees and all passed, 2 Techs, 1 General and 1 Extra. Congratulations all.

South Carolina Single Sideband Net Celebrates 50 Years of Service

On April 7, 1958, a group of early single sideband enthusiasts started a net in South Carolina to connect with the National Traffic System of the American Radio Relay League for the purposes of handling traffic into and out of South Carolina, providing emergency communications should the need arise and to promote fellowship among amateur operators. That first net had 8 participants.

On April 7, 2008, the South Carolina Single Sideband Net held its 50th Anniversary session, with the same purposes as the original and had almost 200 members and guests to participate. During the intervening 50 years, this net has met nightly at 7pm on 3.915 MHz. with the exception of Christmas Day each year. We believe that this is the second oldest continuously operated net in the United States.

Emmie B. Patience, KA4LRM, a long time net member and officer related the following history.

In August 1962, "The Carolina Sidewinder" was printed and edited by Bill King, K4BML, of Bishopville. It was four pages, filled with news of members, plus want ads and an In Memoriam to W4JEF, Tracy Hite; W4CRC, Mel Gorman; and W4ULH, Bill Pritchett. (The original holder of our club callsign) It was mailed out to members for 3 cents postage. The Sidebander of the Year was initiated in 1961 and awarded to W4FFH, John. The name of the Sidewinder was changed to SCARAB (SC Radio Activities Bulletin) and the annual subscription rate was \$1.00.

As late as 1966 and 1967, SC Amateurs

looked upon single sideband operation with mixed emotions. Some considered the "monkey-chatter" signals as something like the German measles. We might "catch it," or if lucky, might avoid the infection. Lou Scott, W4NJG, of Greenville was one of the first hams in the state to build a homebrew rig. Others followed suit or learned to tune their AM rigs for sideband. They found it challenging and enjoyable. It was reported that in further similarity to the German measles, there was no known effective antibiotic vaccine against the SSB BUG - you NEVER...NEVER recover. There were some "dyed-in-the-wool" AM boys who prided themselves on being too smart to waste time on SSB.

September 1989 and HURRICANE HUGO!!!! The net was activated on September 21st at 1530Z and secured at 0301Z on September 29th with a total of 131 hours, 31 net controls from South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and Georgia manning the net. Logs received for 116 of those hours indicated 2613 check-ins, 1305 inquiries, and 221 formal messages.

Looking back we can see that the net procedures have been modified in keeping with the times but always have striven to keep the basic purpose of the net the same. The success of any net depends upon the work and efforts of its individual net members. Let's all work to continue the goals set by past members of the net and strive to meet the challenges which face Amateur Radio today.

Four members of FARC attended the SC SSB 50th Anniversary luncheon, K4AVR & KG4YVJ, Mac & Suzie Cullom, KA3JAL, John Germain, and WA4UGD, Johnny King who was honored as a former net manager and net control station.